



STORIES
OF
SUCCESS



Save the Children

Content

Education

Stepping Ahead To Audacious Dreams	00
Project is phased out; schools get new start!	00
Bonna is advocating for working children's schooling!	00
Kemily Loves Learning	00

Child Protection

A Different Union Parishad Chairman: An Ambassador of Child Protection	00
Munda Girl Proceeding Towards A Better Life	00

Food Security and Livelihood

Small Businesses Help Bangladeshis Rise Out of Poverty	00
On the way to the dream	00
Tales Of Turning Back	00

Child Right Governance

Advocacy For Children's Budget: Pledge From Ministries	00
Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG)	00

HIV/AIDS

Reducing Neonatal Death Through Community Clinics In The Remotest Areas	00
Supporting Sanzida To Withstand The Challenges Of A Hiv Positive Woman In Bangladesh	00
HIV Positive Mother Gives Birth To Healthy Baby	00

Health & Nutrition

Safer Healthcare Options For The Mothers And Newborns Of The Tea Gardens	00
Given the Option Halima Begum Quickly Adopts LAMP	00
The 500th Delivery	00
Reducing Neonatal Death Through Community Clinics In The Remotest Areas	00

Humanitarian and Emergency Response

Child Centered Disaster Preparedness	00
Save the children Initiates Climate Change adaptation Techniques in Tidal web prone area	00

Edited by:

Khaza Nizam Uddin, Manager- Communications, Communications & Resource Mobilization

Supervision & Coordination:

Nabiel Ashraf, Director, Communications & Resource Mobilization

Contributors:

Areba Panni, Advisor-Strategic Communications, Health and Nutrition

Tara Leung, Communications Advisor, Education

Shahida Begum, Program Director – EYE, Education

Mohammad Shamsuzzaman, Senior Project Officer – Emergencies, Emergency

Victoria Clancy, Program Officer, Child Right Governance

Laila Karim, Manager – Protection, Child Protection

Md. Nasir Uddin, Manager – Documentation, HIV/AIDS

Faizul karim, Deputy Manager, Communications & Information, HIV/AIDS

Kazim Hizbullah, Communications Team, The Global Fund

Robyn Growett, Volunteer, HIV/AIDS

Khaza Nizam Uddin, Manager- Communications, Communications & Resource mobilization

Ridwanul Mosrur, Assistant Officer, Communications & Resource Mobilization

Argina Khatun, Technical Officer-Livelihood, Food Security & Livelihood

Mahbub Hassan, Manager- Livelihood, Food Security & Livelihood

© Save the Children

All photos and stories are copyrighted to Save the Children

Cover photo
Tanvir Ahmed
Deputy Manager
Communications &
Resource Mobilization

Photography

Khaza Nizam Uddin
Faizul Karim

Victoria Clancy

Chowdhury Rana

Binodon Tripora

Matiul Ahsan

Md. Tarikul Islam

Syed Salik Ahmed

Argina Khatun

Abdur Rahim

Jeff Holt

Boby Sabur

Save the Children Archives

Preface

Save the Children has been working in Bangladesh over 40 years and working as one Save the Children for the last three years. Each year it reaches to around 1.5 million of Bangladeshi people and now works with more than 65 partners. It is expanding its working rapidly with innovative and diversified activities to bring more changes to its targeted people. Efforts also have been increased to work more to achieve Save the Children's goal – to bring the lasting changes in the lives of children.

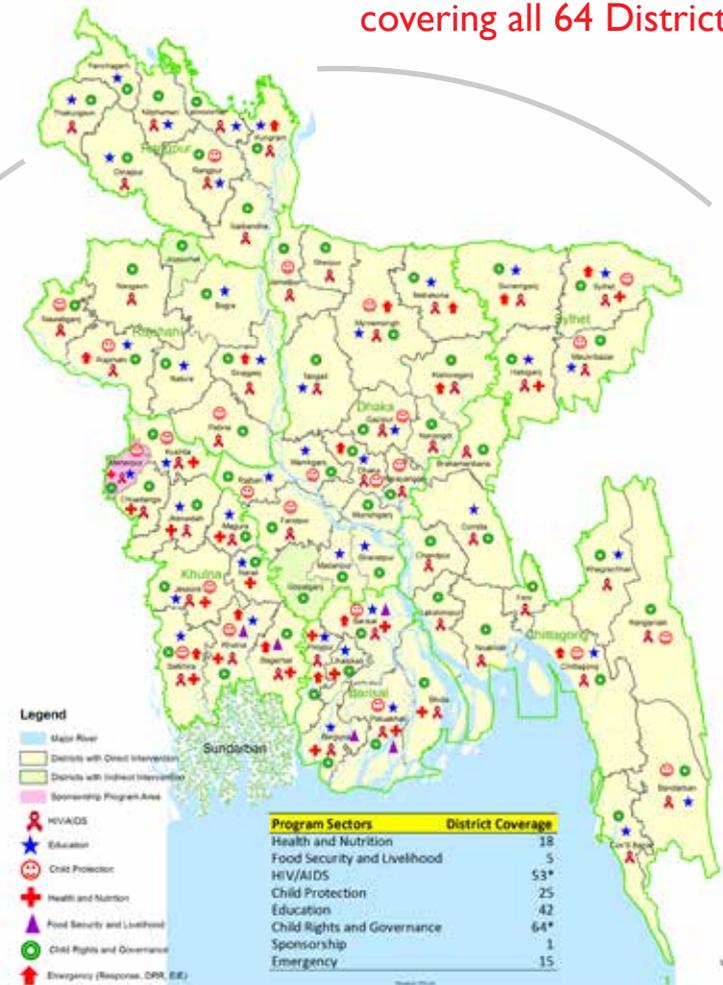
To bring the lasting changes in the lives of Children, Save the Children works in holistic approach, tries to work with cross cutting areas to make it happen. It works to improve the children's nutritional status, reducing newborn death; spreading educations in the remotest areas with innovative ideas, including the ethnic community into mainstream education, turning child laborer into mainstream education and job market; helping food security of the family, helping to utilizing the skills to come out from extreme poverty; changing and including policies to ensure child rights in the governments development plan; protecting the rights of most vulnerable children; preventing children and people from HIV infection and supporting the HIV positive parents and children; trying to involve children in disaster preparedness plan; and involves all strata of society including different ethnic society.

Sharing the result of countrywide activities of Save the Children with our donors, our implementers, and our stakeholders is one of the objectives of this publication. These stories depict the success of multiple activities of different programs under seven sectors of Save the Children. These stories of these publications represent thousands of successes of Save the Children in Bangladesh's programs. We are working with partners, working with government for adjusting policies for the benefit of most disadvantaged children, for ensuring the rights of children and also speak in favor of the working strategy of Save the Children in Bangladesh.

Save the Children works with its long trusted partners and believes in working with partnership approach. These stories also will tell the successful partnership mechanism of Save the Children and how our partners are contribution to achieve the outcome of our goal. Save the Children has developed trained, experienced and dedicated staff up to field level to prepare stories from the field and has its well developed communications channels. We collect information to see the changes among the children, women and other targeted people in a systematic way. These show the ability of our staff to showcase the success of programs from field level to the national and international levels.

As a leading child rights organization in Bangladesh, Save the Children is contribution in many sectors which are interlinked with different development plan of Bangladesh Government. Readers will know the quality of our innovative and effective approach of interventions to bring the change in the lives of children as well as in the lives of disadvantaged people. From advocacy for policy changes to the implementing of programs, Save the Children is working in all possible areas to make the change. These stories will speak to the donors; to all stakeholders that Save the Children is making the best use of its resources to get the continuous development of the most disadvantaged people of Bangladesh. These stories will inspire both sides to work more – the donors and the implementers.

Save the Children is covering all 64 District



Stepping Ahead To Audacious Dreams

Sonia Akter is now leading a life of hopes. She lives with her parents in the outskirts of Chittagong, the port city of Bangladesh. Every day she gets up very early in the morning. After offering her morning prayers, she recites from the Holy Quran. Then she takes bath and has her breakfast. Her mother prepares her lunch. She starts for her work place at 7 AM.

She performs her duties with smiling face from 8 AM to 5 PM. She works as an aide to a professional nurse in a garments factory where there are 350 workers and who are mostly women. There, very often, the workers suffer from different types of injuries and sicknesses. She remains busy all the day taking care of them. Her service keeps the wounded staff fit and that keeps the garments production on. Sonia is there to take care of them, with patience and enthusiasm of an aide of a professional nurse. After 5:00 PM, The authority has given her opportunities (overtime works as optional for her which is pretty much compulsory for the others) so that she can continue her study. She is studying to complete Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam that will allow her an opportunity to be a professional nurse.

Education

Save the Children works with teachers, parents and communities to help all children in Bangladesh learn and develop to their full potential, to contribute positively in the changing world and be life-long learners. To this end, we work to improve access to educational opportunities for those children who remain out of school; we train and consult with governments, NGOs, communities, parents, and other partners to provide better quality education services; we innovate scalable models of teaching and school management that improve learning outcomes for all children; and we advocate for improved national policies and programs for education.





"If Save the Children continues to help those children who has no capability to continue their study in general education, poor people like us would benefit through this TVET project".

- Jhorna Borua,
Job Replacement Officer

She is now supporting financially a six member family (parents, two sisters, one brother) with her regular income. She is going ahead with her career each day. She comes from a poor family. Her father has no regular income. "My mother also works in a garment factory and has a small regular income" said Sonia. Previously, the family used to run only on her mother's income. The family remained into extreme poverty until the intervention of Save the Children.

With support from Save the Children, she has completed her trade course from Technical School of Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP -Bangladesh). She also completed four years' accelerated education program from Integrated General & Vocational school (Class-8 equivalent of the national curriculum). After completing grade 8, she was interested in skills training and she chose nursing. She completed her one year trade course and 3 months apprenticeship in a medical diagnostic centre. After completion, UCEP helped her to find a good job matching with her earned skills. She is inching closer towards her dream of being a professional nurse, changing her career from Aide to Nurse to a Professional Nurse.

Save the Children has a very strong partnership with UCEP to provide not only basic education but to provide vocational and technical education after basic education through equivalency education programs. Sonia has the dream to be a professional nurse with notable excellence in skills and knowledge. Save the Children, with the support of its partner organization, are always stay beside Sonia- nursing her dreams, giving shoulder to carry her loads, providing counseling and proper guidance.

My aim is to become a professional nurse and to serve there who have no access to medical support

- Sonia Akter

Project is phased out; schools get new start!

Children and their families in hard-to-reach areas of Bangladesh face myriad barriers to achieving a quality primary education. Geography and poverty alone are enough to prevent most children from going to school and obtaining basic literacy, numeracy, and life skills – keys to preparing them for a successful and productive adulthood. Like children living in Char Karikata and Shakhipur union in Shariatpur district (one southern district of Bangladesh) do not have access to school due to remaining in very remote areas. Both unions are separated from government schools by rivers or long distances. The only way for children to reach public schools is by walking several kilometers and crossing a river by boat. For most children, the time, cost, and risk associated with this journey is simply too much. The scenario is same also for the children of Khan Bari, Mridha Bari and Fakir Bari SHIKHON Schools in Vedorganj Upazilla in Shariatpur.

To support the children of those remote areas, Save the Children's SHIKHON Program funded by European Union and Dubai Cares and implemented by Jagarani

Over ninety children attended classes over the four years of the program, all of whom completed Grade 5, the last grade of primary school in Bangladesh. Half of these went on to take the Primary School Completion Exam, or PSC, more than 90 per cent of whom passed and are currently enrolled in nearby secondary schools.





“If there is desire,
nothing can stop me
from getting
educated”. – Said the
children of Fakir Bari
Primary school.

Chakra Foundation (JCF), established Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE), and schools in Vedorganj Upazilla of Shariatpur district. SHIKHON trained teachers from the community to provide Primary Education according to SHIKHON's proven accelerated basic education model. SHIKHON also worked with parents in the communities to give them knowledge and skills with which they can improve their children are learning opportunities at home and to encourage them to support their children in going to school. SHIKHON worked with concerned adults in the communities to form School Management Committees (SMCs) responsible for the ongoing operations of the SHIKHON School.

In these communities, the SHIKHON schools were a success. It also worked to develop local ownership of these initiatives, Save the Children's SHIKHON program has succeeded in providing not only short-term education during the life of the project to children who need it, but in establishing sustainable education models with impact that reaches far beyond the bounds of the project. SHIKHON enlisted local leadership and resources to establish schools in the hardest-to-reach

areas, these communities have not only graduated one cohort of children from primary school, but have been equipped and inspired to develop a system of quality education for future generation.

Families and community leaders, seeing their children's success and enthusiasm for learning, recognized a good primary school is a valuable asset to their community and a priceless investment in their children's future. Even after the closer of first phase of the project, community leaders and parents banded together to figure out a way to keep the schools going. And successfully they are doing!

By this process the continuation of the schools creates a strong partnership between that community and the government through the education system. Save the Children played role as catalyst to formulate this sustainable partnership. SHIKHON provided the initial training and tools, while creating linkages with government educational resources and representatives. Now, children from these communities will continue to receive quality basic education for the foreseeable future.

**Bonna,
14 years old
house maid is
now advocating
for the schooling
of Child laborers
for better
future!**

Bonna Akter Srabonty (14) is a bright and enthusiastic girl living in slum areas of Dhaka with her mother, step-father and 9-year-old brother. She works in three different homes as a house maid and attends trainings at the SUF (Society for Underprivileged Families) Centre in her spare time. Her mother is also a house maid and her step-father works as a guard in a private building.

Before her starting of working as housemaid, she used to go to school. Due to hardship of her family, she was dropped from schooling. Bonna soon began working as a housemaid like her mother, washing dishes and scrubbing floors in the mornings and evenings while attempting to attend school whenever she could. With the continuous workload, she couldn't continue her schooling.

Then one day about a year ago, a community outreach worker from SUF, the implementing partner for Save the Children's EYE program in Bonna's area, invited her to join a Peer-to-Peer Support Group. That involvement has started to make her hopeful about her dream. Bonna says, "After being a member of a Peer to Peer

1.2 million Children

are engaged in the urban informal sector, often working long hours under hazardous conditions. These children are deprived of physical, mental and social development. With the support from European Union, Save the Children's EYE project has built partnership with private companies in the formal sector as well as with informal sector suppliers. In the informal sector, the project tries to improve working conditions and release child laborers from hazardous conditions, get them into education through facilitating advocacy by the Peer to Peer Group (children's group) and community based CSR group (adult group). At a national level, the project is developing a Multi Stakeholder CSR Forum which will advocate with the Government to formulate a National CSR Policy for Children.





“Bonna is a bright and determined girl, she knows about her rights and what she wants”

– Says Rakib Ahmed, Facilitator Peer to Peer Group of SUF Centre

Group and receiving child to child training, my life has changed; now I can take decisions on my own and look for solutions to any problem. I share my pains and pleasures with my friends from the group. The support I receive from my peers and facilitators is huge indeed. I have confidence that I can do so many things now that seemed to me impossible before.”

Her enthusiasm for helping others makes her a great group facilitator, and she has started leading Peer-to-Peer sessions three days a month. “I love leading sessions,” Bonna says with a smile. “It makes me feel like I can help people. Plus, I earn BDT 500 per session, which means I can make in 3 days what I got paid the whole month when I worked in the dress shop.”

While home life is still difficult, Bonna doesn't feel hopeless anymore. “In the next couple of months, I plan to enrol in an electronics course here at the Centre so that I can get a decent job.” No matter what she ends up doing for a job, she knows that the choice is hers, and she has a good support system to help her make those choices. Bonna wants other struggling kids to know that they have support and choices too. “I want to help others whose parents are not supportive and who have to work to maintain their families.”

“Peer to Peer Groups are playing an important role to increase awareness about the rights of children and youth and provide information on training and decent employment opportunities for child laborers.”

– Says Rakib Ahmed, Facilitator Peer to Peer Group of SUF Centre

Kemily Loves Learning

Kemily's parents are poor do not have regular work; they spend most of their days collecting wood and wild vegetables in the forest. When she is not in school, Kemily goes with her parents to the forest and helps them with the housework. She has a younger sister Tripti, who must also help with household chores when she can. Before the Shishur Khamatayan school was founded in her village, Kemily had no opportunity to go to school. Now, she finishes her chores quickly and comes to school as often as she can.

Most days, Kemily has to bring her younger sister Tripti to the center because her mother goes out for working. It's Kemily's job to take care of her younger sister. As eldest sister, Kemily is happy to do that, but she does not want miss her schooling by that responsibility. So, she brings her at school. Tripti, age 3, is also warmly welcomed at school and she enjoys the games and interactions with the other children.

Bengali is not the mother tongue for over half of the residents of the Chittagong Hill Tract area in Bangladesh. Many of the children from that region hear Bengali for the

Kemily's teacher Lisa added, "Kemily is always telling me how she wants to be a teacher. She wants to teach higher grades in her mother tongue. She is very enthusiastic about continuing to go to school after the pre-primary class ends."





first time in their lives when they join at primary school. This put them at a distinct disadvantage, as they have to struggle for learning the subject matter in a language which is foreign to them. This dilemma causes higher Drop-out rates in these areas, as children become discouraged when they face difficulties to learn and to perform in school.

The Shishur Khamatayan program works with communities and leaders to create curriculum and train multi-lingual teachers for early grades so that children can begin learning basic subjects in a language familiar to them. Bengali is also taught and gradually integrated as the language of instruction so that, by this time, the children will be ready to enroll into mainstream schools with a strong command of Bengali and a good academic foundation, which reducing the chance of drop-out.

Shishur Khamtayan schools are community-based and run by community. Tailored not only to the unique language needs of the children they serve, they are also tailored to the unique culture and heritage of the communities in which they operate. This design intentionally contributes to the broader perspective and ensures sustainability of these tribal communities' language and culture through education. It also instills a sense of pride and ownership of local education to the community.

Kemily and her sister are receiving quality education available at their doorsteps. Perhaps in future, it will be Kemily who will teach at this school and will lead a new generation of advocates to enhance the scenario of mother tongue based education in Bangladesh.

Story Of A Different Union Porishad Chairman: An Ambassador Of Child Protection

Samor Kanti Halder, Union Parishad Chairman of Deluti union of Paikgacha Upazila of Khulna district won the heart of his people in consecutive four terms. He is also the President of the Child Protection Committee (CPC) formed under the Non State Actors project of Save the Children being implemented by a local partner named Prodiapon.

Soon after inception of the project in April 2010, the Project Coordinator met Samor Kanti Halder explained the purpose and objectives of the project that targets the disadvantaged and working children of that geographically remote location of Bangladesh. He is surrounded by the people and days are full with activities. Despite his heavy work load, Samor Kanti Halder agreed to be involved as the President of the Child Protection Committee during the project orientation meeting held in June 2010.

After becoming the President of the Child Protection Committee, he along with his 20 other members choose a nice place for establishing the Learning and Recreation Centre (LRC). Simultaneously they undertook a survey on the lives and number of



Child Protection

All children thrive in a safe family environment and no child is placed in harmful institutions. Child Protection sector works in 27 districts of Bangladesh to strengthen the legal and social mechanisms which protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking, child marriage and other forms of violence. Child Protection sector works in line with the overall goals of Save the Children. We focus on prevention through behavioral change and awareness-raising, often led by children. For survivors, we provide rescue, repatriation and psychosocial support services and promote quality institutional and community-based care. We provide learning opportunities for working children; work with employers for improved working conditions. We work together with government, parliamentary bodies, local administration and elected bodies, media, communities and network to establish the Child Protection mechanisms. We also work with line ministries and departments, civil society forum to ensure children are protected during and after natural disasters.



“I have been working for long to support deprived people in my community. However, Working Children Project has been a good learning experience for me. The project has given us fishing stick and it is better than giving a fish”, beaming Samor kanti Haldar expressed his satisfaction while explaining the effectiveness of the project.

the working and other vulnerable children of that union. They found children living in ward number 5 of Deluti union, are the most deprived among the inhabitants in the union. They made a written resolution and established the LRC in ward number 5 of the Union.

Early marriage is a severe problem in the union too. Samor Kanti Halder with other members of the Child Protection Committee launched awareness campaign against early marriage in the union. They talked to parents, teachers, imams, kazis and people from all strata to combat early marriage. He along with administration and community prevented more than 30 child marriages in the last two years.

A Community Declaration has been placed in the UP to inform and remind people about the roles and responsibility towards the wellbeing of the children of that UP. Samor Kanti Halder in many ways is a pioneer leader:

Girls were afraid of going out even in the day time due to increasing incidents of eve teasing in the union. In 2011, he mobilized the community against eve teasing. He and the committee requested the parents of young eve teasers to guide their children so that they are

refrained from the crime. “Samor Kanti Halder also talked to the local police station about the issue. His initiative has reduced eve teasing to a great proportion in the area”, Torun Kanti Sarkar a villager said.

Due to high incidence of corporal punishment in the schools of the union, many children were reluctant to attend or left school. The UP Chairman Samor Kanti came forward to talk to the school authority and also with the parents about the negative impact of corporal punishment on children’s education and life and also about the legal aspect. After a series of discussions, school headmasters were motivated to stop this bad & harmful practice in their respective school.

The budget of the Union Parishad has never had any allocation for the children or for their development – no where in Bangladesh. For the first time, motivated Samor Kanti Halder introduced budgetary allocation for the first time in the history of the union parishad’s budget. In 2011, the allocation was taka 2,000 that was increased to 36,000 taka in 2012. The amount is small but a gigantic step has been taken by a courageous man. He paved the way for the national leaders and policy makers to walk in the same route.

Munda Girl Proceeding Towards A Better Life

Sumitra Munda belongs to the Munda community at Boro Bari village of Uttor Betkashi union in Koira upazila. There are about 432 Munda families living in Betkashi. They were brought from India by the Jamindars (landlords) probably at the beginning of 19th century or so to collect wood from Sundarban forest. But currently they are mostly engaged in agricultural work or fishing – what is available today is the mode of their working life. Her mother Kanchon Munda died in 2011 and her father Parimal Munda, was not a regular working person but an alcoholic. The family used to work in agricultural field with very little earning to survive.

Sumitra Munda had to leave school and go out for shrimp collection for mere survival when she was 9 years old. "My life was really miserable. My father was spending half of his earning for alcohol. He used to scream at me and my younger sister. He used to beat my mother when he was drunk. We did not have enough to eat. I had to spend hours after hours in the water to get some fries. I could catch some and earn about 30 - 50 taka a day, if I was lucky. And some days, we remained empty stomach when the weather is not favorable", Sumitra said when she was explaining her previous life. This is a regular scenario of Munda families – they live as a separate community with little access to community facilities.





Sumitra with the help of the LRC staff enrolled in school in 2010 when she was 14 years old. Project staff and the Centre Management Committee (CMC) committee supported to get her admitted in the school. They paid her examination fees for SSC examination. She did good result in the SSC final examination and now studying in grade 12 in Koira Kopotakkho Degree College. Her father has reduced his drinking habit after having several sittings with the CMC members of the LRC. The CMC member's motivational factor was a better life of his daughter and helps the daughter to grow in a peaceful environment.

For Shumitra Munda, it was not so easy to mix with the other children of outside community – initially she was shaky talking to them. As this community is considered as low class and not respected by others. Shumitra said, "I stopped talking to the other children, when I was 8-9 years old and found them

pushing us far from them. Children of Munda's were always excluded and neglected by all. We were looked down by the people around". However, at the LRC, I played, studied and mixed with children from both Munda and mainstream society. Behavior to us being changed gradually with the interventions of the development agencies and particularly after the EC supported NSA Project started here. Looking down by children is out of question now. They are our good friends now. It was hard to imagine before the NSA project", she said about the effect of the project in the society.

Shumitra received training on handicrafts making with support of NSA. Now she makes Pati (a floor mat made of leaf) at home in her leisure time. She also sells her products through the linkage of the project and makes more than 3000 taka a month. Shumitra sets an example to her community and wants to cross the entire hurdle with the power of education.

Shumitra said, "I stopped talking to the other children, when I was 8-9 years old and found them pushing us far from them. Children of Munda's were always excluded and neglected by all. We were looked down by the people around"

Small Businesses Help Bangladeshis Rise Out of Poverty

"Not having enough food to eat and the resultant suffering is the main misery and unhappiness for me and my family."

Microenterprise training and loans feed families and build savings

"Not having enough food to eat and the resultant suffering is the main misery and unhappiness for me and my family." For families living in Bangladesh, putting enough food on the table can be a daily struggle. Natural disasters, poor health and hygiene services, and high unemployment are just some of the issues facing the 37 million Bangladeshis considered to be food insecure.

As part of a larger, nationwide effort to reduce chronic food insecurity, USAID's Nobo Jibon, or "New Life," program aims to reduce the food insecurity and vulnerability of 191,000 households in 10 upazilas, or subdistricts, in southern Bangladesh. To increase microenterprise productivity and profitability, the program, implemented by Save the Children, works directly with individuals and groups to strengthen production and marketing skills.

Village Development Committees (VDCs), comprised of 10-15 community leaders, many of them women, collaborate with government and donor agencies to oversee small community-led initiatives and microenterprises that are both useful and sustainable. Nobo Jibon partners with the VDCs to identify and select candidates for entry into practical small-business trainings. The participants are given the skills and capital they need to start and manage their own small business.



Tarango Rani and her husband, Kalu Majhi, are just one of the many food insecure families that struggled to feed their children. For Rani, cooking three meals a day for her family of six was a near impossible task. Her family depended entirely on the income of Majhi, an agricultural laborer, to cover daily expenses.

“Not having enough food to eat and the resultant suffering is the main misery and unhappiness for me and my family,” said Rani. “I want to put an end to it.”

In April 2012, Nobo Jibon and the VDC of the small village of Purbolaxmipur in southern Bangladesh selected Rani for the small-business training program. She had some skill in bamboo crafting, but not the capital nor the training to start her own business. Nobo Jibon provided Rani with about \$30 (2,400 takas) as start-up capital to begin her bamboo-crafting business. This capital helped her cover the cost for basic materials such as a saw, an axe, a knife and multiple pieces of bamboo as well as trainings in conducting cost benefit analyses and bamboo craft design.

She used this initial capital to weave assorted bamboo products including baskets, fish traps, fans and jars. Her first round of sales earned her about \$70 (5,400 takas) over one month. The profit from her sales was enough to expand Rani’s business for another round of production. Today, her business proceeds enable her to purchase nearly four times the original amount of bamboo material, with weekly profits at \$26-\$32 (2,000-2,500 takas). Her business growth has even linked her with two local traders who place advanced orders for various products.

Since starting her business, Rani has saved a portion of her profits and invested them for the future of her family. She has been able to repair her home and start a milk business by purchasing a cow.

Nobo Jibon, which runs from 2010-2015, works with more than 1,156 VDCs in Bangladesh to identify and provide individuals like Rani with the basic assets needed to start a business and escape poverty.

Grateful for the new life that Nobo Jibon has given her, Rani’s future plans include building a shed for warehousing, construction of a brick home for her family and, perhaps most important, funding for her children’s education. “I am now able to provide meals to all, and I started creating assets for the future,” she says smiling.

Nobo Jibon, which runs from 2010-2015, works with more than 1,156 VDCs in Bangladesh to identify and provide individuals like Rani with the basic assets needed to start a business and escape poverty.



On the way to the dream

Mohammad ali akbar gazi (26) lives in nagar sreerampur of haridhali union of paikgachha upazila of khulna district. He is married and has a daughter. Everyday akbar gazi rises very early in the morning. After finishing his morning prayer, he goes to look after the ponds where he cultivates fish. After he returns from his ponds, he has breakfast with his family and helps his daughter with her studies. Gazi listens to his daughter reading with great pride and he is happy that he can send his daughter to school. He is also able to afford medical care for his wife who is expecting another baby.

Gazi once worked as a helping hand in a motor repairing garage. Although his 3 member family was small, he still faced certain socio-economic challenges. He always dreamed of educating his daughter and ensuring a safe and secure life for his family. Through save the children, he was able to fulfill this dream. He now owns his own garage and has a consistent and diversified source of income – the garage and his fish cultivation business.

just two years ago, she was in wretched situation, it was hard for her to get one meal a day. Now her daughter goes to school! With hard work and supports from shree people, she came out from the situation.



গাজী সাইকেল স্টোর



Based on the household micro plan assessment, gazi was identified as a skilled motor bike mechanic. He was provided with training on micro business management, enabling him to run his own business. As a participant of the shiree programme, save the children bought him some machinery to initiate his business. At first he bought a vulcanizing machine and provided services for tyre leaks and related issues. But gradually gazi was able to expand his business under the guidance of prodipan and with help from a micro plan designed by save the children. He bought new tools and equipment and diversified his sources of income by investing in fish cultivation. He was, as a result, able to significantly improve his standard of living and work toward building a more secure future for his family.

the customer who has taken service once, they come again when they need. Shiree training helped him not only to start his own business, but also helped to sustain business through building relationship with customers

Tales Of Turning Back

Now many woman come to Minati Sarkar to learn about the bamboo business” echoed by the voice of from a local experts

Minati Das (26) is a single mother from Godaipur union of Paikgachha Upazila in Khulna. Every day is a busy day for her. She gets up very early and completes her morning chores. She prepares the morning meals, prepares her daughter for school and then starts doing household chores. She then does vocational activities such as weaving bamboo and she also sells rice. Sometimes she goes to the market to buy bamboo and other inputs for her business. She brings them home, processes them to make final products and deals with her customers. As a recipient of small business management training, she is able to undertake all these activities from purchasing raw materials, to producing high quality products to dealing with customers and selling her goods at fair prices.

Two and half years ago, the life of Minati was very difficult; vulnerable to poverty and misfortune. Minati's survival was dependent on the grace of others. Minati's marriage at the age of 13 marked the beginning of the challenges in her life. She became a mother at an early age and during pregnancy, instead of having nutritious food, Minati had very low levels of food intake leading many to doubt whether she and her baby would survive. In addition, around 7 years ago, Minati's husband abandoned her and her baby. Minati was thus forced to live with her parents even though her parents could not afford to look after them.



Food Security & Livelihood

In a nation where a staggering number of children and their families are living in poverty, are food insecure and malnourished, Save the Children's Food Security and Livelihoods Sector works to lift families out poverty through a series of integrated interventions. Our core strategy supports households to tackle the economic barriers to a nutritious diet through climate resilient income generating activities linked to the market and capacity building in diversified homestead production for consumption. In parallel, we link households to social protection systems. Activities include the production of nutritious vegetables, fruit, aquaculture, poultry and small livestock and promotion of off-farm income generating activities to generate and increase income. This work is supported by activities to ensure carer's knowledge, skills and power to promote nutrition is enhanced through a range of behavior change communication work targeting different members of the family, community influential and youth. We are also improving conditions for rural adolescent girls and urban working/street children, protecting them from economic exploitation through empowerment and advocacy and strengthening their professional skills. Our programs focus on southern Bangladesh, including south-west coastal zone (currently in Khulna and Bagerhat districts) targeting the most food-insecure districts and households.



Minati was selected as a beneficiary of the SHIREE programme through an intensive selection process by using PRA tools based on the project defined criteria. She sought to graduate from extreme poverty situation and promote income-generating activities among the ultra-poor. SHIREE staff designed a long-term plan for Minati after assessing her abilities. She was initially provided with an asset to invest in her rice selling business and later received assistance in generating another source of income in order to ensure livelihood security.

Minati was engaged in weaving bamboo because of her aptitude for the activity, the ready availability of bamboo across the local areas and the high demand for bamboo products in local markets. In addition to operate the business efficiently she was given business management training including aspects such as purchasing raw materials, handling customers and effective money management and record keeping of business.

Household Economic and Food Security Project (HEFSP) introduced a unique living tool called Household Micro Plan for project beneficiaries to design the business and services plan to move out from extreme situation of poverty. Household Micro Plan also introduced with Minati which helped her allocate different proportions of her income for different purposes such as business expansion through reinvestment, improving her standard of living, education, nutritious diet and building a safe shelter. Through this micro-plan, the dedicated support of Save the Children and its partner organisation Prodipan, and Minati's efforts, she was able to graduate from a life of floating insecurity and extreme poverty. Minati is now the owner of a small piece of land, has her own home, is able to send her daughter to school and can afford a nutritious diet for herself and her family.

I was only 13
when I was
been married
- Minati

Advocacy For Children's Budget: Pledge From Ministries

Many families in Bangladesh live in extreme poverty and children have to work instead of going to school. Children from extremely poor families and other marginalized children are often excluded from essential social and development services. Save the Children and partners found through a Budget analysis that that national budgets for children are not keeping up with inflation and population growth. Furthermore every year ministries are failing to utilize their budgets.

To bring this issue into the political space, the CRG theme and its partner Centre for Services and Information on Disability CSID worked with a group of parliament members to form of a Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) composed of Members of Parliament from all political parties. The Caucus was formally launched on 25th December 2012.

The Caucus on Child Rights has worked to promote a Child Centered Budget with adequate and visible allocation in the national budget for children. The PCCR arranged a pre budget press conference and discussed the importance of children's budget in the 2013 parliamentary budget session. As a result the



Child Right Governance

The Government of Bangladesh signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 with the promise of creating a child-rights-enabling environment. Save the Children works with government, communities and civil society, to realize this vision. Through a National Children's Task Force, Child Protection Movement, Child Parliament, Child Rights Governance Assembly and grassroots children's organizations, we involve people of all ages in promoting children's rights. Our policy work to protect children includes advocacy around the Children Act and Child Policy. We also lead child-rights analyses of the national budget and shadow reporting on the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.



Finance Minister in his budget speech committed to develop a children's budget as part of the national budget from 2014. This is not a separate budget for children but rather a mechanism to show what is allocated for children. This is meant to improve visibility, transparency and accountability of the commitments made by the government to children.

The process of developing the framework for a children's budget has already started in Ministry of Finance with support from Save the Children and CSID. This initiative is part of CRG's "Investment in Children" program. Investment in Children works with issues like revenue, budget analysis, budget tracking and anti-corruption initiatives.

The Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) has convinced the Finance Minister of the need for greater attention to children in the national budget. A

children's budget will be part of the national budget from 2014.

It's a milestone for the advocacy success of Save the Children in Bangladesh. It was advocating for long time to convince government for a separate budget for children. Government has agreed to do that for the first time in Bangladesh history.

The Parliamentary Caucus for Child Rights (PCCR) is a non partisan forum comprising of Members of Parliament (MPs) with the commitment to promote the rights of children in all legislative and policy processes. The Parliamentary Caucus has the opportunity to work inside the Parliament and outside in their respective political platforms to promote particular issues and to bring them on the political agenda.

Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG): the new approach of Save the Children has started functioning in Bangladesh

Government agencies play a significant role in the lives of children and young people. They have an impact on education, transportation, health services, sports and recreation experiences of the people. Impact is also experienced by children and young people in terms of protection, in care, with a disability, or in the youth justice system. Therefore, it is critical for all government agencies to establish effective systems that will enable children and young people to express their views.

Development plans and budgets are made at the local level of government and government services such as education, health, water and sanitation, birth registration and social protection programs are delivered through local government institutions. Children's needs are mostly neglected when local development plans and budgets are made. Children, representing 45% of the population, are seen as unimportant and without political capital. Children are also excluded as participants in local level planning, budgeting and implementation and denied their citizen's rights. As such, decision makers do not take the perspective and knowledge that children possess into consideration and children miss out on an important democratic experience.

Impact is also experienced by children and young people in terms of protection, in care, with a disability, or in the youth justice system.





To address these issues, Save the Children developed an approach called Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) with the objective of ensuring local government and other key actors improve their services for children and are more responsive and accountable to children. It focuses on taking a systems approach within local governance to secure institutionalization of children's rights and participation in the structures of local governance. This benefits all children but particularly the children from the most disadvantaged sections of the community through increased access to services, better protection and increased voice. A key element of CFLG is the establishment of a Complaint and Response Mechanism that provides children and the community access to hold duty bearers accountable and seek redress for child rights violations.

The overall objective of CFLG is to ensure local government and other key actors improve their services for children and are more responsive and accountable to children. It focuses on taking a systems approach within local governance and secure institutionalization of children's rights and participation in the structures of

local governance, a model known as Child Friendly Local Governance.

The Child Rights Governance (CRG) theme of Save the Children is working with 2 local partners (BNWLA and SEEP) on a safe, well publicized, confidential, and accessible child friendly Complaint and Response Mechanisms at the community level. Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) works with rural local government authorities in 2 unions of Manikganj district and Social and Economic Enhancement Program (SEEP) works with urban local government authorities in 2 wards of Mirpur area of Dhaka district.

Children's groups are being developed at the ward level and at the village level to monitor and to participate in the planning process for local government budget planning and expenditure. Through involvement in the Ward Shova and in Union planning meetings, children and the community will be able to participate in the planning process, advocate for budget to be allocated to address children's issues, and hold local governance actors and duty bearers accountable.

A Tale of Grief and Hope

Sumi (19) speaks in a slow, whispery voice as she recounts her short life. She was born in a poor family and thus, she has to work from her teenage. She was raped while she worked as a maid and thus disgraced and expelled from her family. She was in the hard line of life and death, dipped into frustrations and thought to attempt suicide. However, life grows on her when she found the only way to end up by marrying a man. Her fortune betrayed again. Her husband forced her to be a sex worker in the cramped brothels of Dhaka. How silly their life is, how bad their luck is!

But her coal-black eyes appear to glow as she remembers the day when some help finally knocked on her door. When she was making her living as a sex worker in the capital of Bangladesh, she had no place to go, no shelter to stay if she becomes sick. But now, with the help of Save the Children, she has a place that she could call home. With the grants from Global Fund, around 30,000 female sex workers receive HIV and AIDS counseling at these community-based centers in Bangladesh. Like others, Sumi also receives counseling on HIV and AIDS there in the Drop In Center. Peer counselors provide female sex workers with information and counseling on HIV prevention, behavioral changes and the use of condoms, with the aim of preventing the spread of the disease among those most vulnerable.

"I met an outreach worker from Lalbag who gave me information about the Drop-In-Centre and the services it provides for female sex workers. I really like coming to the Drop-In-Centre. We share our grief, joys and experiences. It is like a second home for me." - Sumi (19)



HIV/AIDS

Save the Children's health and nutrition programs are developing and implementing strategies to save the lives of newborns, children and mothers in the most remote, resource-poor settings. From pregnancy through adolescence, our programs focus on improving practices and knowledge and ensuring access to quality care, strengthening delivery of health services through government and other partners. We are promoting good nutrition and delivering nutrition interventions, as well as combating pneumonia, diarrhea and other childhood diseases at the community level. We are also working at the national level to influence health and nutrition policies, support strategy development and provide technical assistance to large health and nutrition service delivery platforms. Save the Children is also conducting practical research in partnership with national and international institutions on key newborn and child health and nutrition issue to inform and strengthen programs.



Like Sumi, many of these young female sex workers have broken lives and exist on the margins of society. At the Drop In Centers, they have found a shelter where they can wash their clothes, take a bath, rest, play games and receive counseling on alternative livelihoods. There are also referral services for complicated treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases.

Sumi, who was lucky not to have been infected by HIV while she was engaged in unsafe sexual practices before becoming a beneficiary of Drop In Center services. A dozen of the female sex workers huddled in the Drop In Centre on a recent humid morning among whom she was the only one who agreed to tell her story.

At first she was shy and did not make eye contact with the interviewer. But as she gained confidence she raised her chin. She gained courage to speak and confidence to stay healthy due to the initiative of Save the Children.

“Before, I knew nothing about HIV and AIDS. I had not tested myself and did not know what the disease is and how it spreads. But, now I know about the methods of preventing AIDS and preventing other sexually transmitted diseases. I also inform my friends who do sex work in the same area about HIV and the methods of preventing infection.” - Sumi (19)

Supporting Sanzida To Withstand The Challenges Of A HIV Positive Woman In Bangladesh

Nurjahan visualizes the future through her daughter's eyes. Lovely little Sanjida, stay well!

'I would snap photo'- upon hearing this, the nine years old girl Sanjida started jumping. 'On one condition', she replied, 'you will have to show me how to take pictures'. This is not a big deal. I agreed and fastened the lace of the camera over her shoulder. She started clicking and went on and on. As Sanjida was playing with the camera, I was interviewing her mother, Nurjahan Begum. She is HIV positive and has been receiving treatment for the last nine months. Her husband Waziddin Mollah died only a week before. Though never diagnosed, he was probably an AIDS patient.

Bangladeshi Waziddin Mollah used to live in Mumbai, India. He received citizenship and lived there with his wife and children. Ten years ago Waziddin married Nurjahan Begum as his second wife. With the dream of becoming free from the curse of poverty, Nurjahan agreed to marry an aged person, Waziddin, because he was rich.

'How were you infected with HIV?' Nurjahan couldn't figure out the answer to this question. She could only say that one year ago she was hospitalized because she got sick. She had a blood test and was diagnosed with HIV. Since then, she is undergoing treatment provided by an associate partner of Save the Children. She is receiving the necessary drugs regularly.





Waziddin Mollah did not leave his property to his second wife and child. Upon receiving the news of his death, Nurjahan rushed to his residence at Mirpur. But his first wife and children didn't allow her to see his body. Sanzida could not see her father's face even for the last time.

After taking hundreds of pictures Sanzida gave me the camera back and positioned herself suspended from her mother's neck. Click click! I snapped a photo. Her tender eyes prompted me and I was adjusting the focus of my camera to take more pictures. Suddenly her mother told, 'please pray for my daughter, so that she could survive even at the cost of my own life'. I shrieked. Nurjahan Begum continued that her little Sanjida is also infected with HIV and has been receiving treatment for three months. Sanjida's photo got out of focus in my camera!

How tough is to capture the childhood wildness in frames! She has a lot to do, like playing, drawing, singing, going school! Her mother dreams to live through her daughter: Nurjahan visualizes the future through her daughter's eyes. Lovely little Sanjida, stay well! Overcome all the stigma and discrimination related to HIV and become a successful person!

HIV Positive Mother Gives Birth To Healthy Baby

Nimmi is a healthy 45 days old baby girl. The unique of Nimmi is that, both of her parents are HIV positive. It is estimated that over 200 healthy children have been born to HIV positive parent(s) in Bangladesh thanks to antiretroviral and other antenatal therapies. However, the story of how Nimmi was born into a loving family is a heartbreaking one.

Nimmi's mother, at her teenage, was forced to marry a man who was infected with HIV, and whom infected her. The husband of AIDS, Her husband and parents-in-law kicked her out by knowing that she is HIV positive. She was forced onto the streets at barefoot, with nothing, found that life was not worth living, and subsequently attempted suicide. It was at this low point in her life that she was rescued by Ashar Alo Society, a PLHIV self-help group; and here she began her healing process. As she revived her life, she was offered a job and transferred to Sylhet, a north-eastern division of Bangladesh. Her life took on further meaning when a man with HIV asked her to marry him, already knowing each other about their positive status. They entered into a new phase of life with the help of HIV drug therapy which was provided by Save the Children. She gave birth of Nimmi who is not affected by HIV and that happened due to that unique treatment.

[.....]Nimmi's mother is a great inspiration for people living with HIV. She is a courageous woman and a great example of how the HIV prevention program has a real impact on people in Bangladesh. Her story highlights some of the challenges and successes of the program such young marriage and family planning, discrimination to mental health, outreach work and PLHIV services.

Although this story has a happy ending, but it's not the same that happens always. There are many people living with HIV just like Nimmi's parents. More can be done to support them to have healthy HIV-free child.



Safer Healthcare Options For The Mothers And Newborns Of The Tea Gardens

In the Modhupur tea garden, where Asholata and Apon live, one mother and two babies died from preventable causes in 2012. Now, however, the community is working to reduce the neonatal death to zero? Thanks to the implementation of MaMoni, a USAID supported Integrated Safe Motherhood, Newborn Care, Family Planning and Nutrition project in their community. In this project, Save the Children works in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and with two local NGOs.

Through this project a total of 11 Community Volunteers (CVs) were selected to exchange health information at individual and domiciliary level and also encourage mothers and family members to use the health services and service delivery points. Community Volunteers also work to engage local government bodies and to mobilize the communities and create demand for health services in their communities. Particularly in Modhupur, the CVs engaged Upazila Health and Family Planning Officers in their work and have deployed Community Health Care Providers (CHCPs) at the community clinic.

Thanks to this new initiative, Asholata was able to deliver her second child in a safer environment than her first daughter. Bhokta Mohali, a neighbor of Asholata expressed his thoughts "this opportunity to deliver babies at Banait community clinic has given us hope that all mothers will be able to be benefited soon."

Kamini Kormokar, a pregnant mother from the same tea garden community also commented that, "home delivery is too hard and very difficult for mothers. Before we could not visit a hospital as they were very far and, anyway, we could not afford the fees. Even when a birth developed complications we would not seek medical help. But now, the [new] facility is close by and we can access its services much more easily."

Maternal and newborn child health initiatives like MaMoni plays vital role for saving lives of mothers and newborn children in poor communities like the laborers in the Modhupur tea garden estate. The Banait community clinic covers around 6,000 people, serves at least 200 eligible couples and provides healthcare services to around 100 pregnant mothers each year.

Health & Nutrition

Save the Children's health and nutrition programs are developing and implementing strategies to save the lives of newborns, children and mothers in the most remote, resource-poor settings. From pregnancy through adolescence, our programs focus on improving practices and knowledge and ensuring access to quality care, strengthening delivery of health services through government and other partners. We are promoting good nutrition and delivering nutrition interventions, as well as combating pneumonia, diarrhea and other childhood diseases at the community level. We are also working at the national level to influence health and nutrition policies, support strategy development and provide technical assistance to large health and nutrition service delivery platforms. Save the Children is also conducting practical research in partnership with national and international institutions on key newborn and child health and nutrition issue to inform and strengthen programs.





Given the Option Halima Begum Quickly Adopts LAPM

Halima Begum, 25 is an ordinary married woman living in a village at Habiganj with her two children and husband, a fisherman. Her way of thinking and certain decisions in life however, are extraordinary.

Five years ago she had her first baby at home with the delivery conducted by an untrained TBA. There were no available facilities for delivery close to her home and she had received no prior counseling from any health worker and remembers being afraid during the labour. She recalls that the TBA had given the baby a bath immediately after birth and she and her family members had introduced some complementary food, such as fruits, cow milk and rice before the baby even turned six months old. Halima was not informed about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding, birth spacing or family planning methods, nor did she receive post natal counseling.

In the meantime, her husband was away from the village for a few years in search of alternate work and Halima stayed busy raising her only child. During that time, the USAID funded MaMoni Project started implementing the integrated maternal and newborn care, family planning and nutrition initiatives at Habiganj in her neighborhood through Save the Children and local implementing partners Shimantik and FIVDB. Community Action Groups were activated in every village and Community Volunteers were her acquaintances, relatives or friends. Community Health Workers (CHW) of MaMoni visited her house regularly and provided counseling on family planning methods and kept her informed about available services and their source. She was able to go to the satellite sessions and even Murakuri Union Health and Family Welfare Centre (UH&FWC) and when her husband returned to the village, she started receiving injectable contraceptives.

When her baby boy was three, she conceived again but she expressed, 'I am lucky that my husband was away for a year after the birth of our first baby because I would have been pregnant not much later'. During her second pregnancy, she visited the satellite clinic for antenatal services and followed the advice of the Family Welfare Visitor (FWV). Sajangram Village is located in a very remote part of Habiganj where commute is not easy, thus her decision to deliver at home. Sabrina Chowdhury, a Community Health Worker provided the required post natal counseling and encouraged Halima and her husband Din Islam to go for any long term family planning method.



Halima exclusively breastfed her new baby girl, knowingly practicing the lactational amenorrhea method (LAM) but in three months time she and her husband visited the Upazila Health Complex (UHC) where Halima underwent a tubectomy in January 2013. Din Islam reflected upon his own life saying, 'I have five brothers and a sister and we all suffered the consequences of having no education and proper care, given our socio economic status. I want to keep my own family size small and provide the best I can for my children'.

Sabrina Chowdhury, a CHW has helped a few hundred families through her; thus informing her clients about the availability of various FP

methods and providing options and solutions for the young parents in the community to raise healthier children and improve their own well being. MaMoni Project in Habiganj works with around 7,000 Community Volunteers and support groups, 41 Community Health Workers, 37 paramedics through 26 UH&FWC's, 7 UHCs and 1823 Depot Holders to improve MNHFP-N related quality of care, manage critical gaps in the health system and build capacity of relevant workforce at the district and national level. Expressed his satisfaction while explaining the effectiveness of the project.

The 500th Delivery

On 19 August, Bilkis Begum, 23 delivered a baby girl weighing 3 kg, at Shipasha Union Health and Family Welfare Centre (UH&FWC). What makes this birth remarkable is that it is the 500th delivery at a rural and hard to reach facility in Habiganj where access to 24 hour safe delivery services by skilled birth attendants was non-existent only two years ago.

Two and a half years ago, Bilkis's first baby (a boy) was born at home and delivery was conducted by an untrained traditional birth attendant (TBA), but now she and her husband are members of the Community Action Group (CAG) in their village and attend meetings regularly. They are much better aware about maternal and newborn health services. Bilkis visited Shibpasha UH&FWC consistently for antenatal checkups since her second pregnancy and had made up her mind on an institutional delivery from the beginning. As it turned out, her baby was the 500th newborn to be delivered safely at the facility in Shibpasha, making way for another milestone achieved by the facility. Bilkis is very happy and content to have delivered under the care of a skilled birth attendant.





In 2011, USAID supported MaMoni Project in partnership with KOICA and Save the Children Korea initiated the renovation and staffing of three government owned Union Health and Family Welfare Centers (UH&FWC) to provide quality MNHFP-N services and ensure round the clock normal delivery services. The facility in Shibpasha opened its doors to the community in October 2011 and two more (Murakuri and Kakailseo) union health facilities followed. The facilities provide safe delivery services round the clock by skilled paramedics having prior hands-on training experience at the District Hospital and Maternal and Child Welfare Center (MCWC). Interestingly, the facilities are centered

around a network initiated by the MaMoni Project, that links volunteers and frontline health workers in the community with the wider health system, thus strengthening community engagement, improving MNHFP-N services delivery and simultaneously enhancing systems strengthening. In 2013, two more existing facilities in two hard to reach Unions of Daulatpur and Khagaura were streamlined by the project for 24/7 delivery services while another at Nabiganj Union is expected to be launched end of the year in Habiganj. The MaMoni Project is implemented by Save the Children and local NGOs Shimantik and FIVDB.



Save the children Initiates Climate Change adaptation Techniques in Tidal web prone area

Climate changes are affecting Bangladesh severely, especially to its coastal districts. One of the major threats is that it is affecting the food production negatively. We can't ignore the affects of climate change, so Bangladesh is trying to adopt these changes.

Like In Pirojpur, a southern coastal tidal prone district of Bangladesh, the community people faced trouble to produce regular food grains that is a tidal prone land. Every day, water level increase and decreases twice a day! When saline water enters, it hinders the growth of vegetables. So, something needs to do so that water can't enter and growth also continues. The problem was also same in the drought prone district, Kurigram. For draught prone areas, water management is very important. Maximizing the usage of available water is the solution there. So something needs to do to keep water for long time (protecting leaching and seepage of water) and in this district water level is low and the disaster prone areas is long. The people were facing to utilize their land for cultivation for rise and fall of water or scarcity of water which were resulted from climate change.

Humanitarian Sector

The Government of Bangladesh signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 with the promise of creating a child-rights-enabling environment. Save the Children works with government, communities and civil society, to realize this vision. Through a National Children's Task Force, Child Protection Movement, Child Parliament, Child Rights Governance Assembly and grassroots children's organizations, we involve people of all ages in promoting children's rights. Our policy work to protect children includes advocacy around the Children Act and Child Policy. We also lead child-rights analyses of the national budget and shadow reporting on the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.





Save the children has come up with an innovative solution to cultivate vegetables in those tidal prone areas as well as in drought prone areas (Kurigram, Pirojpur and Dhaka). Before the initiation of the project, the children and local community people shared this problem with the project people through different focus group discussions. Save the Children started a project titled as "Integrated Child Centered Climate Change Adaptation Project (ICCCCA)" with the AusAid fund. The project aimed to develop adaptive culture in climate change scenario.

The innovated technique is named as "Key Hole raised bed method" for vegetables cultivation. Before the initiation of the project, the land kept as fallow. Excess trimmings of fish, meat and vegetables, cooked or uncooked leftovers, fruits, leaves, paper and all of the edible matters that are usually found in kitchens are the basic ingredients of Key Hole raised bed method which usually thrown away wherever wishes. The key hole used as bins

and these just add up, continuously adding up and rotten to compost which produce nutrient to vegetables. Vegetables grow much better in the key - hole raised bed method. These later uses as nutrient to vegetables and vegetables grow much better surrounding the bins.

These simple but innovative techniques are now in largely used in project areas.

Once the unused land are now filled up with vegetables, which is helping producing vegetables with low cost; decreasing the usage of water; fertilizers and pesticides; saving money but producing more production! Key-hole method can reduce the amount of material that ends up in the landfill and produces methane gas, a greenhouse gas that is 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. It helps to regenerate poor soils, to absorb odors, to prevent pollution in runoff water and treat semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).



Child Centered Disaster Preparedness

Two consecutive cyclones, SIDR in 2007 and AILA in 2009 gave Bangladesh the learning with its devastating casualties that country needs to prepare community to withstand the risks of disaster and to minimize the losses. People from all categories were affected and among all, children and women suffered the worst due to these disasters.

As a pioneer organization on child participation, Save the Children started to think for a sustainable solution to address the risks of disaster. From its rehabilitations activities, it has found that preparing community for facing challenges of disaster can increase the capacity of coastal people to withstand the affects of disaster. Save the Children started a project "Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction" under emergency theme with a local partner UDDIPON, in a coastal southern district, Pirojpur. Save the Children provided technical and financial support and community children planned, designed and implemented the whole project in their locality based upon their community needs. Child participation was the guiding principle of throughout all phases of the project.





Children representing from all communities (14 communities in working areas) participated in this project. 2680 children and adolescents from all categories like poor, marginalized, boys and girls, educated and uneducated, working children were trained through 22 clubs for building the capacity of disaster preparedness. Children received learning about disaster and its multi-facets. They have learned the techniques of risk mapping of respective community and learned communications and advocacy skills to negotiate with local government. They prepared other children to increase their capacity to face the challenges of disaster for the whole community. These 2680 children also shared their learning with 9200 peer children. These children remain vigilant throughout the year; they work even when any flash flood occurs, take initiatives even for repairing the pond's side roads. They know according to their risk maps of respective community and they know what to do on priority basis regarding any manmade or natural disaster. Even they know well about the people living with disabilities and have effective plans to evacuate them during emergencies, if necessary.

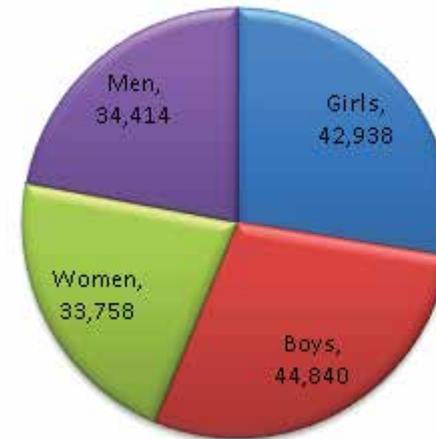
Preparation for facing cyclonic storm Mahasen (May 2013) was a real simulation to apply the skills that they have learned from this project. These children's project areas were not affected drastically, though the project area is highly disaster prone. All teams responded in a coordinated way to face the affects of Mahasen. Their effective response resulted minimizing the affects. They were involved and given responsibility from the district disaster management committee to continue their preparedness activity. They shared the updated information on the status of disaster/cyclones to the community. During the Cyclonic storm, the government authority highly recognized these youth teams and invited them to update the status of preparedness of their community.

With these evidences, children are thinking their model can be replicated in other coastal districts. This replication will prepare the children and community of the coastal districts to face the challenges of disasters.



Success in Number

Child Protection Sector



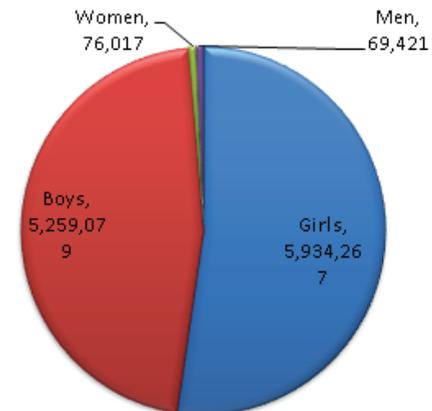
Total direct reach: 155,950

Education Sector



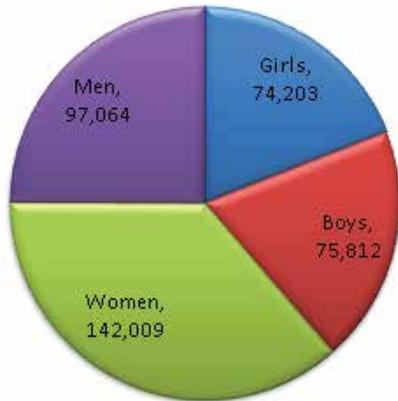
Total direct reach: 1,259,254

HIV/AIDS Sector



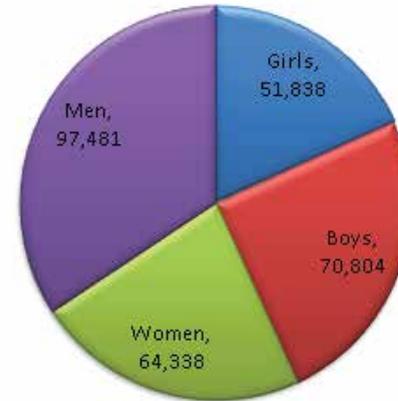
Total direct reach: 11,338,783

Food Security & Livelihood Sector



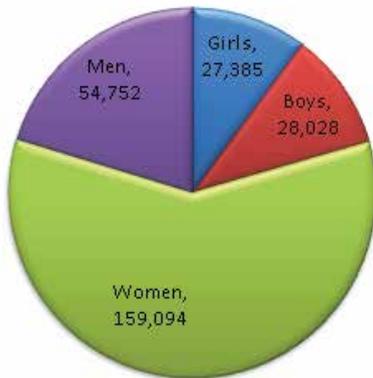
Total direct reach: 389,088

Child Right Governance Sector



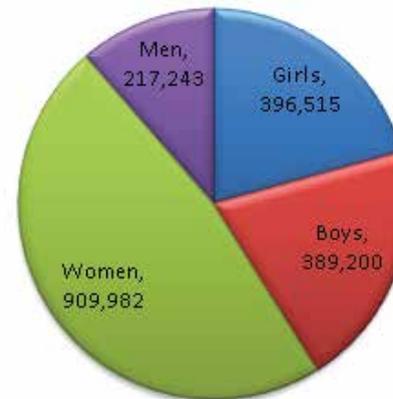
Total direct reach: 284,461

Humanitarian & Emergency Response Sector



Total direct reach: 269,259

Health & Nutrition Sector



Total direct reach: 1,912,940



Save the Children

House : CWN A 35, Road # 43, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212

Hunting : +88-02-8828081, +88-02-9859847-50

Fax # +88-02-8812523, 9886372

www.bangladesh.savethechildren.net

Find us on  <http://www.facebook.com/savethechildreninbangladesh>

