

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Shariatpur Development Society (SDS)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SDS started its work during the devastating flood in 1987 and 1988 initiated by Mozibur Rahman, the founder of the organization through small-scale relief and rehabilitation programme at Shariatpur district. After flood, in 1989 a group of Journalist, Lawyers and social workers both male and female thinks to improve the quality of life for the disadvantage people in the country, specially the people of Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur districts.

Disaster management and emergency response is one of the major programme of SDS since its inception. SDS has allocated 20% fund of its own income as risk reduction fund. The over all objectives of the project is too aware the affected people in reducing losses of disaster and to safeguard the people from the threat of losing life and asset.

We are providing education and livelihood support programme for the children of rural disadvantaged people. We also giving essential health and nutrition services to the children. SDS also works with government Primary school to ensuring quality education and operated continuing the education centre for the new literate. SDS has already proven its Excellency in providing education to the drop out children.

River Basin programme another main programme of SDS that initiated since 1998 and funded by Oxfam-GB. Main objective of the project of the project is - Sustainable development through creating coping capacity with disaster, of poor men and women living in river basin areas.

Women's Empowerment through Micro Finance support is another major programme of the SDS. People who are leaving under poverty line, improvement of their socio-economic status are the objective of this program. These people have no capital for income generating activities. SDS is giving them loan in exchange of low interest. By getting this loan, these poor peoples are made themselves solvent. 43858 peoples are member under this program and 31601 members were received loan. Total disburse amount is 112.16 corer taka and outstanding 28.78 corer taka.

Lobbying and advocacy is one of the important sector of SDS. SDS always advocating pro-poor issues like PRSP, MDG, Khash Land issue etc. at local, national and international perspectives. Besides these SDS working for strengthening the local government on governance issues.

We are putting our sincere efforts to create gender awareness and establish women's rights through social mobilization, legal aid services and functional assistants to victim of violence.

This report sincerely documented under the SDS and highlighted the achievements during the year 2007.

We express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the stakeholders, development partners, well-wishers for being with us. We are looking forward to receive their cooperation, encouragement and guidance in the coming days.

Mozibur Rahman
Executive Director

ABOUT US:

Bangladesh is the country that, since its freedom, has been struggling for social as well as economic development. Nearly half of its population is living under poverty line and hold back kind of development initiatives of the country. Furthermore, the huge population density, insufficiency of natural resources and their inappropriate and inefficient use, recurrent natural disaster, corruption from individual to highest hierarchy of the state and more often the political turbulence almost on regular basis are badly disconcerting the development initiatives.

Shariatpur Development Society (SDS) started its operation on September 11, 1991. It has received registration from Department of Social Welfare in 1992 and from NGO Bureau in 1993. The registration No. of Social Welfare is Shari-77/92 and that of NGO Bureau is 794/93 respectively.

It has determined its operational area in a place that is not only vulnerable to natural disaster but also disadvantaged in many ways. Government of Bangladesh has declared Shariatpur district as one of the 12 poorest districts in the country. In the WFP poverty map the area has been referred to as poverty zone and according to DAE it has been mentioned as food deficiency area. The above facts are the consequences of regular flood, cyclone, river erosion and other natural disaster. SDS from its inception has extended its all out cooperation to the victims of natural calamity.

SDS, working in the social development arena, has earned a fairly rich experience in disaster management, micro-finance, education, health, and advocacy for basic services, arbitration and other social development initiatives. With a group of devoted and committed workforce, SDS has expanded its scope of operation in diversified areas. As of 30 June, 2007 SDS has enrolled 43874 members in 2122 groups in the micro finance sector. Savings accumulated in the same time form the members is Tk. 5, 70, 47,302.00. So far 43874 members have received Tk. 66, 13, 77,000.00 under the micro finance sector in its operational area.

'SDS', presently SDS, in course of time, has expanded its course of action in the arena of disaster management, poverty alleviation, education, health and nutrition, WATSAN, Micro credit program, advocacy, Arbitration and legal support, Environment, training, agriculture and so on. SDS sets its development initiative with a vision to establish a society where there will be justice, equity in gender focused activities and essentially to empower the disadvantaged segment, in particular the women, in the community and to ensure a sustainable socio-economic improvement in the livelihood of the target population.

SDS Goal:

Sustainable development through gender equity and poverty alleviation of the disadvantaged community.

SDS Objectives:

The Major objectives of SDS are:

- a) Reduce loss of peoples caused by the disaster Management.
- b) Promote and support PHC service for ensuring health and hygienist of women's in Bangladesh.

- c) Increase awareness for disadvantage people on the importance of Governance, democracy and human rights.
- d) Promote and support education programs focusing on Basic education, non-formal primary education, adolescent education, adult literacy and continuing education.
- e) Provide life skill training to the vulnerable groups specially for women.
- f) Endeavor changes in respect of gender relation in family and society to improve situation of Water, Sanitation and Environment.
- g) Raising awareness and provide support and training for increase family income of the poor community by Income Generating Activities (IGA).
- h) To motivate/trained the local Government and community people on disaster management.

Programme implemented by SDS in 2007

SDS implemented its all programmes by two major sectors; these are 1. Programme sectors and 2. Micro finance sectors. Rather than that Administration & finance, Audit and HR sectors always provide necessary support to these two sectors for smooth functioning of activities.

During the period 2007 SDS implemented 5 (Five) major Programmes.

- 1. River Basin Programme
- 2. Women Empowerment through Micro Credit Program (WECP)
- 3. Capacity Building of Ultra Poor (CUP) Project for Riverain Community
- 4. Promoting Civic Rights of Socially Excluded Citizens: A Society Based Approach.
- 5. Voter Awareness Program (VAP): Election Working Group (EWG)
- 6. Amader School Project (ASP)
- 7. Empowerment Through Resource Mobilization Program
- 8. Wat-San and LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY PROGRAMME
- 9. Establishing Community Based Disaster Preparedness to Reduce Vulnerability
- 10. Renewable Energy
- 11. Disaster management and emergency response
 - 11.1 Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Program: Assisted by UNDP & DFID-UK
 - 11.2 Response to SIDR
 - 11.3 Flood Response Report-2007: Supported by: Oxfam-GB
 - 11.4 Flood Response – 2007: Supported by Oxfam Novib
 - 11.5 Emergency Flood Response-2007: Supported by UNICEF
- 12. SDS Academy
- 13. Click Project
- 13. Lessons Learned



RIVER BASIN PROGRAMME

Background:

The River Basin Programme supported by Oxfam-GB since 1998. Every year the char dwellers face severe flood devastation that makes them more vulnerable resulting increase in their misery and poverty. The people face severe vulnerability caused by disruption, food security and lack of adequate basic services. The houses of the char area are not at proper height so that the houses can be used as shelter during flood for primarily saving their lives and belongings. As such, because of inadequate numbers of duly elevated homesteads, the community people, particularly the disadvantaged and the poor are compelled to take shelter either on embankment, road or unsafe places near their houses. Women face more difficulties than male because they have to maintain the household, water fetching and do many household works. In the char areas access to safe drinking water and latrines are inadequate. All these put the women in a vulnerable situation.



The target group includes widow, abandoned, disabled and hard-core poor and divorced women. Number of total beneficiaries are 4557. Operational area of the project are North Tarabunia, Kachikata, Charvaga union of Bhedergonj Upazila, CharAtra, Nawapara, Ghorisher of Naria Upazilla and Kunderchar union of Zanjira upazilla of Shariatpur district.

The programme supported by Oxfam-GB since 1998. The project aim is to reduce vulnerability to disaster by strengthening appropriate mechanism and improving livelihood situation for poor women living in the char areas of Shariatpur.

Objectives of the project

- To reduce the vulnerability of the poorest communities to flood in a number of the most flood affected locations
- To increase involvement of SDS and community to preparedness to respond to the flood emergencies
- To improve livelihood options of the char dwellers
- To change policies, practices, ideas and beliefs to reduce vulnerabilities of the poorest communities.

a) Installation and promotion of Latrine and Tube-well:

Sanitation is an important focus of the project. In 2007 total 1310 latrines and 140 tube wells were installed among the project participants. Beneficiaries were selected based on their needs and from among those who could not afford to install latrines or tube-wells by themselves. Most of the beneficiaries were widow, abandoned, disabled, hard core poor and divorced women. All the latrines and tube-wells were installed according to the layout and design of the Project. Before installation of tube-well Arsenic level and bacteria was test by testing kits that community are save from arsenic. Water borne diseases was significantly reduced as consequence of using the latrines as well as Tube-well water.

b) Homestead raising

The houses of the char area are not at proper height so that the houses can be used as shelter during flood for primarily saving their lives and belongings. The char dwellers particularly the widow, abandoned, disabled, divorced women, female headed households, poor joint families, affected by river erosion, who do not have ability to raise their homestead, have been considered for the program. Total of 214 individual homesteads was raised four to five feet height and increased 200 to 240 sq. feet to protect plant and earth from erosion. The elevated homesteads did not go under water during flood saving the char dwellers from floodwater. They are also doing homestead vegetable gardening and fruit trees. It contributes significantly to meet food and nutrition demand of the poor char dwellers.



c) Cattle and poultry vaccination:

Cattle and poultry is one of the main income generating activities in char people. Due to considering that SDS arranged vaccination camp in the char areas. During the Project period 9 vaccination camps were organized in 3 Upazilas in RBP working area. A total of 2050 cattle were vaccinated as well as 4027 poultry were also vaccinated during that time by the RBP vaccinator with the help of Upazilla Livestock officer. As a result serious cattle and poultry diseases didn't spread out in the working area last year.

d) Training and kind support:

Training on different income generating activities as well as awareness build up has been arranged for the beneficiaries with a view to increases their income and bring positive changes in their livelihood. Training imparted on different IGAs like Duck rearing, Pigeon rearing, vegetable cultivation, Market Management etc. After training kinds support also provided to the successful beneficiaries. In 2007 total 3000 ducks were distributed among 600 female beneficiaries while 1625 pigeons were distributed among 325 beneficiaries. Now the families who get support eat eggs as their protein intake as well as sell eggs in the local market that increases their family income. TBA training and TBK kit box provided for 20 beneficiaries. Public health training was provided to the beneficiaries for increasing their consciousness about health and hyginecity.

Vegetable cultivation training also given to 125 beneficiaries with seed support. Training also provided to 20 producer group members on market management. Those beneficiaries are now efficient enough to search proper market channels in order to get better price of their produces.

In December 2007, 30 cows and 75 goats were given to the beneficiaries as a part of reduce vulnerability and sustainability. All kinds of support provide to the community considering vulnerability of the char dwellers.

Besides training for the beneficiaries, the staffs of RBP have also received some training. One of the courses was training on System of Rice Intensification (SRI). Total 20 staffs of RBP received SRI training and they discuss about the training in beneficiaries group meetings and motivated them to utilize the training properly. The staffs also received training on Report Writing and documentation. The staffs are now more capable of preparing report and documentation.

g) Advocacy and Meetings:

Advocacy insists the programme for achieving the goal of the project. Several meetings and seminar was organized with government officials, local government and other stakeholders. Land Advocacy is a focal element of the advocacy.

Through Advocacy with Upazilla Administration, SDS successfully hands over Khash Land among 125 landless farmers. One Mass gathering was also organized at charatra Azizia High School Auditorium in 2007. About 300 land less people including expert lawyer and other community elite especially chairman, UP members, women members, teachers, NGO's representatives Imam and SDS staff participated here. Lawyer explain the govt. present rules and regulation of getting khash land where and how to apply to get this and also details discussion about khash land related topics like sikosti and poyasti. Everybody inspires from this discussion in order to know on the way of getting khash land and SDS provided logistic support to the poor farmers.

In 2007, 3 meetings were organized with Union Disaster Management Committee on Advance Disaster Preparedness at North Tarabunia, Kunderchar and Charatra unions. Member of Disaster Management Committee were attended in the meetings. Roles and responsibilities of the UDMC were elaborately discussed in the meetings.

About 1200 group meeting on different issues including DRR preparedness were organized in the action areas during the reporting year.

Workshop with govt. departments (Basic Service workshop):

In 2007, Basic Service Workshop was organized at 3 upazilla and district. To view of the workshop how to reach the basic services like education support, health support, sanitation, Vat nary support to the char people. Due to illiterate of the char people they have very little access to the government service. It is one of the most important parts of RBP to advocate with government officials as well as local government to motivate them regarding the issue.

h) NFPE School:

The NFPE School was started at RBP working areas since 2004 to view educational support to the children of char dwellers. Basically there is a very little scope to provide primary education at the Char areas of Shariatpur district. Children of Char areas are deprived of receiving primary education. Total 15 NFPE School is in operation at different Chares during the reporting year. Annual sports program was organized at the school premises. About 600 children completed a three-year long course on primary education and about 85% of them internee to government primary School or mainstreaming. This activity directly contributes to achieve EFA by 2010.



l) Observance of day and events:

SDS observe National and international day and events under this programme. During 2007 SDS observed Disaster mitigation day at Abbas Ali High School premises in North Taranunia on 8 October 2007. Discussion was held on Disaster mitigation in the Seminar and rally in observing the day.



International Woman's Day and International Disaster preparedness day was observed on 8 March 2007 and 31 March 2007 respectively. Rally and discussion was held on the day. In International Womens day, Ms. Lutfa begum, Chairman of Shapla Mohila Samity presided over the session. In each event school teacher, students, and beneficiaries, local elite, UP members, Imam and different stakeholders were participated in the Rally and discussion.

CASE STUDY

1. Farida-An empowered housewife

Farida Begam is eighteen-year old. She was married to Mr. Mojibur of neighboring village when she was 13. Mujibur's family was so poor that they could not take food for three times a day. She lives in a small straw house at Tati-kandi of Tarabunia union.

One day RBP staffs visited Farida's house and described about RBP activities. She felt inspired and joined as a member of Sakal Mohila Samity. She received training on duck rearing, pigeon rearing and early vegetable cultivation. As a result she became efficient and decided to start vegetable cultivation but she could not afford to start it. The opportunity came when SDS offered her to join in a team for flood shelter constriction. She discussed with her family and joined the team. She earned 2250.00 taka for that work. She saved the money and utilized her knowledge received in training for duck rearing and vegetable cultivation. She received 5 ducks from RBP office and also bought 2 ducks from local market. She started vegetable gardening. Later she received Tk. 5000.00 as loan from SDS office and bought a cow. After three months the cow gave birth a calf. She sold the cow's milk to the local market and earned Tk. 5400.00. She repaid all loans. Now she has a saving of Tk 1100.00 and owns 1 cow, 2 goats, 15 chickens and 20 ducks and 15 chickens in her ownership.

Now Farida has a tin shed house and a separate straw made kitchen. She installed a sanitary latrine that she got from SDS. She encourages her neighbors for homestead vegetable cultivation. Now Farida takes part in

the decision making process in her family. Farida wants that her children go to school and will be a good citizen.

“Now all my children go to school. One of my children got scholarship from Nowpara High School. I feel proud as a scholar’s mother. My days of sufferings have gone away. All these have been possible for the assistance provided by SDS and Oxfam” she told self-satisfied.

5. Training changes her life.

Amatan was 17 and married to Abdus Salam Dhali, a day laborer. She passed her life in distress. She has been living in Charvaga for 18 years after 1988 flood and erosion. Her family was large with 2 sons and 4 daughters. It was running somehow by the little income of her husband. Amatan become a member of Joy Mohila Shamity in 1999 being advised by the SDS field organizer. She received training on TBA, public health, poultry rearing, Fish culture, early vegetable cultivation, disaster management, health and sanitation. After receiving training Amatan received Tk. 5000 as loan and started poultry rearing and early vegetable cultivation project. She learnt and implemented poultry rearing and vegetable cultivation activities. The most successful area of her initiatives is homestead vegetable cultivation. After getting the training Amatan, along with her husband, devoted herself in vegetable cultivation in different seasons. They cultivated seasonal vegetables. They took advice from the SDS agriculture supervisor. They benefited through early cultivation of costly vegetable like bean, tomatoes etc. In this way Amatan became the most experienced TBA and successfully delivered pregnant women. Now a son of Amatan has gone abroad and totally changed her lifestyle. She has two tin-shed (chouchala) houses, one tin shed kitchen, three cow three goats. Everybody considers her family to be a successful one and she considers herself as self-reliant.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MICRO CREDIT PROGRAM (WECP)

Background:

SDS has been implementing a Project titled "Women Empowerment through Micro Credit Program" that has been designed to empower the women through micro credit support. PKSF is the funding agency of the Project. It is being implemented in six different programs. A total of 89 unions of 12 Upazilas in Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Faridpur district have been selected as the area of operation under the project. The women empowerment through Micro Credit Project is being implemented effectively and efficiently with active participation of the target beneficiaries.

Target Group:

The target group of this project is the disadvantaged and distressed women, widow, abandoned women, female headed households, hard core poor, small and marginal farmers of the SDS working area

SDS, since its inception, has been working towards improving the livelihood of the people living under poverty line. Objective of this program is to improve socio-economic status of the people of such segment. SDS started the program from Char Areas of Shariatpur district. In course of time, it has now been implementing in 89 unions of 12 Upazilas in Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Faridpur district. PKSF, the micro finance support authority in Bangladesh is providing financial support at a low interest rate since 1993.

A magnitude of the target Population lives below poverty level. Micro-credit support inspires them to improve their status of living and helps them getting self-reliant. This support emancipates them from getting loan at high interest rate from the local moneylenders doing credit business. SDS' Micro-credit Program aims at assisting the disadvantaged people in income generation activities. Interest at the rate of 12.5% on flat rate basis is charged on the disbursed credit amount.

The women empowerment through Micro Credit Project is being implemented effectively and efficiently with active participation of the target beneficiaries. SDS organizes its members in groups and offers service package including training on IGA and awareness rising.

Under this program SDS is implementing five sub programs. These are:

1. Rural Micro Credit Program (RMC)
2. Micro Finance and Technical Support (MFTS)
3. Micro Entrepreneur Credit (MEC)
4. Ultra Poor (UP)
5. Livelihood Restoration Project (LRP)

1. Rural Micro Credit Program (RMC)

Rural Micro Credit plays the most useful and effective role to serve the rural poor with special focus on widow, distressed, abandoned women, ultra poor and female headed households. SDS has been implementing the program having received fund from PKSF. Members received loan from this component has been striving for livelihood improvement through adoption of proper and relevant income generating initiatives. Improving the socio-economic status and sustainable development is the objective of the sub components of this program. SDS implements the program through 613 groups of 19 branches in its operational area. Total No of members are 19452. Among them 15536 members have so far received loan that is about 80% of the total members. Total disbursed amount of loan under this program is Tk. 961,90,970 that is being operated through 19 branch offices of SDS.

2. *Micro Finance and Technical Support (MFTS)*

This is another PKSF assisted program designed for the progressive and experienced Micro Credit borrowers need large amount of credit to augment and diversify their existing IGA. It helps such borrowers who have entrepreneurial capacity to scale up their initiatives. The members receive, along with financial support, skill development training on poultry, duck, goat rearing, beef fattening, mini hatchery and other IGA.

SDS is carrying out the program through 6 branches of Shariatpur district. No. of Groups formed under this program is 478 and No. of members enrolled are 10489, of which 7708 members have been covered under this loan component that is about 74% of total members. A total of Tk. 649,44,834 has been disbursed among the loan recipients.

3. *Micro Entrepreneur Credit (MEC)*

The program provides financial assistance to those who are planning to start Micro Entrepreneurship but could not set out because of scarcity of necessary working capital. It promotes their business initiatives as well as helps generating employment opportunity for the poor. The program is being implemented by SDS through 4 branches. Currently the No. of group are 208. No. of member are 448 of which 410 member have been covered under this program that is about 92% of total members. The amount of loan disbursed under this component is Tk.118,96,500. The micro projects covered under this component are grocery whole selling, jewelry, workshop, wood furniture, Hardware business, Pharmacy, Bakery, silver/kasha, sands, rods, cement, tin, candle light, chanachur, ice-cream, raw materials, paner boroj, and cottage industry etc.

4. Ultra Poor (UP)

This program has been tailored in such a manner that the ultra poor and hard core poor can have easy access to this program and utilize the micro credit effectively to increase their income level and to be benefited from this program. SDS has been implementing this program for the ultra poor living in the remote and char areas of Shariatpur district through 6 branches. Currently 481 groups are operating under the program. A number of 8005 members, out of 9970, have received loan from this component and implementing small enterprise.

5. Livelihood Restoration Project (LRP):

Shariatpur is among the most disadvantaged districts having disrupted communication. Every year agriculture in the area faces severe threat of natural calamity. LRP loan is provided, at a low rate, to disaster torn people for giving them financial assistance. Beneficiaries of the above Programs are the target people and granted support from this component.



Capacity Building of Ultra Poor (CUP) Project for Riverain Community

Background:

The Capacity Building of Ultra Poor (CUP) Project, funded by Oxfam Novib, has been designed for the ultra poor people, with particular focus on women, of the charlands of Shariatpur and Chandpur districts aiming at improving livelihood situation of the targeted families. Main components of the Project include mobilization, awareness raising, advocacy, promotion of livelihood, disaster preparedness and non-formal primary education.

Goal of the Project

Capacity building of disaster prone vulnerable people through promotion of livelihood, develop life skills, resource mobilization and to create resource provision.

Project objective

Building capacity, increasing livelihood options, preventing domestic violence against women and creation of measure for mitigating disaster.

The area covered under the Project, launched on Pilot basis, is a total of 7 riverbank unions of Goshairhat and Damuddya Upazila of Shariatpur and Sadar upazila of Chandpur districts. Interventions of the Project are Staff orientation on Project activities, secondary information collection, flood impact study on school and students, Rapid assessment of SIDR, village list finalization based on specific criterion, Orientation on socio-economic baseline survey: community situation profiling, ultra poor household benchmark survey, post SIDR medical support, Socio-Economic baseline in CUP working area, PIC formation and Ultra poor group formation.

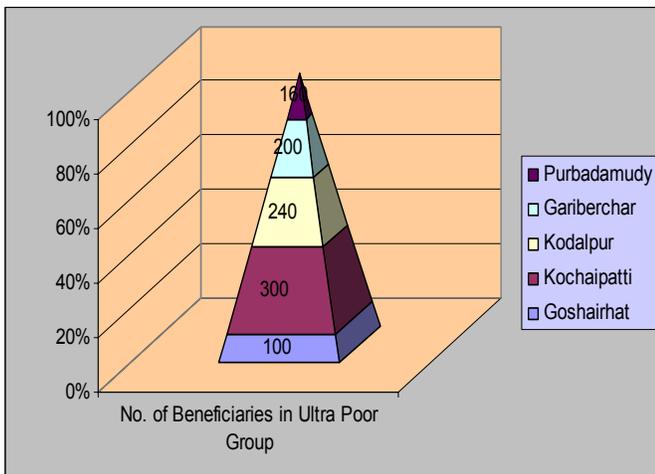
ii) Orientation on CUP Project:

According to HR, newly recruited staffs should be attending a day long orientation. In 2007 a daylong orientation Course for capacity building of the newly recruited staffs of CUP Project has been organized on November 12, 2007. Objectives of the course were to orient the staffs to make them understand the SDS and the CUP Project, to build common understanding among the newly recruited staffs about the Project, to raise conception level of the staffs on the organizational aspects of CUP Project and its activities in detail, its strategies and to aware them of the HR issues of SDS.

In order to make the newly recruited staffs well equipped, strengthen their capacity and increase efficiency, the course contents have been outlined with adequate understanding and state of affairs. The course content included background of the organization and the CUP Project, discussion on ultra poor, method of identifying ultra poor, working out the strategies for capacity building of the ultra poor,

secondary information collection, team formation and Action plan preparation for secondary information collection of ultra poor from villages and unions.

The core activities elaborately discussed in the course were mobilization, advocacy related activities, awareness raising activities, promotion of livelihood activities, primary education for the children of riverbank (isolated char), capacity building activities and research and document activities. Tools and techniques exercised during the session to make it more efficient were group discussion among the participants, lectures, visualization, group work, discussion with multimedia presentation and question and answer round among the participants.

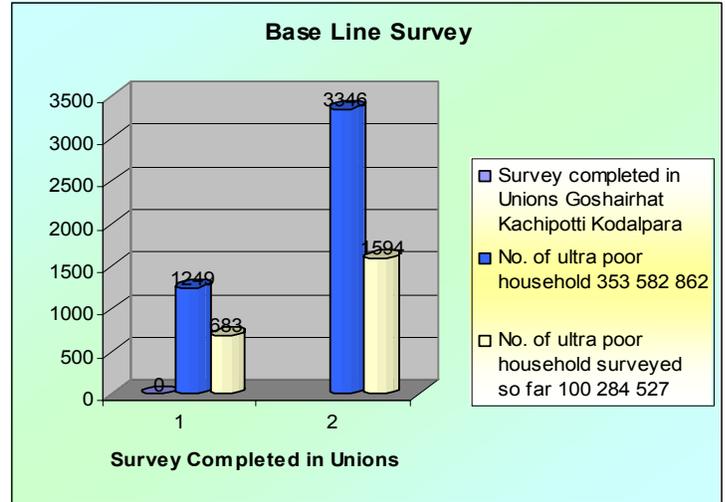


Ultra Poor Group Mobilization:

Total 50 Ultrapoor committee was formed while 50 project implementation committee was formed. In each Ultra Poor committee consists of at least 20 members. For each village one project implementation committee has been formed where participation of local elites, teachers, Imam, village leaders, women members and ultra poor group members have been ensured.

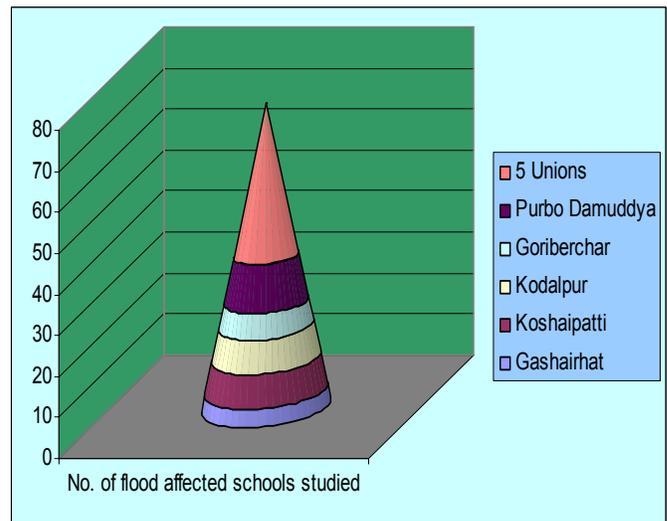
v) Baseline survey:

A daylong orientation Course on Baseline Survey of CUP Project, with participation of all the CUP Project staffs, has been organized on November 21, 2007 in the SDS Training Room, Goshairhat. Objectives of the course were to orient the staffs to make them understand the Baseline survey, PRA and basic tools and techniques of it, build understanding about household survey, formation process of PRA group and method of collecting social data and the technique of data collection. After orientation a base line survey was conducted at Goshairhat and Damuddya unions.



iv) Impact study of flood to the school going children:

A study on impact of flood to the school going children has been carried out in 37 Nos of flood affected schools of 5 unions of damuddya and Gashairhat Upazilas of Shariatpur district. Summary statistics of studied schools are as under:





PROMOTING CIVIC RIGHTS OF SOCIALLY EXCLUDED CITIZENS: A SOCIETY BASED APPROACH.

Background:

The titled Project, funded by European Union, has been designed to promote non-partisan, fair-minded and educated social group as a catalyst for ensuring political rights of all Bangladeshi citizen with particular attention to the socially excluded group (women, char people, religious minorities, and disabled persons) The primary target group of this project focused on this excluded people with some promotional intervention. However, focus was also put for bringing other stakeholder, i.e. local government representatives, leaders of major political parties, media people, election authority and general people as a whole. The operational area of the Project is Madaripur, Shariatpur and Faridpur districts.

Project Objectives:

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to “Consolidation of free and fair elections in Bangladesh” while the specific objectives include:

- Socially excluded (women, char people, religious minorities and disabled persons) groups are empowered to facilitate free and fair election process; and
- Duty bearers responsibilities are enhanced for ensuring political rights for the excluded groups

Project Interventions:

For achieving the overall goal, this project aims at empowering the socially excluded group of people for ensuring their participation and access to the election process. For facilitating their promotion, the most significant portion of the society, the non-partisan, fair-minded, educated and open-minded group of people is targeted for mobilizing and organizing themselves as a Civic Right Forum (CRF). Total 207 Civic Rights Forum was developed in 3 districts Madaripur, Faridpur and Shariatpur. In each forum there are 11 members consists. ToT was organized for each forum. A training module was developed and printed as a guide book for CRF members.

Total 13,247 meetings were conducted by Civic Rights Forum. Around 3,97,410 people attended the meetings and became aware of their rights. Meetings for socially excluded female were conducted separately.

Massive information campaign is initiated through various attractive and effective approaches so that the community people are mobilized equally to back up the forum. In the mean time the most vulnerable and socially excluded group of people i.e. women, char people, religious minorities and disabled are educated with adequate information and orientation having particular focus on voting rights and access to system. The troop performed 6-10 shows per day in three districts. Total 290 shows were performed in 90 Unions. Peoples from different communities were present during performance and they really enjoyed the drama and song as well as received the massage. Posters and leaflet were developed and disseminated at different community places in three districts for awareness rising. It would serve to motivate the excluded people about their Civic Rights, increase consciousness on Human rights of Election Authority, Government officials, politicians and others stakeholders.

Duty bearer's responsibilities are enhanced for ensuring political rights of the excluded groups. Towards enhancing the responsibilities of duty bearers, particularly the leaders of political parties, expected MP candidates, representatives from various tiers of the Government systems including the election commission authority and made sensitized and educated properly for promoting the non-discriminatory attitude towards all voters in particular and every citizen in general. 8 batches training were organized for members of Union Parishad. The training was conducted by senior staffs of the project. SDS provided training on Civic Rights issues for women representatives of Local Government. A number of 10 training was organized under this project in 2007. In the training constitutional Civic Rights, Women Rights Universal Declaration Human Rights was discussed.

Major political parties are brought on the board for bridging them with the mass people and orient them about the existing political process, internal structure, its contribution in nation development process, disseminating the relevant circulation from election commission, its subsequent follow up etc. A meeting was held at Shib-Char upazilla under Madaripur district on 28th December 2006, Where 25 field level leaders from 6 Major political parties attended. It was discussed in the meeting about political rights of all citizens and tried to motivate them on voter rights of ethnic minorities group.

A meeting was held at Shib-char upazilla under Madaripur district on 16th November 2006. Total 26 participants attended the meeting. It was one of the objectives to aware and motivates the people on voter rights of ethnic minorities.



Voter Awareness Program (VAP) Election Working Group (EWG)

Background:

The Voter Awareness Program, funded by The Asia Foundation, is under way in 91 unions of 12 Upazilas of Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur districts. The objectives of the Project are to create awareness among the people of the Project area about the roles and rights of them in the national and local level elections. In our country various types of irregularities, anarchy, and political turmoil have been experienced in all the elections held previously. The Project has been designed in order to educate the voters about all sorts of irregularities of the election process and to create such feeling among the voter that casting vote is their right not privilege.

Interventions:

The activities involved with the Voter Awareness Program are miking for campaigning through loud speaker for mass awareness. Twenty units were engaged for a union to carry out the program.

- Special meetings are arranged with local elites, male and female local Govt. Leaders, new voters, and disabled voters to inform and aware them about the Do's and Don'ts involved with election
- Rallies with colorful banners, festoon and posters with attractive messages to aware the voters are under way. Two rallies of this type are arranged for each union.
- Banners are displayed in important places of all the unions, upazilas and districts towns so that maximum voter can see them and apprehend the message.
- Leaflets containing important guidance and directions relating to the roles of voters are distributed among the passers-by.

The status of work completed can be available from the following Table:

SI	District	Activities				
		Canvassing (Miking)	Special Meeting	Rallies	Banner Display	Leaflet
01	Shariatpur	320	16	32	32	7000
02	Madaripur	180	9	18	18	4000
03	Faridpur	220	11	22	44	4000
Total		720	36	72	94	15000



Amader School Project (ASP)

This is a Concern Worldwide; Bangladesh assisted Project with area coverage of Bhedergonj Upazila of Shariatpur district.

Target group:

1. Pro poor students,
2. poor performing students,
3. members of school managing committee,
4. pro poor mother and parent teacher association of the selected schools.

Interventions:

In the October 2006-September 2007 reporting period the following interventions have taken place:

- One district level Project launching Meeting was held to create awareness among the education related stakeholders about the objectives of Amader School Project.
- One Upazila level Project launching Meeting was held to create awareness the education related stakeholders and the Project target groups about the objectives of Amader School Project.
- School selection has been performed following the Project selection criterion and a number of 25 schools have been selected for providing Project support.
- A number of 25 school level inception meetings were held with participation of school related stakeholders aiming at getting necessary support for operating ASP from them
- School mapping (Primary education) and well being analysis was done in 17 events in order to identify school catchment area, local resources, know the socio-economic condition and identify the necessity and extent of quality primary education

- 5 Nos, Base line survey was carried out to make assessment and to get a transparent picture of primary education
- 15 training events of School Managing Committee (SMC) were held to aware the SMC members of their roles and responsibilities towards managing the school
- One session for preparing school development plan was held to identify the problem and necessary scope of operation for ensuring quality primary education
- 7 local level sharing meeting with the members of local Govt. bodies took place for sharing Project overview and getting due assistance from them
- 3 potential group identification were held for improving learning achievement of the poorest students.
- 5 events of day observation held in the Upazila and district level to make the stakeholders aware of different national and international key days
- 4 Nos. mothers gathering took place with participation of the mothers aiming at improving their awareness.
- 6 Nos. of follow up sessions were held for making the SMC members aware so that they can participate in the SMC monthly meetings on time
- One internal exposure visit was done to learn about the good practices taking places in different schools in the Project area
- Necessary support to river eroded school was provided to facilitate regular activities of the school.



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PROGRAM

Background:

The Project, "Empowerment Through Resource Mobilization Program" has been designed for the establishment of right of the poor landless male and female and Poverty Alleviation of them through Empowerment. Overall objectives of the Project are to i) organize the poor landless male and female and bring them under the umbrella of greater unity and solidarity ii) create awareness and analytic standpoint among the landless through continuous efforts iii) organize combined resistance against social injustice, inequity, deprivation and prejudice iv) keep the spirit of liberation war above all v) to build up a democratic society based on just and equity of male and female vi) ensure participation of the people of all walks of life in the development initiatives and strengthen unity and solidarity and finally combat all sorts of disaster. The duration of the Project is five years.

Project Interventions and achievements:

- SDS has succeeded in organizing the landless people in its operational area and encouraged them to originate saving habit among its group members. It has so far collected Tk. 4,24,820.00 as savings from its members.
- The landless members have been aware of their equitable right and efforts are under way to acquire their right. So far 126.12 acres of khas (Government) land have been acquired through settlement, 99.86 acres of khas water body, and 30 acres of khas land for one year has been acquired through settlement in favour of the landless members of the Project.
- Adequate relief materials have been distributed among the poor landless segment of people
- Khas land and khas water body have been acquired through permanent settlement in favour of the landless members

Shortcomings and bottlenecks encountered:

- Land related information could not be collected properly and duly because of the lack of sincerity and cordiality of the employees of settlement office.
- Lack of cooperation was experienced in collecting land related information from the upper level of hierarchy
- The landless people have been deceived by some fake establishments in many times and lost their confidence on the process. It has therefore taken some time for SDS to win the lost confidence of the landless people.



LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Background:

The Livelihood Recovery Project has been designed to provide Wat-San and Hygiene support to the people affected by flood and river erosion of Shariatpur district for ensuring safe drinking water, providing sanitation facilities and reducing the risk of water borne diseases. The Project duration is two months. SDS has been implementing the program with financial assistance from Action Contre La Faim (ACF).

Nawdoba, Purbo Nawdoba and Boro kandi, the three unions of Janzira Upazila under Shariatpur district are the working area is ACF-SDS program. Of the three unions, Nawdoba and Purbo Nawdoba have been selected by ACF-SDS mission for implementation of disaster emergency response and rehabilitation of water, sanitation and agricultural inputs because these areas are adjacent to Padma river and have been severely affected by the 2007 flood. After the devastating cyclone 'SIDR' three more unions were included for implementing disaster emergency responses and rehabilitation. Close to 16,900 affected people have been benefited by the project intervention. 700 families of the 2 unions have been covered by the 1st phase of the Project.

Major Interventions:

Selection of hard core poor as Project beneficiaries, disinfecting of flood affected water points, raising aprons of existing water points, distribution of hygiene kits, holding hygiene promotion sessions in the community level and distribution of seed kits are the major interventions involved with the Project.

Achievements:

a) Selection of target groups:

According to the Project design, 968 hard core poor families have been selected through community targeting process and provided support for ensuring pure drinking water and sanitation facility.

b) Disinfection of Water points:

A total of 55 nos. of flooded water points, 25 of which are in Nawdoba and other 30 points in Purbo Nawdoba have been completed using proper method of disinfection. Seven more water points that are already raised by ACF-SDS are expected to be disinfected soon.

c) Raising apron of water points:

Raising apron of 40 existing water points has been completed according to approved design and specification. All the water points are being used by the respective target households after necessary curing time is passed and the water quality is tested.

d) Hygiene kit distribution:

Based on the ACF-SDS guideline and selection criterion for selecting household from hard core poor 1885 hygiene kits have been distributed among 1885 household and are being properly used by them. Materials included in each hygiene kit can be seen in table-1:

e) Hygiene Promotion session:

180 hygiene promotion sessions have been carried out in the selected villages by the community workers (CW) following prescribed HP issues, using Flip chart and other training materials and techniques. About 3033 participants received awareness and their knowledge increased on hand washing at key times like after faecal matters and before handling food items.

f) Food Security:

1885 target household, identified through community based selection process, have been provided with a seed kit one for each household. Every 1.1 kg package of seed has been distributed based on the need assessment. The package contained seeds of different species can be seen at table-2:

Establishing Community Based Disaster Preparedness to Reduce Vulnerability

Background:

The Project titled, "Establishing Community Based Disaster Preparedness to Reduce Vulnerability" being implemented by SDS, has been designed to create awareness among the members of Disaster Management Committee (DMC) of union and Upazila level on disaster preparedness so that they can render effective assistance to combat challenges of the cyclone and flood hit area. The operational area for the project is 12 unions of Bhanga Upazila under Shariatpur District.

Project Interventions:

The project interventions include Inception workshop for Union Disaster Preparedness Management committee. Inception workshop for Upazila Disaster Management Committee, CRA Workshop, Tree plantation, Training on disaster preparedness, and Cash for work. Here are the program wise achievements:

Programs: **Following are the programs carried out under the Project:**

a) Inception Workshop for Union Disaster Management committee (UDMC)

Thirteen meetings of pourashava and Union Disaster Management committee were held in 1 pourashave and 12 Unions of Bhanga Upazila. A total of 390 members at the rate of 30 members in every meeting participated in the workshop. The duties, roles and responsibilities of the committee members during disaster have been elaborately discussed in the workshop. The meetings contributed to create sense of responsibility among the participating members that encouraged and energized them to combat the flood 2007 and sever the flood affected people effectively and efficiently.

b) Inception Workshop for Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UZDMC): A daylong workshop of Faridpur UZDMC took place with Participation of 35 members. Duties and responsibilities of UZDMC were elaborately discussed in the workshop. As a result the UZDMC has become much more dynamic than ever before.

b) CRA Workshop:

The workshop took place in 12 Unions of Bhanga upazila. 200 male and female participants attended each workshop. A total of 1040 female and 1560 male have participated in 13 workshops. Among the participants were the TNO, UP Chairmen, UP members, widow, abandoned and divorced women, female headed household, landless, teachers, Imams, farmers. Government and Non-Government representatives. Types of disaster in local level, assessment of losses and damages resulted by the disaster and identifying the way of recovering the loss were discussed in the workshop. Duration of each workshop was 7days. A draft plan for reducing risk of disaster was formulated at the concluding stage of the workshop. The plan contributed to reduce losses and damages caused by disaster at local level.

c) Tree plantation:

A total of 12000 saplings of wood, medicinal and fruit trees, at the rate of 20 saplings for 600 families, have been distributed in Uglee union of Bhanga Upazila aiming at improving environment. The trees, in the long run, would work as a hurdle and aid to protect flood and cyclone as well as help improving environmental situation.

d) Training on Disaster Preparedness:

Training program on flood and cyclone preparedness has been arranged for 261 female and 369 male of 7 unions of Bhanga Upazila. Priority was given to widow, divorced and abandoned women, female headed household and disabled in the training program. Having received the training the participants have had their mindset to carry out flood and cyclone preparedness related activities.

e) Cash-for-Work program:

In order to generate employment opportunity and reduce losses and damages, homestead of 26 hard core poor families have been raised above 1998 flood level costing Tk. 2,06,700.00 . As a result the houses have become flood free. Furthermore, fields of two primary schools of Kalamridha and Uglee union have been raised at the cost of Tk. 1,51,000.00 and Tk.1,05,000.00 respectively. The two raised school fields can be used as play ground during normal period and as shelter during flood.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Background:

Energy plays a very significant and diversified role in the development of human civilization. Renewable energy is becoming more and more popular as it is environment friendly, cost effective and is suitable to small, off grid applications sometimes in the rural and remote areas where energy is generally crucial for any sort of development. It potentially utilizes natural resources such as sunlight, wind and tides that are naturally replenished. The technical potential of their use is very large, exceeding all other readily available sources.

Solar Energy

Shariatpur is a river-girt district having extensive char areas around. The working area of SDS has therefore a huge potential for Solar Electricity as it difficult for the National Power grid to make its access to the remote char areas. SDS has made the onset in the field of renewable energy in 2006. As the introductory step, SDS has provided a series of awareness raising campaign to make the people informed about solar energy, its usage and benefit and so on. In the reporting period, SDS has successfully installed 11 Nos. solar home systems in the char areas of Shariatpur district.

Biogas

Biogas can easily be produced form current waste, such as sewage, animal waste and the other wastages available around us. The various waste streams are slurried together and allowed to naturally ferment producing methane gas. The good thing of it is when the biogas plant has extracted all the methane it can, the remainders are sometimes better suitable as fertilizer that the original biomass.

However, SDS has come to a formal understanding with the Infrastructure Development Company Ltd. (IDCOL) under National Domestic Biogas Plant and Manure Management system. Under the Renewable Energy Program SDS has developed 33 Biogas plants at Baghar Para and Monirampur Upazila of Jessore district and Damurhuda of Chuadanga for domestic lighting purpose. SDS has so far installed over 80 such plants that are operating very efficiently offering intended benefit to the users.



Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Program Assisted by UNDP & DFID-UK

Background:

The recent flood 2007 in Bangladesh has put the human existence of thousands of people by washing away their livelihood options, devastating their habitations, affecting their livestock and increasing health hazards of water borne diseases due to water contamination and drove people towards food insecurity and uncertainty. Without food and security and due to absence of any income generating options the people of the affected areas passed their lives with greater insecurity and indignity.

SDS, as parts of its commitment to strengthen Government's disaster response program, was successful to realize Emergency Flood Response – 2007 project from UNDP. With its Emergency Flood Response-2007 project, UNDP & DFID-UK extended their support to the marooned people of Shariatpur and Rajbari and selected SDS as their implementing partner in the endeavor. During the scheduled project period, SDS successfully implemented 2 phases of relief distribution among the selected flood affected people in Shariatpur and Rajbari district.

Objective of the Project

Objective of the Project was to provide emergency support to address immediate food and non-food requirement of the most vulnerable flood-affected families in Shariatpur and Rajbari District and to supplement alongside the Government intervention in the flood affected areas.

Intervention

43 unions of 7 upazilas under Rajbari and Shariatpur districts were selected as the working area. 7000 beneficiaries from most vulnerable families have been identified to give project support. The target beneficiaries were mainly the landlines, female headed household, old aged without any family support/ with household responsibilities, pregnant women, extreme poor and poor households affected by flood. Families identified and listed were finalized with participation of Union Parishad Chairman and Members. The approved list was finally cross checked and cards were distributed to the beneficiaries according to master role. According to the project guideline by UNDP & DFID-UK, the same beneficiaries have been covered and provided with project support in the 1st and 2nd phase of emergency responses.

Area of Intervention (in tabular form)

SI	District	Upazila	No. of Union	No. of Family
1.	Rajbari	Sadar	4	600
		Pangsha	3	840
		Goalondo	5	640
2.	Shariarpur	Sadar	7	1120
		Naria	8	1400
		Bhederganj	11	1200
		Janzira	5	1200
Total	02	07	43	7000

Table 2: Status of Intervention (Beneficiary wise)

Type of Intervention	Location			Type of Beneficiaries		
	District	Upazila	No. of Union	Female	Male	Disabled
Distribution of Food and Non-food items	Shariatpur	Sadar	07	739	359	22
		Naria	08	1211	150	39
		Bhederganj	11	570	608	22
		Janzira	05	625	549	26
	Rajbari	Sadar	05	212	417	11
		Pangsha	04	152	436	12
		Goalondo	03	227	596	17
Total	02	07	43	3736	3115	149

The beneficiary wise status of intervention (table-2) reveals that food and non-food items have been distributed to a number of 3736 female, 3115 male and 149 disabled beneficiaries from 43 unions of 7 upazilas under Shariatpur and Rajbari districts.



Flood Response 2007

Supported by: Oxfam-GB

Background:

The district of Shariatpur has 6 upazillas, 65 unions and 1,230 villages with an average density of 1,653 people per square kilometer. In current flood all upazillas including Pouroshava are affected in shariatpur district. Upazillas –Bhoderong, Naria, Zanjira Shariatpur Sador and Dammuda seriously damages. Total 65 Unions are affected by flooded and River erosion of the district. Vulnerable Char people specially women; children and aged people are suffered seriously.

Total 113933 families are affected by flood and 9,500 families are affected by River erosion at Shariatpur district. About 58 thousands acres lands, 133 km roads are fully damages while about 995 Km are partially damages including 2 markets, 8 villages and 8 schools and social institutions are went under river bed while 652 institutions are partially damages. 21 peoples are death due to flood. (Sources: district flood control room)

The flash flood affected peoples have lost their thousands of houses, thousands acres of crops field, seedbed, vegetable ground etc. Daily necessities goods like Rice, Pulses, salt, fuel are going to beyond purchase capacity of the community.

Goal and Objective:

Goal: To provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable and poor families affected by the floods in Shariatpur district in order to reduce their suffering.

Objectives:

1. To provide support to 2230 most affected families in Shariatpur district with food and hygiene promotion programme within the next 60 days.
2. Immediate Impact and contribute to sustainability of the project areas.

Achievement:

On the basis of need assessment and survey SDS response 9 unions and 1 Pouroshava of 3 Upazillas of Shariatpur. In response to the decision of the respective DDMC/UDMC, SDS communicates with the Donors and subject to received assistance from the Donors. SDS organized an orientation for volunteer for Emergency response. In the orientation session total 34 volunteer were attended.

SDS regular communicate with the UNO and DC office for response purposes and before response SDS always take permission by the government authority. During the distribution time Tag officer from respective Upazilla and UP representative were present. For 1st phase response Deputy Commissioner of Shariatpur district, Army officials were present at Nawapara distribution areas.

SDS response for food support to the 2230 families, Fodor support for 454 families and Housing Materials support for 667 families.

Name of District	Target area		# of Families		Remarks
	Name of Upazila	Name of Union	Targeted	Achievement	
Shariatpur		CharAtra	200	200	Fodder: 102 T.S:90
	Naria	Nawapara	200	200	Fodder:150 T.S: 111
		Ghorisher	200	200	Fodder: 69 T.S:33
	Total:	3 union	600	600	Fodder: 321 T.S:234
		CharVaga	200	200	Fodder:137 T.S: 119
	Bahdorgong	KanchiKata	200	200	Fodder:56 T.S: 153
		North TaraBunia	200	200	Fodder: 197 T.S: 86
	Total:	3 union	600	600	Fodder:390 T.S:358
	Zanjira	Kunderchar	200	200	Fodder:143 T.S: 75
	Total:	1 Union	200	200	Fodder:143 T.S:75
		Tulasher	420	420	Nil
	Sador	Palong	200	200	Nil
		Pouroshava	210	210	Nil
	Total:	2 union, 1 pouroshava	830	830	
Grand Total:	9 union, 1 pouroshava	2230	2230	Fodder:854 T.S:667	

Activities Implemented:

Sl. No.	Description	Unit	No. of Families	Sl. No.	Description	Unit	No. of Families
01.	Rice	60 kg	2230	11.	Bucket with Lead	1 pce, 20 liter	2230
02.	Pulse	8 kg	2230	12.	Jug	1 pces	2230
03.	Soyabean Oil	2 liter	2230	13.	Mug	1 pces	2230
04.	Salt	1 kg	2230	14.	Latrine		23, both flood shelter and community
05.	Semulina	2 kg	2230	15.	Tubwel		16, both flood shelter and community
06.	Sugar	1 kg	2230	16.	Lifebouy Soap	4 pces	2230
07.	Plastic Sheet	21 feetx9 feet	667	17.	Wheel Soap	4 pces	2230
08.	Bamboos	4 pces, 35-38 feet	667	18.	Sanitary Napkin	1 yard	2230
09.	Chatai	4 pces, 6 feetx 6 feet	667	19.	Health awareness session		Total 80 sessions
10.	Rope	2.2 kg	667	20.	Cattle Food		854

Changes in policies, Practices, Ideas and Beliefs:

This year DMC and UDMC coordinated the whole Process. Deputy Commissioner Of the district informs all UNO before distributed the relief materials. Tag officer was involved for each union. They also supervise the distribution. For the first time UP members were involved with the whole process. Coordination between NGOs, Government and other stakeholder are smoothly functioning.

Army working closely with the civil administration in rescue and relief operation.

Army also providing Medical Support.



FLOOD RESPONSE 007

Supported by Oxfam Novib

Background:

The recent flood 2007 in Bangladesh have jeopardized the existence of thousand of people by washing away their livelihood options, devastating their habitations, affecting their livestock and endangering their lives with insecurity and uncertainty. The flood washed away peoples assets and homes, destroyed their lands, seeds, ponds, livestock, poultry and increased health hazards of water borne diseases due to water contamination and drove people towards food insecurity. SDS, although working for improving the livelihood of the hard core poor practicing a right based approach, has always considered disaster preparedness as a significant component in its program. During the Flood 2007 Oxfam Novib has extended its cooperation to SDS, its new counterpart, for giving immediate support to the flood affected people of the target area. The Project working Area covers 47 unions of 6 Upazilas under Shariatpur district.

Objectives of the Project:

To provide emergency support to 6700 most affected families in 6 Upazilas of Shariatpur district with food and health security and ii) to distribute vegetable seed for increasing production towards maintaining food security.

6700 families of 47 unions of 6 upazilas have received food support of which 20038 male and 14132 females of severely affected areas have been benefited under the Disaster Management Emergency Response.

20038 male and 14132 female beneficiaries of 6700 families of severely affected 47 unions of 6 upazilas have been provided with non food items under Disaster Management Emergency Response.

4000 severely affected families, drawn from targeted 6700 families, have been distributed vegetable seed items under Disaster Management Seed Distribution (Food Security Sector)

During distribution of food, non-food and seed items gender issue has been given due importance following the selection criterion as outlined in the Project guideline. As such, 60% of 6700 families have been covered from among the widow, abandoned, separated women, female headed household, old aged and disabled women and beggar women.

Case study

Case 1

Introduction: Salma Begum is the wife of Hasan Dali. She lives in village tengra under Goshairhat union of Shariatpur district. Her husband is a rickshaw puller. Under the Oxfam-Novib Flood Response-2007, she received seed for vegetables gardening for maintaining food security for a few months. She has planted all kind of seeds in the homestead surfaces like lalshak, palong shak, sweet pumpkin, pumpkin, korala, mula (root) and bean. During the post monitoring it was found that some seeds were sown and waits blooming up in a few days. Basically, her husband is not the owner of homestead land. His father in law is the owner of the land. She has planted crop on sharing basis with her father in law. The fencing of garden is collected from her father's house. During the post monitoring we found some vulnerabilities of her family:

- *Her husband is living with his father being separated from her.*
- *Her husband profession is rickshaw pulling and income varies day to day.*
- *Still her husband is not owner of his fathers land.*
- *She per day average income is Tk - 60-70 that is less than 1\$.*
- *Housing condition is very poor with straw roof and jute stick partition. House size is very small with 9 feet in width and 15 feet in length.*
- *Her plan is to collect loan from an NGO for building a tin roof house. She is expecting an amount of Tk.15000/= as loan for building a house.*



Emergency Flood Response-2007 Supported by UNICEF

Background:

Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur are the most vulnerable among the flood and cyclone prone districts of the country. The people of the districts have been the severely affected during flood-2007. It has put an aggrieved impression of damages and disruption on livelihood. In the flood – 2007 thousands of flood affected people have lost their shelter on the other hand, thousands of acres of crop fields, seed bed and vegetable grounds have been washed away. People of the affected community have lost purchasing power to buy their daily necessities like rice, pulses, salt, edible oil, fuel and so on.

In the flood 2007, UNICEF played a very crucial role by distributing nutritional supplement foods in the flood-affected areas for protection of nutritional status of children. Pregnant women and lactating mother. The UNICEF flood response-2007 has been designed to provide support in 5 phases in Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur districts

Project objectives:

- To improve housing condition of flood affected people
- To improve nutritional condition for flood affected children, pregnant women and lactating mother through distribution of high-energy biscuits (BP5).
- Improve livelihood of men, women, pregnant women, girls, children and infant
- Meet up immediate household necessities

Project Achievement:

Components of the UNICEF Flood Response – 2007 were i) high energy BP5 biscuit distribution for improving nutritional status of affected children, pregnant women and lactating mother ii) House materials/Family kit distribution for the affected people whose houses were submerged and damaged by flood and household materials were lost and iii) Plastic sheet distribution for improving shelter condition of displaced flood affected community people. The table below provides a clear picture of phase wise distribution of relief materials with families covered and dates of distribution in the mentioned districts.

Phase wise distribution of relief materials (with families covered and schedule)

Sl	Phase	District	No. of Upazila	No. of Union	Materials Distributed			Families Covered (No.)
					<i>BP5 Biscuit</i>	<i>Family kit</i>	<i>Plastic sheet</i>	
1.	Phase-1	Shariatpur	06	12	2000	-	-	2000
		Madaripur	01	11	1000	-	-	1000
2.	Phase-2	Shariatpur	04	17	1000	-	-	1000
		Faridpur	05	12	2104	-	-	2014
		Rajbari	03	07	1200	-	-	1200
3.	Phase-3	Shariatpur	06	17	-	1500	-	1500
		Shariatpur	06	24	-	-	5000	5000
		Madaripur	01	05	-	500	-	500
		Madaripur	01	12	-	-	2000	2000
4.	Phase-4	Faridpur	04	17	4104	-	-	4104
		Rajbari	03	07	1200	-	-	1200
		Magura	02	12	3612	-	-	3612
5.	Phase-5	Faridpur	04	12	-	1000	-	1000
		Faridpur	04	11	-	-	3000	3000
		Rajbari	02	07	-	500	-	500
		Rajbari	02	08	-	-	1000	1000
		Total	51	184	15020	3500	11000	29520

During flood Response SDS distributed total 15020 packet biscuit among 3500 families in Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur district. SDS covered 144 unions. Plastic Sheets was distributed for temporary among 11000 families while a Family kit was distributed among 3500 families.



SDS Academy

Background:

The contribution of education behind the evolvement of human civilization followed by social and economic development of the modern era can, in no way, be ignored. SDS has always believed that education can play a greater contributory role towards building a healthier nation by broadening vision, enriching knowledge base and widening outlook of the people.

SDS, apart from its other foreign aided Projects, has decided to establish a school that would be an archetype of schools and set an instance in the education arena of Shariatpur district. With a view to accomplish this, the Executive Committee of SDS has adopted a resolution in its meeting and accordingly established SDS Academy on January 22, 2007 to run entirely on its own fund. The curriculum of the school has been prepared keeping the view in mind that the students of this school would be made qualified in a way that they can dedicate themselves for the betterment of the people and the progress of the country. The objectives and aims of the school is masterminding the students to be the person of the age through putting stress on English learning, innovating moral values, computer education and cultural practices.

The School has just set its step forward with a number of 43 students, 25 boys and 19 girls enrolled in KG, Class one, two, and three. In order to operate the school efficiently and to provide quality education to the students, candidates having Masters Degree, may be relaxed for experienced candidates, have been considered during appointment of teachers.

For arrangement of location of the school, the SDS authority made arrangement primarily for four classrooms in the free space of the northeast area of the new campus of SDS office on

urgent basis. Eight teachers have so far been appointed, of them five are female. All the teachers are requisitely qualified. SDS nurses a plan in mind to take the school forward to high school level in future. The activities of the school have been progressing according to plan of the school authority. For this reason, to upgrade the education level step by step properly, they have decided to start two new classes namely Nursery after Play Group and class four after three in the 2008 session.

The SDS authority is determined to ensure better educational atmosphere, with cooperation of the School Managing Committee, Guardians, Teachers and students, to bring into being a good and worthy citizen for the betterment of the country.



Click Project

Lessons Learned

Background:

Ahead of every development initiative there are some broad and/or specific objectives. The activities of the Program/Project encompass those objectives in order to achieve its ultimate goal. In course of implementing the program, irrespective of sort of human development, livelihood improvement and relief and rehabilitation program, a significant treasure of experiences and lessons enriches and equip the implementers that contribute to successfully achieve the projected objectives of the program. SDS, working in the development arena, has earned a fairly rich experience in disaster management, micro-finance, education, health, and advocacy for basic services, arbitration and other social development initiatives.

Micro Credit: Carrying out Micro Credit Program a major area to worry about is overlapping as numbers of NGOs are providing loan in the same area. Members are receiving loans from different NGOs at the same time. In most of such cases, the borrowers can not properly utilize the loan in the particular IGA. Where as, in some cases member receive loan from one NGO to repay installment to another NGO.

- Immediate measures should be taken, through effective coordination among the NGO's working in the area, to stop overlapping.
- Through proper monitoring appropriate utilization of the loan can be ensured. Proposed sector enterprise and project should be checked properly before approval.
- IGA specific skill development training should be imparted for effective and efficient utilization of the borrowed money.

Disaster Response: In the emergency relief and rehabilitation programs during disaster response coordinated effort between GO and NGO has been proved very effective for successful implementation of activities during disaster.

- Through the response program SDS has strengthened effective collaboration, coordination and networking with Disaster Management committees at Union, Upazilla and District level. The intervention was very effective to address the short term food security of flood affected families.
- Besides immediate food, primary medicine and non-food support to protect flood related health hazards, the flood affected community are also in need of livelihood support that are very much needed for long term post-flood rehabilitation to help building their confidence to start their life again with new inspirations.
- There are many other burning issues like water and sanitation, education, communication, market stability, income regeneration etc. that should be addressed for longer-term security of the flood affected communities.

- Among the troublesome experiences was the disrupted communication in the project areas due to flood, risks of drowning, snakebites, and heavy rainfall that hindered emergency intervention.
- Most of the target beneficiaries were from the remote areas that were difficult to approach and time consuming. At times, the local government actors did not always play positive roles to facilitate the process. The distribution of relief was a troublesome job, and the Union Disaster Management Committee demanded more support for the distribution.

River Basin Program: Very prolific lessons were learned as it has got multifold objectives of reducing the vulnerability of the poorest communities, increasing involvement of SDS and community to preparedness to respond to the flood emergencies, improving livelihood options of the char dwellers and changing policies, practices, ideas and beliefs to reduce vulnerabilities of the poorest communities.

- For effective and efficient implementation of relief operations, GO and NGO collaboration and coordination should be strengthened and sense of confidence and trust should be developed between Local Government bodies and NGO sector.
- Active involvement of the poor people is required for effective relief distribution during any disaster. Participation of lactating mother and pregnant women should be strengthened in the Project support.
- A mid to long term support should be provided in a sustainable manner in the form of financial and technical assistance to increase income and improve livelihood of the hard core poor.
- To achieve the Project objectives effectively and efficiently, approach of working with the poor should be fully participatory in nature. This would help getting closer to the hard core poor.
- In the disaster preparedness segment, stress should be given on proper implementation of the action plan adopted in the CRA workshop.
- More training and workshop should be arranged for the UDMC and UZDMC members to make them more dynamic and effective. These types of workshops have been proved very much effective to combat disaster.
- The Local Government representatives were found a bit reluctant to attend the meetings and workshops organized for them. Lack of sense of participation was evident in the awareness build up of the beneficiaries about health and nutrition through hygiene promotion test.

Education Programs: In the Amader School Project (ASP) a major problem faced is river erosion. Lessons learned here are:

- Because of erosion the schools become difficult to approach for the students. Also unfavorable weather and long distance of the school makes the students reluctant to attend school.
- Lack of sense of responsibility of the SMC members makes them reluctant to participate in the monthly meetings regularly. Sometime the Upazila Education Officer shows negative approach towards the Amader School Project.
- More time should be given and additional support should be provided to increase effectiveness and improve performance of the schools situated in the long distance.
- Support should be extended to the volunteer teachers and team effort should be strengthened that would encourage the UEO to be more active.

Promoting civic rights of socially excluded citizens and The Voter Awareness Program:

- It was learned that the socially excluded people were not interested to get their names registered in voter list and not so much committed to cast their vote.
- The duty bearers have been more interactive with the mass people than they had been before for enhancing their sense of responsibilities and act accordingly for ensuring the political rights of the socially excluded groups.
- Representatives of the local Govt. bodies have extended all out cooperation during the voter registration Program although they were found a bit reluctant to attend the meetings and workshops organized for them.
- Positive attitude has been noticed among the voters. They have been so motivated that they are unwilling to register in more than one place.

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AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheet of Shariatpur Development Society (SDS) as on 30 June, 2007 and the related Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and Consolidated Receipts & Payments Account for the year the ended. The preparation of these financial statements is the responsibility of the management of Shariatpur Development Society (SDS). Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing as applicable in Bangladesh. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the enclosed consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the enclosed consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standards (IAS), as applicable in Bangladesh give a true and fair view of the state of the Shariatpur Development Society (SDS) and we also report that:

- a) We have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and made due verification thereof ;
- b) The accompanying consolidated Balance Sheet, consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and consolidated Receipts and Payments Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts ; and
- c) In our opinion, proper books of accounts have been maintained as required by rules.

Dhaka, 14 February , 2008

Ashraful Haque Nabi & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Signed by: Shahidun Nabi FCA

Shariatpur Development Society (SDS)

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June, 2007

1.00 Significant Accounting Policies :

a) Basis of Accounting

- The books of accounts of the Organization have been maintained on accrual basis and these accounts have been prepared accordingly.

b) Fixed Assets

- Depreciation has been charged on fixed assets under Diminishing Balance Method at rates varying from 5% to 30% per annum.
- No depreciation has been charged on addition.