

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Shariatpur Development Society (SDS)

Sadar Road, Shariatpur

Phone: 0601-55554, Fax: 88-0601-55434, Cell: 01714011901

E-mail: sds.shariatpur@gmail.com, Web: www.sdsbd.org

Annual Report 2008

EDITOR
MOZIBUR RAHAMAN

CO- EDITOR
RABEYA BEGUM

SCRIPT
KAMRUL HASAN
EASIN KHAN
CH. MD. KHALID HUSSAIN ERSHAD
TAPAN KANTI DEY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
SDS DOCUMENTATION CELL

PHOTOGRAPH
SDS DOCUMENTATION CELL

PLANNING & DESIGN
EMDAD HOSSAIN KHAN
GRAPHICS
JAMAL UDDIN

PUBLISHED BY
DOCUMENTATION CELL
SHARIATPUR DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (SDS)
sadar Road, Shariatpur

Content

	Page
Executive Summary	4
About us	5-6
River Basin Program	7-12
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MICRO CREDIT PROGRAM (WECP)	13-17
Capacity Building of Ultra Poor (CUP) project	18-30
Voter and Civic ninth parliamentary Election	30-31
Amader School Project (ASP)	32-36
WeCan Project	37-38
Livelihood Recovery Program	39-41
Renewable Energy	42
Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Program: Cyclone SIDR	43-45
SDS Academy	46
Lesson Learned	47-48

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. 51260 peoples are member under this program and 40194 members are present loaner. Total disburse amount is 156.70 corer taka and outstanding 36.46 corer taka.

Lobbying and advocacy is one of the important sectors of SDS. SDS is always advocating pro-poor issues like PRSP, MDG, Khash Land, climate change, gender & domestic violence, health & sanitation, good governance, women empowerment issue etc at local, national and international perspectives. Besides these SDS is working for strengthening the local government on governance issues.

We are putting our sincere efforts to create awareness on disaster management and Response and Crisis intervention through community management by empowering the village disaster management Committee, 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 2008.

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, water sanitation, good governance, gender development 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 31st December, 2008 SDS has enrolled 51260 members in 2666 groups in the micro finance sector. Savings accumulated in the same time form the members is Tk. 8, 67, 02,012.00. So far 40194 members have received Tk. 156, 96, 62,000.00 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 2008

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 2008 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 – 2007: Supported by Oxfam Novib
12. SDS Academy
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 2008 total 20 latrines and 05 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.



Annual Report 2008

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 180 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 4 vaccination camps were organized in 3 Upazilas in RBP working area. A total of 1190 cattle were vaccinated as well as 2775 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 increase their income and bring positive changes in their livelihood. Training imparted on different IGAs like Poultry rearing, Duck rearing, vegetable cultivation, Market Management etc. After training kinds support also provided to the successful beneficiaries. In 2008 total 150 Poultry were distributed among 50 female 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. Public health training was provided to the beneficiaries for increasing their consciousness about health and hygiene.



Vegetable cultivation training also given to 100 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 2008, 13 cows and 05 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 trainings. One of the courses was Participatory Vulnerable capacity Assessment Training (PVCA). Total 12 staffs of RBP received PVCA training and they have already discussed about the training among the beneficiaries in group meetings and had an assessment of their vulnerability through the cause – affect analysis. The staffs also received training on DRR & Climate Change on Public Health Issue. The staffs are now more aware on Climate Change issues concerning with Disaster risk reduction.

e) Workshop with govt. departments (Basic Service workshop):

In 2008, Basic Service Workshop was organized at Naria and Bhadergonj upazilla of Shariatpur District. To view of the workshop how to reach the basic services like education support, health support, sanitation support to the char people. About 50-60 participants were attended in each workshop. Chairman, Media personnel, representative from different NGOs and institute including project participants were presented. 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.



f) 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.



g) Observance of day and events:

SDS observe National and international day and events under this programme. During 2008 SDS observed International Women Day, Disaster Preparedness Day Disaster mitigation day at ChaMohon, Kachikata & Charatra. DRR&VLHs staffs, School teacher, students, beneficiaries, local elite, UP members were participated in the event. Open discussion, rally were included in the program.



CASE STUDY

Razia learns the art of flood survival

Razia Begum lives in the village of Munshi Kandi in Charatra union of Naria Upazilla. Located in the Padma basin, the village is no stranger to serious flooding and, with the reality of climate change bearing down on it, the future is likely to bring even more extreme weather.



However, despite the threat of yet worse floods, Razia and her fellow villagers had never been better prepared. But Razia's women's group-Shanti Mohila Group at the centre of the community's flood survival strategy. Through the training, the Razia has not only learnt about the risks and impacts of natural disasters, but have been shown how, through agricultural techniques and other practical measures, they can increase their chances of weathering future storms.

After being notified of any flood warnings through a radio supplied by the SDS, this women will first of all call a meeting to alert the other villagers to the situation. Children, the elderly and anyone who is unwell will then be escorted to the village shelter, which the group has built on a raised plinth a ten-minute walk away. This ensures that life can continue – that livestock and possessions are saved – when waters sweep through.

The training has also taught members of the group how to build portable clay ovens. When floods strike, they often bring food shortages and hunger with them. The ovens, which are stored high-up, out of harm's way, are a way of keeping the village well fed when fields and crops are lying under water. Stored alongside the ovens are wood for fuel and supplies of preserved vegetables.

Farida Becomes An Asset To Her Community

Farida Begum, a middle aged woman lives in Charmohon on Gharisar Union in Naria Upazilla of Shariatpur District. Farida's mother-in-law and other women members of the family used to deliver babies to earn money for their families. Farida used to accompany them as an assistant. Over the years Farida became experienced in delivering babies but still found difficulties in some cases. She became a member of Dhansiri Mohila Somity. After joining



Annual Report 2008

the Samity she got the training on TBA, Primary Health Care along with Reproductive Health conducts delivery but also provides counseling to the family members on how to take care of pregnant woman so that they can have healthy babies.

While visiting houses, she found that the villagers were very much reluctant to accept any FP method to keep their family small. Large family is one of the reasons why many households cannot overcome poverty. Some families experience a reduction of family income due to chronic illness of the bread earner. Keeping this situation on mind, Farida decided to make eligible couples of her village aware of the benefit of having a small family. She tried to explain the permanent method of FP and remove the misconception about it prevailed in the locality.

In course of time, Farida's sincere and relentless efforts witnessed a significant success when two couples agreed to take NSV and some others were motivated to change their attitude towards FP. During surgery she was there all the time with the couple in the hospital and now they are living a happy life and are in good health.

Farida continues working in her community and today she is a recognized TBA. Not only people from her own village but people from other village often come to take her advice on health and other matters like mirage as well. Now she owns a house of her own and both of her daughters are happily married after passing secondary school examination. She wants to continue working for the betterment of her community throughout her life.

A New Beginning Towards Betterment

Cheheran Begum, her husband and children used to live in a tottering hut on a tiny land in Bhatkul at Kunder Char union of Janjira Upazilla in Shariatpur District. She got married at a very early age. Her husband was an ordinary farmer. It was really difficult for her husband to meet all the needs of the family with his income.



Hoping for a better life, she became a member of Dipali Mohila samiti of RBP-SDS in July 2003. A few years after joining the Samiti, She started to get trainings on different issues like Homestead gardening, Early vegetable cultivation, Poultry rearing etc. She took a loan of 3000/= from the somity and bought a goat. She repaid her loan as per schedule in installments. Within a couple of months she began to make profit which raised a new hope in her life. But her house was down rather than other houses. It causes a lot of sufferings to her family. This year her house was totally flooded and damages. She lives about 10 days to build a temporary roof made by bamboo. Her cattle (goat) and poultry were in the same places. It was really a bad dream for her. 'RBP Apa visited my house during flood.

In the RBP group meeting Apa raised the issue to the all member about my situation. All members agreed to provide me home stead raising support. Then Apa listed my name and few days later RBP brother came to my houses and took measurement of my houses. "I never raised my house due to hard core; It is really surprised for me that SDS raised my house."

"I will cultivate vegetable in my homestead. This year my house will not flooded and I save my wealth and property. I am also more aware about disaster preparedness."

She told 'I took training on vegetable gardening, duck rearing and gender development from SDS. The training inspired me to cultivation and poultry rearing. I get seed support from SDS, this year.' After training she prepared herself to do vegetable gardening in her own courtyard. She cultivates Pumpkin, Bitter guard, Data etc. This year she sold Pumpkin, Bitter guard in the market and neighbors. 'I also gave vegetables to my relatives and near by neighbors. I earn about 3000 taka by selling the vegetable. I bought 3 chicken and 2 ducks by this money.' Due to training and seed support her income is increased. A positive change comes with her. She is already initiated poultry rearing. She feel herself an empower women. She told that SDS gives me confidence.



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 nine different programs. A total of 112 unions of 15 Upazilas in Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj Faridpur and Monshigonj 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.

Goal:

Objective:

Target Group:

The target group of this project is the disadvantaged and distressed women, widow, abandoned women, female headed households, ultra 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 112 unions of 15 Upazilas in Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj Faridpur and *Monshigonj* 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.

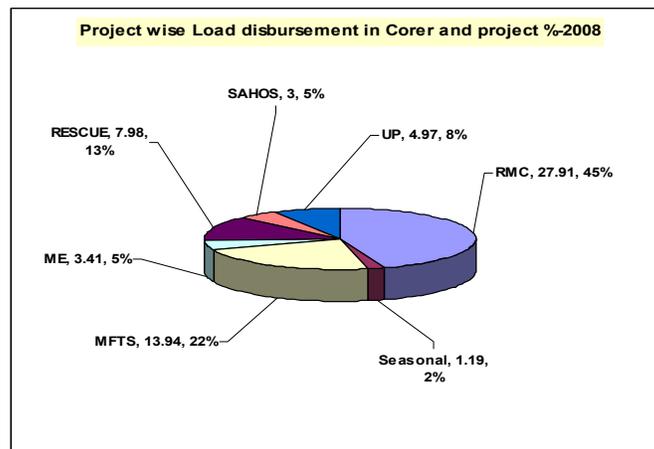
Annual Report 2008

Working Area :

SL NO	Name of Distract	Name of upzilla	No of Branch
01	Shariatpur	Sader upzilla	5 nos
02	"	Naria upzilla	4 nos
03	"	Zangira upzilla	5 nos
04	"	Bhadorgonj upzilla	6 nos
05	"	Damudda upzilla	3 nos
06	"	Gosharhat upzilla	2 nos
07	Madaripur	Sader upzilla	1 nos
08	"	Shipchar upzilla	3 nos
09	"	Rajir upzilla	1 nos
10	Gopalganj	Moksadpur upzilla	3 nos
11	Faridpur	Bhangga upzilla	3 nos
12	"	Saderpur upzilla	3 nos
13	"	Sader upzilla	1 nos
14	Munshigonj	Sreenagar	1 nos
15	"	lowhawjanj	1 nos
Total	05	15	42

Under this program SDS is implementing nine 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)
6. Seasonal Loan
7. Agriculture Sector Micro credit
8. Rehabilitation of SIDR affected Coastal Fishery, Small Business & Livestock Enterprises (RESCUE)
9. Special Assistance for Housing of SIDR affected borrowers (SAHOS)



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 1407 groups of 28 branches in its operational area. Total No of members are 31037. Total 25146 members have so far received loan out of 31037 that is about 81% of the total members. Cumulative disbursed amount of loan under this program is Tk.829463500. The Cumulative recovery 668094938 and present loan balance 161368562 that is being operated through 28 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 and cow rearing, beef fattening, mini hatchery and other IGA. Now beneficiary are established IGA on 5 Model Breeder, 7 Mini hatchery, 18 chick rearing, 601 Poultry keeper, 1513 Goat keeper, 4992 Cow rearing, 178 Beef fattening, 13 Buck stations, 149 Broiler firm, and 145 Homestead Gardening, SDS is carrying out the program through 6 branches of Shariatpur district. No. of Groups formed under this program is 512 and No. of members enrolled are 11238, of which 8236 members have been covered under this loan component that is about 73% of total members. Cumulative disbursed amount of loan under this program is Tk.383153000 Cumulative recovery 306663818 and present loan balance 76489182 that is being operated through 6 branch offices of SDS.

3. Micro Entrepreneur (ME)

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 5 branches. Currently the No. of group are 258. No. of member are 690 of which 654 member have been covered under this program that is about 95% of total members. The Cumulative disbursed amount of loan under this program is Tk.71120000 Cumulative recovery 52257752 and present loan balance 18862248 that is being operated through 5 branch offices of SDS.

4. Ultra Poor Project (UPP)

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 489 groups are operating under the program. A number of 6158 members, out of 8295 have received loan from this component and implementing small enterprise. The Cumulative disbursed amount of loan under this program is Tk.114157000 Cumulative recovery 93004722 and present loan balance 21152278 that is being operated through 6 branch offices of SDS.

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. The program is being implemented by SDS through 23 branches, the cumulative disbursed amount of loan under this program BDT 2,01,40,500/= and cumulative recovery BDT 1,97,30,840 and its loan balance BDT 4,09,660/=

6. Seasonal Loan

The program provides financial assistance to those who are cultivating deferent's seasonal crops like Tomato, Anion, Dale, and deferent vegetables. It promotes their cultivation initiatives as well as helps generating employment opportunity for the poor. The program is being implemented by SDS through 7 branches. The Cumulative disbursed amount of loan under this program is Tk.38885000 Cumulative recovery 31972500 and present loan balance 6912500 that is being operated through 7 branch offices of SDS.

7 Agriculture Sector Micro credit

This is new initiatives from PKSF; the program provides financial assistance to those who are defended to agriculture. It promotes their cultivation initiatives as well as helps generating employment opportunity for the poor. The program is starting by SDS through 2 branches.

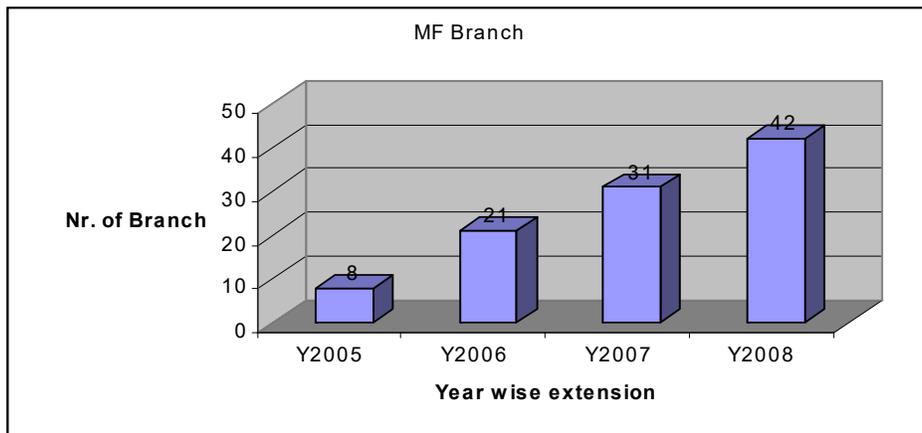
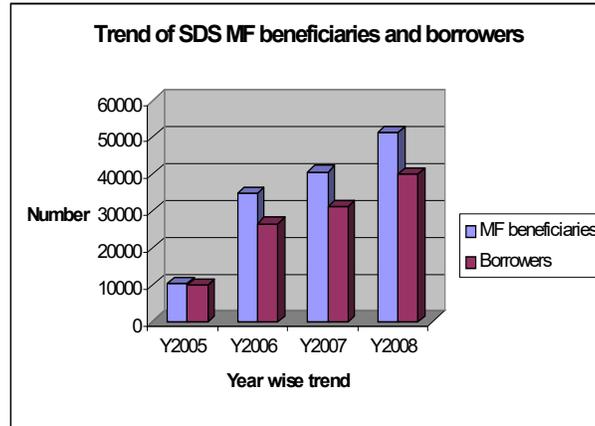
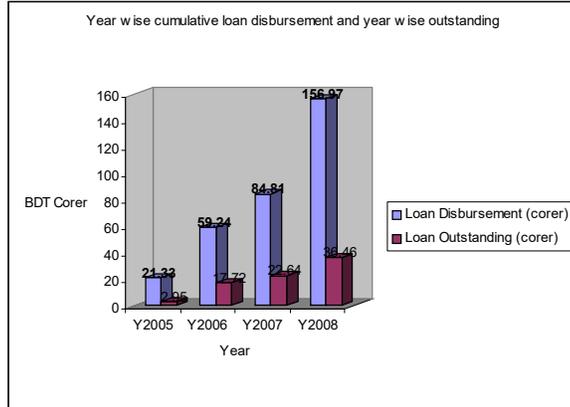
8 Rehabilitation of SIDR affected Coastal Fishery, Small Business & Livestock Enterprises (RESCUE)

The program provides financial assistance to SIDR affected households those who are lost their IGA by SIDR. It is promotes their IGA initiatives as well as helps and recovery their IGA. The program is being implemented by SDS through all (42) branches. The Cumulative disbursed amount of RESCUE loan under this program is Tk.79743000, Cumulative recovery 24095568 and present loan balance 55647432 that is being operated through all (42) branch offices of SDS

9. Special Assistance for Housing of SIDR affected borrowers (SAHOS)

The program provides financial assistance to SIDR affected households those who are lost their house by SIDR. It repair and newly made their house initiatives as well as helps and recovery their lost. The program is being implemented by SDS through all (42) branches. The Cumulative disbursed amount of **SAHOS** loan under this program is BDT 3,00,00,000, Cumulative recovery BDT 62,34,879/= and present loan balance BDT 2,37,65,121/= that is being operated through all (42) branch offices of SDS

Trend analysis of SDS Micro Finance:



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.

Mobilization activities insight briefing:

Group formation at village level:

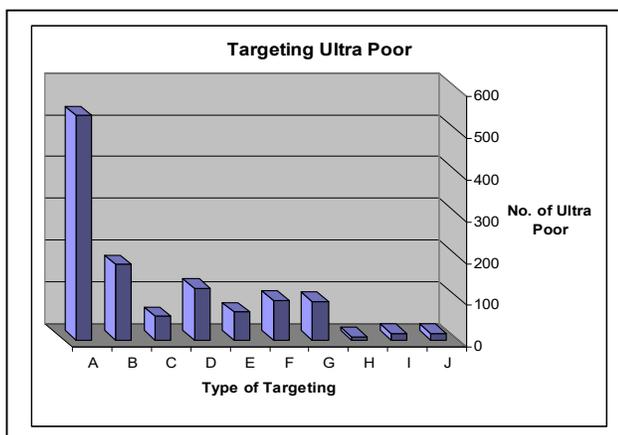
After successfully completed base line Survey, cup project formed fifty (50) ultra poor groups among the surveyed 82 Villages in 5 unions and average group member size 23.92. Every week CUP field

Organizers facilitated group meeting in different discussion like homestead gardening, hygiene behaviour, disaster preparedness, gender & women right base issues and livelihood promotion, gender issues. Primarily, in a month each group decided to seat three times minimum.



Targeting of Ultra Poor:

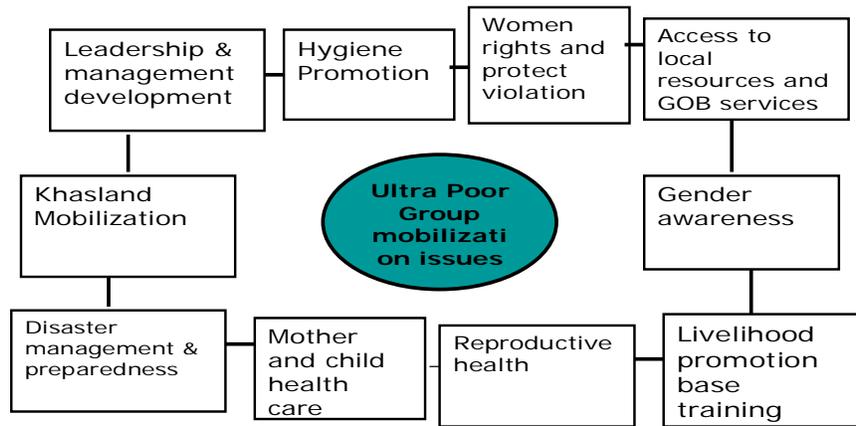
The professions of ultra poor group members are seasonal crops harvester women 538, Crops Harvester + Day laboring 181, day labor 57, day labor and made servant-124, widow-67, divorce women-95, deserted-93, petty business- 8, Bigger-1, handicrafts + pati bonan-15, floor cleaner-1, and Agriculture work-15 and part time school teacher 1. The following graph is visualized the targeting of Ultra Poor under capacity building of ultra poor.



Description of targeting in bar diagram:

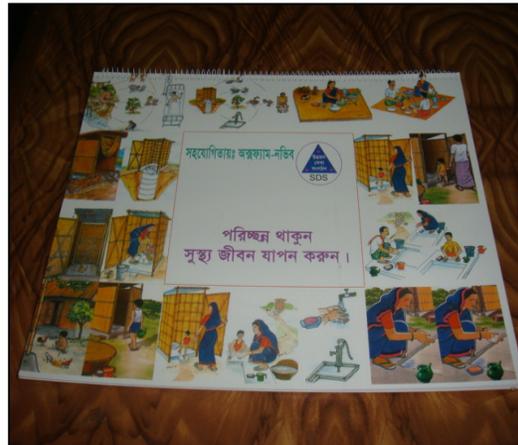
A. crops harvester women	B. Crops Harvester + Day labouring
C. Day labour	D. Day labour and made servant
E. widow	F. Divorce women
G. Deserted-	H. Petty business
I. Handicrafts + Pati bonan	J. Agriculture work

Group mobilization issues: Cup project session guide book at group level



Hygiene Promotion in Ultra Poor Group (UPG) Level:

A part of health awareness issues in UPG meeting, total 232 hygiene promotion sessions are held conducted by hygiene promotion flip chart where average 25 UPG women were participated in each sessions. According to number of session, total cumulative sum of attendance of participants are 6020.



Awareness Raising Activities insight briefing:

Group management and leadership development training for ultra poor group members:

This training is organize for improve capacity of group management and leadership of newly formed Ultra poor groups in terms of group management, group leadership

and for self motivated activities. A total 100 ultra poor group members are participated in this training. The training is organized in 5 batches under 5 working unions. The training instruments are module, schedule, attendance sheet, conveyance sheet for participants and training banner. Training contents are; what is group? Why people form a group? Why group is important? What is development? What is challenge of poor people development? Leader and leadership, how to select leader? What roles and responsibilities of a leader in group management? And group level income generating activities. Used methods in this training are discussion method, participatory discussion, role-play, group work-ask question and answer, story telling and pair discussion. Energizing process of this training was making friend and pair, game, attractive introduction and participant life story.

Training on khasland mobilization procedure for project participants:

The training objectives are to know rights of khasland access of poor people, to know the government procedure of khasland mobilization and encourage applying by legal process for access khasland. A total 100 ultra poor project participants are participated in this training under 4 batches. The training instruments are module, schedule, attendance sheet, conveyance sheet for participants and training banner. Training contents are; Government definition of khasland, who have right to obtain khasland, what type of rights existed in khasland for landless people, government procedure of khasland mobilization, landless people selection committee, its their identity and their roles and responsibilities. What type of method applied for facilitation? The training methods are lecture, participatory discussion, display the procedure, question-answer, game, event discussion and analysis. Energizing process of this training was historical event of life, story telling, participatory involvement (story, poetry, singing) and cultural events.

Day observations:

Global action week "education for all" ensuring education for all and no one will missed, in this regard 6 NFPE school observed this week NFPE school student guardian, teacher, school management community, villagers and local UP member are spontaneously observed this week. 302 participants are observed global action week.

Observed world women day: 08 March'08, 500 women and men are observed this day with different activities like rally, discussion meeting cultural show and here the chief guest was Upazila nirbahi officer of Gosairhat Upazila.

Observed World mother day: 11 May 08 CUP project observed world mothers day in its 5 working union where the ultra poor group members and community people present and observed this day. 400 hundred participants are observed this day in 5 working union.

Repression against women day (women torture protection day 24 August 08): women torture protection day is observed in 5 CUP working unions. Where ultra poor group members, local government representatives, school management committee, NFPE student guardian, high school students, elites and villagers spontaneously observed and during this day observation 480 men and women are participated.

During day observation used method/ instruments: Banner, posture-pestune, rally, discussion in hall room and lecture of right base issues in observing day.

Training on reproductive health, birth & marriage registration, early marriage and hygiene behavior for project participants:

The training objectives are ultra poor group member understanding of reproductive health, environmental health and cleanness, importance and legal issues of birth &

marriage registration, early marriage legal issues and women health affect, personal hygiene and protection of early marriage.

A total 50 ultra poor group women are participated in this training under 2 batches. The training instruments are contents schedule, attendance sheet, and conveyance sheet for participants and training banner. Training contents are; Reproductive health issues, health care pregnancy period and menstruation period, personal hygiene, family planning method, mother and child nutrition, new born baby care, marriage registration, early marriage and health hazards, service opportunities in GOB hospital. The training methods are lecture, participatory discussion, display the procedure, question-answer, game, poster paper display, health related event discussion and analysis. Energizing process of this training was game, attractive introduction, story telling, participatory involvement (story, poetry, singing) and cultural events.

Health Services and awareness in group level by CUP paramedics:

CUP paramedic is doing service in Ultra Poor Group (UPG) level during meeting time, she takes measure on action and awareness related issues considering prevention and preventive. During the reporting period, total 385 UPG women health check up as preventive measure. During the health check up different kind of diseases are identified primarily like Blood pressure, fever, post natal care (PNC), Anti natal care (ANC), Arthritis, worm, Asthma, Skin diseases, abdomen pain, sight problems, ear infection, diarrhoea, typhoid, burn case, diabetes, pox, etc prevention issue discussed in UPG level like reproductive health issues, hygiene promotion, family planning and seasonal viral diseases.

Cyclone "SIDR" medical support:

Cyclone SIDR is worst and badly affected in CUP working areas. After cyclone SIDR, a rapid medical supported by CUP paramedic. The supported areas are Purba damudya union and Gariber Char union under CUP working areas. A total **7 womens are prescriptions** in Purba damudya union and **13 womens and 3 children below five years** in Gariberchar union. The type of medical assistances are bendages of insured women, medicine prescription for fever, weekness, scabies, high presure, Anti natal care mother and dressing of insured women.

Promotion of livelihood Activities Insight Briefing:

Training on duck rearing for project participants:

The training is held in CUP working unions with 5 batches where Upazila Livestock officer is core facilitator in this training. The training is co-facilitated by CUP training officer. A total 100 Ultra Poor women are participated in this training.

Training objectives are:

- To know about modern duck rearing techniques and disease control
- To reduce nutritional deficiency
- To generate income opportunity through duck rearing.
- To encourage the community
- To know the bird flu

Training contents:

- Registration, Introduction, welcome speech, importance of duck rearing, introducing with different varieties of duck, suitable environment of duck rearing, duck rearing management (bed, food, health care, disease control, vaccination)
 - Training methods:
 - Lecture, participatory discussion, question-Answer, open discussion, display, experience sharing and amusement
- After training, few days later 4 nos of duckling provided to training participants as source of income support.

Early Vegetable Cultivation training for project participants:

The training is held in CUP working unions with 8 batches where Upazila Sub Assistant Agricultural officer is core facilitator in this training. The training is co-facilitated by CUP Agriculturist. A total 199 Ultra Poor women are participated in this training.



Training objectives are:

- To know how to produce vegetables before and after flood
- To reduce nutritional deficiency
- To know about modern cultivation technology
- Quick return in short time with less invest and accomplish shortage of food

Training instrument:

Banner, module, schedule, attendance sheet and register, participant's conveyance sheet and input distribution master role.

Training contents:

- Registration, Introduction, welcome speech, The importance of vegetable and quality seed, production procedure of different vegetables seed, special nursing of vegetable cultivation, fertilizer management, irrigation management, weed management, pest and disease management, management of homestead blank space and seed storage techniques.

Training methods:

- Lecture, participatory discussion, question-Answer, open discussion, display, experience sharing and amusement

After training, seed and materials support provided to trained participants. The following materials are supported to the project participants:

Seed: Red amaranth, Amaranth, bettergourd, okra, sweet gourd, indian spinach, white gourd, long yard bean and gima kalmi.

Materials: net for fencing, net and roof for fencing

Outcome: After training received, 90% Ultra Poor women already started the early vegetable cultivation in CUP working areas. Amirunesa, one of the ultra poor women get started early vegetable cultivation in Kochoipatti union (views in picture).

Counselling for Risk and Vulnerability Reduction of Livelihood Promotion activities

Livelihood Promotion activities is very important part of CUP project. In the livelihood section vegetable production, fruit production, poultry & duck rearing are also very essential part in terms of their food security at the time of scarcity. So, in this regard as an Agriculturist of CUP project have been conducted counselling activities at different places of CUP working area along with other routine works. At counselling period, so many action were done like



- Firstly know about their specific problem regarding vegetable, fruit trees, poultry etc
- Then go to the spot for direct observation with beneficiary
- Try to make a solution for them about the problem
- Provide some future direction and precaution measure to make them free from such type of problem like disease, attack of pest etc
- Counselling for diversifying production systems through planting a variety of crops for separate markets to mitigate climatic, disease, pest, and market vulnerability.

Training on pigeon rearing for project participants: and each participant member have got 2 pair of pigeon.

The training is held in CUP working unions with 5 batches where Upazila Livestock officer is core facilitator in this training. The training is co-facilitated by CUP training officer. A total 80 total of 80 Ultra Poor women are participated in this training.

Training objectives are:

- To know about modern pigeon rearing techniques
- To identify and control diseases
- To generate income opportunity through pigeon rearing.
- To encourage the community

Training contents:

- Registration, Introduction, welcome speech, importance of pigeon rearing, introducing with different varieties of pigeon, suitable environment of pigeon rearing, pigeon rearing management (pigeon house, food, health care, disease control, vaccination)
- Training methods:
- Lecture, participatory discussion, question-Answer, open discussion, display, experience sharing and amusement after training, few days later 2 pairs pigeon provided to training participants as source of income support.



Training on poultry rearing and chicken support to project participant:

Capacity building of ultra poor- CUP is working to building capacity through the one segment of training. In this case cup arranges training on poultry rearing. As if they rear it and generate more production and get more money from this. Among the 5 union total participant was 150 group members and 30 members received training from every union. It is reported that considering bird flu diseases, we are advice to rearing local traditional variety of chicken locally called creep feeding and broody hen system. Also CUP working is not panic disease of Bird flu.

Chicken support to CUP-Ultra poor beneficiary:

During the reporting period, after training participants of ultra poor groups are received chicken supports. Total 150 training participants received 600 chickens. Each participant is received 4 chickens towards rearing for some supplementary income

Training on IGA for project participants:

The training is held in CUP working union with 1 batch at Goshairhat union parishad under the outside resource person who have skill for making food processing-like Crispy (locally called chanachur). The training is co-facilitated by CUP training officer. A total 25 Ultra Poor women are participated in this training.



Training objectives are:

- To know about food processing like how to make chanachur
- To identify quality control for better sale price
- To marketing and generate income opportunity.

Training contents:

- Registration, Introduction, welcome speech, introducing materials, techniques of making, packaging, marketing and market justification, alternative materials use like photo use for better profit.

Training methods:

- Lecture, participatory discussion, question-Answer, open discussion, display, group discussion, practical food making session, packaging session.

After training, few days later provided food making materials to training participants as source of income support.

Under this training this IGA training, 15 ultra poor women are participated for tunga (paper packet making). This training is held in CUP working union with 1 batch at Goshairhat union parishad under the outside resource person who have skill for making paper packet-like locally called Tunga.

Small Enterprise Development Training:

Small enterprise development training is held in Gariber char health complex where 20 women received training on enterprise development through fishing net sewing and under this training support first time provide them net sewing materials for revolving the continuous production and income support. (For example, the Direct Income Support for fishing net sewing like 3 K.G thread + seat for sewing). 20 women already started sewing net and weekly sale the market and earn from near about 100 taka weekly. Possibility to bridging network with out side market for whole sale of fishing net

Small Enterprise Development Training: Fishing net producer group targeting and their existing livelihood situation

All 20 women members of fishing net producer group are selected from 4 Village of Gariberchar Union which is located on Meghna river bank areas and also affected by continuing river erosion. Due to geographical situation all of them are economically very poor in terms of losing of assets by river erosion, where fishing is the main profession. Almost all members' husband is involved with fishing activities. Here some member are divorced, deserted, helpless, have several child. So they always seek earning way to protect themselves. SDS-CUP Project mobilizes them and takes initiative to make a fishing net producer group for collective and continue production of fishing net. They are so happy to join this group and many of them express their painful time of life, like:



Fishing net weaving
Started after received thread and small enterprise development training

They are so happy to join this group and many of them express their painful time of life, like:

- Jibonnesa said, my husband is very old aged and have 6 daughters. So she skips one meal per day with her child. Shahida, Munshida and Roymona are also same to Jibonnesa.
- “When my daughter (Garments worker) send money then we live very hardly, otherwise often we skip lunch” said Rashida very helplessly.
- Farida said, “My 3 children are affected by seasonal fever for one week but due to lack of money I can not treat them”.
- “My daughter goes to college today without taking breakfast due to scarcity”, said Sajeda and also added another daughter getting ill for 5 days with no treatment.
- Majority member of this producer group are likely the above victim.

Soft Loan Distribution:

25 ultra poor group members got soft loan without interest. First time each member got 1000 BDT and instalment re-turn back monthly basis. After collecting the instalment then we will provide another person. The loan sector is for buy seasonal fish trap, weaving local mat (locally hogla pati) and supplement petty business.

Training on Market Access of Ultra Poor Project Participants:

Two days training is held in CUP working union with 1 batch at Goshairhat union parishad under facilitation of CUP team resource pool and outside resource person who have skill that kind of training facilitation. SDS central monitoring teams are visited, observed this training atmosphere and quality. A total 30 Ultra Poor women are participated in this training.



Training objectives are:

- To aware about why need market access for poor people
- To know the technology and market access and information
- To marketing and generate income opportunity.
- To market access and income opportunity

Training contents:

- Registration, Introduction, welcome speech, objective explanation, market context, historical background market creation and market places, conceptual clarity of market, different market, production, supply and market price, technological opportunity versus market information, market management committee and its structure, market networking and communication, market management, market and women and its barrier, market middlemen, commodity demand and market management, relation with market and disaster, commodity in market place and health risk, recap and amusement

Training methods:

Lecture, participatory discussion, question-Answer, open discussion, display, group discussion, practical market context display and brainstorming.

Disaster Preparedness and Public Health Promotion Activities Insight Briefing:

Training on disaster early warning and preparedness for project participants:

The training objectives are ultra poor group member aware about disaster, type of disaster early warning signal, disaster preparedness and increased their mobility to disaster mitigation. A total 50 ultra poor group women are participated in this training under 2 batches. The training instruments are contents schedule, attendance sheet, and conveyance sheet for participants and training banner. Training contents are; what is disaster, disaster and vulnerability, Vulnerability, Risk, Existing GOB warning systems, duties before disaster, duties during disaster, action planning for disaster preparedness etc. The training methods are lecture, participatory discussion, group work, question-answer, game. Energizing process of this training was game,

attractive introduction, story telling, participatory involvement (story, poetry, singing) and cultural events.

Training on disaster preparedness for volunteers:

The training objectives are conceptual clarity of voluntarism, risk reduction from disaster and role after disaster, preparedness, rescue, sheltering, primary health care and treatment, fast aid, disaster, disaster risk reduction, during disaster what is role of volunteer and after disaster role of volunteer. A total 20 youths are training on disaster preparedness where male-16 and female-4. The training is held in sub district hall room at Goshairhat Upazila. The training contents are vulnerability and risk, preparedness, rescue, sheltering, primary health care and treatment, fast aid, disaster, disaster risk reduction, during disaster what is role of volunteer and after disaster role of volunteer. Training instruments are contents schedule, attendance sheet, and conveyance sheet for participants and training banner. The training methods are lecture, participatory discussion, brain storming, question-answer, display, game. Energizing process of this training was game, attractive introduction, story telling, participatory involvement (story, poetry, singing) and cultural events, painful event and story about cyclone SIRD.



Homestead rising: Due to geographical situation this area was return flood prone and every year approximately all down area are submerging 3-4 feet water. That's why cup project has been taken initiative to raising homestead considering Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) issue. So that flood affected community resolve and protect the livelihood from this hazard. 40 homestead already been raise under the 4 cluster villages in three unions. 16 of kuchaipotti union, 8 of Gariber char union and rest 15 homestead are raised up purbo damuddya union.



Access to safe drinking water: installation of tube well

Among the Ultra Poor Group level, total 30 nos. of shallow tube wells are installed towards access to safe drinking water for ultra poor. Location wise installed statistics are Goshairhat-4, kodalpur-7, Kochoipatti-9, Gariberchari and purba dumudya-10. After installation of tube well outcomes are; Access and availability to safe drinking water among the Ultra poor, reduce hardship and time for water collection and water points availability in ultra poor groups.

A total 574 poor families are benefited by these water points. There are some limitations like flat form is not completed due to budget limitation. Next year budget will address for completion of flat form.

Installation of latrine:

Towards reduce morbidity and safe disposal of excreta, total 50 sets of Hygiene latrines are installed by ultra poor group members which is supported from CUP project. Location wise installed statistics are Goshairhat-10 hhs, Kodalpur-10 hhs sets, Kochaipatti-10 hhs, Gariberchar-10 hhs and purba damudya-10 hhs. Total 50 ultra poor families are covered by this facilities and support of CUP project.

Bill board set up for hard to reach people awareness:

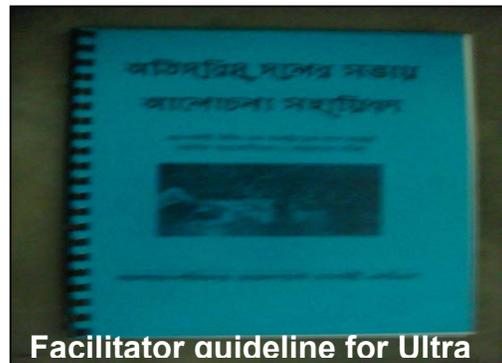
3 nos of bill boards are set up in CUP working union to awareness of hard to reach people on disaster preparedness. 1 bill board is set up in Kodalpur union, 1 bill board set up in Gariberchar union and other one is set up in Kochaipatti union. Bill board messages are mostly disaster preparedness, like shelter and kind to river erosion family, follow the early warning message in Radio and TV, preserved and storage agriculture inputs in better places, dry food storage for disaster time, preserve livestock and poultry food, during and before disaster to help and priority to old men and women, children, disable, pregnant women for shelter in advance, before disaster livestock to keep safe place, raised homestead for safe from flood etc.



Capacity Building Materials Development:

a. Facilitator guideline for Ultra Poor Group Meeting

- Group and why need a group
- Group management and leadership
- Hygiene Promotion
- Health awareness issues AIDs, HIV, Child Care, and Protection from diseases, good habit and bad habits, prevention of diseases during flood time etc
- Gender: Prevention and protection of women from Violence and social discrimination.
- Access to resource provision and services at local level
- Khas land mobilization procedure
- Early vegetable cultivation (EVC)
- Disaster preparedness and DRR issues



- b. Training module on early vegetable cultivation (EVC)
- c. Hygiene Promotion Flip Chart
- d. Group management and leadership training module
- e. Poultry rearing training module

- f. Duck rearing training module
- g. Training on UP representative's roles and responsibilities.
- h. Disaster preparedness and early warning (volunteer training and project participants)
- i. Khasland mobilization and GOB procedure training module

Voter and Civic Education on Ninth Parliamentary Elections

December 29, 2008

Preliminary Election Observation Report

ABOUT EWG

The Election Working Group (EWG) is a non-partisan, 32-member national coalition of civil society organizations that share a common commitment to free and fair elections and good governance in Bangladesh. It was established in 2006 with a focus on three primary objectives:

- To support free and fair elections through pre-election, election day, and post-election observation;
- To conduct voter education and awareness in key thematic areas to encourage all segments of society to participate in the electoral process. EWG activities promote greater accountability and integrity among candidates and elected officials, women's participation, the needs and interests of youth voters, and the rights and participation of religious and ethnic minorities, disabled persons, and residents of geographically remote areas. EWG activities also aim to reduce the risk of election and post-election violence.
- To promote public dialogue on electoral reform.



SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENT

Shariatpur Development Society (SDS) is a partner Organization of Election Working Group (EWG) out of 32-member Organization. SDS is committed to EWG for free and fair elections and good governance in Bangladesh—planned and implemented a comprehensive election observation strategy for the Ninth Parliamentary Elections. The strategy included pre-election observation, Election Day observation by stationary observers, and post-election observation. The Election Day observation component was designed to provide comprehensive coverage of all polling booths of Madaripur and Shariatpur Districts. SDS planned to deploy 3,178 Election Day observers but received 3,059 observer cards from Returning office.

SDS faced a series of *external* and *internal* challenges in meeting its Election Day observer deployment objectives. The external challenges included conformity with certain conditions prescribed in the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC)'s domestic election observation guidelines. SDS is grateful to the BEC for the positive steps taken to establish clear and precise observer guidelines and for extending the opportunity to civil society to review and comment on draft guidelines. While the domestic observation guidelines were generally well crafted, the practical application of certain accreditation requirements proved cumbersome. SDS looks forward to sharing details of its election observation experience under this first application of the observer guidelines with the BEC and to

Annual Report 2008

working with BEC counterparts in reviewing certain conditions that hampered the efficiency of domestic observation.

On the basis of its comprehensive election observation findings, SDS concludes that the Ninth Parliamentary Elections held on December 29, 2008 were credible elections, consistent with international standards of freedom, fairness, and transparency. SDS is confident that the election results represent the clear will of the Bangladeshi voters.

Preparations for Opening the Polls: Election officials were generally well prepared to open the polls, having received transparent ballot boxes, the voters list with photographs, a supply of indelible ink, and other key materials in advance of Election Day. According to our observer the openings of polling booths was in time.

Polling Process: The polling process from 0800 to 1600 met a consistently high standard. At the same time, in many polling centers with a large number of polling booths voters faced difficulties and time delays in locating their designated polling booths, in finding their names on the electoral rolls, and in queuing for long periods in order to vote. Some voters held voter registration sheets but could not locate their names on the voters list. Many of those who were disappointed to be turned away on this basis protested noisily.

Accessibility: The SDS observers found most polling centers and individual booths to be accessible to voters of all ages and mobility levels. Yet, while election officials and voters were generally respectful of the rights of elderly voters, pregnant women, and disabled persons, future elections will benefit from improved arrangements for polling station and polling booth access by those who require special facilities, specially for the Disabled voters.

Counting Procedures: Election officials were generally well prepared to complete ballot counting. Counting was generally free from intimidation or threats. During the counting our observer found the presence of the polling agents.

Security Environment at the Polling Center: Although there is no evidence of systemic violence, there were on occasional reports of confrontation between rival party activists resulting in the temporary suspension of proceedings in some polling centers.

Amader School Project (ASP)

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

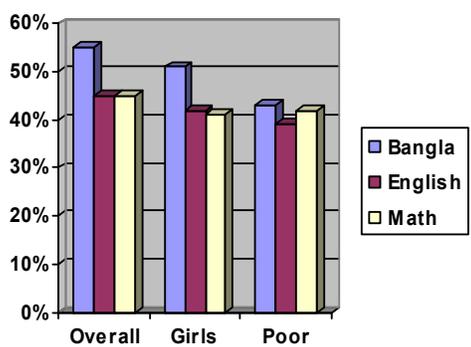
Target group:

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.

Outcomes :

Our project first outcome is improved pass rate of the poorest and underperforming children but it is true poorest and underperforming children always take seat in the back benches and teacher could not providing support properly to them due to high students teacher ratio. So we try to find out potential volunteers (PV) through SMC, PTA teacher and guardian for providing support those children improve their learning achievement

<p>Training on Quality class room observation (QCRO) In this year for learning achievement we organized and facilitated Quality Class Room Observation training in 14 schools with SMC and PTA. Total 151 participants received training (Female- 55, Male-96) among them poor 57. As our observation and school documents, 7 schools SMC and PTA observing class and discuss with head teacher about their observation. We are observing some changes in teaching learning process like teachers used teaching related materials, students ask question to teacher, teacher go to students and solve their problem, poor and girls don't feel fair</p>	
---	---

<p>Potential Volunteers (PVs) Activity: In this reporting year 2008 we identified 25 (female-14 and male-11) volunteer teacher through SMC, PTA, Teacher and Parents from community. Poorest and underperforming children selected by the teacher then send them to volunteer centre for receiving support but volunteers were no experience about teaching learning process. So we provided 3 days basic training and 2 days refreshers. Main objective was the training- Will improve their teaching learning capacity. Prepared lesson plan and keep document and they can be showing and express their progress. As a result now PVs used student's attendance and plan register and following quarterly assessment and they organised quarterly mothers meeting for sharing their child progress. Total 44 school and community</p>	 <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <caption>Data for Potential Volunteers (PVs) Activity Chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Bangla (%)</th> <th>English (%)</th> <th>Math (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>55</td> <td>45</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls</td> <td>50</td> <td>42</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>43</td> <td>39</td> <td>42</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Bangla (%)	English (%)	Math (%)	Overall	55	45	45	Girls	50	42	42	Poor	43	39	42
Category	Bangla (%)	English (%)	Math (%)														
Overall	55	45	45														
Girls	50	42	42														
Poor	43	39	42														

based PVs providing support to 849 (girls-409, boys- 440) poorest and underperforming children.
 All centre based volunteer keeping those students progress documents. According to their documents over all learning achievement as per subject and gender, Bangla- 55%. Girls- 51%, Poor- 43%. English- 45%, Girls- 42%, Poor- 39%. Math- 45%, Girls 41%. Poor- 42%.

It is our project 2nd focus issue Amader school project (ASP) completed baseline survey in 2007 which indicate that overall enrolment rate was 94%. We are showing end of the year' 2008 overall enrolment is 96%. We do sample test in 10 schools, 2 RNGPS and 8 GPS used school record (School attendance register and monthly return).

Identification out of school children and return to school initiated by the SMC/PTA
 Identified 227 (Girls-81 and boys-146) out of school children from 34 schools.
 18 (girls-5) students are come back to schools through SMC/PTA and our initiative.
 Now they are regular in school.
 Shamim was a out of school children under 62 no. Ferangiksndi govt. Primary School. He returned to school after 6 months absenteeism through our initiative. He has shown better performance last grade 5 completion test.



Day observation:

In our reporting period we and our working schools observed international literacy day, world global action week, international mother language day, international women day, independent day, victory day, and worlds AIDS day. As a result-
 To increasing parents awareness about their children education.
 Growing child interest to school through international and national day observation.
 Increasing attendance rate

We working for another key issue reducing drop out and increasing retention rate. Our working area is most natural disaster prone area so major problem is migration, poverty and lake of guardian awareness about primary education

Stipends Analysis:

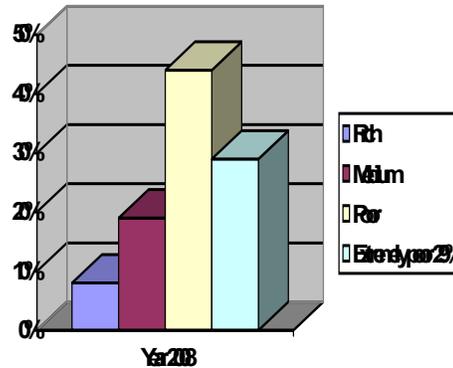
In this reporting period we are analyzed stipend-20 schools and see their stipend status.

Total enrolled students 5088 among 20 schools and getting stipend 1841 out of them. Poor and extremely poor 1340 and rich and medium 501 students are getting stipend.

According to study Rich is getting 8%, Medium getting 19%, Poor getting 44% and extremely poor getting 29%.

During this reporting period 1 school (28 no paprail GPS) provide stipend among 20 poor students instead of rich through revise list.

We are continuing our discussion about ensuring stipend for poor with SMC, PTA, Teacher and guardians. SMC, PTA and teacher are realizing this issue, their opinion they will take initiative in next time selection.



Mobilization of poor mothers-

We assist to SMC for organizing and facilitated 13 meeting with poor mothers at 13 schools in this reporting period.

Total-348 poor mothers participated in these sessions.

As a result increasing mother's awareness about their children education, mother come to school to know about their children annual result, collects book and enrollment. Send their child to schools regularly.

School Managing Committees (SMC) and Parents Teachers Associations (PTA) involvement in development and implementation of School Level Improvement Plans:

SMC's Roles and Responsibilities Training-

Total 182 members (Female-47) and poor 63 participated in the session.

After receiving training increasing their involvement in school development activities- like attend in meeting, decision making, create child friendly school environment, enrolment, arrange co curricular activities, book distribution, communication skill among union parishad, govt. officials, others NGO and community

Parents Teachers Association (PTA) Roles and Responsibility Training-

Total 161 PTA members participated in the session, out of them female are 63 and poor 55, from 15 schools.

After received training 40% members actively involved in school activities. like day observation, students house visit, come to school and shared with teacher about teaching learning

Learning's:

- Potential volunteer (PVs) support is an effective way for increasing learning achievement to poor and underperforming children.
- Good relationship with government officials and other stakeholder creates smooth working field and helpful to achieve our progress.
- Proper follow up after any intervention for helpful to achieved target but we do not ensure this due to involvement of sudden activities and implement lot of project intervention.
- Beginning the year we are not done activity according to plan we were loaded.
- Mother is more helpful for ensure her child education than father.
- Teacher initiative is more effective for ensuring quality education.
- Community is ready to provide contribution for school development but them wants reliable and dependable person.

WE CAN CAMPAIGN PROJECT

WE CAN END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (WE CAN) Campaign work to achieve a fundamental shift in attitudes and beliefs that support violence against women (VAW), a collective and visible stand against VAW, and to mobilize popular support to end it. The campaign also wants to see a range of local, national and regional alliances to address the issue of VAW.

Campaign Goal:

Reduce social acceptances of VAW and make Bangladesh a safer place for women.

Campaign Objectives:

- A fundamental shift in social attitudes and beliefs that support VAW
- A collective and visible stand on VAW by different sections of the community
- A popular movement to end all VAW
- A range of local, national and regional alliance working to end VAW

Activity performed:

Sl No	Activity Details	Number s of Activity	Upazil a	Union	Partic ipants	Rema rks
01	Para/Village Campaign	142	5	35	3570	
02	School Campaign	50	5	25	1240	
03	Coordination Meeting with related PIC of Union Parishod	23	5	23	565	
04	Change Makers Group Formation	140	5	35	4830	
05	Change Makers orientation	30	5	25	900	
06	Lobbing and Advocacy meeting at Union and Upazila level	14	5	14	190	
07	Meeting with Union Women & Child Violence Protection Committee	34	5	34	505	
08	Group Campaign	18	2	2	85	
09	Union Change Makers Conference	35	5	35	1780	
10	Upazila Change Makers Conference	8	5	8	475	
11	Cultural Program (Folk Song)	10	5	10	6260	
12	Day Observation					
12.1	International Women's Day	2	2	2	470	
12.2	World Rural Women's Day	2	2	2	440	
12.3	International Day for the Elimination of VAW	2	2	2	460	
12.4	World Aids Day	2	2	2	200	
12.5	International Day of Disable Person	2	2	2	250	
12.6	Rokeya Day	2	2	2	210	

Success :

- People of the grassroots level are now very much conscious situation of violence against women. Union child and women violence protection committee have been formed in the some Union. The activities of the committees have been progressed tremendously by this time.
- People of the different stakeholder of each union have been united together and expressed their opinions violence against women.
- All change makers of the union level under respective upazila united stood violence against women.

Conclusion:

End all violence against women has been quite hard to bring about local initiatives, to organize training and orientation courses for the staffs and change makers, to help their capacity build up and analytical skills to tackle the situation.

At the same time our local change makers men and women within communities who take a stand against violence and are willing to try and persuade other people to stop the violence. It is hoped those change makers will contribute to integrate the campaign message within their personal area.

We hope we can continue our work in the future and reach vast numbers of men and women with our message to stop the Violence Against Women.



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) Raised Apron existing water points:

ACF-SDS raised the platform of 50 nos. of water points in the working area as per specification of raised apron and DPHE prescribed design. For all raise aprons we consider the flood level 1998. All water points started to use after respecting the curing time by the respective households. During the flood only these water points will survive from flood at the danger level and it will ensure the access of safe drinking water for a wider community during the future flood.

B) Installation of shallow tube well:

ACF-SDS has installed 15 nos. of shallow tube well in Nawdoba, Purbo Nawdoba, Paler Char, Boro Kandi, Jajira and BK Nagar union to ensure safe drinking water for near about 150 poor families. Primarily SDS selected the sites and then ACF validate the sites through direct observations. Before hand over the water points to the beneficiaries we made the water analysis by DPHE.

c) Installation of Deep tube well:

6 DTW of deep tube wells were installed Bilashpur, Kunder Char, Sener Char, Janjira and Purbo Nawdoba union to ensure safe water access for the poor people. ACF-SDS conducted water analysis and it was found that in most of the area of Paler Char, Kunder Char and Bilashpur union and some area of Purbo Nawdoa are highly contaminated by arsenic.

D) Waste bin

Total five waist bin was constructed at Kazir Hat, Rup Babur Hat, Bijhari Bazar, Burir Hat and Shariatpur Pourashava market. Each waste bin should be maintenance by concern bazaar committee.

E) Sanitary latrine distribution:

SDS distributed latrines materials among 1000 house hold of Nawdoba and Purbo Nawdoba union. Every family received 5 rings, 1 slab and 1 set of superstructure. The rings and slab were sealed by SDS haired mason and followed up by the FWs. Before start to using the latrine, the beneficiaries ensured that thy have demolished their broken, hanging and open latrine.

F) Latrine kit distribution:

SDS distributed the latrine kits among 1000 families of Nawdoba and Purbo Nawdoba, Paler Char, Boro Kandi, Mulna, Bilashpur, Sener Char and BK Nagar union (appendix-I). Before distribution we informed the chairman of concern union parishad and UNO of janjira upajjila.

G) Public Latrine construction:

Total 20 public latrines was constructed in different primary and high school in Nawdoba, Purbo Nawdoba, Paler Char, Boro Kandi, Mulna, Bilashpur, Sener Char, Kunder Char and BK Nagar union.

H) Distribution of vegetable seeds

Different type of vegetable seeds were distributed among 2000 beneficiaries of Nawdoba, Purbo Nawdoba, Boro Kandi, Paler Char, Sener Char and Mulna union to ensure their food diversity and reduce nutrient deficiency. We also provided a printed guide line on vegetable cultivation. The beneficiaries were selected according to their vulnerability criteria.

I) Training in homestead Gardening

80 batches training were organized for 2000 beneficiaries. Most of the trained beneficiaries are fully engaged in kitchen gardening. Observation suggests that there is potentiality to increase their income from this activity. After training seeds were distributed among the beneficiaries.

J) Model Garden:

In the working area six model gardens was established in Nawdoba, Purbo Nawdoba, Paler Char, Baro kandi, Bilash pur and Sener Char unions. Which was the model for others beneficiaries.

K) Raised House:

390 homes are raised among the poorest char dwellers, specially divorced, widow abandoned women, disable family, poor joint family, women headed family, erosion family were griped by flood and loses their assets which achieved by hard working and continue their life in distress condition were brought in this program. In total 390 homes were raised for solitary helpless family to protect their lives and assets from flood in LRP working area.

L) DRR Workshop

Total 6 workshops on DRR were conducted at Nowdoba, Purbo Nowdoba, Paler char, Baro kandi, Bilash pur and Kunder Char union. Total 180 participants were attended in those workshops. DRR issues and disaster preparedness and Roles and responsibilities of UDMC were clearly discussed in the workshop. The trained members are now more aware about their responsibilities during Flood. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Emadad Hossain Khan, Amala Das, Mostafa Kamal and Farida Yasmin. Now they can play the key role in disaster preparedness; identifying vulnerability, working with households in being prepared, alerting and organising the community as well as dealing with post-disaster issues. One workshop on DRR was conducted with Janjira Upazilla Disaster Management Committee.

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 **14** 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 **140** 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 **120** such plants that are operating very efficiently offering intended benefit to the users.

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

Core family Shelter Reconstruction Works Project:

Total number of family assisted -800 in Mongla Upazila under Bagherhat District where reconstructed house structure of Cyclone SIDR victims. Total amount allocated for this assistance project BDT 5,66,06,00/=

Shelter Assistance Project

Total 2400 nos. of family assisted in three cyclone affected districts Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur where rehabilitate and repaired damaged house structures. Provide house reconstruction and repairing materials to cyclone SIDR victims where Shariatpur-900 families, Madaripur-1000 families and Faridpur-500 families. Total amount allocated for these three districts are BDT-49,18,570 for Shariatpur, BDT 54,65,079 and BDT 27,32,539 for Faridpur district.

Rapid Community Restoration works in Shariatpur district:

Total 3 upazilas are covered under this project named Goshairhat, Janjira and Sadar. The major works are cash for work towards rural infrastructure development such as social institutions raised, village roads, and religious institutions and educational institutions. Total budget allocated amount BDT 62,35,100/ under this project.

Cash for work in Rajbari District towards flood 2007 rehabilitation:

The Rajbari Sadar Upazila is covered under this project. The major activities are rural infrastructure development such as social institutions raised, village roads, and religious institutions raised and educational institutions raised. Total budget allocated amount BDT 40,09,207 under this project

SIDR RESPONSE 2008
Supported by Oxfam Novib

Early Recovery Project to address Flood-2007

Aim:

To prevent risk of malnutrition and contribute in restoration of women & men's livelihoods, improve living standards and prevention/reduction of water-borne diseases among the flood affected population of Bangladesh

Specific Objectives

About 3,000 flood-affected people in the districts of Shariatpur will have improved access to essential water & sanitation facilities, restored housing and increased availability of agricultural and income support.

Total 3 upazilas are covered under this project such as Gosairhat, Damudya & Bhadergonj where covered 12 unions. Total Allocated amount BDT 49,10,100 under this project.

This post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction project will focus on:

- 1) **Food and Income Security through agricultural rehabilitation & cash for work,**
- 2) **Reconstruction of Houses and Infrastructure, and**
- 3) **Water and Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion**

through the following 4 main activities:

- a. Distribution of seeds (incl. multi vegetables seeds which is consider whole of the year season in homestead gardening like roof way, surface) 500 households.
- b. Distribution of housing materials (i.e. Galvanized Corrugated Iron Sheet (GCI) for roof) & cash support of Tk. 1,500 for purchasing other necessary housing materials to 200 households.
- c. Replacement/repairing of 400 latrines, installation or repairing of 5 household hand-pumps, with other hygiene promotion activities in the affected areas.
- d. Cash for Work (CFW) for 500 people (men and women) for 30 days for 80 Tk. Per day (it is noted that after Roel email date 26 November.07 and Jan 3, 2008, we have considered equal wage rate Tk 100 for Rehab and SIDR CFW). After adjustment of labor wage 100 tk per day, as results person days reviewed for 30 days are 400 people and total amount budget BDT is remain same. The CFW participants will be mainly from occupational groups that have lost their capital such as fishermen, weavers, carpenters, etc.. There are two types of labour: 1) labour for agricultural work, engaged in construction work to raise their own homes or community places like mosque yards, school grounds, etc. 2) Earthwork, in which women and men will be working together through sub-group. There are two types of benefit from the cash for work scheme: 1) income security for those involved, and 2) the raised homesteads or community places.
- e. Hygiene Promotion activities: 1 training on Facilitators for promotion of hygiene session in affected villages, 500 households soap distribution after session, 1 IEC materials development and health awareness session at the 20 villages.

Cyclone SIDR Relief Activities- 2007

Two upazilas (Goshairhat and Damuddya) are covered under this project of Sharipur where total 7 unions of these Upazilas. Total amount BDT 1,47,9,556/ allocated under this project

Objectives and outputs/outcomes To provide recovery support in housing, sanitation and hygiene, access to non-food items and food security/livelihood inputs to cyclone-affected families of Shariatpur district. To prevent further physical deterioration in living standard and destitution of the people and provide assistance to resume their normal or ordinary pursuits of life.

The Targeted no. of beneficiaries: Objectives of the project (overall and per sector)

Sl	Activities	→ total: Male: Female: Total			
		Family	Who received support from distribution place or name in list, distribution CARD and Master role on behalf of family		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Food & non food distribution	1000	633	367	1000
2	Blanket distribution	1000	649	351	1000

Annual Report 2008

3	Seed distribution & support materials	500	389	111	500
4	House construction (new)	200	53	147	200
5	House repairing	497	141	356	497
6	Cow distribution	10	2	8	10
7	Goat distribution	50	1	49	50
8	Fishing Boat & Net distribution- 10 boat= 6 groups	60	60	0	60
9	Deep tube well-10, direct access to safe water	750	2027	1948	30975
10	Cash for Work (CFW)	37,249 person days laborer were worked in CFW schemes where around 4% person days was covered by women			

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.

Now the SDS Academy is starting full showing with address all classes from Play group to class five. The students position are total 117 where boys 70 girls-47. 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 class room facilities for all class of students. Eleven teachers have been appointed where male-3 and female-8. 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.

Lessons Learned

- **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.

Annual Report 2008

- 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.

END