



Society for Bright Social Services Annual Report 2023



Head Office Address: Shova Manjil, 443, Block-B, Khilgaon Dhaka-1219

Cell Phone: +88 01783599520

Email: brightsocial99@gmail.com, info@brightsocial.org

Web Site: www.brightsocial.org



SOCIETY FOR BRIGHT SOCIAL SERVICES (SBSS)

Annual Report 2023

Edited & Reviewed by

Ferdous Ahamed

Design & Layout

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Background of SBSS:

Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS) is a non-profit and non-political national level non-Government voluntary development organization working for socio-economic development of the Urban and Rural poor people of Bangladesh. SBSS was established in 1999 and implemented various development programmes at village, union, upazilla and district level areas in Bangladesh.

Introduction

Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS) is a non-Governmental voluntary Organization (NGO) established in 1999 with an aim to dedicate its mission towards the development of the poor.

Legal Status:

The organization is registered with the following Departments:

Name of Departments	Registration Number	Date
Department of Social Services	Dha- 04590	09/06/1999
NGO Affairs Bureau	2584	24/06/2010
Dhaka South City Corporation	TRAD/DSCC/288076/2019	01/12/2019
Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB)	60007	26/02/2018

TAX and VAT Registration number

Description	Registration Number	Registration Authority
TAX (TIN) Registration (e-TIN)	TIN: 881980437426	National Board of Revenue (NBR)
Value Added Tax Registration Certificate	BIN: 0026677770202	National Board of Revenue (NBR)

Vision:

To ensure equal opportunity for every man and women and poverty free just and equitable society.

Mission:

SBSS has ever been obliged and in due diligence in efforts and endeavours towards the visible development of economic and social empowerment of the rural poor & free from all kinds of discrimination and suppression through the implementation of different development programs at the national and grassroots level with funding from the Government of Bangladesh and Foreign Donors. SBSS core target is to see the gender sensitized sound environment, a just and poverty-free society that will be free from all kinds of discrimination and suppression.

Goal:

Equal opportunity for all men and women and poverty free just and equitable society and society in which both men and women can work together to form institutions to attain a highest degree of self-reliance in managing their own affairs and achieve a higher and sustainable standard of living.

Objectives:

- To eliminate all kinds of violence, gender discrimination and to establish human rights at family and local level.
- To make the people united and strength capacity for gaining their access to all accessible services and recourses.

- To create employment opportunities, resources and skills for the underprivileged men and women to improve their livelihood.
- To build capacity and accountability of all local level institutions to provide better services.
- To reduce mother and child mortality rate as well as promote better health services in rural areas.
- To reduce sufferings and losses affected by natural disasters and create a sound and friendly environment.
- To undertake poverty alleviation initiatives through micro finance.
- To develop & promote needy human resources for IT and other technical services in the working area.

Approach of SBSS:

Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS) is successful by identifying itself closely with a client and involving itself day to day in client's operations. We have learned through long experience that cultural differences are real and must be understood thoroughly if the changes that our clients and we want to see are to be achieved. We are patient, but determined. We are committed to innovation but respectful of the contexts into which new ideas are to be introduced. We know that every successful assignment is really a joint venture. **SBSS** is itself a learning organization, unlocking the capabilities of its own people. **SBSS** is a direct implementing organization.

Networking Bodies:

- Campaign for good governance (Supro)
- Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samannoy Parishad (BMSP)
- NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
- Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum
- People's Health Movement (PHM)
- STI / AIDS Network of Bangladesh

Development Partners

- Ministry of Commerce
- Department of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
- Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE)
- Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Department of Agricultural Marketing
- Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF)
- Steps Towards Development (Steps)
- Islamic Aid Bangladesh
- PNGOs 4

Geographical Program/Project Operational Areas:

Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS) has been working in different types of project/ programs in different areas of Bangladesh. The working areas of Bangladesh are rural and urban areas including coastal area, char area and other flood areas. **SBSS** has been implementing of the various types of project/ programs in the areas are described below:

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Upazillas
1.	Dhaka	Dhaka South City Corporation, Dhaka North City Corporation, Savar

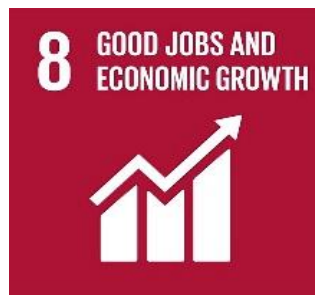
Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Upazillas
2.	Narsingdi	Narsingdi Sadar, Madhabdi
3.	Cumilla	Cumilla, Chaudagram
4.	Sylhet	Sylhet City Corporation, Biswanath, South Surma, Fenchoganj, Balaganj, Kanaighat, Bianibazar, Jokiganj, Golapganj, Sylhet Sadar, Jointapur, Goainghat, Companiganj
5.	Hobiganj	Baniachang, Ajmeriganj, Chunaroghat, Nabiganj, Madobpur, Hobiganj Sadar, Bahubal, Lakhai
6.	Moulvibazar	Kamalganj, Srimangal, Juri, Kulaura, Rajnagar, Barolekha, Moulvibazar Sadar
7.	Sunamganj	Bishwamvarpur, Chhatak, Dakshin Sunamganj, Derai, Dharamapasha, Dowarabazar, Jagannathpur, Jamalganj, Sullah, Sunamganj Sadar, Tahirpur
8.	Brahmanbaria	Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila, Ashuganj Upazila, Nasirnagar Upazila, Nabinagar Upazila, Sarail Upazila, Bancharampur Upazila
9.	Kishoreganj	Kishoreganj Sadar, Nikly, Midamoin, Austagram, Itna.
10.	Netrokona	Madan, Khaliajuri, Kalmakanda, Mohongonj
11.	Magura	Magura Sadar, Mohammadpur
12.	Bagerhat	Kachua
13.	Jamalpur	Jamalpur Sadar, Madarganj, Melanda, Sarishabari
14.	Mymensingh	Bhaluka, Fulpur, Haluaghat, Gouripur, Muktagacha, Trishal,
15.	Sherpur	Nalitabari, Sherpur Sadar, Sreebardi
16.	Gaibandha	Gaibandha Sadar, Gobindaganj, Palashbari, Sagatha, adullapur, Fulchari
17.	Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar, Chilmari, Roumari, Char Rajibpur, Fulbari, Ulipur, Bhurangamari, Nageswari, Rajarhat
18.	Lalmonirhat	Hatibandha
19.	Nilphamari	Jaldhaka
20.	Chattogram	Banshkhali
21.	Rangamati	Kawkhali
22.	Cox's Bazar	Teknaf, Ukhia
23.	Rajshahi	Godagari
24.	Bogura	Sherpur
25.	Noakhali	Chatkhil
26.	Jashore	Jhikargaccha
27.	Jhenaidah	Sadar, Kaliganj
28.	Chuadanga	Jibonnagar
29.	Manikganj	Singair

Core Programs of SBSS

The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all poor, rich, and middle-income countries to promote prosperity. They recognize that ending poverty must go together with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS) has been working tirelessly in different parts of Bangladesh to achieve the targets of SDGs by implementing different development projects, therefore, all our programs and projects have been aligned in line with the SDGs with specific objectives to achieve. Some of our major programs and projects snapshots are highlighted below:

i) Capacity Building:



Capacity-building activities are also aimed at strengthening and maintaining the capabilities of societies to design and implement strategies that minimize the negative impacts of current social, economic, and environmental crises and emerging challenges. As a cross-cutting entry point, capacity-building activities promote the integration agenda and the SDGs into national sustainable development planning frameworks, sharing lessons learned and good practices through workshops and related events.

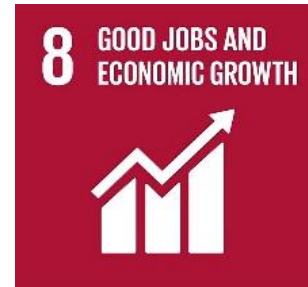


Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS) is a highly proactive and dynamic organization that helps build inner capacity and uphold the dignity of underprivileged people in society. SBSS attempts to develop strong small samities (groups) at the grassroots level by uniting them to achieve visible and result-oriented outcomes of its various development programmes. It is contributing to developing their organization with equal participation of men and women at the local level,



establishing rights and raising collective voices against all types of discrimination. The programme also stresses the empowerment of women by creating a positive and congenial atmosphere so that women can easily create and control their recourses by themselves along with easier access to government facilities.

ii) Information Technology (IT), Information Communication Technology (ICT) & Freelancing:



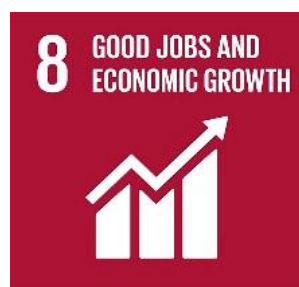
The World is now a global village. Bangladesh is now connected with the world through Satelight and Internet Technology. Bangladesh is a densely populated country and half of its total population is women. Positive development in all spheres of this vast population is highly needed to ensure long-term economic development and prosperity as a priority. Create positive social and environmental impact resulting in economic and employment opportunities in the IT and ICT sector for women and youth. Women empowerment is, therefore, a development challenge for us as most women are not involved in economic



activities. Under the Government Digital Bangladesh policy and the thrust sector initiative, an atmosphere exists for accelerated growth and meaningful engagement through active interaction and transforming the country into a medium-income generating economy and achieving the Vision of 2021 by ensuring the active participation of women and youth in economic activities.

To support this growing demand, SBSS provides training in IT, ICT and Freelancing to the women and youth of Bangladesh. SBSS provided training courses on Graphics Design, Web Design and Development, Basic Computer Office Application and Digital Marketing to 400 participants across 7 districts of Bangladesh. Also taken online exams, special sessions, review classes, and given freelancers ID cards and Laptops to the trainees. Our organization aims to create skilled and self-reliant human resources who can contribute to the national economy through outsourcing.

iii) Vocational and Technical Training for Youth:



Vocational education or Training (VET), also called Career and Technical Education (CTE), prepares youths for jobs opportunity that are based on manual or practical activities,

traditionally non-academic and related to a specific trade, occupation or vocational and technical training. Hence, the term, in which the learner can prepare themselves for self-employment and starting of own business with a small amount of capital.



Bangladesh is a country with a large population of young people who need skill



development based on technical training and decent job opportunities to reduce poverty and improve their livelihoods. SBSS is working to provide quality Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to the disadvantaged youth and women in Bangladesh.

SBSS maintains an excellent technical training institute in the Sylhet division offering hands-on training on apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, enterprise and market development, and sector-strengthening interventions. Also provide training on Sewing Machine Operating, Embroidery Machine Operating, Production of Bags carrying necessary essential things, Motor Cycle repairing and maintenance, and repairing household electronic appliances. etc. SBSS also integrates life skills, well-being, self-awareness and self-confidence-building skills in all its training programmes.

iv) Socio-Economic Empowerment:



SBSS has been contributing to the socio-economic empowerment of both rural and urban poor people especially poor men and women through the implementation of different income-generating programmes, intervention of technical training and ICT/Freelancing



programmes. SBSS has progressed through learning by doing and adjusting its strategy with prevailing situations. SBSS has also created multidimensional innovative agriculture and ICT freelancing-based capacity-building interventions for generating employment opportunities for both rural and urban youth and women, and income initiating other alternative income sources for poverty alleviation through local resource mobilization, use of ICT freelancing and improved agricultural facilities/technologies considered, building assets are significant elements of these programmes.

v) **Quality Education:**



Education is considered a basic necessity and the most essential tool to develop people's minds and create awareness. The deprivation of a vast majority of people of the right to education impedes economic, social, political and cultural development.

The main concern of SBSS is to enable the underprivileged to understand their situation and to be aware of their rights. If the right to basic education is ensured, people can be aware of their rights and can mobilize themselves to assert their rights.

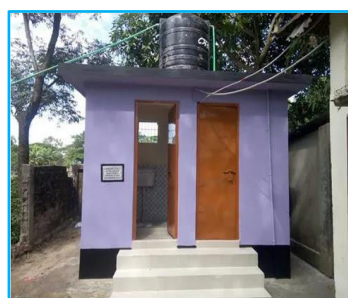


With this keeping in mind, SBSS has been working with the government and other bilateral agencies to ensure free and quality primary and secondary education, give children access to early childhood development, ensure equal access for men and women to afford higher education choices, increase skills in youth through different technical training and educational programme, and promote sustainable development issues through education. Moreover, in all our training, capacity building and educational initiatives we always ensure gender equality.

vi) **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):**



SBSS has vast experience in several projects implementation on water, sanitation and hygiene programmes. SBSS emphasizes water and sanitation management and governance to increase access to safe water, handwashing facilities and sanitary latrine installation and maintenance along with instilling sanitized and hygienic behaviour among potential users. SBSS has also emphasised arsenic mitigation programmes to mitigate the arsenic from the



arsenic-affected area through implementing various arsenic mitigation projects in collaboration with concerned government departments.

vii) Climate Change and Resilience:



Waterlogging, salinity, deforestation and erratic weather behaviour due to the greenhouse effect increase the vulnerability of the coastal people of Bangladesh. Vulnerable people lose their crops, lands and occupations and are victims of forced migration towards cities.

SBSS developed its expatriation to conceptualize climate-related concerns and how to tackle them efficiently. SBSS has the knowledge and expertise to contribute to developing policies and tools for the Government initiative on climate resilience. SBSS implemented several climate-resilient-related projects in the climate change-affected coastal area in collaboration with the relief and disaster ministry.



viii) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Food Security:



SBSS emphasizes Disaster and Environmental Management Programme to increase awareness of disaster preparedness as well as to ensure disease-free environments through its adequate management. This programme has been considered a significant component of the organization. Disaster management and preparedness training, rescue and evacuation, contingency plan, day observation etc. are notable activities under this programme.



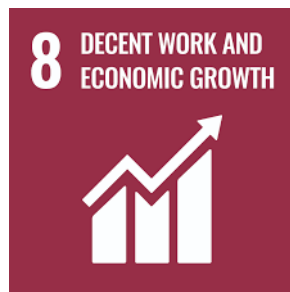
Earthquake preparedness in Dhaka city is one of the important activities under the disaster management programme. Part of the activity SBSS is involved to raise awareness among the community people in the Dhaka city.

Food Security:

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone area and most of the people of Bangladesh suffered different types of disasters like floods, cyclones, earthquakes and forced displacement. SBSS implemented disaster risk reduction and food security interventions through community awareness on disaster preparedness that includes, work with the union, thana, upazila and district-based government-formed disaster management committee to prepare and update contingency plans on risk and resource mapping, emergency response and rehabilitation interventions for pre during and post-disaster. Regarding food security during the emergency period, SBSS has the knowledge and experience to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for the disaster-affected people and preserve fodder for the livestock in collaboration with the Government food and livestock department. SBSS also actively works with related national and international NGOs and networks and alliances.



ix) Agro-Processing:



Agro-processing can create value for farmers, consumers, and the economy by enhancing the attributes and functions of agricultural products. Benefits include extending the shelf life of perishable products, such as fruits and vegetables, improving the quality and safety of products, diversifying the product range and adding value to by-products, and generating employment and income. Extending shelf life can reduce post-harvest losses and wastage, increasing food security and availability. Improving quality and safety can increase consumer satisfaction and demand, meeting standards and regulations of domestic and international markets. Diversifying product range can increase income opportunities for farmers and processors, offering more choices for consumers. Generating employment and income can stimulate economic growth, reducing poverty and inequality.

SBSS has been implementing some unique agro-processing projects as follows:

- Producing sacking, scrim, carpet backing cloth (CBC) and canvas from jute
- Producing bags, wrappers, wall coverings, upholstery, and home furnishings from jute
- Producing chips from potatoes
- Preparation of jam, jelly and sauces from tomatoes



- Preparation of pulp from mangos;
- Preparation of food items from pineapples;
- Production of pringles from wheat and starch;
- Preparation of soya protein items from soya beans
- Preparation of flower tea, mojito juice;
- Preparation of ring, bangles, and wall met from flowers
- Preparation of gulkan/rose chutney
- Preparation of essential oil, uptaan, soap, and face pack from flowers
- Preparation of showpiece items, paper weight from flowers
- Preparation of incense sticks, mosquito repellent from flowers



Governance

According to constitution, general members are the topmost authority of SBSS. Annual work plan, budget, annual report, EC meeting minutes/resolutions, all kinds of audit reports on project operation are finally approved by the members through annual general meeting. Two annual general and Six EC meeting has been held during 2022.

Executive Committee:

SL No.	Name of person	Designation	Occupation
01	M. Mobarak Ali	Chairman	Private Service
02	Prof. Dr. AFM Jamal Uddin	Vice-Chairman	Private Service
03	Ferdous Ahamed	Secretary General	Private Service
04	Wahida Easmin	Asst. Secretary	Private Service
05	Md. Salim	Treasurer	Private Service
06	Md. Abu Hanif	Member	Private Service
07	Md. AKS Reza	Member	Private Service

Chairman is the head of organization and the Secretary Generale is the head of program implementation. Secretary Generale is now acting as Executive Director of the organization. All sorts of organizational activities have been implemented by Director programs, Deputy Directors and Project Coordinators consequently in the field level.

Description of Projects Implemented on 2023

1) Assignment Name: “Technical Assistance (TA) Firm to develop Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) materials for Campaign, training manuals (for Local Government Institutions - LGIs & Health Workers) and their capacity building” under Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene for Human Capital Development

The project is a bi-lateral one with the support of the Project Management Unit, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), and funding from the World Bank and AIIB. A new TA firm is calling for RWSHP SD-02 and JVs (SBSS, SSUS, and SDI) to be implemented in the selected 316 Union Parishad, under 30 Upazilas, 7 Districts, and 2 Divisions. SBSS, SDI, and SUSS were designed and submitted the project proposal as TA firms within their experience, procedures, manuals, etc. Through the beading process, DPHE finally selected TA firms (JV-SBSS, SSUS, and SDI). In the country Under the Rangpur Division 164 Union Parishad, under 17 sub-districts and 4 districts of Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, and Nilphamari, and under the Mymensingh Division 152 Union Parishad, under 13 sub-districts and 3 districts of the Mymensingh, Sherpur, and Jamalpur, a total of 316 unions, 7 districts, and 30 Upazilas are working areas of the TA firm.

Bangladesh is almost open defecation-free (about 99% achieved), basic sanitation coverage is 64%, and safely managed sanitation is currently 36.4% in rural areas. (Source: Multi-Cluster Indicator Survey, MICS, 2019 report by BBS and UNICEF), but the assigned division of Rangpur is in the plain land area in north Bengal, and Mymensingh Division is in the middle of Bangladesh. Mymensingh Division has an area of 40,485 square kilometers and the population of 12,225,498; Rangpur Division has an area of 16185.01 square kilometers and the population of 11,034,863 in the 2022 census, and both divisions have a high population density. Rangpur Division is one of the main areas that is still suffering from the WASH situation. The actual condition is that the majority of the population in Rangpur (97%) uses onsite sanitation systems. 3% of the residents practice open defecation. Only 15% of the excreta in Rangpur is safely managed, leaving 85% unsafely managed. Mymensingh (ex-Dhaka) Division Basic sanitation coverage is 64%, and safely managed sanitation is currently 36.4% in rural areas. (Source: Multi-Cluster Indicator Survey, MICS, 2019 report by BBS and UNICEF.) Still, significant challenges remain in rural WASH to meet the SDG 6 service standards, which are recommended for maximizing human capital outcomes.

The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) under the Ministry of LGD&C is the main national lead agency for the implementation of drinking water supply, sanitation, and waste management in the country except for Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Chittagong cities, where WASAs have operated in both divisions for a long time. To meet the above challenges, DPHE undertakes a project entitled, Bangladesh Rural Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Human Capital Development. Behavioral change is also the focus of the project, which has been implemented by the DPHE and the PKSF.



The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is committed to achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6.1 and 6.2 to ensure water supply, sanitation and a hygienic atmosphere in rural areas of Bangladesh. To achieve this target, the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) under the Local Government Division of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has undertaken the project 'Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Human Capital Development Project'. The assignment spread over Mymensingh and Rangpur Divisions, with 7 districts, 30 Upazilas, and 316 union Parishads.

The TA Firm (JV) will have been working through and with the LGIs, Health and Family Planning Department, which will be the main role playmakers of the project, responsible for planning, implementation, and monitoring of field-level WASH activities in the respective areas. The payment procedure is a result of payment; after the successful completion of targeted activities, the TA Firm claims funds from DPHE as scheduled, and DPHE will transfer them to the TA Firm. The TA firm will follow a community-based approach to ensure community engagement and success. The TA firm provides support to LGIs (Union Parishad), DPHE local offices, and health workers to undertake their mandate of providing WASH services to the people in a participatory and transparent manner. The project targets supporting the development of different BCC materials modules and guidelines, printing BCC materials and guidelines, conducting capacity-building training, and providing field-level event-based support to UP and DHPE. The total duration of the project is 38 months, from March 2023 to May 2026. TA Firm will be implemented over a period of 38 months, following the fiscal calendar of Bangladesh.

❖ Objectives of the Project

The specific objectives of the project are -

- Constructing improved twin pit offset latrines for the hardcore poor;
- Constructing piped water supply schemes in collaboration with communities and local government in selected villages in those areas which are mostly affected by arsenic and iron problem;
- Increased access and use of WASH services in community clinic and Public Places;
- Improved hygiene behavioral practices through Behavior Change Communication Campaign among the target population & hygiene promotion training for health worker;
- Hand washing station with running water in response to Covid-19;
- Strengthened capacity of the related government agencies and local government institutions (LGIs) to plan manage and monitor sustainable decentralized WASH services.

❖ Objective of the Technical Assistance (TA) Consultancy

The specific objectives of consultancy service are as below:

Specific objectives:

- (i) Developed and printed materials for BCC campaign, guided on poorest household identification, and capacity building of LGIs (upazila and union level) and Health workers.

- (ii) Oriented 30 Upazila WatSan Committee regarding SDG, project's components, and roles of the stakeholders.
- (iii) Developed the capacity of 316 Union Parishads (UPs) on SDG 6.1 and 6.2 and their responsibilities in project implementation.
- (iv) Developed the capacity of around 1264 health workers on BCC campaign focusing on five issues (safely managed water, safely managed sanitation, hand washing including the promotion of hand washing stations, menstrual hygiene, and baby WASH).
- (v) Assisted 316 UPs for identifying the poorest households and made a final list for each Union by engaging Union Parishad as per agreed criteria and methodology provided by the project to provide fully subsidized toilets.
- (vi) Assisted UPs in organizing Ward level sessions with community people for hygiene promotion, monitored field performance of the BCC campaign, and organized union level six-monthly coordination meetings among stakeholders to review progress and prepare the next plan.
- (vii) Supported DPHE in selecting and providing orientation for the Local Entrepreneurs L (LEs) for toilet construction for the poorest households.



❖ Areas covered under the Assignment

The project is being implemented in 316 unions of 30 upazilas under 7 districts, namely Jamalpur (Jamalpur Sadar, Madarganj, Melanda, and Sarishabari Upazila), Mymensingh (Bhaluka, Fulpur, Haluaghat, Gouripur, Muktagacha, and Trishal Upazila), Sherpur (Nalitabari, Sherpur Sadar, and Sreebardi Upazila), Gaibandha (Gaibandha Sadar, Gobindaganj, Palashbari, Sagatha, Sadullapur, and Fulchari), Kurigram (Kurigram Sadar, Chilmari, Roumari, Char Rajibpur, Fulbari, Ulipur, Bhurangamari, Nageswari, and Rajarhat Upazila), Lalmonirhat (Hatibandha Upazila) and Nilphamari (Jaldhaka Upazila).

2) Assignment Name: Consultancy Services of “Designing and Implementation of Piloting Programme for Development of business Capacity of Women Entrepreneurs in Cut-Flower Sector “Contract No: BRCP1/MOC/SD-36

The Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh has received an SDR 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP-1), jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. The Project Development Objective is to improve conditions for trade through improving connectivity, reducing logistics bottlenecks and supporting modern approaches to border management and trade facilitation. There are three components of the project. They are Component 1: Invest in infrastructure, systems and procedures to modernize key selected land ports essential for trade with India, Bhutan and Nepal; Component 2: Enhance trade sector coordination and economic empowerment and opportunities in employment for women; and Component 3: Implement National Single Window and Customs Modernization Plan. The Ministry of Commerce is implementing the second component of this umbrella project as a separate technical assistance project.

This technical assistance project intends to apply a part of the IDA Credit for procuring consulting services to design and implement the “Piloting Programme for Development of Business Capacity of Women Entrepreneurs on Cut flower sector” towards developing/incubating selected Women Entrepreneurs/Traders/other relevant stakeholders as full-fledged entrepreneurs in the cut flower sub-sector for promoting business in the domestic and international export markets.

❖ **Areas of conduction of training:**

1. Jashore: Gadkhali;
2. Jhenaidah: Kaliganj and Jhenaidah Sadar;
3. Chuadanga: Jibonnagar;
4. Dhaka: Savar.
5. Manikganj: Singair.

❖ **Objectives**

The overall objective of this technical assistance project was to strengthen trade-related capacity to ensure active and sustainable cooperation among the trade-related stakeholders and economic empowerment of women traders/entrepreneurs, particularly in the cut flower sector. Under component A of the project, there was a provision for capacity building in the cut flower sector. To achieve this target and implementation of the Piloting programme, a national-level NGO, namely Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS), was selected as a service provider and a Contract Agreement was signed between the project authority and the SBSS on 29 May 2022 for carrying out project activities for 10 months up to 31 March 2023. During this period, 274 selected entrepreneurs were trained in the Cut flower sector under Component C.

❖ **Services Provided**

The following tasks were completed:

Component A: Group Formation and Identification of Piloting Activities

- i. Formed product-wise Self-help groups (SHGs) of interested potential women Traders/Entrepreneurs.
- ii. Prepared a standard template of By-laws for SHGs.
- iii. Provided technical assistance at the business starting of SHGs.
- iv. Identified customized Piloting Activities sub-sector wise and selected SHG/interested potential women entrepreneurs/traders/other relevant stakeholders based on location.
- v. Conducted a needs assessment survey of beneficiaries to identify major training needs, safety needs, prepare training curricula, and drafted participants’ list.



Component B: Development and designing of training curricula/module

- i. Developed curriculum/module for 05 (five) days specialized/hands-on training.



- ii. Developed curriculum/module for 03 (three) days Training in the Business Incubation Process.
- iii. The curriculum/module for specialized/hands-on training was prepared on the basis of findings/recommendations of final report of training implementing firms.
- iv. The curriculum/module was finalized through need assessment survey of beneficiaries, expert opinion, and validation workshop.

Component C: Implementation of Training

- a) Quality training and effective interaction with the Master Trainers were ensured by implementing two batches of trainings simultaneously with a total of about 30 trainees participating.
- b) In the covid-19 situation, health issues were properly maintained.
- c) A training schedule and metrics to measure progress were developed.
- d) A mechanism to receive trainees’ feedback and complaints anonymously was developed.
- e) An independent monitoring and evaluation mechanism for training was developed.
- f) Training was conducted following Non-Formal Education (NFE) approaches and Adult Learning Principles.
- g) Technical backstopping was provided in each batch by the expert members of the team rotationally.
- h) Depending on the availability, at least 20% expert guest trainers from the Govt./non-govt. agencies were invited for related session conduction.
- i) After successful completion of the training, the participants received a certificate signed by the competent authority.
- j) After trainings, two refresher workshops were arranged for participants to address any questions that might arise during utilization of knowledge in their work.



Component D: Adoption of new technology

To develop a core team for the processing and by-product preparation in the cut flower sector, a team (six most-deserving potential women entrepreneurs of the cut flower sector, two cut flower experts, one member from MOC, and one member from BRCP-1, MOC having a total of 10 members) took 10 days of advanced training and practical visit to a neighboring country where the cut flower sector had been well developed. The core team members, after gathering knowledge and experience from the neighboring country, facilitated/disseminated their knowledge in the hands-on training program for the development of processing and by-product preparation in the cut flower sector. The SP arranged and bore all the costs of this training [including airfare, transport to/from the airport/training venue/industry visit, accommodation in a minimum 3-star hotel, training venue/processing center and resource person honorarium, per diem allowances for trainees (minimum US \$50), welfare guide, visit to areas of education and cultural interest, and others].



Component E: Linkages among the public-private Traders:

Made linkage of the Women Entrepreneurs/Traders with processors/large public or reputed private companies/Cut Flower Growers and Exporters Association/Bangladesh Flower Society/FBCCI/Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce/and other relevant stakeholders.



-Organized visits to promising flower enterprises such as: Jashore to Gannabazar flower market in Jhenaidah, Poly-sheds of Panisara, Jhikargaccha, Jashore, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) in Gazipur.



Component F: Assistance for matching grant support:

The service provider (SP) will assist BRCP-1 for matching grant support.

- I. Matching Grant Support was provided to 18 potential entities, with flexibility depending on field demand;
- II. The SP developed initial guidelines and procedures, following the methodology practiced by the AIF-3 program, NATP-Phase 2 project of DAE funded by IDA and

- GOB. This included sub-project proposals in a prescribed format for matching grant support, finalized after consultation with the project authority;
- III. Matching grant support was awarded to qualified SGH/Women Entrepreneurs/Traders taking training from BRCP-1/cut-flower related business organization, after submitting sub-project proposals;
 - IV. The SP properly informed about the matching grant support program and assisted in sub-project preparation and submission. The funding windows were fully associated with business promotion/export;
 - V. Matching grant support was awarded based on the merit of the proposals through a competitive process by the local and central committees;
 - VI. The SP assisted in constituting a local committee headed by the local UNO with other members from DAE, DAM, Department of Women Affairs, Women chamber, and concerned UP chairman/ward commissioner/ward member (maximum 5-7 members).
 - VII. The SP also organized local committee meetings with the consent of UNO, assisted in meeting minutes preparation, and bore the associated cost;
 - VIII. The local committee made recommendations after verifying the documents and evaluating the capability of the SHG or Potential Women Entrepreneurs trained in BRCP-1/cut-flower related business association;
 - IX. The SP collected and sent the evaluation and recommendations of the local committee to the project office with the necessary documents;
 - X. There was a central committee headed by one Director from WTO Cell, MOC with other members from DAE, DAM, Department of Women Affairs, Department of ICT, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Project Manager, BRCP-1/MOC as member secretary;
 - XI. The central committee made the final recommendations to the Project Director with an evaluation report;
 - XII. On behalf of the Project Director (PD), the Monitoring and Supervising Officer and project personnel visited the qualified sub-projects physically and submitted a verification report to the PD;
 - XIII. After proper verification of the submitted documents, qualified sub-projects were approved, and matching grant support within the budget was allocated by the Project Director through the bank;
 - XIV. To ensure quality outcomes in all stages of matching grant support, regular monitoring was done by the SP as well as by the project. The SP developed monitoring and reporting mechanisms and finalized them after consultation with the project authority.



3) Assignment Name: Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Program (RERMP-3)

With the global change in economic scenario and attaining the status of middle-income Country in the world and with the adoption of Million Development Goals (MDGs and subsequently with the adoption of the resolution of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations (UN), it has become the highest priority for the Government of Bangladesh for Poverty reduction and attaining other targets of the SDG.

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has attained the many targets of the SDGs compared to many other Countries in the world. Poverty reduction is highly challenging and crucial for all Third World countries. Bangladesh is not an exception to it. The reduction of poverty in our country is a never-ending process. The Government is trying hard to reduce poverty by implementing various development programmes through the Annual Development Plan (ADP) under the Social Safety Net sector in line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and that of MDG target- 1, including Sustainable Development Goal-2030 pronounced by the UN.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Programme-3 to reduce poverty for 4 years from July 2019 to June 2023.

The overall goal of the RERMP-3 is to contribute to the long-term sustainable socio-economic development of Bangladesh in general and improve livelihood, food security, entrepreneurship and capacity building of destitute women engaged in the programme through imparting Skill development training in particular.

The Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS) has been entrusted with the responsibilities of capacity development of selected destitute women of the programme through imparting skill development training in selected and approved training modules of the LGED in 4 Districts, namely 1. Sylhet 2. Habiganj 3. Moulvibazar and 4. Sunamganj.

New staff were oriented at the SBSS conference room about procedures for their duties in districts and Upazila authorities. Thereafter, the Inception Report was submitted on August 7, 2022, detailing project activities and work plans. SBSS conducted a pre-assessment survey for participants before the 10-month training program. The survey aimed to determine their training requirements. The training module was submitted and finalized in a meeting at the LGED project office, presided over by the Project Director and attended by relevant officers.

SBSS held a two-day ToT programme on August 17th-18th, 2022 in their regional office where 17 supervisors and trainers attended the residential training session, led by Mr. M. Mobarak Ali and Mr. Faruk Ahmed, with training modules provided.



The Team Leader developed training schedules for 10 subjects, with a start date of September 2022 and a completion date of June 2023. The schedule was created in consultation with government officials and submitted for approval. Attendance and honorarium sheets were also prepared by the Team Leader and submitted for approval.



Monthly training programs were held in different Upazilas of the project area, each batch consisted of 20 beneficiaries from 2 Unions. A specific Union was selected as the training venue. The total number of batches was intended to be 159, but 169 were formed due to connectivity issues. The training was imparted by Training Facilitators and supervised by Training Supervisors, who selected the venue in consultation with the Upazila Engineer. Occasionally, senior officers of LGED would oversee the training activities. The target and achievement and successful implementation of the training programme are summarized below:-

Targeted activities	Conduct Training at the field level as per the Training Calendar set with field-level officers of LGED:	Target (318x10)	Achievement in %	Remarks
Activity-1:	Income Generation and business skills development training for 3180 ultra-poor female beneficiaries of RERMP-3 workers (7 months). One day in each month	3180	2135 (67) %	The training courses have been completed by @20 women in each batch of 2 Union Parishads
Activity-2:	Skills development training on practical nutrition, homestead vegetable production & hygiene, accounts keeping etc. for women beneficiaries. (2 months). One day in each month.	3180	2786 (88) %	The training courses have been successfully completed @ 20 women in each batch of 2 Union Parishads
Activity-3:	Training on Social awareness raising programme for ultra-poor women beneficiaries (1 month)	3180	3109 (98) %	Do
Activity-4	Education drive to encourage primary-school-age children of RERMP-3 beneficiaries to attend school. One day in each month.	3180	2353 (74) %	Do

A post-assessment was done on 25% of trainees after training using a standardized format. Improvements were noted and a post-assessment report was produced and submitted separately.

RERMP-3 has supported to uplifting living conditions of over 3180 poor rural women-headed households in 4 districts in Sylhet division. The vision of RERMP-3 has been that these women will get a chance to permanently exit out of the vicious circle of poverty and attain a decent standard of living after graduation.



Regular payment of wages has ensured food sufficiency and satisfaction of other needs, like improved housing, medical treatment and children's education during employment under RERMP-3.

The strategy has been that these women will invest their savings in gainful micro-enterprises, which will provide a cushion to ensure sustainable food security after the end of the project. The graduated women have been assisted in linkage with the service providers and markets.

They have received skill and business development training. Now, they may be able to best invest their savings in micro-enterprises to get out of poverty forever.

We are very grateful to LGED for allowing us to be involved with such a novel project, we have learned a lot from this project which can be further used for the improvement of any future project with LGED. We are grateful to the Project Director and his team for their continuous support and cooperation which made the project a successful one.

4) Assignment Name: Consulting Services for Awareness program, training, orientation activities in Project areas under Project for Improvement of sustainable Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene System in Haor areas (including sample survey for creating baseline database)

Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS) is a national-level non-government voluntary Organization (NGO) working in Bangladesh. SBSS started its work in 1999, legalized by the Social Welfare Department and NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of Bangladesh (GOB). SBSS is working in the fields of Disaster Management, Poverty alleviation, Training, Education, Agriculture, Water and Sanitation, Health and Nutrition, Advocacy, Legal Assistance and Arbitration, Microcredit, Micro Enterprise and Micro Finance, Human Rights and Justice, especially for the neglected and deprived men, women and children. It has been also working on a Technical Support Programme with assistance from community people, local government, GoB officials and Donors.

The Haor is a semi-arid lowland with major biodiversity-like features. Due to flood damage and other natural calamities every year, the public health situation of the residents of the

Haor area is relatively poor. There are total of 373 Haors in the 7 districts of Bangladesh Sunamganj, Habiganj, Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Sylhet, Maulavibazar, and Brahmanbaria.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Goal 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Water and sanitation are critical to the health of people and the planet. Goal 6 not only addresses the issues relating to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), but also the quality and sustainability of water resources worldwide. Improvements in



drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are essential for progress in other areas of development too, such as nutrition, education, health and gender equality.

The national water and sanitation coverage has significantly improved over the last few years in Bangladesh. Due to geophysical, socio-cultural and economic situations, there were pockets of areas that have received very little attention. Particularly, water and sanitation coverage remains much below the basic minimum level due to very little infrastructural development, road communication networks and hard-to-reach in Haor areas are one of them.

Public health is relatively poor due to flood damage and natural disasters caused among the poor. One of the reasons for their health problems is the lack of clean and potable water and the acute shortage of sanitation. According to the Haor Master Plan, nearly 10 per cent of households depend on nearby ponds or river water for household activities.

Considering the above context, a project named “Project for Improvement of Sustainable Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene System in Haor Areas” was approved at ECNEC held on 21st January 2020. The project has been implemented by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) under the Local Government Division of the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives. The project has the provision to install 28303 tube wells, 4126 improved latrines and 458 offset twin pit latrines with the hope that a précised sustainable hygienic water supply and sanitation system would be introduced in the Haor area.

3 (three) non-governmental organizations’ Joint Venture Association (JVA) named Society for Bright Social Services (SBSS), Swabalambi Samaj Unnyan Sangstha (SSUS) and Sustainable Development Initiatives (SDI) had been selected for discharging/conducting services like awareness programme, training, orientation activities for the project under the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

The overall objective of the project was to see the increasing safe water supply and sanitation coverage, introduction of a sustainable technology for water supply and sanitation facilities, raise awareness of local people through social campaigns and enhance the skills of local government institutions and the general public in the operation and maintenance of constructed water and sanitation facilities. The project is being implemented 8,404 villages of 340 unions of 54 sub-districts of the mentioned 7 districts covering 16,476 households.

Findings

The following are the major findings of the project interventions:

- A total number of 16,476 households were surveyed in 8,408 villages of 340 unions under 54 Upazilas in 7 districts.
- 170 field staff mobilized and trained for smooth and proper implementation of the project through skill-developing training.
- A kickoff meeting was held with DPHE officials to receive a clear idea about the project and its implementation.
- SBSS, SSUS and SDI have set up offices at Upazilas level for the smooth implementation of the project activities.
- 1 (One) central orientation workshop held for the project concerned personnel of the Central level, and District Level Officials (Executive Engineer) to disseminate the project's implementation strategy.
- 7 (seven) Orientation workshops or FGD (Focal Group Discussion) with the Executive Engineer Office of the concerned districts, and representatives from LGI/representatives from user groups to ensure their active participation.
- 7 (Seven) Orientation workshops were held to develop training manuals, survey questionnaires etc. as well as IEC materials for the assignment.
- Developed and approved survey questionnaire by SBSS and Project Director.
- 17 training sessions were held for 170 field staff in 10 batches.
- 170 Field staff trained about the procedure of sample survey, IEC campaign and consumer awareness programme.
- Developed draft IEC materials such as Flashcards, Flip charts, Information booklets, Brochures, Posters and other visual/ print materials, speeches, etc. for workshop/ Training programmes.
- Finalized IEC materials, training manual, etc. in formats ready for dissemination/broadcast to TOT training participants and caretaker training participants in consultation with DPHE.
- A total of 8,408 villages covered nearly 2 households in each village during the survey.
- Survey Haor-based community population, water sources and sanitation as well as Hygiene practices including Faecal Sludge Management (FSM).
- Created a database before collecting information about water sources and latrines currently located in the Union-wise population in the area.
- Information collected via smartphone and sent to the KOBO Collect software.
- Union-wise population database has been developed;
- Data compilation and analysis are done by the expert employed by the NGO and



- district-wise data reports are prepared in various tables.
- GIS has been created to identify the water sources and sinks of the project area.
 - Prepared GIS Map on present water points and latrines in haor areas;
 - Photographs were taken through mobile phones during the survey when the surveyors were discussed with the informants.
 - Conducted awareness Programs that would provide intervention to lead to changes in the knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) on water, hygiene and sanitation.
 - 10(ten) numbers of Capacity building trainings and 8(eight) Awareness sessions were held on the operation and maintenance of safe water sources and various tools etc.
 - 10 – 12% of tube wells were arsenic contaminated in seven (7) Upazilas of Sylhet district.
 - Sanitation facilities in the haor area are inadequate. Currently, 65.40% of the people in the haor area use sanitary latrines, 29.89% use unhygienic latrines and 4.71% use hanging latrines, which are completely unhealthy.
 - Every year, for 4 to 6 months sanitary latrines are submerged in flood water in the Haor area. The surrounding soil of the rings is washed away, and the rings are displaced and most of them are broken. Requisite sanitation system becomes ineffective due to flood and natural disasters.
 - Most of the poor people are unaware to build/construct/make hygienic latrines and the economic barriers are also the main reasons for this poor condition of sanitation in the haor areas.
 - Different hydrological and hydro-geological characteristics also difficult to develop sanitation systems in the haor area.
 - Various types of promotional activities, awareness programmes and capacity-building measures have been undertaken for sustainable water supply and sanitation in the haor areas.
 - 198 Caretakers were trained on the use and maintenance of improved latrines, number 6 deep tube wells, modified Tara tube wells, and removal of faecal sludge from improved toilets constructed by pumping through a suction hose pipe.
 - 340 union operation and maintenance committees were formed consisting of 7 members in each committee.
 - 198 caretakers trained on orientation and maintenance of submersible pumps and Tara pumps.
 - Training were facilitated by various stakeholders such as Executive Engineer (EE), Assistant Engineer (AE)/Sub Assistant Engineer (SAE), and Tube Well (TW) mechanics.
 - 340 social campaigns were held during the project period like courtyard meetings, miking (announcements using loudspeaker) and Tea stall meetings.
 - When the survey team asked questions to assess knowledge level about sanitary latrines, It was found that 74.81% of respondents had ideas although they did not practice. Respondents responses were as follows:
 - 1) Don't spread bad(foul) smell.
 - 2) The defecated materials are not visible from the outside.
 - 3) The environment wouldn't get polluted,
 - 4) Mosquitoes/flies/birds/livestock can't encounter the excreted materials.
 - The capacity-building trainings were conducted based on the needs of communities in close consultations with stakeholders. The representative of DPHE highly appreciated the achievement of training.

5) **Assignment Name: Uchha Falonshill Baromasi Sabjee Utpadhaner Maddhame Cumilla Zilar Subidha Banchito Narider Aoy O Karmosangsthan Briddi Karmosuchi**

❖ **Services Provided by SBSS:**

- Identified and selected potential women/beneficiaries and prepared a database for smooth implementation of the project;
- Imparted training to selected women for cultivation of high value all-weather vegetables throughout the year;
- Conducted Baseline survey to determine the number and level of the target group, group formation, selection of beneficiaries and stakeholders, community mobilization and advocacy for proper implementation of the project;
- Conducted orientation, workshops and awareness-raising sessions and selected group leaders through election, monitoring, supervision, evaluation, follow-up and reporting activities;
- Conducted upazila and district level workshop;
- Conducted training on marketing of vegetable's, products in local market and to take the advantages of business development;
- Conducted training on agricultural product marketing strategies and business incubation process;
- Conducted training on simple calculation of profit and loss in producing and selling of their products;
- Worked with different stakeholders such as civil society organization for the improvement of the economic condition of women beneficiaries.



6) **Assignment Name: Eradication of Hazardous Child Labor in Bangladesh (4th Phase)**

The Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has implemented the project "Elimination of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh (Phase 4)" to eliminate child labour. Under the project, 1 lakh selected child labourers engaged in hazardous work were imparted 6 (six) months of non-formal education, followed by 4 (four) months of skill development training in various trades. A scholarship of 1000 (one thousand) taka per month was given to every selected child labour during the informal education and training period and a one-time 13 (thirteen) thousand taka as seed money was also given to the best 10 (ten) per cent of the trained child labourers after successful completion of the training. Besides, all necessary activities aimed at creating social awareness against child labour all over Bangladesh were implemented in 14 different areas.

The activities performed by the organization:

- Selected 893 children involved in hazardous works for Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Skill Development Training (SDT) in 3 wards of Sylhet City Corporation
- The technical staff members of SBSS provided training to the project staff for the implementation of the project activities

- Organized workshop and orientation for the selected Teachers and other stakeholders
- Designed and organized the Multipurpose Centers (MPCs) as per the specification of the project authority
- Imparted Non-Formal Education (NFE) for six months and Skill Development Training (SDT) for four months as per government syllabus to the selected children
- Supplied syllabus, training & other reading materials to selected children
- Followed the uniform syllabus for NFE and SDT supplied by the project authority
- Organized the centres in such a way that 25 children can be selected for each centre for NFE, and 20 children can be selected for each centre for SDT
- Created a database of children by uploading their profiles using appropriate software



7) Assignment Name: Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Program

The main activities of the project are:

- Conduct baseline survey to determine the number and level of the target group;
- Group formation, selection of beneficiaries and stakeholders, community mobilization and advocacy;
- List out potential members for forming group with 25-30 member in each group;
- Provide orientation and awareness-raising sessions/training;
- Select group leaders through election, form CBO for taking over the responsibility ultimately;
- Provide food ration received from the Government under VGF;
- Skill development training on practical nutrition, homestead gardening for vulnerable women, skill development training on cow and goat rearing for vulnerable women, poultry rearing for vulnerable women, entrepreneurship development for vulnerable women, income generation and business for VGD women, life skill training on personal hygiene and cleanliness for VGD women, mother and child health, food and nutrition for VGD women, risk management of natural disaster, gender equity and women empowerment, HIV/AIDS prevention;
- Provide awareness-raising courses with an aim to enhance their knowledge and provide skill training and capital support for fitting them in income generation activities;
- Monitoring, supervision, evaluation, follow-up and reporting activities.

Goal of the Project:

The aim of the program is:

- To improve the socio-economic status of the VGD women and make all-out effort to materialize it;
- The key objective of the program is to build the income-earning capacities of VGD women and to socially empower them through training on different Income Generating

Activities (IGAs), awareness raising, provision of credit and other support services during and beyond the food assistance period.

Project Activities:

The project activities are as follows:

- Formation group with VGD women;
- Food Entitlement;
- Selection of the Trainer;
- Awareness and Motivation;
- Skill Development Training;
- Basic training on life skills;
- Basic training on income-generating skills;

Awareness Development.

Detailed Description of Actual Services Provided by SBSS:

- Conducted base-line survey to determine the number and level of the target group;
- Formed groups, selected beneficiaries and stakeholders, community mobilization and advocacy;
- Listed potential members for forming group with 25-30 member in each group;
- Provided orientation and awareness-raising sessions/training;
- Selected group leaders through election, form CBO for taking over the responsibility ultimately;
- Provided food ration received from the Government under VGF;
- Provided skill development training on practical nutrition, homestead gardening for vulnerable women, skill development training on cow and goat rearing for vulnerable women, poultry rearing for vulnerable women, entrepreneurship development for vulnerable women, income generation and business for VGD women, life skill training on personal hygiene and cleanliness for VGD women, mother and child health, food and nutrition for VGD women, risk management of natural disaster, gender equity and women empowerment, HIV/AIDS prevention;
- Provided awareness-raising courses with an aim to enhance their knowledge and provide skill training and capital support for fitting them in income generation activities;
- Monitored, supervised and evaluated project activities and reporting activities.



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