

Floating Dreams Under Water

Stories of courage and conviction of women and girls of Sunamganj!

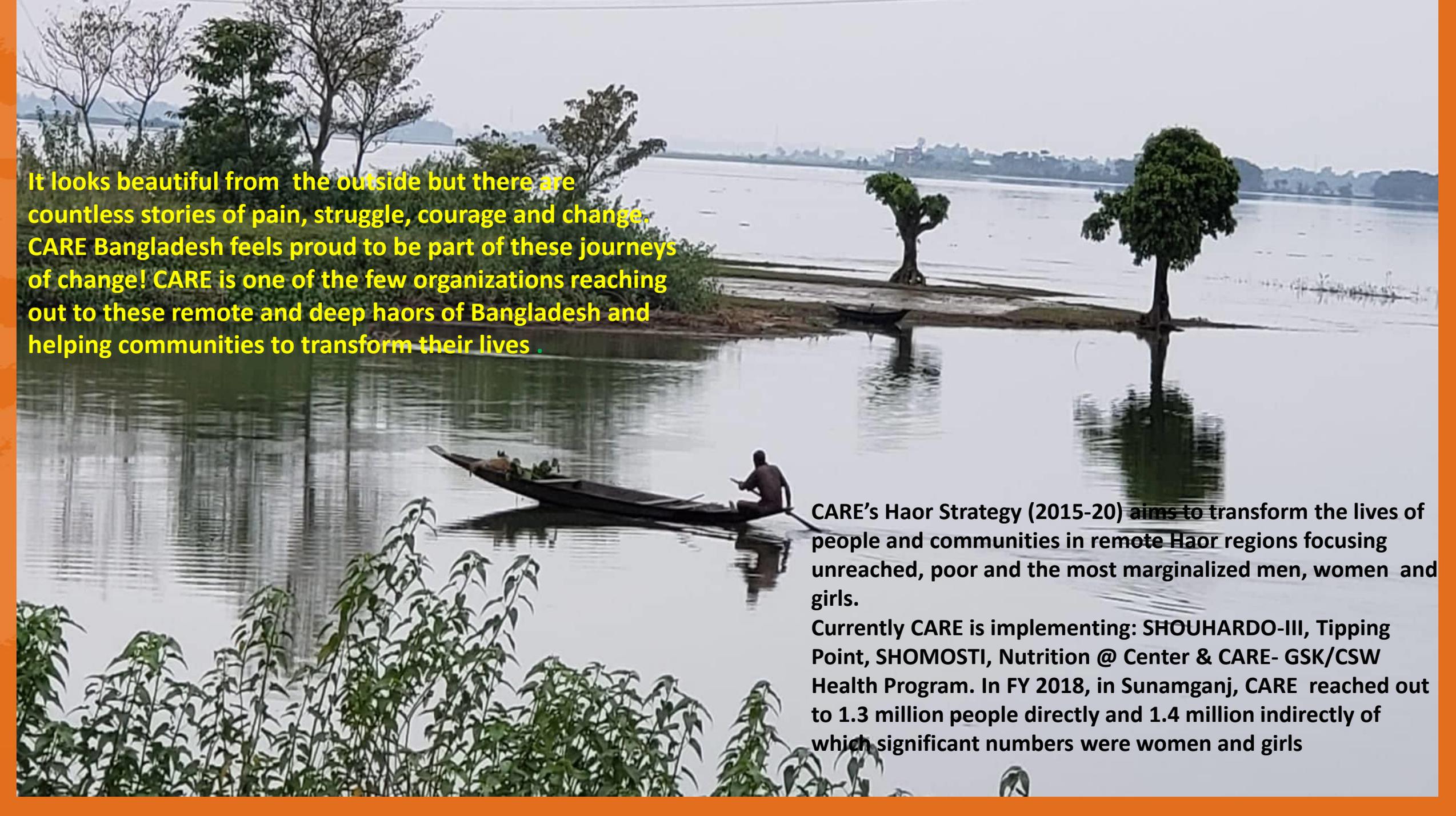


Field Updates - Week of 23rd Sept, 2018

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Almost 6-8 months every year a larger part of Sunamganj is full of water; life is literally under water. These kinds of places are also known as haor. Boats are the only means of transportation in these remote locations and life is extremely challenging.

A photograph of a person in a small, dark boat on a wide, calm river. The person is sitting in the boat, and the water reflects the surrounding trees and sky. In the background, there are several trees on a small island or peninsula, and a bridge is visible in the distance. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

It looks beautiful from the outside but there are countless stories of pain, struggle, courage and change. CARE Bangladesh feels proud to be part of these journeys of change! CARE is one of the few organizations reaching out to these remote and deep haors of Bangladesh and helping communities to transform their lives .

CARE's Haor Strategy (2015-20) aims to transform the lives of people and communities in remote Haor regions focusing unreached, poor and the most marginalized men, women and girls.

Currently CARE is implementing: SHOUHARDO-III, Tipping Point, SHOMOSTI, Nutrition @ Center & CARE- GSK/CSW Health Program. In FY 2018, in Sunamganj, CARE reached out to 1.3 million people directly and 1.4 million indirectly of which significant numbers were women and girls

I left school due to extreme poverty. Once I became member of CARE initiated EKATA group, it helped me to realize the importance of education. I convinced my parents. Now I am in 10th grade. I want to be an army officer and serve my country!

By the way we have to pay to these boats every day to go to school. I am proud of my parents and they are bold enough to support me besides our poverty and the way our society treats girls.

-Soma Akhtar on the left -Participant SHOUHARDO -III



Road to sustainability !

Participants with the Khas Land Registration Forms in Patabuka, Dakshin Shireepur, Tahirpur, Sunamganj

CARE/SHOUHARDO-III along with like-minded stakeholders is lobbying with the government for landless poor's access to Khas Land. As a result a total 52 households in Sunamganj have been allocated 2.6 acres of Government Khas land, where they have been living for last 15 to 20 years. This is the life changing milestone for poor families. SHOUHARDO will continue its advocacy for wider coverage.





Now, we understand issues around early marriage and social norms and we are fighting for the change & working with our communities.

But, there are many adolescent girls who are living in extreme poverty combined with issues of child marriage and multiple layers of gender based discriminations and gender based violence. They need immediate support that could transform their lives!

Adolescents Girls
- Tipping Point



I feel proud to be
a girl & footballer

Girls can make difference, we need support from parents, communities and male champions. Engaging with men, boys and larger community is an important strategy to promote empowerment of women and girls !



Popi, wants to be a leader
and play in girls' national
football team. -Tipping Point

CARE/ GSK/CSW Initiative : Access to health is a dream in these remote locations. Our Private Community Skilled Birth Attendants, who are also female community health practitioners, are helping communities to realize dream come true!

“We never thought we will be able to access health care in our life time. But, we are actually accessing it now. This is also giving a feeling that we have a support system around us.”



CARE/GSK/CSW Initiative supported 'Private Community Skilled Birth Attendants' are not only providing health services but also earning 6000-20,000 Taka every month. This public-private entrepreneurial partnership has evolved as a solid tested model for sustainability and scale up in all relevant contexts in Bangladesh and globally. We trained 300 P-CSBAs. This model is ready for scaling up!



Rowshan : 'We also provide services to male but women, girls & children are our priorities'



"I am making a life changing difference by providing appropriate information & services around nutrition!"

Nashima Khatun

**Community Health Care Provider:
N@Center**



I am providing my house space to run the community clinic for free. I feel good that I am giving to my community!

(Nargis : Lady on the left)- CARE/GSK



It took some time for male like me to realize the potential of women and girls in my village. Now, I feel good to support their leadership. – N@Center

“ We are the ones to take care of ducks every day. Now, we have also started to earn. We are making decisions on our household spending! We are getting new ideas on how we can expand our business. CARE is building our capacity and facilitating linkages with some big private sector companies”.

A group of women farmers-
SHOMOSTI



District Level Consultation
organized by CARE-SHOUHARDO Team



Round Table Conversations between CARE Program
Team and Senior Government Officials



Strategic engagement with the government is rewarding: A team of Government Officials in Bishowambharpur Sub-District are pioneering to establish systems in insuring multisectoral approach to nutrition throughout district. It was amazing while listening their future plans.

-N@Center



Rising **HOPES** in the midst of challenges!

CARE needs your support to reach out to millions of other women, girls, youths and men in these remote parts of Bangladesh!

Appreciation to SHOUHARDHO-III, SHOMOSTI, TIPPING POINT, CARE-GSK, NUTRITION@CENTER teams, Sunamganj field teams and our partners for your commitment and making sure to reaching out to these communities in these remote locations!

Special appreciation to our female colleagues for your courage and passion to reaching out to communities in the these remote areas! We are proud of you!

