

FSUP-H NEWSLETTER

A quarterly newsletter published by CARE Bangladesh, funded by the European Union

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Project Background

Food Security for the Ultra Poor is a five year project funded by the European Union and being implemented by CARE Bangladesh and three national partners, Sabalamby Unnayan Samity (SUS), Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD) and People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI). The overall project goal is to reduce extreme poverty, food insecurity and vulnerability in the Haor region of Northeast Bangladesh. FSUP targets 55,000 ultra poor households, with a focus on ultra poor women, in the three districts of Sunamganj, Netrakona and Kishoreganj.



Photo: © CARE

Message from FSUP-H Team Leader – Masud Alam Khan

FSUP-H project has come a long way since it began in 2009 and with only a year left of implementation the need to consolidate achievements and bring about long-term change in the lives of the 55,000 ultra-poor families FSUP-H works with could not be stronger.

The second edition of the FSUP-H newsletter serves to highlight the impact of the project on the lives of beneficiaries. The Programme Coordination Unit provides an analysis of their highlights of FSUP-H and some of the project's unique approaches. Further articles on the project's involvement in accessing private land, community nutrition gardens and women's empowerment demonstrate some of the successes recognised by the PCU. We also have an update on how FSUP-H is engaging men and boys through the Engaging Men Initiative supported by CARE Norway. Finally we hear from the beneficiaries themselves through their stories and photos.

We hope you enjoy reading about the work of FSUP-H and find the articles in this edition of interest. If you have any comments or thoughts regarding this newsletter please let the FSUP-H team know through the contact details on the final page.

Message from the PCU

The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of FSUP was established to provide coordination, support and monitoring services to the four implementing partners of FSUP, including CARE. While all four FSUP partners (CARE, ICCO, WFP and IRW) share certain core interventions, such as the provision of skills training and grants to beneficiaries to establish IGAs, each partner also has certain development concepts, interventions or modalities which are not shared by all the others. In this article, PCU would like to highlight some of FSUP-H's unique features which have touched or impressed us in our visits over this period.



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Village Development Committee: the concept of a village level forum dedicated to equity and solution of ultra-poor's problems had already been tested and refined by CARE under SHOUHARDO. A key part of the concept is that the ultra-poor should not be isolated from the not-so-poor in the search for solutions to their plight. When there is involvement and concern of the elites, reinforced by presence of an NGO, real change is more likely to be sustainable. A multi-strata forum like the VDC, established from the very outset of the project, is unique to FSUP-H among the four partners. Although one can envisage replication of a VDC type organization on a wider scale in the whole of Bangladesh, it seems particularly suitable for the Haor, where there is close physical proximity of all social strata on small "hatis" during flooding season.

The PCU has witnessed various impressive successes of the VDC during its visits, such as the increased personal confidence and capacity of members, and acquisition of khas land for members. An unexpected and inspiring example of this has been the various cases of donation of land by elites, inspired by the original gesture of a teacher in Keshobpur Village. When he was invited to inaugurate this raised land in 2011, the EU Ambassador H.E Mr William Hanna (Pictured below) was evidently moved by this case, and the inspiration it has provided. In addition to advocacy and awareness raising, most VDCs have been proactively exploring the economic opportunities for their members.

IGAs and Asset Grant: Despite having the smallest asset grant of the four partners. (BDT 4700), the Outcome Survey carried out by PCU in March 2012 showed that CARE is well on the way to achieving its key indicators for improved income and nutrition (results can be seen on www.fsupbd.org). Does this call into question the cost-benefit of other partners' larger grants? Absolutely not. Although there would clearly have been no harm, perhaps even greater benefit with a larger grant, it has worked for this target group and region. The relatively greater economic and nutritional resources in Haor mean that a smaller amount of money can be more easily leveraged there compared with Gaibandha or Rangpur. In addition, many beneficiaries already had small grocer/hawker stalls, to which they added the grant money. Others have pooled the small grant to purchase a collective asset, or judiciously increased its value through economic activity. Additional sources of income to supplement the asset grants have been cash-for-work schemes, while construction of protection infrastructure will significantly reduce annual land erosion expenses in those villages.



Photo: © Masud Alam Khan/CARE



Photo: © CARE

Besides their individual IGA, Several villages have group IGAs, some of which are facilitated and mentored by the VDC. Some group IGAs such as agriculture (renting of paddy land by 5 or more beneficiaries), fishing boat purchase and lease, and threshing machine have proved successful and lucrative. In Shekherpara village of Katiadi Upazilla, a fishpond lease has been purchased by 40 beneficiaries. Although the actual cash returns per beneficiary are not as profitable as some individual IGAs (like cow or duck rearing, egg selling) or other group IGAs (like threshing machine) when calculated on annual basis by PCU, collective ownership of the asset had given them pride, and mutual cooperation was still high after two years PCU suggested other ways they can cooperate together in addition to the pond, which might give more individual profit. In Purba Dampara Village of Dampara Union in Nikli Upazilla, a group of beneficiaries demonstrated their IGAs for the PCU arrival like a fair, showing a larger range of IGA types than PCU has seen in

the other FSUP partners, including a range of small food processing, waste recycling and toy making IGAs.

EKATA Group: the involvement of youth to disseminate key development messages, such as discouragement of early marriage and payment of dowry, improved nutritional awareness, environmental and personal sanitation etc is smart. Besides increasing awareness to avoid early marriage and dowry, EKATA are also increasing awareness of the whole community regarding nutrition. PCU was impressed with the nutrition garden visited in Purba Dampara Village, which had been designed, planted and maintained by the EKATA group. These gardens aim to raise awareness in the community about the husbandry, nutritional and medicinal properties of various vegetables and herbs. PCU has recommended to CARE that EKATA groups should include teenage boys as well as girls for maximum effect.

I s l a n d s o f H o p e

Landlessness is common for the poorest in Bangladesh and many families live for generations without even owning a small piece of land to build a homestead. The Haor region, in the Northeast, is no exception to this and in a region where huge areas of land are under water for up to eight months of the year, owning land remains a distant dream for many.

FSUP-H's community-led approach, that aims to unite communities in the support of the poorest, has triggered a pro-poor reaction in some villages where wealthy land donors have come forward to donate land to the landless ultra-poor. This spontaneous reaction has resulted in some exciting and inspiring stories.

To date, there have been 15 separate cases where landowners have come forward and generously handed over the full legal entitlements to extremely poor landless families in their communities. As a result, 281 ultra-poor landless beneficiary households (approximately 1,405 women, men, girls and boys) now own, often for the first time in their lives, their own home and small plot of land. This remarkable achievement not only provides families with a home of their own but is also helping to reduce their poverty and improve food security throughout the year.

Between December 2011 and January 2012 CARE Bangladesh conducted a qualitative study to have a wider understanding of the impact the pro-poor land donations are having on both the recipients of the land but also on the wider community.

The study found that since receiving the land the previously landless families have seen a number of changes take place in their lives which has contributed to improved food security, a reduction in poverty and improved well-being of the poor. In the past the families would have to pay their landlords rent or work for free for the benefit of the landlord. The removal of this indebtedness has taken away the need to pay rent and allowed the land recipients time to pursue their own livelihoods. As new home owners, many now have their own space around their homestead to supplement their diets by growing vegetables and rearing livestock and poultry. Families reported that owning their own home has given them a strong sense of pride and dignity. One land recipient articulated this as simply being able to invite relatives and friends to her own home for the first time.

The study found that land donations often had a positive impact on the community as a whole. Community members reported how in the past they excluded the landless families from community events viewing the families as a burden, this now had changed and the new home owners were invited to community events and in a number of occasions had held community festivals on their new land. The sense of unity among the visited communities was evident during the study and the original land donations in some cases sparked a pro-poor feeling that resulted in other wealthy community members coming forward to support the poorest such as providing tube wells and latrines on the newly donated land.



Photo: © Masud Alam Khan/CARE



Photo: @ Richard Sloman/ CARE

Interviews with the land donors provided an intriguing insight into the motivations behind some of the land donations. Ranjit Talukder, the first land donor to be motivated to donate land in 2009, recognised CARE's role in his decision. Ranjit expressed how he was impressed by CARE's ability to bring the people of his community together. He explained, "In the past, charitable organisations went straight to the wealthy elites in the village." Instead, CARE gathered the whole community together for a meeting where they discussed their problems and identified those amongst them who were most marginalised. They realised that landlessness was contributing to the poverty of these families. Ranjit knew then that the solution to this problem was in his hands. He had land that he could give to the landless families in his village and approached CARE with his idea. In Chouhatta, a neighbouring village to Ranjit's, CARE also brought the whole community together to discuss how they can support the poorest. The community expressed the desire to help the landless of their village and without the opportunity to find a land donor, 62 people donated money to pay for some land. The full legal entitlement to the community-bought land was then handed over to 18 ultra-poor landless families in the community who have now established their own homes on the land.

The success of the land donations has been quite remarkable and is an excellent example of how community-led approaches can work to the benefit of the poorest recognising the importance of - the right- to own land which families can live and work on. The challenges to encouraging philanthropy in one of the remotest regions of Bangladesh are clear but the land donations of FSUP-H provide a valuable insight into how community cohesion can be nurtured.

The Land Donations in Numbers

1,405 – the number of previously landless women, men, boys and girls now living in homesteads they can call their own

15 – the number of separate land donations that have occurred throughout the project

12.65 – the total number of acres of land donated

5.3 million – the estimated worth of the donated land in BDT, based on local community valuation of the land

The Engaging Men Initiative

FSUP-H project is working for increased inclusion and capacity of 55,000 extremely poor women for economic empowerment and food security. FSUP-H's women's empowerment approach places women at the centre, without strategically focusing on the engagement of men and boys.

To achieve FSUP-H's goal in overcoming food insecurity deep rooted gender inequalities have to be addressed, which requires involving both women and men in the development process. In recognition of this CARE developed the Engaging Men Initiative (EMI) with funding from CARE Norway, to strengthen and build on FSUP-H's women's empowerment work. EMI uses FSUP-H as a platform to work with men and boys as well as women and girls to challenge conventional gender norms and promote more equitable relationships among men and women. This approach, in combination with economic empowerment and increased inclusion of women in social and political processes, will ultimately lead to improved food security and a better quality of life for all.

The Engaging Men Initiative is working with men and boys throughout the FSUP-H project through a variety of project activities. All FSUP-H staff have been trained on the engaging men approach, particularly focusing on issues of masculinity, GBV and understanding empowerment through engaging men and boys.

At the project level the community Village Development Committees and EKATA groups are being used as platforms to

engage men and boys for women's empowerment. The EKATA group members, previously all female, are now including regular sessions involving men and boys. These sessions are focused on issues directly relating to male behaviour such as gender based violence. Younger men who are interested are now being included EKATA group activities such as the nutritional gardens mentioned in the article by the PCU on page two. Additionally FSUP-H communities are identifying individual men who are seen as role models in terms of supporting and respecting their wives on a more equal basis. The EMI will now work with these men to develop them as natural leaders and agents of change in the community.

In the coming months CARE Bangladesh will conduct a study on 'Understanding Men's Perspective and Institutional Practices for Women's Empowerment'. It is hoped that this study will not only help FSUP-H to refine it's approach to involving men and boys towards achieving women's empowerment and ultimately food security but the study will also have a wider impact for CARE Bangladesh and its partners in developing a clear engaging men strategy.



Photo: © Angela Platt/CARE

Support from the whole community empowers Konocrani as a leader

As Konocrani oversees the distribution of rice rations to some of the poorest women in her community it is clear to see she takes her responsibility very seriously. Some of these extremely poor women wouldn't be receiving government support today if it wasn't for the assistance of Konocrani and the huge respect they show her is a result of this.

As a child, poverty cast a shadow on Konocrani's life and her family struggled to make enough to eat. As a result, Konocrani grew up wanting to make a difference in the lives of the poorest. Since 1997, Konocrani has been assisting local organisations in her village in Northeast Bangladesh to support the most vulnerable women. Recently Konocrani began working with People's Orientated Program Implementation (POPI) a local organisation working in partnership with CARE Bangladesh on the Engaging Men and Boys Initiative that is empowering extremely poor women and their family's to graduate out of poverty by engaging men and boys. In a country where unequal gender roles are a significant problem, CARE and its partners know that empowering the poorest women can only be achieved through wider changes in the social and institutional environment, which includes changing men's attitudes and practices.

Working closely with the European Union funded Food Security for the Ultra-Poor Project (FSUP-H), the Engaging Men and Boys Initiative, funded by CARE Norway, began working in Konocrani's village in 2010. Konocrani's work with vulnerable families in her village was recognised by POPI and she was identified as a natural leader. As a natural leader, Konocrani received training from the project on women's rights, negative social norms such as dowry, early marriage, domestic violence,

family planning and health practices. With this training, Konocrani began leading women's empowerment groups and health awareness sessions in two villages. She conducted sessions on family planning and health issues in the courtyard of houses with women and men. Passersby would stop to hear her messages and become engaged in the sessions.



Konocrani (left) oversees the government food distribution to the poorest families in her community.

In 2011, in the run up to the local government elections families in the village asked her to stand for election. 'My husband was worried about money' Konocrani explained, 'but the community people promised to support me in the election.' With this support, Konocrani became inspired to represent the poorest in her local government. Other natural leaders working across the Engaging Men and Boys Initiative in neighbouring villages pledged to support Konocrani and promoted her as a supporter of the poor.

With this support Konocrani was elected onto the local government committee for five years in August 2011 and beaming with pride she explained how she has already been able to help those in need. 'Now I can ensure that the poorest families

receive the government hardship allowance they are entitled to' she said.

When thinking about how her life has changed, Konocrani recognises the important role the project has played. 'My job in the communities meant that both women and men knew who I was' Konocrani says. Community members observed her in the awareness sessions and her confidence grew as the community encouraged her. This support from both men and women was vital in Konocrani's election. Even in her family life she has seen the behaviour of her husband and sons change towards her. In the past she explained 'my husband didn't help out at home and if I was working in a neighbouring village my husband and sons would go hungry waiting for my return. Now my husband supports me by helping at home.'

Smiling she said 'in the past, my sons would say 'this is women's work' when asked to help but seeing their father now helping out they are also helping more.' In agreement, Purinam, Konocrani's husband explains 'now my wife has three jobs as natural leader, government leader and mother. I help her more at home.' Konocrani's role as a leader in her community has changed Purinam's attitude, 'when I walk in the neighbouring villages people know who I am and treat me with respect. People know me as the husband of Konocrani and I feel proud' he says.

Through support from the Engaging Men and Boys Initiative, CARE has assisted fifty-nine women to gain seats on local government committees.

Purinam and Konocrani supporting each other



EMI is funded by CARE Norway



The FSUP -H project is funded by the European Union

Photo: @ Richard Sloman/ CARE

Stories from the Field



Photo: © CARE

Eggs: An Innovative Example of Community Savings Groups.

Community savings groups set up by the FSUP-H project have proven to be very important in providing a safety net to ultra-poor families during lean periods or times of hardship such as sickness in the family. Typical savings groups established by the FSUP-H project involve regularly saving cash or rice. When the 143 FSUP-H ultra-poor households of Rathinagar and Sahebargaon villages in Sunamganj District decided to start a savings group they came up with the innovative idea of savings eggs.

Prior to the savings scheme the ultra-poor families of Rathinagar and Sahebargaon had very limited or no savings. FSUP-H began working in the villages and helped to establish a Village Development Committee (VDC) which brought the poor families together to identify the major underlying causes of poverty in their communities and come up with realistic solutions. A major problem was the reliance on high interest loans from local money lenders and the VDC identified the need to have a way of using their own savings during difficult periods.

The ultra-poor women of Rathinagar and Sahebargaon were positive about a savings scheme but recognised that it would be extremely difficult for them to save some of their husband's income regularly and the deep rooted inequality in the Haor region often results in the women not having direct

access to their husbands income or the ability to decide how the income is spent. As a result the VDC supported by FSUP-H project staff came up with the innovative idea of egg saving where each women member would save one egg a week. As the woman is traditionally responsible for the collection and preparation of family meals as well as caring for the poultry and livestock the eggs savings idea was deemed a feasible and pragmatic approach by the women.

Each week the families save 143 eggs and collectively sell them to a vendor who takes them to market. The group has a strong structure with an elected Secretary, President and Treasurer and meet regularly to discuss problems and publish saving figures to the rest of the group. Although the process is slow the group have already achieved some impressive results saving 28,500 BDT in a short time. When interviewed Rofia Begum (37), President of the savings group expressed her hopes that in the future the group will be able to invest their savings in a piece of land for farming.

Throughout the Haor region FSUP-H project helped establish 645 community savings groups made up of over 45,000 ultra-poor women. Whether saving cash, rice or eggs these groups help the poorest families to work together for long-term food security.

Sokhina's Shop Makes a Big Change.

Sokhina (36) lives in the village of Urdighi, in Karimganj Upazila, in the district of Kishoreganj in Northeast Bangladesh. Sokhina's husband Nurul runs a small business but his earnings have never been enough to support his wife and five children.

In 2009, Sokhina became an FSUP-H participant and received 4,700 BDT to start a business. Sokhina felt this was the catalyst to improve her family's life explaining, "we realised that we could bring real and lasting changes to our life if we planned properly and worked hard." With this in mind, Sokhina started a small shop at the local market selling food and household products.

Sales increased quickly and now Sokhina's shop is making a profit of 300 to 350 BDT per day providing a stable income for her family. Now she aims to continue to expand her business and send all her children to school.

Sokhina explained, "My husband's income was hardly enough for us to scrape a living. But now that I'm also earning our living condition has improved a lot. My children like to eat good food but in the past we couldn't afford it. Now they eat well! My neighbours also appreciate my new enterprising attitude."



Photo: © Shahena Pervin/CARE

We Are Together: Women's Fishing Group Brings in the Catch

The people of Shekerpara village in northeast Bangladesh are bustling with excitement as the women pull in their latest catch of fish. The catch is substantial and the 40 poor families who farm fish here will eat well from it.

The catch is a product of hard work and community unity and represents a great improvement in the lives of 40 of the poorest families in the village. In 2009, CARE, began implementing the Food Security for the Ultra-Poor Project (FSUP-H) in northeast Bangladesh. The project, funded by the European Union, aims to assist 55,000 ultra-poor women and their families graduate out of extreme poverty. An important approach to the project is to build community unity among the poorest families so they can work together to access their rights and achieve economic sustainability.

Through CARE's local partner POPI, FSUP-H helped to establish a community group in Shekerpara made up of extremely poor women who meet to discuss problems in their community and devise solutions to overcome them. The group identified the lack of opportunities for the poorest women to earn an income and that this could be overcome by leasing a water body to farm fish. Never before had the women considered fish farming as the lease had always been too high for one poor family to afford. But now things had changed, as they had formed a group and could work together.

Key to improving the incomes of the poorest families, the FSUP-H project provides basic business training to the women and a small start-up grant of 4,700Tk (£36) for the women to establish a business. 40 women in Shekerpara village decided to pool their money and rent a pond to begin a fish farm. After leasing the pond for three years the women used the excess money to purchase new fingerlings and feed.

Since starting the lease, the women have harvested eight times a year. After each catch, two large fish are distributed to each family for consumption, the remaining fish are sold and the profits are reinvested into the business.

Not only is the business providing the women and their families with a valuable source of nutrition and income but it has brought the women together to work collectively as a team. Monowara, one of the fishing group members explained, "We don't need to invest much time for the work. We divided our roles, one group feeds the fish, one hires nets for harvest and others are involved in communicating with the buyer". This unity provides real bargaining power when negotiating with the fish wholesalers.

These women have already saved enough money to re-lease the pond: their strong bonds means the women of Shkerpara look set to bring in the catch for many years to come.



Learning from FSUP-H work

As part of FSUP-H's approach to learning, the monitoring and evaluation unit undertook a survey in December 2012 to understand the success and challenges of the community vaccinators trained by the project. The survey was completed by 185 community vaccinators trained through the FSUP-H project as well as 17 Upazila Livestock Offices and one District Livestock Office. The survey reviewed the quality of training, the economic benefits of vaccinating and access to vaccines. The survey results are extremely encouraging identifying the impact the new skills in vaccination are having on the ultra-poor participants.



The survey found that 87% of the vaccinators rated the training provided by FSUP-H as being good or very good. In particular many responded by highlighting the great benefits of receiving the training directly from the livestock officers. This has meant the vaccinators are familiar with the officers and know who to contact regarding accessing vaccines.



Since completing the training the survey found the vaccinators are earning an average profit of 633 BDT per month and are purchasing an average of 5 vaccines per month. This is a considerable success given that all vaccinators are ultra-poor and 30% are women. The role of vaccinator is providing an important additional income for the families. Vaccinations can be carried out in their own time, without a significant impact on their existing work and is a skill the beneficiary will have for the future. For the women vaccinators the benefits of vaccinating are not only economic. As the story of Dilornia shows (see overleaf) as vaccinators the women are achieving greater social standing in the community as well as increased mobility and increasing acceptance from their husbands as income earners. Finally the vaccinators are seen to be providing a vital service in reducing devastating poultry diseases in the remote communities where they are now working.




Photo: © CARE

Despite the success in training community vaccinators the survey also identified a number of challenges for the vaccinators. The survey found that the male vaccinators were earning approximately 200BDT per month more than the female vaccinators. This is perhaps unsurprising in the remote Haor region where female mobility can be extremely limited and finding the time to go out vaccinating could be challenging to manage with the responsibility of child care and other household activities expected of the women. One way FSUP-H will be working to address this issue in 2013 is through engaging men in community groups and as natural leaders to promote more equity in household activities allowing women more time to carry out economic activities.

A further challenge identified by both the trained vaccinators and the livestock offices was the supply of government vaccines. 48% of vaccinators stated that vaccines were not always available at the livestock offices and this was verified by 35% of livestock officers claiming vaccines are not always available in the office. The main reason for

this was that not enough vaccines were being produced to meet the demand in the Haor region. Another challenge mentioned by the livestock offices was the difficulty in storing and transporting vaccinations in the remote Haor region. Although this was only commented by a number of livestock offices, the project will consider working to advocate for an improvement in the government cold chain for vaccines in the Haor region. The evidence suggests that if vaccines were more readily available the project beneficiaries would have the potential to earn considerably higher incomes. In the coming year FSUP-H plans to work closely with the government livestock offices in the Haor region to conduct refresher training for the vaccinators and attempt to improve access to vaccines.

The survey has produced some encouraging results and highlights the success FSUP-H has had in training community vaccinators. The project will continue to monitor this activity closely and work hard to address the challenges identified in this work.



When Delowara was a child she saw a woman in her village vaccinating livestock and poultry. This was an unusual sight at the time as vaccinations are often perceived as male roles, particularly in the remote area of Northeast Bangladesh where Delowara lives. Dilorja admired the way the woman went about her vital work and noticed how the community looked up to her. This experience opened Delowara's eyes to the possibilities that women could carry out important jobs in the community.

In 2009 Delowara became an FSUP-H participant and in 2011 the Village Development Committee (VDC) in her village, a community platform set up by the FSUP-H to advocate for the rights of the poorest, selected Delowara to receive training to become a community vaccinator. Delowara attended a five day training course to learn how to vaccinate and take care of poultry and livestock. The training was a mixture of theory and practical sessions, conducted by the local government Livestock Office. This ensures that all vaccinators have government recognition, which not only allows communities to recognise them officially but also gives the vaccinator a direct link to vaccines provided by the government. On completion of the training Delowara and all the vaccinators received a toolbox providing them with the equipment needed to begin working in the community.

The obvious change in Delowara's life is that she can now supplement her family's income through vaccinating poultry in her community. This additional income has proved to be extremely important for Delowara's family. She has used the profits to invest in duck - rearing and the eggs provide her family with an important source of protein.

The economic advantages of becoming a vaccinator are coupled with a greater empowerment that Delowara has felt, explaining she has now become the woman she admired as a child. 'I was idle before but now I have a job' she explained, 'I am now well known in the community'. The new job has also provided her with greater mobility in her community as she carries out her role, and support from her husband who has seen the benefits of their family's increased income.

Since 2010 the FSUP-H project has supported the training of 190 ultra-poor men and women to become community vaccinators across the Northeast of Bangladesh.

Delowara's Story

as a vaccinator

P r o g r e s s t o d a t e

52,855 households have established homestead vegetable gardens after receiving training and vegetable seed packets



A total of 498 community nutrition gardens have been established specifically focused on adolescent groups who don't have space to grow vegetables in their homesteads



9,500 ultra-poor women have received 30 days cash for work for constructing various flood protection schemes



A total of 190 participants (55 women and 135 men) have been trained as community poultry vaccinators and have received a vaccination toolkit to begin their work in the community

55,000 ultra-poor women have received business training and seed money to start their own businesses and are reporting an average monthly income of **1,560 BDT**

94% of FSUP-H's 55,000 ultra-poor participants are members of community savings groups established by the project and save an average of **928 BDT** per member.



1,764 students and teachers received training on school based disaster management and climate change adaptation. The training has taken place in 81 schools across the three FSUP-H working districts



Over 7,000 decimals of government Khas land has been transferred to FSUP-H project participants for homestead and agricultural use



EKATA and VDC groups have been involved in **541 cases** of preventing early marriage, **487 cases** avoiding dowry payments and **846 interventions** related to violence against women

Meet the partners





Sabalamby Unnayan Samity (SUS) has been working with underprivileged and marginalised people, especially women, children and adolescents in disaster prone areas of Bangladesh since 1986 and has been working with CARE since 1994.



Since 1990, Assistance for Slum Dwellers (ASD) has been focused on community development and women empowerment activities across Bangladesh. ASD has been a CARE partner since 1995.



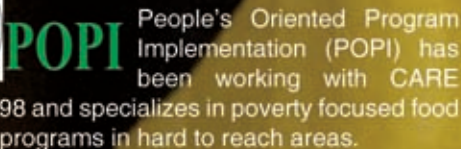
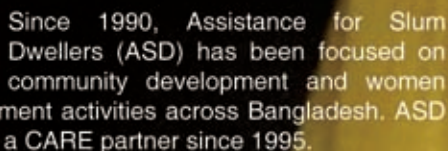
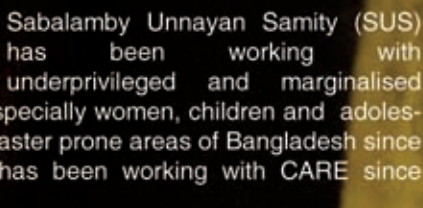
People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI) has been working with CARE since 1998 and specializes in poverty focused food security programs in hard to reach areas.

Please change "If you have any comments or thoughts you would like to share please do so by contacting Masud Alam Khan (Team Leader) at masudkhan@bd.care.org <<mailto:masudkhan@bd.care.org>>."

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Photo: Angela Platt

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