SHOUHARDO III
Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO III) is a Development Food Security Activity program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with a non-match complementary funding from the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). SHOUHARDO III is a five-year program with an overall goal of achieving improved gender equitable food and nutrition security and resilience among vulnerable people living in the Char and Haor regions of Bangladesh by 2020. To achieve this, the program provides multi-sectoral interventions at household and community level to improve resilience and livelihood capacities that will provide both short and long-term support and benefits to participants. The program is being implemented by six implementing partner NGOs, named – DAM, ESDO, MJSKS, NDP, POPI and SKS with the technical support provided by CARE Bangladesh.

Goal
Improved gender equitable food and nutrition security and resilience of the vulnerable people living in the Char and Haor regions in Bangladesh by 2020.

Population coverage
The primary focus is on 384,000 individuals from 168,521 vulnerable households.

Geographic focus
The Program operates in the Char and the Haor regions in Bangladesh reaching eight districts (Gaibandha, Habiganj, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj, Kurigram, Natrokoa, Sirajganj, and Sunamganj), 23 Upazilas (sub-districts), and 115 unions.

Funding

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<tr>
<th>USAID Contribution:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Funding source</td>
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Government of Bangladesh Contribution: $ 8,000,000

Grand Total: $ 88,000,000
Purpose 1: Increased equitable access to income for both women and men, and nutritious food for women, men, boys and girls.

Sub-Purpose 2.1: Increased utilization of nutritious food for Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), C<5, and adolescent girls.
Sub-Purpose 2.2: Improved access to health and nutrition services.
Sub-Purpose 2.3: Reduced prevalence of water-borne diseases.

Purpose 2: Improved nutritional status of children under five years of age (C<5), pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

Sub-Purpose 3.1: Increased preparedness of PEP households and communities to mitigate and respond to shocks.
Sub-Purpose 3.2: Local Government Institutions’ (Union Parishad) Capacity and implementation of Disaster and Climate Risk Management (DCRM) activities increased.

Purpose 3: Strengthened gender equitable ability of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from man-made and natural shocks.

Sub-Purpose 4.1: Strengthened agency of women.
Sub-Purpose 4.2: Improved environment for women’s empowerment.

Purpose 4: Increased Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equity at family and community level.

Sub-Purpose 5.1: Communities (especially PEP) are better able to demand and negotiate increased public (Union Parishads & Nation Building Departments) services.
Sub-Purpose 5.2: Accountability of Local Elected Bodies & NBDs to the needs of communities especially to PEP increased.

Purpose 5: Provision and utilization of public services (i.e. LEBs & NBDs) for communities especially for PEP increased.
### Total Program Participants

**Agricultural sector capacity:**
Agriculture and livelihoods interventions will benefit 144,930 women, men, and youth farmers.

**Capacity building Preparedness and Planning:**
13,806 PEP community members will engage in climate change and disaster resilience trainings.

**Maternal and Child health:**
97,069 program participants will benefit under this program element.

**Social assistance:**
About 92,000 people will be covered through emergency response subject to occurrence of disaster events and decision of response with its scale.

**Water supply and Sanitation:**
91,811 participants will be reached by the program.

**Assistance and Recovery:**
School cum flood shelter and mound protection wall will benefit 10,074 program participants.

**Civic participation:**
33,145 women and adolescent girls will be empowered through EKATA* women’s groups. 10,417 VDC* members and 19,000 youth group members will be trained on leadership and governance issues aiming to build linkage with the local government and NBDs to leverage necessary support for PEP.

**Nutrition:**
29,165 pregnant, 23,516 lactating women and 71,119 other family members will receive supplementary food rations.

**Strengthen microenterprise productivity:**
92,686 program participants will get the opportunity to involve with Income Generating Activities (IGA) and 28,410 PEP community members (90% women and adolescent girls) will have the opportunity to join Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups and 10,000 youth received youth employability skill training.

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*Empowerment Knowledge and Transformative Action (EKATA)*  
*Village Development Committee*
15,494 (Target-14,877) trained on off-farm income generating activities training

16,139 (Target-17,046) youth trained on governance and joint development planning

92,086 (Target-94,172) trained on on-farm income generating activities

49,349 (Target-52,376) pregnant and lactating women received food ration

32,381 (Target-32,215) farmers trained on comprehensive homestead development

11,517 (Target-14,479) people in vulnerable communities received training on disaster preparedness

29,901 (Target-32,629) farmers trained on field crops production

9,647 (Target-10,417) village development committee members trained on good governance
Key Results

- 61.2% (829) of 1,428 participants were satisfied with overall services provided by the local government.
- 77.1% (431) of 662 surveyed program participants reported increased market access, compared to 66.7% in FY17.
- 70.3% (1,011) of 1,428 households received early warning information and adopted risk-reducing actions to better respond to shocks.
- 95.6% (239) of 250 surveyed mothers received antenatal care services from the community-based health facilities.
- 76.3% (95) of 125 women reported being involved in increased household decision making in FY18, compared to 57.6% in FY17.

*Source: Beneficiary Based Sample Survey (BBSS, 2018) and Longitudinal Study (FLAIRb, 3rd Round, 2018)

Challenges

- Limited opportunities for livelihood diversification
- Limited access to land impeding production and sanitation for rural poor
- Frequent river erosion, flash flooding and inundation of farmlands
- Engaging adolescents and youth
The SHOUHARDO III program youth strategy was designed on an employment pathway. Implementation challenges and inability to reach specific age-groups and demographic led to specific recommendations by the program’s Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) consultants. The three specific ones are as below:

**Youth Employment Promotion**

- The program should (1) expand the technical capacity of the program to support youth employment with dedicated staff, (2) reduce the targets to a more manageable level given the time available and (3) implement the Youth Employability Skills Development Strategy as designed.

**Adolescent Boys and Girls Engagement**

Find ways to engage adolescent girls and boys in a broader range of activities to promote women’s empowerment, gender equality, and other messages.

**Young and Newly wed PEP Households**

Target young, newly-wed PEP households who have become established after the initial well-being analysis for participation in the program.

The graphic below represents the program’s approaches to youth interventions based on the MTE recommendations and from lessons learnt in implementation:

- **Age groups**
  - 11-14 (School boys and girls)
  - 15-17 (Adolescent boys & girls)
  - 16-25 (Vocational training recipients)
  - 18-25 (Young mothers)

- **Strategic Approach**
  - Create school based adolescent clubs to develop life skills of the members and increase their knowledge on disaster risk reduction and resilience.
  - Prepare members of adolescent Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) for future roles in producer groups, employment and family responsibilities.
  - Develop vocational skills of the youth and guide them towards wage and self-employment pathways through vocational training.

- **Target**
  - 13,800 Students (boys and girls) in 8 districts
  - 28,410 With equal number of boys and girls (dropped out of school and unmarried)
  - 23,675 Young Mothers and new brides
  - 10,000 (already reached 4130)

- **Interventions**
  - Support school teachers to train peer leaders, both boys and girls, in school clubs to mobilize the other boys and girls in their villages.
  - Teachers set up the clubs and provide content to the boys and girls during school club time.
  - Peer leaders and trained students discuss learnings with family and peers.
  - Mobilize the adolescents, especially the girls, by conducting vocational exercises and train them in numeracy and life skills.
  - Build financial literacy and accumulate capital for future investment.
  - Improve skills and gender awareness among young boys and girls.
  - Prepare the young boys and girls for future roles as family and income earners.
  - Identify and create potential connections with external resource persons.
  - Provide training on production, nutrition, hygiene and life skills.
  - Build financial literacy and accumulate capital for future investment.
  - Strengthen solidarity of newly wed and young mothers.
  - Identify and create potential connection with external persons, institutions & producer groups.
  - Facilitate life skill training to build their capacity on selection and planning of appropriate business based on existing labor market assessment findings.
  - Provide vocational training.
  - Establish apprenticeship model with employers.
  - Establish connection with local level resource persons, employer and financial institution.
  - Provide life skills training needed for future wage and self-employment pathways.
Approach to Community Development in SHOUHARDO III

SHOUHARDO III producer groups have proven that with limited support community groups can increase their production and incomes, build appropriate linkages with government and private service providers and address underlying social norms that affect good health and nutrition practices and gender relations. To build on this the program will adopt a capacities approach that seeks to ensure that participants have the requisite connections, linkages, and skills to pursue their development agenda in their communities. These groups will be formed by transitioning on existing groups namely EKATA, FFBS, VDC, Youth, MCHN Mother Groups into the gender and age specific producer groups and bringing on all the other aspects of the program to ensure continuity. The section below briefly explains the producer group approach and identifies the prioritized criteria for graduation each group.

PRODUCER GROUP IMPLEMENTATION MODEL

Proposed Support Areas in FY19 and FY20

Following the VSLA model groups will pay one share for facilitators who will set up the group and attend key meetings. In those meetings they will provide Life Skills; Financial visioning; and Business Planning and natural, market and health risk management. This is critical for formation of new groups.

Established Lead Farmers/entrepreneurs will provide support to peers through a demonstration model where farmers/producers can seek support during meetings or visit the farmers’ farms/enterprises for learning.

Collective action for marketing will be promoted as a mode of operation to guarantee good prices for inputs and outputs.

The program will support groups to build necessary Linkages these are both horizontal and vertical; depends on the group, it could include connections with another group to increase product volumes for marketing or a scale; linkages with public and private service providers, other NGOs/CBOs and information/advisory services.

Women’s group solidarity gains and improved health behaviors already recorded will be enhanced in women groups and a similar approach promoted for men; mostly to build collective action and support transformation in gender roles and attitudes among men and boys and better health and nutrition knowledge.

GROUP CAPACITIES NEEDED FOR GRADUATION

Producer groups at exit will have obtained and applied knowledge in improved production technologies, connecting with markets, service and information providers. In addition these groups will be immersed in communities that have adopted or are adopting appropriate social norms for girls and women empowerment and improved health practices and behaviors. With this in mind the program will prioritize the following three areas to track progress towards graduation.

**COHESION**

For producer groups to stick together the following key indicators will be tracked: common vision, defined leadership and member roles, a code of conduct that defines discipline, meetings and collective actions and when necessary how to fund group activities.

**VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL LINKAGES**

These connections with market actors and government service and information providers necessary for their production. It also includes the value chain actors above and beneath the level the group operates in and also among peers.

**PROBLEM SOLVING CAPACITY**

The producer groups exist in rapidly changing context that may include, social issues around discrimination and dealing with powerful community individuals who may influence certain rights, markets and services. Groups will need to anticipate and proactively identify ways to address these inevitable dynamics that may adaptation, transformations or total switch areas of investment.
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