Mahmuda’s journey: From housewife to business woman

Mahmuda (40), with her husband Kutub Uddin and six children, lives in the village named Borodol Natun Hati in Sunamganj district. Before being a SHOUHARDO III participant, Mahmuda, who was a housewife, lived a painful life. She got married to Kutub Uddin, who is more than 10 years older, during her adolescence. Her husband was a day laborer and they were struggling to make ends meet. The day was at its worst if her husband could not find any work to sell labor. The whole family had limited or no access to services and information from the local government. This left them most of the time with very limited income options.

SHOUHARDO III program came and provided her training on how to generate income and she received BDT 4,500 to start her own business. She put up her small shop next to her home so that she can manage household chores as well. Her shop is very popular, especially as women and children in the community prefers to buy from her. Now combined with her husband’s earning, the total monthly income of the family is around BDT 15,000. She has also started saving, for any emergency, through the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). Eventually, Mahmuda, who was once a housewife and had no capacity, has become the President of VSLA in her village. She encourages other women to earn on their own and save. She has become a role model for other women in the union.