In Birnagar of Suanamganj, with the leadership of Tahomina Bagum, the president of Village Development Committee (VDC), some of the members of adult women group rescued people from the devastating situations and arrange shelters. A four member family was been sheltered in VDC room and another three member family was placed in neighbor’s house. Later on, they negotiated and pursued union parishad of having 20 Kgs rice for each family as relief. Moreover, they provided oven, fire wood to the families so that they could cook their meal. In addition as token of solidarity BDT 200 ($2.17) was donated to the families.

Asma Akter, one of the members of adult female group shared,

“We try to stay vigilant during any crisis and continue networking with other groups and service providers. Whenever we meet member of any other group we try to update one another about current situation and plan accordingly. We also communicate with the members who are living in remote areas (in the village) over phone”

Tahomina Bagum shared, “With all of our means we try to support each other in our village. We could establish good networking with Union Parishad and other service providers so that all necessary supports could be arranged in need.”

Though the coronavirus created fear in every sphere of life as well as society communities are also coming forward to do their part in tacking it. Prioritizing people’s awareness about COVID-19, some of members of adult female group of Ujan Tahirpur conducted meeting maintaining social distancing and held discussions on what they could do to raise awareness on COVID-19. About 15 members of the group took part in the discussion and as per meeting decision they visited door to door and disseminated message about COVID-19 awareness. During their campaign they emphasized on ‘stay at home’ and ‘use mask’ practices for all. They also promoted the government helpline numbers to combat any emergencies. Moreover, this group pursued government and non-governmental service providers and ensured supports for 70/80 poor people in the village.
As part of COVID-19 response SHOUHARDO III continues to provide cash supports to its poor and extreme poor program participants. In July 2020, the program transferred cash to 3683 vulnerable people where 282 people got first installment of BDT 6000 ($71) and other 3401 people got 2nd installment of same amount of money.

While pointing out the cash support from SHOUHARDO III, Baby Akter of Birnagar, Tahirpur shared,

“It has been almost six months since my husband had to stop working and managing our meals became a challenge. Our seven member family needs at least two kg rice every day. In this situation I got the cash support from SHOUHARDO of BDT 12000 ($142) in two installments with which we managed to buy necessary rice, dal, oil and other things to prepare our meal.”

Considering the flood devastation, SHOUHARDO III continued networking and collaborating with the local government institutions, including Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad for ensuring reliefs for the flood affected people.

In Nagar union of Netrokona district 111 families had been affected by the flood and among them 80 families were forced to shift to different flood shelters. 32 of these 80 affected families are members of SHOUHARDO III. SHOUHARDO staffs continued networking with Union Parishad and pursued flood relief for all the affected people.

Prannath, one of the SHOUHARDO participants pointed out,

“As the flood water inundated our household we left our houses and took shelter in a school room. More than 20 days we had to live in flood shelter and fall in severe scarcity of foods and other necessary things.

During this time SHOUHARDO staff continuously visited us and ensured we receive the needed relief.

Moreover, we got BDT 12000 ($141) from SHOUHARDO as assistance of COVID-19 pandemic and it helped us lot during the crisis. We could use this money to manage our daily necessities and repair rooms that broke down by flood water”.

This document is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of CARE Bangladesh and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.