

Program Description

CARE's Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) III is designed to address food security and nutrition challenges for poor and extreme poor communities in Bangladesh. The program is funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for a five year period between 29th September 2015 to 28th September 2020. The total program value is 80 million US Dollars from the United States Government with a contributory funding of 8 million US Dollars from the Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

SHOUHARDO III is implemented in partnership with six local Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (PNGOs). PNGOs implement technical interventions, monitor results, and share program learning. Each PNGO brings to SHOUHARDO III specific technical expertise and a long and successful experience improving food security and resilience in targeted districts. In addition, CARE is partnering with international organizations and private sector actors in the finance, and agricultural marketing and production.

At village level, the program works with Village Development Committees (VDC) selected from community members representing a cross section of the community demographics and interest with 50/50 male/female membership. The VDCs perform a dual role of supporting SHOUHARDO III implementation and setting the basis for a sustainable mechanism for continued delivery of community led development actions beyond the program period and oversee the work of community volunteers.

To enhance ownership and facilitate implementation, and achieve national and local level program integration and alignment, the program works closely with different levels of GoB. A Program Advisory and Coordination Committee (PACC) is a formalized structure at national, division, district and upazila level that brings together representatives from 14 ministries and relevant nation building departments. The committee plays a significant role with regard to advice on strategic directions and policy guidelines of the program. The higher level committees are providing policy level clarification and enforcement. On the flip side the lower level committees are supporting the upper level one with agenda and support requests.



Program Coverage & Context

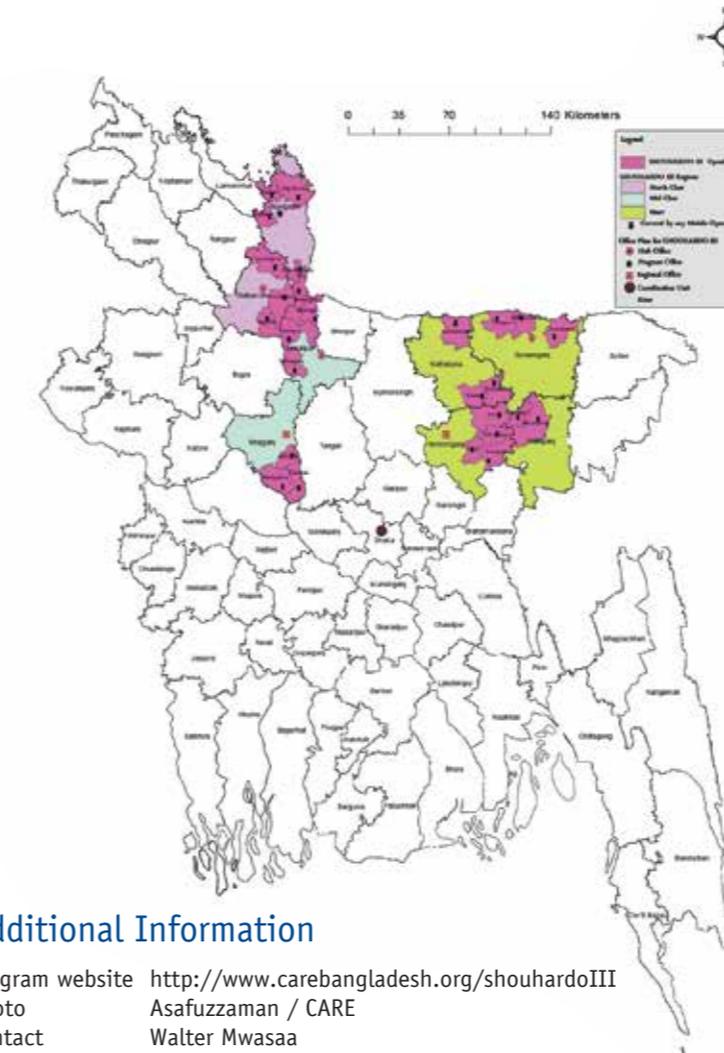
SHOUHARDO III serves the most vulnerable marginalized people. Among these are the "extreme poor"—those without even a small piece of land on which to grow food. Among the poor and extreme poor, the typical household has adequate food only for 6.8 months per year and the per capita cash income is about \$96 per year. Over 35% of children aged under two are under weight and over 58% have a stunted weight to height ratio. Only 11% of children 6-23 months receive an acceptable diet other than breast milk. In the areas in which SHOUHARDO III works, the char areas and the haor, an estimated 55% of the population are classified as poor and extreme poor with high malnutrition.

The program is implemented in the Haor and Char areas of Northern Bangladesh, both of which experience frequent and damaging floods due to monsoon season rains and upstream water flows.

Char Region: Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Jamalpur Districts
Haor Region: Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Habiganj and Sunamganj Districts

Targeted program participants	6,74,856 (From Census)
Number of poor and extreme poor households	1,68,521 (Registered in Master Program Participants List)
Number of Districts	08
Total Upazila	23
Total Union	115
Total Village	947

SHOUHARDO III Program Area



Additional Information

Program website <http://www.carebangladesh.org/shouhardoIII>
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SHOUHARDO III Program CARE Bangladesh



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



Program Approaches

SHOUHARDO III delivers a wide range of services and goods through partners both private and public. Key activities include: distribution of food rations; cash for work; infrastructure development and maintenance; increase in opportunities for women and push towards gender equity in communal socio-economic affairs; farmers training and agricultural inputs support; non-farm income generation skills training and building up of productive assets; savings promotion and access to loan; nutritional supplement promotion; linkages to health care service providers; training on nutrition health and sanitation; mobilization of local resources for economic gains and hazard preparedness; inclusive local planning, early storm and flood warning; preparation of community and regional disaster response plans; and creating both demand and supply of improved service provision to communities.

To achieve its goal, SHOUHARDO III focuses on three principal purposes and two cross-cutting purposes all of which are fully integrated and interdependent.

Increased equitable access to income for both women and men, and nutritious food for women, men, boys and girls.

In rural Bangladesh, most poor people grow food to survive, yet most have access to limited or no land besides their homesteads. The program is training target communities to make comprehensive use of homestead gardens including poultry and livestock and improved farming methods when they have access to land. Non-farm income generating opportunities are also a key program area along with improved access to markets, savings mechanisms, and access to credit. Further to improve access to and improve incomes and opportunities from non-farm sources, the program is also working at developing the life skills of its participants and employability among the youth.

Improved nutritional status of children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

SHOUHARDO III is working to improve the nutritional and health outcomes for children, women and other household members. In a context where ante and pre-natal care is weak, and stunting, wasting, and underweight are common, SHOUHARDO III is conducting courtyard sessions for pregnant and lactating mothers, sessions on growth monitoring practices, sustained lobbying and engagement with both government and private sector service providers to improve service provision both in quality and penetration to remote locations.



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

Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and emergencies mainly experienced in the form of floods, shifting rivers, and cyclones. The program is increasing awareness of potential disasters, defining and implementing preparation and mitigation measure at community and institutional (Union Parishad) level. These are coupled with higher level action with GoB and other development actors to provide infrastructure and early warning dissemination that helps to reduce impact and effect of shocks on communities. Further activities towards diversifying income sources, increasing access to formal and informal safety nets, savings among other adaptation mechanisms are assisting residents better adapt to the shocks.

Increased women empowerment and gender equity at family and community level.

Increasing the agency of women and adolescent girls is a key objective of the program, and Empowerment, Knowledge and Transformative Action (EKATA) is the model. The model uses a participatory process to enable groups to identify root causes of gender-based issues and find solutions to these problems. They prepare and implement action plans using their own resources. Women and girls use training in leadership, group dynamics, and legal rights to complete gender analysis in their communities and work on VDCs to contribute to own and local development.

Provision and utilization of public services (i.e. Local Elected Bodies & Nation Building Departments) for communities especially for Poor and Extremely Poor women increased.

SHOUHARDO III acknowledges that the primary mandate and role of service provision lies with the GoB. As the country progresses on a steady path of economic advancement, there are still gaps. It is with this in mind the program engages local planning and leadership of government offices to ensure that services are reaching the communities. This be done by ensuring enhance supply of the service at the same time building community level capacity to demand for the services. Many communities do not have local mobilization mechanisms, the program is continuing its work with VDCs as the key vehicle to ensuring inclusive planning, prioritization and demand for services from lower level government responsible agencies e.g. Union Parishad and government service delivery departments. SHOUHARDO III is using a three-pronged strategy to work with youth to transform gender and power relationships in their homes and communities, ultimately leading to sustainable positive changes in the nutritional and health status of women and children.

Program Overview

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) III program has been touted as a model for reducing child malnutrition while contributing to greater livelihood security, resilience and women empowerment. The program is funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with a non-match complementary funding from the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). The program works across multiple sectors to address the underlying causes of poverty among the poor and extreme poor people residing in Northern Bangladesh. The main sectors of operation are agriculture and livelihoods; health, hygiene, and nutrition; and disaster and climate risk management. The cross-sectoral integration is further strengthened by the inclusion of two cross-cutting approaches namely women empowerment and push of improved governance and service provision at the lowest level.

