

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.



Population coverage

Goal

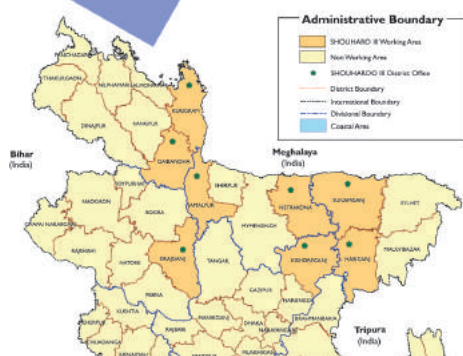
Improved gender equitable food and nutrition security and resilience of the vulnerable people living in the *Char* and *Haor* regions in Bangladesh by 2020.



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

Geographic focus

SHOUHARDO III working area



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

Funding



USAID Contribution:

Funding source	Commodity (MT)	Value (Estimate USD)
Monetization	110,910	\$ 46,328,630
Direct distribution	13,190	\$ 8,328,410
Cash		\$ 25,342,960
Total cash value		\$ 80,000,000

Government of Bangladesh Contribution: \$ 8,000,000

Grand Total: \$ 88,000,000

Sub-Purpose 1.1: Increased agricultural production of Poor and Extreme Poor (PEP).

Sub-Purpose 1.2: Increased access to agricultural markets for PEP.

Sub-Purpose 1.3: Increased off-farm income for PEP.

Sub-Purpose 1.4: Increased utilization of financial services by PEP.



Purpose 1: Increased equitable access to income for both women and men, and nutritious food for women, men, boys and girls.

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

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.

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



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

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.

*Empowerment Knowledge and Transformative Action (EKATA)

*Village Development Committee

Major Progress



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

participants were satisfied with overall services provided by the local government

surveyed program participants reported increased market access, compared to 66.7 percent in FY17

77.1 %
(431) of
662

61.2 %
(829) of
1,428

households received early warning information and adopted risk-reducing actions to better respond to shocks

70.3 %
(1,011) of
1,428

surveyed mothers received antenatal care services from the community-based health facilities

95.6 %
(239) of
250

women reported being involved in increased household decision making in FY18, compared to 57.6 percent in FY17

76.3 %
(95) of
125

*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

Youth Interventions in SHOUHARDO III

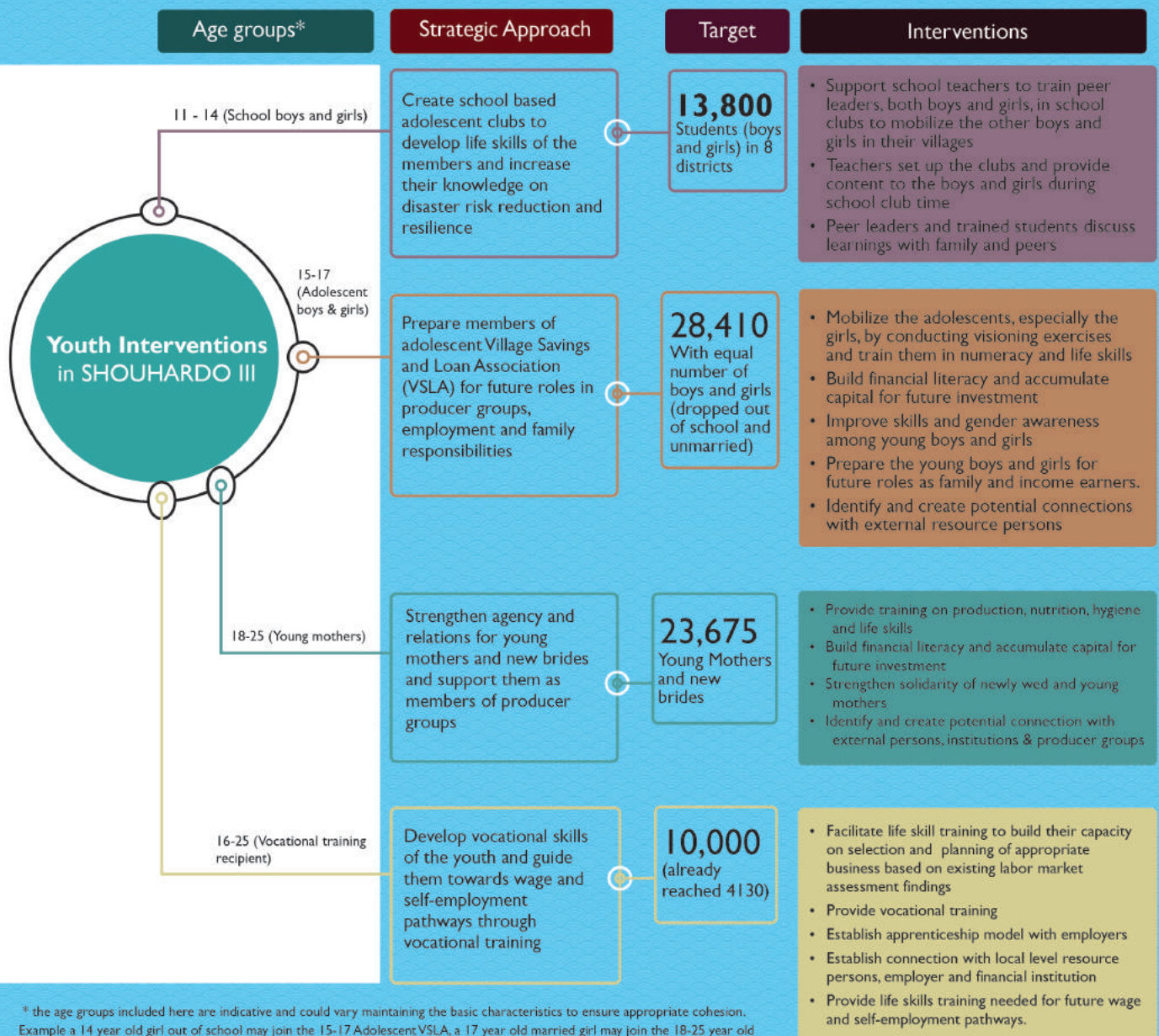
The SHOUHARDO III program youth strategy was designed on an employment pathway. Implementation challenges and inability to reach specific age-groups and demographic led to specific recommendations by the program's Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) consultants. The three specific ones are as below:

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:

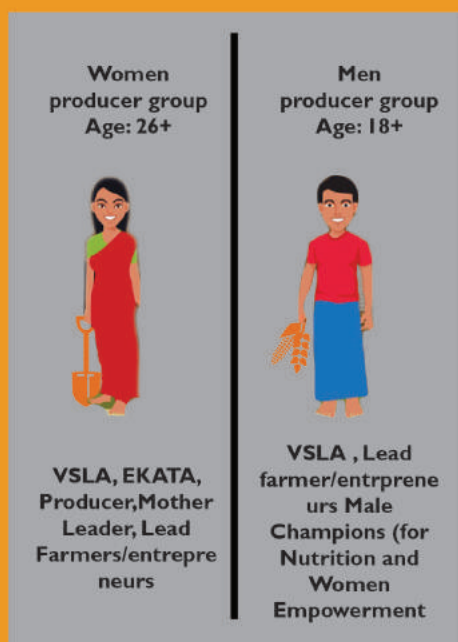


Approach to Community Development in SHOUHARDO III

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.

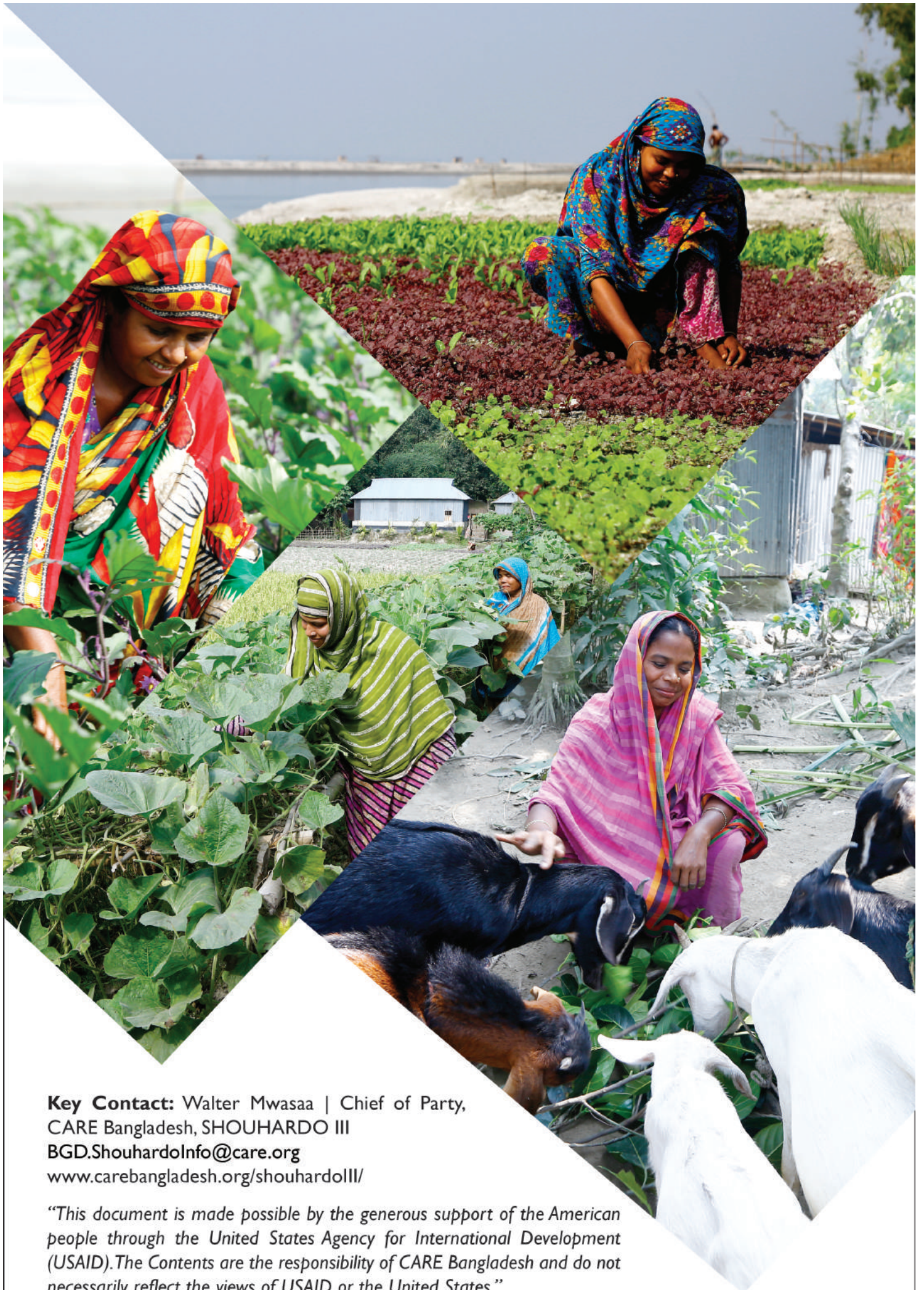


PROBLEM SOLVING CAPACITY

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

*Farmers' Field Business School (FFBS)

*Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN)



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