

Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS)

Annual report 2022 - 2023

An Organization for Children, Environment and
Development

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A JJS Publication



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We're going through one of crucial times, but what brings me hope is our unprecedented dedication to responding to the community in our region. In a couple of years of tremendous uncertainty in COVID, the Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS), as a humanitarian organization, has stayed stable and continues to serve the community with equity and integrity. These values have driven the JJS for 39 years and are even more relevant throughout the unprecedented challenges. Considering all these ups and downs, we are gratified to present the 2022-23 Annual Report on activities that will impact well in the future.



As a non-profit organization, Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS) ensure resource equity and sustainability through the empowerment of the people in a way so that access to information and resources are shared fairly while safeguarding the interest of all living species considering the earth's finite resources and responsive governance. With the goal to build a sustainable and inclusive community, the JJS has formed an increasing number of partnerships with the national government, international donor agencies, non-profit and civil organizations to implement the projects.

JJS acknowledges the support of the Government of Bangladesh, Action Aid Bangladesh, Concern Worldwide, European Union, Kindersnothilfe, IPEN, IWM, JICA, KUET, KU, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Max Foundation, IRC, Save the Children-UK, Shapla Neer-Japan, SIDA, UNICEF, USAID, Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), and many more, which is undoubtedly the core contributor in the repeated success of JJS. I wish every success of JJS in future and look forward to continue this journey for achieving our vision of a sustainable society where every woman, men and child lead a healthy life with self-reliance and dignity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zakir Hossain'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

ATM ZAKIR HOSSAIN

**Executive Director
Jagrata Juba Shangha**

Partnership with...



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hilfe



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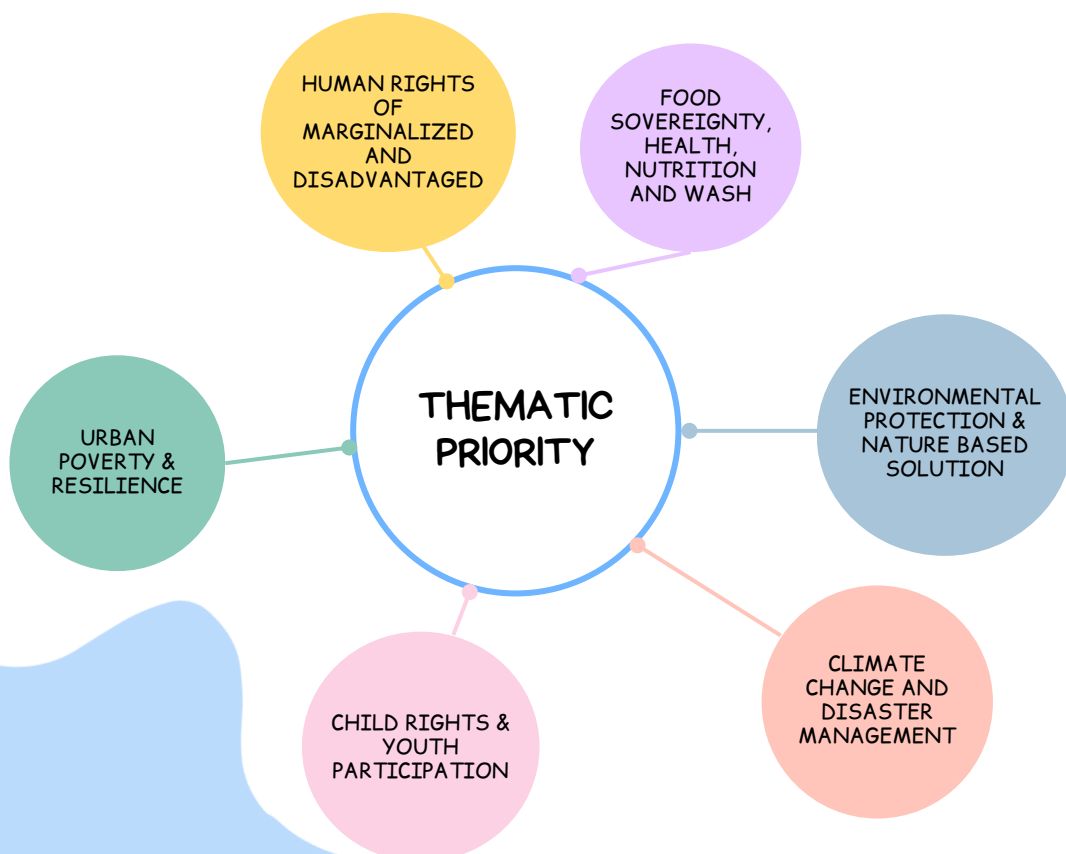


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JJS CONTRIBUTION *To attain* SDGs

1. NO POVERTY

Community resilience and microcredit programs provide monetary assistance for income production.

2. ZERO HUNGER

Increase agricultural output through nutrient food, and providing resiliency in agricultural assistance

3. GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING

Ensure healthy lifestyles and promote well-being, with a particular focus on women and children.

4. QUALITY EDUCATION

Promoting child education and creating environment for child protection.

5. GENDER EQUALITY

Ensure equal participation and promote cash assistance to foster equal rights, empowerment, and develop policies.

6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Safe, affordable and hygienic drinking water and sanitation for all.

8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, productive employment and decent work for all.

10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries.

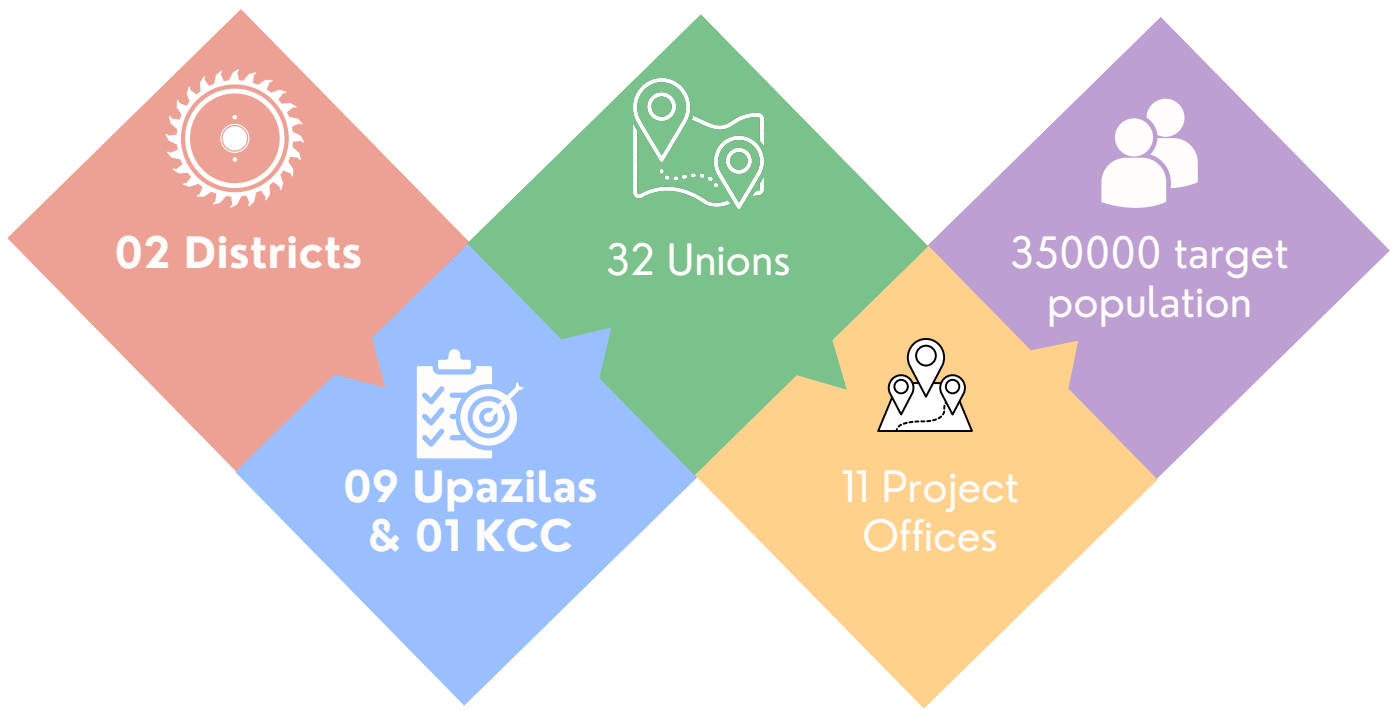
13. CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy

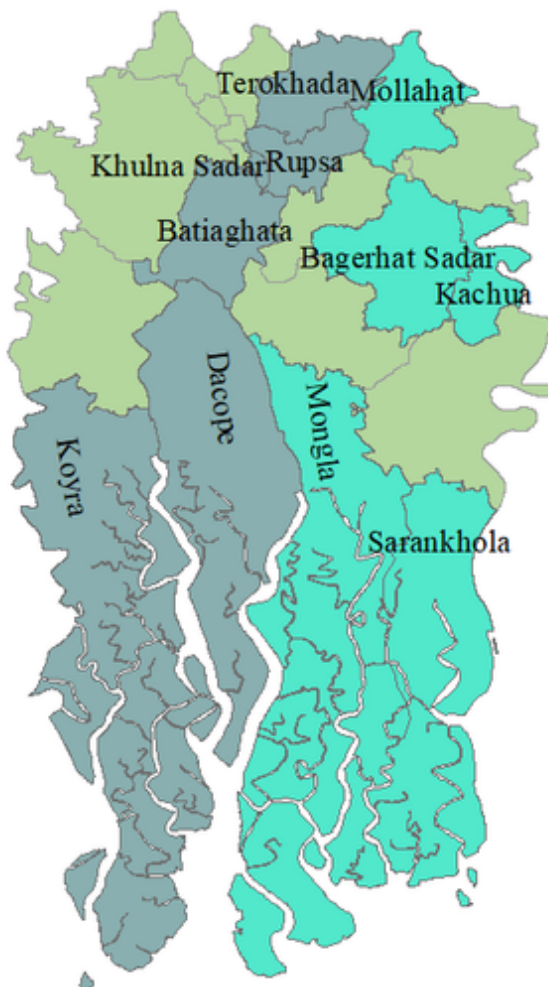
16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTION

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.





JJS Working Areas



Legend

JJS Working Area

ADM2_EN

Bagerhat

Khulna

District Administrative Boundaries of Working Areas

0 12.5 25 50 Kilometers



Child Rights & Youth Participation

JJS always emphasizes the basic rights of youth participation and child protection issues. It has been working successfully for the past 38 years to establish justice and ensure amenities for them. This organization works for a friendly environment for children and the marginalized as well as ethnic communities. IRCCL and PCSD have been working in the Khulna City Corporation area, especially in the urban poor slum community for the protection of child and youth groups. JJS aims to establish a sustainable community mechanism for child protection, ensuring justice including diversion for children in conflict with the law, parent awareness rises and development alongside education of physically challenged and differently able children through special care school and personal life managing skills.



Project: Capacity building of Children and Communities for the Protection of Children from Sexual abuse and Drug addiction.

Project Duration: April 2021 to March 2026

Project Area: Upazila: Rupsha and Terokhada Union: Naihati and Ajogara

Project Donor: Kindernothilfe (KNH) -Germany

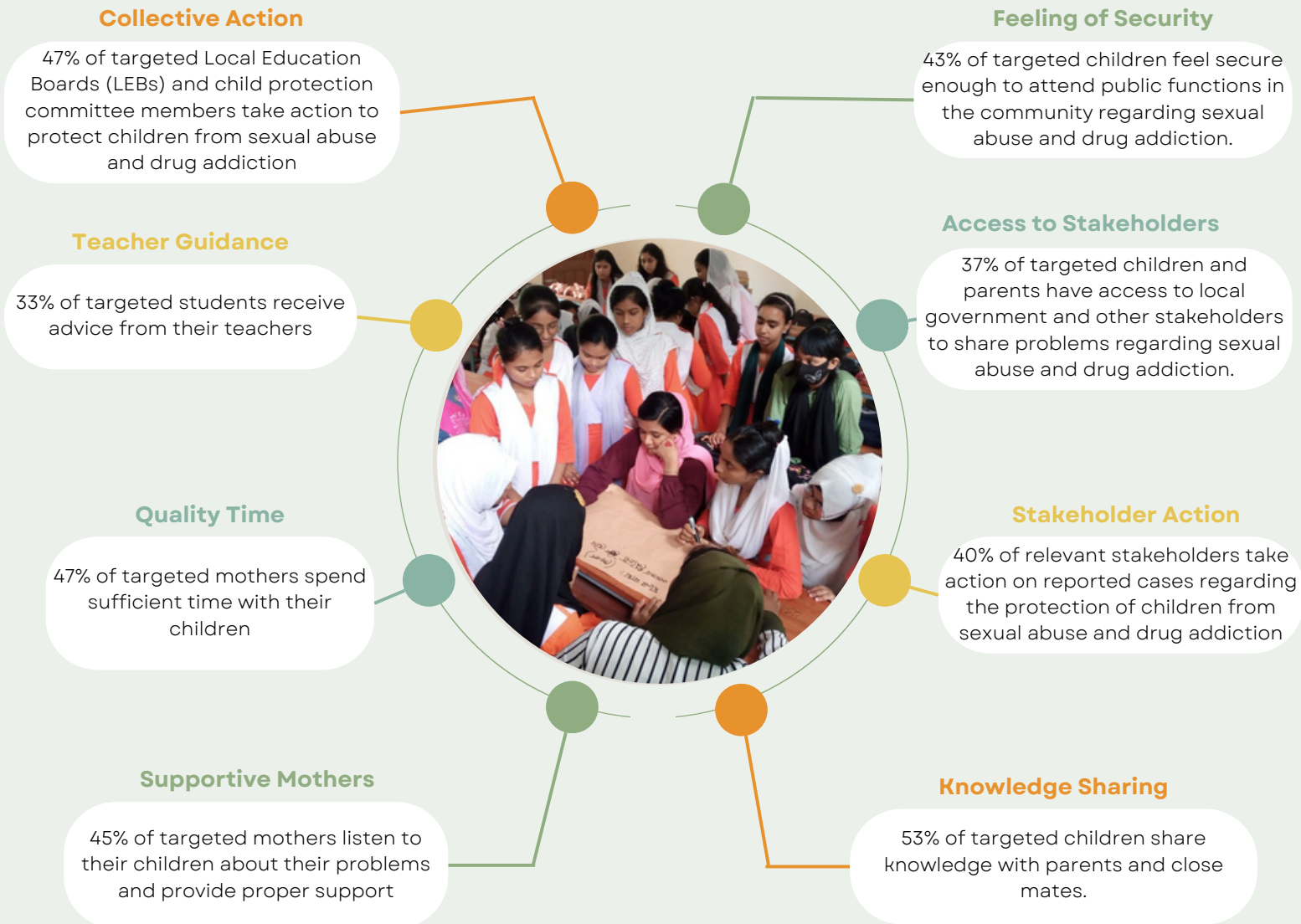
Budget Amount: BDT. 4,56,75,312 [During project Duration (July 2022-June, 2023): 91,57,222.00 BDT.]

Project Brief:

Child protection takes centre stage in this project, with a focus on addressing the vulnerability of children in the community. The project identified child sexual abuse as a top priority issue, considering the children's perspectives on their safety. The prevalence of abuse, particularly among school dropouts and child labourers, has increased over time. Drug addiction also emerged as a significant concern, particularly for those engaged in the labour force. Recognizing the need for a supportive environment, the project aimed to protect children from sexual abuse and drug addiction. The thematic design of the project was influenced by feedback from children through various discussions and interviews. With Kindernothilfe (KNH)-Germany's support, the project targeted children and parents, aiming to directly benefit 7,770 individuals and indirectly impact 38,850. Key strategies included awareness-raising and capacity-building for stakeholders, emphasizing communication, coordination, advocacy, and networking. The involvement of local government representatives, service departments, and community members contributed to the project's success, addressing issues such as accommodation, financial support, capacity-building training, hygiene materials, and warm clothing for children. The collaborative efforts of diverse stakeholders underscored the collective commitment to safeguarding children from abuse and addiction.



Key Outcomes



Highlights

- Conducted 1,419 children's awareness sessions within the community.
- Organized 385 mothers' group sessions at the community level to foster awareness.
- Facilitated 18 parent meetings at schools to enhance parental involvement and engagement.
- Executed 38 awareness sessions with students on critical topics for their well-being.
- Held 33 meetings of the Child-Based Child Protection Committee (CBCPC) for systematic child protection efforts.
- Successfully implemented the Annual General Meeting of the Children Forum during the reporting year, providing a platform for child participation and advocacy.

Empowering Dreams: The Transformative Impact of the Vocational Training Center on Disabled Children in Talimpu

The Vocational Training Center stands as a beacon of hope for disabled children in Talimpur, Naihati Union under Rupsha Upazila, providing a platform to overcome the challenges they face in leading a healthy and beautiful life. The project initiated a Family Center for Autistic Children, catering to 16 children five days a week, where a trained teacher follows a primary education curriculum, fostering a joyful learning environment. Additionally, the Vocational Training Center focuses on product development and marketing, offering 16 disabled children's opportunities for self-dependence through various creative endeavours. Regular activities include sports, dance, poetry recitation, play, and drawing, providing not only companionship but also monthly check-ups and access to disability allowances. Mother meetings at the Family Centre enable shared experiences and knowledge, while vocational training empowers children to craft jute and paper-based products, enhancing their skills and boosting their confidence. The transformative impact is evident as children enthusiastically engage in creative pursuits, like Chadni Khatun, who transformed her whimsical time into productive creativity. The centre's role extends beyond skills development, fostering dreams of leading a normal life, becoming self-dependent, and eliminating societal perceptions of them as burdens. This case study illustrates the profound positive influence of the Vocational Training Centre, nurturing the aspirations of disabled children and embodying the potential for their dreams to come true.



Climate Change & Disaster Management

Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate change effects. Climate change has been increasing the frequency of natural disasters in the southwest coastal region. It adversely affects life, assets and socio-economic condition as well as increase the rate of people's displacement and destitution alongside climate migration. JJS works with the local authorities and communities and improves local adaptation strategies and has been working with a view to scaling up the interventions. This organization works with both government and non-government departments as well as committees in order to strengthen community-based disaster preparedness initiatives and build the capacity of local stakeholders. Hence, the organization has been working through CCR, the MOHORA project and a couple of short-term projects including Bulbul Rebuilt Construction, Amphan Responses and COVID response projects to tackle sudden crisis situations.



Title of the Project: Koyra Rehabilitation Project (KRP) for the Cyclone Amphan Affected Poor families in Koyra Upazilla

Project Duration: 1 February 2022 to 16 February 2023

Project Area: Upazila: Koyra Union: Koyra Sader, Uttar Bedkashi and Dakshin Bedkashi Union

Project Donor: Shapla Neer, Japan (Funding from MoFA, Japan)

Project Budget: 49,044,757

Project Brief: The Koyra Rehabilitation Project (KRP) addresses the aftermath of Cyclone Amphan in Koyra Upazilla, aiming to rebuild the lives and livelihoods of affected families. Activities include repairing roads, raising tube well platforms, establishing community toilets, and creating water access in cyclone shelters. The project reconstructed 10 approach roads (9.98 KM), planted 4051 trees, and raised 120 tube well platforms, benefiting 2880 families. Additionally, 27 community toilets were built, and water access was created in 14 cyclone shelters. Caretaker orientation and maintenance tools were provided. Overall, 15,350 families were directly assisted, leading to improved access to necessities and enhanced infrastructure. The Koyra Rehabilitation Project successfully achieved its objectives in restoring the lives and livelihoods of Cyclone Amphan-affected families.

Outcome



Road

10 approach roads constructed comprising 9.98 km constructed to cyclone shelter in the targeted 3 unions.



Sanitation

27 community toilets are constructed in the targeted three unions considering disaster emergencies where 50 families can use each toilet in emergencies



Tube-well

120 tube well platforms were raised considering the last flood water level where 2880 families are now getting access from this tube well



Rain-water Harvesting

14 cyclone shelters have water access in three unions by establishing water tanks where 6960 households get safe drinking water access



Tree Plantation

4,051 saplings on both sides of the 07 roads were planted to strengthen the sustainability of the repaired roads while 90% of the planted trees survived

Highlights

- Roads are elevated above the last flood water level, ensuring smooth internal communication during cyclones and facilitating rescue and evacuation efforts.
- Small catchment areas are protected from floodwater, even in embankment collapse scenarios, allowing people to take shelter on the roads.
- Community members, including women, elderly, children, students, motorbike, and van pullers, utilize the roads for easy access. Excavation for mud collection has created water reservoirs for fish cultivation opportunities.
- Increased job opportunities for various professions, such as hawkers, van pullers, motorbikers, and vendors, contribute to better community livelihoods.
- Tree planting initiatives by the community, including Sundarban species and Gaoa saplings, promote environmental sustainability. The Union Parishad commits to planting trees in areas not covered by the project.
- Local government officials, including UP & Upazila Chairman & members and UNO, actively monitor and encourage community participation in road repair and tree nurturing efforts. Mr. Yakub Ali Khan in Dakkhin Bedkashi has planted 100 plum seeds along the repaired roads of Ward No. 2.

“The Adibasi Community is now happy with their newly reconstructed road”

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country. Every year some disaster hits the country. Khulna is one of the coastal districts of Bangladesh. Koya is an upazila located in the remote coast. Kapotaksha River flows on one side of Koyra upazila and Shakbaria River flows on the other side. This Kapotaksha River is surrounded by a village called No. 2 Koira Adibasi Para where mainly tribal communities live here. Apart from the tribal community, about 100 families of other communities live together in this village. A rural road passes through this village and is connected with upazila Sadar. Every day approximately 400 to 500 people use this road for various needs in their daily life. For example, school-going boys and girls go to school, elderly, pregnant women and children in need of health care, daily needs of the family, for work, etc.

But due to Cyclone Aila, the only road in their rural area became impassable as it was submerged in water for a long time. Boat is the only vehicle they need to get out of the house. If any danger suddenly arises among them, they have to contact Koyra Sadar by boat. Elderly people, pregnant women, children, disabled people, cattle and domestic animals have to face more problems. After a few days, Cyclone Amphan hit again and once again their life became very difficult. This is how the people of this area continue to fight for life.



In 2022, the non-government organization JJS in collaboration with Shapla Neer, Japan started the Koyra Rehabilitation Project (KRP) for the rehabilitation of Cyclone Amphan affected poor people of Koyra upazila. In continuation of this, the plan of earthen road reconstruction work was taken up from the house of Ghiyasuddin Sheikh Ghiyasuddin Sheikh of Ward No. 05 of Koyra Sadar Union to the house of Shaheed Dhali. On 18 May, 2022 road repair work was started. A representative of the tribal community Nirapodo Munda said that the repair of the road will also improve the quality of life, as local people will be able to easily communicate with other areas, including Koyra Sadar. Their children will be able to go to school without any hindrance in the rainy or dry season. In addition, the elderly, children, disabled people and pregnant mothers will be able to reach public and private health care centers in case of emergency. Apart from this, about 10 water reservoirs have been created as a result of soil cutting, where they can cultivate fish and meet the water requirement during paddy cultivation in dry season. If any natural calamity strikes, they can reach the shelter within 10 to 15 minutes, which earlier took 1 to 2 hours to reach the shelter in any natural calamity. Besides, if any natural disaster strikes, they can stay on the road for some time with cattle and domestic animals before going to the shelter. Due to the repair of this road, 45 working people from 35 families have got job opportunities. From here, they worked for 20 days and earned about 10,000 taka additional income and increased the financial stability of the family, which will enable them to run their family well for the next few days. Above all, they said, we are forever indebted to JJS's RP project, for repairing such a road that we too have started dreaming about. Besides, in case of any emergency, we can easily contact Koyra Sadar and the earning members of our family can work far away and return home day after day.

Food Sovereignty, Health, Nutrition and WASH

JJS takes a comprehensive approach to address food sovereignty, health, nutrition, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). Food sovereignty focuses on empowering communities to control their food systems and ensure access to healthy, culturally appropriate food. Health initiatives center on improving healthcare access, promoting healthy behaviors, and addressing social determinants of health, including healthcare infrastructure and disease prevention. Nutrition efforts aim to combat malnutrition through balanced diets, micronutrient supplementation, and nutrition education. JJS also works on providing clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education, particularly in underserved areas. This holistic approach recognizes the interconnections among these components, aiming to enhance the well-being and development of communities through integrated, sustainable solutions.



Title of the project: Collective Responsibility Action and Accountability for Improved Nutrition (CRAAIN)

Project Duration: January 01, 2020, to June 30, 2023

Project Area: Upazila: Kachua, Mollahat, Sharankhola & Mongla; District: Bagerhat

Project Donor: European Union; Supported by Concern Worldwide

Budget Amount: BDT 9,16,82,896 (Fiscal year budget)

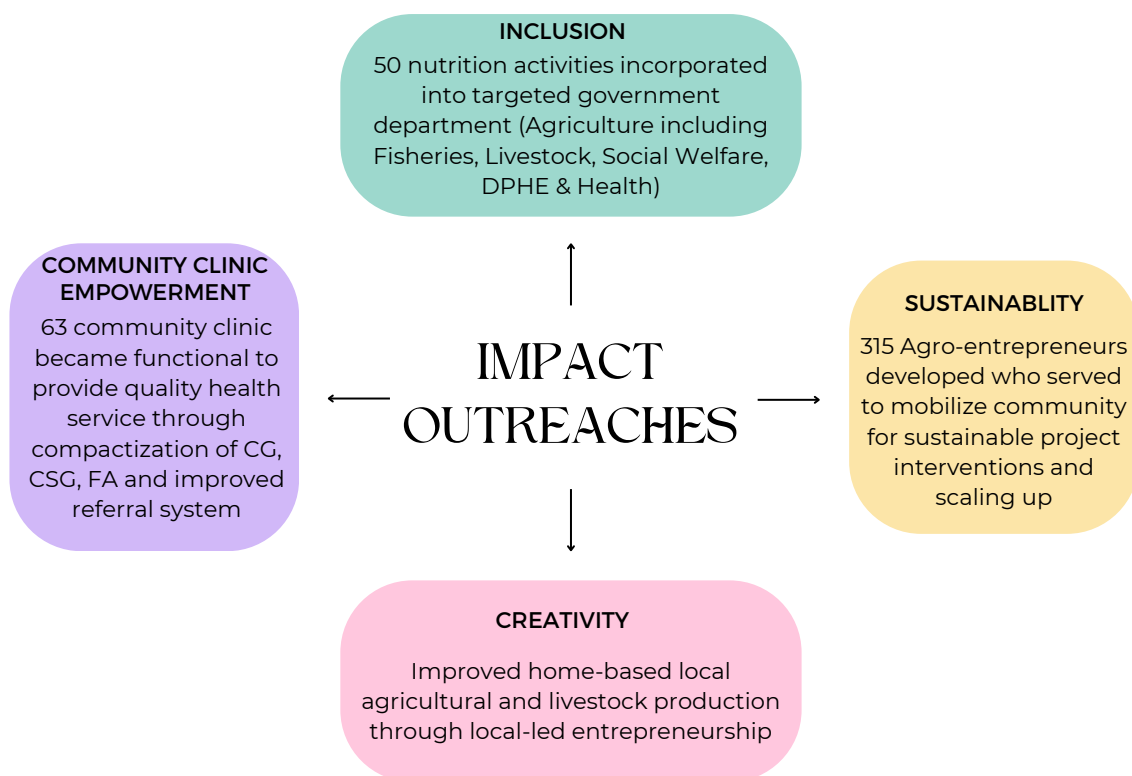
Project Brief: The Collective Responsibility Action and Accountability for Improved Nutrition (CRAAIN) project is aiming to adopt an integrated, comprehensive, and multi-sectoral strategy to promote nutrition in the four Upazilas of Bagerhat district, a south-west coastal area of Bangladesh, by developing a local level pro-poor nutrition governance model that is innovative, resilient, and scalable. The project mainly targets pregnant, and lactating women, adolescents, disabled people, ethnic minorities, and impoverished households with a target to provide benefits to 482,820 people.

In the reporting period (July 2022 - June 2023), the project has successfully ended and shown remarkable achievement for improving nutrition status in total spread across the three primary outputs of achieving improved nutritional knowledge and practices, increasing access to affordable and diverse foods and WASH support for the poor to improve household level nutritional consumption and strengthen government institutional capacity for nutrition-sensitive interventions.

Key Outcomes:



Highlights:



Story of A Family Having Children with Disability: A Reflection on transitioning livelihoods with CRAAIN livestock (goat) Support



CRAAIN to support Chronically vulnerable

- Narrow down income-generating options,
- Chronic shocks,
- Difficult to bear the medical expenses of disabled children
- Selected as CRAAIN beneficiary
- Received hygiene support

2020

2021

Improved skills in livestock rearing & Initiating Home-based Agro Production

- Received counselling for nutrition-sensitive behavioural changes, home-based IGA
- Received training in Agriculture & livestock rearing
- 3 times agro-input support from CRAAIN
- Started Home gardening

2022

Received livestock support, Deemed as "Model HH"

- Selected as the most vulnerable HHs
- Received Goat Support & duck support
- Refresher training on home-based agriculture and livestock rearing
- Deemed as a "Model HH",

2023

Scaling up goats and started to add value to family

- Successfully bred two baby goats from CRAAIN-provided one
- Consuming daily nutritious dairy milk from CRAAIN provided goat

Plan in 2026

Plan to start a goat farm on a commercial basis

- Will have a farm of 8/10 goats
- Will commercially sell dairy milk & goats
- Will bear medical expenses of disabled children from goat farming

Project: Building Water Sanitation Entrepreneurship Program (BWSEP)

Funding Organization: Max Foundation-Bangladesh

Project Location: Upazilas: Batiaghata & Rupsha

Unions: Amirpur, Batiaghata, Baliadanga, Gangarampur, Jalma, Bhandarcourt, TS Bahirdia and Naihati.

Project Period: July 2022–December 2025

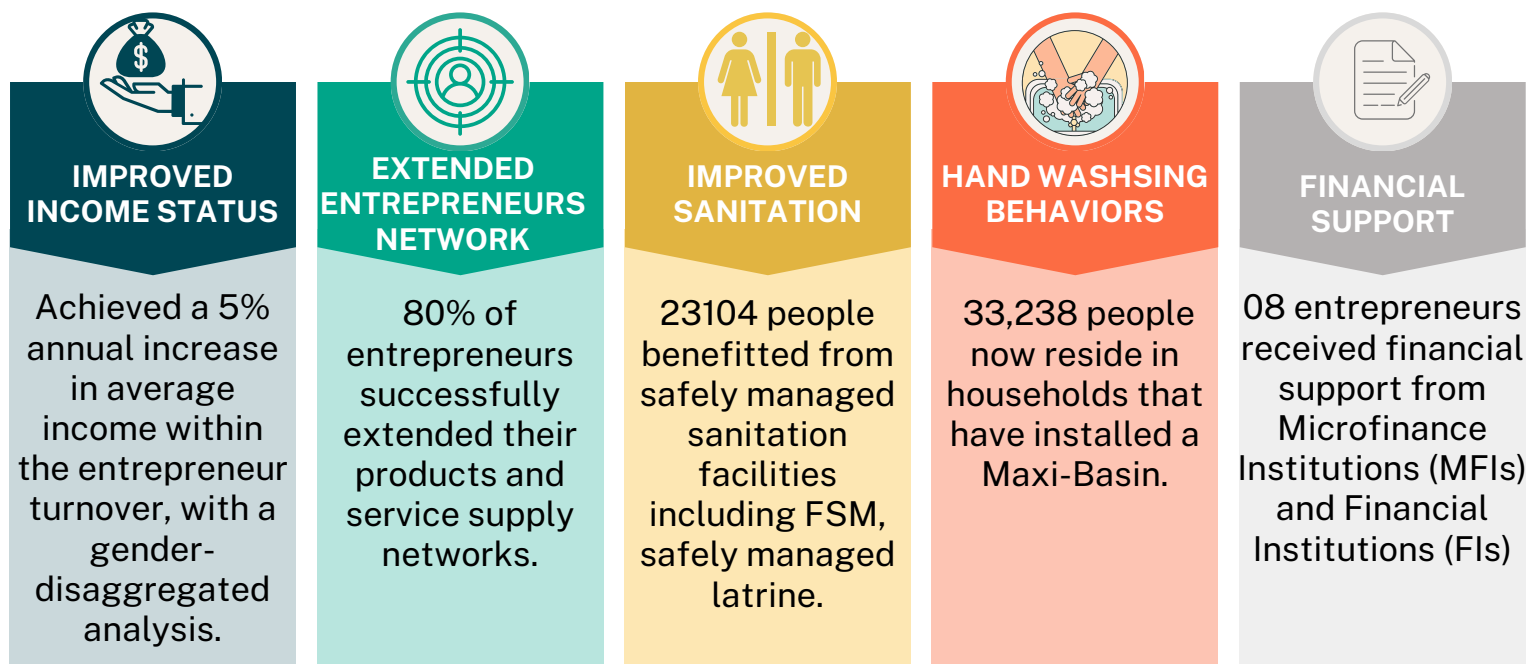
Project Brief: The Building Water and Sanitation program, supported by Max Foundation, seeks to empower male and female entrepreneurs and enhance business solutions for providing safe water and adequate sanitation to underserved populations in the Khulna zone.

The project's outcomes include the empowerment of informed customers investing in affordable water and sanitation products, increased supply of these products and services by entrepreneurs, improved enabling environments for business solutions by stakeholders, and the generation of knowledge for future market development. Implemented in two unions of Rupsha Upazila and six unions of Batiaghata Upazila in Khulna District since July 2022, the project focuses on empowering local entrepreneurs and strengthening social businesses in the impoverished households of remote southern coastal districts. Emphasizing child health, the initiative aims to prevent undernutrition and disease in children under five, addressing stunting through a Healthy Village approach that promotes hygiene, sanitation, safe drinking water, a nutritious diet, and essential care for mothers and children.



The project also supports sanitation entrepreneurs and micro-entrepreneurs, particularly women, who contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Advocacy efforts involve engaging communities, governments, entrepreneurs, and financial institutions to bring about lasting change in child health.

Key Achievements



Empowered Dreams: Ila Kabiraj's Journey from Struggle to Success

In the small village of Basurabad in Batiaghata, Ila Kabiraj faced the daunting challenges of supporting her family, comprising six members, on her husband's income. Financial strain led to the unaffordability of education for their children, pushing the family into a cycle of loans to meet their basic needs. The turning point occurred in 2017 when Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS) launched the Max Nutri Wash project in Batiaghata upazila.

Inspired by community health sessions, Ila saw an opportunity to change her life. Despite financial difficulties, she gathered 1500 taka to start a small business. Focusing on door-to-door sales of wash-related products, Ila collaborated with the Max Nutri Wash project to meet the needs of her community. Overcoming societal norms, Ila became a successful entrepreneur, providing for her family and breaking free from poverty.

Challenges notwithstanding, Ila persevered, challenging stereotypes and becoming an inspiration in her community. With JJS and Max Foundation Bangladesh's support, Ila gained financial independence, acquired entrepreneurial skills, and now runs a permanent stall offering products and health services. Her eldest son is employed in Dhaka, fulfilling his dreams. Ila's journey reflects resilience and determination, showcasing the transformative power of empowerment programs. She participates in JJS's Building Water and Sanitation program as a Health Promoter Assistant, contributing to her community. Grateful for JJS and MFB's unwavering support, Ila stands as a living testament to the impact of empowerment initiatives and the strength of women who dare to dream beyond societal expectations.



Highlights:

- 160235 Male and Female participants that have attended a learning, capacity-building or awareness-raising event include any education, skill development training such as hygiene training, school-based life skill education and community outreach events.
- 97 Entrepreneurs trained in managing WASH businesses (financial management, accounting, technical/innovation expertise, compliance).
- 12 Local Entrepreneurs have received business licenses for their business purposes.
- Community people are knowledgeable on water, sanitation, and hygiene issues.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1

Growth Measurement
Community Health Promoter (CHP) measures height & weight of children to find the nutritional growth of children



School Session
School-based sessions with adolescents on menstrual health and hygiene, along with, selling sanitary napkin pads among the adolescent girls



2

3

Awareness Raising
Conducting a session with residents to raise awareness and provide knowledge on WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene).



Graduation Monitoring
exposure visit on the pipeline water scheme for Participation Graduation Monitoring (PGM) banner/Pana together.



4

Environmental protection & Nature based solution:

The southwest coastal region of Bangladesh, particularly the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, faces significant environmental challenges. JJS (an organization) is deeply committed to safeguarding this delicate deltaic ecosystem. The organizations focus extends to preserving the Sundarbans and addressing broader environmental issues. To combat environmental degradation, protect small-scale farmers' rights, and promote eco-friendly local agriculture, JJS collaborates with various stakeholders, emphasizing nature-based solutions. Furthermore, JJS strives for a society where food, water, and the environment are free from toxicity. In pursuit of these goals, the organization works closely with communities, international financial institutions, and multinational entities to advocate for both environmental protection and the rights of impoverished communities.



Title of the Project: Adolescent-Led Sustainable Consumption Education for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Project Duration: November 2020- September 2023

Project Area: Khulna City Corporation

Project Donor: MITSUBISHI Corporation

Budget Amount: Total Project Budget: 8393484 BDT

Budget during the year (July, 2022-June, 2023): 2,381,841.60

Project Brief: Adolescents today face global challenges such as climate change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. In Khulna, Bangladesh, rapid urbanization has led to environmental degradation. To address this, the Sustainable Consumption Project (SCP), a collaboration between JJS, Shapla Neer, and Mitsubishi, focuses on providing ecological education to adolescents. The SCP aims to empower them to change consumption patterns for climate change adaptation and mitigation. It involves 29 adolescent and parent groups as change agents, promoting sustainable practices in their communities. The project includes educational modules, a game board, and posters to raise awareness. Adolescents also implement initiatives contributing to the environment and conduct household campaigns. School and university students are engaged to promote sustainable consumption, and a support group involves professionals. The project aligns with National Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 13.



Improved Sustainable Consumption Practices

Knowledge on Climate Change Education

390 adolescents now know sustainable consumption and climate change

Behavioral Changes

135 parents know sustainable consumption and climate change and practice their daily behaviours

Linkage Building

Inter-linkages developed with relevant government departments and autonomous educational institutions regarding sustainable consumption issues.

Gained Leadership Skill

135 adolescents gained leadership skills and are taking action to bring change in society by practicing and promoting a sustainable consumption lifestyle.

Raise Awareness

820 people who have mass awareness of sustainable consumption behavior and its importance in contributing to climate change mitigation



ACHIEVEMENTS

Srija Palit: A Beacon of Sustainable Consumption Education in Khulna City

Srija Palit, a 14-year-old resident of KCC Ward Number 06, underwent a transformative journey through the Sustainable Consumption Project (SCP). Her reflections highlight the project's profound impact on her understanding of climate change, sustainable consumption, and the pivotal role adolescents can play in fostering positive environmental change.

Before her involvement with SCP, Srija lacked awareness regarding the adverse effects of climate change and the significance of sustainable consumption. The SCP sessions catalyzed her enlightenment, providing a unique knowledge base directly linked to environmental conservation and the preservation of our planet for future generations.

Attending monthly SCP sessions exposed Srija to the staggering number of resources wasted in daily life. Through successive sessions, she gained insights into practical steps for environmental conservation and, an understanding of the importance of responsible water, electricity, and food consumption. The absence of such knowledge in conventional educational settings accentuated the distinctive value of Sustainable Consumption education.

Initiating sustainable practices posed an initial challenge, but Srija gradually adopted a habit of consuming resources responsibly. Her commitment extended beyond personal change as she inspired her parents and classmates to embrace a sustainable consumption lifestyle, marking them as integral supporters of her journey.

Expressing gratitude to the SCP team, Srija highlighted their year-long guidance, specifying the intricate connections between individual actions and climate change. Srija considers herself fortunate to be part of the project and envisions leveraging her learnings to bring about societal change.

Driven by a passion to share her knowledge, Srija actively educates her community on the urgency of sustainable consumption. She emphasizes SCP's role in empowering adolescents to take initiatives beneficial for resource conservation, ultimately contributing to environmental balance and mitigating climate change impacts.

Srija's fervent desire for the SCP project's continued expansion reflects a vision for the widespread dissemination of sustainable consumption knowledge among adolescents. She envisions a collective effort towards positive environmental changes, showcasing the potential impact of informed and inspired youth globally.

Urban Poverty & Resilience:

Urban resilience in Khulna refers to the city's capacity to withstand and recover from various challenges, such as flooding and economic hardships faced by the slum dwellers. Many of these slum residents migrated from coastal Khulna upazila due to climatic events like Sidr and Aila. JJS is actively working to address urban poverty and enhance resilience among vulnerable urban migrants and children living in eight slum areas under Khulna City Corporation. Their efforts aim to improve livelihoods, education, health, and access to basic services. Strategies include diversifying urban livelihoods, expanding income opportunities, and supporting urban service delivery, especially related to health, nutrition, and water sanitation. JJS promotes behavioral changes through targeted communication, striving to make a positive impact on vulnerable communities in urban Khulna.



Project: Strengthening Resilience, Response and Recovery Capacity- a community-led initiative of Climate Migrants and COVID-19 Slum Dwellers in Khulna city.

Project Duration: November 2022 to October 2024

Project Area: Khulna City Corporation (Ward No: 21, 22 & 31)

Project Donor: Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) through technical support of Habitat for Humanity International Bangladesh (HFHI-B)

Budget Amount: Total Project Budget: 27,685,499 BDT
Budget during this year (July, 2022-June, 2023): 6028133 BDT

Project Brief:

The project aims to enhance the economic resilience of climate migrant slum dwellers impacted by COVID-19 in Khulna City Corporation. Targeting eight slum areas, it has already provided support to 7,665 residents. The formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with an emphasis on female membership has been a key strategy, involving leadership and advocacy training. These groups played a vital role in conducting a Slum Risk Assessment (SRA) and developing a Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP). Addressing health concerns, the project focuses on COVID-19 awareness, hygiene kit distribution, and water, sanitation, and advocacy efforts. The 'Ustad' Approach offers skill development and employment opportunities, engaging 12 trainees initially, with eight transitioning into income-generating activities. Despite challenges, the project significantly impacts slum dwellers, particularly empowering women and fostering economic resilience amid the COVID-19 aftermath.

Output:

08 SLUM RISK ASSESSMENT

Comprehensive Slum Risk Assessments (SRAs) were completed for eight targeted areas, followed by the eight Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAPs) focusing on WASH, social protection, economic resilience, and COVID-19 resilience for each slum.



LEADERSHIP SKILL DEVELOPMENT

200 project participants' leadership skills have developed through the conduction of day-long training sessions.



SAFETYNETS ORIENTATION

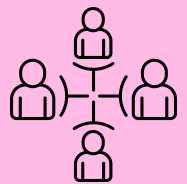


200 self-help group leaders oriented on the day-long orientation of the existing government safety net programs, eligibility, procedures of enlistment, etc.

KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

LINKAGE FOR EMPLOYMENT



200 participants are connected with wage-employment or self-employment opportunities facilitated by the project team.

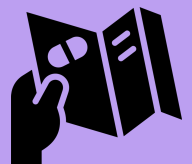
HYGIENE PACKAGE DISTRIBUTION

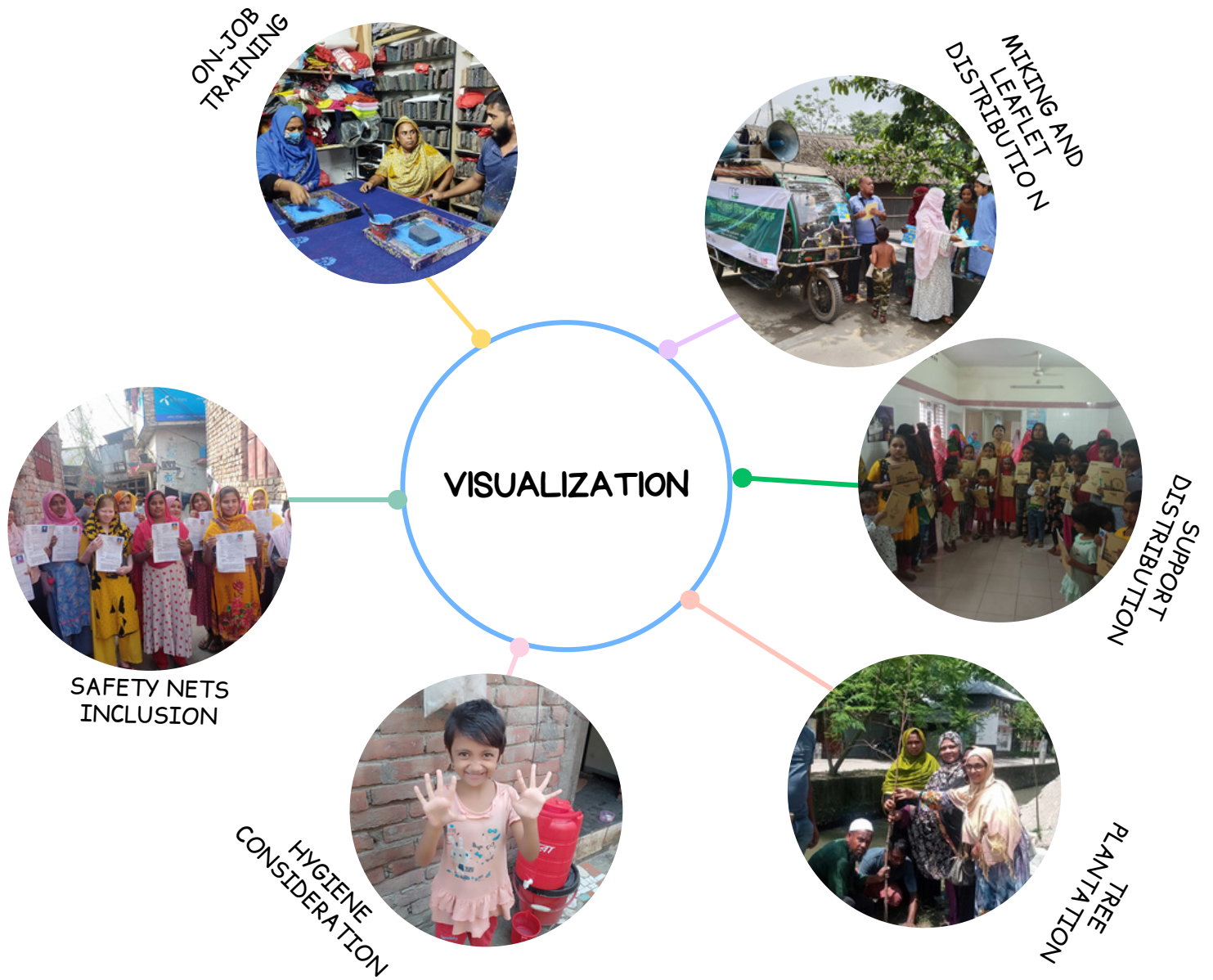
1000 sets of standard hygiene packages were distributed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and health risks in the slum areas.



LEAFLETS AND STICKERS DISTRIBUTION

5000 leaflets and stickers were distributed and day-long miking activities were done among the slum dwellers to raise awareness about COVID-19 and encourage full-course vaccination.





KEY HIGHLIGHTS



01

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES BEYOND BOUNDARIES

SHG leaders, extending beyond project boundaries, took proactive steps to benefit their communities. Such as, Notun Bazar Char slum's SHG leader distributed mosquito nets and notebooks, while Zinnapara Slum's team planted trees along the roadside.



02

ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SAFETY NETS

SHG leaders played a crucial role in motivating community members to apply for government social safety net programs, resulting in successful access to allowances through various government organizations.



03

EMPOWERING YOUTH

Young beneficiaries actively engaged in skill development through the Ustad method, with a 45-day training program leading to connections with employment opportunities facilitated by the project team.

The Resilience Thread: Setara Begum's Journey from Struggle to Tailoring Triumph

When the flood struck in 1988, every item owned by the people of Sariatpur, which is located in the Barishal District, was destroyed. At that point, Setara Begum's father relocated to Khulna in pursuit of employment. He began working as a day labourer while residing in Ward 31's Ibrahimia Madrasa Neighbourhood. This is the slum where Setu was born. As she grew older, her parents wed their adult daughter to Abdul Rahim, a day labourer. The truth is that her husband's salary was insufficient to cover every expense for the family. Setara decided to work for a fish company as a result. They managed to recoup the daily costs after that. The fish firm closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Again, they started to suffer due to poverty. Once more, their poverty caused them to suffer.

A Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) project was initiated in Ward 31 of Khulna City Corporation in 2023 by Habitat for Humanity International Bangladesh and Jagrata Juba Shangha. Setara Begum was enlisted for the training when vulnerable slum dweller groups were selected to provide On-the-Job training using the Ustad Method. Along with other trainees, she underwent a 45-day tailoring program, and upon completion of the program, she was awarded BDT 11,250. She used the BDT 6000 right away to purchase a sewing machine.

"I began working in the fish industry, but it was in vain. My three kids are two girls and one boy. I have a 4-year-old youngest daughter. It was really difficult to take care of her and continue working," Shetu remarked, "I always hope to work from home and take care of my child one day at a time. Through a miracle, I am currently employed and have received training through the JJS/Habitat project."



Shetu's financial situation has greatly improved since then. Nargis Begum, the owner of Jui Tailor's, provided her with instruction in tailoring. She expressed her appreciation to Nargis Begum for her excellent training.

"Up to this point, I have made BDT 2100. I received excellent training from Nargis Apa in how to make Baby Frock, Peti Coat, Maxi, Kurta, Three Pieces, and other items. She has my gratitude," Shetu said. Shetu was too resolute and picked up what she had taught them on her own, she revealed to Nargis Begum during their conversation. Shetu's new goal is to open a tailoring business. She also intends to use the money to build her clothing business by purchasing some clothing. Shetu thanked JJS, CBF, and Habitat for truly making a difference in her life.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Roads are elevated above the last flood water level, ensuring smooth internal communication during cyclones and facilitating rescue and evacuation efforts.
- Small catchment areas are protected from floodwater, even in embankment collapse scenarios, allowing people to take shelter on the roads.
- Community members, including women, elderly, children, students, motorbike, and van pullers, utilize the roads for easy access. Excavation for mud collection has created water reservoirs for fish cultivation opportunities.
- Increased job opportunities for various professions, such as hawkers, van pullers, motorbikers, and vendors, contribute to better community livelihoods.
- Tree planting initiatives by the community, including Sundarban species and Gaoa saplings, promote environmental sustainability. The Union Parishad commits to planting trees in areas not covered by the project.
- Local government officials, including UP & Upazila Chairman & members and UNO, actively monitor and encourage community participation in road repair and tree nurturing efforts. Mr. Yakub Ali Khan in Dakkhin Bedkashi has planted 100 plum seeds along the repaired roads of Ward No. 2.

Human Rights of Marginalized and Disadvantaged

JJS considers governance and people's rights as fundamental elements of its program focus. This organization pays attention to the awareness of the common people's rights and entitlement, responsiveness as well as transparency of responsible actors and contributions in the decision-making process. JJS focuses on poor people's access to information and control over resources by increasing their participation in the decision-making process, and policy formulation alongside the implementation procedure. It concentrates on strengthening the service-providing systems and keeping an eye on the monitoring and evaluation process of the local government institutes. Although JJS considers all projects to support marginal people's rights, the microfinancing program of JJS solely engages in the sustainable development of Marginalized and Disadvantaged people's rights.

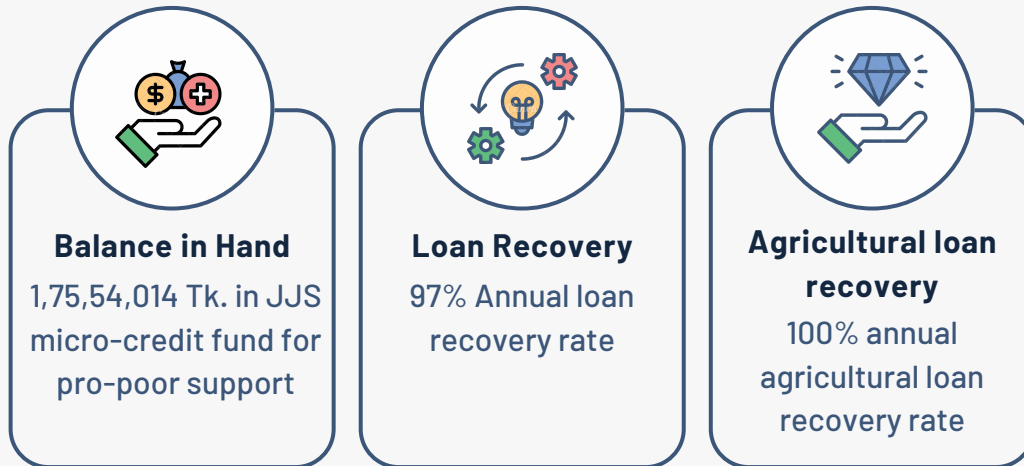
Micro Credit Program of JJS is working in Khulna division under 06 (Six) Upazila among 4500 (Approx.) beneficiaries for poverty alleviation through creating income-generating options by the aid of economic support and upgrading the living standard of the poor and ultra-poor in the south-west coastal region. Empowering vulnerable women and men through creating self-sufficient socio-economic options and creating a justified society- thence everyone gets an equal opportunity to have social rights and employment facilities. Loan disbursement is not imposed as a burden to clients but to abominate beggary and change the idle hand to labour. A total of 13 unit

Project Location: Khula Sadar, Rupsha, Terokhada, Fakirhat, Koyra and Bagerhat Sadar

Micro-credit Process: JJS disbursed the loan to the client individually through Samity (Group) cohesion duly. Generally, JJS organize a Samity (group) which consists of 15-25 members and has been supporting over 20000 population. The loan recovery rate is satisfactory and JJS quickly reimburses the loan in time to the clients according to schedule. In JJS, some experienced field officers provide technical support, collaborate with the clients at the grassroots level, and advise farmers through group training schedules for performing their business accordingly. Every week 18 field officers realize the recoverable instalment from the beneficiary and keep close supervision of the beneficiary. As a result, our monthly loan recovery rate remains 97%. According to the Credit manual, JJS reserves at least 10% of each client's savings for getting a loan and every loan should have to be paid to JJS within 46 weeks after getting the loan. We carry out all types of directions of Microcredit regulatory authority and now have a portfolio of savings ratio of 43% to loan outstanding.



Key Results:



Sheuly Begum: A Tale of Dignity, Determination, and Success with JJS

Sheuly Begum's journey exemplifies how dignity serves as a cornerstone for success. In 2012, she married Sk. Jobayer Hossain in the village of Nehalpur fro Nayhati. Facing financial challenges due to her husband's unemployment, Sheuly harbored a dream of becoming a self-sufficient homemaker. In 2015, Sheuly approached JJS, expressing her aspirations. With an initial loan of Tk. 10,000, she invested in a goat and chickens, supplementing her income by delivering pond water. She diligently repaid installments, eventually depositing Tk. 13,000 from the sale of livestock. Emboldened, she expanded her endeavors, obtaining a Tk. 25,000 loan for two oxen, later earning approximately Tk. 20,000 from their sale.

With her growing dignity and determination, Sheuly acquired additional loans from JJS. Collaborating with her father-in-law, she purchased four oxen and engaged in successful cattle rearing. Capitalizing on Eid-ul-Fitre, she sold the oxen at a significant profit. Meanwhile, her husband, Jobayer, established a computer service at Khulna Court, contributing substantially to the family income.

Supported by her father-in-law and acting as a guardian, Sheuly now owns five buffalo, selling at least 4.5 kg of milk daily for Tk. 360. Her daughter, a second-grader, manages a small shop and contributes Tk. 200 daily to the family. Sheuly has borrowed Tk. 60,000 from JJS and amassed savings of Tk. 50,000 in Nishana Samity.

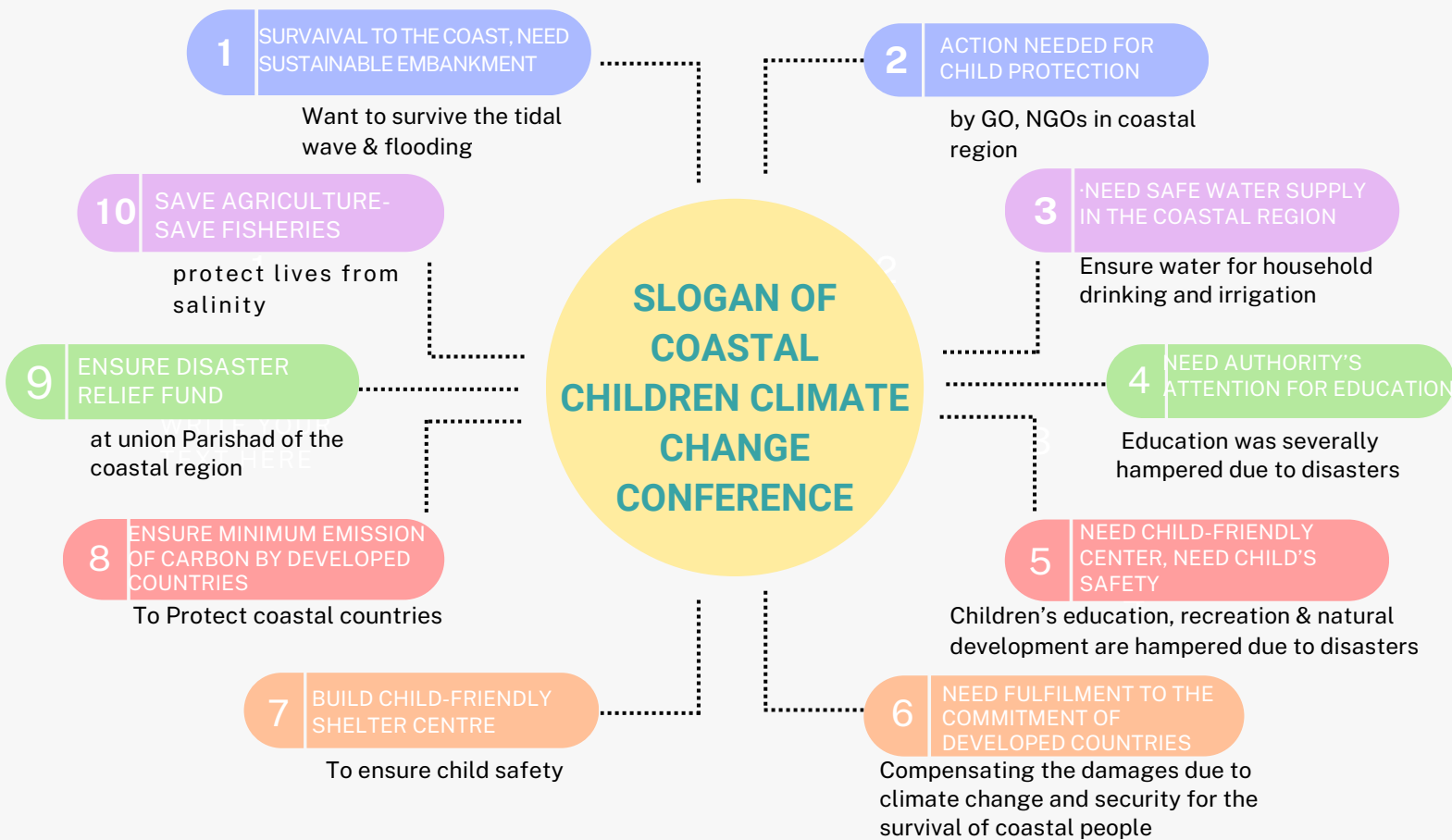
Sheuly's ambition extends to securing a prosperous future for her daughter. Her success has inspired many within the Jagrata Juba Shangha community, with others seeking advice to replicate her achievements. Sheuly Begum stands as a model of success, embodying sincerity, determination, and diligence. Her loyalty to JJS remains steadfast, underscoring her belief in the organization's systems and her commitment to continued membership.



JJS own Initiatives

2nd Annual Coastal Children Climate Change Conference:

The 2nd Annual “Coastal Children’s Climate Change Conference, Khulna, 2022”, was organized under Kindernothilfe (KNH) supported Child Week Activity with partial financial contributions and JJS itself. The main focus of the conference was to engage the children of the coastal areas in the discussion of climate change issues and to build their capacity to lead the climatic demand in the future. The conference was held with the participation of coastal children of all coastal Upazilas where children were kept at the centre of all discussions. Their active role in discussing the sufferings and providing recommendations about how to move forward towards a safe environment for the children in the coastal areas was a trigger for all other children to raise their voices in the climate discussions. The honourable Mayor of Khulna City Corporation gave a lot of importance to listening to the children, receiving their demands and agreeing to work on the issues. The gender issues and especially the problems of girls and women in the coastal areas, especially in the cyclone periods also got enough attention at the conference. A list of key drawbacks of the conference are mentioned below-

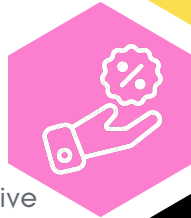


Discussion session on the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution to raise demand for 1st Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Meeting:

Being a member of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), JJS organized a parallel session in Khulna on November 29, 2022, during the 1st Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee discussion to raise awareness and skills among the government, institutional, and civil society stakeholders. The session was facilitated by ATM Zakir Hossain, Executive Director, JJS, and co-facilitated by Rabeya Sultana, Assistant Professor, Environmental Science Discipline, Khulna University. The Director of the Department of Environment in Khulna Region, conservancy officer, Khulna City Corporation, environmental journalists and associations, children's leaders and academicians from the universities in Khulna, and UNICEF participated in the event. Along with JJS, IPEN's position and demands about plastic pollution have also been discussed in the program. It built a network, engaging the Department of Environment, city corporations, environmental journalists, academicians, NGOs, and children's leaders to raise local demand at an international forum like INC. It is anticipated that the network will work in collaboration in the future to increase local demand for policy incorporation in plastic pollution management.

Towards plastic free SDG solution

During the time of INC-1, the local network has been formed to raise awareness among the government, institutional and civil society stakeholders regarding the use of plastic and hazardous chemical and to raise local demand and mobilize relevant institutions/departments on effective plastic management.



Structural Orientation of INC

Oriented about the structure of INC for developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

Sensitization

Sensitized the status of plastic pollution globally, from the perspective of Bangladesh and the consequences

Commitment for Collective Action

All participating stakeholders committed to working collectively on plastic pollution management.

Local Network Formation

Build a local level network to raise local demand at an international forum like INC



Project: Marginalized and vulnerable children's education program: The purpose is to ensure education for all so that even children living in the marginalized and ethnic communities of remote areas are not left uneducated. In order to achieve a better future, this project ensures education to the challenged and differently able children with the same amount of importance and special care.

Shishu Kendra: JJS is operating a Shishu Kendra devoted to working for mentally challenged children who are socially underprivileged and unfortunate in our society. In 2001, ATM Zakir Hossain, the Executive Director of JJS, and some of his fellow mates felt the urge that they should come forward to support the children who are socially vulnerable. This centre provides privileges to the 25 children with support from the Safety Net Programs of the Bangladesh Government. Each child was provided BDT 500 per month. A curriculum is being followed by the local government authority to formalize the provided services. There are around 25 children currently studying in this school. The Executive Director of JJS, along with some well-wishers runs this program by their personal contributions through building a trust named "Asif Hossain centre for children with Autism and ADHD".

Tarar Mela: Adolescent Organization for Cultural Development: Tarar Mela is a local cultural team involving children from marginal and poor communities in Talimpur village under Rupsa Upazila. JJS formed a team to explore the cultural potentiality of underprivileged children and perform cultural programs. Tarar Mela performs different cultural shows and programs. The group is well trained in interactive famous theatre and life skill knowledge.

JJS Pro-poor Support: JJS has donated different relief packages (food, hygiene, medicine and sapling items) to 37 vulnerable poor families in the pandemic situation to support their families. The support has been provided to families who have disabled members in the family who didn't have any income generation options due to two months more lockdown situation.

JJS Internship Program: A group of graduate students visited every year in JJS from Khulna University (KU) and Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET). This year, about 20 undergraduate students from a couple of departments including Urban and Rural Planning (URP), Environmental Science (ES) and Development Studies(DS) from Khulna University and Urban and Regional Planning (URP) department from KUET gained short-term professional work experience, which will familiarise them with practical and field-based problems and planning initiatives in Bangladesh.

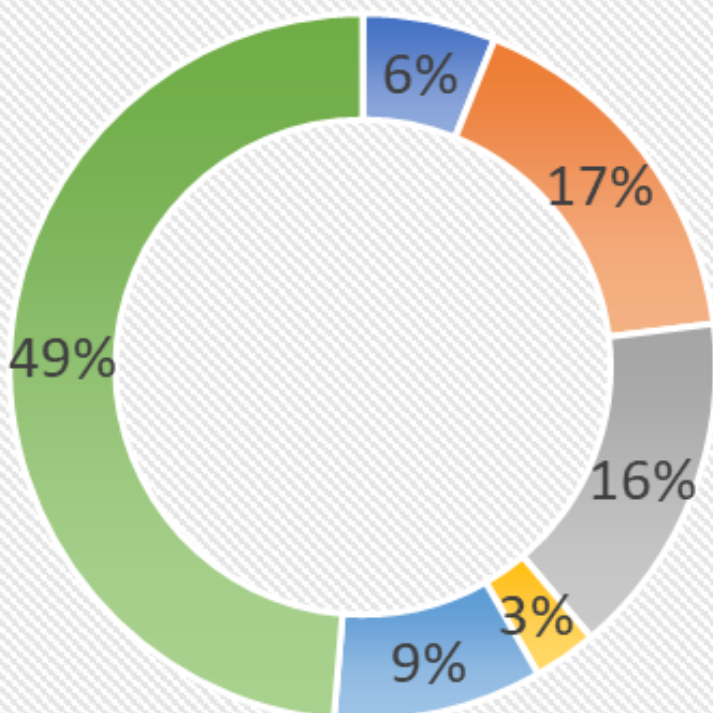


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In the reporting year of 2022-2023, the total expenditure of the organization is BDT 158357797. A maximum of 49% of the budget was spent on Food Sovereignty, Health and Nutrition and WASH, 17% on climate change and disaster management, 16% on child rights and youth participation, 9% on Urban Poverty and Resilience, 6% on Human rights of marginalized and disadvantaged and 3% on the environment and food sovereignty.

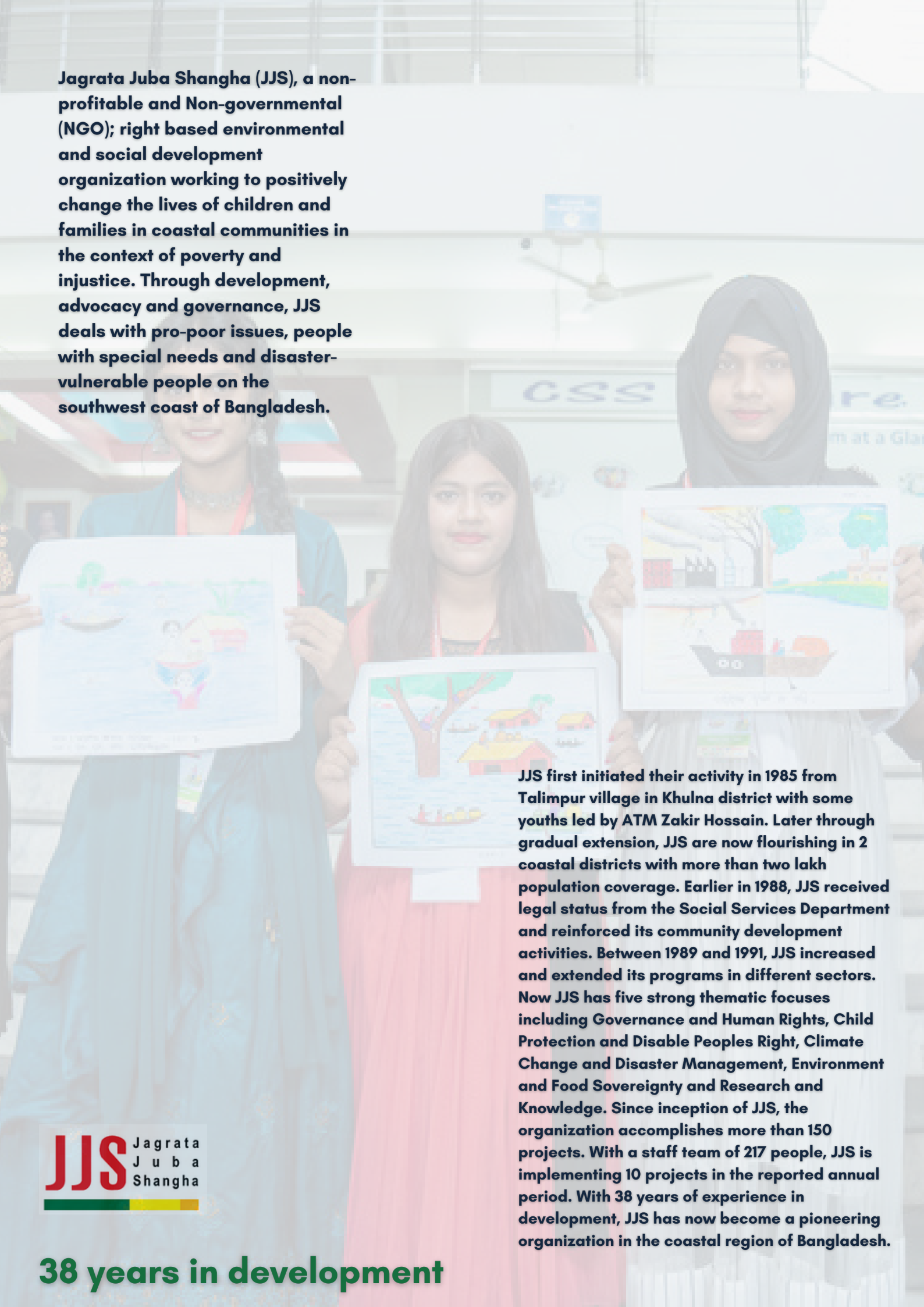


Sectoral Budgetary Breakdown



- Human Rights of Marginalized and Disadvantaged
- Climate Change and Disaster Management
- Child Rights & Youth Participation
- Environment and Food Sovereignty
- Urban Poverty & Resilience
- Food Sovereignty, Health, Nutrition and WASH

Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS), a non-profitable and Non-governmental (NGO); right based environmental and social development organization working to positively change the lives of children and families in coastal communities in the context of poverty and injustice. Through development, advocacy and governance, JJS deals with pro-poor issues, people with special needs and disaster-vulnerable people on the southwest coast of Bangladesh.

The background image shows three women standing in a room, each holding a drawing. The woman on the left is wearing a blue dress and holding a drawing of a boat on water. The woman in the middle is wearing a pink dress and holding a drawing of a coastal village with a large tree and a boat. The woman on the right is wearing a white dress and a black hijab, holding a drawing of a boat with cargo. In the background, there is a banner with the letters 'CSS' and some other text.

JJS first initiated their activity in 1985 from Talimpur village in Khulna district with some youths led by ATM Zakir Hossain. Later through gradual extension, JJS are now flourishing in 2 coastal districts with more than two lakh population coverage. Earlier in 1988, JJS received legal status from the Social Services Department and reinforced its community development activities. Between 1989 and 1991, JJS increased and extended its programs in different sectors. Now JJS has five strong thematic focuses including Governance and Human Rights, Child Protection and Disable Peoples Right, Climate Change and Disaster Management, Environment and Food Sovereignty and Research and Knowledge. Since inception of JJS, the organization accomplishes more than 150 projects. With a staff team of 217 people, JJS is implementing 10 projects in the reported annual period. With 38 years of experience in development, JJS has now become a pioneering organization in the coastal region of Bangladesh.



38 years in development