



A

Vision for a
Right-Based Development

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

**ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIETY'S SUCCESS IMPROVEMENT &
(ASSIST) Bangladesh**

SALVATION TRUSTEE



ASSIST Bangladesh

House# 09, VIP Road, Bagerhat

Phone: 0468-64555, 0468-64373 MOB: 01715-645987, 01919-645987

E-mail: assistbaglahul@gmail.com

Executive Summary

ASSIST Bangladesh is a national voluntary development organization established in 2005 in Bagerhat, the south-west region of Bangladesh by a group of dedicated, courageous women and social workers. ASSIST Bangladesh works at the community level to strengthen human and material resources through different interventions. From the beginning ASSIST Bangladesh focused on non-formal education, poverty reduction, community mobilization and women and adolescent empowerment. Over the years ASSIST Bangladesh extended its horizons that included Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Education for All (EFA), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and Rights Based Approach to Development. ASSIST Bangladesh works closely with the local government and the local administration to reach the poorest of the poor along with advocacy at the national level policymakers towards pro-poor policy and practice.



Sk. Abdullah Lahul, Executive Director, ASSIST Bangladesh

The development activities of ASSIST Bangladesh are designed to respond the community need to facilitate the process of ensuring basic rights and contribute in providing a decent livelihood to the marginalized. It works for eradicate extreme poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and women empowerment, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and advocating towards strengthening global partnership for climate change and the disability issues. The educational activities are designed to contribute in enhance human capability of all age group through early childhood care and development, basic education, continuing education, knowledge, skill and ability development, technical and vocational education, and quality.

Activities

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

As Bangladesh is highly affected by climate change therefore the risk for major Hydro-meteorological disasters are also increasing. ASSIST Bangladesh, as a civil society organization, playing a significant role in disaster preparedness, management, post disaster response and climate change issues in line with the Hyogo framework of action and national DRR strategies and implemented the following programs:

Gender Sensitive Community Based Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Programme

The Gender Sensitive Community Based Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Program is an initiative to build capacities of about 30,000 vulnerable households, union and Upazila Parishad (UP), and local institutions for reducing the damage of natural calamities through promoting gender sensitive disaster preparedness and risk reduction mechanisms in line with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.

The program contributed in capacity building at different level. It has contributed significantly in enhancing the capacity of individual, organization, community and institutions, in particular, the women for reducing potential loss of lives, flora and fauna, and livelihood assets through pre disaster preparedness, taking necessary action during the disaster, and contribution in post disaster relief, rehabilitation and livelihood support. The intervention has also contributed in integration of disaster risk reduction and to sustainable development policies and planning at all levels, with special emphasis on disaster planning, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction. There was about 10,000 targeted households were equipped with required knowledge and skills of gender sensitive disaster preparedness measures with the help of youth and adolescent community volunteers through BCC interventions. Adolescent (both boy and girl) volunteers of the community were engaged in educating and motivating target people about disaster preparedness, risk mitigation and early warning system. That result in positive practice changes of the target population on gender sensitive disaster preparedness.

The program interventions strengthened the capacity of four Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC), local institutions, selected cyclone shelter management committees, and youth volunteer groups to respond to pre and post disaster measures. The capacity of the local institutions (schools/*madrasa*, college, *union parishad*, *upazial parishad*, religious institutions, cyclone shelters) and targeted community, women in particular, were enhanced.

The women in community become more aware educated with knowledge and skills enhance early warning system. Throughout the implementation phase, the institutional capacity of ASSIST Bangladesh on disaster preparedness, risk mitigation and disaster program management was enhanced.

Employment Generation for the Cyclone Aila Affected Poor Families in Bagerhat

In response to cyclone *Aila*, ASSIST Bangladesh launched an initiative to provide an alternative employment opportunity for reducing the dependency on relief and contribute in socio-economic development of affected area. The programme contributes in ensuring food security of 200 cyclone affected poor families for 15 days through cash for work.

Emergency Livelihood Support and Safe Drinking Water Project

The project was initiated to supplement the livelihood options of the poor and marginalized groups in the Cyclone *Aila* affected selected areas of Bagerhat District in the South-west part of Bangladesh. The major interventions included providing temporary shelter, on a priority basis, for 200 women headed households. Shodesh distributed tent, dewatering contaminated water from ponds and repaired the pond embankment, established pond sand filter (PSF), vegetable seed distribution among affected families, repaired power tiller, sapling tree plantation, etc. for providing the livelihood support and to establish a green belt. It also created employment opportunity for 12,500 person days under *cash for work* program.

The program contributed in raising awareness, disaster preparedness and post cyclone immediate intervention. The participatory planning involving community, CSO and local government representatives foster the process of restoring the life system.

Climate Change and disaster become emerging issue that leads to further degradation of the standard of living in the coastal belt of Bangladesh. The disaster affects the women more severely comparing to men counterpart. The situation of children, old age persons and other minority groups are also worse in terms of getting access to food, shelter, and post disaster responses. To cope with the newly emerged situation, capacity building at individual, organizational, community and institutional level is essential. In doing so ASSIST Bangladesh works for gender responsive disaster preparedness, awareness & emergency response, rehabilitation, livelihood enhancement, income and employment generation, human rights, good governance and risk reduction issues.

ASSIST Bangladesh is also engaged in evidence based advocacy towards policy and practice change which would maximize the benefits of the marginalized segment of the society. It carried out research to generate grassroots level concrete evidence and social change process for effective advocacy and engaged in networking with likeminded organization and exchange knowledge.

The ASSIST Bangladesh carried out activities through 8 projects in 2012 that provided direct benefits to 2400 individuals and about 65000 individuals, local government institutions, schools, religious institutions and local administration in 2 Upazilla of 1 District managed by 2 Branch offices and 1 Regional office. The head office is located in Bagerhat. A total of 16 staff and more than 200 youth volunteers were engaged in implementing the program activities. 60% of the staff and half of the youth volunteers were female. In addition to above there were about 100 adult volunteer from the community who works closely with the foundation staff and the youth volunteers.

Emergency warm clothes distribution project

ASSIST Bangladesh took initiative to ensure warm clothes for cyclone *Aila* affected shelter less poor families to protect them from shivering cold. The most affected 75 senior citizen, in particular, women were identified in Shorankhola Upazila in Bagerhat District and provided with blankets.

Bangladesh is a densely populated and high poverty prone developing country located in South Asia. It has natural resources like minerals, gas, limited oil resources besides the largest mangrove forest and the sea beach namely Sundarbans and the Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh is member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the OIC, SAARC, BIMSTEC, and the D-8. It achieved significant progress in human development, in particular, literacy, gender parity in schooling and reduction of population growth. Basic education is a constitutional obligation of the state. As responsive to the betterment of the citizens, Bangladesh is a signatory of MDGs, EFA, CEDAW, Salamanka Statement and so on. However, the country is facing number of challenges that included widespread poverty, lack of good governance, environmental degradation, and vulnerability related to climate change and disaster.

ASSIST Bangladesh is a national voluntary development organization established in 2005 in Bagerhat, the south-west region of Bangladesh by a group of dedicated, courageous women and social workers. It is a non-government organization (NGO) operates in non-profit and non-partisan mode to have a peaceful democratic and humanitarian society where citizens are living with human dignity. It is registered with the Ministry of Social Welfare Affairs, Directorate of Youth Development and Science and Technology Adhidoptor.

ASSIST Bangladesh works at the community level to strengthen human and material resources through different interventions. From the beginning ASSIST Bangladesh focused on poverty reduction, community mobilization and women empowerment. It tried to create an alternative opportunity for the women through capacity development and linking them with the market. Over the years ASSIST Bangladesh extended its horizons that included Education for All (EFA), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Rights Based Approach to Development. ASSIST Bangladesh works closely with the

local government and the local administration to reach the poorest of the poor along with advocacy at the national level policymakers towards pro-poor policy and practice.

The development activities of ASSIST Bangladesh are designed to respond the community need to facilitate the process of ensuring basic rights and contribute in providing a decent livelihood to the marginalized. It works for eradicate extreme poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and women empowerment, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and advocating towards strengthening global partnership for development. The educational activities are designed to contribute in enhance human capability of all age group through early childhood care and development, basic education, continuing education, skill development, technical and vocational education, and quality at all level as a crosscutting issue.

The General Body of ASSIST Bangladesh consists of 21 members of which 5 represent in Executive Committee. The Executive Committee provides with the strategic leadership towards achieving the goal and objectives of the organization.

Core Values

- People's capacity and dignity
- Culture and environment friendly
- Creativity and innovation
- Discipline, participation, team work and openness
- Gender equity
- Special emphasis on adolescent and women
- Cost consciousness
- Accountability and transparency
- Honesty and integrity
- Justice and fairness.
- Striving for excellence.

Core Competencies

- Knowledge and experience in planning and implementation of programs related to:
 - Climate change, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), flood and water resource management
 - Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Non-formal education under the Lifelong Learning (LLL) framework including TVET
 - Health and nutrition
 - Agriculture, livestock and fisheries development
 - Entrepreneurship development, Income & employment generation and livelihood support
 - Civic education and human rights, reduction of violence against women, psycho-social counselling, capacity building, community mobilization, etc.
 - planning, budgeting, and controlling costs
- Highly motivated and capable workforce that contribute in capacity building of staff, volunteer, community and other relevant stakeholders.
- Knowledge and experience in resource mobilization
- Socially responsive governing body and sound internal control environment supported by policy documents and guidelines
- knowledge and expertise in communication both popular communication and using new media
- Participatory evaluation and follow-up action

Major Program Components

ASSIST Bangladesh works in a holistic manner that include emergency response to (i) climate change and disaster risk reduction; (ii) poverty alleviation, life-skills & livelihood support; (iii) education for sustainable development; (iv) primary health care and nutrition; (v) human rights and social justice; and (vi) good governance. It is involved in evidence based advocacy and networking with concerned stakeholders along with raising awareness using both popular and new media at different level.

Microcredit

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world with income-per-capita USD 621 (BBS, 2009). According to the statistical projection of national and international reputed institutions about 40% of total populations live below the upper poverty line and 25.1% live in extreme poverty (BBS, 2005) using the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) method. Bangladesh is committed to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger along with providing basic education, improved health condition, gender equality and empowered women. Both state and non-state actors in Bangladesh working together to combat against poverty and achieve other development goals set nationally and globally. Poverty is observed from the perspective that people lack capital or access to markets that endow capital like loans and entrepreneurial opportunities in the traditional economy. The poor and hardcore poor cannot provide with adequate collateral for getting access to the formal banking system thus poverty trap persist. Microcredit contributes in empowering hardcore poor women in rural Bangladesh. Main purpose of microcredit is to realize the potentials of the poor through support in credit constraint. Many of the NGOs in Bangladesh provide microcredit to the poor and hardcore poor, in particular, the rural women to empower them. ASSIST Bangladesh is playing a pivotal role in poverty eradication through microcredit, non-formal education and healthcare service to the hardcore poor of five districts in south-west part of Bangladesh including, Bagerhat, Satkhira

Microcredit is a financial innovation that has successfully enabled extremely impoverished people to engage in self-employment projects that allow them to generate an income and, in many cases, begin to build wealth and exit poverty. Due to the success of microcredit, the traditional banking industry has begun to realize that these microcredit borrowers should more correctly be categorized as pre-bankable. Thus microcredit is increasingly gaining credibility in the mainstream finance industry and many traditional large finance organizations are considering microcredit projects as a source of future growth, even though almost everyone in mainstream development sector discounted the likelihood of success of microcredit when it was begun. The broad classification of microcredit includes the (i) traditional informal microcredit (ii) microcredit based on traditional informal groups (iii) Activity-based microcredit through conventional or specialized banks (iv) rural credit through specialized banks (v) cooperative microcredit (vi) consumer microcredit (vi) Bank-NGO partnership based microcredit (vii) NGO run microcredit (viii) other types of non-NGO non-collateralized microcredit and so on.

Table – 1: Summary of Credit and Savings of ASSIST Bangladesh as of 30 June 2012

Particulars	Total
No. of Group	56
No. of Members	1095
No. of Borrowers	852
Loan Outstanding	5,390,895
Savings Outstanding	25,15,709
Recovery Rate (%)	95%
Delinquency Rate (%)	5%
Note: All Currency is BDT	

Clientele Criteria

ASSIST Bangladesh's policy has emphasized on women to borrow as they are regarded to be more disadvantaged. However, men have also access to credit too. To be permitted on the credit scheme, household income at the time of initial membership should be below Tk. 1,000 per month and borrowers should have lived in the same village permanently or in the same slum for at least two years and become member of the ASSIST Bangladesh's *Somity*.

Targeted people are poor women who have a skill (e.g. tailoring, embroidery cooking) that they are good at however they have no collateral to improve their operation. By providing a loan to such women, they will make more money and reduce their poverty. These women operate outside of the financial mainstream. As part of the selection procedure prospective borrowers provide samples of their skill output so that ASSIST Bangladesh staff can assess the quality before going further with the agreement.

Group Formation

Interested women were asked to form groups of five like-minded women of similar economic status, age group and with mutual trust in each other. The only restriction on this formation is that no members can be close relative by blood relation. Once five to six such small groups is ready, collectively they form *Somity*.

Training

In order to enable slum/rural poor women to access credit facilities, they have to attend a day-long orientation training program. This covers topics such as group organization and the mechanism of credit operation, responsibilities of the group chairperson, the centre chief and all group members. This is essential for effective management of the group's savings. Capability of signature is mandatory for every woman in the *Somity*.

In addition to learning about the microcredit scheme the workshops provide a good opportunity to train on health care, education and participation in other social development programs. The groups must become conversant with the mechanism of credit operation to finish the course.

Group Recognition

After successful completion of the day-long training the groups are recognized by ASSIST BANGLADESH management as *Somity* and each *Somity* has a unique name and ID.

Security Fund

In order to cope in the event of death of the borrowers a fund has been created. This is a kind of insurance savings scheme which is equivalent to 1% of their borrowed loans. Borrowers are allowed to withdraw this money from ASSIST Bangladesh when leaving the Group permanently or after three years of continued membership in the group.

Results of Micro credit intervention

A large portion of the borrowers have shown good entrepreneurial skills in different trade/vocation including small enterprises, purchase of rickshaw van, buy engine boat, set up poultry firm, livestock business, cloth trading, tailoring, set up grocery shop, fish trading, wood trading. Homestead gardening, seasonal crops producing, nursery, handicrafts, establishing cottage industry is some other example of the livelihood support through microcredit. Many of them are now coming up with demands for loans for equipment that increase their productivity, helping to break the cycle of poverty. On the other hand, the hardcore poor were not benefited much from this intervention. There is a need to devise new approaches to reach the hardcore poor.

Handicrafts

ASSIST Bangladesh is running training program for the women who are lagging behind & poor in the society to empower them financially & to make them self-dependent. A cumulative number of 500 poor women from Jatrapur and Bagerhat Sadar under Bagerhat district had the opportunity to be trained on different types of sewing like Vorat, Nakshi, Aplic, Cross, Shed, Jamdani, Jessori stich, Dal, Chain stich, Bosi, Lejy, Shating vorat, Sabu dana etc. ASSIST Bangladesh also helps them in marketing their products;

even women, who produce high quality products, are given support to export their goods. Major objective of this intervention was to empower and provide livelihood support for the women towards economic empowerment.

Under this program ASSIST Bangladesh has formed 15 new groups during the year 2010 formation in reporting year and provided with training on hemming ready made garments like fatua, panjabi, three pieces, pillow & cushion cover, wall mate, Nakshi khata, bedcover, Sari etc. Ashroy Foundation linked this group to the market so that they get a good price of the produced goods and also arranged to export of selected products.

During the year 2010 ASSIST Bangladesh has provided handicraft training to 67 young adults through four trainers. Consequently, the cumulative number of trained beneficiaries stands at 680 persons. There is no dropout among the trainees and all 680 persons are actively involved in producing crafts. All trainees and trainers are female. These groups are working under the leadership of 27 young adults who have been selected through a participatory process considering the job expertise and leadership abilities.

To facilitate the process of holistic development a space was also created for the women to talk on social and life skill issues like dowry, early marriage, HIV/AIDS, birth registration, protecting women & child trafficking, etc. Consequently, the members, in particular women and girls, skill in handicraft production were enhanced and income increased which lead to enhanced acceptance and empowerment at the household and community level. It was also contributed in reduction of violence against women; women's voice has been raised against child marriage, dowry and women & children trafficking.

Agriculture

The farmer, both women and men, have been growing crops and raising livestock for approximately ten thousand years. They have continually adapted their technologies, assessed the results, and shared what they have learned with other members of the community. The development of extension services included the colonial agriculture established by the colonial powers that focused on export crops like rubber, tea, cotton and sugar where the technical advice was provided to plantation managers and large landowners. After independence, commodity-based extension services emerged from the bits and pieces of the colonial system, with production targets established as part of five-year development a plan which was a diverse top-down extension. During this era, various schemes were initiated to meet the needs of small farmers, with support from foreign donors.

The major achievement of the program included the increase of farmers' income, gradual and sustainable improvement of the financial status and increased knowledge on disaster risk that lead to potential reduction of environmental degradation and disaster.

Lessons learnt and Way Forward

Knowledge and technology transfer is really difficult; everybody wants to stay in the comfort zone with their traditional cultivation process. The market price of the agricultural equipments is also very high consequently marginalized farmer often reluctant to adopt the modern technology. Huge awareness raising program combining with state intervention could help in agricultural development towards ensuring the food security.

Fisheries

The costal districts of Bangladesh have huge abundant wetland which could be utilize for livelihood support of the marginalized and also use as a source of protein for the general mass. The major objectives of this program are to provide with livelihood support to the marginalized farmer and also contribute in organizational sustainability.

Major activities under this program included training on modern cultivation to marginalized & disaster affected farmer, producing organic fish feed, setting-up fish enclosure, providing fish feed at a lower price, and linkage with fish market. During the year 2012 ASSIST Bangladesh provided training to 100 marginalized/disaster affected farmer on modern fish cultivation techniques, 100 were trained on cultivation

of crop and fish simultaneously in the same land and about 100 farmers were trained on making organic fertilizer preparation. A total of 625 fish enclosure were set-up in upazila which provided livelihood support to 1,000 *Sidr* and *Aila* affected families. The awareness rising interventions strengthened the voice of the marginalized against saline water fish cultivation and about 1,000 members of ASSIST Bangladesh involved in sweet water prone cultivation which results in creation of self-employment opportunities at the community level. Awareness raising campaign helped in quick re- excavation of 100 ponds just after the natural disaster of *Aila*, produce fish and household consumption of fish besides selling to meet nutrition need of the children and women in particular and provide livelihood through selling fish in a competitive market.

Hygiene, Water sanitation and Pure Drinking water supply Activity:

In Bangladesh one of the fastest urbanisation rates in Asia, most of the 7 million people living in urban slums – the population of which is rapidly increasing - have no access to safe water sanitary latrines, proper waste disposal systems and adequate sewer drainage. The southeast coastal region of Bangladesh, here various diseases which are caused for scarcity of pure drinking water, Sanitation. implemented on “Hygiene, Water and Sanitation Program” as a partner organization with Udyan Bangladesh (National NGO), donated by “Pear Japan”, “Oxfam GB”, “Save the Children USA”, from January 2007 to December 2012 at Bagerhat Sadar, Rampal, Sharonkhola and Mongla upazila, Bagerhat.

Child and mother protection, Empowering, Adolescents and gender management activity:

The study described above also asked the female guardians (mothers of adolescents) their opinions on Whether adolescent girls or boys need to increase their food intake. Of these guardians, boys require more food than girls, female adolescents need more food, and mentioned that the requirement was the same for male and female adolescents. Perceived reasons for boys needing more food included boys doing more physical activity/manual labor boys becoming earning members of the family the need for good health/strength for boys to develop good brains/studies. Gender discrimination in the form of discrimination against women has been identified as one of the prime ARH issues in Bangladesh. This form of discrimination starts at birth and continues until death. The discrimination exists in the spheres of education, employment, marriage, dowry, and even violence.

Primary health and nutrition activity of ASSIST Bangladesh:

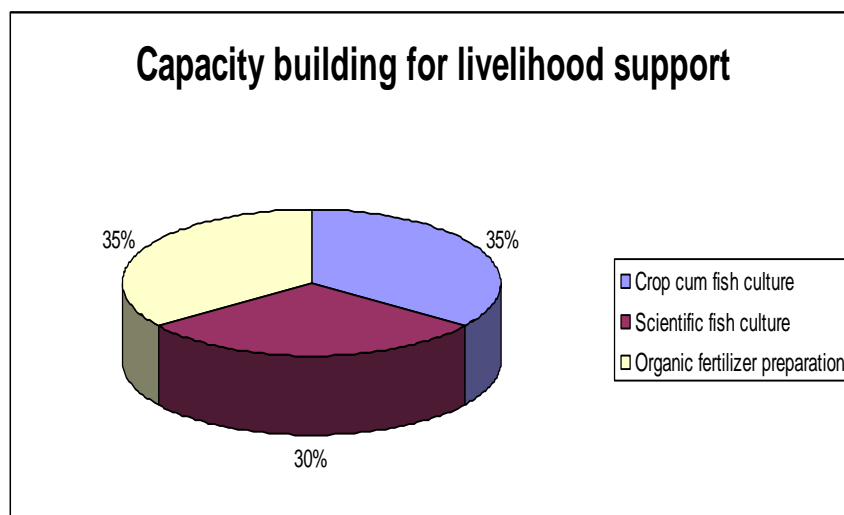
“Free Primary health care centre”

The success of child survival programmes and the expansion of basic education coverage have resulted in a greater number of children reaching school-age and a higher proportion of these children attending primary school. In the face of these improvements, there is still a major burden of disease and malnutrition among school-age children that compromises their overall development. It is now widely recognised that Primary School Health and Nutrition programmes are an important instrument in enabling children to attend school and their ability to take advantage of what may be their only opportunity to obtain a formal education.

Main Objectives:

- Health related school policies
- Access to safe water and provision of adequate sanitation
- School-based health and nutrition services
- Skills-based health education
- Health and nutrition services, including mental counselling and the promotion of active life.

Graph – 2: Capacity building for livelihood support under the fishery program



Lessons Learnt and Way Forward

Still the traditional cultivating process exist in most of the areas because of the price of fisheries equipments and fish feed is beyond the affordable limit of the poor farmers. State intervention both regulation and subsidy in fishery sector is important. Regulation related to fishing, fingerling collection, saline water cultivation could create an enabling environment while capacity building along with subsidy on fisheries equipments would provide access to the sector for the marginalized.

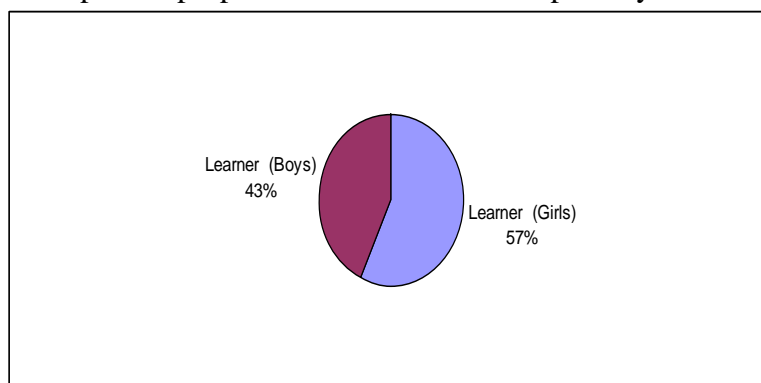
Pre-primary Education

Pre-primary Education/Pre-school is a provision of early learning opportunities for the children of around 5-year age. This program demonstrates how children (including those disadvantaged by gender, poverty, ethnicity and disability) can perform in primary school if provided with effective early learning facilities. The preschool offers the identical curriculum and materials and also utilizes a community member as a teacher.

ASSIST Bangladesh operates five such centers in Sharonkhola Upazila in Bagerhat district. A total of 150 learners enrolled in these centre of which 85 were girls. The major objective of this program was to orient potential learners with the school environment. CAMPE has provided the training support to operate these centers while the UNICEF provided the teaching learning materials through CAMPE.

The average attendance of these centre were 99%. All learners under this program have been enrolled in Class one of the nearest formal primary school. It was a unique intervention at the rural area which has demonstrated sending children at the right age is important.

Graph – 3: proportion of learners in Pre-primary centers



Major activities under the program included training & orientation of appointed teacher & Programme Organizer, community meeting, facilitating session, facilitate school management committee (SMC) meeting, observance of national and international days and events, monthly parents meeting and visit and monitoring.

Primary Health Care and Nutrition

Health is wealth and hygiene is precondition for health. A country's development is measured by not only by its wealth but also by the health of its people. To ensure health, basic hygiene should be taught and provided to the public. Social health requires both environmental and hygienic behavior on the part of the mass. This can be done by providing primary healthcare and reforming garbage collection, water delivery and sewage disposal. Safe, protected water is a basic need for hygiene; also dispersal of the sewage in a protected system is necessary. Public should be trained to lead a life using basic facilities. Avoiding water stagnation which can cause spread of mosquitoes and diseases is also an important component of primary health care. Citizens should get safe, protected drinking water and also learn to use drinking water without wasting. People also need to deal with diseases like Diarrhea, Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other diseases that can be transmitted through water, social interaction, physical touch, or those depend on hygiene factors.

Follow-up of Community Based HIV/AIDS Education Programme among drug user

The Bagerhat city is increasingly facing challenges with drug abuser and floating prostitutes as it is very close to the port city of Mongla. Drug use among the prostitutes is also very high. Both drug users and the floating prostitutes are vulnerable to be HIV positive. Considering the severity of the problem, ASSIST BANGLADESH has carried out the Community Based HIV/AIDS education program among the drug user in collaboration with BRAC. A total of 300 injective drug users were identified under the program who were detoxified in 2008. It was a piloting of home-based detoxification program.

Human Rights and Social Justice

Day Observation

ASSIST Bangladesh observed different significant days with due respect & following proper value through Rally, Seminar, Symposium, Discussion Meeting, Conference, Painting competition of children, cultural show, sports, debate competition by its own initiatives & sometimes with the cooperation of Bagerhat City Corporation, Directorate of Women Affairs, Directorate of Youth Development, Local Government, Local Administration, World Food Programme WFP, Gana Sakkhorota Ovizan CAMPE, RH Step, and different Local & National Organization where highly honorable body of Government, Non-Government, Local Elites, Journalist & peoples of all walk of life participated spontaneously to make the observing days values more significant in reporting year 2012 are following bellows:

Table – 4: Summary interventions during different national and international days in 2012

Date	Significance of the day	Number of participants	Major events/interventions/actions
21 February	International Mothers Language Day	128	Discussion, Rally
8 March	International Women's Day	425	Discussion, Rally, Quiz Competition and cultural session
7 April	World Health Day	324	Discussion meeting, rally, art competition, cultural events,
5 June	World Environment Day	705	Discussion meeting, rally, art competition.
12 June	World Day against Child Labor	210	Discussion meeting, rally, art competition, cultural events,
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit	641	Discussion meeting, rally,
11 July	World Population Day	215	Discussion meeting, rally,
12 August	International Youth Day	541	Discussion meeting, rally.

Date	Significance of the day	Number of participants	Major events/interventions/actions
24 August	National Day of prevention of Violence against Women	1,067	Discussion meeting, rally, art competition, cultural events & leaflet distribution
8 September	International Literacy Day	1,355	Discussion meeting, rally, art competition, quiz competition, courtyard meeting, debate to school to school.
14 October	International Disaster Risk Reduction Day	1,065	Discussion meeting, rally, art competition.
17 October	World Poverty Reduction Day	336	Discussion meeting, rally, courtyard meeting, press briefing, school mobilization,
1 December	World AIDS Day	320	Discussion meeting, rally, courtyard meeting,
	Total	7332	

Advocacy and Networking

Advocacy

ASSIST Bangladesh is actively contributing in policy and practice change towards achieving the international development goals like Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Education For All (EFA). It also actively engaged in advocacy initiative to realize the rights of different marginalized groups under different national and international commitments and treaties like compulsory primary education act, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, Salamanka Statement, CRC, and so on. ASSIST Bangladesh is also concern about the right to the people live in the slum, brothel and people affected by disaster like cyclone and flood. Major issues of advocacy included the followings:

- Right to Education
- Global Warming and Disaster Risks Reduction
- Implementation of Child Right Convention
- Sexual and reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)
- Reduction of early marriage and dowry
- Gender Mainstreaming
- Universal Human Rights

Networking and Media Linkage

To influence the policy and practice change and to ensure better service delivery, ASSIST Bangladesh maintains linkage and network with likeminded organization at home and abroad. Some of the interventions are long-term and some others are issue based. A list of network is as mentioned in Table – 06 below:

Table – 5: List of agencies and networks where ASSIST Bangladesh is member/partner

SL	Networks
01	Gono Sakhorata Avian (CAMPE)
02	National forum of organization working with the disable (NFOWD)
03	Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samnny Parisad (BMSP)

04	Disadvantage Adolescent Working NGOs (DAWN) Forum
05	Gender Water Alliance (GWA)
06	Adolescent development Forum
07	National coalition of local women's organization
08	Network of climate change in coastal belt of Bangladesh with Equity bd.org, NCCB, CFGN, GWA
09	Disaster forum in coastal area in Bangladesh (DFCAB)
10	International Water Forum & Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP)
11	National Youth Forum

Media coverage:

ASSIST Bangladesh is also value media campaign towards creating an informed society and to influence the policy makers through evidence and raising awareness of the general mass. The 2012 was eventful and many of the ASSIST Bangladesh interventions have been covered by both print media. As summary of coverage included the followings:

- **Print media:**

During the reporting year 2012, 'ASSIST Bangladesh' had great co-operation from the print media, local and national newspapers helped us to work for development by covering our various activities. Among the nationals 'Daily Prothom Alo', 'Daily Jugantar' and among local daily newspapers 'Daily Purbanchal', 'Daily Janmobhumi', 'Daily Proborton', 'Daily Probaho' 'Daily Anirban' covered our different programs several times.

Management and Organizational Sustainability

Organisational Governance

The Executive Board of ASSIST Bangladesh is made five times during the year 2011 to review the Organisational performance and provides with strategic guideline. The list of Board Members of ASSIST Bangladesh has been attached in Annexure – 1 of this Annual Report. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ASSIST Bangladesh was held on 31 January 2012. The AGM approved the work carried out in 2011 along with the audited financial report. They have also appointed M/s. Ahmed Zaker & Co. Chartered Accountants as statutory auditor for the year ending on 30 June 2012. There was one yearly meeting and an Annual General Meeting took place in 2012 as listed in Table - 06 below:

Table – 6: List of Meeting for Organisational Governance and Operations Management

Name of Meeting	Date	Venue	Number of Participants	
			Total	Female
Annual General Meeting	31 Jan 2012	ASSIST Bangladesh Conf. Room	21 persons	05 persons
Board Meetings- 01	5 Jan 2012	ASSIST Bangladesh Conf. Room	07 persons	04 person
Board Meetings- 02	31 March 12	ASSIST Bangladesh Conf. Room	07 persons	04 person
Board Meetings- 03	20 May 12	ASSIST Bangladesh Conf. Room	07 persons	04 person
Board Meetings- 04	31 July 12	ASSIST Bangladesh Conf. Room	07 persons	04 person
Board Meetings- 05	30 Sept 12	ASSIST Bangladesh Conf. Room	07 persons	04 person

Name of Meeting	Date	Venue	Number of Participants	
			Total	Female
Board Meetings- 06	25 December 12	ASSIST Bangladesh Conf. Room	07 persons	04 person

Capacity building

ASSIST Bangladesh believes in developing human capability. Most of the cases ASSIST Bangladesh recruited fresh graduates, except the position requires specific expertise, and arranged induction and other capacity building initiative before deployment to the field. A total 35 persons have participated in in-house capacity development intervention

List of Board Members

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
01	Masuma Khatun	Chairman
02	Shabnaz sultana	Vice Chairman
03	SK.Abdullah Lahul	General Secretary
04	Puspak Sarkar	Joint-Secretary
05	Pabitra Biswas	Finance Secretary
06	Md.Ferdaus Hossain	Executive Member
07	Mojeda Begum	Executive Member

Audit Report 2013

SARWAR SALAMAT & CO.
Chartered Accountants

ASSISTANCE SOCIETY'S SUCCESS IMPROVEMENT & SALVATION TRUSTEE (ASSIST)
VIP ROAD, BAGERHAT.

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 2013.

FUND AND LIABILITIES:	NOTE NO	AMOUNT
FUND ACCOUNT	1.00	1,367,232.38
LOAN ACCOUNT	2.00	420,500.00
TOTAL TAKA		1,787,732.38
PROPERTY AND ASSETS:		
FIXED ASSETS	3.00	966,886.38
LOAN ACCOUNT	4.00	390,000.00
CLOSING STOCK	5.00	51,200.18
CASH AND BANK BALANCE	6.00	379,645.82
TOTAL TAKA		1,787,732.38

Signed in terms of our report of even date annexed.


SARWAR SALAMAT & CO.
Chartered Accountants



19 NOV 2013

SARWAR SALAMAT & CO.
Chartered Accountants

ASSISTANCE SOCIETY'S SUCCESS IMPROVEMENT & SALVATION TRUSTEE (ASSIST)
VIP ROAD,BAGERHAT.

NOTES ON COMBINED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 30TH JUNE,2013.

NOTE NO	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1.00	FUND ACCOUNT: TK.1,367,232.38	
	General and Others Program	817,387.00
	Fishery Program	105,800.00
	Water & Sanitation Program	26,050.00
	Disable Development Program	2,850.00
	STD/HIV AIDS Prevention Program	2,780.00
	Disaster Management Program	7,850.00
	Primary Health Care Program	14,860.00
	Agriculture Project	83,705.00
	Handicrafts Project	305,950.38
	TOTAL TAKA	1,367,232.38
2.00	LOAN ACCOUNT:Tk.4,20,500.00	
	General and Others Program	40,000.00
	Fishery Program	350,000.00
	Agriculture	30,500.00
	TOTAL TAKA	420,500.00
3.00	ASSETS:Tk. 9,66,886.38	
	General and Others Program	805,097.00
	Handicrafts Project	161,789.38
	TOTAL TAKA	966,886.38
4.00	LOAN ACCOUNT:Tk.3,90,000.00	
	General and Others Program	30,000.00
	Fisheries Program	335,000.00
	Agriculture	25,000.00
	TOTAL TAKA	390,000.00
5.00	CLOSING STOCK : Tk.51,200.18	
	Handicrafts Project	51,200.18
	TOTAL TAKA	51,200.18
6.00	CASH AND BANK BALANCE:Tk.3,79,645.82	
	General and Others Program	22,290.00
	Fishery Program	120,800.00
	Water & Sanitation Program	26,050.00
	Disable Development Program	2,850.00
	STD/HIV AIDS Prevention Program	2,780.00
	Disaster Management Program	7,850.00
	Primary Health Care Program	14,860.00
	Agriculture	89,205.00
	Handicrafts Project	92,960.82
	TOTAL TAKA	379,645.82

