

A young child with dark hair and a slight smile is the central focus, wearing a vibrant yellow shirt with a colorful paisley and polka-dot pattern. The child is positioned in front of a traditional structure with a thick, layered thatched roof made of dried palm leaves or similar natural materials. The background shows more of the structure and some greenery in the distance. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting daylight.

BANGLADESH

Towards Community RESILIENCE



Towards Community
RESILIENCE

Foreword



In 2015 Muslim Aid-UK Bangladesh Field office (MABFO) launched “Build Safer and Resilient Community against Earthquake and Waterlog vulnerability in Bangladesh” in Satkhira and Dhaka districts funded by Al Asmakh Charity foundation and Muslim Aid Headquarter.

Muslim Aid has wider presence in Satkhira district since the cyclone Aila in 2009 through its various operations in the community including shelter, food security, livelihood recovery, WASH and education, emergency relief, recovery and resilience project; with the support from European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), UMCOR, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO, Al Asmakh Charity Foundation, etc.

From May 2015 to December 2016, Muslim Aid supported a total of 14,447 beneficiaries including 1,100 waterlog affected households combined with cash grants and training for resilience livelihood options and homestead gardening for creating employment opportunity, as well as cash flow in the local market to ensure food security of the poor and marginalized households.

The project also assisted 20 schools with school safety plan, contingency plan, training (Jointly with Fire Service and Civil Defense), first aid, search and rescue kits, fire and earthquake simulation, IEC materials (Poster, Billboard and Comic Book) and

school infrastructure (Building and sanitary latrine). Moreover, the project successfully worked with key stakeholders, particularly local government agencies, i.e., Union and Upazila Disaster Management Committees in order to strengthen joint preparedness and response capabilities to natural disasters and climate change adaptation.


We must thank to donor of the project: The Al Asmakh Charity Foundation and to Muslim Aid UK for their generosity.

We also very much grateful to the local community as well as to the District and Upazila administrations and Union Parishads for their close cooperation during implementation of this project. Without their active support, our efforts would have been less successful.

On behalf of the project team, I am delighted to present this photo book to give a comprehensive view of this programme and show how they transform capacity and resilience to the vulnerable community of the targeted location in Bangladesh.

Khairul Hafiz
Country Director
Bangladesh Field Offices



-  Water logging is a slow onset disaster and it has long run impacts to the affected communities. Satkhira district of southwest Bangladesh have been experiencing water-logging since the early 1980s. It was found that water logging delayed cropping activities, increased costs of agricultural production and significantly reduced women's mobility and household-based income generating activities in the area. The water logging influenced local people to migrate to other localities for living and /or livelihoods, or forced to survive with stagnant polluted water and poor sanitation condition.



“We decided to culture fish jointly and developed our own business plan with cash grant in the pond attached to our courtyard. We are maintaining register book on a regular basis and it helps us understand and continuous follow up of our income, expenditure and profit.”

Usha Sarder (35) and Sabita Mandal (32),
Islamkathi Union, Tala, Satkhira.



"I know it was a little short but it did enable me to meet the community, gain a great understanding of what climate change means for them and also see the great work that Muslim Aid is doing"

Ms Judith F. Greenwood, Executive Director,
CHS Alliance, February 2016.



"Now my husband needs not to go for fishing to the deep sea leaving me alone at home. With the support of the project I have started betel leaf cultivation where we both can work. The production seems good and we are expecting for a good profit at the end".

Lilima Biswas (33),
Kumira union, Tala, Sathkira.



"It's good feeling to me when I take care of family with my own income what I never thought of. It's my own skill to produce something that will never end but without the project's donation and encouragement it was not possible to use my skills."

Taramoni Mandal (38),
Islamkathi Union, Tala, Satkhira.



"I established multistoried garden at my homestead and I can make fishing net under the trees. I sell it to the market and I get cash in my hands. It gives me enough courage and confidence to start another business. I have a plan to start a duck farm in the next what I think more profitable."

Anna Rani Biswas (45),
Kumira Union, Tala, Satkhira.



"My life is much better than before with multiple efforts of income generation. I have started repaying the loan to Mohajon. By this time I achieved more skills from the project office and based on what I want to expand my business in coming days without taking any loan".

Kajol Biswas (32),
Kumira Union, Tala, Satkhira



"I have received training and cash grants from the project office for goat rearing and vegetable gardening. I have learnt how to manage multiple work at a time. Now I am confident to work hard and contribute to my family financially".

Salma Khatun (46),
Kumira Union, Tala, Satkhira



"I am very proud to be a member of the project because as a man of minority community I never thought of being selected by Muslim Aid. I received knowledge, information and skills from there based on what initially I started homestead gardening in a small scale. I get much support from my wife and gradually it has been developed as a commercial garden. We are expecting double production of beans and turmeric in this year".

Laxmikanto Rai (54),
Khalilnagar Union, Tala, Satkhira.



"From the training sessions I learnt about relay cropping, then I started growing bottle gourd, spinach, pumpkin, tomato, cabbage and other seasonal vegetables in my homestead. Primarily it was for family consumption, but now it is for income generation".

Jhorna Begum (32),
Khalilnagar Union, Tala, Satkhira.



With the help of the project Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) conducted Community Risk Assessment (CRA). Based on the findings from CRA Union Parishad has prepared a detailed layout of Risk Reduction Adaptation Plan (RRAP) which has described a range of activities, specific roles and responsibilities, approximate cost, priorities and possible ways of implementation to mitigate or reduce the risks of disaster. The project supported for implementing ten RRAP schemes including Reconstruction of School Building, School Toilets and Ferry Boat at the targeted schools in the project Area.

Balarampur Primary School Magura Union of Tala Upazila



“I have been in-charge of the school since 2001. We can't imagine that we would get a new building. They supported us with TLC (Temporary Learning Center) till we shifted to new building. My children are so happy to see their new school building. Attendance rate has been increasing day by day. The project will be end but we will never forget the great contribution of Al Asmakh Charity Foundation and Muslim Aid in our area”.

Firoza Khatun (45),
Head Teacher, Balarampur Primary School,
Magura Union, Tala, Satkhira.



"It was shameful for us to study in the open air, but now we are in a new school room. We sit together on benches and become very happy, our parents are happy".

Biplob Das (11), Grade V.

"Earlier in rainy days and in foggy winter there was almost zero attendance. There were a lot of disturbances with noise of traffic movement in the nearby road and also there were grazing animals around. Now we feel we are safe as if we are at home."

Ety Das (10) Grade V.
Barat Monoharpur Primary School,
Islamkati Union, Tala, Sathkira.




"It was very much scary to ride on a very old and small boat. Now we feel safer than before to cross the river with a new boat what we have received from Muslim Aid and AI Asmakh Charity Foundation."

Ferry Boat Support for School Children
Kumira Union, Tala, Satkhira.



Developed School Safety Plan and Contingency Plans for at 4 schools in Dhaka City Corporation (Mirpur and Mohammadpur) and 16 schools in Tala Upazila of Satkhira district in participation of the students, teachers and School management committees (SMCs). Every plan is focused on earthquake and water log vulnerabilities. Hopefully it will build their capacity to maintain more safety, and security at schools and communities.



 Muslim Aid handed over sets of Search & Rescue items including Fire Extinguisher, Stretcher, First Aid Box, etc. to 16 Schools of Tala Upazila, 4 Union Parishad, Police Station, Upazila and District Administrations. "Muslim Aid's contribution will play very important role in the communities of Satkhira in managing disasters if any."

Abul Kashem Md. Mahiuddin,
 Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira district.



“Urban Volunteer Groups” have been developed in participation of the students of selected schools. The selected volunteers have been received training on first aid, search and rescue with the facilitation of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense. The schools also received necessary tools and equipment from the project for its emergency use.

- Rajdhani High School, Dhaka (Picture left).
- Mohammadpur Commercial Institute Govt. High School, Dhaka. (Picture up).



Earthquake and Fire Fighting Simulation at Schools in Dhaka jointly organized with Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense.

Teachers, students and SMC members are agreed to continue the Earthquake & Fire Fighting Simulation regularly and conduct at least 2 simulations in a year.

Mohammadpur Commercial Institute
Govt. High School, Dhaka.



With the project's support the communities established 4 Temporary Learning Centers in 2015 and 2016 to continue academic lessons during water log situation at monsoon in Satkhira.

Rari para Govt. Primary School,
Kumira, Tala, Satkhira



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