

ANNUAL REPORT | 2019-2020



An Organization for Socio-Economic
Development-AOSED

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Report Development Team:

Md. Salah Uddin

Monitoring and Documentation Officer

Himadree Shekhar Mondal

Team Leader, Climate Change &

Disaster Management Cell

Editor's Panel:

Shamim Arfeen

Md. Jalal Uddin

Data Compilation and Analysis:

Md. Salah Uddin

Photo:

Sumon Biswas

Md. Salah Uddin

Himadree Shekhar Mondal

Cover Design:

Sumon Biswas

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CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
AFFIRMATION	3
MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	4
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF AOSED	5
ABOUT AOSED	6
HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE SUPPORT PROVIDED IN 2019-2020	11
IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS	12
Adaptive Livelihood Towards Establishing Resilient Communities (ALTER) Project	12
GENERAL INFORMATION	12
PROJECT BACKGROUND	12
DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARIES.....	12
KEY PROBLEMS ADDRESSED UNDER THE PROJECT	13
PROJECT OBJECTIVE.....	13
INDICATORS	13
COMPONENT-WISE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	14
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS	20
LESSON LEARNED	20
Arsenic-free Safe Drinking Water for Schools and Hospitals in Climate vulnerable Khulna areas	21
GENERAL INFORMATION	21
PROJECT BACKGROUND	21
DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARIES.....	22
OBJECTIVE	22
OUTCOME BASED INDICATORS.....	22
BEST PARCTICE ON PARTICIPATORY WATER POINT MANAGEMENT IN RADHAKANTPUR, MEHERPUR	23
KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT	24
COVID-19 Pandemic Response.....	27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AOSED is thankful to all stakeholders, children, youth, change agents, citizen forums, and all the beneficiaries for their supportive involvement in this development journey as a faithful friend. For their contribution, AOSED has effectively implemented almost all planned activities.

AOSED's sincere gratitude goes to the Government Administration, the LGIs and NGO Affairs Bureau for their supportive, collaborative and advisory roles to make the intended change in the field.

This is the time to recognize the dedicated service and strong teamwork of all the staffs of AOSED to achieve the program outcome as well as to support for completing this report.

Finally, AOSED would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge with grateful thanks to the donor agencies to ensure resource and technical support on time.

Thanks and Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shamim Arfeen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shamim Arfeen
Executive Director

AFFIRMATION

The data and information described in this annual report consists of our own work except as acknowledged by the references herein to other authors and publications.

The data and information that are used here are reliable and authentic. Primary quantitative and qualitative data collected throughout the regular monitoring and reporting process remain the property of the communities and families described in this document and it is used with their concern.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am happy to forward you the annual report of AOSED from 2019-2020. This has been one more year for AOSED with the vision to develop a just society which fosters harmony with the larger community, culture and nature. This is good to moving forward with experiencing many new challenges on the structured pathway. My heartfelt gratitude to all the staffs of AOSED to make the path easy with their dedicated and committed services. Currently, AOSED serve an estimated total of 200,000 people under five thematic working area consisting with i) Water Justice, ii) Food Security and Agriculture, iii) Sanitation and Hygiene, iv) Environment and Climate Change and v) Disaster Management.



AOSED has been shaped as multi-facet development organization that could successfully facilitated diversified development issues at local and national level. This report reflects the overall scenario for the period of June 2019-June 2020.

AOSED believes people should be center of all development works and decision-making processes. So, I declare my endless gratuities to grassroots people who have trusted AOSED and allowed us working with them. Furthermore, AOSED like to recognize the cooperation of Government Departments and local government units in without which is not be possible to mark another successful year of performance. I also recognize all our development partners, both in country and abroad who have been connected with us in our journey towards sustainable development of Bangladesh.

I would also acknowledge the active participation of our General Body and Executive Committee Members who are an integral part in organizational policy making and governance of the organization. I am thankful to them for attending all schedule meeting and any emergency meeting ignoring their obligations. Finally, I appreciate the efforts of the team responsible who took pains to organize information and develop the report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shamim Arfeen', followed by a small horizontal line.

Shamim Arfeen
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF AOSED

Rafiqul Islam Khokan

Chairman

Development Activist

Executive Director, RUPANTAR

Shamim Arfeen

General Secretary

Nurul Imam Khan

Treasurer

Officer, Social Islami Bank Limited

Sheikh Abdul Halim Mia

Executive Member

Freelance Development Activist

Prof. Delwara Begum

Executive Member

Principal, Hazi Malak college, Khulna

Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta

Executive Member

Professor, Environment Science Discipline, Khulna University

Mrs. Rejina Akhter

Executive Member

Associate Professor, Ahsanullah College, Khulna.

ABOUT AOSED

The Southwest Coastal Region of Bangladesh is a part of the Ganges flood plain, geographical location has given it a brackish water regime. It contains a highly productive mangrove ecosystem Sundarbans, unique type of biodiversity and most of the areas are tidal wetlands. Human civilization and culture of the region has developed throughout the centuries by optimum utilization of natural resources and addressing natural disasters. The unsolicited human interventions and adverse impact of climate change kept a negative impact on the environment, ecology and biodiversity in this region that are creating vulnerabilities to human lives and livelihoods, resulting in increased poverty gradually.

In this context, a group of young energetic and socially committed and enthusiastic are formed 'AOSED-An Organization for Socio-Economic Development' in 1999 to work together for conserving environment, ecology, biodiversity and addressing challenges of climate change to improve the standard of lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities.

Since the journey, AOSED addressing Water Justice, Food security and agriculture, Environment conservation and Climate Change, Health & Hygiene, Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency response issues through implementing different projects, programs and social action research with the cooperation of various level of national, international development agencies and research and educational institutions. Though, at the initial stage the organization only concentrated its focus on the southwest coastal region, the organization has expanded its activities in entire coastal belt including Cox's Bazaar in Rohingya issue.

EXPERIENCES AND EXPERTISE

AOSED working at the climate vulnerable southwest Bangladesh which is the poverty pocket of the country. Organization is addressing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), safe water rights, provide drinking supply facilities and proper health hygiene practices, community based mangrove eco-system (Sundarbans) conservation and management, disaster preparedness and ICT based early warning response mechanism, local level adaptation and mitigation considering adverse impact of climate change, eco- friendly agriculture extension for increasing agro production to ensure food security through social mobilization, skill and capacity development, participatory research and technology transfer, service delivery, local resource mobilization, media and awareness campaign and advocacy. AOSED constantly consider vulnerable communities, human rights especially women and children, socio-economic-political and ecological changing context.

Besides, enhanced capability of organization and achieve significant experiences and expertise through implementing various approaches projects and programs. These are; grassroots organization development, educational materials development, strategy of effective awareness and media campaign, develop training modules and guideline to conduct trainings, strengthen community-based management and maintenance mechanism, local resources mobilization, local knowledge and information management, participatory action research, technology transfer considering ICT and renewable energy, policy review, implementation and recommendation.

AOSED organizes side events in collaboration with like-minded international organizations in COP. AOSED has the observer member status of **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. The organization has organized the Coastal Water Convention in Khulna with collaboration of national, international organizations. AOSED is also member of various issue-based national and international networks such as Butterfly Effect Network, Climate Action Network (CAN), Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs), Freshwater Action Network (FAN), End Water Poverty, Asia Pacific Water Forum-APWF, Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC).

AOSED has established a southwestern knowledge platform on climate resilient development shortly known as HORIZON which acts as a platform for accumulating, sharing and practicing knowledge on climate change.

VISION

Develop a just, prosperous and environment-friendly society in which there will be no discrimination on the basis of race, caste, creed, gender or occupation.

MISSION

Conserve environment, ecology and biodiversity, ensure people's rights of access to natural resource towards alleviation of poverty, upholding human rights and democratic governance.

OBJECTIVES

- Conservation of environment, ecology and biodiversity to address the challenge of climate change related vulnerabilities to improve people's livelihood
- Extension of Eco-friendly and diversified agriculture to ensure food security
- Uphold peoples' rights to common property resources
- Ensure peoples' access to safe water and sanitation
- Develop resilience community considering natural calamities
- Upholding human rights especially children's and woman's rights, and democratic governance
- Human Resource development.

VALUES AND CULTURE

We will strive to practice the following values within AOSED and to promote them outside:

1. Acknowledgement and respect for fundamental human rights
2. All people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, color, caste and class, are given equal respect and value.
3. To promote and implement democratic participation values at all levels
4. Compliance with culture and tradition
5. Promoting fair ties between men and women, respectful and sensitive
6. Special treatment for infants, the elderly and people with physical disabilities
7. Respect for nature and bio-diversity
8. Downwards accountability and openness

LEGAL STATUS

NGO Affairs Bureau 1978 Act

- Registration Date : 27.05.2017 (Renewed on)
- Registration Number : 2235
- Registration Authority : NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

AOSED's management is vested on the General Body of the organization comprising of 21 members who provide day to day working authority to an Executive Committee of 7 members that is comprised of people from all sectors of profession.

Role of General Body: Based on the Constitution they Nominate and select the Executive members for every Three years. Besides this they also approve varieties policies have been provided by them. Visit project area, Participate in Annual Staff Conference, Approval on annual budget, annual audit report and annual report. They attend all general meetings and Annual General meeting and approve all the activities, if deemed satisfactory for the organization.

Role of Executive Body: Based on the Constitution Preparing Budget & plan, Nomination of sub Committees, fixation of Salary, Creating Varieties Salaried positions, Executives appointment,

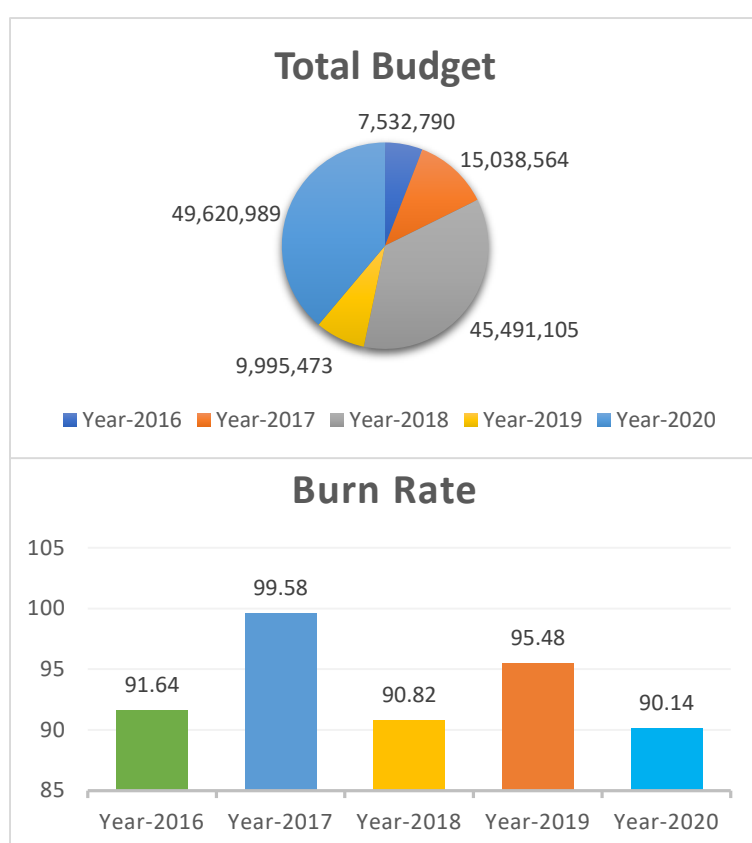
promotion etc. activities are conducted by the Executive Body. Moreover, they remain responsible for the effective management of all projects conducted by the organization. The Executive Committee holds meetings as and when required including any emergency meeting.

STAFF INFORMATION

Type of Staff	Total	Male	Female
Regular	20	16	04

AOSED has a team of 100 Volunteers (42% female) for addressing different issues like emergency disaster, health, Wash and implementing different issue-based campaign activity.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF THE ORGANIZATION



For more than 19 years AOSED has been managing funds and gained sufficient experience with project funds over time. The current 2019-2020 budget is approximately BDT 49,620,989.

AUDIT AND REPORTING

AOSED has two auditing system, Internal and External. The internal audit is conducted by a team of 2/3 internal auditors with related professional skill. They directly report to the Executive Directors. They visit and prepare half-yearly audit report for each and every project. The external audit is conducted by AOSED's Audit Committee headed by the Executive Director approved by the Executive Committee. AOSED has enlistment of Audit firms who are the top ten (10) firms of the country and are affiliated internationally and NGO Affairs Bureau. Copies of audit

reports are sent accordingly to the Executive Committee, donors and NGO Affairs Bureau for their necessary use and action.

LIST OF POLICY/GUIDELINE/MANUAL

Name of the policy document	Purpose	Prepared/Last Updated
Financial Manual	Financial Management Controlling System	November 2019 (Last Updated)
Personnel Management Policy	Controlling the organization's human resource management system	November 2019 (Prepared)

Policy on Conflict of Interest	For maintaining fair bidding procedure in recruitment and procurement	2015 (Last Updated)
Anti-Fraud Policy Guideline	Project Fund Transparency and Accountability	2015 (Prepared)
Child Protection Policy	Ensuring child rights and protection activities	November 2019 (Last Updated)
Procurement policy	Ensure that all procurement requirements are planned for at the required time.	November 2019 (Last Updated)
Gender Development Guideline	Ensuring the gender quality	2011 (Prepared)

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Division	District	Upazila	No. of unions
Khulna	Khulna	Khulna City Corporation, Dacope, Rupsa, Dumuria, Paikgachha, Koyra	15
	Meherpur	Meherpur Sadar, Gangni	04
Barisal	Pirojpur	Pirojpur Sadar, Indurkani	02
Chittagong	Cox's Bazaar	Ukhiya	01

CONTACT PERSON AND ADDRESS

Shamim Arfeen, Executive Director

Email: aosed_khulna@yahoo.com, info@aosed.org

HEAD OFFICE

334, Sher-A-Bangla Road (1st Floor)

Khulna-9100

Phone: +880244110711

Email: aosed_khulna@yahoo.com, info@aosed.org

Website: www.aosed.org

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

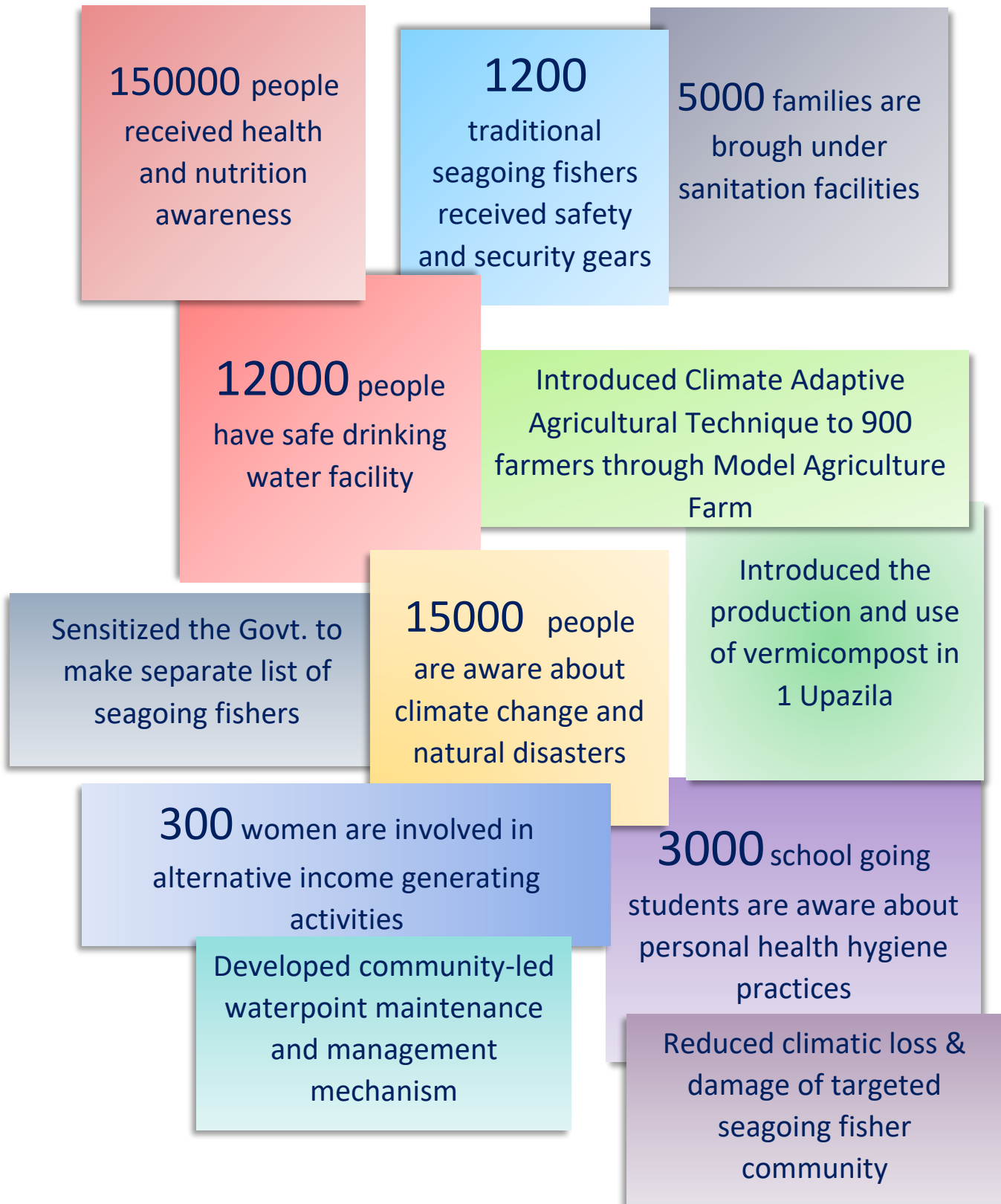
Over the years, AOSED has been implementing a number of development programs funded by the Government of Bangladesh and different development partners. The major development partners supported AOSED to stride towards achieving its vision and mission.



NETWORK AND COLLABORATION



HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE SUPPORT PROVIDED IN 2019-2020



IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

Adaptive Livelihood Towards Establishing Resilient Communities (ALTER) Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

Funded by	Bread for the World, Germany
Project budget	
Project duration	April 01, 2018 - continued
Project area	Mahmudkati, Ramnathpur, Noakati, and Hitampur villages of Paikgachha upazila, Khulna
Project staff	Total: 11 (Male 08, Female 03)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

ALTER project is being implemented in Ramnathpur, Mahmudkati, and Noakati village of Haridhali Union and Hitampur village of Godaipur Union of Paikgachha Upazila of Khulna District situated in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh which is one of the most climate vulnerable areas in the world and poverty pocket of the country. The majority (about 87%) of the inhabitants of the project area are Hindu, including lower cast 'Malo' and 'Nikari' community considered as 'Dalit'. Along with them, there are agriculture dependent communities named 'Das'. This area is within the Impact Zone of Sundarbans Mangrove forest and have a tidal wetland ecosystem. Main options of livelihood; Agriculture, fishing, small trade, rickshaw pulling, boat transport, working in the commercial shrimp farm, small business, transport and communication, service, construction, religious service, rent, remittance and others. ICZMP (2005) reported 19 coastal Upazilas of Bangladesh are most vulnerable in which Khulna has 3 Upazilas namely Paikgachha, Koyra and Dacope. Paikgachha is one of the most vulnerable sea facing Upazilas of this region due to adverse impact of climate change and salinity.

DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARIES

In Paikgachha Upazila, there are around 1600 households of seagoing fishers who are extreme marginalized occupational groups who are commonly known as 'Malo' and 'Nikari'. They belong to the lower rank 'Dalit' class in social hierarchy. The 'Malo' people are religiously follower of Hinduism while the 'Nikari' are Muslim among the fisher community. These fishers are taking their life risks for fishing in the cyclone exposed Bay of Bengal to contribute in the food security and national GDP for many generations. Despite this, they are deprived from the mainstream of development.

Historically, the "Das" community of Paikgachha is involved in production of diversified agriculture. The local agriculture as well as the crop production has been adversely impacted due to the disruption on ecological balance, increased salinity in land and water, river bank erosion. As a result, their agro dependent livelihood options economically becoming more vulnerable and leads them to poverty.

The average per capita income of 'Malo' is around BDT 65 and 'Das' is around BDT 85 in the project area. The overall socio-economic condition of the villages of Haridhali and Godaipur union can be described multi-dimensionally by poverty, which restricts them from leading a minimum standard of living and the basic necessities of life. On the other hand, there are limited availability of alternative income generating options for the women due to lack of access to resources, which make them even poorer. The visible results of poverty in the area are malnutrition, ill health, poor housing condition and illiteracy.

KEY PROBLEMS ADDRESSED UNDER THE PROJECT

Paikgachha Upazila is situated in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh which is naturally vulnerable due to the effect of climate change. In the last two decades, the rate of cyclones and sea depressions increased which creates severe risks for the seagoing traditional fishermen during their fishing in the sea. While tidal surge and river bank erosion is other two major threats for their households in the village. Usually the fisher groups of Paikgachha (including SW coastal region) blindly start their trip to the bay and faces sea depression after a few days of travel. Then they have only two options: (a) Coming back to community without any fish and face selling of properties (land or any) to repay the loan they had taken before the trip or (b) Taking risk of sinking and losing boats, assets and even lives.

The seagoing traditional fishers lack knowledge on disaster preparedness, risk reduction techniques, safety and security management system. Besides, they haven't use of safety and security materials and instrument like lifebuoys, life jackets, signal lights, compass, and first-aid boxes etc. On the other hand, there are very few alternative livelihood sources during the lean period.

The fishers of 'Malo' and 'Nikari' community are inherently being neglected for their ethnic background and always have been excluded from social safety and services because most of the time, they are treated unequal. Most of them have to take loans from the local 'Mahajons' (moneylenders) which makes them bound to go fishing by risking their lives and assets because if they could not manage to repay the loan, the consequence will be severe. For this reason, they cannot make profit from their catches as they are bound to sell their fishes in local markets which are controlled by 'Mahajons'. Passively, they are being coerced to live in this condition as they are not under any kind of insurance and bank loan coverage because they do not fulfil the minimum requirement of the bank and insurance facilities.

Reduce fresh water resource, river bank erosion, water logging, increasing intensity of salinity in soil and water, inappropriate land use, degradation of ecological balance, rapid population growth and adverse impact of climate change causing reduce agro-production and damages of crops, vegetables, fruits and cash-crops. The fertility of the soil is decreasing for uncontrolled use of chemical fertilizer. The homestead vegetation of the farmers HHs has significantly reduced from last decades resulting gradual decreasing of their income range which make them even poorer. These beneficiaries have slowly fallen in the vicious circle of poverty as they take loans from various NGOs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Resilience of the target climate vulnerable fisher and farmer communities of Ramnathpur, Mahmudkathi, Noakati and Hitampur villages is strengthened.

INDICATORS

1. By the end of the project, 80% of the targeted fishers able to fish during sea depression Cautionary Signal no. 3.
2. By the end of the project, 40% of the targeted farmers community capable to produce diversified crops confronting adverse climatic condition.
3. By the end of the project period, health hygiene condition improved of 45% of targeted communities.

COMPONENT-WISE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Skills and Capacity Development: In order to increase the skills and capacity of the target population of the project, sharing meetings, consultation meetings, workshops and issue-based trainings are held at different levels. In order to implement the project activities smoothly and to achieve the objectives of the project, thematic training will be conducted for the project staff.

The project covers Fishers training on Local level strategy of reducing climate induced loss and Damage, Mockdrill on Emergency Response, Thematic courtyard meetings, Leadership Development Training, Community-based Disaster



Preparedness, Farmers Training on Local Level Cropping strategy and Organic Farming, Market Linkage Orientation for small business groups, have been conducted. As the southwestern part of Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable areas in the world due to climate change and the project will be implemented to improve the living standards of the people in the region, AOSED participates in environment and climate related advanced training/seminars/workshops/policy meetings on adaptation, mitigation and relief.



Climate Adaptive Agriculture Development: Under the project AOSED Household-based seeds and



fertilizers distribution to increase agricultural production through trained farmers. In addition, seeds of indigenous climate tolerant varieties, solar powered irrigation technology, production of organic manure (vermicompost) at family level, model agriculture farm for demonstrating the climate adaptive cultivation technique to farmers, seed production and preservation techniques, homestead vegetation support, crop calendar publication are included.



Women Development and Alternative Employment:

In order to empower women and generate income generating alternative employment, women entrepreneurial groups will be assisted in fishnet weaving, making shopping bags, and producing puffed rice in indigeneous way, homestead vegetable production and marketing of their products for profitable return.





Disaster Preparedness and reducing loss and damage of seagoing traditional fishers:

Various types of safety equipment and tools (life jackets, life buoys, compasses, torch lights) and mobile phones have been provided to the ocean fishermen for disaster preparedness and mitigation. Regular and live communication has been established through the Central Monitoring Hub, providing advice on taking

shelter in safe places by providing weather forecasts to fishing boats at sea through Vessel Tracking Systems. Initiatives will also be taken to set up sea depression and cyclone tolerant tents in Dublar Char / Alorkol area for the fishermen to spend the night safely during the fishing season.





WASH Support: Under the project, household-based offset pit latrines have been installed. Selected families are provided with Rainwater Harvesting and Community-based Reverse Osmosis Technology Water Purification Plant (with a capacity of 8000 liters per day) has set up.





Local level advocacy:

Sharing meeting at various levels for the development of effective relations of fishermen and farmers under the project with government officials and stakeholders at the upazila level; Round table meeting; Lobby meetings with policy makers and implementers at local, divisional and national level, social media campaigns, media

coverage of livelihoods of people in the project area in newspapers and on television, organizing Climate and Water Conference highlighting water and environmental issues in the southwest coastal region (Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat) by collaborating with government, non-governmental organizations, research and educational institutes, letter campaign will be organized. In addition, sharing meeting will be held with banks and insurance companies to ensure easy access to bank loans and insurance facilities for sea-going fishermen.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

AOSED implemented pilot phase of 'ALTER' Project towards the goal to contribute in developing effective climate resilient communities' specially marginalized farmers and traditional seagoing fisher communities of Ramnathpur and Mahmudkati villages of Paikgachha Upazila. Standing at the end of the pilot phase, AOSED have been able to earn the following achievement so far.

- There has been significantly reduced loss and damage of assets and lives of fishers during the last two sea fishing seasons in the Bay of Bengal within the project period.
- Increased income of the traditional fishers by 18% comparing to their previous 5 fishing seasons.
- Through capacity development initiative, the beneficiaries have got primary knowledge and information about the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Through homestead vegetation, female members of the farmer communities have contributed a monthly amount of BDT 1200 on an average to their family income.
- The saline tolerant rice variety BRRI-67 has been able to sustain in adverse weather condition of 2018 Rabi Season and the farmers have got 600kg/acre more compare to previous season.
- The cultivation of new varieties of fruits and vegetables in the model agricultural farm have been proved as feasible and profitable in the saline prone area.
- A sustainable community-driven management and maintenance system has been developed for drinking water in Mahmudkati village
- The safe drinking water scarcity of 70% of the total population including the targeted beneficiaries of Mahmudkati village have been reduced.
- Through the experimental solar-based irrigation facility in around 7 acres of agro-lands, the expenditure of the farmers for irrigation purpose has been reduced by BDT 6000/acre
- The use of organic fertilizer in agro-lands of project area has significantly been increased.
- Around 7% of total targeted households are now getting hygienic sanitation facilities.

LESSON LEARNED

- In this phase, Mobile Phone has been distributed to 37 Seagoing fishing boat owners but live communication facilities with AOSED Head office was unavailable in this phase. So that, 24X7 live communication facilities are necessary to establish with AOSED office for strengthening fisher's safety security during fishing time. Moreover, Vessel Tracking System (VTS) will also very helpful for tracking them during fishing time and send them early warning during emergency situation.
- The fishnet weaving groups are need to be reformed by 5-6 women members for making more profitable income for each group member. In addition, the primary budget for each group also need to increase in future.
- The traditional husking group couldn't possible to be formed due to lack of interested women as they thought this profession as hard working and risk of health.
- The agriculture fields under the coverage of Solar Based irrigation pump need uninterrupted water supply facilities even in the night. For this, alternative power supply is essential for solar based irrigation pump.
- The recommended design of Biofil toilet appeared to be less user friendly due to excessive heat inside the toilet for CI sheet roof and fence. In case of installing Biofil toilet in Paikgachha region, the materials for roof and fence which will keep the inside of the toilet cool need to be used.
- Particularly the learning-by-doing method was much appreciated by the beneficiaries. They learned the practical skills and were therefore confident in applying these. The practical demonstrations in the model agricultural farm were a major factor for the participant's motivation to adopt the technologies.

Arsenic-free Safe Drinking Water for Schools and Hospitals in Climate vulnerable Khulna areas

GENERAL INFORMATION

Funded by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project budget	
Project duration	March 2017 – December 2019
Project area	4 Upazilas from Khulna, Meherpur and Pirojpur District

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world due to its geographical location and natural calamities. According to the estimate of Asian development bank (ADB) in April 2016, out of total 15790 million people of Bangladesh 31.5% lives below national poverty line. The available of safe drinking water, particularly in Bangladesh's hard to reach areas, is expected to worsen as the country experiences the effects of climate change.

According to study by the world bank's water and sanitation program, about 28 million Bangladesh or just over 20% of the population, are living in harsh conditions in the "hard-to-reach" that make up a quarter of the country's landmass. People living in hard-to-reach areas are often vulnerable to natural calamities like flooding, riverbank erosion. As a result of climate change, salinity in Bangladesh's coastal areas has increased a great deal, causing a lack of sweet water. Woman in costal and hoar areas has now reached over 20 parts per thousand, but the human body can only tolerate five parts per thousand.

The southwestern coastal region (Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat district) has been identified as the most climate induced, hazard-prone, hard-to-reach area of Bangladesh which is facing extreme difficult in accessing safe drinking water. The ground water of these areas in unsuitable for human consumption due to high salinity, where in place neither ground nor surface water is saline-free.

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with more than 1000 people per square kilometer. Three quarters of the population live in rural areas, where running water and sanitary latrines are often considered luxury item. Access to save drinking water is limited due to wide-spread arsenic contaminated in millions of privately installed tube-well.

Some schools do not have latrines available for student to use. Those that do often lack the resource and awareness to keep them clean. Menstrual hygiene is problem for many adolescent girl and woman, who lack the privacy to properly wash and dry menstrual rags. In some rural areas, superstition and tradition means that rags are dried in the dark, away from meal view. Hygiene awareness and knowledge of the links between poor hygiene and disease are lowest among the typically poorly-educated slum dwellers.

'Arsenic-free Safe Drinking Water for School and Hospitals in Climate Vulnerable Khulna areas" project is intended to ensure arsenic free drinking water for school and hospitals in Khulna area where the technical support provided by Harbauer India through water ATM installation. This initiative will contribute as an integral part to improve the living environment of the rural people through enhancing facilities of safe drinking water supply and proper hygiene practices.

DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARIES

1000 students from 5 schools and 1000 households from 4 Upazilas from Khulna, Meherpur and Pirojpur District will be the direct beneficiaries of the project make a total of 5500 will be the direct beneficiaries of the project.

OBJECTIVE

To increase the access to safe drinking water supply facilities in five villages and five rural schools through ensuring proper use and operation of five Water Bank treatment plants.

Supportive Objectives

- To increase the access to safe drinking water supply in rural schools and villages of the project area through ensuring proper use and operation of 5 (five) water bank plant.
- To enhance the knowledge and capacity of villagers and students to optimum use and safe storage of drinking water, proper hygienic practices especially among adolescent girls and students.
- To develop participatory safe drinking water supply management and maintenance mechanism.

OUTCOME BASED INDICATORS

Expected Outcomes	Indicators
1. Improved safe drinking water supply facilities at schools and HH level of five rural schools and villages.	<i>1.1 Reduction of cost and time by minimum 50 percent for water collection points of village areas.</i> <i>1.2 100% of students and teachers drinking safe water during their school time</i>
2. Strengthened Knowledge and practices of direct beneficiaries on safe drinking water and hygiene practices	<i>2.1. 70% of direct beneficiaries capable of optimum use and safe storage of drinking water and proper health and hygiene practices</i> <i>2.2. 90% of students shared their knowledge on safe water and hygiene with their family members.</i> <i>2.3. 70% of direct target beneficiaries followed proper hygiene practices.</i> <i>2.4. Medical cost reduced by minimum 25 percent among direct beneficiaries HHs.</i>
3. Increased capability of effective management by community and rural School management body to effectively manage community and institutional based safe drinking water supply system and proper operation and maintenance	<i>3.1. Representatives from community and educational institutions will be technically sound in operating Water Bank through capacity development</i> <i>3.2. Five male/female are working as operator/ caretaker of Water Banks.</i> <i>3.3. Collected contribution (money) deposit to bank for regular maintenance of water supply system.</i>

BEST PRACTICE ON PARTICIPATORY WATER POINT MANAGEMENT IN RADHAKANTPUR, MEHERPUR

Drinking water scarcity in the southern part of Bangladesh is a common phenomenon due to its geographical location. In the recent years, groundwater-based water supply in this part have been experiencing various significant issues, principally arsenic contamination, getting down of the water level, salinity and unavailability of reasonable aquifers. Arsenic and saline contamination make difficulties for supplying potable water to the underprivileged people of the country.

Another measurement of hard-to-reach areas is the shortage of land for establishing the water purifying technologies as they live on a small piece of land on street or embankments.

The deficiency of drinking water is intense as the freshwater aquifers are not available at reasonable depths and the surface water is profoundly saline and turbid. In order to reduce the scarcity of safe drinking water in this area, there have been a number of interventions of government and non-government organizations in this region. A number of water technologies i.e. PSFs, RWH, Reverse Osmosis (RO), deep and shallow tube wells have been installed. But due to inadequate maintenance and management and lack in sense of ownership of the users, most of the water technologies are out of order now. There has been no effort in forming a self-sufficient community-driven mechanism to ensure the sustainability.

Meherpur bordering West Bengal, India has been identified as an arsenic-prone area. According to DPHE, there were 35,000 hand driven tube wells in the district of which, 1017 tube wells were tested by the DPHE and found more than 80% tube wells are arsenic contaminated with above 0.005 pc mg/L. Thousands of people in three Upazilas of Meherpur district have been passing their days amid arsenic menace.

In this context, the 'Arsenic-free Safe Drinking Water for Schools and Hospitals in Climate vulnerable Khulna areas' project was implemented.

Radhakantpur is one of the villages in Meherpur Sadar Upazila of Meherpur district where groundwater is highly contaminated by arsenic. The average concentration of arsenic in groundwater sources is 2.15-7.32 mg kg/L. The suffering of people in Radhakantpur was intolerable as the presence of iron and toxic matters was found along with arsenic in most of the tube wells in the areas. The concentration is so high that while testing, the litmus paper got burnt literally. There has been the incident of 60+ deaths due to Arsenicosis. For the mitigation of the severity of arsenic, government and NGOs have established a number Pond Sand Filters, Bio Sand Filters, Reverse Osmosis based water plants at community level. People of Radhakantpur were initially benefited from these water plants as they were getting safe drinking water at free of cost. But after some time, this availability of drinking water came to seize as most of the water point became inutile due to lack of proper management and maintenance. The sense of ownership regarding the management of the water plants have not developed among the people.

In the process of implementing the project, AOSED's prime intention was to develop a community driven maintenance and management mechanism for the sustainability of Water ATM installed in Radhakantpur Govt. Primary School premises.

In order to develop this mechanism, Water ATM Maintenance and Management Committee (WAMMC) has been formed with the participation of community people and the members of School Management Committee (SMC) as the Water ATM is installed in the school premise. Primarily, only the students of the school were getting drinking water from the ATM. The community people did not initially show their interest to pay for collecting water from the ATM.

In order to solve this issue, AOSED under this project have organized a number of sharing meetings with the community people and WAMMC where the management committee have discussed how the fees from community will contribute in sustaining the Water ATM. The demand from the community people was to get the drinking water at their doorstep.

For effective business promotion, the WAMMC of Radhakantpur Primary School has decided to deliver the drinking water at 100 households in the village for a monthly subscription fee of BDT 300. The money is being deposited in a bank account separately for carrying out the cost of management and maintenance of the Water ATM.

KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

Community Development: Major activities under this component of the project were group formation with community people in the project area, facilitator groups formation who are responsible for conducting courtyard sessions and classroom sessions, and formation of Water ATM Maintenance and Management Committee (WAMMC). AOSED always plans and implements its projects in community development approach in order to bring all the stakeholders under a common platform and disseminate a common message to them.



The group members were later coming to know about the safe drinking water issue, health hygiene practices, roles and responsibilities of WAMMC members to ensure the sustainability of Water ATM,



planning and executing plans, relevant trainings etc. were some notable the parts of community development.



Capacity Development: In order to achieve the intended outcome of the project which is to make the beneficiaries aware about the importance of using safe water in their daily lives, we have taken initiative to conduct courtyard sessions with community people and classroom sessions with school student on the said topics. For this, the facilitator groups were formed and trained so that they can efficiently conduct the

sessions with the targeted beneficiaries.

Besides, AOSED arranged a learning tour in India for WAMMC members to demonstrate a first-hand experience of successful example of Water ATM maintenance and management.



Awareness campaign: Through conducting classroom and courtyard sessions, interactive popular theatre (drama shows), booklets on health hygiene, day observation (National Sanitation Month, World Water Day etc.), School Water Knowledge, and publishing case study and best practices, AOSSED have strived to aware people on safe drinking water, health hygiene practices and other relevant topics.

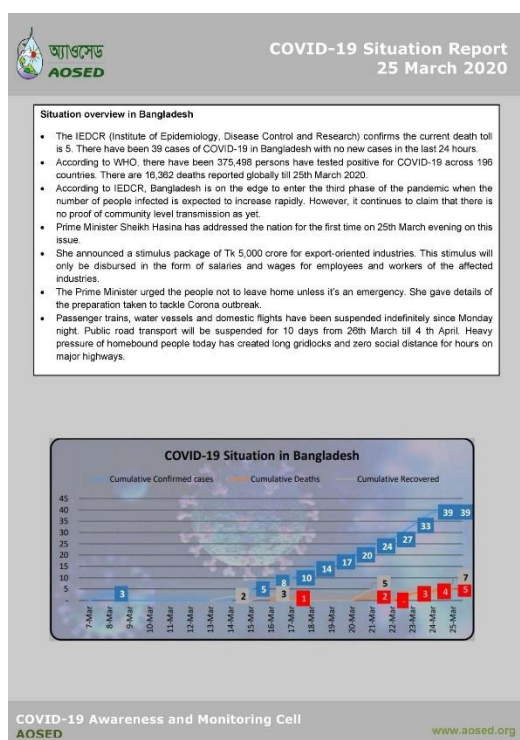


COVID-19 Pandemic Response

COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic and spread to Bangladesh in March 2020. The first three known cases were reported on 8 March 2020 by the country's epidemiology institute, IEDCR. The total number of confirmed cases is increasing following geometric patterns in Bangladesh. As of 3rd November 2020, there have been a total of 410,988 confirmed cases in the country and 5,966 deaths. In this, Sathkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat district of southwest coastal region of Bangladesh there have found 8,784 COVID-19 confirmed cases until the reporting time.

AOSD have taken up a number of initiatives in its working areas to raise awareness among the people. Following is a glimpse of activities that AOSD is continuing since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Daily COVID-19 situation report preparation and distribute:



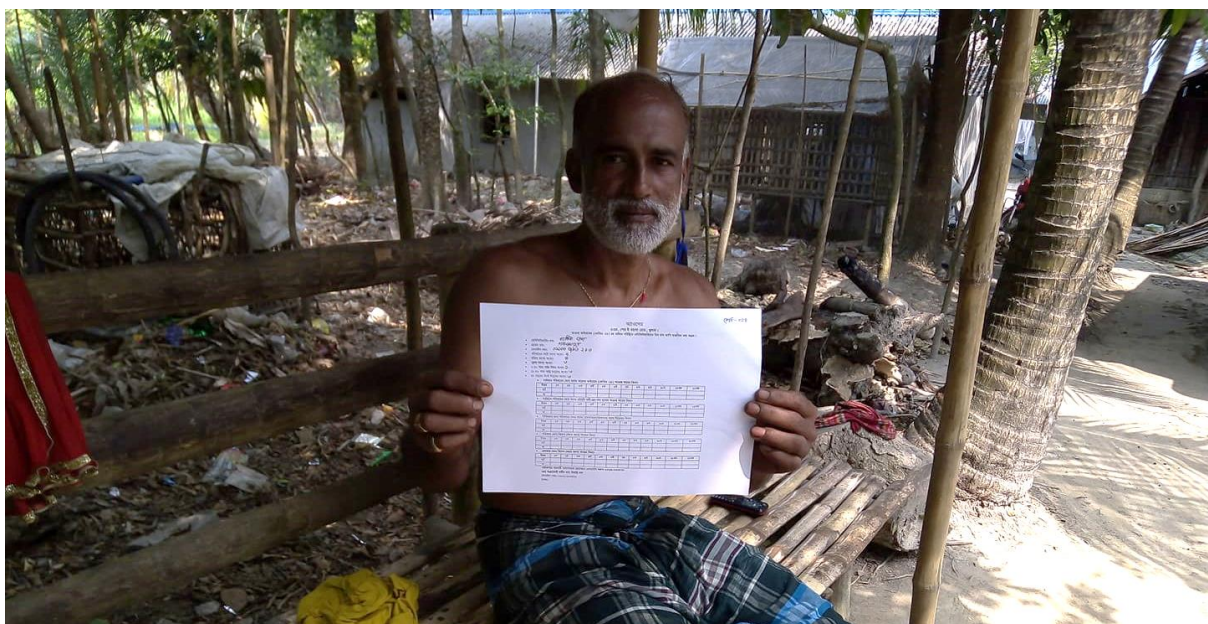
Distribution of Hand Sanitizer:

From the beginning of COVID-19 spread in Bangladesh AOSED have prepared hand sanitizer following the guideline and direction of WHO and distributed among the beneficiary families and the city people especially the front liners (e.g. Police, Health Worker)



Regular collection of health status:

AOSED have collected regular health information of 250 beneficiary families in Paikgachha Upazila and suggested them based in their emergency health need. They were regularly communicated over phone during this period.



Awareness Campaign:

The leaflet of COVID-19 prevention measures based on the guideline of WHO have been prepared and distributed in the project area. The leaflet of and poster have been distributed in the major points of Khulna city area.





**করোনা ভাইরাসের (কোভিড-১৯) প্রাদুর্ভাব রোধে
জনসচেতনতামূলক তথ্যাবলি**

করোনা ভাইরাস সংক্রমণের ঝুঁকি রোধে করণীয়

ঘন ঘন দুই হাত সাবান পানি দিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড যাবৎ পরিষ্কার করুন 	যেখানে সেখানে কফ ও খুতু ফেলবেন না। হাত দিয়ে নাক, মুখ ও চোখ স্পর্শ থেকে বিরত থাকুন 
হাঁচি-কাশির সময়ে টিস্যু বা কাপড় দিয়ে বাহর ভাঁজে নাক-মুখ ঢেকে ফেলুন। টিস্যুটি ঢাকনামুক্ত ময়লার পাত্রে ফেলুন ও হাত পরিষ্কার করুন 	সবধরনের জনসমাগম, সভা, সমাবেশ বা বিভিন্ন অনুষ্ঠানে যোগদান, কোলাকুলি ও হ্যাডশেক থেকে বিরত থাকুন 
মোবাইলফোন, ল্যাপটপ, বাসনকোসন, তালাচাবি প্রভৃতি ভাল জীবাণু নাশক ব্যবহার করে নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার করুন। 	নাক-মুখ ঢাকার জন্য মাস্ক ব্যবহার করুন সুস্থ ব্যক্তি হতে কমপক্ষে ৩ ফুট দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন 

কোন প্রকার অপপ্রচার, গুজব, বিভ্রান্তিকর তথ্য বিশ্বাস করবেন না বা সামাজিক যোগাযোগ মাধ্যমে আদান-প্রদান করবেন না। উল্লেখ্য যে এবুপ কর্মকান্ড বাংলাদেশ সরকারের আইন অনুযায়ী দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। বাংলাদেশ সরকার এবং বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা মেনে চলুন।

জরুরী প্রয়োজনে

আইইডিসিআর - এর হটলাইন নম্বর

০১৯২৭-৭১১৭৮৪	০১৯৩৭-১১০০১১	০১৮-০১১৮৪৫৬০	০১৮-০১১৮৪৫৫৫
০১৯২৭-৭১১৭৮৫	০১৮-০১১৮৪৫৫১	০১৮-০১১৮৪৫৬৩	০১৮-০১১৮৪৫৫৬
০১৯৩৭-০০০০১১	০১৮-০১১৮৪৫৫৪	০১৮-০১১৮৪৫৬৮	০১৮-০১১৮৪৫৫৯

তথ্যসূত্র
বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থা
রোগতত্ত্ব, রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (আইইডিসিআর)

প্রকাশনা ও প্রচারে: অ্যাওসেড-অ্যান অর্গানাইজেশন ফর সোসিও ইকোনমিক ডেভেলপমেন্ট



Some other initiatives....

AOSED have looking funding opportunities to support the vulnerable communities. Through this initiatives the budget of ALTER Project Phase -1 have been revised with the direction of Bread for the world in July 2020.

The initiative has been taken to support small occupational groups of Cox's Bazar during the COVID situation and trying to arrange fund for them.

A proposal has been submitted for providing food support for 3 months of 3000 families of southwest coastal region.

Distributed hygiene kit to the ALTER project beneficiaries (835 Households in Paikgachha) for 3 months.



An Organization for Socio-Economic Development-AOSED

334, Sher-A-Bangla Road (1st floor) Khulna-9100, Bangladesh
aosed_khulna@yahoo.com, info@aosed.org, Phone: +88-0244110711
www.aosed.org

