



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



An Organization for Socio-Economic Development-AOSSED
334, Sher-A-Bangla Road (1st floor) Khulna-9100 Bangladesh
Phone: +88-01713-255111, Web: www.aosed.org

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

Report Development Team:

Md. Salah Uddin
Monitoring and Documentation Officer
Mahabubur Rahman
Coordinator (Program)

Editor's Panel:

Shamim Arfeen
Helena Khatun

Data Compilation and Analysis:

Md. Salah Uddin

Photo:

Sumon Biswas
Md. Salah Uddin

Cover Design:

Sumon Biswas

Publication Period:

August 2022

©AOSED 2022

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
<i>AFFIRMATION</i>	3
FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK	4
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF AOSED	5
ABOUT AOSED	6
Projects and Programs in 2021-2022.....	11

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AOSED is grateful to all stakeholders, children, youth, change agents, citizen forums, and all beneficiaries for their dedicated participation in this development path. AOSED has effectively implemented practically all planned initiatives as a result of their assistance.

AOSED is grateful to the Government Administration, the LGIs, and the NGO Affairs Bureau for their supportive, collaborative, and advising roles in bringing about the desired transformation in the sector.

This is the opportunity to celebrate the dedicated service and great teamwork of all AOSED staff in achieving the program outcome, as well as to assist the completion of this report.

Finally, AOSED would like to express its gratitude to the donor agencies for providing timely resource and technical assistance.

Thanks and Regards,

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.

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I am happy to forward you the annual report of AOSED from 2021-2022. 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 250,000 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 designed as a multidimensional development organization capable of facilitating diverse development challenges at the local and national levels. This study depicts the overall picture from June 2020 to June 2021.

People, according to AOSED, should be at the core of all development efforts and decision-making processes. So I announce my unending gratitude to the grassroots people who have put their trust in AOSED and allowed us to work with them. Furthermore, AOSED would like to acknowledge the collaboration of government departments and local government entities, without which it would be impossible to have another excellent year of performance. I also acknowledge all of our development partners, both domestic and international, who have joined us on our path toward Bangladesh's sustainable development.

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.

Shamim Arfeen
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF AOSED

Rafiqul Islam Khokan

Chairman

Development Activist

Shamim Arfeen

General Secretary

Nurul Imam Khan

Treasurer

Sheikh Abdul Halim Mia

Executive Member

Prof. Delwara Begum

Executive Member

Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta

Executive Member

Mrs. Rejina Akhter

Executive Member

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, Executive's 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.

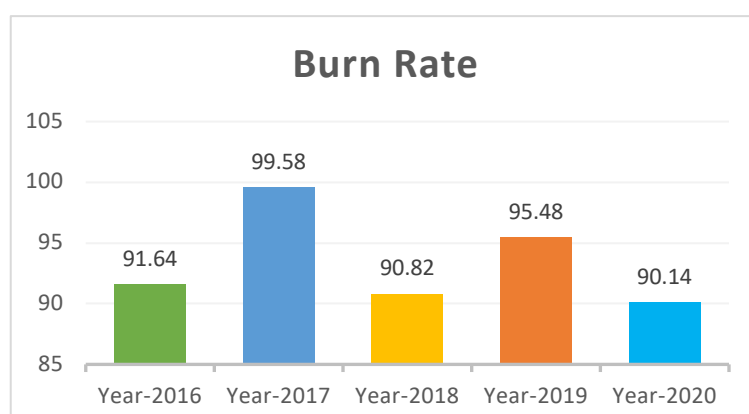
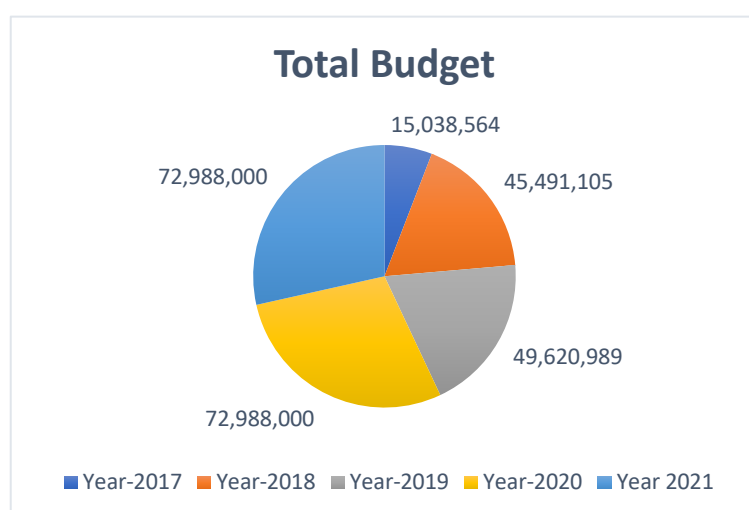
STAFF INFORMATION

Type of Staff	Total	Male	Female
Regular	25	16	08

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 2021-2022 budget is BDT 72,988,000.



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 Director. 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
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



Projects and Programs in 2021-2022

Sl	Name of the project	Duration	Partner/Donor
1.	Adaptive Livelihood Towards Establishing Resilient communities (ALTER), Phase-I	April 2020 – March 2023	Bread for the World
2.	COVID-19 Emergency Food and Hygiene Support for destitute population in Khulna City Corporation area	October 2021 – February 2022	Give2Asia
3.	COVID-19 Emergency Food Support for Workless Daily Wage-earners in Khulna City	July 2021 – August 2021	Give2Asia
4.	Ensuring Personal Protection for City Waste Collectors in Khulna area	July 01, 2021 – July 31, 2021	Give2Asia
5.	Community Led Initiative for Climate Justice and Resilience	January 2018 – September 2022	COAST Foundation through New Venture Fund

AOSED's innovative and coordinated efforts to effectively regaining communities' resilience

COVID Devastated the Economic Shines of Bangladesh

Bangladesh has achieved significant accomplishment against numerous socioeconomic metrics despite beginning with a broken economy and a dispersed socioeconomic status. In 1971, the size of the GDP of war-ravaged Bangladesh was only USD 6.2 billion, and in 2018 the GDP grew to USD 286.27 billion, taking the country to the 42nd position in the world economy. Today per capita income of Bangladesh is USD 1751, which was only USD 135.62 in 1970. Once harshly picturized as a 'basket case/bottomless basket', Bangladesh is now tagged as a "Role Model for Development".

Though Bangladesh has achieved enormous economic progress and commendable accomplishment in poverty reduction, there is another side to the coin. Still, about 24.3% of the country's population lives below the poverty line. The Global Hunger Index 2020 marks the hunger problem of Bangladesh as 'Serious'. Bangladesh has been ranked 75th out of 107 qualifying countries in the Index According to the World Bank assessment, about 1 in 4 Bangladeshi still live with poverty, while almost half of those living in poverty live in extreme poverty and are unable to afford basic food consumption basket.

The assessment report calculates that, the rate of poverty in Bangladesh is relatively high by regional standards. In addition, more than half of the population can be considered vulnerable to poverty, as their levels of consumption are close to the poverty threshold. The COVID pandemic sees an increase in poverty, on the other hand, there is a rise in the number of rich people. This is a sign of inequality and economic injustice. According to a recent study, the number of the "new poor" in Bangladesh stood at 24.5 million, or 14.7% of the total population, in March due to the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. The survey, titled "PPRCBIGD Rapid Response Research Phase III: Poverty Dynamics and Household Realities Part 1" says a total of 59% of "new poor" are in urban slums and 44% in rural areas. According to the World Bank country's poverty rate increased by 7.0% to 30% in the last fiscal year than that of a non-COVID counterfactual scenario, with 54% of respondents expressing concerns that they would run out of food, 41% having to reduce their consumption of preferred food, and 32% having run out of food or money in the week preceding the interview.

The COVID Response – Using the Knowledge along with Emergency Support

AOSED responded quickly to the COVID-19 at the start of the lockdown in March 2020. Along with financial support, AOSED have organized awareness campaigns and provided immediate support to regain the livelihood options. In 2021, AOSED with the financial support of Give2Asia have served around 3000 families with extreme needs who have lost their income during lockdown. Besides, occupational groups like waste collectors who are extremely exposed to coronavirus infection due to the nature of their job. During this reporting period, AOSED have collaborated with Khulna City Corporation to ensure the people with actual need are getting this support. Through this intervention, approximately 15000 destitute people impacted heavily due to COVID-19 lockdown have minimum food resources to save their souls.

Enhancing Climate Resilience of the most vulnerable communities in Coastal Region

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.

'With the cooperation of Bread for the World, AOSED is implementing Adaptive Livelihood Towards Establishing Resilient communities (ALTER) project with the objective of strengthening climate resilience to the vulnerable seagoing fishers and marginalized farmers in Paikgacha Upazila of Khulna district'

Major activities implemented

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 are assisted in fishnet weaving, making shopping bags, and producing puffed rice in indigenous 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.

Vermicompost: A source of income and effective pathway of income generation



Monica Das, a progressive young housewife from Paikgacha Upazila's Ramnathpur village, belongs to the Haridhali union. Her husband is a farmer, and his earnings are insufficient to fulfill the family's needs. She used to assist her husband on their farm. Now, in addition to agriculture, she is involved in vermicomposting and earthworm raising. She has been able to shape the business for the past six years by recognizing her expertise, skills, and the needs of the farmers.

She began vermicomposting largely to supply her own property. Despite the fact that she utilized it for their own cultivation, she began to sell surplus quantities, and as the number of consumers grew, she began to generate big numbers.

Vermicompost is currently made using 4 ring slabs, and she produces around 6000kg of Vermicompost per year, selling it for Tk. 11 per kilogram. She has a yearly income of roughly 50,000/-. Face-to-face sales are made with local farmers and wholesalers. She also gets requests from farmers in various villages. Apart from that, she is in the process of developing a small business and enlisting the help of more rural women and farmers in order to generate more revenue and make them self-sufficient.

Stories through the lens



AOSED have strived in enhancing capacity of the **seagoing traditional fishers** of Paikgacha upazila and as a part of this process, we have provided customized training on usage and maintenance and management of safety equipment e.g. lifejackets, lifebuoys, compass and other safety equipment based on a training module jointly developed by AOSED and BIMRAD – Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development.



As a part of local level advocacy, AOSD engaged community people, CSOs, and NGOs through various events e.g. human chain, consultation meetings, and seminars where they present their needs and demands directly to the policymakers.



AOSD have been awarded as the National Champion of Energy Globe Award – 2021 as a recognition for outstanding contribution in WASH sector. AOSD have received best speaker for poster presentation and best stall award in the 1st International Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Ecosystem Reservation.



Promoting climate adaptive agriculture practice is at the core of AOSD's interventions which is contributing in food security of the most climate vulnerable communities in the coastal areas. As a part of this process, we have demonstrated various new varieties of crops, fruits, and vegetables through **Model Agricultural Farm** where farmers learned the scientific methods of farming. Also, seed and seedling support has been provided to women farmers for **homestead vegetation** that is enabling them in meeting household demand of nutrition as well as financially contribute in their families. Use of **vermicompost** instead of chemical fertilizers is **reducing agricultural production cost** and **improving soil fertility**.



Global Campaign on VOICE for VACCINE



কোভিড-১৯ টিকা নিবন্ধন কর্মসূচী

প্রতিদিন সকাল ৯:০০টা থেকে দুপুর ১:০০টা পর্যন্ত
খুলনা মহানগর ও পাইকাছা উপজেলা এলাকা

১. নিবন্ধনকারীকে অবশ্যই ৩০ বছর অথবা ৩০ বছরের উপর হতে হবে

২. নিবন্ধনকারীকে অবশ্যই তার মেবাইন কোন নিচে আসতে হবে

৩. নিবন্ধনকারীকে তার নিজের ছাট্টা পরিচয় পত্র অবশ্যই সাথে নিতে আসতে হবে

সহযোগিতায়



বিনামূল্যে সুরক্ষা অ্যাপে নিবন্ধন করা হয়

During COVID-19 pandemic, AOSD have provided **emergency food and hygiene kit support** to **3000 families** who had the hardest hit of the lockdown situation. Besides, AOSD have collaborated with Khulna City Corporation to assist the government's initiative of **online registration** for COVID-19 vaccination.



Through women entrepreneurship development, AOSSED have taken initiative to engage women in various small business ventures e.g. fishnet weaving, shopping bag making



An Organization for Socio-Economic Development -AOSED
334, Sher-A-Bangla Road (1st floor) Khulna-9100 Bangladesh
www.aosed.org