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STRENGTHENING HOUSEHOLD ABILITY TO RESPOND TO DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SHOUHARDO III
CARE Bangladesh’s Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) III is a five-year program which aims to achieve improved gender equitable food and nutrition security and resilience for 168,500 poor and extreme poor households living in the eight districts of Char and Haor regions of Northern Bangladesh. The program is designed in an integrated approach to which multi-sectoral activities are implemented together to address food insecurity, maternal and child malnutrition, women and youth empowerment, improved governance and disaster resilience, while contributing to the targeted households’ overall livelihoods enhancement. The program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with a non-match complementary funding from the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). The program is implemented through six national Partner Non-Government Organizations (PNGOs) namely Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO), Mahideb Jubo Somaj Kallayan Somity (MJSKS), National Development Programme (NDP), People’s Oriented Program Implementation (POPI) and SKS Foundation who all receive technical support from CARE.
WHERE
SHOUHARDO III WORKS

SHOUHARDO III Working Area

Legend
- SHOU III Union
- SHOU III Upazila
- SHOU III District

Statistics:
- District: 08
- Upazilla: 23
- Union: 115
- Village: 947
- PNGO: 06
- HHs: 168,521

Map prepared by: SHOUHARDO III M&E Unit, Date: 02 July 2017
SHOUHARDO III WORKS

To improve gender equitable food security, nutrition and resilience of the most vulnerable people in Char and Haor region, SHOUHARDO III has adopted an inclusive market system framework to implement climate-smart interventions that, when catalyzed, will increase agency of poor and extreme poor people to negotiate more responsive public services, improved legal rights, access to agricultural markets, women to demand equal allocation of household food and ability to make decisions about their health and that of their children.

SHOUHARDO III is also using a layered approach for improving the nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls by stabilizing consumption of nutritious foods through supplementary food assistance, increased dietary diversity through homestead vegetable garden development and crop diversification. Also, it uses strategic social behavior change and communication to increase awareness of nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls in the households and communities.

The next section details the implementation approaches of SHOUHARDO III and its achievements two years on.
Through the program’s agriculture and livelihoods interventions, SHOUHARDO III focuses on increasing the income of poor and extreme poor farmers by improving their agricultural productivity as well as their inclusion in markets.

The program introduced the Farmer Field Business School (FFBS) that trains farmers on improved agricultural technologies through learning-by-doing approach. Participants received training on basic and improved management practices for crop cultivation, livestock rearing, fisheries, soil and water management, integrated pest management and post-harvest management. To facilitate market-led approach for farmers, the program is working with private sectors by linking the farmers with them to ensure their market access. As well, through the FFBS, SHOUHARDO III is enhancing the farmers’ understanding of markets including quality and volume requirements and calculations of gross margins which include labor costs, in order to target markets and value chains effectively.

SHOUHARDO III also engaged WorldFish Bangladesh as a technical partner to provide overall support to the PNGOs related to fisheries interventions in the program areas. Through this partnership, the program aims to improve the livelihoods of poor people, including the availability of diverse nutritious food for family consumption and additional income by selling the surplus food produced through aquaculture.
ষ্ণুদ্র ব্যবসা ব্যবস্থাপনা বিষয়ক প্রশিক্ষণ

স্থান : ভাঙ্গাবাড়ি সিআরসি, দৌলতপুর, বেলকুচি, সিরাজগঞ্জ
মেয়াদ : ২ দিন (১০ - ১১ জুলাই ২০১৭)
আয়োজনে : এনডিপি, সৌহার্দ্য III কর্মসূচি
সহযোগিতায় : কেয়ার বাংলাদেশ, সৌহার্দ্য III কর্মসূচি
অর্থায়নে : ইউএসএআইএসি এবং গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
farmers received training and input support through 2,750 village-based FFBS. These trainings have increased their understanding about the market demand of different goods and seasonal variation of crops; and enhanced their negotiating skills for better prices of seeds, with appropriate grading and packaging. The farmers are also now capable to target markets and buyers outside their communities.
of the farmers who were directly reached (55,869) have been adopting at least three promoted technologies from the FFBS sessions. The most common are: (1) use of improved varieties of seeds that yielded quality crops; (2) improved cultural practices such as optimum sowing time, proper irrigation and use of organic fertilizer; and (3) better livestock management through improved feeding and routine vaccination. These technologies have increased the farmers’ production to sell and ensured the availability of nutritious food for their family members.
households gained membership in village-level savings group where they can save and take out loans that are not exploitative. Participants were also trained on savings, accounts maintenance, by-laws of the savings group and basic life skills (including communication, business planning and financial literacy). At the end of SHOUHARDO III’s second year of implementation, a total of USD 40,223 had been deposited by the participants.
youths trained on vocational skills that included mobile mechanics, electrical house wiring and computer operation through public and private agencies to equip them for employability.
With Health, Hygiene and Nutrition (HHN) interventions, SHOUHARDO III program focuses on providing supplementary food rations to pregnant and lactating women from the poor and extreme poor households; linking mothers and children to health service providers; improving sanitation and hygiene in the communities; and promoting advocacy with the Government of Bangladesh to improve water, sanitation and hygiene support and services. SHOUHARDO III HHN interventions use an approach that combines behavior change, public and private sector linkages and home visits through a network of community health volunteers in the targeted 947 villages.
awareness raising courtyard sessions organized with pregnant and lactating women. As a result of attending these courtyard sessions, mothers are providing minimum diet requirements to their children, households are increasingly adopting production of nutritious vegetables from their homestead gardens and they are using their increased income from sales of the crops in purchasing nutritious foods.
Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) have been provided with supplementary food ration. The food rations, composed of 6.675 kilogram (kg) wheat, 1 litre Vitamin A - fortified vegetable oil and 1.5 kg yellow split peas, provide 800 calories to fill existing nutrition gaps and to meet the extra demands of pregnancy and lactation. An additional ration of 427 kcal is provided as a 'family ration' to ameliorate dilution of the PLW ration among family members.
Pour-flush latrines were constructed in the program areas for the poor and extreme poor households. With this activity, SHOUHARDO III aims to improve the households’ and communities’ sanitation by providing them access to hygienic latrines. The household members were also trained to demonstrate appropriate use to be followed by other neighbors, complemented with health messages such as hand washing after use of latrines as well as proper cleaning and use.
children under two years of age have been monitored through the Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) sessions. Attending the GMP sessions have been popular among the mothers because of the noticeable changes that they can track as child health improves. Most of these sessions were organized jointly with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
To enhance the community resilience capacities, the program is strengthening both households’ and communities’ access to early warning information and adopting a great understanding of disasters and ways in which they affect them. From there, SHOUHARDO III supports them in establishing robust preparedness and response through its resilience interventions. Some of the approaches the program employed include supporting households to diversify their livelihoods base for continuous flow of income even in times of disasters, adopting technologies that reduce the impact of shocks on lives and livelihoods and facilitating strengthening public services and policies that increase the capacities of program participants to cope positively to shocks.
program participants trained on disaster preparedness. Through these trainings, the participants learned about accessing early warning information and are proactively taking part in search and rescue in all the 947 villages whenever necessary.
school children trained on disaster preparedness. As a result, they are now spreading information to raise awareness among other school children within their communities for their personal safety and security during disasters.

1,800
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT
INTERVENTIONS

SHOUHARDO III’s women’s empowerment interventions are designed to address gender inequalities and gender-based violence. The program activities are geared towards building individual agency, fostering relations and structures that are creating supportive environments for women. Areas of focus include control over assets, decision making within the households and increased capacity and knowledge of women which are supporting them in strengthening their positions in their families and communities.

The program extended its successful Empowerment, Knowledge and Transformative Action (EKATA) model in all 947 targeted villages. The model uses a participatory process that engages the whole community including men, boys, youth and religious leaders to enable the groups to identify the root causes of gender-based issues and collectively find solutions to these problems.
women and adolescent girls reached through EKATA sessions to articulate what empowerment meant for themselves and for their role in the households and communities they live in; to address underlying causes of women’s exclusion through influencing local norms and practices; and to engage in existing opportunities to realize their potential to address gender inequalities and gender-based violence in their households and communities.
GOVERNANCE INTERVENTIONS

Following the CARE’s Governance Framework - Empowered communities; Responsive and accountable service providers; and Inclusive participatory spaces, SHOUHARDO III implements governance interventions in all its 947 villages. By catalyzing these three elements, SHOUHARDO III will foster improved governance in the form of more responsive and inclusive public services.

To support communities in developing and implementing community-driven action plans to liaise between poor and extreme poor households and government service providers (or other representative bodies), the program has established village level platforms in all program villages. The interventions are designed to support communities in strengthening their awareness of and capacity to demand for services. At the same time, the program reaches out to the government service providers for their awareness of the poor and extreme poor people’s needs alongside creating positive interaction spaces for discussions (i.e., public meetings, open budget meetings, ward shavas).
community representatives trained on organizational development and good governance with topics that included agriculture, environment, resilience and advocacy issues such as functioning Community Clinics, inclusion of village development activities in Union Parishad budget and ensuringlivestocks are receiving timely vaccinations.
youth group members also trained on good governance with topics that included agriculture, environment, resilience and advocacy issues.
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