



Dalit

Hope for the oppressed



Annual Report 2022

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Dalit



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CONTENTS

Dalit's Vision, Mission, Target Beneficiaries, Working Area	4
Message from the Executive Director	5
Dalit Overview	6
2022 Projects	6
Education Program	8-10
Health Services	11-12
Livelihood	13-14
Traditional Medicine Production	15-16
Leadership Development	17-18
Rights & Social Awareness	19-22
Legal Aid	23-24
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	25-26
Stories of Change	27-32
Financial Report	33
Auditor's Report	34-35
Our Donors	36

ACRONYMS & GLOSSARY

ADC	Additional Deputy Commissioner
Ayurvedic	Herbal/ traditional treatment method
CP	Community Paralegal
DLAC	District Legal Aid Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
Harijan	Sewerage Cleaner
IEC	Information, Education & Communication
IGA	Income Generating Activities
Kaviraj	Village Healer/ Doctor
Para	Locality
PNGO	Partner NGO
Polytechnic	Courses at degree level or below, especially in vocational subjects
RJ facilitator	Restorative Justice facilitator
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMC	School Managing Committee
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
Union Parishad	Lowest local administration
Upazila	Sub-district
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
WatSan	Water & Sanitation

VISION

A world in which dalit and other marginalized communities realize their full potential in caste-based free societies that respect people's rights and dignity.

MISSION

Achieving sustainable and lasting improvements in dalit's and other marginalized and socially excluded groups' quality of life, facilitating the access to education, promoting and advocating for their basic human rights, boosting community health, increasing the access to livelihood opportunities and WASH facilities.

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The target beneficiaries are mostly children, women and men (including people with disabilities) belonging to dalit/ marginalized communities known as Rishi (skinner), Kawra (pig rearers), Dom (post mortem of dead bodies), Methor (toilet/sewerage cleaners), Teli (oil producers), Behara (palanquin bearers for carrying the bride), Nikari (fish sellers), Jula (cloth weavers), Bazadar (drum beaters), Jele (fishermen) etc.

WORKING AREA

Dalit is working in the south-west region of Bangladesh. It covers 384 villages of 73 unions under 17 sub-districts of Khulna, Jashore, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts, serving 35,325 families (direct).

Message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings to all. The year 2022 has been quite challenging for Dalit, as the organization was gearing up for a fresh start in the post-Covid-19 era, we have been once again struck by the impact of a man-made disaster. Since Dalit is completely dependent on donations from European-based donor agencies, we had ample reasons to be alarmed. The world is now realizing how devastating a war can be worldwide. Due to the ongoing war (or military aggression), funds for Dalit have dwindled, resulting in a reduction in the number of projects and development activities. Still the development activities of Dalit continued, albeit on a small scale, and Dalit left its mark of efforts in all sectors, which you will be informed through this report.



As always our efforts in the education sector was the priority in the year 2022; as a result, along with managing 67 learning centres, Dalit has been able to take forward the girls higher education. Back to School Campaign was one of the initiatives to bring back to school children who dropped out due to Covid-19 impact. A number of key initiatives have been also taken to raise awareness on youth leadership, establish local rights, adolescent girls and women's rights in the local government and at community level. The efforts to include dalit and harijan communities in the social safety-net programs were particularly noteworthy. In order to amplify social and personal status, Dalit beneficiaries have been provided with health services including Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) and WASH facilities, skill development and income-oriented training, alternative livelihood support and financial services in a coordinated method. Dalit will go ahead with evolving and creative programs in the upcoming days for sustainable poverty reduction. It was also a successful year for Dalit regarding local level conflict resolutions, arbitration solutions and maintaining a peaceful environment among neighbors. Dalit's Restorative Justice Facilitators worked to resolve disputes through local negotiation. The program also included helping to divert solvable cases from courts and police stations and creating social awareness about various laws.

I would like to sincerely thank all our donors and well-wishers, both at home and abroad and Government departments; without you it won't be possible to pass another successful year successfully. With the help of our friends and supporters we will continue to do so ... and realize the ultimate vision of caste-based free societies that respect people's rights and dignity.

May the year 2023 be good for everyone.

Best regards,

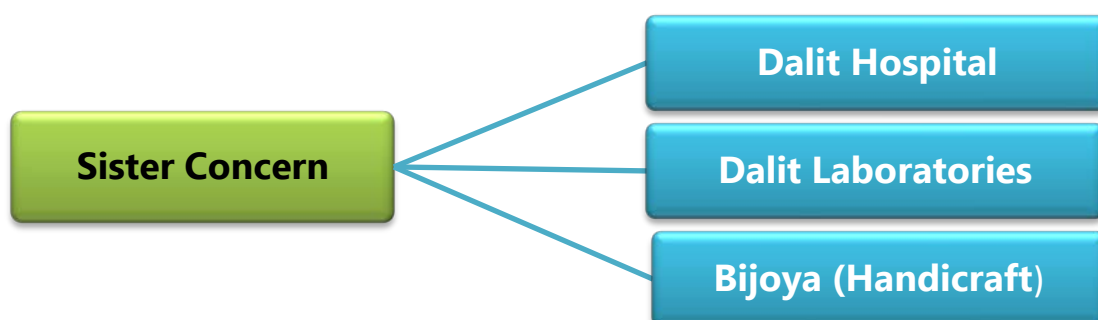
Swapon Kumar Das
Executive Director

Dalit Overview



The organization has been named “Dalit” to represent the dalit and marginalized community people. Dalit is a Bengali word which means oppressed, exploited, neglected and deprived. Some dalit people were the visionary-dreamers that created Dalit organization and the autobiography of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar was their immense inspiration. Dalit is working since 1998 for empowering and mainstreaming dalit and other marginalized communities in the south-western part of Bangladesh. It is bringing hope to thousand of hopeless families through several programs: Pre-primary, Primary, and Secondary education for children; support to Higher Studies and Vocational trainings for adolescents; Human Rights awareness meetings to eliminate violence against women and child marriages; Health care including SRHR, Access to safe water, sanitation & hygiene; Livelihood activities for vulnerable women (as handicraft and homestead agriculture/farming), and Ayurvedic medicines production. Dalit got registration from NGO Affairs Bureau (N.1374) in 1999 and Ministry of Social Welfare (Khulna/1389/10) in 2010.







2022 Projects

- Community Initiatives to Establish Dalit and Excluded Peoples Rights
- Education Support Project in aid of Dalit Community
- Education Support for Dalit and Marginalized Students
- Empowering Dalit & Marginalized Communities through Integrated Program
- Enhancing Institutional Capacity to Explore Dalit and Excluded Rights
- Integrated Health Awareness and Support Program
- Justice and Prison Reform for Promoting Human Rights and Preventing Corruption in Bangladesh
- Literacy Program for Marginalized Community
- Promoting Awareness and Actions for Covid-19 Responses in the Marginalized Dalit Community
- Strengthening Advocacy Initiatives for Dalit Community
- Strengthening Health and Education of Children and their Families of Sundarban in Bangladesh
- Underprivileged Community Development Program
- WASH- SDG Program in Satkhira
- Youth Action for Social Inclusion



2022 Programs

	
Education	Health Services

		
Livelihood	Traditional Medicine Production	Leadership Development
		
Rights & Social Awareness	Legal Aid	WASH

Education



Key Figures

No. of learning centres	67
No. of teachers	Male 11+ Female 60= 71
Primary level students	Boys 2,067+ Girls 1,996= 4,063
Secondary level students	Boys 974+ Girls 1,047= 2,021
Higher Secondary level students	Boys 28+ Girls 265= 293
Students under special support	Boys 25+ Girls 15= 40

Dalit has been making an essential contribution to implementing the 'Education for All' program as per the education policy of the Government of Bangladesh by providing free tuition and materials support to the boys and girls of the underprivileged and dalit communities. Apart from this, various types of educational assistance have also been provided to strengthen the community-based education system.

Besides, this program has been conducting awareness-raising activities related to reducing gender discrimination and violence against women, preventing child marriage, promoting women's rights and the importance of women's education at the beneficiary level. With the provision of educational materials as well as health care materials, students are less affected by the disease and school attendance rates remain normal. In addition, continuous activities such as organizing cultural program, skill development training and providing financial assistance have been carried out as per schedule.

Major activities implemented

- All types of educational materials (exercise note books, nursery books, slates, pencils, pens, chalks, assignment sheets, sharpeners, erasers, colour pencils) have been distributed to 6,132 students throughout the year;
- Monthly stipends (class IV to X) and medical support has been provided to 3,210 vulnerable students;
- Financial support (Exam. fees for the secondary level students) has been provided to 295 SSC examinee;
- An aged learning centre operated for 20 sex workers of Banishanta Brothel (Location: Dacope, Khulna) and special support provided to 40 children of sex workers.



Distribution of educational materials



Distribution of monthly stipend

- 28 children have been provided nursery education through 2 childcare centres;
- 15 drawing and 14 cultural competitions and an essay writing competition were organized in which 724 students participated;
- Recreational materials were distributed to 1988 students;
- Back to School campaigns were organized 56 times and 385 dropout children were brought back to school through this campaign.



Financial support to SSC examinee



Cultural competition for dalit students

- 160 drop boxes (distance learning educational method) were installed and used by children and teachers;
- Training of teachers was organized on distance learning/designing of TLM (Teaching Learning Materials);
- Meeting with the learning centre management committee was organized 56 times;
- Several types of IEC materials were designed and distributed on Education and Child Protection.

Support to Higher Education

Due to the economic crisis, parents in this region do not want their children to go to college after high school. In this case, boys are used for earning money and girls are given in marriage. But Dalit is opposing to such backward practices and aiming at improving education and ensuring women's rights, Dalit arranges motivational seminars every month with college and university-going girl and boy students to raise their voices against early marriage and establish women's rights in the society. In order to continue their higher education, they are given financial support as education assistance in the same program.

Education level of supported students'

Sl.	Class/ Level	No. of students	
		Girls	Boys
1	Higher Secondary	90	29
2	Graduation	76	17
3	Post Graduation	5	0
4	Nursing	9	1
5	Polytechnic	0	1
6	Bachelor of Laws	1	0
7	Agriculture/others	0	1
Total		181	49



Dalit also continued providing financial assistance to meritorious dalit students to get admission in various government educational institutions. Besides, Dalit provides the opportunity to work as an apprentice in its various offices and other non-governmental organizations with the aim of making those students becoming suitable workers when they decide to work after graduation or post-graduation. In 2022, 10 educated youth got the opportunity to do internships in various Dalit departments.

Health Services



Major Services

Hospital based treatments & counseling	Training to the Traditional Birth Attendants
Diagnosis & Check-ups	Awareness sessions on health
Medical camps/ health camps/ satellite clinic at village level	Coordination meetings with community clinic staff
Distribution of health care materials	Sexual & Reproductive health care

Dalit has been providing multi-faceted medical services to its target population through its own hospital and at the village level, as its second priority. Dalit played a leading role in providing low-cost medical services to the poor and underprivileged people, especially in Khulna, Jashore and Satkhira districts. The specialty of Dalit Hospital is that it provides treatments in both Ayurvedic and Allopathic methods. In addition to providing medical services through medical camps or health camps at village and school levels, Dalit Hospital also provide medical services and medicines to people in remote areas during natural disasters.

Apart from hospital, Dalit distribute health protection materials to school students through various projects. Besides, reproductive health protection materials are provided to college girls. Training of midwives to attend to pregnant mothers at village level, awareness raising sessions for health workers are also organized with the aim of increasing accessibility of community clinics to people from backward communities.

Major activities implemented

- During 2022, 6,720 patients received Allopathic treatments and 3,027 patients received Ayurvedic treatments through Dalit Hospital;
- 656 patients received ophthalmic (eye disease) treatment, 62 patients received dental treatment and 80 patients received traditional/ yoga-based healing service;
- 9,656 patients received 27 types of diagnosis services;
- 3,099 patients received free treatment and medicines through 85 Ayurvedic health camps at the community level including 2 health check-ups for 99 dalit students;
- 12,882 masks, 11,167 soaps and 1,988 hygiene kits have been distributed among 6,212 students in order to protect students' health and help in health care;
- 2,493 packets of sanitary napkins have been distributed to 543 adolescent girls;
- 25 midwives have been trained on safe childbirth assistance;
- 12 motivational meetings have been arranged with 211 staff of community clinics;
- 20 college students received skill development training on SRHR;
- 186 patients have been transported throughout the year by Dalit Hospital's Ambulance.



Meeting on reproductive health care



Training to the village midwives



Livelihood



Major Activities

Computer training (hardware & software)	Formation and managing of self-help groups
Training on chicken/ goat farming and materials support	Training on tailoring and equipments support
Materials support for vegetable cultivation	Income-oriented follow-up meeting

Livelihood development projects are a popular model for poverty alleviation activities in Bangladesh. For this reason, Dalit conducts multi-faceted activities to improve people's livelihood in the working area in most of the projects. Through this program, steps were taken to empower women at the household level as well as to improve youth livelihood by enhancing their skills. In 2022, Dalit provided tailoring training for women, poultry rearing training and materials support, vegetable cultivation training and distribution of seeds/seedlings in addition to computer operation training for youth. At the core of this process was the creation and strengthening of community-level institutions or Self Help Groups (SHGs) at village level. Emphasis has been placed on follow-up meetings with the beneficiaries, providing guidance to the Women's Federation and SHGs to make them sustainable.

Over the past few years, women and youth in Dalit's project areas have been able to become financially prosperous through free training and materials support. As a result, their employment opportunities are increasing and women are becoming small entrepreneurs.

Major activities implemented

- 107 adolescent girls and 53 boys received training on computer operation (6 months course for each student) at two Dalit's technical training centres;
- 80 women have been trained in poultry farming, they received 320 chickens as their primary capital of income generating effort;
- 45 women have been trained in goat farming and they received 45 goats;
- 100 women received training on vegetable cultivation and 580 sachets of vegetable seeds;
- 200 women received 400 tree saplings allocated by the government in terms of Dalit's advocacy;
- 30 women have been trained in tailoring/ dress making for 7 days and 20 received sewing machines;
- 60 meetings have been organized with the participation of SHGs to encourage 100 women to be income-oriented;
- 12 follow-up meetings have been organized for 90 women on duck farming.



Training on computer (software & hardware)



Distribution of chicken to the trainees



Traditional Medicine Production



Major Activities

Ayurvedic medicines production and promotion	Arranging motivational meetings on how to use Ayurvedic medicines
Nursing of medicinal plants garden	Arranging meetings with the women on medicinal plants gardening
Organizing training/ follow-up to the village Kavirajs	Distribution of medicinal plants among village women

The biggest advantage of taking Ayurvedic/ traditional medicine is that it is free of side effects and provides permanent relief from several diseases. For this reason Dalit provides Ayurvedic medicine in the health camps run in the project area. People from marginalized communities living in remote areas never seek the advice of a specialist doctor when they are sick; they are more accustomed to using Ayurvedic medicine as advised by the local village doctor. Dalit Laboratories has been producing and marketing 24 types of medicines through its Ayurvedic medicine production unit to accustom the poor people in the villages as well as the people in the cities to use chemical free medicines. In order to make available raw materials for the production of Ayurvedic medicines and to make the village women income-oriented, Dalit Laboratories distributes herbal seedlings among women and imparts necessary training in tree care. The institute also provides treatment through yoga and ancient home-remedies to promote alternative medicine.

Major activities implemented

- 24 types of Ayurvedic syrups, semi-solids and tablets have been produced and marketed in different districts of Khulna division and Dhaka city;
- 30 Kaviraj trained-up as Ayurvedic practitioners;
- 60 bi-monthly meetings arranged with 150 women on uses of medicinal plants and nursing of medicinal plants garden;
- 150 women received several types of medicinal saplings to promote Ayurvedic treatment method among the people and for the purpose of increasing women's earnings by increasing the production of herbal medicine ingredients;
- Dalit Laboratory has developed their herbal plants garden with 130 varieties of medicinal plants. In addition, village-level women have been provided assistance in setting up herbal plants' gardens.



Training to the village kavirajs/healers



Meeting on medicinal plants gardening



Leadership Development



Major Activities

Formation and managing of youth forum	Motivational seminars and workshops
Organizing awareness sessions	Arranging courtyard meetings with adolescent girls
Organizing skills development training	Enhancing youth club members

Around one third of the population of Bangladesh, namely 47.6 million people is youth. Youth are the confident and creative force in a society. Proper guidance and direction can bring them in the forefront of social development. Since 2016, Dalit is committed towards leadership development and empowerment of the youth of dalit community. Dalit believes that by the implementation of this program the young generation will be responsive on social inequality and safeguard against rights violation. Every year Dalit has been implementing innovative programs for the development of youth leadership in its working area. Also assisting young people to design and plan their community projects to engage wider communities in local governance. These benefits include reducing social inequality, raising public awareness against child marriage, violence against women and dowry, competing for the position of public representative at the local level, giving priority to access to government-provided facilities, and access to government safety-net programs.

Major activities implemented

- 3 Youth Forums were formed in 10 wards with a membership of 45 dalit youth to establish Dalit rights through advocacy. The functioning of the Youth Forum was accelerated by organizing follow-up meetings;
- A 6-day training was organized to empower Dalit Youth Forum members on advocacy and networking, a total of 90 youth including dalit community leaders participated in the training;
- 15 youth groups have been formed by conducting 90 bi-monthly meetings in 12 unions and 3 upazilas. 415 female and 125 male members participated in the meetings;
- 2 capacity development trainings organized for youth groups on gender, advocacy and good governance. 58 female and 32 male members participated in the trainings;
- 3 workshops were organized on enhancing organizational skills of Dalit youth, engaging them in social work, playing a role in social justice and social enterprise development. 70 young women and 45 young men participated in the workshops;
- Training has been provided to 10 youth groups/CBOs to enhance their skills in designing social enterprise projects;
- A workshop has been organized for 10 youth to enhance their skills in designing social enterprise projects;
- 47 motivational seminars arranged for college/ university level students to raise-up their voice against early marriage and establish women rights in the society;
- 60 courtyard meetings were organized on demerits of early marriage, SRHR, including women leadership with 596 young girls (secondary level);
- 97 awareness sessions were organized at 14 youth clubs with the participation of 366 young girls/ women and 629 boys/men;
- 42 bi-monthly meetings of Dalit Youth Committee were organized, attended by 402 girls and 382 boys;
- A youth convention was organized at Upazila level in order to enhance access to local services and resources for dalit, attended by 46 females and 77 males.



Training on advocacy and good governance



Coordination meeting of Dalit youth club

Rights & Social Awareness



Major Activities

Implementation of local rights program	Training on gender issues and SRHR
Arranging courtyard meetings	Drawing, cultural and debate competitions
Organizing awareness raising workshops	Meetings with the VDC and SMC
Advocacy with the stakeholders	Distribution of awareness raising materials

Dalit believes that the lack of awareness among dalit and underprivileged communities is the main reason for their backwardness. Due to this, they are not included in any social activities and they are outside the scope of various public and private facilities. As they are not aware, various civic benefits and rights allotted to them are being unfairly enjoyed by dominant/incompetent people. In order to break this vicious cycle of injustice and ensure dalits' rights and dignity, Dalit organization implements various awareness raising activities in each of its projects. Since its inception, the organization has been taking effective steps to eliminate misconceptions, prejudices, fears, inertia and backwardness prevalent in the dalit community. As a result, a positive change is being noticed in their attitude and thinking. But this mainly applies to youth and more work needs to be done to change the mindset of elders/parents. Dalit is doing it on priority basis.

Major activities implemented

- 748 courtyard meetings arranged with 11,774 females and 1,888 males participants. Topics of the discussions were women's education, human rights, how to protect human rights and how to claim rights, child protection, social safety-net, reducing drop-out, child marriages, dowry etc;
- Annual meeting with the guardians organized for 48 times to encourage the students and guardians through conversation and cultural events. A total of 2,100 parents and students attended;
- Annual meetings organized with 455 SMCs members out of 48 committees;
- 22 advocacy meetings were held with the service providers (Union Council Chairman, Upazila level: Department of Women Affairs, Department of Social Services, Department of Youth Development, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, ADC (Land), Cooperative office) to play a role in women's rights and access to services for dalit people.



Annual meeting with SMC members



Advocacy meeting with local administration



Major activities implemented

- 13 discussions were held to include dalits and harijans in the social safety-net program. Meetings have been attended by 217 people including local administration, local government representatives and villagers;
- 12 dalit persons have been included in the Standing Committee of the Union Parishad in view of the follow-up on advocacy for the inclusion of dalits;
- 421 youth group members have been assisted in accessing services through advocacy with service providers at union and upazila levels;
- Conducted a study to analyze the impact of climate change and natural calamities on dalits and backward communities;
- 3 quarterly meetings attended by 144 Village Development Committees members of 5 villages and 1 annual meeting attended by 126 members was organized and financial assistance was provided to the committees;
- 40 college level students have been trained on gender issues and SRHR.



Annual meeting with VDC members



Training on gender issue



Major activities implemented

- 6 advocacy meetings were organized with Ward Councillors to be sensitive and proactive in protecting the rights of dalits and harijans;
- 44 umbrellas with awareness message have been distributed among the traffic policemen to prevent Covid-19;
- 3 discussion meetings were organized on the formation of Dalit Jubo Oikya Parishad at the district level, in which 32 women and 84 men participated;
- 11 sessions were arranged for parents' counselling, attended by parents, adolescents, and school teachers;
- In order to enhance access to local services and resources for dalit people, 2 public hearings have been organized with Upazila-level government officials;
- Several types of IEC materials were prepared on Education, DRR, Physical and Mental Health, Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse;
- International Mother Language Day, National girl child day, Women's Day, Human rights day, Elimination of racial discrimination day has been observed.



Half-yearly meeting with ward councillor



Linkage building meeting with local administration



Legal Aid



Major Activities

Awareness raising courtyard meetings	Community-based dispute resolutions
Meetings with RJF and CP at ward level	Referrals and diversions
Meetings with stakeholders	Organizing community based legal aid clinic
Participate in DLAC meetings	Policy advocacy and research

In order to establish a just, peaceful and inclusive society in accordance with SDG 16, Dalit has been providing legal assistance to the people of Dumuria Upazila of Khulna district since 2021 to resolve disputes. 30% of the conflicts that arise between people in our society are disputes between neighbors. Dalit's main goal is to resolve disputes locally so that people's money and time are not wasted due to these conflicts or disputes involving long-term legal processes. And this is why Dalit has started to introduce restorative justice system in the community. In this method, RJ facilitators worked to resolve disputes through local negotiation. In addition, they have developed a referral system in the community, through which justice seekers can be assured of access to necessary government services. The program also included helping to divert solvable cases from courts and police stations and creating social awareness about various laws. Above all, effective communication, partnership and coordination has been developed with the relevant stakeholders at the Union, Upazila and District levels to provide legal and other assistance to the community people.

Major activities implemented

- 57 coordination meetings were organized with Union level stakeholders and 3 coordination meetings with Upazila level stakeholders;
- 8 meetings were organized with relevant Government stakeholders;
- 13 coordination meetings were organized with PNGOs;
- 35 coordination meetings were organized among RJF and CP at the ward levels;
- 221 courtyard meetings conducted on legal aid service;
- Community-based 15 legal aid clinics organized at Ward and Union levels;
- Participated in monthly DLAC meetings for 7 times;
- 368 grievances/disputes resolved through RJ and mediation;
- 85 cases diverted from the formal justice system;
- 431 cases referred for resolve disputes, legal assistance or service/social safety net programs;
- 2,917 people reached awareness regarding community justice services, legal and other rights/ services, etc.



Coordination meeting among RJF & CP



Monthly meeting with stakeholders



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene



Major Activities

Installation of rainwater harvesting points	Workshops with Union WatSan committees
Installation of new latrines	Awareness raising meetings on WASH
Organizing WASH campaign at community and school level	Days observation

Dalit is mainly working in remote and coastal areas, where safe water supply and sewage systems are very fragile. Most of the houses do not have sanitary latrines due to the lack of villagers' financial capacity, moreover, due to the saline area, fresh water is very scarce. As the ground water table has dropped so deep that it costs over 1 lakh taka to set up a tube well, in some cases even such an expensive effort fails. Moreover, there is a risk of excessive iron and arsenic contamination in the water. In addition to these natural obstacles, people in this region are affected by various infectious diseases and physical problems due to the bad habits and ignorance regarding health care. In order to get rid of this undesirable situation, Dalit provides drinking water supply and sanitary latrines to the villagers through various projects. Besides, with the aim of increasing awareness about health care among the general public, courtyard meetings, WASH campaigns are organized at educational institutions and community levels and arranges for publication of related messages. Encouraging activities are also implemented at the stakeholder level by holding WASH-related discussion meetings and observation of national/international days.

Major activities implemented

- 5 rainwater harvesting points (storage capacity 7500 liters each) have been set up for safe water supply covering 805 households;
- 9 new latrines have been installed and 6 repaired;
- 15 hand wash corners have been set up at the school level and 36 disinfectant corners at the community level;
- 60 awareness meetings were organized on WASH, where 1,192 female and 308 male participated;
- 6 WASH campaigns organized for 375 school students on personal hygiene;
- 38 quarterly meetings were organized with village WASH committee members, where 1,030 female and 66 male participated;
- 6 quarterly meetings were organized with teachers and SMC members, where 106 persons participated;
- 18 WASH campaigns arranged at community level with 672 female and 78 male;
- 3 capacity building workshops of Union WatSan Committees were organized, with 69 participants;
- Water day, Menstrual hygiene day and Hand washing day has been observed.



New sanitary latrine installed



WASH campaign at school



Stories of Change

Meghna's parents' dream came true

Meghna Das, daughter of Sachin Das and Sandhya Das of Godaipur village. Godaipur village is located in Paikgachha Upazila of Khulna district. Despite being a village girl, Meghna had strong will power. She had an indomitable effort to establish herself after finishing her studies. But it was not so easy to make that possible in the rural environment. She has a brother. There are 4 members in her family. Meghna's father makes bamboo made baskets and sells them to make a living. So he could not pay his children's educational expenses in full. In this situation, when Meghna applied to Dalit to get monthly stipend, Dalit accepted her application and provided her guidelines and incentives to reach her goal. The entire stipend money she spent on her studies. She left the village and went to the city to finish the Diploma in Nursing course. After completing the diploma course, she got a job in a non-government clinic in Barisal district and from there she gets a salary of BDT 15,000. Her parents' dream seemed to come true. They were very happy and thanked to Dalit. Because with the help and encouragement of Dalit, Meghna had the courage to leave the village and went to the city to finish her study. Today Meghna is self-reliant. And so she wants to share this success with Dalit.



Brishti Das became a handicraft instructor

Godaipur village is in Godaipur union under Paikgachha Upazila of Khulna district. Brishti Das lives in this village. Her father's name is Jagodish Das, mother is Laxmi Das and a brother is Bappi Das. There are 4 members in the family. Her father is a rickshaw-van puller and mother is a housewife. Brishti Das was a student of Godaipur Dalit School from nursery to class X. At present Brishti Das is an Honors 1st year (4 years graduation) student of Paikgachha College. She attended the orientation/ seminars for college students every month and received monthly stipend. After receiving various guidelines in the seminar, she approached the office of Paikgachha Upazila Women's Affairs Officer to get tailoring training. From there she worked as a tailor at home with 3 months of tailoring training. Upazila Women's Affairs Officer introduced her to an



organization called 'Paikgachha Koyra Development Center'. After that, Brishti Das received one month training on making handicraft goods from yarn with different types of bags, pen vases, flower vases, trays etc. After receiving the training, she worked in handicrafts section of 'Paikgachha Koyra Development Center' and received BDT 500 for making each item. Seeing the good quality of her work, the officials of the center appointed her as a part-time instructor. Brishti Das has formed 3 women's team in the next village. She is providing training to 20 women through each team. She wants to create a way for the unemployed women in every dalit village of Paikgachha Upazila to form their own way of income through the training.

The story of Sunita's struggling life

Sunita Biswas (33) is one of the unfortunate women of Sahos Joykhali Jele para of Dumuria upazila of Khulna district. Sunita got married to Bikash Biswas of that area about 15 years ago. In their family 2 children were born. Despite the financial crisis, they were living happily ever after. Bikash used to run his family by fishing in the sea. Every year, Bikash could go fishing in the sea by buying nets & ropes with interest money from moneylenders. Similarly, in November 2020, Bikash went to sea with a colourful dream by borrowing around three lakh Taka from a moneylender. But in the cruel irony of fate, Bikash fell ill and died without treatment. Even his body could not be brought back home. With the departure of Bikash, the happiness of Sunita's family also goes far away from her. With the development loan of Rs 3 lakh, the responsibility of the two children and the elderly mother-in-law fell on Sunita's shoulders. Housewife Sunita falls into a deep sea with the education of her two children, family expenses and the pressure of moneylenders. In this situation, with the financial support of The Asia Foundation and the European Union, a team was formed in Sahos Joykhali Jele Para under the awareness project to prevent COVID-19, implemented by Dalit. Sunita used to attend the yard meetings and listen attentively to the volunteers of the project in the midst of her busy schedule. In the backyard meeting in January 2021, she came to know from the Upazila Fisheries Office who helps them when a fisherman dies while fishing in the sea. Sunita then went to the office of the Upazila Fisheries Officer in collaboration with the project's field supervisor and got a clear idea about the matter. After that Dumuria Upazila Senior Fisheries Officer suggested Sunita to submit all the papers regarding her husband's death. According to the official rules, on 15th February, 2022, Mr. Narayan Chandra Chando, Member of Parliament for Khulna-5 constituency handed over a check of BDT. 50,000 to Sunita. Sunita decided to raise cows with that money. At present she is working hard to bring back her family's happiness by educating her sons and daughters. She expressed her gratitude to Dalit organization for supporting her in her life struggle.



200 women received tree saplings provided by the government

In recent years, there has been a global economic recession due to Covid-19, natural and man-made disasters, which has caused the prices of goods to increase several times in every country. In a poor country like Bangladesh the impact is even more severe. In this, the quality of life of dalits and underprivileged communities has become disastrous. In order to protect the dalit community from this deplorable stage, Dalit has been implementing various income-oriented activities for women in their workplaces. In example, Dalit trained 40 women in vegetable cultivation under the "Education support for dalit & marginalized students" project and provided them with various

types of vegetables seeds. Terokhada Upazila (Khulna district) Executive Officer and Upazila Vice Chairman were the invited guests of Dalit in one of such training programs organized in Terokhada Upazila last July. They were pleased to see this effort of Dalit to make the women of the village income-oriented and expressed their opinion of cooperation from their side as well. After the training and the distribution of the vegetable seeds, Dalit's local official requested the Upazila Executive Officer to provide



any government assistance to the families of the students under the project. Responding to the call of Dalit official, the Upazila Executive Officer promised to distribute fruit tree seedlings among 200 poor families under Dalit's project.

In the following month (August, 2022) Terokhada Agricultural Extension Department organized a meeting with project women in collaboration with Dalit where a total of 400 fruit tree saplings were distributed to 200 women. By selling the fruit produced from these trees, women will be able to increase their savings in future. Thanks to Dalit's advocacy at the upazila level, the women of the project area have been able to get this support from the government.

Joy's dream of becoming a doctor is now a reality

Nasirpur is a beautiful green village of Paikgachha upazila of Khulna district. One of the poorest day laborers in this village is Bishwanath Das and his wife Maloti Das. He has two children. It was very difficult for him to maintain his family of four members. Joy Das is his son. Joy was a Dalit supported student. His sister is married. Despite living in poverty, his father wanted to educate his son. Joy Das gave priority to his father's wishes. He went through many obstacles and continued his studies. He dreamed of becoming a doctor. Dalit helped him to fulfil that dream. Through his own effort and with the help of his father, Joy Das fulfilled his dream. Now he has passed the medical admission test for 2022 with 603 places in



national merit list and is studying at 'Dhaka Sohrawardi Medical College'. He thanked Dalit and Mission Bambini for making his dream a reality.

Badhan Das got a wheelchair by Dalit-supported students

Badhon Das of Vojgati village was given a wheelchair by the Dalit supported students. Badhon Das is a son of Jagadish Das of Vojgati village of Manirampur upazila in Jashore district. They are two brothers. Jagadish Das somehow managed his family by making bamboo-based products. A few years ago, Badhon Das was injured while going to work in a brick field. Since then he had a vein problem in his spine and he cannot walk. He needed a lot of money for his treatments which he could not afford. He moves with the support of a stick. The issue was raised by a student in the higher education student meeting and she said that as a first step we can provide a wheelchair



to that person. All the students agreed to her and each student creates a fund by paying some money from their monthly stipend. Then they purchased a wheelchair through Dalit. The wheelchair was handed over to Badhan Das on 29/03/2022 at the presence of Dalit's Program Manager Mrs. Dhora Debi Das at Vojgati village. Badhon Das and his family are grateful for the great initiative taken by the students of colleges and universities, supported by Dalit. At the same time, officials of Dalit also thanked and congratulated the students for initiating such a social service program.

The wheel of fortune of Geeta Das is turning

The people of dalit community live a very inhumane life through various problems like poverty, lack of benefits, financial instability etc. Despite various adversities, dalits are victims of deprivation in various ways. Dalit women are more backward than men. For ages, Dalit women kept themselves locked up in the male-dominated society. Dalit women are now playing a leading role in various activities of the society by breaking the barriers of restrictions. In an effort to make Dalit women income-oriented, Dalit in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation imparted 15 days of advanced tailoring training to 30 Dalit women in 2021. Among these women was Geeta Das, who did not give up in the battle of life, who lives in Banorgati Rishi Para area of Khulna city. Age about 35 years. She had several marriage proposals but ultimately no one married her. Yet she did not stop, with indomitable



courage she dreamed of establishing herself in life. After receiving sewing training through Dalit, she collected an old machine and started making clothes in her own home. By working on small orders for a few months, her work skills improved. At one point, impressed by her work skills, local market clothing vendors started ordering her to make clothes. Currently she is earning 10 to 15 thousand taka per month. Dalit women like Geeta are thus developing their skills by taking training through Dalit and playing a special role in bringing back financial prosperity to the family by working at home.

Government support came because of Dalit's advocacy

10 families of Banishanta Union received government assistance due to the involvement of the local administration in various activities of Dalit-run project and the good relations of the project staff with the government officials.

Dalit always seek the advice of the local administration before and during the commencement of any activity and invite them to all kinds of programs. Moreover, for many years Dalit has been conducting activities like education development, social awareness raising, health care, income generating activities, relief assistance etc. in Dacope Upazila (Khulna district), of which local villagers, leading personalities,



local and upazila administration are aware. As a result, the project manager learned in January this year from the Assistant Director, Divisional Social Services Office, Khulna, that 'Family kits' would be provided to the families of some of the poorest students in various unions of Dacope Upazila as government assistance. Dalit's project manager can also find out that this assistance will be provided to 10 families in Banishanta Union. Then the project manager on his own initiative sent the list of names of 5 poor students of Amtola village and 5 students of Rekhamari village to the social service office. In view of this, on 14 February 2022, the Upazila Social Service Office, Dacope called the members of the 10 families to the Upazila office and provided them with 10 sets of family kits. It is to be noted that these family kits have been distributed with the financial support of UNICEF. Each kit box contained:

1. Blanket (large)- 2 pieces, 2. Blanket (small)- 2 pieces, 3. Laundry soap- 2 pieces, 4. Bath soap- 2 pieces, 5. Tooth paste- 2 pieces, 6. Tooth brush- 4 pieces, 7. Mosquito net- 4 pieces, 8. Torch light- 1 piece, 9. Towel- 2 pieces and 10. Bag- 1 piece.

The 10 families were very happy to get the kit boxes; they said that Dalit was continuing its efforts to provide assistance through the project as well as government assistance, which they had never expected. For this they will be eternally grateful to Dalit and its staff.

Sumon's fortune changed through computer training

Sumon Das belongs to a poor family of Dhulihar village in Satkhira district. His father is Milon Das and mother Tarokeswari Das. Sumon Das is the eldest child in his family of 4 members. Most of the people in his village are engaged in agriculture, rickshaw-van driving, daily labor and earn a living by making bamboo baskets and twigs. Since his childhood, Sumon was a bit restless; he had a strong interest in computer technology and studies. But his father was never able to cover his education expenses and his hobby of computers while meeting the family's needs. At one point, Sumon's all dreams came to a halt. Sumon could not accept this, so he moved to his uncle's house in Khanpur village of Tala upazila in Satkhira district and continued his studies with the help of his uncle. As Sumon was very interested in computer technology, on his way to school he used to stop at a computer shop to see how to work on a computer. But due to his own inability, he could not enroll in any computer education course, nor could he afford to buy a computer. Because doing these things requires a lot of money, which was impossible for him. Meanwhile, one day he came to know through a person that, Dalit is providing computer training for free for 6 months through a project in Tala upazila. He then attended in a free seminar and learned details about computer courses. Sumon joined the computer course without a second thought and successfully completed the course of 6 months duration. This course was the biggest turning point in his life. Within a few days, Sumon got a job as a manager in a local digital printing press. With the money he earns from here, he is living a good life, taking care of all the needs of himself and his family. Sumon expressed his gratitude to Dalit for changing the course of his life by getting the opportunity to take a computer course. His only demand to Dalit is that, Dalit should always continue such cooperative activities so that many like him can fulfill their dreams in life.



Financial Report

This section reports on funds received (from foreign and local), expenses incurred (for projects and administration) and comparison of expenses under various programs/priorities and against project, capital and administration expenses for the Year 2022.

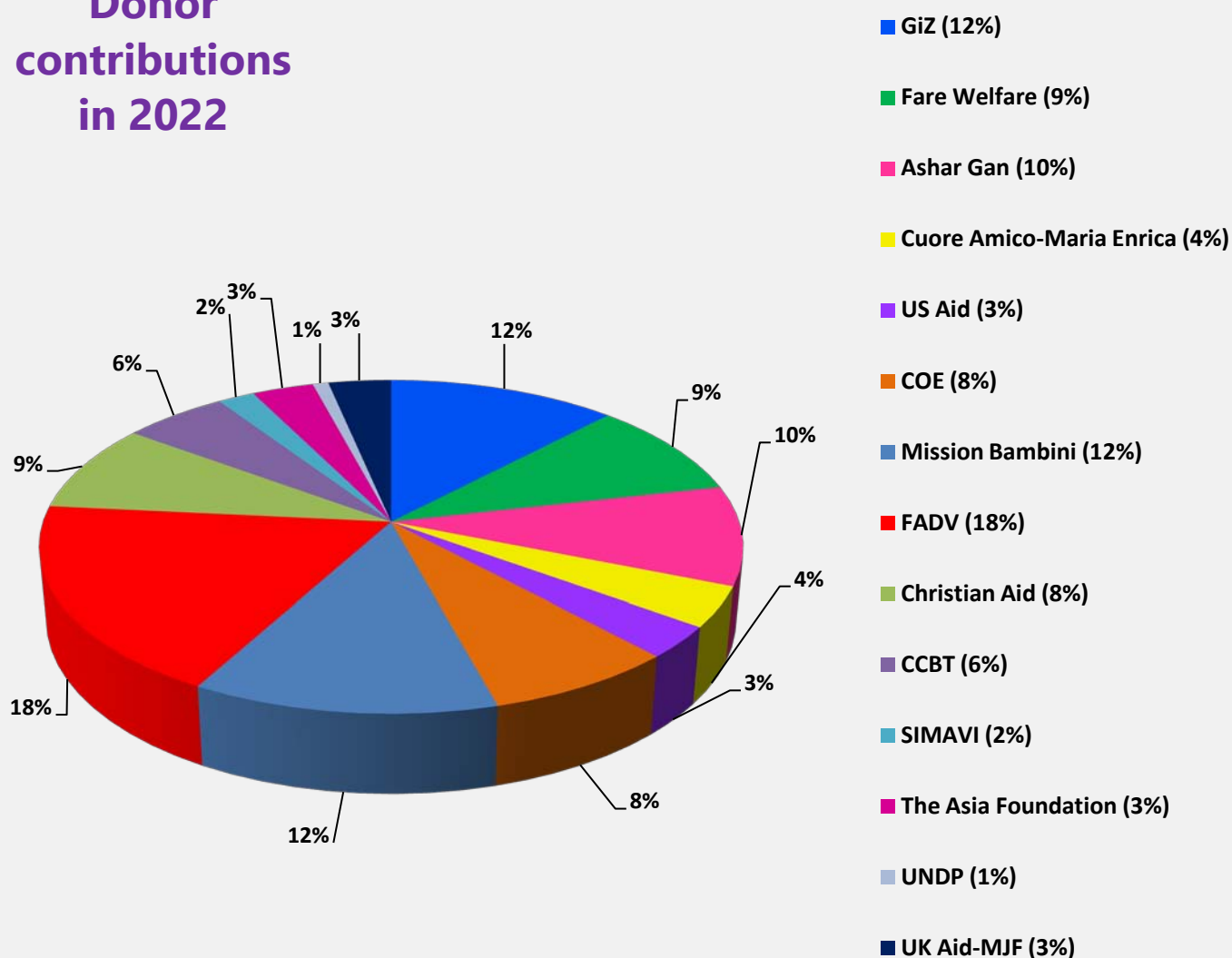
1. Financing:

During the reporting year (January-December, 2022), a total amount of BDT. 43,649,697.04 was received as donation, of which BDT. 42,938,075.04 (€392,254.06) represents foreign donation and the remaining amount of BDT. 711,622.00 as local donation.

2. Expenses:

During the Year (January-December) 2022, total expenditure was BDT. 44,619,185.62 while project expenditure was BDT. 40,162,353.50 (90.01%) and administration BDT. 4,456,832.12 (9.99%).

Donor contributions in 2022





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
To the Management of
Dalit

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the **Dalit** which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2022 and the Statement of Profit & Loss and Other Comprehensive Income and Statement of Receipts & Payments for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the NGO as at June 30, 2022 and the result of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and other applicable laws and regulations.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the NGO in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Bangladesh, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of this financial statement that true and fair view in accordance with the IFRSs and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the NGO's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to cease the project or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the NGO's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our Objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that include our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high-level assurance, but it does not guarantee that an Audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial statements.





As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion the effectiveness of the NGO's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statement, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statement represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on other Legal and Regulatory Requirements:

- (a) we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit and made due verification thereof;
- (b) in our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the NGO so far as it appeared from our examination of those books; and
- (c) The statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of account.

Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh
Dated: September 15, 2022




Md. Jahidul Islam FCA
Managing Partner
Enrolment Number: 1008
Islam Jahid & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Our Donors

A special moment



Ms. Maria Torelli, the Bangladesh Liaison Officer of the donor agency Mission Bambini, visited various villages of Tala Upazila of Satkhira district last July to inspect the activities of their funded projects and interacted with the beneficiaries.

Courtesy meeting with Donors



Mission Bambini office, Milan, Italy



COE office, Barzio, Italy



FADV office, Milan, Italy



SMANI office, Amsterdam, The Netherlands



CDI office, Liden, The Netherlands



Medici Per La Pace office, Verona, Italy

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