

Reflecting on Five Years of Food Security and Nutrition Programming in Bangladesh



TOPS - Asia Regional Knowledge Sharing Meeting
03-05 March 2015
Dhaka



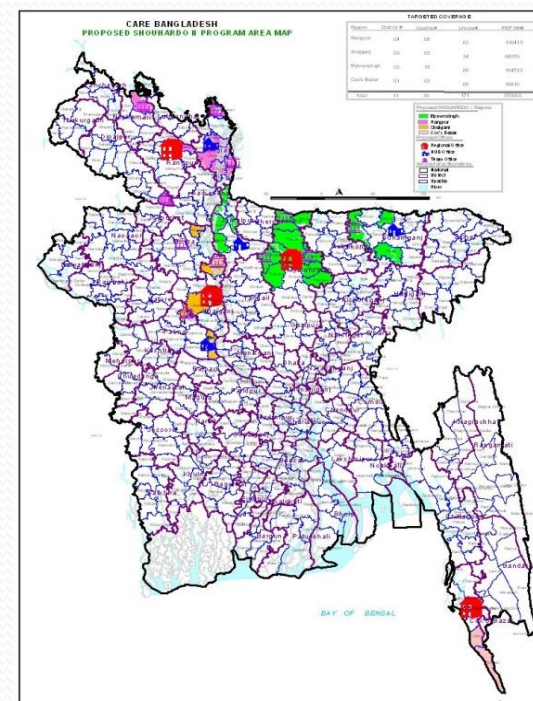
Partner NGOs



SHOUHARDO II – Brief Program Profile

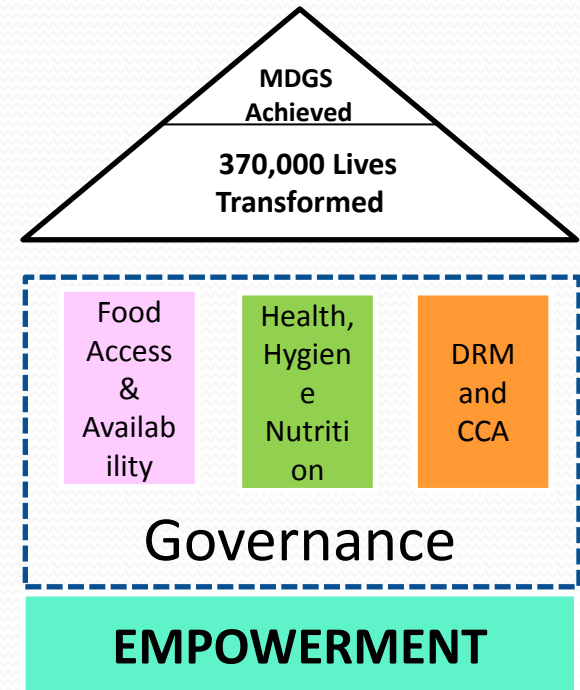
- **SHOUHARDO** (amity, friendship in Bangla) but stands for Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities
- **Program Duration:** 01 June 2010 to 30 September 2015
- **Goal:** Transform the lives of women and men in 370,000 PEP households in 11 of the poorest and most marginalized districts by reducing their vulnerability to food insecurity
- **SO-1: Agriculture and Livelihoods** - "Availability of" and "access to" nutritious foods enhanced and protected for 370,000 PEP households
- **SO-2: Health Hygiene and Nutrition** - Improved health, hygiene and nutrition status of 281,000 children under 2 years of age
- **SO-3: Girls and Women Empowerment**- PEP women are empowered to be actively engaged in initiatives to reduce food insecurity in their communities and families.
- **SO-4: Good Governance**-Local elected bodies and government service providers responsible for reducing food insecurity are accountable to and work proactively with communities
- **SO-5: Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptations**- Targeted community members, government institutions and PNGOs are better able to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters and adapt to climate change
- **Funding:** Total US\$129m (USAID-116.5m, GoB-11.5m, CARE USA-1m)

Target:	370,000 PEP hh (2m pops)
District:	11
Upazila:	30
Village:	1557
GOB Ministry involved:	14
Implementing partner:	16
Technical partner:	6



What food security and nutrition issue did SHOUHARDO II Program focus on and why?

- Focused on availability, access and utilization of food – through empowerment and governance, Girls and Women Empowerment, increased PEP women
 - Decision making ability BL 22.9% to 25.2% respondent
 - Control over economic resources BL 10.5% To 36.2% respondent
 - Co-opted in various committees so that women's voices are heard, accessing local institutions BL- 20.9% to 40.6% respondent
- Dietary Diversity achieved with adoption of new techniques and practices under crop, fruit &, fish and livestock. BL 4.8 scores points to 8.3 vegetables
- Health hygiene nutrition in SHOUHARDO II is evidenced-based and in line with Government of Bangladesh priorities. Access to improved sanitation 67.4% of people against LoA target of 60%
- Access to Common public resources, around 76.8% sampled beneficiary households reported that they can access common or public resources for conducting various activities like fishing, cultivating crops, collecting water, fruits etc



What was SHOUHARDO II's biggest success?



This is reduction of stunting.

- **Child malnutrition (Stunting):** The population based sample survey results indicate that SHOUHARDO II interventions had 19.3% reduction for the children (6-59months) and 19% reduction on stunted for the (6-23months).
- **Child malnutrition (Wasting):** The reduction on children wasting indicates quite significant impact 25.3% reduction from BL for the children(6-59m) over the baseline while it is 31.7% Percent (BL-18.6%, EL-12.7%) for the children under two years of age (6-23 months)
- **Child malnutrition (Underweight):** The survey results indicates that reduction rate for underweight children is 14.3% (BL-42.7%, EL-36.6%) over the baseline for (6-59 month)

What was SHOUHARDO II's biggest success in terms of partnership among organizations/institutions?

- **Reaching hard to reach areas:** program reached hard to reach areas through partnership with 16 partner NGOs from local areas who had good understanding on local context and power structure.
- **Linking to GoB resources:** Connected to government ongoing extension services are steppingstone for the program beneficiaries to have better access to GoB support in agriculture poultry, livestock, fisheries, safety nets, health services etc.
- **Technical complementarity** opened opportunities for the communities with diverse techniques, technologies and supports.
- **Alliance and networking** : connected to regional and national alliances to share problems, getting support and/or to raise concerns of the poor.



What was SHOUHARDO II's biggest challenge?

- Political turmoil interrupted plan activities. Staff members had to provide extra efforts to keep all activities on track and in time. –nationwide event and impact
- Continuation of leadership brings positive results, because, with frequent change of GoB officials the program loses peer knowledge.



What was SHOUHARDO II's most important lesson learned?

- Involvement of Government as active partner and advisor is highly beneficial in terms of smooth program implementation and channeling proper services.
- “Quick win” initiatives are unparalleled in engaging community in the development endeavours.
- Positive Deviants as extension agents in the community found at easiest way to facilitate techniques and technologies among beneficiaries. i.e. PDFs, PDMs, PDVs.
- Efficient integration of DRR/CCA in development through Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) process helps in identifying climate related risks and adjusting activities/approaches to reduce these risks.
- Geographic priority and targeting the most vulnerable households through systematic and participatory approach worked well to bring the program much effective.



What will SHOUHARDO II leave behind when the MYAP ends?



- **Organized community** groups that SHOUHARDO II has developed and capacitated like, VDCs, EKATAs etc. will be continuing development endeavors in their respective areas.
- **Natural leaders** - who have emerged through community led initiatives/other SHOUHARDO II activities who are suppose to contribute after the program phases out.
- **Linkage with GoB, NGO, and private sector** are build directly with the community participants, so that these participants can access resources after the program ends.
- **Investment in future leaders** by engaging around 10,000 youth in the development process as volunteers that created large pool of specialized work force in the communities, who brings changes in every sector of development actions.

Thank You!

