# ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

## 2025-2026

BASTOB Initiative for People's Self-Development

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## Vision

BASTOB envisions a peaceful society where disadvantaged people are self-reliant and capable of solving their problems, and can enjoy a sound ecosystem, social harmony, justice, can exercise their rights.

## Mission

BASTOB's Mission is to ensure the socio-economic development and self-reliance of the people while being consistent with organizational sustainability. BASTOB is committed to following the ideals of people's participation, institution building, human rights, gender equality, promotion of culture and care for the environment, poverty alleviation, and people's sustainability in achieving its goals.

## Value

- People's capacity and dignity.
- Cost consciousness.
- Honesty and integrity.
- Culture and environment-friendly development.
- Discipline, participation, teamwork, and openness.
- Gender equity.
- Accountability and transparency.
- Justice and fairness.
- Creativity and innovation.
- Striving for excellence

## BASTOB Strategies:

- Develop People's Institutions
- Provide Financial Support/ Assistance
- Ensure the involvement of stakeholders in planning
- Reduce gender discrimination
- Improve health and education
- Provide skills training
- Establish network/partnership
- Perform advocacy on various issues
- Protect human rights, the environment, and adapt climate change initiatives
- Promote culture and peace
- Support environment-friendly agriculture and forestry

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BASTOB – Initiative for People's Self-Development remains dedicated to empowering marginalized communities across Bangladesh, helping them achieve socio-economic independence and resilience. Using a rights-based, community-first approach, we actively confront poverty, inequality, climate vulnerability, and livelihood insecurity. Throughout 2025–2026, our work has focused on inclusive finance, education, healthcare, skills development, and climate justice—with strict priority given to women, youth, refugees, and disaster-affected populations. Additionally, while we have successfully wrapped up the ENRICH, RAISE-I, and Returnee Migrants projects, we have fully integrated their key learnings and best practices into our ongoing programming to ensure long-term, sustainable impact.

The **ENRICH (SAMRIDDHI) Project**, a holistic poverty-alleviation initiative by the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), was successfully implemented by BASTOB during the 2025–26 fiscal year across nine unions in Bangladesh, reaching over 56,000 households before officially phasing out in June 2026. BASTOB's targeted interventions heavily prioritized healthcare and education, resulting in home health visits to 21,858 households (covering 102,834 people), the deployment of 216 clinical camps and clinics, and 15 successful cataract surgeries. Concurrently, the project operated 18 Education Support Centers that enrolled 540 students with a 92% attendance rate, while actively engaging the community through 216 parents' meetings, youth leadership workshops, and large-scale civic events like the 'Festival of Youths' and the Development Fair. Ultimately, this final cycle successfully bridged critical service gaps and established a sustainable foundation for community self-reliance.

During 2025–26, the **Goethe–Tagore Academy** provided quality primary education and learning support to 96 disadvantaged students. The SU-CHALA Project assisted 32 children from women-headed families through stipends and educational grants. The BASTOB–HFB Education Scholarship Project supported 11 underprivileged university students with monthly financial assistance. The Ashar-Alo Education Development Project provided scholarships and academic support to 287 students in Agailjhara, Barishal. The Ahmed–Sofa Scholarship supported 20 students across three schools through monthly stipends and academic monitoring.

Celebrating its 14th year, BASTOB's **'Health Service Centre'**—supported by the Anukul Foundation—delivered primary healthcare to 1,617 patients across the Badaldi, Uttara, branch in 2025–2026 to keep microfinance communities healthy and economically active. Maternal care was the primary focus, reaching over 600 women with comprehensive prenatal, delivery, and postnatal services, including managing 485 pregnancies and distributing 5,460 critical Iron and Calcium tablets to 91 expectant mothers. Paramedic triage was reinforced by monthly registered MBBS doctor visits treating 493 complex cases, resulting in 125 hospital referrals and a key milestone where diagnostic testing successfully absolved a local woman of social stigma regarding infertility. While the project effectively managed prevalent conditions like hypertension (389 cases) and respiratory issues, implementation faced challenges from poor road infrastructure, community superstitions, and malfunctioning medical equipment. Moving forward, BASTOB aims to overcome these barriers by expanding targeted awareness campaigns, scaling up supplement distribution for adolescent girls, and developing robust hygiene materials to improve healthcare access and long-term community resilience across its operational areas.

Funded by The Leprosy Mission International-Bangladesh (TLMB) and implemented by BASTOB, the **'Building Resilience for a Better Life (BRBL) Project'** is a comprehensive

initiative operating across six upazilas of Narsingdi District to enhance the health, dignity, and socioeconomic status of leprosy-affected individuals. Running from January to December 2026 with a total budget of BDT 12,49,700, the project has efficiently utilized BDT 6,26,396 (50%) as of June 30, 2026, to achieve 100% of its initial training and educational targets. Key accomplishments include specialized complication assessment training for government doctors and nurses, completion of 35 out of 60 contact surveys for early case detection, and high-profile advocacy through World Leprosy Day 2026, which featured an eye camp and the distribution of 30 blankets to survivors. Furthermore, the initiative secured full educational fees and materials for 43 primary, secondary, and college students (including one student with disabilities), successfully upskilled two vocational trainees, and deployed a popular "Vagi or Animal Exchange" livelihood program for two survivors.

Implemented by BASTOB since 2023 across Dhaka and Narayanganj districts, this Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)-funded project—in partnership with BRAC and the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)—facilitates the sustainable socioeconomic **Reintegration of Returning Bangladeshi female migrant worker**s. The initiative successfully established a gender-transformative framework to transition returnees from vulnerability to self-reliance. During the 2025–2026 period, the project achieved 100% of its core targets, which included upskilling 100 workers in agriculture, empowering 150 returnee women with business counseling, providing critical trauma therapy to 40 abused women, delivering referral services to 100 returnees, and mobilizing 245 community and household members through meetings and awareness programs. By integrating these grassroots efforts with institutional lobbying involving 13 commercial and MFI bankers, BASTOB has successfully mitigated transient poverty and irregular remigration pressures, ensuring an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable phase-out model for returning migrants.

The **RAISE Project**, implemented by BASTOB with funding from PKSF and the World Bank, successfully completed its FY 2025–26 cycle to boost the employability and financial resilience of low-income youth and micro-entrepreneurs. Operating on a BDT 2.53 crore budget, the project reached 2,855 beneficiaries across seven districts in its last year. BASTOB achieved 100% of its core targets by training 150 participants, securing apprenticeships (APT) for 300 youth, and conducting orientations for 130 Master-Craftspersons (MCP), alongside delivering life skills training to 450 individuals. Notably, a signature Job Fair in Cox's Bazar attracted 342 job seekers and secured immediate employment for 132 graduates. While core placement benchmarks were fully met, specialized tracking components like apprentice assessments and psychometric profiling (9.25% achieved) remain in progress.

The **Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support (RHL) Project**, implemented by BASTOB with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), made major strides during FY 2025–26 in Moheshkhali Upazila, Cox's Bazar. Utilizing BDT 7.19 crore of its BDT 7.28 crore total budget, the project successfully profiled and enrolled all 3,886 targeted vulnerable individuals into 168 active climate adaptation groups. Key accomplishments include constructing 83 climate-resilient elevated homes with solar power and latrines, planting 21,905 trees and training 293 households in saline-tolerant farming. Additionally, the project fortified local economies by building 300 slatted Goat houses and extending credit and training to over 500 crab farmers. However, continuous extreme rainfall and severe humidity present ongoing operational challenges, causing agricultural waterlogging and structural damage to the elevated livestock sheds.

The **SMART Sub-Project** titled as **'Promoting sustainable growth in the Metal products (Electric item) sub-sector through RECP Practices'**, implemented by BASTOB with PKSF and

the World Bank, successfully transitioned from preparation to active implementation during FY 2025–26. Supported by a BDT 3.45 crore grant and a BDT 28 crore loan portfolio, the project recorded a first-year expenditure of BDT 1.14 crore, successfully aiding 153 microenterprises (MEs) in RECP adoption and advancing establishing two model workshops, four technology transfers, and three common services. Institutional capacity was reinforced by training 50 microfinance staffs of selected 7 branches, delivering climate-resilience training to 116 participants (borrower), and establishing 4 active Environment Clubs. High-profile evaluation visits from the World Bank and PKSF highly commended BASTOB's clean energy practices in Machinery and Metal product industries. However, long-term sustainability faces severe localized hurdles in the Donia and Zinzira area, including disruptive RAJUK utility disconnections, the denial of official environmental clearances due to location unsuitability, and structural disruptions caused by MEs frequently relocating from temporary, rented facilities.

The Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) sub-Project titled as **'Promoting sustainable growth in the Machinery equipment sub sector through RECP practices'**, implemented by BASTOB with support from PKSF and the World Bank, successfully completed its initial year (July 2025–June 2026) aimed at driving eco-friendly, climate-resilient growth in the machinery and equipment sectors. Backed by a BDT 3.69 crore grant and a BDT 38 crore loan portfolio, BASTOB mobilized green finance by extending sub-loans to 183 microenterprises (MEs) and launching 6 revenue-generating common services. Operationally, the project completed its inception workshop, trained over 50 microfinance staff, established all 4 targeted Environment Clubs, provided RECP adoption assistance to 124 MEs, and developed 5 resource-efficient model workshops alongside 3 technology transfers. While programmatic milestones are well underway, the initiative faces ongoing hurdles, including aggressive commercial bank lending competition, deeply ingrained traditional production habits, and high rental costs within the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area that force MEs into rented, structurally restrictive, and environmentally unsuitable premises.

The **Library and Community Center Initiative for the Rohingya Refugees and Host community**—implemented by BASTOB with the financial and technical partnership of the Center for Social Integrity (CSI)—serves as a critical intervention against the socio-cultural marginalization and systemic identity loss faced by displaced Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. Since its inception in March 2021, the project has established a vital framework for community resilience and social cohesion, directly benefiting 6,750 households. During the 2025–2026 reporting period, the initiative successfully optimized its infrastructure by achieving 100% of its targets for constructing a new Women's Center and upgrading the Library and Heritage Center in Camp-11, alongside a host-community library in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar. These hubs maintained a consistent daily engagement of 17 to 22 youth readers and facilitated structured Non-Formal Education (NFE) that yielded near-perfect graduation benchmarks: 100% target achievement in Burmese literacy (80 students), foundational Mathematics (78 students), and Livelihood training (110 students), complemented by a 98% success rate in English proficiency. To mitigate camp vulnerabilities and promote constructive spaces, BASTOB strategically expanded its scope to engage adolescent cohorts, consistently overachieving benchmarks in skills-based sewing/ needle crafting, paper crafting, and inclusive indoor sports. Backed by 89 robust community awareness sessions on child protection and the institutional capacity-building of 100 camp teachers under the new Myanmar curriculum, the project culminated in a high-visibility, state-sanctioned Inter-camp Chinlone Tournament grand finale.

# BASTOB PROFILE

BASTOB – Initiative for People's Self-Development is a non-profit, voluntary organization working in various development fields like health, education, safe labor migration, water and sanitation, enterprise and business development, sports and culture, youth development, and relief and rehabilitation, and provides credit support to disadvantaged segments of society, especially women, youth, and children. BASTOB's development activities are focused principally on the underprivileged populations, who have no opportunity to participate, contribute, or benefit from their economies and cover 12 districts with 65 independent branch offices. It aims to therefore create an opportunity for these people to be included in a world that they have largely been left out of. Since its inception in July 1997, BASTOB has organized, explored, and initiated many activities, with assistance from various individuals and partners, in its effort to eradicate economic and social issues. BASTOB's major activities are focused on SDG 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9, addressed as the issues of BASTOB.

**HISTORY OF BASTOB - INITIATIVE FOR PEOPLE'S SELF DEVELOPMENT**

BASTOB – Initiative for People's Self-Development was founded in 1997 as a visionary grassroots organization committed to uplifting marginalized and vulnerable communities across Bangladesh through a rights-based, people-centered development paradigm. Emerging from a deep understanding of local needs amid frequent natural disasters and socio-economic hardships, BASTOB quickly established its foundational pillars of empowerment, resilience, and self-reliance. In its very first full year of operation, 1998, the organization achieved a pivotal milestone by securing foreign donation registration from the NGO Affairs Bureau, enabling broader partnerships and funding streams. That same year, BASTOB responded decisively to nationwide floods with massive relief efforts, sent a cultural team to Germany to foster international ties, organized workshops to craft its core vision, mission, strategies, and values, provided essential support to Shilpi Sultan Pathshala School, and launched dressmaking training courses at Khilkhet in Dhaka. High-profile visits from NETZ leaders, including Chairperson Mr. Manfred Krueger and Executive Director Mr. Wolf-Matthias Gallien, underscored early international recognition and collaboration.

The late 1990s marked BASTOB's rapid diversification into health, livelihoods, and economic inclusion. In 1999, with financial backing from NETZ, it initiated its first Health Project and a pioneering Mobile Trade Training School. Cultural and organizational development programs like Bangla-Shur gained traction, alongside rehabilitation for flood victims in Barisal and Dhaka, funded by Missio Austria and the German Embassy. Notably, microfinance took root through interest-free loans to 373 flood-affected individuals, evolving into a formal program with support from LED Liechtenstein via Mr. Selim and Mrs. Carmen Howlader. Child-to-Child Health Education programs were also launched, and dignitaries such as the German Ambassador visited field sites in Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, highlighting BASTOB's growing impact.

Entering the new millennium, BASTOB adopted a strategic outlook with a comprehensive Five-Year Plan (2000-2004). It launched Employment Generation and Children's Education Projects funded by Liechtensteinentwicklungsdienst (LED), alongside BASTOB infoCARE for IT training. Staff capacity-building partnerships with NRT-Sampreeti and South Asia Partnership Bangladesh strengthened internal systems, while the Deputy Commissioner of Chapai Nawabganj inaugurated a Mobile Trade Training School in Shibganj. Organizational maturation accelerated in 2001 with policies on Human Resource Development, Gender, and

Financial Management, plus small-scale computer training from the German Embassy and partnerships in CARE Bangladesh's INCOME Project III and NGO Forum for Public Health.
By 2002, adolescent programs emerged, self-managed savings and credit schemes empowered village organizations and mothers' clubs, and BASTOB partnered with ActionAid for REFLECT literacy in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar. A microenterprise venture, New Dhaka Bakery in Tongi, Gazipur, exemplified innovation, alongside FAO collaboration on coastal fisheries empowerment (ECFC) in Chakaria and Pekua, funded by UNDP and the Government of Bangladesh. A joint vegetable production technology transfer project positioned BASTOB as lead partner among Mukti Cox's Bazar, PHALS, and DAE. In 2003, the Rural Education and Health Development Project launched in Barisal with LED support, and registration under the Societies Act was obtained from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The mid-2000s solidified BASTOB's programmatic core. Joining networks like Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Credit Development Forum (CDF), and International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) in 2004 enhanced advocacy. Flood relief in Dhaka followed, with microfinance innovations in 2005 including member insurance and microenterprise loans, emphasizing savings mobilization. New Governing Boards guided expansions into Joypurhat and Cox's Bazar in 2006, recognizing microfinance as central. Partnerships with Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) in 2007 and RMMRU for safe migration capacity-building (CABSLAM) via Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) coincided with Cyclone SIDR relief and rehabilitation, plus flood responses in Nawabganj and Keraniganj.

Regulatory maturity came in 2008 with a Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) license. The 2010s brought education (Sultan Sofa Patshala schools), primary health care with Anukul Foundation, Bay of Bengal Programme's Safety at Sea pilot (2009), and BWTP membership (2010). Computerization of accounts and microfinance occurred in 2012, followed by climate initiatives like Goethe-Tagore Academy (2013), skills for climate victims (2014), and commercial bank linkages for agricultural loans (2015). MIS/FIS went online in 2016, alongside BRAC pre-primary partnerships. Rohingya emergency responses began in 2017 with own funds and VGD programs.

The late 2010s and early 2020s tested and tempered BASTOB's resilience. Online monitoring launched in 2018 amid Rohingya support from Help e.V. and CSI. Safe migration projects with MJF started in 2019. COVID-19 responses in 2020 included aid via Bangladesh Bank, NRBC, PKSF, and MJF, plus staff salary donations to the Prime Minister's Fund. Expansions continued with Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP) on electric engineering, RAISE Project, and a new head office in 2021. The Silver Jubilee in 2022-2023, celebrated at the Liberation War Museum, marked reflection amid PKSF-World Bank RAISE and IFOR leadership by Executive Director Mr. Ruhi Das. In recent years, BASTOB has scaled ambitiously Microfinance expansions, RHL Project in Moheshkhali (2024) for climate resilience, Noakhali - Cox's Bazar relief, and SMART Project in Dhaka (2025). Today, spanning inclusive finance, ENRICH, health, skills, migration, climate justice, and emergencies, BASTOB partners with PKSF, MJF, Help e.V., BRAC, and others its 28-year evolution a testament to adaptive, community-driven transformation toward equity and dignity.

**LEGAL STATUS**

BASTOB – Initiative for People's Self-Development is registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau under Prime Minister's Office, Registration No. FD-1263/98, dated 6 May 1998. It is also registered with the Societies Act No. 3161(126)2003 dated 22 May 2003. Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) License No. 01029-00170-00346 dated 29 October 2008.

## BASTOB PROJECT STAFF INFORMATION

BASTOB employs a large and diverse workforce to execute its various development programs effectively. As of June 2026, the organization had a total staff strength of 580+ (Projects and Programs) reflecting its capacity to manage extensive operations across multiple sectors.

| SL. | Particulars | Type | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **01.** | RHL | Regular | 09 | 00 | 09 |
| | RAISE | Regular | 05 | 01 | 06 |
| | CSI Rohingya project | Regular | 10 | 06 | 16 |
| | MJF Migration | Regular | 02 | 00 | 02 |
| | ENRICH | Regular | 02 | 00 | 02 |
| | BRBL (Leprosy) | Regular | 01 | 01 | 02 |
| | SMART-1 (M&E) | Regular | 05 | 01 | 06 |
| | SMART-2 (Metal) | Regular | 05 | 01 | 06 |
| | Health (Anukul Foundation) | Regular | 00 | 02 | 02 |
| | GTA School | Regular | 00 | 07 | 07 |
| | **Sub-total Regular Staff** | | **39** | **19** | **58** |
| | | | | | |
| **02.** | Trainer/ Consultant | Part-Time/Master role | 150 | 50 | **200** |
| **04.** | Volunteers | Rohingya Camp | 50 | 30 | **80** |
| | | Part-time (at branch level) | 200 | 50 | **250** |

*(Updated: 30 June 2026)*

# Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households Towards Elimination of Poverty (ENRICH-SAMRIDDHI)

## Executive Summary

The ENRICH (SAMRIDDHI) Project, a holistic poverty-alleviation initiative by the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), was successfully implemented by BASTOB during the 2025–26 fiscal year across nine unions in Bangladesh, reaching over 56,000 households before officially phasing out in June 2026. BASTOB's targeted interventions heavily prioritized healthcare and education, resulting in home health visits to 21,858 households (covering 102,834 people), the deployment of 216 clinical camps and clinics, and 15 successful cataract surgeries. Concurrently, the project operated 18 Education Support Centers that enrolled 540 students with a 92% attendance rate, while actively engaging the community through 216 parents' meetings, youth leadership workshops, and large-scale civic events like the 'Festival of Youths' and the Development Fair. Ultimately, this final cycle successfully bridged critical service gaps and established a sustainable foundation for community self-reliance.

## Project Background

ENRICH (Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households towards Elimination of their Poverty) or SAMRIDDHI is a flagship initiative of the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), launched in 2010 to address the multidimensional nature of poverty in Bangladesh. The program follows a holistic, rights-based approach that enables poor and marginalized households to live with dignity, build self-reliance, and access fundamental rights. Unlike traditional income-focused poverty programs, ENRICH integrates human, social, and institutional capacity development with economic empowerment. It aims to restore self-confidence, unlock potential, and support beneficiaries in becoming active agents of their own development. Key components include education, health and nutrition, social empowerment, livelihood development, and community institution building. Currently, ENRICH is implemented by BASTOB in one Upazila, covering one SAMRIDDHI-enlisted union (3643 households; population 17,139) and eight adolescent-enlisted unions (52,790 households; population 251,359). These areas were selected based on poverty prevalence, vulnerability, and limited access to essential services.

## Key Objectives

To promote holistic development of poor households by enhancing access to healthcare, education, financial services, and social empowerment, thereby contributing to the sustainable elimination of poverty in targeted communities.

## Key Activities Performed

While the ENRICH program spans multiple key areas—including education, health, youth development, beggar rehabilitation, livelihood generation, and environmental assets—BASTOB specifically implemented its health and education services during the 2025–26 fiscal year with the support of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). However, PKSF has officially phased out the project as of June 2026.

### Health care and Nutrition services:

The Health Care and Nutrition component of the ENRICH Project focuses on improving access to preventive and primary health services for poor and vulnerable households. Through a combination of household-level outreach, community-based awareness activities, and facility-based health services, the project aims to reduce health risks, promote healthy behaviors, and strengthen linkages with formal healthcare systems. The key activities performed in 2025-26 under this components were:

- Health inspector visited 21,858 households in the entire project period and covered 1,02,834 community people.
- Organized 432 courtyard meetings focusing on healthcare education, engaging a total of 10,800 individuals.
- Total 192 static clinic arranged to cover 1920 individuals to avail health check-up and treatment.
- Arranged 24 mobile satellite clinics, delivering healthcare facilities and treatment to 600 patients in remote areas.
- Organized 2 special health camps staffed by MBBS doctors, providing free medical treatment to 200 impoverished rural residents.
- Conducted a comprehensive eye camp that successfully screened and identified 66 patients suffering from cataracts.Provided general eye care treatments to 100 individuals during the camp. Facilitated life-changing cataract surgeries for 15 patients.
- Sold and distributed 2,914 health cards to community members to facilitate structured medical access.

**Education Support:**

Education remains a core pillar of the ENRICH program, designed to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by ensuring access to quality basic education for children from poor and marginalized households. During the project period, 18 ENRICH Education Support Centers were successfully established and operated in underserved communities, creating inclusive and child-friendly learning spaces for out-of-school children and those at risk of dropout. The key activities performed in 2025-26 under this components were:

- Enrolled and supported 540 students across 18 education centers.
- Maintained a strong student attendance rate reaching up to 92%.
- Conducted 216 parents' meetings to reinforce learning support at home.
- A 02 days long ‘Foundation Training for Teachers’ was organized for the teachers to cover all 18 centers on 30-31 January 2026.
- Conducted specialized training sessions for youth focusing on leadership, soft skills, and social awareness.
- Held regular planning and review meetings at Upazila level with the Upazila committee for the Youth and Prabin (Elderly) program.
- Day observation (International Day of Older Persons).
- Organized 8 football tournaments as part of the youth engagement and community-building strategy.
- Organized 8 painting and 8 rhyme recitation competitions to foster creativity at the education center level.

**Community Program:**

- In addition to these initiatives, BASTOB organized several key events, including the Upazila Day Observation and Development Fair in Dohar. To engage local youths and adolescents, they hosted a series of activities centered around the 'Festival of Youths,'

featuring a youth development discussion on October 21, 2025, a debate competition on October 23, 2025, and an annual sports and cultural event on November 1, 2025. They also arranged a dedicated sports and cultural event for adolescents from December 13–16, 2025, concluding the year with a Development Fair on December 30, 2025.

## Conclusion

Ultimately, the ENRICH program highlights the immense value of holistic community development. Through its implementation, BASTOB has successfully empowered thousands of local households by blending healthcare, education, and financial tools to break the cycle of poverty. This initiative proves that genuine poverty elimination goes beyond simple income generation—it relies on building community assets and restoring human dignity. Building on this success, BASTOB plans to strategically adapt the lessons learned from ENRICH to enrich its own core programs moving forward.

# EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Executive Summary**

During 2025–26, the Goethe–Tagore Academy provided quality primary education and learning support to 96 disadvantaged students. The SU-CHALA Project assisted 32 children from women-headed families through stipends and educational grants. The BASTOB–HFB Education Scholarship Project supported 11 underprivileged university students with monthly financial assistance. The Ashar-Alo Education Development Project provided scholarships and academic support to 287 students in Agailjhara, Barishal. The Ahmed–Sofa Scholarship supported 20 students across three schools through monthly stipends and academic monitoring.

**PROJECTS**

- **Goethe – Tagore Academy School**
- **SU-CHALA- "Save Urban Children from Hazardous Jobs and Assistance for Linking with the Academy**
- **BASTOB - Hilfe für Bangladesch e.V., Liechtenstein (HFB) Education Scholarship Project**
- **Ashar - Alo Education Development Project**
- **Ahmed – Sofa Scholarship**

# Goethe – Tagore Academy School

## Project Background

The Goethe-Tagore Academy (GTA) stands as a distinctive initiative dedicated to cultivating a learning environment that is both socially and culturally attuned. The project is founded on the conviction that active and engaged teachers are crucial to reinforcing a child's foundational education, thereby paving the way to a brighter future. Established in September 2013, the academy began with a modest enrollment of 24 students. Its core mission is to serve children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, specifically those whose parents are garment workers, security guards, domestic workers, small shopkeepers, rickshaw pullers, and vegetable vendors. This initiative is made possible with the support of its financial partner, Deutsch-Bengalische Kinderhilfe (DBK).

## Key Objectives

- To provide quality, inclusive, and socio-culturally appropriate education for children from low-income and marginalized families, ensuring a strong foundation in basic education.
- To empower students through active teacher engagement, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and opportunities for a brighter and more equitable future.

## Key Activities

- **Classroom Teaching and Learning:** The academy follows a child-centered teaching approach where teachers actively engage with students through interactive methods. Lessons are designed by NCTB Curriculum to build a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy, and life skills, ensuring that children receive quality primary education in a supportive environment.
- **Teacher Engagement and Capacity Building:** Teachers play a pivotal role in GTA's approach. They are regularly involved in lesson planning, student mentoring, and adopting innovative teaching practices to make learning enjoyable and effective. Their active involvement helps in strengthening students' educational foundations.
- **Provision of Educational Materials:** To reduce the financial burden on families, the academy provides students with essential school supplies such as textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, and stationery in a affordable price. This support ensures that children from disadvantaged families can continue their studies without interruption.
- **Parent-Teacher Meetings:** Regular meetings are conducted with parents and guardians to share students' progress, discuss challenges, and encourage active family involvement in education. These sessions also help build awareness about the importance of education among parents, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds.
- **Co-Curricular and Cultural Activities:** Alongside academic learning, GTA organizes various cultural programs, art competitions, and group activities to foster creativity, teamwork, and social awareness among students. These activities also help children connect with their socio-cultural roots and build confidence.
- **Student Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuous monitoring of attendance, academic performance, and personal development is carried out by teachers and staff. Regular assessments allow timely interventions to address challenges and support students' overall growth and wellbeing.

## Program Performance (2025-2026)

- **Enrollment and Retention:** The academy successfully enrolled 96 students, ensuring continuity in education and steady growth from its initial 24 students in 2013.
- **Improved Learning Achievement**: Through active teacher engagement and interactive lesson methods, students showed notable improvement in literacy, numeracy, and comprehension skills.
- **Inclusive Education:** Provision of school supplies, uniforms, and learning materials enabled children from economically disadvantaged families to participate fully in their education.
- **Parental Involvement:** Regular Parent-Teacher Meetings were conducted, strengthening family-school communication and increasing parental awareness and support for children's education.
- **Annual Sports 2026**: The academy organized the Annual Sports Event, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and healthy competition among students, contributing to their holistic development.
- **Class Party**: A year-end class party was held to celebrate students' achievements, encourage peer bonding, and motivate continued participation in school activities.
- **Student Wellbeing:** Continuous mentoring and monitoring of attendance, performance, and overall wellbeing ensured that students remained engaged and disciplined.
- **Fruit festival:** On 18 June 2025, the students celebrated fruit festival and knew the nutritious values of local fruits.
- **Day Observation:** On 8 June 2026, the GTA school students observed the World Environment Day and sensitized students and parents on tree plantation, environment management.

## Challenges

The school's current physical footprint has become a bottleneck for both quality of education and student well-being. The compact space limits the number of students per classroom, making it difficult to keep pace with rising enrollment demands. In addition to, lack of open areas restricts physical education and extracurricular activities, which are vital for holistic child development. Therefore, transitioning to a larger, purpose-built facility is now essential to provide a modern, conducive learning environment that can scale with the community's needs.

# SU-CHALA- "Save Urban Children from Hazardous Jobs and Assistance for Linking with the Academy

## Project Background

In 2026, the Su-Chala Project commemorated its 15th year of dedicated service, continuing its mission to empower children from women-headed, disadvantaged families through educational support. The initiative benefitted a total of 32 students across Uttara Badaldi, Ruhitpur, and Kholamora in Dhaka. Each child received a monthly stipend of Tk. 500 to help sustain their studies, along with a one-time grant of Tk. 800 to cover essential school supplies. The project is generously funded by the Anukul Foundation.

## Key Objectives

- To provide quality, inclusive, and socio-culturally appropriate education for children from low-income and marginalized families, ensuring a strong foundation in basic education.
- To empower students through active teacher engagement, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and opportunities for a brighter and more equitable future.

## Key Activities performed 2025-26

During 2025-2026, the Su-Chala Project continued its commitment to supporting the education of children from women-headed disadvantaged families through the following activities:

- **Beneficiary Selection:** Identified and enrolled 32 new students from Uttara, Ruhitpur, and Kholamora to ensure inclusion of the most vulnerable children up to class one to class five.
- **Monthly Stipend Distribution:** Provided regular financial assistance to students, enabling them to meet school-related expenses and continue their studies without interruption.
- **Educational Materials Support:** Delivered one-time grants to help children purchase essential learning materials such as books, notebooks, uniforms, and stationery.
- **Parental Awareness Meetings:** Conducted sessions with mothers and guardians to encourage active involvement in their children's education.
- **Progress Monitoring:** Maintained regular follow-up with students and schools to assess attendance, academic performance, and overall progress.

## Program Performance (2025-2026)

- **Selection of Beneficiaries:** A total of 32 children from women-headed disadvantaged families in Uttara, Ruhitpur, and Kholamora were identified and enrolled in the program to receive educational support.
- **Monthly Stipend Support:** Each student received a monthly stipend of Tk. 500, enabling them to continue their schooling without financial constraints. This regular support ensured stability in education throughout the year.
- **Educational Grant Distribution:** A one-time grant of Tk. 800 per student was provided to purchase school supplies such as books, notebooks, uniforms, and other learning materials essential for their studies. The program was organized on 14 August 2025 at

Keraniganj Upazila office, where Ms. Rinat Fowzia, Upazila Nirbahi Officer was the chied guest of the program.

- **Parental Awareness Meetings:** Meetings were organized with mothers and guardians to increase awareness about the importance of children's education and to encourage consistent support for attendance and study at home.

# BASTOB - Hilfe für Bangladesch e.V., Liechtenstein (HFB) Education Scholarship Project

## Project Background

The BASTOB-HFB Higher Education Scholarship Project is designed to support talented and underprivileged students enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate programs at Dhaka-based universities. By providing financial assistance, the project aims to empower the next generation, reduce economic barriers to education, and promote academic excellence among students from disadvantaged families. The initiative is funded by Hilfe für Bangladesch e.V., Liechtenstein (HFB) and forms a key part of BASTOB's commitment to education and youth development.

## Key Objectives

- To create opportunities for children from disadvantaged families to pursue higher education by providing monthly financial support for university-level studies.

## Financial and Coverage Details

- **Total Grant Amount (BDT):** 3,2,4000 (annually)
- **Budget for 2025–26 (BDT):** 3,24,000
- **Area Coverage:** Dhaka District, all Dhaka-based universities
- **Population Coverage (Target):** 20 students (Male 10, Female: 10)
- **Population Coverage (Actual):** 11 students (Male 10, Female: 1)

## Program Performance 2025-2026

- **Student Support:** Provided **monthly stipends of Tk. 3,000** to 11 undergraduate and postgraduate students from public universities and medical colleges, ensuring their educational expenses were covered.
- **Academic Monitoring:** Regular follow-up and guidance to track students' academic progress and provide additional support where needed.
- **Program Expansion Planning:** Prepared strategies to gradually increase the number of beneficiaries from **11 to 20 students** in the coming years.
- **Stakeholder Coordination:** Engaged with university authorities and community networks to strengthen student support mechanisms.
- **Discussion Session with Students**: A interactive discussion session was organized with scholarship recipients held on 13 January 2026 at BASTOB Head Office. The event provided space for students to share their thoughts, aspiration and challenges for higher education.

## Key Outcomes

The project successfully supported all 11 recipients, enabling them to continue their studies without any financial disruption. This assistance not only enhanced their academic focus and overall performance but also increased access to higher education for underprivileged students in Dhaka. Furthermore, the initiative has laid a strong foundation for expanding the support to a greater number of deserving students in the coming years.

# Ashar - Alo Education Development Project

## Project Background

The Ashar-Alo Education Development Project was established in 2009 as a long-running scholarship program aimed at supporting children's continued education by alleviating the financial burdens on underprivileged families in Agailjhara Upazila, Barishal District. Backed by Ashar-Alo e.V., Germany, the initiative provides scholarships to poor and meritorious students, helping to prevent school dropouts and promote long-term educational attainment. Since its inception, the project has been committed to creating sustainable educational opportunities for marginalized children in the region.

## Project Coverage

- **District:** Barishal
- **Upazila:** Agailjhara
- **Total Beneficiaries:** 287
- **Total Grant Amount (BDT):** 14,18,641
- **Budget 2025–26 (BDT):** 21,77,284 annually

## Key Objectives

- To reduce school dropout rates and promote educational equity by providing financial assistance to underprivileged yet meritorious students in the Barishal district.

## Key Activities

- **Scholarship Disbursement:** Providing financial support to selected students from class one to class twelve to cover school fees and educational expenses.
- **Beneficiary Identification:** Conducting outreach to identify eligible children from marginalized families based on merit and need.
- **Monitoring and Follow-Up:** Regularly tracking students' academic progress and ensuring that scholarship funds are utilized effectively.
- **Capacity Building Workshops:** Organizing sessions for students to enhance study skills, motivation, and educational awareness.

## Program Performance 2025–2026

During the fiscal year 2025–2026, the Ashar-Alo Education Development Project successfully continued its scholarship program, reaching 3,840 beneficiaries in Agailjhara Upazila, Barishal District. The project maintained strong collaboration with Ashar-Alo e.V., Germany, which provided consistent financial support for successful implementation. A event for scholarship distribution held on 23 December 2025 at Ramdeberpara Primary School, Agailjhara, Barishal.

## Key Outcomes

- **Beneficiary Coverage:** 287 students (Class 1-12) received scholarships, ensuring uninterrupted education access.
- **Gender Inclusion:** Scholarships were distributed equitably among boys and girls.

- **Financial Support:** Economically disadvantaged students received assistance for school fees, books, and uniforms.
- **Dropout Prevention**: Financial support helped reduce school dropout rates in target areas.
- **Academic Monitoring**: Regular follow-ups ensured scholarship recipients remained engaged and performed well.
- **Sustained Partnership**: Continued support from Ashar-Alo e.V., Germany, ensured long-term project sustainability.

# Ahmed – Sofa Scholarship

## Project Background

In loving memory of Ahmed Sofa, one of Bangladesh's most renowned writers, intellectuals, and social commentators, BASTOB initiated the Ahmed-Sofa Scholarship Program to honor his legacy. Ahmed Sofa (1943–2001) was celebrated for his fearless literary works, critical essays, and advocacy for social justice, education, and cultural awareness. This scholarship program pays tribute to his enduring contribution to literature and society by supporting talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds in continuing their education.

## Project Coverage

The scholarship supports 20 students across three schools:

- **Goethe-Tagore Academy (GTA):** 5 students
- **Fakir Memorial Foundation School:** 10 students
- **Gachbaria Government Model High School:** 5 students
- **Geographical Coverage:** Dhaka, Brahmanbaria, and Barisal districts
- **Target Population:** 20 students (Male: 10, Female: 10)
- **Actual Beneficiaries:** 20 students (Male: 10, Female: 10)
- **Budget for 2025–26 (BDT):** 1,20,000/-.

## Key Objectives

- To honor the legacy of Ahmed-Sofa by promoting access to quality education for underprivileged students.
- To provide financial support to meritorious students to continue their studies without disruption.
- To strengthen the culture of learning and motivation among school communities.

## Key Activities

- Selection of eligible students from the three target schools based on academic merit and financial need.
- Disbursement of monthly stipends to support education-related expenses.
- Coordination with school authorities and teachers to monitor students' academic progress and wellbeing.
- Organizing annual scholarship ceremonies to motivate students and recognize their achievements.
- Encouraging mentorship and guidance for the scholarship recipients.

## Program Performance 2025-2026

- **Student Support:** Monthly stipends were provided to all 20 selected students (Nursery to Class 10), ensuring uninterrupted access to education and supporting their continued academic progression.
- **School Coverage:** The scholarship reached students in three schools across Dhaka, Brahmanbaria, and Barishal, fostering equitable access to educational resources.
- **Academic Monitoring:** Teachers and project staff maintained regular follow-ups to track attendance, performance, and overall progress.

## Key Outcomes

All 20 scholarship recipients comprising 10 boys and 10 girls—continued their studies without financial disruption, demonstrating balanced gender participation. Students showed improved engagement, attendance, and academic motivation. The scholarship also strengthened ties between schools and underprivileged communities while successfully preserving Ahmed Sofa's legacy by inspiring young learners to pursue education and personal growth.

# HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM

## BASTOB Health Care Support

### Executive Summary

Celebrating its 14th year, BASTOB's Health Service Centre—supported by the Anukul Foundation—delivered primary healthcare to 1,617 patients across the Badaldi, Uttara, branch in 2025–2026 to keep microfinance communities healthy and economically active. Maternal care was the primary focus, reaching over 600 women with comprehensive prenatal, delivery, and postnatal services, including managing 485 pregnancies and distributing 5,460 critical Iron and Calcium tablets to 91 expectant mothers. Paramedic triage was reinforced by monthly registered MBBS doctor visits treating 493 complex cases, resulting in 125 hospital referrals and a key milestone where diagnostic testing successfully absolved a local woman of social stigma regarding infertility. While the project effectively managed prevalent conditions like hypertension and respiratory issues, implementation faced challenges from poor road infrastructure, community superstitions, and malfunctioning medical equipment. Moving forward, BASTOB aims to overcome these barriers by expanding targeted awareness campaigns, scaling up supplement distribution for adolescent girls, and developing robust hygiene materials to improve healthcare access and long-term community resilience across its operational areas.

**Project Background**

The Health Service Centre is a flagship project of BASTOB, supported by the Anukul Foundation, and has successfully completed its 14th year of operation. Established on 1st July 2011, the project was initiated to address the health awareness and primary treatment needs of microfinance clients and their families living around BASTOB's Badaldi, Uttara, and Dhaka branch areas. The project aims to provide basic health education and primary healthcare services to improve the wellbeing of microfinance clients and the local community. Over the years, the Health Service Centre has significantly contributed to enhancing the overall impact of BASTOB's microfinance programs by ensuring that clients remain healthy and able to participate actively in economic activities.

**Key Objectives**

- Improve access to primary healthcare for microfinance members and their families
- Reduce the prevalence of common diseases through awareness and medical support
- Ensure maternal health care, including prenatal check-ups and nutritional supplements

**Key Performance in 2025-2026:**

The BASTOB Health Service program provides primary healthcare to microfinance members and the community, focusing heavily on maternal health. The program offers comprehensive prenatal care and treatments during pregnancy, including the distribution of calcium and iron tablets to expectant mothers, followed by essential post-delivery care services. Alongside dedicated maternal care, the centers extend general outpatient treatment to women and direct treatment support to male patients. For complex cases requiring advanced care, BASTOB tracks the number of patients referred to hospitals and utilizes its institutional networks to ensure they receive swift, specialized treatment. The coverage during 2025-26 has been presented below:

- **Maternal & Women's Healthcare:** Maternal health remained a central priority. General treatment was provided to 613 women (506 MFP members and 157 community residents). Prenatal care services reached 614 women (485 MFP, 129 community), while 557 women received specialized care during pregnancy (485 MFP, 72 community). Additionally, 487 women benefited from post-delivery care (369 MFP, 118 community).
- **Healthcare for Men:** Extending services beyond maternal care, the program provided direct medical treatment to 302 male patients, consisting of 238 direct MFP members and 64 general community members.
- **Specialized MBBS Doctor Support:** While trained paramedics handle daily triage, BASTOB coordinates monthly visits from registered MBBS doctors to address complex cases. This year, a regular MBBS doctor treated 493 patients, including 405 women, 10 men, 43 children, and 35 adolescents.
- **Critical Supplements:** Partnering with the Anukul Foundation, BASTOB distributed free essential supplements to 91 pregnant women. A total of 2,730 Calcium tablets (Calbo D) and 2,730 Jifci Iron tablets were provided to safeguard maternal and fetal nutrition.
- **Hospital Referrals:** For advanced complications, patients are systematically referred to government or authorized private hospitals. This period, 125 patients were referred, including 65 women, 20 men, 30 children, and 10 adolescents.
- **Pregnancy Outcomes & Tracking:** To date, 485 pregnant women have received comprehensive services through the program. Recorded delivery statuses include 24 normal home deliveries, 25 normal hospital deliveries, 14 Cesarean sections, 5 instances of abortion, and 355 women who are currently continuing their term.

**Status of Patients and Diseases found During the Reporting Period:**

| Sl. | Name of disease | Female | Male | Infant | Adolescent | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Cough and Cold | 162 | 37 | 40 | 8 | 247 |
| 2 | Fever/Headache | 115 | 27 | 31 | 13 | 186 |
| 3 | Blood Pressure | 310 | 79 | 0 | 0 | 389 |
| 4 | Physical Weakness | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| 5 | Body and Stomach Pain | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| 6 | Indigestion | 0 | 0 | 66 | 0 | 66 |
| 7 | Diarrhea/ Vomiting | 19 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 40 |
| 8 | Stomach pain/Dysentery | 173 | 15 | 10 | 1 | 199 |
| 9 | Problem in Mouth | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| 10 | Pregnant mother check-up | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Liqueria (Sada Srab) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 50 |
| 12 | Skin diseases | 94 | 3 | 18 | 13 | 128 |
| 13 | Pain during menstrual | 11 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 66 |
| 14 | Asthma | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 15 | Diabetic | 60 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 80 |
| 16 | Waist pain | 50 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 62 |
| 17 | Teeth/Throat pain | 21 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 23 |
| | **Total** | **1097** | **196** | **187** | **137** | **1617** |

**The major achievements of the reporting period:** A woman from Tafalia village was blamed by her family and the community for not having children; however, after undergoing various medical tests—facilitated by a advised by an MBBS doctor at a Bastob medical center—her husband was diagnosed with the underlying issue, thereby absolving the woman of the social stigma she had faced.

**The major challenges and opportunities:**

**Challenges:**

- There is a lack of awareness among women about seeking medical care.
- Superstition exists.
- The transportation system in the area is poor, which hampers the service delivery of the project.
- The availability of medical supplies along with medicines according to the needs of poor patients.
- Due to the poor condition of the roads, pregnant women and other patients are reluctant to visit the medical center to see a doctor.
- Various pieces of equipment used for patient care—such as weighing scales and devices for measuring urine output—often malfunction or fail to work properly.

**Opportunities:**

- Members of the committee have the opportunity to conduct hygiene sessions for their children.
- Distributing hygiene products including iron to adolescent girls from very poor families will benefit.

**Suggestion for Improvement:**

- Increasing awareness sessions for children, adolescents, and pregnant women through the project.
- Increasing the distribution of iron and calcium tablets among pregnant women.
- Develop various materials for conducting sessions on hygiene practices.

**Project Financial Information:**

- Total Budget for 2025-2026: BDT 3,85,431.
- Total Expenditure (30 June 2026): BDT 2,47,560

# Building Resilience for a Better Life (BRBL) Project

## Executive Summary

Funded by The Leprosy Mission International-Bangladesh (TLMB) and implemented by BASTOB, the 'Building Resilience for a Better Life (BRBL) Project' is a comprehensive initiative operating across six upazilas of Narsingdi District to enhance the health, dignity, and socioeconomic status of leprosy-affected individuals. Running from January to December 2026 with a total budget of BDT 12,49,700, the project has efficiently utilized BDT 6,26,396 (50%) as of June 30, 2026, to achieve 100% of its initial training and educational targets. Key accomplishments include specialized complication assessment training for government doctors and nurses, completion of 35 out of 60 contact surveys for early case detection, and high-profile advocacy through World Leprosy Day 2026, which featured an eye camp and the distribution of 30 blankets to survivors. Furthermore, the initiative secured full educational fees and materials for 43 primary, secondary, and college students (including one student with disabilities), successfully upskilled two vocational trainees, and deployed a popular "Vagi or Animal Exchange" livelihood program for two survivors.

## Project Background

The Building Resilience for a Better Life (BRBL) Project, funded by Leprosy Mission International and jointly implemented by BASTOB and The Leprosy Mission International – Bangladesh (TLMI-B), is a comprehensive initiative designed to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by leprosy. The project focuses on providing essential medical care, promoting socio-economic reintegration, and raising awareness to reduce stigma and discrimination. Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being; SDG 1: No Poverty), BRBL seeks to ensure access to healthcare, enhance livelihoods, and foster social inclusion for vulnerable populations. While TLMI-B provides critical financial and technical support, BASTOB leads the on-the-ground implementation of interventions, driving transformative change within affected communities.

## Key Objective(s)

To enhance the health, dignity, and socio-economic status of leprosy-affected individuals through integrated medical support, livelihood development, capacity building, and awareness initiatives, contributing to an inclusive and stigma-free society.

However, the specific objectives of the Project are:

- To work jointly with the government and development partners through coordinated efforts to ensure early detection and treatment of leprosy patients.
- To enhance the skills of health officers and workers through training on leprosy.
- To increase social awareness about leprosy and eradicate related stigmas and superstitions.
- To prevent leprosy-related physical disabilities and refer patients to specialized health centers for intensive care.
- To strengthen the financial and organizational capacity as well as the decision-making skills of group members.
- To ensure health, nutrition, and socio-economic rehabilitation for leprosy-affected and underprivileged individuals, especially women and children.
- To advance advocacy and research on leprosy at both public and private levels.

## Project Coverage

- **Project Duration:** January 2026-December 2026.
- **Total Grant Amount (BDT, as per agreement):** 12,49,700 BDT.
- **Expenditure (Upto June 2026):** 6,26,396 BDT.
- **Area Coverage:** Narsingdi District – Narsingdi Sadar, Raipura, Belabo, Shibpur, Monohardi and Polash Upazilas.
- **Population Coverage (Target): 40+.**

## Key Activities Performed 2025-2026

A comparative overview of the progress achieved in 2025-2026 (Up to 30 June 2026) against the project's core targets is presented below:

### A. Health Services and Leprosy Control Activities

Efforts to strengthen the healthcare workforce through targeted training have yielded strong results, ensuring that field workers as well as service providers are well-equipped to manage leprosy and its complications.

a. **Training for Government Health Workers:** 100% of the target was achieved with the successful completion scheduled training session on 'Leprosy complication assessment and care" GoB Hospital Doctor and Nurse on 28 October 2025. Participant feedback and evaluations indicated high-quality delivery and excellent engagement.
b. **FRP Screening Technique Training:** One planned training session was successfully completed on 28 October 2025 for Family Resource Person (FRP) of index case, meeting the target perfectly and equipping front-line workers with essential active case-finding skills.

Field operations remain active, focusing on early detection and tracking via surveys, joint interactions, and digital follow-ups.

- **Contact Surveys:** A total of 35 out of 60 targeted surveys have been successfully completed (58% progress) together with city health workers, volunteers to find new leprosy cases. The remaining 25 surveys are ongoing as field teams continue systematically screening contacts.
- **Joint Contact Activities:** Seven out of 10 targeted joint contact sessions have been finalized, ensuring close collaborative field monitoring and finding new cases.
- **FRP Mobile Data Follow-up:** Digital tracking metrics show that 5 out of 10 targeted mobile data follow-ups have been completed, representing 50% achievement toward the current digital reporting goal.

Community-level interventions are driving down stigma and ensuring treatment adherence through localized healthcare mobilization and awareness campaigns.

- **World Leprosy Day 2026 Celebration:** The world Leprosy Day 2026 was successfully organized and executed precisely on 25 January 2026 with the presence of Deputy Commissioner (DC), and Civil Surgeon of the district on target, elevating visibility and advocacy around leprosy elimination. On occasion of the event BASTOB distributed 30 Blankets among Leprosy survivors and an eye camp with the support of Dhaka Progressive Lions Eye Hospital.

- **Awareness Sessions:** two out of 3 planned community awareness sessions and screening were conducted in institution on Leprosy, NDT and disability, effectively educating local populations (High school and college students) on early symptoms and available free treatments. It also organized discussion session with religious leaders to address stigma around leprosy.
- **Community Health Care Provider (CHCP) Involvement:** One out of 2 targeted CHCPs has been successfully mobilized and involved to supervise Multi-drug Therapy (MDT) follow-ups, distribution, ensuring localized patient support.

### B. Education and Rehabilitation Support Activities

Direct financial and material aid was distributed to ensure students remain enrolled in school and continue their academic journeys without interruption.

- **School Education Support (General):** 100% of the target was met by providing essential education fees and textbooks to 30 primary/secondary students.
- **College Education Support (General):** 12 college students received complete tuition fees and book provisions, fully satisfying the programmatic target.
- **Education Support for Students with Disabilities:** Tailored academic aid was successfully delivered to one student with disabilities, fulfilling the inclusive education target.

Academic coaching and stakeholder consultations were conducted to build a holistic support system for the beneficiaries. Therefore, under this project:

- **Student Academic Coaching:** Specialized coaching facilities (sponsor student) were successfully established for 8 general students and one student with disabilities to improve learning outcomes.
- **Coach Capacity Building:** One comprehensive training session was successfully completed on teaching methodology for sponsored coaches to elevate standard teaching practices.
- **Stakeholder Consultations:** One interactive session was successfully conducted with teachers and guardians to reinforce collective student support frameworks.

Livelihood interventions focus on practical vocational training and specialized rehabilitation to promote financial independence. Therefore, under this project:

- **Vocational Training:** A total of 2 out of 3 targeted individuals (SHG and their family members and individual PAL) successfully completed their professional training courses, achieving a 67% progress rate.
- **Support for Survivors (Vagi Support):** Specialized rehabilitation and care were provided to two out of three targeted individuals through an innovative "Vagi or Animal Exchange" program. This unique support initiative has quickly gained widespread popularity within the community.

## Conclusion

During the past 6 months (January – June 2026), the project's educational assistance, general health worker training, and awareness-raising activities were highly successful, achieving 100% of their targets so far. However, momentum needs to be accelerated in certain activities—such as leprosy patient rehabilitation, business startups, linkage with government services and institutions, and conducting specialized camps—to ensure that the remaining targets of the project can be fully accomplished by December 2026.

# SKILL DEVELOPMENT & DECENT WORK

## Reintegration of Returnee Migrant Workers in Bangladesh

### Executive Summary

Implemented by BASTOB since 2023 across Dhaka and Narayanganj districts, this Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)-funded project—in partnership with BRAC and the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)—facilitates the sustainable socioeconomic reintegration of returning Bangladeshi female migrant workers. The initiative successfully established a gender-transformative framework to transition returnees from vulnerability to self-reliance. During the 2025–2026 period, the project achieved 100% of its core targets, which included upskilling 100 workers in agriculture, empowering 150 returnee women with business counseling, providing critical trauma therapy to 40 abused women, delivering referral services to 100 returnees, and mobilizing 245 community and household members through meetings and awareness programs. By integrating these grassroots efforts with institutional lobbying involving 13 commercial and MFI bankers, BASTOB has successfully mitigated transient poverty and irregular remigration pressures, ensuring an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable phase-out model for returning migrants.

**Project Background**

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), in partnership with BRAC and the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), implemented a project aimed at facilitating the reintegration of Bangladeshi migrant workers upon their return. The initiative provides comprehensive support to returnees, including financial assistance, psychosocial counseling, and humanitarian aid, enabling them to overcome post-migration challenges. Additionally, the project emphasizes skills development across various sectors to empower returnees for sustainable livelihoods and future resilience. BASTOB as a partner of MJF has been implementing the project in Dhaka and Narayanganj district since 2023.

**Key Objective**

To support the sustainable reintegration of returning Bangladeshi migrant workers by providing financial assistance, psychological counseling, humanitarian aid, and skills development opportunities, enabling them to overcome migration-related challenges and build resilient, empowered futures.

**Project Budget**

The project, supported under an agreement with a total grant allocation of BDT 71,43,353, has an approved budget of BDT 13,18,987 for the extension period up to December 2026.

**Geographical Coverage:**

The project is being implemented across two districts—Dhaka and Narayanganj—covering the following upazilas:

- **Dhaka District:** Keraniganj, Dohar, Nawabganj.
- **Narayanganj District:** Narayanganj Sadar, Araihazar, Sonargaon, Bondor, Rupganj

**Key Activities performed 2025-2026**

At the initial stage, the project focused on building a strong implementation foundation through assessments, database development, stakeholder coordination, and community engagement. A baseline survey was conducted to understand the socio-economic conditions and reintegration needs of returnee migrant workers. Simultaneously, profiling and database development were initiated to enable targeted support and monitoring. Awareness, protection, financial inclusion, and institutional coordination activities were carried out to support sustainable reintegration. However, the project has been extended for 7 months (June-December 2026) to implement some field level program.

- **Awareness Program:** Conducted 4 programs sensitizing 120 community members and migrant families on returnee rights and reintegration pathways.
- **Information & Referral Action:** Fully achieved the project target (100%) by delivering essential information and referral services to 100 returnee workers.
- **Courtyard Meetings:** Engaged 125 rural participants across 4 village-level meetings to educate potential, outbound, and returnee migrant households.
- **Skill & Entrepreneurship Training:** Upskilled 100 returnee workers in agriculture and livestock rearing through public-private link-ups to boost self-employment.
- **Banking Sector Lobbying:** Hosted 1 strategic meeting with 13 commercial bankers and MFI representatives to ease loan and credit access for returnees.
- **Psychosocial Support:** Provided trauma and mental health counseling to 40 abused returnee women, facilitating their social rehabilitation and economic readiness.
- **Economic Reintegration:** Empowered 150 returnee women with specialized business counseling, successfully hitting 100% of the financial independence target.

## Conclusion

The project successfully established a sustainable, gender-transformative framework for the socioeconomic reintegration of returnee migrant workers in Bangladesh. By combining localized community awareness with immediate psycho-social healing and targeted economic empowerment, the initiative reduced vulnerability to transient poverty and forced labor. Returning migrants—particularly marginalized and exploited women—were systematically transitioned from emergency relief to self-reliance, significantly improving household incomes, reducing irregular remigration pressures, and fostering inclusive institutional support at the grass-roots level. As a trusted partner of the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), BASTOB has successfully completed the main project phase and is currently executing extension activities to ensure a sustainable phase-out.

## Special Livelihood and IGA Skill Development Support from Anukul Foundation

For nearly 20 years, BASTOB, in partnership with the Anukul Foundation (AF), has empowered its microfinance group members—particularly women—by providing sustainable livelihood and income-generating skill development support. During this reporting period, BASTOB advanced this mission at the Ruhitpur Branch by organizing two specialized initiatives: a three-day 'Kushikata and Needle Crafting Training' conducted from 26–28 April 2026 for 10 women members, followed by a second three-day 'Training on Ornaments Products' that successfully equipped 15 microfinance program members with valuable artisanal skills.

# Recovery And Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE)

## Executive Summay

The RAISE Project, implemented by BASTOB with funding from PKSF and the World Bank, successfully completed its FY 2025–26 cycle to boost the employability and financial resilience of low-income youth and micro-entrepreneurs. Operating on a BDT 2.53 crore budget, the project reached 2,855 beneficiaries across seven districts in its last year. BASTOB achieved 100% of its core targets by training 150 participants, securing apprenticeships (APT) for 300 youth, and conducting orientations for 130 Master-Craftspersons (MCP), alongside delivering life skills training to 450 individuals. Notably, a signature Job Fair in Cox's Bazar attracted 342 job seekers and secured immediate employment for 132 graduates. While core placement benchmarks were fully met, specialized tracking components like apprentice assessments and psychometric profiling (9.25% achieved) remain in progress.

## Project Background

Bangladesh's rapid economic growth has been strongly supported by its vibrant informal sector, which employs the majority of the country's labor force and contributes significantly to poverty reduction. Recognizing the critical role of micro-enterprises in promoting inclusive and sustainable development, the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), with financial assistance from the World Bank, launched the Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE) Project to enhance employability, productivity, and resilience among low-income youth, micro-entrepreneurs, and COVID-19-affected returnee migrants. The project focuses on skill development, financial inclusion, and enterprise recovery in urban and peri-urban areas across Bangladesh. Implemented through PKSF's Partner Organizations (POs), including BASTOB – Initiative for People's Self Development, the RAISE Project (01 September 2022- 30 June'2025) aims to create sustainable employment opportunities and strengthen the informal sector's contribution to the national economy.

## Key Objective

To enhance the earning potential and financial resilience of low-income youth and COVID-19-affected microentrepreneurs in urban and peri-urban areas of Bangladesh by providing skill development, vocational training, apprenticeship opportunities, and access to inclusive financing for sustainable employment and business recovery.

## Project Budget

The total grant allocation of **BDT 2,53,92,291** and an approved budget of **BDT 2,53,92,291 (USD 213,380.59)** for the fiscal year 2025–26.

## Project Coverage

The project is being implemented across seven districts (Dhaka, Munshiganj, Gazipur, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Narsingdhi, and Cox's Bazar). The project targets vulnerable populations in both urban and peri-urban areas, aiming to enhance skills, provide financial support, and facilitate sustainable livelihoods.

## Geographical and Population Coverage

| District | Area Coverage | Training Program (Person) | MCP (Person) | Apprentice (Person) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dhaka | Keraniganj, Uttara, Uttarkhan, Turag, Badaldi, Mohhammadpur, Rajendrapur, Nawabganj, Dohar, Shikaripara | 844 | 85 | 457 |
| Narshindi | Polash, Narshindi Sadar, Madhabdi | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Munshiganj | Tongibari,Nimtola | 80 | 6 | 32 |
| Manikganj | Singair | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Gazipur | Tongi, Hemayetpur | 40 | 31 | 93 |
| Narayanganj | Sonargaon, Bandor | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Chattagram | Anowara | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Cox's Bazar | Cox's Bazar, Chakoria, Ramu, Malumghat, shilkhali | 780 | 119 | 409 |
| **Total** | | **1864** | **241** | **991** |

As of the reporting period, the project has reached **2,855 beneficiaries**, with notable participation in Munshiganj, Manikganj, Narayanganj, and Narsingdi. While some districts are yet to fully mobilize their target populations, the ongoing activities continue to focus on **inclusive outreach, gender balance, and equitable service delivery** across all operational areas.

## Key Activities

During FY 2025–2026, BASTOB implemented the **RAISE (Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment)** project with the objective of enhancing employability, skill development, and entrepreneurship opportunities for low-income youth and micro-entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. The project was aligned with PKSF guidelines and focused on structured skills training, apprenticeships, and capacity building for informal sector workers, ensuring measurable impact on employment and income generation.

- **Training for Low-Income Youth and Micro-Entrepreneurs (BMED):** Conducted structured training sessions to develop technical and business skills. During the year, 150 participants completed training achieving 100% of the target.
- **Apprenticeship Training for Low-Income Youth:** Provided hands-on workplace learning for 300 participants, achieving 100% of the planned target**.**
- **Assessment of Apprentices:** Assessment of apprenticeship outcomes is in progress; no participants have been assessed yet against a target of 300.
- **Orientation for Master-Craftsperson (MCP):** Orientation sessions for MCPs were completed for 130 participants, meeting 100% of the target.
- **Selection of Master-Craftspersons:** 30 MCPs were selected, achieving 100% of the target.
- **Refreshers of MCP:** Refresher trainings were conducted for 26 MCPs out of 100 targeted (26% completion), enhancing skill retention.
- **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):** RPL sessions reached 40 participants out of 40 planned achieving 100% of the target.
- **Life Skills Training:** Life skills modules were completed for 450 participants against a target of 401 (89% completion), contributing to employability and workplace readiness.

- **Community Outreach:** Extensive outreach efforts engaged 600 individuals out of 600 targeted (100%), increasing awareness and mobilization for project activities.
- **Psychometric Profiling:** Profiling of 193 participants out of 2146 targeted (9.25%) was completed to guide personalized skill development and career planning.
- **Job Fair :** To create employment opportunities for apprentices, one of the two planned job fairs under the project was successfully conducted at Cox's Bazar on 22 June 2025. The event attracted 342 job seekers, out of which 132 participants secured jobs in various companies. The Honorable ADC, District Social welfare Officer and other government officials present at the day long program.
- **Day observation:** The project observed different national and international days like: Youth Days on 12 August 2025.
- **Other Activities:** Additional supportive activities were implemented as required to strengthen overall project delivery.

**Key Outcomes**

- The project successfully enhanced technical skills and workplace readiness among low-income youth and informal sector workers, contributing to their employability and income-generating capacity.
- 100% of apprenticeship and MCP selection targets were achieved, ensuring effective engagement of skilled trainers and craftsperson.
- Community mobilization and outreach exceeded 97%, demonstrating strong awareness and stakeholder engagement at the local level.
- Life skills, RPL, and psychometric profiling interventions are ongoing, with measurable progress contributing to comprehensive capacity development.
- The integration of structured training, apprenticeships, MCP engagement, and community outreach supports the long-term objective of sustainable employment and entrepreneurship in the informal sector.
- Overall, the RAISE project reinforced BASTOB's commitment to inclusive economic development and skill-based empowerment, aligned with PKSF operational standards and strategic objectives on poverty reduction, informal sector strengthening, and youth employment.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & FOOD SECURITY

## Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) Project

### Executive Summary

The Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support (RHL) Project, implemented by BASTOB with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), made major strides during FY 2025–26 in Moheshkhali Upazila, Cox's Bazar. Utilizing BDT 7.19 crore of its BDT 7.28 crore total budget, the project successfully profiled and enrolled all 3,886 targeted vulnerable individuals into 168 active climate adaptation groups. Key accomplishments include constructing 83 climate-resilient elevated homes with solar power and latrines, planting 21,905 trees and training 293 households in saline-tolerant farming. Additionally, the project fortified local economies by building 300 slatted Goat houses and extending credit and training to over 500 crab farmers. However, continuous extreme rainfall and severe humidity present ongoing operational challenges, causing agricultural waterlogging and structural damage to the elevated livestock sheds.

### Project Background

Climate change has emerged as a critical challenge at the center of global development discourse, particularly for countries like Bangladesh where poverty, environmental vulnerability, and climate risks intersect. The adverse impacts of climate change—such as sea level rise, salinity intrusion, cyclones, and tidal surges—intensify existing socio-economic vulnerabilities and place additional pressure on the livelihoods and coping mechanisms of poor and marginalized communities. Without urgent and integrated actions to reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 remains at risk. In response to these challenges, the project titled "Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL)" has been initiated with financial support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) under the UNFCCC framework. The project addresses climate-induced vulnerabilities in Bangladesh's coastal belt by promoting climate-resilient housing, sustainable livelihoods, and community-level adaptive capacity. BASTOB formally commenced implementation of the project in Moheshkhali Upazila, Cox's Bazar from 1 May 2024 with the technical guidance of PKSF.

### Key Objective

The overall goal of the RHL project is to develop climate-adaptive coastal communities by promoting climate-resilient housing and livelihood technologies, thereby enhancing resilience to climate shocks and stresses among vulnerable coastal populations.

**However, the key Objectives of the project are:**

- To develop climate-resilient homesteads for marginal vulnerable communities in the southwest coastal zone of Bangladesh;
- To develop climate-adaptive livelihoods for coastal vulnerable communities; and
- To enhance knowledge and awareness of the coastal vulnerable communities on climate change issues.

## Project Coverage

**Project Duration:** 5 years (September 2023 – August 2028)
**Funding Agency:** Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF).
**Total Approved Budget:** BDT 7,28,11,984.
**Total Expenditure (upto 30 June 2026):** BDT 7,19,38,231.

## Geographical and Population Coverage

The project is being implemented by 18 experienced Partner Organizations (POs) serving as Implementing Entities (IEs) in coastal areas. Among them, BASTOB (PO ID # 247) is responsible for executing project activities in the Moheshkhali Upazila of the Cox's Bazar district. The project is being implemented in eight unions of Moheshkhali Upazila, Cox's Bazar, an area highly vulnerable to climate change impacts due to its low elevation (1–2 meters above mean sea level). These unions are frequently affected by sea level rise, salinity intrusion, coastal flooding, cyclones, and storm surges.

## Key Activities performed 2025-2026

- **Socio-Economic Profiling:** To ensure the selection of more 3,886 project participants, around 168 Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises were conducted. These exercises helped identify climate-vulnerable populations based on the detailed eligibility criteria described in the project documents. The project has also developed a detailed Socio-Economic profile of its beneficiaries.
- **Design and Construction of Climate-Resilient Homesteads:** Vulnerable households in high-risk zones are supported through elevated plinth construction, climate-resilient housing, sanitary latrines, and solar panel installation. In FY 2025–2026, a total of 83 climate-resilient homes had been constructed in Moheshkhali. Previously, 26 homes were constructed under this project for most climate vulnerable families.
- **Goat/Sheep Rearing through Slatted Housing System:** The project provides technical training and financial support to vulnerable households for the construction of slatted goat/sheep houses and improved goat/sheep rearing. During FY 2025–2026, a total of 300 beneficiaries received financial and technical support to construct slatted goat/sheep houses, strengthening their livestock-based livelihoods and contributing to more sustainable income-generating opportunities. In 2024-25, the project constructed 750 slatted goat houses for poor and vulnerable community people.
- **Saline-Tolerant Vegetable Cultivation and Mangrove Plantation:** 293 beneficiaries received training and technical support for homestead-based saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation. Additionally, 21,905 saplings are distributed for tree plantation to enhance ecosystem resilience.
- **Sustainable Development of Crab Supply Chain:** The project supports the establishment of 6 crab nurseries, and capacity development of 500+ crab farmers to promote sustainable crab fattening and strengthen the local value chain. Plan to set-up of 7 crab hatchery is under process in 2026-27 period.
- **Capacity Building of Climate Change Adaptation Groups (CCAG):** A total of 168 CCAGs formed, engaging all 3,886 beneficiaries. Regular meetings, awareness sessions, and exchange visits are organized to enhance knowledge on climate change adaptation and resilient livelihoods.

- **Financial Support through Microfinance:** Under BASTOB's Microfinance Program, climate-resilient livelihood activities such as livestock rearing, crab culture, nurseries and vegetable cultivation are supported through access to credit.

## Project Outcomes

The implementation of the RHL project during 2025–26 resulted in measurable progress across climate-resilient housing, livelihood diversification, ecosystem restoration, and community capacity building in Moheshkhali Upazila.

- **Improved Climate-Resilient Housing and Basic Infrastructure-** Support was extended to 83 vulnerable households for climate-resilient homestead design and construction. A model homestead design gained approval, with plinth raising finished and significant construction progress made to bolster safety from flooding, storm surges, and climate shocks; additionally, 83 sanitary latrines and 83 solar panels were installed.
- **Strengthened Ecosystem Resilience and Green Coverage-** 21,905 trees were planted, exceeding the annual target of 8,700 saplings. Homestead-based & institution level plantation contributed to coastal greening, improved micro-climate, soil stabilization, and long-term environmental sustainability.
- **Climate-Resilient Livelihoods through Livestock Rearing-** Construction of 300 slatted houses (in total 1050+) for goat/sheep rearing was completed as planned, enabling improved livestock management under saline and flood-prone conditions.
- **Enhanced Food Security through Saline-Tolerant Agriculture-** 293 households adopted saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation within homestead areas, surpassing the annual target of 150 households. This intervention improved household nutrition, food availability, and adaptive agricultural practices in salinity-affected areas.
- **Progress toward Sustainable Crab-Based Livelihoods-** 500+ crab farmers received technical support on pond preparation and crab fattening, exceeding the annual target of 500 farmers. 500 crab farmers received financial support to strengthen production capacity and income stability.
- **Increased Climate Awareness and Capacity Development-** 1,735 CCAG meetings on climate change impacts and adaptation practices were conducted, initiating regular community engagement processes. 78 training batches were organized for beneficiaries on climate change issues, climate-resilient livelihoods, including saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation, goat rearing, and crab fattening.

## Challenges

- **Damage to agriculture due to continuous rainfall:** Continuous rainfall in last two years caused waterlogging in some agricultural lands and damaged crops, which slightly disrupted the normal progress of agricultural activities.
- **Damage to goat sheds:** Due to excessive rainfall and humidity, the soil and structural parts of some elevated goat sheds (machas) were partially damaged. As a result, regular monitoring is required to ensure the durability and usability of these sheds.
- **Soil erosion around resilient houses:** Due to continuous rainfall, newly filled soil around some resilient houses has washed away. This has the potential to adversely affect the stability of the houses' foundations and surrounding structures.
- **Disruption of the communication system:** Excessive rainfall made unpaved and rural roads, specially the salt production areas muddy and unsuitable for movement. As a result, this created some obstacles in regular field-level monitoring, communication with beneficiaries, and activity implementation.

# Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART)

## Sub-project 01: Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Metal Products (Electric Items) Sub-sector through RECP Practices

### Executive Summary

The SMART Sub-Project titled as 'Promoting sustainable growth in the Metal products (Electric item) sub-sector through RECP Practices', implemented by BASTOB with PKSF and the World Bank, successfully transitioned from preparation to active implementation during FY 2025–26. Supported by a BDT 3.45 crore grant and a BDT 28 crore loan portfolio, the project recorded a first-year expenditure of BDT 1.14 crore, successfully aiding 153 microenterprises (MEs) in RECP adoption and advancing establishing two model workshops, four technology transfers, and three common services. Institutional capacity was reinforced by training 50 microfinance staffs of selected 7 branches, delivering climate-resilience training to 116 participants (borrower), and establishing 4 active Environment Clubs. High-profile evaluation visits from the World Bank and PKSF highly commended BASTOB's clean energy practices in Machinery and Metal product industries. However, long-term sustainability faces severe localized hurdles in the Donia and Zinzira area, including disruptive RAJUK utility disconnections, the denial of official environmental clearances due to location unsuitability, and structural disruptions caused by MEs frequently relocating from temporary, rented facilities.

### Project Background

The Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) project promotes environmentally responsible, climate-resilient and resource-efficient growth among microenterprises. Under SMART, BASTOB is implementing the sub-project for the metal products (electric items) sub-sector with support from PKSF and the World Bank. The sub-project runs from May 2025 to June 2028. This report covers July 2025-June 2026 and summarizes the principal activities, outputs, expenditure and implementation challenges recorded during the year. The intervention works with metal and electrical-item microenterprises to improve Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP), occupational safety, technology use and access to shared services.

### Key Objectives

- Promote adoption of climate-resilient RECP practices among participating microenterprises.
- Improve resource efficiency, workplace safety, fire preparedness and environmental compliance.
- Demonstrate practical improvements through resource-efficient model workshops and technology-transfer support.
- Strengthen entrepreneurs, project staff and local institutions through training, workshops, exposure and environmental clubs.
- Facilitate common services, market-oriented support and an enabling ecosystem for sustainable enterprise growth.

### Project Profile

| Item | Details |
|---|---|
| Implementing organization | BASTOB - Initiative for People's Self Development |
| Funding/technical partners | PKSF and the World Bank |
| Project duration | May 2025-June 2028 |
| Reporting period | July 2025-June 2026 |
| Total project budget | BDT 3,45,00,000 (Grant)<br>BDT 28,00,00,000 (Loan) |

## Key Activities Perfromed 2025-2026

Implementation during 2025-2026 focused on capacity building, institutional preparation and early-stage RECP adoption. Major activities undertaken were:

- Conducted an inception workshop and training on climate vulnerability, climate-resilient RECP, occupational health and fire safety.
- Formed four environmental clubs (one model and three general clubs) and facilitated 30 meetings.
- Provided staff capacity-building training to 50 microfinance staffs on 22 November 2025.
- Supported 153 microenterprises to initiate RECP adoption; advanced model-workshop, technology-transfer and common-service interventions.
- Completed one internal audit; submitted baseline consultant procurement documents to PKSF for prior approval.
- Prepared for sustainable manufacturing, product certification, environmental clearance and e-commerce training; these remain dependent on module completion and scheduling.

| Activity / Indicator | Project Target |
|---|---|
| Inception workshop | 1 |
| Climate vulnerability & climate-resilient RECP training | 20 batches |
| OHS, safety equipment & fire-safety training | 6 batches |
| Environmental clubs | 4 |
| Staff capacity building & refreshers | 2 |
| Resource-efficient model MEs/workshops | 30 |
| Assistance for RECP adoption | 460 MEs |
| Technology-transfer support | 10 |
| Common-service establishment | 12 |
| Internal audit | 4 |

**Note:** Several endline, exposure, certification, business-fair and e-commerce activities are scheduled for later implementation in line with the project plan.

## Major Outcomes

- RECP adoption moved from preparation to implementation: 153 microenterprises received support totaling BDT 1,648,500.
- Two resource-efficient model workshops, four technology-transfer support cases and three common-service interventions were progressed, creating an initial demonstration base for wider adoption.
- Climate-resilience awareness was strengthened through five training batches reaching 116 participants, while two occupational-safety and fire-safety batches reached 47 participants.

- Four environmental clubs became operational and completed 30 meetings, establishing a local platform for environmental awareness and follow-up.
- Institutional capacity was reinforced through the inception workshop, staff training and the first internal audit. Project transactions were reported as posted in the designated software.
- Community consultation for proposed water, sanitation and hygiene facilities was completed, preparing the intervention for subsequent implementation.
- World Bank-PKSF Visit for observing RECP adaptation practices under SMART project both at Metal product and Machinery sub-sector held on 13 October 2025 appreciated BASTOB and ME's initiatives towards sustainable and energy efficient production.
- World Bank team also visited both SMART project for Mid-term review on 9 April 2026.
- Environment Day observed with Environment Club on 15 June 2026, where 70 participants participated and sensitized on eco-frinedly production, Resource efficiency.
- International Women's Day also observed in both sub-project on 8 March to recognize women entrepreneurs.

## Financial Performance

| Financial Indicator | Amount (BDT) | Remarks |
|---|---|---|
| Total project budget | 34,42,00,000 | SMART, BASTOB and ME contributions |
| Allocation for 2025-2026 | 12,75,03,535 | Reported annual allocation |
| SMART expenditure | 72,44,598 | Annual expenditure component |
| BASTOB expenditure | 17,04,408 | Annual expenditure component |
| ME contribution/expenditure | 24,93,001 | Annual contribution component |
| Total expenditure in 2025-2026 | 1,14,42,007 | Approximately 8.97% of the annual allocation |
| Cumulative funds received from PKSF | 16,63,00,000 | BDT 16,00,00,000 advance (Agrosor Loan) and BDT 63,00,000 for common services. |

## Key Challenges

- Frequent enforcement drives in the Donia area, which falls under RAJUK jurisdiction, sometimes lead to disconnection of entrepreneurs' electricity supply and disrupt production.
- The Donia location is considered unsuitable for environmental certification by the Department of Environment, limiting enterprises' ability to complete environmental-clearance requirements.
- Many workshops/factories operate from temporary or rented premises. Relocation by microentrepreneurs interrupts assessment and follow-up and complicates sustained RECP implementation.
- Several planned activities depend on procurement approval, training-module completion and confirmed schedules; baseline studies, exposure visits, certification training, business fairs and e-commerce training therefore remained pending during the reporting year.

# Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART)

## Sub-project 02: Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Machinery & Equipment sub sector through RECP Practices.

### Executive Summary

The Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) sub-Project titled as 'Promoting sustainable growth in the Machinery equipment sub sector through RECP practices', implemented by BASTOB with support from PKSF and the World Bank, successfully completed its initial year (July 2025–June 2026) aimed at driving eco-friendly, climate-resilient growth in the machinery and equipment sectors. Backed by a BDT 3.69 crore grant and a BDT 38 crore loan portfolio, BASTOB mobilized green finance by extending sub-loans to 183 microenterprises (MEs) and launching 6 revenue-generating common services. Operationally, the project completed its inception workshop, trained over 50 microfinance staff, established all 4 targeted Environment Clubs, provided RECP adoption assistance to 124 MEs, and developed 5 resource-efficient model workshops alongside 3 technology transfers. While programmatic milestones are well underway, the initiative faces ongoing hurdles, including aggressive commercial bank lending competition, deeply ingrained traditional production habits, and high rental costs within the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area that force MEs into rented, structurally restrictive, and environmentally unsuitable premises.

### Project Background

The Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) project promotes environmentally responsible, climate-resilient and resource-efficient growth among microenterprises. Under SMART, BASTOB is implementing the sub-project for the machinery and equipment sub-sector with support from PKSF and the World Bank. The sub-project runs from May 2025 to June 2028. This report covers July 2025-June 2026 and summarizes the principal activities, outputs, expenditure and implementation challenges recorded during the year. The intervention works with metal and electrical-item microenterprises to improve Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP), occupational safety, technology use and access to shared services.

The project focuses on promoting sustainable growth among microenterprises (MEs) through Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) practices, climate resilience, environmental capacity development, occupational health and safety, technology transfer, and access to finance for green growth.

### Key Objectives

- Promote adoption of climate-resilient RECP practices among participating microenterprises.
- Improve resource efficiency, workplace safety, fire preparedness and environmental compliance.
- Demonstrate practical improvements through resource-efficient model workshops and technology-transfer support.
- Strengthen entrepreneurs, project staff and local institutions through training, workshops, exposure and environmental clubs.

- Facilitate common services, market-oriented support and an enabling ecosystem for sustainable enterprise growth.

## Project Profile

| Item | Details |
|---|---|
| Implementing organization | BASTOB - Initiative for People's Self Development |
| Funding/technical partners | PKSF and the World Bank |
| Project duration | May 2025-June 2028 |
| Reporting period | July 2025-June 2026 |
| Total project budget | BDT 3,69,00,000 (Grant)<br>BDT 38,00,00,000 (Loan) |

## Key Activities Perfromed 2025-2026

- Line of credit for sustainable climate-resilient RECP practices and technologies to provide sub-loans: 183 achieved against a project target of 600.
- Day Observation: International Women's Day and World Environment Day conducted against a project target of 3; a successful woman entrepreneur was awarded.
- Staff Capacity Building Training and Refresher: One Staff capacity building training was organized for 50+ Microfinace staffs on 13 December 2025.
- Environment Day observed with Environment Club on 10 June 2026, where 70 participants participated and sensitized on eco-frinedly production, Resource efficiency. The Club members also perform cleaning activity, tree plantation and rally.

| Activity / Indicator | Project Target | Achievement in 2025-26 |
|---|---|---|
| Inception workshop | 1 | 1 |
| Climate vulnerability & climate-resilient RECP training | 24 batches | 4 batches |
| OHS, safety equipment & fire-safety training | 6 batches | 2 batches |
| Environmental clubs | 4 | 4 |
| Staff capacity building & refreshers | 2 | 1 |
| Resource-efficient model MEs/workshops | 60 | 5 |
| Assistance for RECP adoption | 525 MEs | 124 MEs |
| Technology-transfer support | 15 | 3 |
| Common-service establishment | 15 | 6 |

## Major Outcomes

During the reporting period of **July 2025–June 2026**, the SMART Machinery & Equipment Sub-project made important progress in establishing the foundation for sustainable and climate-resilient growth among microenterprises (MEs).

- **Enhanced environmental awareness and capacity of MEs:** A total of 4 training sessions on climate vulnerability and climate-resilient RECP practices and 2 training sessions on occupational health, safety equipment, and fire safety were conducted, contributing to improved awareness of environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and workplace safety among participating MEs.
- **Strengthened collective environmental engagement:** All 4 targeted Environment Clubs were established, including the establishment of one model club, creating a platform

for continued awareness-building and engagement on environmental and RECP-related issues.

- **Promotion of environmental awareness and recognition: One Day Observation programme** was organized during the reporting period, where a successful woman entrepreneur was awarded, contributing to recognition and promotion of inclusive entrepreneurship.
- **Progress in climate-resilient RECP demonstration and adoption:** The project initiated technical support and interventions for climate-resilient RECP practices, including the development of 5 Resource Efficient Model MEs/Workshops and providing RECP adoption assistance to 124 MEs.
- **Technology transfer support initiated: 3 MEs received support for technology transfer**, helping introduce improved and more resource-efficient production approaches within the Machinery & Equipment/Metal Products sub-sector.
- **Improved access to green finance:** Financial support was extended through the line of credit, reaching 183 MEs for sustainable climate-resilient RECP practices and technologies and supporting 6 revenue-generating common facilities, creating an important foundation for green growth and investment in improved technologies.
- **Institutional capacity strengthening:** One staff capacity-building training and refresher programme was completed to strengthen the implementation capacity of the Partner Organization.

**Key Challenges**

- Commercial banks are directly providing micro-enterprises with easily accessible and long-term loans, which is intensifying competition in the microfinance sector.
- Micro-enterprises (MEs) are accustomed to traditional working practices; therefore, building awareness about RECP and encouraging them to shift towards environmentally friendly and sustainable practices requires time. Most MEs under both sub-projects operate from rented premises, which limits their ability to adopt long-term RECP (Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production) practices, although there is significant potential in this regard.
- Due to high rental costs in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area, it is difficult for micro-enterprises (MEs) in the machinery and equipment industry to find suitable premises; as a result, they are compelled to operate in environmentally unsuitable locations.

# Promotion Of Myanmar Language And Culture Through Library And Community Center For The Rohingya Refugees In Cox's Bazar And Host Community

## Executive Summary

The Library and Community Center Initiative for the Rohingya Refugees and Host community—implemented by BASTOB with the financial and technical partnership of the Center for Social Integrity (CSI)—serves as a critical intervention against the socio-cultural marginalization and systemic identity loss faced by displaced Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. Since its inception in March 2021, the project has established a vital framework for community resilience and social cohesion, directly benefiting 6,750 households. During the 2025–2026 reporting period, the initiative successfully optimized its infrastructure by achieving 100% of its targets for constructing a new Women's Center and upgrading the Library and Heritage Center in Camp-11, alongside a host-community library in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar. These hubs maintained a consistent daily engagement of 17 to 22 youth readers and facilitated structured Non-Formal Education (NFE) that yielded near-perfect graduation benchmarks: 100% target achievement in Burmese literacy (80 students), foundational Mathematics (78 students), and Livelihood training (110 students), complemented by a 98% success rate in English proficiency. To mitigate camp vulnerabilities and promote constructive spaces, BASTOB strategically expanded its scope to engage adolescent cohorts, consistently overachieving benchmarks in skills-based sewing/ needle crafting, paper crafting, and inclusive indoor sports. Backed by 89 robust community awareness sessions on child protection and the institutional capacity-building of 100 camp teachers under the new Myanmar curriculum, the project culminated in a high-visibility, state-sanctioned Inter-camp Chinlone Tournament grand finale. This comprehensive operational cycle demonstrates a highly efficient utilization of donor resources, successfully bridging critical educational gaps, reinforcing psychological well-being, and safeguarding the baseline cultural rights of the displaced population.

## Project Background

BASTOB, with financial and technical support from the Center for Social Integrity (CSI), has been implementing a culturally focused initiative to preserve and promote the Myanmar language and cultural heritage among Rohingya refugees and members of the host community in Cox's Bazar. Prolonged displacement, limited access to formal education, and socio-cultural marginalization have placed Rohingya cultural identity at risk, particularly among children and youth growing up in refugee camps.

Recognizing language and culture as critical components of identity, social cohesion, and psychosocial well-being, the project was designed to provide structured opportunities for cultural learning, creative expression, and community engagement. Implemented in Camp-11, Balukhali, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, the initiative integrates education, awareness, and participatory cultural activities to strengthen community resilience and foster mutual respect between refugee and host populations. Since its inception in March 2021, the project has reached 6,750 households, contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage while promoting inclusive and peaceful coexistence within the camp setting.

## Project Objective

To preserve the Myanmar language and cultural heritage among Rohingya refugees and the host community by providing educational support, promoting cultural awareness, and fostering identity, social cohesion, and community participation through inclusive and interactive learning activities.

## Key Activities Performed 2025-2026

During the reporting period, the project implemented a diverse set of educational, cultural, and awareness-raising activities, including: During 2025–2026, the BASTOB Library & Heritage Center implemented structured educational and cultural activities in Camp-11, Balukhali, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, with defined participation targets to ensure inclusive community engagement.

### Outcome 1: Establishing the library and heritage center as functional knowledge and cultural hubs for Rohingya and host communities.

- **Infrastructure Development:** BASTOB achieved 100% of the target for constructing the Women center and renovating the existing Library and Heritage Center in Camp 11, Balukhali, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. These centers aim to empower the Rohingya community through educational, cultural, and learning activities. Apart from this, BASTOB also established a Community Library for host community at Chakaria, Cox's Bazar adjacent to its Branch office.

- **Library activities:** The libraries situated in Rohingya Camp-11 and Chakaria offer a diverse collection of books alongside regular reading and book-lending services. During the reporting period, the facilities maintained a consistent daily footfall, averaging 17 to 22 readers aged 10 to 22 years. Visitors demonstrated a strong interest across various genres, including academic materials, literature, and science fiction.

- **Non-Formal Education (Adolescent Girls aged 14–18):** Student selection, pre-test, and post-test processes were successfully completed.

- **Subject-Based Education & Training:**

**a. Burmese Language:** 80 targeted / 80 achieved (**100%**)
During the NFE Burmese language learning period, students demonstrated significant progress. They are able to read, write, speak, understand meanings, make short sentences, communicate basically in Myanmar language and write the name of their friends and family members.

**b. Mathematics:** 78 targeted / 78 achieved (**100%**)
In Math, students can understand weight, time, length, distance, units and basic management. They have also developed stronger number skills and problem solving abilities.

**c. Livelihood & Quality of Life Improvement:** 110 targeted / 110 achieved (**100%**)
Participants developed better self awareness, communication and decision making skills. They learned about their rights and responsibilities, diversity, climate change, disaster preparedness and the importance of making decisions.

**d. English Language:** 50 targeted / 49 achieved (**98%**). *Note: Shortfall of 1 participant due to operational constraints.*

Students have made good progress in basic English reading, writing, speaking, and vocabulary. They can introduce themselves, ask and answer simple questions and make short sentences.

**e. Technical Education:** 125 targeted / 120 achieved (**96%**). *However, target slightly affected by delays in materials supply.*

**Outcome 2: Ensuring the active participation of the Rohingya camp population in educational activities.**

- **Sewing & Needlework:** 70 targeted / 81 participated (**Overachieved**)

The Needle Craft activity builds stitching and creative skills among adolescent girls in the Rohingya refugee camp. Over 12 months, participants progress from basic stitching and sketching to creating their own unique and advanced designs.

- **Painting Activities:** 100 targeted / 117 participated (**Overachieved**)

The Painting activity provided adolescent boys and girls in the Rohingya refugee camp with opportunities to explore their creativity and develop artistic skills.

- **Paper Craft Activities:** 60 targeted / 70 participated (**Overachieved**)

Participants learned basic paper folding, cutting, shaping and designing techniques and applied these skills to create a variety of decorative and functional craft items.

- **Community Awareness Sessions:** 80 targeted / 89 sessions completed (**Overachieved**)

Door to door awareness sessions and parent meetings were conducted to encourage families to send their children to the center. Sessions also covered child protection, personal safety, disaster preparedness and prevention and response to any abuses and violations.

- **Indoor Sports:** 40 targeted / 46 participated (**Overachieved**)

The indoor chess activity provides a safe and engaging space for Rohingya community members to refresh their minds and interact positively. It brings together students, youth, teachers, Imams, Majhees and respected community members from different age groups. The activity encourages youth to spend their leisure time constructively and stay away from harmful or criminal activities in Rohingya camp.

- **Poetry session:** The poetry initiative fosters creative expression, confidence, communication skills, and a deeper appreciation of cultural identity among Rohingya adolescent boys and girls. During this reporting period, the program achieved an 85% participation rate, engaging 34 out of the targeted 40 adolescents in writing and recitation sessions. While engagement remained high, the full target was slightly constrained by scheduling conflicts and minor operational limitations.

**Outcome 3: Strengthening leadership roles within the Rohingya community in the field of education.**

- **Leadership Development Training:** A basic education teacher training was conducted at BASTOB Library and Heritage center, with participation of 100 teachers from different camps. The training was facilitated by trainers from Mote Oo Education, Myanmar. Key topics included the Myanmar new curriculum, Teacher competency standards, the Teaching cycle, identifying learners needs, creating 21$^{st}$ century learning environments and lesson planning. A total of 100 teachers participated across 2 training batches,

whereas 49 teachers participated as online participant and 51 teachers participated physically.

- **Special Cultural program:** As a sponsor and organizing partner alongside the RRRC office and the Office of the Camp-in-Charge-11, BASTOB successfully organized the Inter-camp Chinlone Tournament at FDMN Camp 11. Following the tournament's launch on 18 September 2025, BASTOB exclusively sponsored the grand finale on 9 February 2026. The closing event was highly distinguished, with Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mr. Mohammed Mizanur Rahman gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

## Key Outcomes

- **Cultural Preservation**: Myanmar language sessions and activities improved Rohingya children's language retention and identity.
- **Social Cohesion**: Inclusive events fostered host community ties and mutual understanding.
- **Community Participation**: Competitions boosted involvement and cultural ownership.
- **Psychosocial Well-being**: Art and storytelling enhanced Rohingya youth confidence and emotional health.
- **Capacity Building**: Engaging in photography and craft-making allowed participants to build vital creative skills. Grounded in core humanitarian principles, this initiative actively safeguarded Rohingya heritage, dignity, and long-term resilience.

## Financial & Administrative Information

- **Total Project Budget** 1,08,58,000/- BDT
- **Total Expenditure (Current Year):** 84,85,680/- BDT *(Includes all administrative & operational costs) (Upto 30 June 2026).*

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