

## **PROYAS ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

25 Years for Social Welfare, Socio-economic and Human Development

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**PROYAS**  
Manobik Unnayan Society

# Proyas Annual Report 2017

25 Years for Social Welfare, Socio-economic and Human Development



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>ANC</b>	: Ante-Natal Care
<b>ADAB</b>	: Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh
<b>ADP</b>	: Aborigine Development Program
<b>ATC</b>	: Anti Trafficking Committee
<b>BCTIP</b>	: Bangladesh Counter Trafficking In Persons
<b>BDT</b>	: Bangladeshi Taka
<b>BNNRC</b>	: Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication
<b>CDF</b>	: Credit and Development Forum
<b>CSM</b>	: Country Support Mechanism
<b>DUNS</b>	: Data Universal Numbering System
<b>ENRICH</b>	: Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households
<b>EU</b>	: European Union
<b>GCERF</b>	: Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
<b>GoB</b>	: Government of Bangladesh
<b>IGA</b>	: Income Generating Activities
<b>LIFT</b>	: Learning and Innovation Fund to Test New Ideas
<b>ME</b>	: Micro Enterprise
<b>MFS</b>	: Microfinance Samity
<b>MoFA</b>	: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MRA</b>	: Microcredit Regulatory Authority
<b>NGO</b>	: Non-Government Organization
<b>PAP</b>	: PROYAS Apiculture Program
<b>PADOR</b>	: Potential Applicant Data On-Line Registration
<b>P/CVE</b>	: Preventing Counter Violence Extremism
<b>PEACE</b>	: Promoting Engagement and Action for Countering Extremism
<b>PFTI</b>	: PROYAS Folk Theatre Institute
<b>PFTI</b>	: Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation
<b>PKSF</b>	: Post-Natal Care
<b>PNC</b>	: PROYAS Socio Economic Development Program
<b>PSEDP</b>	: Radio Mahananda
<b>RM</b>	: Rural Micro-Credit
<b>RMC</b>	: Ultra Poor Program
<b>UPP</b>	: United States Agencies for International Development
<b>USAID</b>	: US Dollar
<b>USD</b>	: Urinary Track Infection
<b>UTI</b>	

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## Foreword from the President

### President Speech

Being a part of Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society, I am delighted to write few words on the successful completion of another year, 2017 by Proyas. Proyas put its enormous, committed efforts reaching the milestones set against our goal of improving socio-economic status and rights of the community people free from poverty, deprivation and its consequences. Proyas is about to complete and celebrate 25 years' landmark of its journey in 2018. This is a historic moment for Proyas and its project partners, staff and officials, stakeholders, well-wishers and those involved with the organization for betterment of the people of this country.

Bangladesh made progress in poverty reduction and economic development within a few decades overcoming many challenges and obstacles. The per capita income in Bangladesh has increased to \$1,602 this fiscal year (2016-2017), according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. It was \$1,465 in the last fiscal year (2015-16). In addition, it recorded a commendable score in a number of development indexes (against the MDGs) like reducing maternal, infant and child mortality, increasing life expectancy, literacy, public health, sanitation, resilience to climate change etc. In respect of the above issues Bangladesh is well ahead from its neighbouring South Asian nations and has been recognized by international community as well. Proyas takes pride in such achievements as even a little contributor which was possible with the support from all stakeholders involved.

It's the fact that NGOs have been playing an important role for poverty alleviation, improving health status, resilience to climate change, establishing women and children rights etc. in Bangladesh as these organizations basically emerged, as a contributor with Bangladesh Government's objectives to curtail poverty and improve living standard, creating a just society as well as establishing human rights, focusing the underprivileged people. Matching with the same motivation, wellbeing of the poor and deprived is considered in Proyas as the top most priority agenda. In the past, we were engaged in activities and programs for yielding maximum benefits for our target groups. We had to overcome many constraints and make paces because of our strong commitment for the community.

The year 2017, was a successful period for Proyas as it was able to render versatile services to about 297,000 people of five northern districts of Bangladesh with socio-economic/financial and other supports of various categories including creating mass awareness on human rights issues, capacity and skills development along with financial assistance like soft loan, entrepreneurs' loan etc.

I thank the members of the Executive Committee of Proyas, its committed team, donors, and other stakeholders including its beneficiaries who helped Proyas establish as committed, dedicated and successful organization. I wish all the best to Proyas in coming years as a contributor of establishing Bangladesh as a Developed Country by 2041.

**Md. Anwarul Islam**

President

Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society





## Foreword from the Executive Director

Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 2017. But for desired development and human welfare, it is not that long. In order to reach the desired human state, more time are required with commitments and devotion. Despite overall economic development, thus increased per capita income, many people of our society are falling into new poverty line. They are fighting with their economic capacity to cope with the changing trend of the society and the market. Such people are in need of help or assistance to improve their capacity for their overall improvements. That's why still long way to go. Proyas has been trying to assist such people to combat poverty, improve their skills and livelihood.

Like past few years, 2017, Bangladesh's economic growth continued and poverty declined as we can see that the per capita income rose to \$1,610 in the FY 2016-17 from \$1,465 in the FY 2015-16, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). While writing this report (2018), poverty and extreme poverty rates have also come down to 21.8 percent and 11.3 percent. Average life expectancy at birth in Bangladesh rose to 72 years in 2017 according to the national statistical agency, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) report published on 27 June 2018. Similarly the literacy rate and other social conditions are also improved. The goal for the country is to become a middle-income country by 2021 so efforts are underway to maintain economic stability, strengthen revenues, extend trade reforms, improve labor skills, up-grade rural and urban management, fill energy and infrastructural gaps, and adapt to climate change.

Proyas takes pride to be part of such development of Bangladesh by working for and with the disadvantaged population of North Western districts of Bangladesh. This year Proyas has completed its 25<sup>th</sup> years of busy time with continuous and innovative efforts for the development of the people of this region.

Proyas strongly believes that development takes place neither automatically nor with any form of dependence. It happens with deep commitment of working, access to services and utilization of opportunities. All humans have potentials. In order to materialize those potentials into strengths for self-development, Proyas, from its lessons learnt, stands beside the people with innovative implementation strategies.

During the year 2017, Proyas continued its efforts, with comprehensive approach, for poverty reduction, improvement of livelihood, creating opportunities for self-employment and income generation, protecting the poorer community from social risks and decay through protecting children from early marriage, raising mass awareness and mobilizing the community against extremism and unsafe migration. Proyas has promoted innovative alternative agricultural activities, promoting folk cultures. Proyas managed Community Radio has contributed its remarkable role in massive social awareness and creating access of the local people, specially the youths and the farmers to have their own voices for economic and social development.

During publishing this report, I would like to take the privilege to thank all donors, partner organizations and individuals for their enormous supports. I would like to thank the governing board members for their continuous supports during the year. Last but not least, I thank my committed and devoted staff members and the beneficiaries for their continuous supports. We all will remain bold with our commitments and efforts. Let Proyas be devoted itself for human welfare and development.

**Md. Hasib Hossain**  
Executive Director

#### **Vision**

A Country with its all citizens free from all forms of deprivation and discrimination where everyone enjoys their basic rights.

#### **Mission**

Proyas aims to empower the disadvantaged, deprived and vulnerable people, who are surviving with poverty and social injustice, through economic and social interventions for positive change.

#### **Values**

**Honesty:** The skilled employees of Proyas work for achieving the goals and objectives of the organization remaining firm in the same principle and maintaining transparency with honesty in their words and deeds. We are all a unique entity and respectful to the collective efforts.

**Honour:** We recognize and honor the prospect and contribution of all the participants, donor organizations, partners, workers, and target people.

**Commitment:** We are committed to the effective welfare of the greater people and work altogether.

**Equity:** Proyas believes that everyone disregarding male or female, rich or poor, literate or illiterate has the right to live with dignity. We work intensively in ensuring human rights by believing this trust.

**Excellence:** The committed employees of Proyas strive to achieve the highest excellence, steadily accepting challenges and reviewing the lessons learnt.



## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

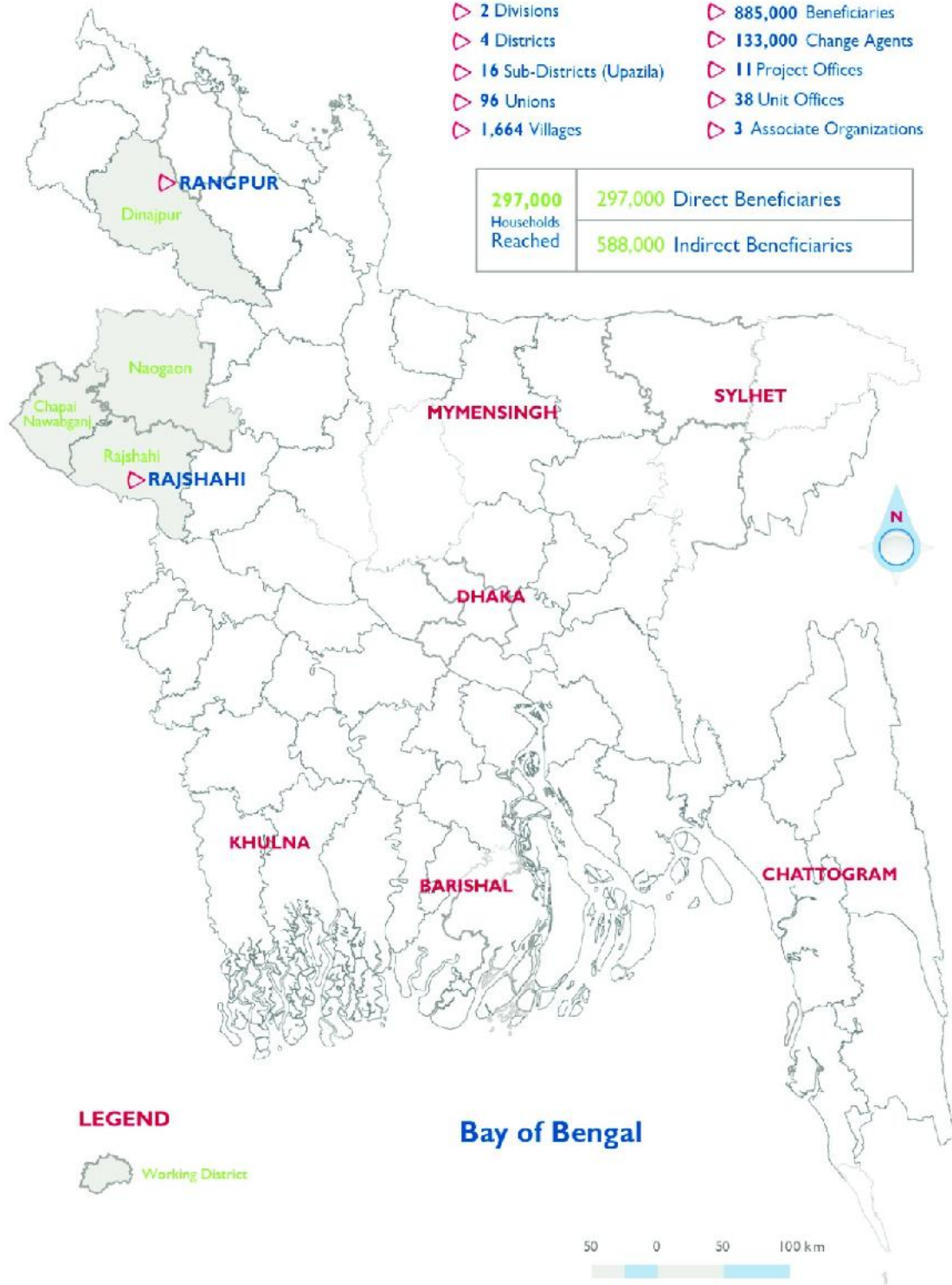
Proyas Working Area, Bangladesh (2017)

- ▷ 2 Divisions
- ▷ 4 Districts
- ▷ 16 Sub-Districts (Upazila)
- ▷ 96 Unions
- ▷ 1,664 Villages
- ▷ 885,000 Beneficiaries
- ▷ 133,000 Change Agents
- ▷ 11 Project Offices
- ▷ 38 Unit Offices
- ▷ 3 Associate Organizations

**297,000**  
Households  
Reached

**297,000** Direct Beneficiaries

**588,000** Indirect Beneficiaries





## LEGAL STATUS OF PROYAS MANOBIK UNNAYAN SOCIETY

Organized in : 1988  
Established in : 19 Dec. 1993

NGO Affairs Bureau  
Registration No: 1923  
Dated: 20/04/2004

Registered under Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA), Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh.

The Society Act-1860  
Registration No: Raj.-S - 49/2000  
Dated: 07/05/2000

Registration No: 00978-00986-00248  
Dated: 14/05/2008

Registered with DUNS  
Registration No: 731588591

Registered with PADOR (EU)  
Registration No:  
BD-2009-FLM-2803658041

Membership/Association  
BNNRC  
CDF  
ADAB

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF PROYAS

No	Name	Designation	Qualification / Occupation
01	Md. Anwarul Islam	President	MSS, College Principal
02	Md. Kamruzzaman	Vice-President	Engineer, NGO Activist
03	Md. Hasib Hossain	Member Secretary, Executive Director	MBS (Management), NGO Activist
04	Proshanto Kumar Saha	Treasurer	MBS (Marketing), College Lecturer
05	Kh. Md. Abul Kalam Azad	Executive Member	MSS (Political Science), NGO Activist
06	Most. Marufa Akhter	Executive Member	Social Worker
07	Most. Jomila Begum	Executive Member	Social Worker



## Executive Summary

Bangladesh has been on the UN Least Developed Countries (LDC) list since 1975. This is definitely an inspiring news and situation for Bangladesh that the UN Committee for Development Policy (CPD) has recently announced Bangladesh's eligibility for graduation to Developing Country status by 2024. Bangladesh has made some remarkable achievements regarding the MDGs. The success of achieving MDGs in Bangladesh brings confidence in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Like past few years, 2017, Bangladesh's economic growth continued and poverty declined as we can see that the per capita income rose to \$1,610 in the FY 2016-17 from \$1,465 in the FY 2015-16, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). While writing this report (2018), poverty and extreme poverty rates have also come down to 21.8 percent and 11.3 percent. Average life expectancy at birth in Bangladesh rose to 72 years in 2017 according to the national statistical agency, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) report published on 27 June 2018. Similarly the literacy rate and other social conditions are also improved. The goal for the country is to become a middle-income country by 2021 so efforts are underway to maintain economic stability, strengthen revenues, extend trade reforms, improve labor skills, up-grade rural and urban management, fill energy and infrastructural gaps, and adapt to climate change.

According to the World Bank, the economy of Bangladesh is "weathering persistent global uncertainties relatively well. Poverty reduction is expected to have continued. Growth remained resilient, aided recently by recovery in exports and private investments. Inflation has decelerated benefitting from soft international commodity prices and prudent macroeconomic management" (*World Bank. 2017 Bangladesh Development Update 2017*).

In order to achieve the status of middle income country by 2024 (government of Bangladesh is confident to achieve it before the target), like other big national NGOs, Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society, being based in Chapainawabganj is prominently active in 5 districts of North Western part of Bangladesh.

Proyas have implemented its activities following the defined two core thematic areas (a) Socio-economic empowerment of the poor and the ultra-poor and also (b) Human Rights and Peace. Massive interventions targeting the socio-economic development have created huge positive impact on the lives of the poor and ultra-poor households.

With support from PKSF and others like KGF and scheduled banks in Bangladesh, Proyas has reached to more than 2,97,000 households who benefitted from the projects named, Buniad, Agroshor, Enrich, Ujjibito, Sufalon etc. Under these projects, the households were benefitted through their involvement in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, small business/micro-enterprise development etc. For the overall economic development of the beneficiaries, Proyas is providing financial supports to undertake income generating activities along with necessary technical assistances. During the year 2017, Proyas has provided BDT 1,970,596,000 (US\$ 23,541,587) as micro-credit support to 83,837 beneficiaries for various income generating initiatives. According to our field monitoring report, about 99% of the beneficiaries are successful with their IGAs and have increased their family income by 70% in average. The total recovery rate of loan is 99.79% in this year.

In the year, under its second core thematic area of human rights and peace, Proyas has successfully implemented all its activities under two different projects, titled, "Promoting Engagement and Action for Countering Extremism-PEACE funded by PEACE Consortium through its lead agency, "Rupantor". The aim of this project is to facilitate the process of fostering peace and social harmony by maintaining secular and syncretic culture where targeted communities autonomously perform to prevent as well as counter radicalization and recruitment for extremism. In order to achieve the project aim/goal, Proyas has implemented its planned activities in 22 Unions under two Upazilas of Chapainawabganj district and a total of 30,941 people were involved and benefitted. The planned interventions have created mass awareness on the types, drivers and consequences of radicalization and violent extremism and help the project participants be pro-active to combat such radicalization and extremism at their family and community level. The activities were implemented with different age group of target population. The major activities were to arrange cultural & sports events for adolescent engagement in peace and harmony building, youth engagement as Community Radio program producer to interact with community especially youth listeners club integrated district on P/CVE, and organizing inter-generation dialogue by youth with influential senior persons for building solidarity in the community.



Similarly in 2017, Proyas has implemented another project titled "Bangladesh Counter Trafficking in Persons (BCTIP)" funded by USAID through Winrock International. The overall goal of the project is to develop capacity of target community to prevent human trafficking, promote safe migration and establish functional networking and partnership to strengthen TIP prevention initiatives. During the year, a total of 1,000 students and 100 teachers of various schools and colleges were oriented on safe migration and trafficking, 60 students received training through 3 peer leader group training, 122 CTC members were trained who are taking active part for mass awareness raising to prevent unsafe migration and trafficking. As a media of awareness raising Proyas organized video campaign where 1050 community people participated and expressed their will to act as part of their social responsibility to combat unsafe migration and trafficking.

Currently in Bangladesh, there are 17 community radios active, amongst them Proyas is operating Radio Mahanda (98.8 FM) to facilitate in bridging of free and realistic information flow to exchange of information, transparency, accountability in democratic rule for education and development through creating environment of access to information thus reduce/eliminate existing disparity/discrimination of information and knowledge amongst the community of the township and villages of Chapai Nawabganj district and its neighbourhood. This radio is broadcasting daily program from 3 pm to 1 am everyday. It is broadcasting regular entertainment programs along with local cultural programs, local and national news, disseminating news and information on agriculture and agro-technology, awareness raising programs on early marriage, gender, trafficking, violent extremism, etc. It is also arranging programs where the farmers, students, listeners, intellectuals, technical experts and representatives from administration are participating. This radio has created a mass popularity for its programs.

Proyas Folk Theatre Institute (PFTI) is an innovative initiative by Proyas for conservation of local folk cultures and utilizes those for social development of the community since September 2017. It is continuously researching on the variety of folk cultures of Bangladesh. As the folklore cultures are cemented with the lives of the people of this country for thousand years, various researches by experts proved that the social development/awareness messages can be disseminated most effectively.

The purpose of Proyas Folk Theatre Institute (PFTI) is to ensure community awareness on "Right to Information" for creating an aware society by conservation and utilization of folk cultures, more specifically folk songs and theatre. It is helping for creating mass awareness on various social issues that Proyas is working on.



## PROYAS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society has been working within its two core thematic areas to act for the positive social changes. Gender equity is a cross cutting issue for all its development interventions.

- Socio-economic Empowerment of the people living in poverty
- Human Rights, Protection and Peace

Proyas also focuses on the people who are vulnerable to natural disaster to reduce the risks and to increase resilience.

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

#### Jagoron

"Jagoron" means "vigil". It interprets the title of the scheme under the socio-economic empowerment programme. It is the group of people in the rural, urban and sub-urban areas, who have less than 50 decimal cultivatable land but from that what they grow or get return, doesn't meet the day to day needs of the family. Consequently, they can't have any savings to meet any sort of emergency needs. Selling daily labour is only way of earning. Proyas organizes these sections of people, who are mainly living in the subsistent level, having gross income of less than 2 US\$ a day, under this scheme (Jagoron). They are mobilized to undertake alternative income generating activities with micro-finance support, ranged upto Taka 50,000 (US\$ 600) depending on their initiated projects and capacity. In 2017, Proyas has supported 50,179 people with financial assistance of BDT 896,491,000 where 100% members of this scheme/product, became successful.

#### Grocery Shop: A Way to Scape from Poverty

**Mosammat Aduri Begum**, living in a small village named Char Mohonpur in Chapainawabganj district, is from an ultra-poor family. She was struggling with her husband and two children to run their family with two meals a day. Her husband was only the breadwinner of the family with an average monthly income of less than BDT 10,000 (less than \$1.00 per head per day). She was mainly involved in household works. Occasionally, she used to work as part time maid in a neighbour's house for some rice or money. She heard about Proyas and their activities in Aduri's village and became interested to be part of the local cooperative supported by Proyas. She got confidence from others that like other women members of the cooperative scheme named "Jagoron", she can undertake income generative activities and have good income for her family. She shared with her husband and became the member of the cooperative in December 2015. In consultation with her husband, she planned to start a small grocery shop. She applied and got initial financial support from Proyas. Initially she started the grocery shop with BDT 15,000 only with a soft loan from Proyas. She was successfully running the shop and was able to repay the loan within stipulated time. She got confidence and took another loan of BDT 30,000 and expanded her shop. She is proudly running the shop, able to contribute a lot for the family including some personal savings too. With the satisfactory increased savings from the income, Aduri, made a new house, bought two goats, rearing chickens, growing homestead vegetables for household consumption. She attends the cooperative's weekly meetings regularly. She strongly believes, with financial strengths, women get more dignity. Her shop with her courage and hard work puts her in a dignified stand in the family as well as in the community.

#### 4\_Grocery Shop A Way to Scape from Poverty

#### Agrosor

Agrosor, meaning "advanced", is a scheme of Proyas for the economic improvement of ultra-poor households. This scheme started in 2006 with name of "small entrepreneur loan scheme". The program participants, who had been involved in various income generating activities with rural or urban micro-credit assistance from the organization, but been unable to expand their business and/or income generating activities due smaller size of investment, are eligible to be a member of this scheme. With the larger investment, as per their requirements, ranges from BDT 30,000 to 10,00,000, they are now able to expand their business for much better income generation. In 2017, a total of 2,843 new members, comprised with 856 groups, were included under this "Agrosor" scheme. A total 3,181 individual entrepreneur members were



directly benefitted from the scheme by expanding their business with financial assistance of BDT 30,37,81,000 in different time of 2017. The members also save a fixed amount on weekly basis. Under this scheme, the members have deposited savings of BDT. 5,45,65,517 in 2017. From their increased income, the members have already returned BDT 18,34,13,277 within the year 2017. It can be noted here, about 99.5% of the participants repaid their loan as per their loan repayment plan.

### **Poultry Triples Income of Rokeya Begum**

**Rokeya Begum**, a very successful interpreneur, is living in the village Bohalabari under Shibganj Upazila (sub-district) of Chapainawabganj district with her family. Her husband, Sukam Ali was a day labourer, was only the breadwinner of the family of five members. They were living on hand to mouth with an average monthly income of BDT 9,000 per month. Rokey met the field organizer of Proyas and showed her interest to be a member of Proyas run cooperative named "Beguni (violet) Women Samity" through which other women were trained and initiated various income generating activities successfully. She was enlisted with the group (Samity) in October 2010. She received training on poultry rearing and started a small poultry farm (layer chicken rearing) with a soft loan of BDT 20,000. Her husband was also helping her, especially in marketing the eggs. Within a short time, she repaid the loan and took further loan of BDT 25,000 and expanded her farm. She also started to deposit savings on regular basis, which stood upto BDT 25,290 in 2017 and also renovated her house, installed tube-well, sanitary latrine and also growing vegetables on her homestead. With a continuous success with her skills, devotion and hard work, after repaying the loan, she was given a third loan of BDT 50,000 under Proyas' small entrepreneur category as she qualified for such. Every day, she is selling eggs in wholesale and in retail. She received technical advices and services from the technical persons of Proyas' Agriculture, Livestock and Poultry Unit. Rokeya proved herself as a successful entrepreneur with her consistent progress of business and her capacity to expand her business further and proved her capability to handle larger amount of investments. Considering her progress and capacity, she was finally given a loan of BDT 200,000 with which she has further expanded her poultry business. She is now earning a net profit of Taka more than 30,000 per month. She believes that within very short time, she will be able to repay her loan and will be able to run her business independently. She also thinks to undertake other innovative IGA which her husband can continue further. Rokeya believes that her children will have good education and will be well-established in future. She proudly says, Proyas' Agrosor scheme helped her becoming "advanced" economically as well as other social education, health, nutrition and hygiene issues.

### **5. Poultry Triples Income of Rokeya Begum**

#### **Buniad**

Buniad means 'foundation' which is another scheme/product for the "absolute have not" group of people, female headed family, completely dependent on fragile/temporary works, have not houses to live in, working as maids in others' houses and sometimes getting assistances under some safety net projects of government and/or non-government agencies. The beneficiaries under this scheme also include the "street beggars" and "floating sex-workers". As the title of the scheme/product depicts, the initiative/objective of Proyas is to build a strong foundation for economic empowerment of this group/section of people of the community. The beneficiary members under this scheme/product are mobilized and sensitized on group dynamics, identifying their potentials, meeting themselves on regular basis, undertakes income generative initiatives with financial support from Proyas. They also deposit their routine/regular savings along with the fixed installments. Each beneficiary under this scheme, can avail upto BDT 25,000 as loan for one year and payable in 46 installments.

### **Goat Rearing Brought Light and Hopes for Jinnat Ara**

"Goat rearing brought me light and hopes", says Mosammat Jinnat Ara Begum of Babupur from an ultra-poor family of the village of Ujirpur under Chapainawabganj district. She said, in 2013 and 2014, me and my husband were passing very crucial time. Our children were separated from our family. We had almost no employment and merely used to eat one meal almost every day. We lost our hopes and were only praying to



God. Nobody came forward to help us. In such situation, I heard about Proyas in Ujirpur market. I discussed about myself with the officer concerned, requested to support me to survive. I included myself with Proyas local women group named "Ananda Women Group" and learned about possibility of rearing goats considering my capacity and status. I agreed, got basic training and soft loan of BDT 4,000 and bought two goats. They also oriented me vegetable gardening and provided necessary seeds. Within few months, both the goats gave 5 yearlings. I was able to repay installments from the selling of vegetables I grew, within one year. Later, I took BDT 6,000 to buy more goats, as it seemed to be feasible and profitable for me. It dreamt to enlarge my goat farm and finally in 2017, I took BDT 10,000 as my third loan and increased number of goats in my mini-farm. Now I have eight goats, 10 hens and my vegetable garden. In the mean time, I have also sold five goats. I am now confident and optimistic. I want to expand my mini-goat farm further. My husband also finds it as good venture for us. While talking to Jinnat Ara, she was proudly and happily telling her story of success. She is no more worried about their next day meal. They have now good savings for future including their health care. She feels, "two goats were my foundation for progress" based on what she is now building better future.

## 6. Goat Rearing Brought Light and Hopes for Jinnat Ara

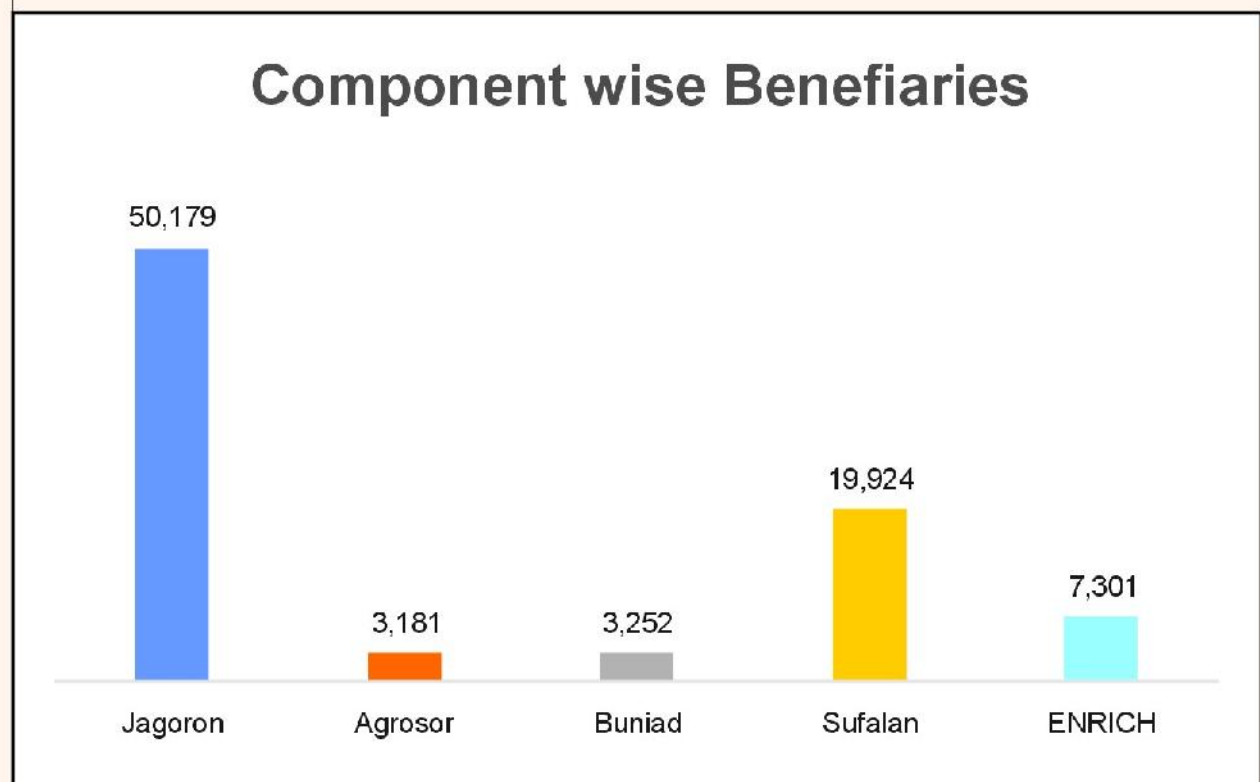
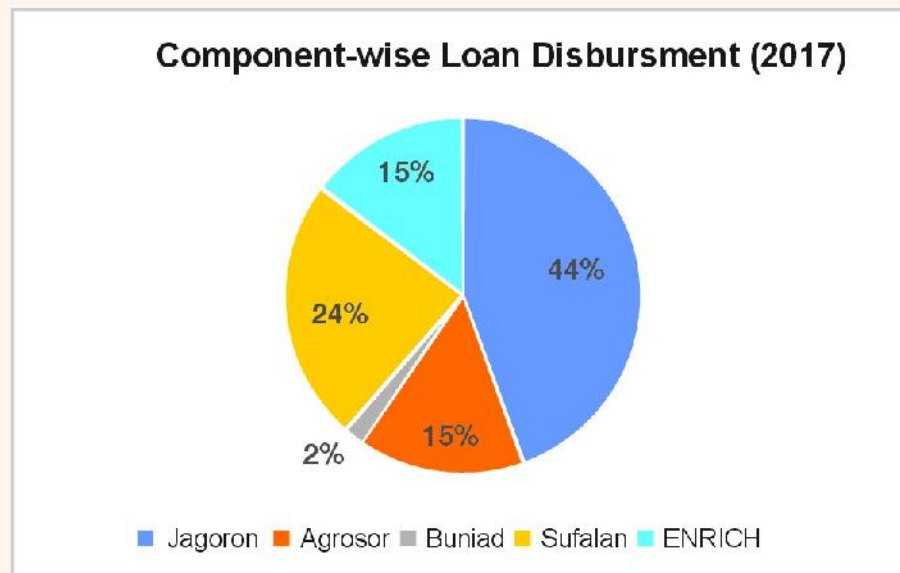
### Sufalan

The program participants (beneficiaries) of Proyas are involved in various kinds of economic activities including asset creation/generation. Many of the same participants are also involved in seasonal income generating initiatives. As Chapainawabganj is the highest mango growing district of Bangladesh, many people invest in this sector (specially trading). Similarly, many of our program participants invest seasonally for Beef Fattening targeting the huge market of livestock during one of the biggest religious festival of Muslims, the Eid Ul Azha (Qurbani). Some are also investing in seasonal crop cultivations. In order to invest in these types of seasonal businesses, Proyas is supporting them with financial assistance for a short-term seasonal loan services under a special scheme called "Sufalan". Another objective is to enhance the agricultural productivity with necessary technical and financial assistances. Proyas has been operating the scheme since 2008. In 2017, a total of 19,924 families benefitted from Sufalan scheme by investing in seasonal businesses with the financial support from Proyas. They received BDT 48,25,56,000 as additional seasonal investments, specially in agriculture and livestock sector for a period of maximum nine months. Out of the total amount, in 2017 the beneficiaries returned a total of BDT 31,87,53,449 from their additional income.

### Bedana Changes her Life Gradually

**Bedana Begum** (38), lives in Char Barorasia village of chapainawabganj district is a member of Proyas' Charbarorashia women group, under its "Sufalan" scheme, since October 2016. She along with her five members' family had less than five decimal of homestead land. Through the women group, she attended several awareness sessions on health, hygiene and livelihoods. Being encouraged by other members of the group, she decided to start IGA in agriculture. Bedana with the moral support from her husband leased a small land and started integrated agriculture (multiple vegetables) with micro-credit of BDT 20,000. She also received training from the technical team of Proyas. In first year, she was successful and became confident to expand and manage larger project. So, she took second loan of BDT 40,000 and expanded her project. She, with her increased profit, added newly bought land with more leased lands for agriculture. She has also constructed a new semi-pacca house. Now she has 3 cows and 10 hens at home. They have now sanitary latrine. She attends group meetings regularly. All her eligible children are attending school. She is confident to reduce risks of any natural disaster as she is trained and prepared for it. She dreams to expand her project in agriculture and livestock, as she believes, these are more profitable and sustainable for them.

## 7\_Bedana Changes her Life Gradually





## Enhancing Resources & Increasing Capacities of Poor Households (ENRICH) Program

Since 2010, with assistance from PKSF, Proyas has been implementing an integrated community development titled as ENRICH to enhance resources and to increase capacities of poor households. This project has various components, i.e. (a) Income generation through micro-credit supports for IGA, asset creation and livelihood improvements, imparting IGA training, skill development training and agricultural development. (b) Social mobilization for empowerment of youths as social change agent, awareness on various social issues that protects children from early marriage, dowry and thus ensures child rights. It also includes environment conservation through youth clubs, (c) Primary health care etc.

With its mission for socio-economic empowerment of the disadvantaged people, Proyas has been implementing its development projects. Proyas has undertaken a program titled, "Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of poor Households (ENRICH) towards elimination of their poverty since 2010 with the financial assistance of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). It was started this project in Ranihati union under Nachole Upazila of Chapainawabganj. This intervention has been undertaken with integrated/comprehensive activities in a holistic approach for the development and enrichment of the whole community. The major activities of the programs are as follows;

### a. Education Support Service

Under the ENRICH program, with the support from PKSF, Proyas has been providing education support services to the children who are prone to dropout from schools, a early stage of primary education, due to adequate supports, guidances and also to become involved with helping hand of the parents for income earning for their families. In the ENRICH program area, Proyas has been operating 40 learning centers for the children from nursery to class two standards. These centers are being operated from 3 pm to 5 pm in all working days. Teachers are helping them do their homeworks, extra lessons, teaching them social norms, etiquette, general knowledge and trying to increase their confidence through involving them with various psycho-social activities. In 2017, through 40 learning centers, under one union, a total of 1008 children (579 boys and 469 girls) received this education support services through 40 centers. Through this service, Proyas was able to reduce drop to zero amongst the children under this intervention. Following table depicts the performance of education support services.

### 8\_Education Support Service

**Table -1: Status of Education Support Service in 2017**

Grade	Students	Promoted to next grade	Passing Rate	Drop-out	Ranked at classes			
					1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Nursery	463	463	100%	Nil	-	-	-	-
One	307	307	100%	Nil	11	10	18	75
Two	289	289	100%	Nil	12	13	16	69
Total	1,008	1,008	100%	Nil	23	23	34	144

### b) Primary Health Care Service

Through ENRICH program, Proyas is providing primary health care services at the door-steps of all 7,850 households of the selected working area. Our health personnels and the field health facilitators are providing this PHC services through health screening at household level, through static and satellite clinics and also ensure the referral services to Upazilla health complex or to district hospitals for secondary and tertiary level of services needed, as and when appropriate. The services include health education, Ante-natal Care/Post-Natal Care (ANC/PNC), emergency obstetric care, family planning, treating anemia, conjunctivitis, Urinary Track Infection (UTI), early detection of pneumonia, managing diarrhoea and dysentery, and treating bacterial infections etc. The community level health awareness raising includes, exclusive breast-feeding



(including colostrums feeding), handwashing, water & sanitation, adolescent reproductive health, adolescent nutrition, birth planning, personal hygiene, supplementary feeding, immunization, etc. The services through the static clinic are provided by Proyas health personnels (paramedics) daily and the services through the satellite clinics are provided in collaboration with the government medical doctors from Upazilla Health Complex bi-weekly (8 clinic days per month). Since inception of the service component, a total of 33,124 individuals received Primary Health Care Services through 467 satellite clinic days and 2,344 static clinic days. In addition, 3,587 individual received services on diabetic detection and 209 individuals were provided cataract operation services through eye camps organized by Proyas. In this working area, a total of 7,850 families are registered with health cards.

## 9\_Primary Health Care Service

**Table-2: Performances of Primary Health Care Service in 2017**

Sl	Particulars	Achievements	
		In 2017	Since Inception
01	Operated satellite clinic (days)	96	467
02	Operated static clinic (days)	320	2,344
03	Service recipient through satellite clinic	2,595	17,498
04	Service recipient through static clinic	3,874	33,124
05	Diabetic detection	636	400
06	Health awareness sessions	768	2,066
07	Cataract operation	24	209
08	Training sessions on PHC	14	15
09	Number of participants received training on PHC	390	420

## 10\_Primary Health Care Service

### C) Establishing ENRICH Center for Community Capacity Building

ENRICH Center is a concept of organizing the community to develop their own meeting place where they will discuss about their community problems, will decide themselves to undertake various social activities, organize community youths for voluntary activities at community level. Under ENRICH project, Proyas has assisted the community of Ranihat Union where the community people have developed 9 ENRICH centers in all its 9 Wards. So far, the community people have conducted 257 meetings where they discussed about child rights, reasons for school drop out, reducing early marriage, safe drinking, developed youth clubs for voluntary social activities as well as to restrain the youths from drug abuse and extremism. Through these centers, the community people are now assisting the Union Parishad to render their services efficiently, like selecting the beneficiaries of government's safety net program, road maintenance, road side tree plantation. They are also selecting the members from the community to be the members of different sub-committees of Union Parishad. They also keeping liaison with the local school teachers and linking with the education centers of Proyas to reduce drop-outs. With the awareness sessions from Proyas and with the community decision, 18 latrines, 16 tube-wells and 560 eco-friendly cooking stove/oven were installed in Ranihati Union in 2017.

### d) Special Deposit Scheme

ENRICH project has initiated a special deposit scheme for the members of the project. It opened 18 accounts for special deposit for a fixed term. According the policy of this scheme, out of 18 matured accounts, Proyas has paid to 11 accounts worth BDT 164,519 as matching grants.

### e) Beggars Rehabilitation

Another scheme under ENRICH for the rehabilitation of the beggars. Under this scheme, so far, Proyas organized and rehabilitated 20 beggars with financial grants and involved them in various income generating activities within their community.



## From Beggar to a Proud Worker

Bablu Ali (45), a mason by occupation, lives in Ramchandrapur village of Ranihati union under Sadar Upazilla of Chapainawabganj district. Bablu had been earning well as a mason and was running his five members' family with satisfaction. But suddenly, he started to feel pain in his one leg, consulted the doctor and spent a lot of money for treatment. He lost all his savings and became totally unable to work anymore. Gradually, before six years, he got his leg paralyzed. He was struggling to run his family. His wife was earning a little with Kantha stitching which was not at all enough for the family. Bablu decided and started begging. While begging door to door, at the bus stops and in the bazaar, he saw a lighthouse for his life that is the Proyas' Beggars Rehabilitation Program. Bablu explained about himself and his desires to the Proyas team member. While asked by the concerned field worker, he expressed his desire to run a small grocery shop. Proyas enlisted him as member of ENRICH program following the selection criteria. Proyas offered him a small grocery shop and also renovated his house. This shop made his dream come true. He has an average sale of BDT 2,000 with a net profit of BDT 300 per day. He feels proud as no one call him a beggar now. Bablu's wife earns 50-70 taka everyday from tailoring job with a sewing machine. One of sons is now a mason. There are three earning members in the family. They are living a better life now. With their savings, recently Bablu bought a cow worth BDT 54,000. The Union Parishad member Mr. Imdadul Hoque says, "like Bablu Ali, many other beggars are now rehabilitated by the ENRICH project of Proyas. This is an excellent and sustainable project of Proyas".

### 11\_Beggars Rehabilitation

#### f) Micro-Credit Support

In order to enhance resources and increase capacities of poor households towards elimination of their poverty, along with other essential services, Proyas has been providing micro-credit supports to the community people for undertaking market-demanded income generating activities, livelihood development and for asset creation. Since 2010, under ENRICH program, a total of 8,909 families directly benefitted from the credit support from Proyas out of which 7,301 households received loan of BDT 265,358,000 for various IGAs, 627 families received BDT 6,180,000 for livelihood development and 981 families received BDT 24,129,000 for their family asset creation. The borrowers were able to refund about 99.37% of their loan amount including service charge after meeting their purpose of the loans as per their loan refund plan/schedule.

#### g) Sanitation and Hygiene

Under the ENRICH program, 285 households of Ranihat Union were distributed latrine sets (5 rings and 1 slab) along with TipiTap hand-washing devices. All the 285 household members, including the children, were trained and now using the TipiTap hand-washing techniques along with using soap after defecation. These households became the demonstration houses for Safe Sanitation and Hygiene and being motivated, others have started to follow them and installed 18 sanitary latrines and 16 tube-wells with TipiTap hand washing pots. In 2017, this union has been declared as "Union of 100% sanitation and hygienic hand-wash after defecation". Proyas has decided to replicate this initiative in other unions of its working districts/Upazilas in coming years.

#### h) ENRICH Model House

In order to demonstrate the success, with the support of PKSF, Proyas has started to development ENRICH model houses in Ranihat Union. The indicators for the ENRICH Model House are defined as that within two years, each household will:

- Have at least two income sources.
- Be using safe/hygienic latrine and will practice handwashing with soap after defecation.
- Have access to safe drinking water.
- Send all their eligible children to schools.
- Have at least 10 poultry birds and 2 goats or cows.
- Have at least 3-4 types of fruit trees and will grow vegetables on their home yard.
- Have at least two meals of balanced diet per day for members of the family.



## UPP-Ujjibito Project

“Ujjibito” meaning “breathing for new life” is a very remarkably successful project on socio-economic empowerment of the disadvantaged population of Proyas' working areas. The project titled “Food Security 2012 Bangladesh-Ujjibito” has been implemented since 2013 with funding assistance from European Union (EU) and technical assistance from PKSF. The project is being implemented in 5 Upazillas of Chapainawabganj district. The main beneficiaries selection criteria is the women/female headed ultra-poor households. This project is being implemented through 15 units under 5 Upazilas of Chapainawabganj district. Under this project, Proyas is providing supporting the community mainly in two major areas, like for economic empowerment with IGA training, micro-credit support for various income generating activities (IGAs) and arranging vocational/skills training and for better health. However, it is conducting awareness sessions on food, nutrition, reproductive health, early marriage etc. About 90% of the women received training on tailoring and embroidery are running their business and contributing a lot their family economy. All the households under this component are divided in five IGA clusters and 15 Nutrition villages, where female members of those households received training on health and nutrition aspects, were supported with vegetable seeds for household level vegetable gardening through which they meet their day to day nutritional needs. This project provides “risk fund” to beneficiaries to overcome the damages/loses of their income generative activities.

During the year 2017, total 15 women received vocational training on food processing and preservation. All trained women are now being benefitted from selling of their mango based products. Proyas has also arranged vocational training for 15 men on electrical house wiring, all are either employed by others (e.g. 5 are employed by Rangpur Foundry Limited-RFL a renowned company of Bangladesh) or self-employed in their technical field locally. All of them are earning BDT 15,000 to 25,000 per month. During the year assistance from such risk fund, 70 families were supported financially and 45 out of those families, who have disable members, were additional supported with one goat each.

training like goat rearing, layer poultry birds rearing, training on vermicompost and its use, beef fattening etc through its own demonstration units as well as providing free vaccination to the livestock and poultry birds of the beneficiary household level. The beneficiaries are being benefitted from this support services and more interestingly the organic cultivation using vermicompost (organic fertilizer) instead of chemical fertilizer is becoming more and more popular amongst the local farmers.

To encourage the community people for organic agricultural development, this project has motivated and trained the interested community people on vermi-compost production and use. At present, there are 135 vermi-compost production units from where they are selling the products to different farmers of the community, by which both the producer and the farmers are being directly benefitted. The demand and interest of producing and using vermi-compost are increasing rapidly.

During this period, through Ujjibito project, Proyas has implemented various activities for economic and skills development and disseminated health and hygiene related message. The project staff have closely monitored the improvement and changing status of health and hygiene related behavior and practice. Following are the detail about the activities under Ujjibito:

### Skills Training

During the year (reporting period), through this Ujjibito project, Proyas has imparted different agriculture and non-agriculture-based skills training and vocational training to 765 beneficiaries. The skills training were both agricultural and non-agricultural. Following are the details;

## 12\_Skills Training\_Ujjibito

### Agricultural Skill Training

A total 200 beneficiaries received training on homestead gardening, 50 received training vermi-compost production and use, 300 beneficiaries received training on goat rearing in platforms and 125 beneficiaries received training on beef fattening



### **Non-Agricultural Skill Training**

Under Ujjibito project, a total 25 women received training on tailoring, embroidery and block-boutique

### **Vocational Training**

A total of 15 women are benefitted from the training on Food processing & preservation. All are earning an additional income for the family through utilization of such skills.

### **IGA Support to Ultra-poor Households**

During this reporting period, female members of 65 households received IGA support, like 15 household received goats, podder siblings, vaccination services etc. to start Goat Rearing on Platform which is developed as demonstration farm through which other farmers are encouraged and 50 households received technical, financial and material supports to develop and use vermi-compost plants. All these are developed as demonstration plants to encourage other farmers.

### **Field Level Capacity/skills Development on Agriculture**

During this period, Proyas' technical staff members made 8442 follow-up visits to the IGA schemes undertaken by its beneficiaries through which all the beneficiaries received updated technical suggestions, got scientific solution of the problems they face thus received better output from their income generating initiatives. Our technical teams have also conducted 2255 group meetings discussed about similar Income Generating Venture; shared their experience, provided technical question answers to the beneficiaries who are already involved with agricultural and non-agricultural IGAs. The team Proyas has vaccinated 4915 livestock and poultry birds during this period, distributed vegetable seeds to 6750 families and provided support to 130 families to develop semi-commercial vegetable cultivation plots.

### **Awareness Sessions & Follow-up visits**

During the year 2017, the field workers of Proyas' Ujjibito project, about 31,000 community people were benefitted from the awareness raising sessions on primary health care and hygiene were conducted through 3612 groups. A total of 30,950 women and adolescent girls attended awareness sessions on nutrition and reproductive health. The health personnel conducted 294 pregnant women for Ante-natal check-up/follow-up. The field staff visited children 1158 households for follow up their status on health, hygiene, school attendance etc. During this period under this project, only one child was dropped out from school.

### **Special Activities**

Through Ujjibito project, Proyas has implemented some very effective activities ensuring the full participation of the beneficiaries which are as follows.

### **Adolescent Clubs/Kishori Club**

To empower the adolescent girls, Proyas has developed 20 adolescent girls' clubs where 500 adolescent girls actively involved. The main objective of developing "Kishori Club" is to increase capacity/awareness amongst the adolescent girls on health, reproductive health and other social problems and ultimately capacitate them to act as "health and nutrition promoter (HNP)". On social problems, they are involved in mass community awareness on early marriage, dowry, sexual harassment, eve teasing etc. The members of these 20 Kishori Clubs have developed 12 "Nutritious Village" as model where they have voluntary planted fruit trees and developed vegetable gardens. They are nursing those trees, paying regular follow visits to the villages. These members of Kishori Clubs have also conducted 242 additional sessions/tuitions for the school going children. Through these Kishori Clubs, the project is developing the life-skills of the adolescent girls with view that they will ultimately be a social change maker.

## **13\_Adolescent Clubs Kishori Club**



## Kuwait Goodwill Fund for Food Security (KGF)

To ensure food security, relief from poverty and provide employment for the country's rapidly-growing population is a difficult task. It is worsened by declining soil quality, loss of arable land, low quality inputs, poorly-trained farmers and mechanics, inadequate credit, unfair pricing, insufficient research - all shadowed by floods and droughts that will be more severe and less predictable with climate change. As part of national efforts to create a profitable, sustainable and environmentally-friendly agricultural system that meets the needs of the people, we promote a variety of innovative planting systems, new seeds and other environmentally-friendly inputs and technology through Farmer Field School. These endeavors also ensure food production and work for small and marginal farmers and agricultural laborers.

The goal of the program is to raise household income, reduce vulnerability, improve food security and provide technical assistance to the targeted population.

### Major Components/Activities

- Capacity Building and Technical Assistance;
- Beneficiaries Training;
- Staff Training;
- Demonstration (Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries);
- Farmers Field Days;
- Technology Support (Input and Others);
- Micro-Credit Support to the Farmers.

A Grant Agreement was signed on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011, in Dhaka between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (Kuwait Fund), in its capacity as Administrator of Kuwait Goodwill Fund for the Promotion of Food Security in Islamic Countries (Kuwait Goodwill Fund), and Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). By virtue of the said Agreement, Kuwait Fund will make a grant of U.S.\$ 10,000,000, from the resources of Kuwait Goodwill Fund, to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to assist in enhancing food production in Bangladesh.

This Fund aims at assisting Islamic countries in their endeavours to achieve food security and assure the basic right to food to their peoples.

The Grant made to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh are used for establishing a Special Account at PKSF which undertakes, under the aforementioned agreement, to utilize the said Special Account for the purpose of funding microcredits and small loans for the financing of small-scale farming and other small business activities and micro-businesses for the production of food or provision of related supporting services, including food processing, storage, marketing and other services. PKSF is carrying out the required financing activities in accordance with an initial programme approved by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Kuwait Fund. Based on the long experience in the similar field of development, Proyas has also become the partner of PKSF to implement this project in Chapainawabganj district since 2012.

The objective and focusing areas of Kuwait Goodwill Fund (KGF) are (a) Training, orientation and demonstration, (b) Technology transfer, (c) Material Supports, and (d) Micro-credit support.

#### (a) Training, orientation and demonstration

Under the KGF-PKSF supported project, Proyas emphasizes on Technical/Technological training on agriculture production. As of December 2017, total of 750 farmers were directly benefitted from the training on use of technology in agriculture, 400 individuals directly benefitted from training on livestock and fisheries in 16 batches which helped them accelerate their income generation.

### 14\_KGF\_Training, orientation and demonstration

#### (b) Technology Transfer

In light to share and exchange successes, Proyas under KGF-PKSF funded project on ensuring food security, organized 15 result demonstration events, 32 block demonstration events, technology/method demonstration (includes vermin-compost, goat rearing on platform and fixed fish cultivation).



## 15\_KGF\_KGF\_Technology Transfer

### c) Material Supports

During this period, aiming to agriculture and livelihood development for food security, Proyas has organized various events on Technology Transfer, for which it organized 7 field-day, provided various materials like Power Spray/Foot Power Spray, Poras Pipe, Feromon Trap, Seeds Preservation Container, Hot water treatment pot to protect fruits from diseases and husking materials. A total of 50 beneficiaries received 1,500 feromon traps and 100 individual farmers received 100 sprayer machines with necessary materials.

### d) Micro-credit Support

Under this project, aiming the food security by income generation and savings, a total of 4,204 beneficiaries from two Upazillas (Sadar and Gomostapur) of Chapainawabganj district benefitted directly with micro credit support for seasonal IGAs which are innovative, technologically, economically and environmentally viable as of December 2017 (in the year 2017, total 629). Following table depicts the seasonal IGA wise micro-credit supports under the KGF-PKSF assisted project.

Name of IGA	Beneficiaries (HH)	Amount BDT
Mango Cultivation	1,341	43,600,000
Paddy/Rice Cultivation	2,334	74,583,000
Beef Fattening	529	16,219,000

In the year 2017, a total of 629 farmers directly benefitted from this project with a financial assistance (micro-credit support) worth BDT 21,364,000 (US\$ 252,233).

### e) Vermi-compost Promotion

To encourage the community people for organic agricultural development, this project has motivated and trained the interested community people on vermi-compost production and use. At present, there are 14 vermi-compost production units from where they are selling the products to different farmers of the community, by which both the producer and the farmers are being directly benefitted. The demand and interest of producing and using vermi-compost are increasing rapidly.

With the funding from KGF-PKSF, since July 2017, Proyas has launched a new project titled, Two-tire management of new-variety of Mango (Gourmoti) and Malta production and post production preservation management. As of now Proyas has developed a nursery of said fruit trees and will involve the farmers for productions through training and necessary technical assistances. The outcomes of the project will be visible from next year.

## 16\_Vermi-compost

### Agricultural, Fisheries and Livestock Development

Bangladesh's rural economy, and specifically agriculture, have been powerful drivers of poverty reduction in Bangladesh since 2000. Indeed, agriculture accounted for 90 percent of the reduction in poverty between 2005 and 2010. More than 70 percent of Bangladesh's population and 77 percent of its workforce lives in rural areas. Nearly half of all of Bangladesh's workers and two-thirds in rural areas are directly employed by agriculture, and about 87 percent of rural households rely on agriculture for at least part of their income.

Bangladesh has made commendable progress over the past 46 years in achieving food security, despite frequent natural disasters and population growth (food grain production, for example, tripled between 1972 and 2014, from 9.8 to 34.4 million tons). With one of the fastest rates of productivity growth in the world since 1995 (averaging 2.7 percent per year, second only to China), Bangladesh's agricultural sector has benefited from a sound and consistent policy framework backed up by substantial public investments in technology, rural infrastructure and human capital, but Bangladesh is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, which poses a long-term threat to the country's agricultural sector, particularly in areas affected by flooding, saline intrusion, and drought.



### Major Problems of Agriculture in Bangladesh

- Loss of arable land. Bangladesh has lost about 1 million ha of productive arable land from 1983 to 1996 (BBS, 1999);
- Population growth;
- Climate change;
- Imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers;
- Inefficient water use;
- Pests and diseases and Imbalanced use of pesticides;
- Lack of quality seeds;
- Lack of latest knowledge and technology for climate resilient crops identification;
- Inadequate easy credit support to farmers.

Faster and more inclusive rural growth with job creation will require greater agricultural diversification together with more robust rural non-farm enterprise development. A shift in production from rice to higher-value crops will significantly reduce malnutrition, trigger more rapid growth in income, and create more and better on-farm and non-farm jobs, especially for women and youth. Livestock and fisheries also offer tremendous potential for reducing malnutrition and increasing incomes and jobs in a severely land constrained economy, but struggle because of inadequate government support.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Project of Proyas is being implemented since 2013 with the financial assistance from PKSF. This project aims to explore and expand innovative, market demanded, eco-friendly agriculture, fisheries and livestock to increase the economic status of the target community people. Currently this project is implemented through local farmers and entrepreneurs. Proyas is providing necessary technical supports to the farmers. Following are the Unit wise details of the project.

## Agriculture Unit

### a) Promoting use of Granular Urea in Rice Production

Rice is the major crop of the country and for better production of rice, urea fertilizer is the main input. Conventional use of urea fertilizer causes about 70% of wastage. But using the granular urea fertilizer can save this huge wastage. Granular Urea is a fertilizer that can be applied in the root zone at 8-10 cm depth of soil (reduced zone of rice soil) which can save 30% nitrogen than prilled urea, increase absorption rate, improve soil health and ultimately increase the rice yield. Proyas has been promoting this technology since 2014. It has been regular disseminating messages and organizing demonstrations on use and benefits of granular urea fertilizer in two Upazillas of Chapainawabganj district. Proyas has organized 8, 6 and 6 demonstration/exhibitions in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. The farmers are benefitting from this initiative of Proyas a lot.

### 17\_Promotion of Granular Urea in Rice Production

### b) Introducing high yielding variety and climate resilient crop cultivation

In view of increasing agricultural production, Proyas has been disseminating information on the technology and promotion and maximizing the high yielding variety and climate resilient crop varieties, developed/invented by Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), in the grassroot level. It has successfully arranged demonstration of various high breed variety of Rices, like BRRI-62, BRRI-50 and BRRI-58. Along with these, Proyas has also organized demonstration and expanded the cultivation of high breed maize, onion and beans. It has also promoted and expanded the cultivation of BARI-wheat-28, BARI-Malta-1, BARI Mustard-14, BARI lentil-6 in Chapainawabganj district. Farmers are benefitting from such initiatives and becoming more interested in such new technologies and high-profit making agricultural products.



## 18\_Introducing high yielding variety and climate resilient crop cultivation.JPG

### c) Expansion of Pheromone trap for Pesticide free Vegetable Production

The safe food production is a big challenge for the farmers. To increase the growth of seasonal vegetables, use of pesticide is common. But using the Pheromone trap is a very effective technology to produce pesticide free vegetables in our country. Proyas has been promoting its use. To spread this technology amongst the grassroot level farmers, Proyas organizes demonstration and trains the farmers. This technology is now being used by the vegetables growers, mango and other fruit growers of Chapainawabganj district. Proyas has organized 12, 20, 12 and 15 demonstrations in the year 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 respectively. This technology has created huge positive impacts on demand of such agro-products.

## 19\_Expansion of Pheromone trap for Pesticide free Vegetable Production

### d) Quality Seeds Production and Preservation

Access to quality seeds is one of the main problems for our agriculture sector. For quality seeds, our farmers are fully dependent on the big national/multinational companies where they often don't get the high-quality seeds as well. But by training the farmers on producing quality seeds and its proper preservation, this problem can be minimized. In order to train and equip the farmers with such basic technologies and knowledge, Proyas has undertaken initiative by arranging training and demonstrations to farmers. It has organized 40, 35 and 40 demonstrations in its working areas in 2015, 2016 and in 2017 from where the farmers became highly benefitted and now self-dependent on quality seeds production and preservation.

Along with the above initiatives, Proyas has been increase knowledge and skills as well as training and engaging the community people on homestead gardening, promoting use of organic fertilizers, trico-composed fertilizer and also introducing new technology of using bags to protect vegetables and fruits from bugs/insects and producing summer variety of tomatos.

### a) Homestead Vegetable Gardening

Cultivable land is reducing day by day. On the other hand, the number of household is increasing. There are about 2 Crores households in the country. The family member can meet their nutritional requirement through vegetable gardening in the small-spaced homestead. However, family can be maintained through selling those vegetables. Aiming at making vegetable garden around the household, not keeping it barren throughout the year, demonstration plots have been installed based on the model invented by Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute. Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society in financial collaboration with PKSF, 40 demonstration plots in 2015-2016 and 30 in 2016-2017 have been installed. In every demonstration coconut tree of the Vietnamese species has been implanted. After seeing the success of the members, the neighbour showed interest in making vegetable gardens in the households.

## Vegetable Garden: The best Source of Income and Nutrition for Sabia

Malnutrition is a serious public health problem in Bangladesh. It retards child growth, increases the risk and duration of illness, reduces work output, and slows social and mental development. Malnutrition among women of reproductive age increases the risk of mortality during labor and delivery and puts their newborn children at risk of long-term deficiencies. Improving nutritional status, including micronutrient status, can lead to increase productivity, increase child survival and growth, and reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. Intensive vegetables production is needed for nutritional security, employment generation, higher farm income, better export potential and lower dependency on cereal consumption (Elias and Hussain 1994). Diet diversification is arguably the most sustainable and affordable strategy to improve nutrition for the majority of the population particularly the poor. For poor households, vegetables and fruits are often the only source of micronutrients in the family diet. Homestead production of fruits and vegetables provides the household with direct access to important nutrients that may not be readily available or within their economic reach. Therefore, home gardening would be a good means to improve household food security. Home gardening is especially important in overcoming seasonal availability of foods and promoting household self-sufficiency. Home gardening activities are centered on women and it can also increase the income of women, which may result in the better use of household resources and improved caring practices and empowerment. This



empowerment of women also addresses a priority area of poverty alleviation and provides important socio-economic returns through lower health and welfare costs, lower fertility, and lower maternal and infant mortality rates. Thus, the simultaneous impact of home gardening programs in terms of giving women a voice and promoting their full participation in domestic life can make an important contribution to the overall development of communities as well as national income level.

## **20\_Homestead Vegetable Gardening**

Keeping in mind the above reality, Proyas supported 30 women with training, vegetable seeds to grow vegetables, on their own homestead land, who developed the gardens as demonstration plots for others. **Sabia** (42) is one of the successful women whose family nutritional demands are fulfilled from her own garden. She grows different varieties of vegetables round the year. In her small garden, she grows at least three types of vegetable at a time from where she needs only little to meet her family need and remaining portion, she is selling outside. She earns a good amount from vegetable sale which she now can use for other purposes. While asked, she showed her garden and said, "This piece of land looks small but gives me good return. Before, this piece of land had no use, we didn't use it for any economic activity. I am a group member of Proyas. I received training from them, they helped think to utilize this piece of land. They supported me technically and with necessary inputs, like seed. They taught me how grow multiple vegetables, how to choose healthy and demanding vegetables to get better price, how take care of them, etc. Now I meet my family nutritional needs and also earn money out of the products. My husband helps. Usually, our (female) works are not counted with monetary value, now everyone counts that how much money I can contribute for my family. I feel proud." She thinks like her everyone can be benefitted if they grow vegetables on their home yard.

### **a) Compost Fertilizer Production**

Using excessive chemical fertilizer in the field is reducing the fertility of the soil. As a result, the composition of soil is being destroyed. To keep the health of soil there are requiring adequate bio-fertilizer. To grow interest among the farmers, Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society, in financial collaboration of PKSF, 20 demonstration plots in 2015-2016 and 15 plots have been installed in 2016-2017 fiscal year.

### **b) Trico-compost Fertiliser Production**

Compost fertilizer plays an important role in increasing the fertility of land and effective to prevent fungus related diseases. Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society has installed 5 demonstrations in 2016-2017 fiscal year.

### **c) Promotion of Fruit Bagging for Safe Vegetables and Fruits**

The use of fruit bagging method in producing safe fruits and vegetables has been increasing. The scientists want to produce fruits and vegetables in good and healthy ways. The diversified research activities are going on in producing poison free fruits production. In this continuation, the use of fruit bagging method has been started commercially. In the current fiscal year, the fruit bagging method has been used in banana and brinjal/eggplant cultivation. During 2017 Proyas organized 15 demonstration on vegetables and fruits bagging for mango, banana, brinjal etc. After adopting fruit bagging method, the farmers were more benefitted.

## **21\_Promotion of Fruit Bagging for Safe Vegetables and Fruits**

### **(n) Tomato Cultivation in the Summer**

Tomato is a seasonal/winter vegetable, but the farmers do not get much profit out of it due to its bumper production in the winter. Many do not get their production cost. If the tomato is being produced in the summer season the farmers can be benefitted. In fiscal year 2016-17, 1 demonstration plot has been implemented.

## **22\_Tomato Cultivation in the Summer**



## Fisheries Unit

The fisheries unit was established in 2013 with the assistance from PKSF. Proyas has been exploring, identifying and expanding the fisheries initiatives through 38 partner groups. Considering the market demand and geographic location to implement the project effectively, Proyas has identified various types of fish culture in the available ponds, canals and at household level. Beneficiaries are cultivating multi-variety of fishes, selling fish fries from their own developed nursery ponds and hatcheries. The technical persons (Fishery experts) are providing regular and necessary technical supports including necessary trainings to the farmers/grower.

Proyas were successful to develop 85, 70 and 55 new fish farms in the year 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively and a total of 380 families were benefitted from this initiative who had 8 to 30 decimals of ponds. The assistance package includes: Minnows (Fish Fries), net, organic and inorganic fertilizer, lime, and also bamboos for vegetable gardens at pond side. Moreover, a total of 350 individuals were trained, in 14 batches, on scientific fish cultivation. The rivers are losing its fish population rapidly for various reasons. Proyas intends to contribute to increase the fish population in the rivers for which it has spread out multi-varieties of minnows (Fish Fries) in Mahannda river in 2017. The beneficiaries of this project are the members of 6 units "Agrosor", "Jagoron" and "Sufalan" of Proyas under three Upazillas of Chapainawabganj district.

Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society, considering the quality implementation and geographical context, has been providing facilities under the 11 components of its 6 branches.

- a) Carp-Mola Fish farming in pond and vegetable gardening in the fringe;
- b) Carp-Telapia Fish Farming in pond and vegetable gardening in the fringe;
- c) Carp-Vietnam/Thai/local climbing fish in pond and vegetable gardening in the fringe;
- d) Carp-Indigenous cat fish farming in pond and vegetable gardening in the fringe;
- e) Carp fish fattening in pond and vegetable gardening in the fringe;
- f) Cultivating Mono-sex Telapia fish on the floating cage;
- f) Kuchia Fattening;
- g) Guchi/eel variety and carp fish farming in pond;
- h) Mixed Monster Fish Variety Cultivation;
- i) Developing Fish Hatchery for Fish Fries Business;
- j) Pond Dike Greening.

Proyas has implemented 5 fishing farms of the beneficiaries in the fiscal year 2013-2014, 85 members in the fiscal year 2014-2015 and 70 members in 2015-2016. Besides, in 2016-2017 fiscal year, plan has been taken to implement the farms of 55 members. Among the farms, 70 demos are related to Carp-Mola/Carp-Telapia fish mixed cultivation in pond, 80 demos on farming Carp-Vietnam/Thai/Indigenous Koi and vegetable gardening in the pond's fringe, 70 Carp-Indigenous cat fish farming in pond and vegetable gardening in the fringe, 55 demos on vegetable gardening in the fringe, 45 demos on Carp-fish fattening and vegetable gardening in the pond's fringe, 30 demos of mono-sex Telapia on the floating cages, 5 Guchi/eel variety and carp fish farming in pond, 5 demos on monster fish, and 5 demos fish hatcheries. From these initiatives 380 farmer were directly benefitted. Moreover, 350 farmers were benefitted through 14 different training sessions.

23\_Floating Fish Cultivation

24\_Kuchia Cultivation

25\_Mixed Fish Cultivation



## Livestock and Poultry Unit

Livestock and Poultry sector contributes about 3.25% in GDP of Bangladesh. Rearing livestock and poultry birds in safe and healthy manner, Proyas has been implementing its Livestock and Poultry rearing project since 2013 with the support from PKSf. The livestock and poultry unit of Proyas is exploring new and innovative varieties, encouraging its beneficiaries through training and other inputs. Under livestock section, Proyas provides training and assistance including technical supports to its beneficiaries on goat rearing, cow rearing, beef fattening, producing fodders etc. and similarly, under the poultry section, beneficiaries are trained and supported on rearing of ducks, chicken (broiler, layer), Quail bird, turkey etc. Women are most involved in livestock and poultry rearing.

During the reporting period a total of 1,716 were provided relevant technological assistances out of which 95 on cow rearing, 40 on beef fattening, 22 on He-goats/bucks, 960 on vermi-compost, 48 on Quail rearing, 58 on duck, 52 on broiler, 28 on layer, 28 on native chicken, 14 on Turkey rearing, 42 on fodder, and 55 on rabbit rearing. Moreover, 1,800 farmers were trained on relevant technology expansion through 76 batches.

### 26\_Livestock Goat Rearing

#### Layer Chicken Farming

Six balanced foods are necessary for a healthy life. Egg meets six ingredients like protein, carbohydrates, fat, vitamin, mineral and water. At least 16 crores eggs are needed for 16 crores of people of the country. It is not possible to meet those demands of eggs with the native hens. So, rearing the different types of high-yielding layer chicken have been popular. Many people think that rearing layer hens is a risky business. It is true due to some disease caused by virus. As a result, many people do not show interest on it, but if the people become aware about vaccination, feed management, bio-safety it could be a profitable business.

Proyas, with the financial support from PKSf has been rearing layer hens through its agriculture and livestock unit of Gobrata, Maharajpur, Choudala and Char Anup Nagar branches under the two Upazilas, Sadar and Gomostapur Upazila, of Chapai Nawabganj district. The women of poor family have been showed success in this work. All advices and technological assistance have been provided from livestock unit of Proyas.

Light management is important for getting sufficient eggs from layer hens. Light should be reduced to 22-23 hours during brooding and 1 hour gradually till 12 weeks. Later on, daylight to be given till 12-18 weeks and gradually increasing light 15-16 hours.

Hens starts lay eggs in 18-19 hours. In this case, it is natural to produce eggs 60-65% in 21 weeks and 80-85% in 23 weeks. A full-aged hen eats 90 grams feeds and it weighs 1 kg 700 grams. The weight goes 2.5 kgs or more after 50 weeks. If the management is well eggs are produced up to 95% and which may go upto 78 weeks.

## Learning and Innovation Fund to Test New Ideas-LIFT

Proyas has been implementing the LIFT project in 6 unions and the municipal areas of Chapainawabganj district since 2014. The title of the initiative is "reducing poverty by increasing production and protecting the family of Black Bengal goat at household and farm level. The objectives of the project are;

- To contribute to preserve and improvement of Black Bengal variety of goat;
- To assist the poor and ultra-poor communities for sustainable income opportunity thus improve their living status;
- To increase the production and preservation of the families of Black Bengal goat.



Black Bengal goat is a very useful small livestock in Bangladesh. It is also a great source of income for the poor people of this country. Goat farming has a very important role in reducing unemployment and poverty, increasing meat or milk production and earning currency from foreign country. And Black Bengal goat is very perfect for this campaign. There are about 25 million of goats in Bangladesh. Most of those goats are "Black Bengal" goat. This goat breed is very suitable for meat, milk and skin production. The milk and meat of this goat is very tasty and nutritious than any other goat breeds. The female goat became pregnant twice a year and give birth 2-3 baby goats each time. Raising Black Bengal goat can be considered as an additional source of income for the landless or ultra poor farmers

### **27\_LIFT Goat Rearing**

Considering the viability and as excellent source of profitable IGA, Proyas has been encouraging its beneficiaries for rearing Black Bengal goats with the assistance from PKSF. Under the LIFT project, 556 households were benefitted by rearing 6,545 "Black Bengal" goats in 556 farms. These farms are united under 7 clusters according to their geographical locations. Proyas is providing all sorts of technical supports including vaccination, nappier grass cutting to cultivate for fodder, imparting training and micro-credit assistance to these farmers. Proyas has also set up one demonstration farm with 3 acres of land including 1.5 acres for growing grass (from where beneficiaries getting cuttings for their own fodder production) with 136 Black Bengal goats. The demonstration also displays how they grow other plants, specially fruits plants like mangos, guava, jackfruits etc.

### **28\_Black Bengal Goat**

#### **Freshwater Cuchia Production for Alternative/Additional Employment**

Among different species of eels available in Bangladesh "Monopterusuchia" is common freshwater species, which is known as mud eel (Cuchia). In Bangladesh, Eel (Monopterus Cuchia) production in fresh water is more than the coastal area. Freshwater eel is mostly popular amongst the non-Muslim communities in Bangladesh. But the Eel production and trading is becoming popular as it has a huge market for exporting due to high demand in China, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Taiwan. According to "International Journal of Life Sciences Bio-Technology and Pharma Research (ISSN 2250-3137, Vol-1, No-3, July 2012), freshwater eel is available in few districts of Bangladesh. Maximum freshwater eel is supply from Sylhet district (120 tons per month). In Bangladesh, freshwater eel is an export fishery that is playing an important role in international markets. It can generate employment directly and indirectly in terms of people employed in the marketing and other associated business. Bangladesh exports more than 300 metric tons on freshwater eel to five major countries where China is the biggest market (80%) who imports freshwater eel from Bangladesh.

Rajshahi division has a big ethnic minority population, amongst whom the freshwater eel is very popular. Keeping in mind the national and international traders including regional consumers (the non-Muslim communities, more specifically the ethnic communities), Proyas has initiated freshwater eel production locally. It has developed hatching and demonstration ponds for the traders and the local consumers. Proyas is also training and encouraging local producers too. This project has started in July 2017 with an initial duration of June 2020 and being implemented in two Upazillas (Sadar and Nachole) of Chapainawabganj district. During the first six months of the project duration, staff training and orientation to the local potential producers and traders are being oriented on the potential of Cuchia production commercially.

#### **Gourmoti and Malta Mixed Orchard**

Chapainawabganj is known as the capital of mango. Mangoes are among the most delicious fruits in the world, with their rich taste and exotic varieties! And in Bangladesh, summer season may bring many woes for us Bangladeshis (such as high temperatures, suffocating humidity and intermittent load shedding) but one of the greatest pleasures that it brings is the season of mangoes! The mango season usually begins around the Month of June and lasts till early August. During this mango season, all Bangladeshis enjoy the different varieties of delicious mangoes.



As a social and economic development organization, Proyas is supporting the mango growers, traders in various ways. It is also reaching to explore new varieties of mangos. It also explores new fruits cultivation possibilities. As part of it, Proyas with support from PKSF under KGF project has initiated Mixed Orchard for a new variety mango named, "Gourmoti" and with Malta. This is a new and innovative initiative in this area which will create huge impact through expansion amongst the beneficiaries at mass level. The newly recruited Agriculture officer, Program Officer, Technical Officer and other support staff of Proyas are demonstrating this initiative amongst the community people and mango growers of different Upazillas of Chapainawabganj.

## 29\_Gourmoti and Malta Mixed Orchard

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE

#### Bangladesh Counter Trafficking in Persons (BCTIP) Project

Human trafficking whether within and cross borders is inextricably linked with forced or fraudulent or involuntary migration of people and end-object of this crime in sexual, forced labour or any form of exploitation of the persons being trafficked. Therefore, irregular migration always runs the risk of human trafficking. Bangladesh is a country that faces both the problem of internal and cross border trafficking every year. A significant number of Bangladeshi trafficked victims consist of men and women recruited for overseas work with fraudulent employment offers who are subsequently exploited under conditions of forced labour or debt bondage.

To contribute in combating the human trafficking from Bangladesh, including unsafe migration, Proyas has been implementing the Bangladesh Counter Trafficking in Person (BCTIP) project with the funding from Winrock International/USAID since May 2017. This project has three strategic areas, i.e. Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. Proyas is the implementing partner for prevention areas and is working in five districts i.e. Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Naogaon and Dinajpur.

The overall goal of the project is to develop capacity of target community to prevent human trafficking, promote safe migration and establish functional networking and partnership to strengthen TIP prevention initiatives. Specific objectives are:

- To build capacity of community's youth leadership and counter trafficking committees so that they can take coordinated steps in trafficking prevention;
- To equip community with necessary knowledge and tools for their preparedness and proactive response in trafficking prevention and making informed migration choice;
- To sensitize and build capacity of the local administration, civil society and service providers in prevention of human trafficking and unsafe labor migration.

#### Major activities wise achievements:

**a) Peer leader training:** During the reporting period, a total of 60 peer leader youths and students were trained on trafficking, unsafe migration and their social responsibilities. After the training the peer leaders have focused on mobilizing the community for prevention of TIP and promotion of safe migration, particularly for vulnerable populations (ethnic minorities, potential migrants, widows, young people with disabilities, low and unskilled workers, single mothers, etc).

**b) Peer leaders follow up and coordination meeting:** The National Plan of Action (NPA) has assigned clear roles and responsibilities for government-led Counter-Trafficking Committees at the union, Upazila, and district levels. The purpose is to establish effective and comprehensive systems at the local level to prevent TIP, protect and reintegrate survivors, and prosecute traffickers. The project has a target of training 120 Union CTC members and 100 Upazila CTC members on their roles and responsibilities by the end of the project (April-2018). During the reporting period (2017), Proyas has trained 122 members of 5 CTC at union and Upazilla level.

**c) School/College/Madrassa awareness session:** During the reporting period, 1,000 students and 100 teachers became fully aware about the types, routes, techniques and consequences trafficking and unsafe migration. They are committed to disseminate the same messages in their community to contribute in preventing trafficking and unsafe migration.



### 30\_School College Madrasa Awareness Session

**d) Community mobilization meeting:** As a part of community awareness raising, Proyas has conducted 45 community mobilization meetings where 1,800 men and women were present. They became aware about the types and consequences of trafficking and unsafe migration and also arrange video campaigns where 1,050 people of different age group (male-female) participated and expressed their determination to act in their own community to raise mass awareness to combat unsafe migration and trafficking.

### 31\_Community Mobilization Meeting

**a) Broadcast talk show/magazine program and PSAs through community radio:** Along with all above activities, Proyas has performed awareness campaign through its own Radio Mahana on weekly basis. The messages were disseminated in different formats, like drama, talk-show, famous cultural media (Gambhira) for the listeners club of the Radio and for the mass community within 17 radius circle of the Radio station in Chapainawabganj and also through Radio Padma in Rajshahi where about 80,000 people became aware about the issue. However, an especial radio magazine program named 'Shawpner Thikana' was broadcasted through 20 episodes.

### Promoting Engagement and Action for Countering Extremism (PEACE) Project

Promoting Engagement and Action for Countering Extremism (PEACE) Consortium is a consortium of which Proyas is acting as one of the five members' organizations to promote engagement and action to contribute in countering extremism thus sustaining resilient community in two Upazillas of Chapainawabganj in close collaboration with other implementing partners active in these areas. This initiative is being implemented by the financial assistance of Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) supported by GCERF Country Support Mechanism (CSM) in Bangladesh and coordinated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), GoB, where RUPANTAR is the leading NGO for both Satkhira and Chapainawabganj districts.

The aim of this project is to facilitate the process of fostering peace and social harmony by maintaining secular and syncretic culture where targeted communities autonomously perform to prevent as well as counter radicalization and recruitment for extremism.

### 32\_Peace\_1

The PEACE Consortium envisions a violence free society of resilient community fostering peace and harmony for which as a member of the consortium and implementing partner, Proyas has started its journey in Chapainawabganj, which is marked as one of the most extremism prone areas of Bangladesh with a vision of violence and extremism free society. Proyas intends to build a resilient community to sustain the secular, syncretic culture and social harmony with mutual respect to each other which is traditionally inherited by the people of Bangladesh in their mindset.

The main targeted groups of population are the community youths. Proyas has been implementing the activities defined for specific age groups to enhance their engagement to work as an agent for social change to identify and defuse the drivers of radicalization and extremism.

### Project Location for Proyas

Chapai-Nawabganj District (2 Upazillas-Sadar & Gomostapur, 22 Unions)

### Target Population:

Target Population	Age group (Years)	Consortitium Target	Project Target	
			C'nawabganj	Proyas
Group-01	10-15	37,901	17,490	8527
Group 02	15-35	123,862	69,718	12908
Group 03	36+	687,148	3,62,666	9506
<b>Total</b>		<b>848,911</b>	<b>4,49,874</b>	<b>30,941</b>



### 33\_Peace\_2

#### Imran Hossain: A Emerging Peacebuilder

As a self-proclaimed Peace Builder, Imran Hossain now has a priority to address radicalization and extremism as well militancy with the aim for rejuvenating a tolerant and peaceful society which according to him "the only way for building resilience to extremist ideology".

Imral Hossain, principal of a reputed Alia Madrasa in Chapai-Nawabganj, has a long experience in teaching students of the local community. He completed PhD degree from Arabic Department, University of Rajshahi on 2007. But he started his teaching career a long time ago.

In 2016, at the very beginning of PEACE Consortium, Imral Hossain was identified as one of the potential Change Agents who joined with Consortium activities through Imam training and Interfaith Dialogue in 2017. But initial communication with him started from the very inception of the consortium.

As an initiator of Peace building activities, he is now working for motivating the Imams to disseminate the message of peace, mutual respect, solidarity and tolerance in every Friday's special Jumma prayer (Khutba). He expressed his views in such way "The dissemination of information as well circulating a positive propaganda is supposed to play significant role against radicalization process and radical led violent extremism. It may reinforce the selected audience who were interested in radical messages earlier."

One of the big challenges shared by Imral Hossain has been found quite interesting where he told, "The religious leaders (Imams) have a huge lack of correct knowledge and information on the Holy religious book and Hadith (interpretation of Holy Book). As a result, most of the time they misinterpret the messages which consciously and unconsciously contribute to promote radicalization and radical led violence. Sometimes, there are some persons whom I have met have been found talking about Jihad but none of them have minimum knowledge about the word they are using."

Imral Hossain has a considerable number of publications. He is interested in writing columns for the local, regional and national newspaper also. After getting involved with PEACE Consortium, he has started writing against violent extremism and militancy. Being the vice president of district human rights association, his main concern is to ensure basic human rights through continuous social activism. After sharing the extrapolated ideas by consortium with him that Internet is one of the main medium the extremist use to recruit and influence the youth, he recently has started an internet blog site ([www.speechforhuman.blogspot.com](http://www.speechforhuman.blogspot.com)) to disseminate the message through internet. He has started uploading articles regarding the correct interpretation of holy book and Hadith in his blog site at a regular basis.

He appreciated PEACE Consortium and told, "Before PEACE Consortium started their activity, there were no actors in Chapai-Nawabganj working for building resilience to violence extremism among community. There was a common mindset in the major part of the community that any activity not aligned with Islam must be eliminated by any means even by adopting violent way. But after starting PEACE consortium activities this common radical mindset has been challenged and community started thinking if this consortium runs their activity for a considerable time. The radicalization has passed a long time in this area, so if the community resilience is to be developed, this is not an over-night job to do."

Imral Hossain is becoming a role model for the other religious leaders and experts to guide the community in the way of tolerance, solidarity and mutual respect.

#### 34\_Imran Hossain: An Emerging Peacebuilder



## Proyas Apiculture

**Introduction:** Bangladesh is known as an agricultural country for many years and the rural economy of this country is mainly agriculture. Most of the people of this country maintain their livelihoods on agricultural labour. In the light of modern science cultivating bee scientifically is the prime part of the agriculture. Apiculture can play an important role for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. There are sufficient trees, seasonal crops, vegetables and flower garden in the fertile land of Bangladesh. However, there is vast collection of flowers in Sundarban, one of the biggest mangrove forests in the world. From these sources it is possible to produce honey through scientifically cultivation of bees and also possible to increase crops production and the development of crops quality through proper insect facilitate pollination of flowers along with apiculture, which will play contributory role in reducing unemployment problem and will help to fulfil the nutritional requirement along with country's economy and environmental development.

### The objective of the Program

Farm base training make skilled bee farmers, expending honey cultivation across the country through capacity building of honey farming activities, to ensure the development of crop production by insect pollination of flowers. Make the bee farmers efficient in concerned field. Make familiar the nutrition and the quality of proper use of honey. Ensuring the proper use of honey to fulfil nutritional deficiencies. Ensuring the quality of honey. Providing the right ideas of bee production, storage and use.

### Objectives:

- Provide apiculture related training
- Make skilful bee farmers
- Expand the bee cultivation country-wide through strengthening the apiculture program
- To ensure crops production by flower pollination
- Make the bee farmers skilled in the related field (production, processing, preservation and marketing)
- To create consensus about the correct use of honey, its nutrition, and quality.
- To provide right idea for the use of honey in meeting nutritional deficiency
- To produce wax, preservation and its use.

### Aim of the Program:

To increase the social- economic conditions through creation of employment with bee farming and fulfil the deficiency of vitamin A.

### Barriers in Implementation of the Program:

Many times, the farmer prevents the instalment of bee box due to the lack of bee farming ideas. Moreover, the bees die due to using of pesticides in the crops field and the bee farmers are affected.

Description	Status of the year 2016	Achievement of the year 2017	Cumulative Status
Bee Box with Bees	38	8	46
Number of frames with Bees	290	60	350
Honey Production (kg)	9,732	640	10,372
Wax Production (kg)	25	0	25
Shop Coverage	55	2	57

35\_Proyas Apiculture\_1

36\_Proyas Apiculture\_2







### **RADIO MAHANANDA FM 98.8 (Community Radio of Proyas)**

In many parts of the world, Community Radio is recognized as a means of communication that has an important role to play in the advancement of good governance practices and also in the overall development process. In countries and regions where Community Radio operated successfully, it has proven particularly useful as a tool to reach and give voice to the most disadvantaged sectors of society including the poor, women and children.

Movement for establishing Community Radio in Bangladesh dates back to late '90s. Various non-government organizations, development practitioners, media-enthusiasts, aspirants and representatives of the civil society started movement for Community Radio operation. Eventually, government allowed some of the applicants to operate Community Radio. Now 17 Community Radio Stations are on-air in the country, a few more are in the pipeline.

#### **37\_Radio Mahananda\_1**

Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society has started the Community Radio in Chapainawabganj district in April 2010 named as Radio Mahananda, FM 98.8. It is covering 17 nautical kilometers covering five Upazillas of the district, 2 Upazillas of Rajshahi district and part of one Upazilla of Naogaon district.

The role of Radio Mahananda in implementation of right to information and participation of the grassroots people in the development is greatly acknowledged. It is free from any political bias and a non-profit instrument being operated for the people and by the people of its covering areas. It operates from 3 pm to 1 am (11 hours on air) every day. The programs are designed considering the suitability of the listeners availability and free time.

Despite many limitations, the bonding between the community people and local-level Radio Mahananda station is getting strengthened day by day. Radio Mahananda has now close to grassroots people through which they have access to information on education, livelihood, agriculture, health and prevention of early marriage. Relevant and important information from government side is also reaching to the grassroot people through this radio. Radio Mahananda contributes engaging people to protect the vulnerable youths and children who are in threat of being dragged towards extremism and unsafe migration through its regular programs, talk-shows etc. This radio is also very popular as it is transmitting local news and also cultural event using folk media in local dialect (like Gambhira). In 2017, Radio Mahananda was awarded the Meena Award" (2<sup>nd</sup> prize), "Community Radio Right to Information-2017" and "Investigative News Award" for its excellent contribution to the community.

#### **38\_Radio Mahananda\_2**

In 2017, Radio Mahananda has broadcasted 44 programs related to information and technology, 99 on health issues, 44 programs on awareness raising on reducing early marriage, 24 programs on religious verses for peace and harmony in the society, 25 programs on agriculture, 24 folk musical programs, 50 programs on general knowledge targeting the students and others.

The effective and proactive listeners club of Radio Mahananda play as a very useful tool to bridge the gap between the community and the radio station. Sense of ownership and partnership among the community people ultimately help them turn as radio patrons.



**PROYAS FOLK THEATRE INSTITUTE (PFTI)**

**PHOTO (FULL PAGE)**



Proyas Folk Theatre Institute (PFTI) is an innovative initiative by Proyas for conservation of local folk cultures and utilizes those for social development of the community since September 2017. It is continuously researching on the varieties folk cultures of Bangladesh. As the folklore cultures are cemented with the lives of the people of this country for thousand years, various researches and experts proved that the social development/awareness messages can be disseminated most effectively.

The purpose of Proyas Folk Theatre Institute (PFTI) is to ensure community awareness on "Right to Information" for creating an aware society by conservation and utilization of folk cultures, more specifically folk songs and theatre. The main objectives of PFTI are;

- Conservation of cultural heritage;
- Strengthening the capacity of folk music/theatre activists with necessary supports;
- Utilize folk theatre as a media for social education and development;
- Explore and introduce folk theatre/culture nationally and internationally.

Proyas Folk Theatre Institute (PFTI) has been continuously researching for the conservation of folk cultures, which are briefly detailed below;

### **Gambhira**

Gambhira is a type of song, originating in Chapainawabganj in the northern region of Bangladesh. Gambhira songs are assumed to have originated from the worship of the god shiva, who is also known as 'Gambhir'. In ancient times, gambhira used to be celebrated as Puja (worship) only. But eventually, this became the means an advocacy media for social development. It is performed with a distinctive rhythm and dance within two performers, always personifying a man and his maternal grandfather discussing a topic to raise social awareness. Due to geographical and cultural similarities, it is also popular in Malda of West Bengal (bordering area of Chapai Nawabganj) in India. Since independence of Pakistan in 1947, Chapainawabganj became the main center of Gambhira music, which underwent major changes in theme and mode of presentation. Muslims became the custodians of this song and made it an integral part of their social life and their culture. Apart from Chapainawabganj, it is also popular in greater Rajshahi of Northern Bangladesh. Initially Gambhira was of two kinds. The primary gambhira and narrative gambhira. The primary would address Gods and Goddesses and describe human joys and sorrows. In the narrative gambhira, every character would represent a social problem. Since long time (1947), in Bangladesh, narrative gambhiras are practiced and performed.

### **40\_PFTI\_1**

#### **Alkap**

Alkap is a regional genre of folk performance, somewhat similar to Jatra. It is an amalgamation of music, dance and theatrical presentation. An alkap group of ten to twelve performers is led by a *sarkar* (master) or *guru* (leader) and includes two or three men called *chhokras*, one or two *gayens* or singers, *dohar*, choristers, and musicians. Alkap is presented in five parts: *Asar Vandana*, *Chhora*, *Kaap*, *Baithaki Gaan* and *Khemta Pala*. Alkap performance take place at night on an open stage. The programme is a reflection of rural society and puts the focus on the prevailing socio-economic condition of the rural masses. Alkap is a form of Bengali folk performance popular in the districts of Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi of Bangladesh and Murshidabad, Malda and Birbhum of West Bengal, India.

In the Alkap, however, the performances have a notion of the storyline and, in the manner of the Italian "commedia dell'arte" improvise on stage. The attraction of the Alkap lies in the local jokes and dances, which also make it necessary for Alkap performances to be staged late at night and some distances from the village. At present, when television and films have reached the remote villages, the popularity of the Alkap has decreased and it is on its way to extinction. That is why Proyas intends to conserve such valuable and traditional folk cultures of Bangladesh through its PFTI and utilize it as an advocacy and awareness raising media for social development.



### **Kavigan**

Kavigan is a genre of competitive folk songs performed by two groups of poetic singers. The chief of each group is called *kaviyal* or *sarkar*. The accompanying singers are called *dohars*. The *dhuli* or drummer plays a prominent role among the accompanying musicians. The two groups of singers sing in turns on stage. Kavigan has several parts: dak, malsi, sakhisangbad, kavi, kavirtappa, panchali, dhuya and joter palla. Malsi, sakhisangbad and kavi are similar in style. The different stages in Kavigan are dharan, padan, fukar, mish, mukh, pyanch, khoch, antara, parchitan, chhutti. The dak comprises of the vandana, an introductory song of praise. Dhuya songs resemble *Baul* songs and are performed at intervals with panchali songs. In the panchali, the Kaviyals recite verses extempore in Bangla metres of payara (couplets) and tripadi (lines arranged in sets of three). The joter palla concludes the song with the Kaviyals reciting verses in a singsong voice. In the other parts of the performance, the Kaviyals perform along with their other companions on stage. In joter palla, however, both the Kaviyals stand facing each other.

Kavigan developed in the eighteenth century but became a popular entertainment for the new middle class Bengali literati at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Kavigan started losing its importance towards the end of the nineteenth century. Very few famous Kaviyals struggled to conserve the Kavigan. Proyas intends to conserve such valuable and traditional folk culture of Bangladesh through its PFTI.

### **Pot Gan**

Pot Gan is a very traditional form of folk music. The term, Pot has derived from the sanskrit word Pot which means canvas for drawing pictures and Gan means song. The human language first exposed through the pictures drawn. It is believed that some time during sixth and seventh century "Canvas Pictorial Culture" evolved first in history. According to history, the religion, "Buddhism" was also preached through Pot Pictures. Historically, this Pot Picture culture was one of the most effective media for message dissemination. According to almost all folklore researchers, Pot Culture was used as a very common and popular media for religious preaching. Afterwards, since 9<sup>th</sup> Century, Pot Pictures were also used for business campaigns as well and afterwards, in Indian sub-continent, to make it more attractive and effective means of communication, along with the Pot Picture, the presentations (religious, social and business campaigns) included poetic lyrics with tunes and bits. The Pot Gan singers used to perform such music (potgan) to earn money and disseminate social messages. That is the present Pot Gan. The professional pot performers continued their professions to live in. But during the end of 1960s, this Pot Gan started to abolish as the performers could not able to survive only on their performance on Pot Gan. But during the end of last century (1994), the Bangladeshi NGO, Rupantor, found the small existence of Pot Gan in Mongla of Khulna region of Bangladesh and they initiated to use this media in social development interventions. The Pot Gan became a very successful communication media for social development. Proyas also intends conservation of Pot Gan through its research, introducing modern displaying methods, using modern musical instruments along with traditional instruments. Proyas is also utilizing Pot Gan as an effective communication media for all its development interventions, performing in rural and urban areas in open stages.

Theatre, music, street drama etc. became very much popular development change communication media, introduced by NGOs in Bangladesh. Proyas, is also utilizing such communication media, specially the local famous popular folk theatre/songs like Gambhira, Kavigan, Pot Gan, Alternative Living Theatre, etc in their development interventions. Proyas provides various inputs for conservation of folk culture of Bangladesh through its Folk Theatre Institute (PFTI).

## **41\_PFTI\_2**

### **Proyas Health Care and Diagnostic Center: An Initiative on Social Business**

With knowledge and learning from recent concept of social business, Proyas became motivated to launch its first social business venture for the benefit of its clients/beneficiaries on health care and diagnostic center located in Chapainawabganj town. It provides basic health care services with minimum costs. The beneficiaries of Proyas under Health Insurance Scheme, are also getting subsidized health care and diagnostic services from this center.



For the economic empowerment of the community living in poverty, along with the financial assistances with micro-credit, Proyas operated its “Developing Inclusive Insurance Sector” Project (DIISP) since 2014 with support from PKSF. This project was funded by PKSF for one year only, but considering the benefits of the community, Proyas continued the services through its Health Care and Diagnostic Centre. This insurance service provides scope to the beneficiary households to avail credit waiver facilities along with cash grants of BDT 5,000 for performing the religious rituals if any of the loan recipients dies unfortunately.

#### **42\_Proyas Health Care**

In order to popularize this very beneficial initiative, Proyas has brought its primary health care services to the door steps of the beneficiary household. One health personnel (Paramedic) is providing the primary health care services (PHC) through groups at the community level in the first half of the day and also through the static clinic in the community in later half of the day. The PHC services are also provided through the Sattelite clinics in collaboration with the government medical doctors. Since inception, a total of 22,244 were benefits with various essential health education, 13,609 individuals received free treatments and consultation, and 1,648 patients were referred to secondary and tertiary level of health facilities for better consultation, diagnosis and treatment from the static clinic and Proyas Health Care and Diagnostic Center. Moreover, a total of 2,819 patients received free treatment from the government medical doctors under satellite clinics organized by Proyas Health Care and Diagnostic Center.

### **Training Program**

#### **a) Staff Training**

To ensure that about 400 staffs have the skills and understanding to meet the challenges of our development program, we offer a range of workshops, seminars and field-based sessions. All staff attend training courses through continuous training needs assessment and requirements, both in-house and at other institutions, within Bangladesh or abroad. In 2017, 150 personnel attended training in such areas such as the Project Cycle Management, Counter Violent Extremism, Safe Migration and Trafficking, and improved farming technology; effective management, leadership and assertiveness; financial management and micro-finance, Social business and development, monitoring and reporting.

#### **b) Beneficiary Training**

To ensure our microfinance group members are able to make the most of their opportunities, we provide training on all components of their development activities including women's rights, health and education; on-and-off farming skills; preparing for climate change; and, financial management and book-keeping as well as on other contemporary social issues through PFTI and Radio Mahananda. Around 4,000 program participants and group members were benefitted from such sessions in the field and at our Unit Offices.



**ANNEX-01**  
**AUDIT REPORT-2016-17**

**M. N. ISLAM & CO.**  
**Chartered Accountants**

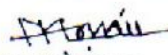
123/4, Tejkunipara, Tejgaon  
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh  
Phone : 9113528, Mobile : 01733-982927

**Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society**  
Belepukur, Chapai Nawabganj-6300  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
For the period from 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

Income	FY 2016-2017			FY 2015-2016
	Head of Accounts	PSED (Micro Credit)	Core & Projects	Total
	Service charge on Micro Credit	149,564,710	-	149,564,710
	Admission Fee	319,205	-	319,205
	Sale of Form/Pass book	757,301	-	757,301
	Interest on Investment	14,935	1,321,380	1,336,325
	Service charge on Fund Account	-	1,195,013	1,195,013
	Rent Received	43,600	-	43,600
	Service Fee Received	272,090	241,145	513,235
	Project Grant	-	7,900,779	7,900,779
	Project Income/Donation	-	881,126	881,126
	Donation	871,428	1,027,300	1,898,728
	Bank Interest	2,586,901	42,323	2,631,224
	Recovery of Write off loan	140,994	-	140,994
	Sale of old news paper	8,782	-	8,782
	Service charge on Special loan	-	-	-
	Others Income	755,727	32,500	788,227
	Bandu Chula Service Charge	3	-	3
	Enrich Program Income	715,403	-	715,403
	Lift Program Income	8,100	-	8,100
	Donation Agriculture & Livestock Unit	3,734,979	-	3,734,979
	Donation LIFT	-	-	-
	KGF Expenses Reimburse Income	1,117,138	-	1,117,138
	Enrich Expenses Reimburse Income	7,056,416	-	7,056,416
	UPP Ujjibilo Expenses Reimburse Income	3,341,411	-	3,341,411
	<b>Total</b>	<b>171,311,123</b>	<b>12,641,577</b>	<b>183,952,700</b>
				<b>135,671,649</b>

The annexed schedule and notes from an integral part of these accounts

  
Deputy Director

  
Executive Director

  
President

Examined and found Correct.





**M. N. ISLAM & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants

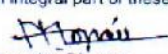
123/4, Tejgunipara, Tejgaon  
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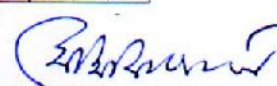
**Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society**  
Belepukur, Chapai Nawabganj-6300  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
For the period from 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

Expenditure	FY 2016-2017			FY 2015-2016
	Head of Accounts	PSEDP (Micro Credit)	Core & Projects	Total
Service Charge on PKSF Loan	16,765,878	-	16,765,878	14,222,297
Interest on Savings	11,204,675	-	11,204,675	7,212,145
Interest on Bank Loan	8,225,539	-	8,225,539	1,526,500
Other Loan Interest	1,545,668	-	1,545,668	-
Bank Charge and Commission	975,162	17,186	992,348	678,739
Salary & Allowance	66,878,811	2,854,511	69,743,322	46,664,307
Gratuity Expenses	1,654,995	-	1,654,995	4,086,275
Health & Deth Benefit Expenses	828,513	-	828,513	2,040,441
Travel & Conveyance	3,514,848	354,299	3,869,147	2,667,589
Printing and Stationary	2,827,071	50,882	2,877,953	2,826,856
Office Rent	3,365,964	123,000	3,488,964	2,527,169
Utilities	659,742	209,816	869,558	710,598
Fuel and Maintenance	923,069	-	923,069	1,412,488
Office Maintenance cost	1,825,441	161,529	1,986,970	1,358,217
Entertainment	1,056,036	46,682	1,102,718	814,413
Communication	1,441,363	53,733	1,495,096	1,122,026
Newspaper	114,099	112	114,211	100,160
Repair Expenses	63,271	1,600	64,871	155,799
Carrying expenses	37,570	600	38,170	49,820
Advertisement	12,000	-	12,000	17,000
Training Expenses	327,484	68,029	395,513	295,740
Research & Development	26,050	-	26,050	69,583
Day Observation	52,179	-	52,179	11,030
Monitoring & Evaluation	285,194	-	285,194	400,413
Audit Fee	15,000	-	15,000	35,000
Welfare & Recreation Expenses	15,238	-	15,238	124,585
Subscription/Donation	5,500	-	5,500	3,396,279
LLP Expenses	6,112,509	-	6,112,509	2,600,969
DMFE	-	-	-	434,221
Depreciation	1,510,072	-	1,510,072	1,322,526
Fixed Assets Obsolete	-	-	-	2,771
Tax/Tax on interest	-	19,314	19,314	160,933
VAT & Tax Expenses	629,995	-	629,995	318,997
Licences & Registration	60,500	28,750	89,250	111,317
Legal expenses	114,502	-	114,502	62,985
Computer software automation Exp.	85,995	-	85,995	166,545
Enrich Project Expenses	1,914,102	-	1,914,102	4,158,956
Agriculture & Livestock Unit Exp	4,316,165	-	4,316,165	5,342,045
UPP Ujjibito Expenses	3,550,750	-	3,550,750	3,857,689
KGF Expenses	1,471,262	-	1,471,262	663,195
LIFT Expenses	3,825,863	-	3,825,863	989,501
DIISP Expenses	22,600	880	23,480	25,800
Others Expenses	181,067	-	181,067	368,235
Interest on Provident Fund	-	1,622,089	1,622,089	1,240,850
Project Expenditure	-	3,951,593	3,951,593	6,232,248
Expenditure Excess Income Transferred to Capital Fund	22,869,381	3,066,972	25,936,353	12,968,393
Total	171,311,123	12,641,577	183,952,700	135,571,649

The annexed schedule and notes from an integral part of these accounts

  
Deputy Director

  
Executive Director  
Examined and found Correct.

  
President





**M. N. ISLAM & CO.**  
Chartered Accountants

123/4, Tejgunipara, Tejgaon  
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh  
Phone : 9113528, Mobile : 01733-982927

**Proyas Manobik Unnayan Society**  
Belepukur, Chapai Nawabganj-6300  
**Statement of Receipts and Payments**  
For the period from 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

Receipts	FY 2016-2017			FY 2015-2016
	Head of Accounts	PSEDP (Micro Credit)	Core & Projects	Total
Opening Balance				
Cash in hand		53,626	-	53,626
Cash at Bank		9,871,162	7,360,082	17,231,244
Savings Collection		146,204,022	-	146,204,022
Loan Received from PKSF		245,925,000	-	245,925,000
Loan from Bank		323,800,000	-	323,800,000
Temporary/Personal Loan Received		1,735,000	-	1,735,000
Member Welfare Fund		9,225,545	-	9,225,545
DIISP Insurance		1,224,426	-	1,224,426
Provident Fund		-	3,169,980	3,169,980
Gratuity Fund		-	606	606
D. & Health Benefit Fund		-	439	439
Project Liabilities		-	1,358,622	1,358,622
Others Liabilities		14,953,539	810,660	15,764,199
Group Insurance		-	-	-
Inter project loan		31,136,187	41,138,897	72,275,084
Fund Account Others		5,952,519	-	5,952,519
Micro Credit Realization		1,195,508,926	-	1,195,508,926
Bandu Chula Loan		747	-	747
Investment		15,796,780	4,882,521	20,679,301
Advance		8,287,983	1,046,700	9,334,683
Other Assets		442,910	-	442,910
Service charge on Micro Credit		149,353,569	-	149,353,569
Bandu Chula Service Charge		3	-	3
Admission Fee		321,375	-	321,375
Sale of Form/Pass book		755,301	-	755,301
Interest on Investment		-	-	-
Service charge on Staff Advance		2,270	-	2,270
Rent Received		45,400	-	45,400
Service Fee Received		272,090	241,145	513,235
Bank Interest		371,354	42,323	413,677
Sale of old news paper		10,337	-	10,337
Donation		871,428	1,027,300	1,898,728
Project Income		-	881,126	881,126
Project Grant		-	7,900,779	7,900,779
Recovery on write off loan		140,994	-	140,994
Others Income		758,671	32,500	791,171
AG & LI Expenses Reimbursement		4,019,034	-	4,019,034
UPP Ujibito Expenses Reimbursement		3,117,406	-	3,117,406
KGF Expenses Reimbursement		257,035	-	257,035
Enrich Project Income		693,943	-	693,943
Lift Project Income		36,413	-	36,413
PKSF Advance Enrich		8,300,000	-	8,300,000
DIISP Income		7,460	-	7,460
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,179,452,455</b>	<b>69,883,700</b>	<b>2,249,336,155</b>

The annexed schedule and notes form an integral part of these accounts

  
Deputy Director

  
Executive Director

  
President

