



*ASHIKA Development Associates*

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Showing our progress and setting the stage for  
the future*

**PREPARED BY**

*ASHIKA Development Associates*

# 2024

[ashikacht.org](http://ashikacht.org)

## Message from the Executive Director



As we reflect on the year 2023–2024, ASHIKA Development Associates proudly celebrates its continued commitment to the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). This year, our work has been guided by a focused mission: to strengthen governance, foster sustainable development, and build climate resilience across the communities we serve. Through the collective efforts of our dedicated team and the invaluable support of our local and international partners, we have made significant strides in education, social development, food security, climate change adaptation, health, livelihoods, and human rights.

Our emergency response and disaster preparedness initiatives have been particularly critical this year. With support from our donor-funded project, *Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Capacity in the CHT, Bangladesh*, we trained first responders and community volunteers to manage natural disasters effectively. Working in close collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management and other national partners, we have significantly enhanced the capacity of local communities to respond to future emergencies.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the steadfast collaboration of our partners—UNDP, USAID, Manusher Jonno Foundation, BSRM, Caritas, BRAC, and the Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh. Their unwavering support has empowered us to expand market access, promote social cohesion, facilitate resilient livelihoods, and strengthen ecosystem governance throughout the region.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the communities who place their trust in us. Their resilience, determination, and hope continue to inspire our mission. Looking ahead, ASHIKA remains firmly committed to pursuing sustainable, community-led solutions that honor the rich cultural heritage and aspirations of the people of CHT. With your continued support, we are confident in our shared ability to build a stronger, more inclusive future.

Thank you for your dedication and cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. S. G.', written over a faint, large watermark of the ASHIKA logo.

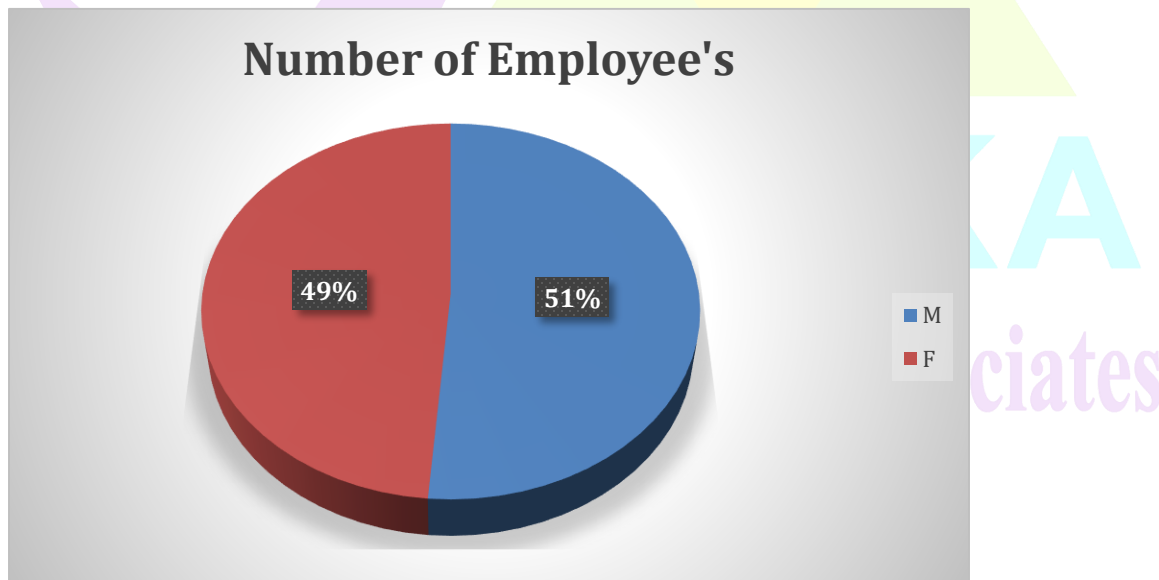
**Executive**

*ASHIKA Development Associates*

## ASHIKA Interventions for the Year 2023–24

Based in the Rangamati Hill District, ASHIKA Development Associates is a non-governmental organization (NGO) operating across the three hill districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT): Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Bandarban. ASHIKA—an acronym for *Amader Shikkha O Kaj* (আমাদের শিক্ষা ও কাজ)—promotes all forms of formal, non-formal, technical, and vocational education, with the aim of applying this knowledge to enhance community livelihoods.

We provide technical support to ultra-poor individuals to create new opportunities for self-reliance. Recognizing the global impact of climate change and globalization, we believe the Chittagong Hill Tracts cannot remain unaffected. Therefore, we advocate for environmentally friendly, cost-effective systems that help communities sustain improved living standards. Emphasizing disaster risk reduction and environmental protection, ASHIKA encourages the adoption of mitigation strategies and capacity-building practices to preserve a healthy environment. Our commitment is to foster a strong socio-economic foundation in CHT by promoting climate-resilient livelihoods and long-term sustainability.



For the year 2023–2024, ASHIKA has prioritized the following focus areas:

- Educational and social development
- Food security and livelihood
- Climate change and disaster management
- Health and human rights
- Institutional capacity enhancement

To address these priorities, ASHIKA has employed a strategic implementation approach aimed at facilitating program success and overcoming operational challenges. Our implementation strategy emphasizes community engagement, communication, advocacy and learning, resource mobilization, effective management, and sound operational practices.

## Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activities (Conservation Communication)

- **Status:** Implemented
- **Donor:** UNDP-USAID
- **Duration:** 1 May 2021 – 31 July 2023
- **Working Area:** Rangamati Hill District
- **Budget:** BDT 24,672,752

ASHIKA Development Associates, in collaboration with its joint ventures, has successfully implemented a series of interventions aligned with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for climate change from July 2021 to July 2023. These efforts were conducted under the *Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA)*, implemented by UNDP Bangladesh as part of the Government of Bangladesh-approved project titled “*Strengthening Inclusive Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)*” under the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MOCHTA).

This Project Completion Report (PCR) offers a detailed overview of achievements made during the 2021–2023 period. Targeted activities were executed within a structured timeframe, addressing three core objectives. This report highlights the collaborative work of ASHIKA (Rangamati), Gram Unnayan Sangathon (GRAUS in Bandarban), and Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS in Khagrachari).

The CHTWCA initiative focused on enhancing ecosystem governance, strengthening resilient livelihoods through better market access, reducing conflicts, and promoting social cohesion to protect natural ecosystems. A total of 21 interventions led to three key outcomes. Activities emphasized integrated ecosystem management, forest conservation, conflict reduction, and social harmony. Eight interim results (IRs) were also successfully achieved, particularly in improving livelihoods and access to markets.

The project inspired youth engagement through extracurricular and outreach initiatives, with a focus on wildlife conservation, inter-ethnic social messaging, and conflict resolution. Gender-responsive resilience was central to the ecosystem management approach adopted. Stakeholders engaged included the Village Conservation Forum (VConF), CMC, BFD, and CHT VCF Committee members.

Monitoring databases were developed to track performance and results, and success stories were compiled to illustrate the real-life impact of the interventions. Stakeholder collaboration remains one of the most valued achievements of this initiative.

## Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activities (Social Mobilization, Livelihood and Value Chain)

- **Status:** Implemented
- **Donor:** UNDP-USAID
- **Duration:** 1 July 2021 – 30 July 2023
- **Budget:** BDT 34,982,910
- **Location:** 10 Upazilas in Rangamati and 9 in Khagrachari

Funded by USAID, this component of the SID-CHT initiative aimed to enhance community decision-making, institutional responsiveness, and access to services in the CHT. Its specific objectives were:

1. Enhance community land, resource, and livelihood management
2. Increase community participation in decision-making
3. Strengthen democratic governance through responsive institutions

To meet these goals, the project employed an integrated ecosystem management approach to improve gender-responsive local resilience. The intended outcomes were:

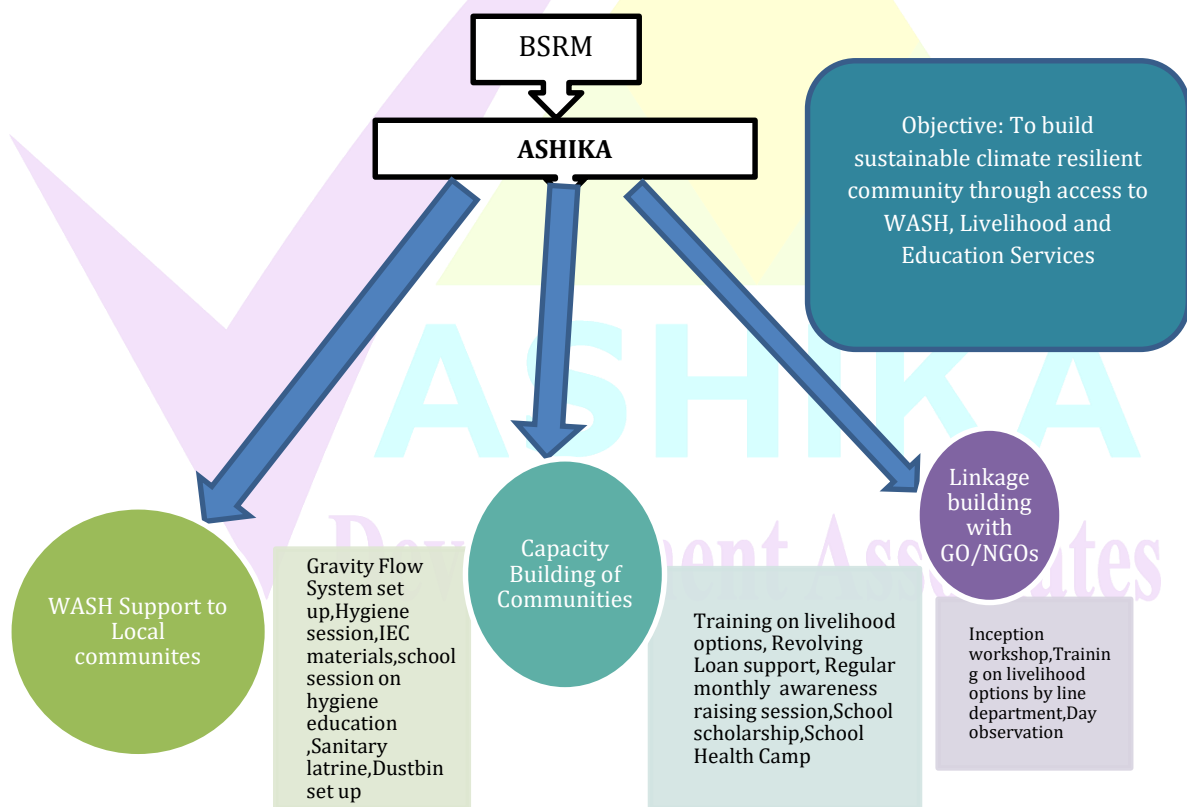
- Improved ecosystem governance
- Resilient livelihoods with stronger market access
- Reduced conflict and increased social cohesion among communities

The initiative was implemented in coordination with MOCHTA, the CHT Regional Council, Hill District Councils, traditional Circle institutions (Bohmong, Mong, Chakma), and key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders including MOEFCC, Forest Department, local NGOs, and civil society groups.

## Advancing WASH and Livelihood Integration (AWLI) in Climate-Vulnerable Areas of Bandarban

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Donor:** BSRM
- **Duration:** 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2025
- **Budget:** BDT 9,981,143
- **Location:** Ruma, Bandarban Hill District

ASHIKA Development Associates is conducting a baseline survey to assess the socio-economic conditions of 16 vulnerable village communities in remote areas of Bandarban that are at high risk from climate change.



### Technical Quality Assurance (QA) Mechanisms:

The methodology outlines ASHIKA's robust technical and quality assurance review process to ensure the delivery of effective and accountable project outcomes.

### Partnership Roles and Responsibilities:

While ASHIKA shares the successes of project implementation with its partners, it retains the primary responsibility for delivering results to BSRM. ASHIKA provides guidance on institutional coordination, project management, development planning, procurement, and monitoring in line with BSRM's organizational policies. It also

oversees strategy, methodology, and approach development, while ensuring the mobilization of technical experts and logistical resources, including financial reporting, travel, and personnel deployment.

**Support Facilities:**

ASHIKA will document and disseminate “Best Practices” throughout implementation. Three partner organizations will jointly lead on institutional coordination, project oversight, and compliance with donor-specific guidelines.

**Supervision and Monitoring:**

The project implementation committee and ASHIKA’s M&E unit regularly review progress and deliverables. Discussions are integrated into coordination meetings, senior management team reviews, and Executive Council sessions using field photos, videos, and visit reports. Updates are routinely shared through ASHIKA and BSRM’s websites and social media platforms to enhance visibility and transparency.

**Project Objectives and Target Groups:**

The AWLI project aims to build climate-resilient communities by integrating services related to WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), livelihoods, and education. The project directly targets:

- 400 households from 16 vulnerable villages
- 15 underprivileged, high-achieving students
- Children attending schools in Ruma and Paindu Unions

**Key Achievements (2023–2024):**

- 1. Water Infrastructure:**
  - Installed a Gravity Flow System (GFS) in Shwiratong Para, ensuring year-round water access for 35 families and reducing daily water collection efforts.
- 2. Agricultural & Livelihood Support:**
  - Established a cashew nut nursery demonstration plot in Moyur Para.
  - Provided 150 farmers with training on mango and orange plantation, processing, and marketing to promote climate-resilient agriculture.
- 3. Health & Awareness Campaigns:**
  - Conducted 55 sessions on domestic violence, child marriage, sanitation, and hygiene across 16 community groups.
  - Organized handwashing demonstrations for 250 students across five schools.
- 4. Educational Support:**
  - Offered monthly scholarships of BDT 2,000 to 15 students from Ruma Upazila. One student completed her master’s degree; a new beneficiary has been enrolled in her place.

#### 5. **Community-Based Livelihoods:**

- Disbursed BDT 40,000 per group for income-generating activities (IGA) to eight group members, enhancing household economic resilience. Distribution faced delays due to political unrest.

#### **Challenges and Solutions:**

- **Communication Gaps:** Limited mobile network access in remote areas required field staff to conduct home visits, increasing workload but ensuring engagement.
- **Political Unrest:** Activities, particularly in Ruma Upazila, experienced delays. The project team worked closely with local authorities to maintain progress.

#### **Planned Activities:**

Future plans include additional hygiene campaigns, installation of sanitary latrines, expanded IGA disbursements, and scaling up training on sustainable agricultural practices.



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## CPP Just Ecological Transition Agro-Ecology Program (CPP PAEP II)

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Donor:** Caritas Bangladesh
- **Duration:** 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2025
- **Location:** Rajasthali Upazila, Rangamati

ASHIKA Development Associates has been implementing the CPP PAEP II project in partnership with Caritas Bangladesh. The project is designed to promote sustainable agriculture and enhance environmental resilience among communities in Rajasthali Upazila.

### Key Implementation Strategies:

- Administer vaccinations and treatment to reduce the impact of infectious diseases on livestock and poultry.
- Encourage the adoption of sustainable and organic farming practices to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers.
- Support ecological balance and climate resilience through community-led initiatives.

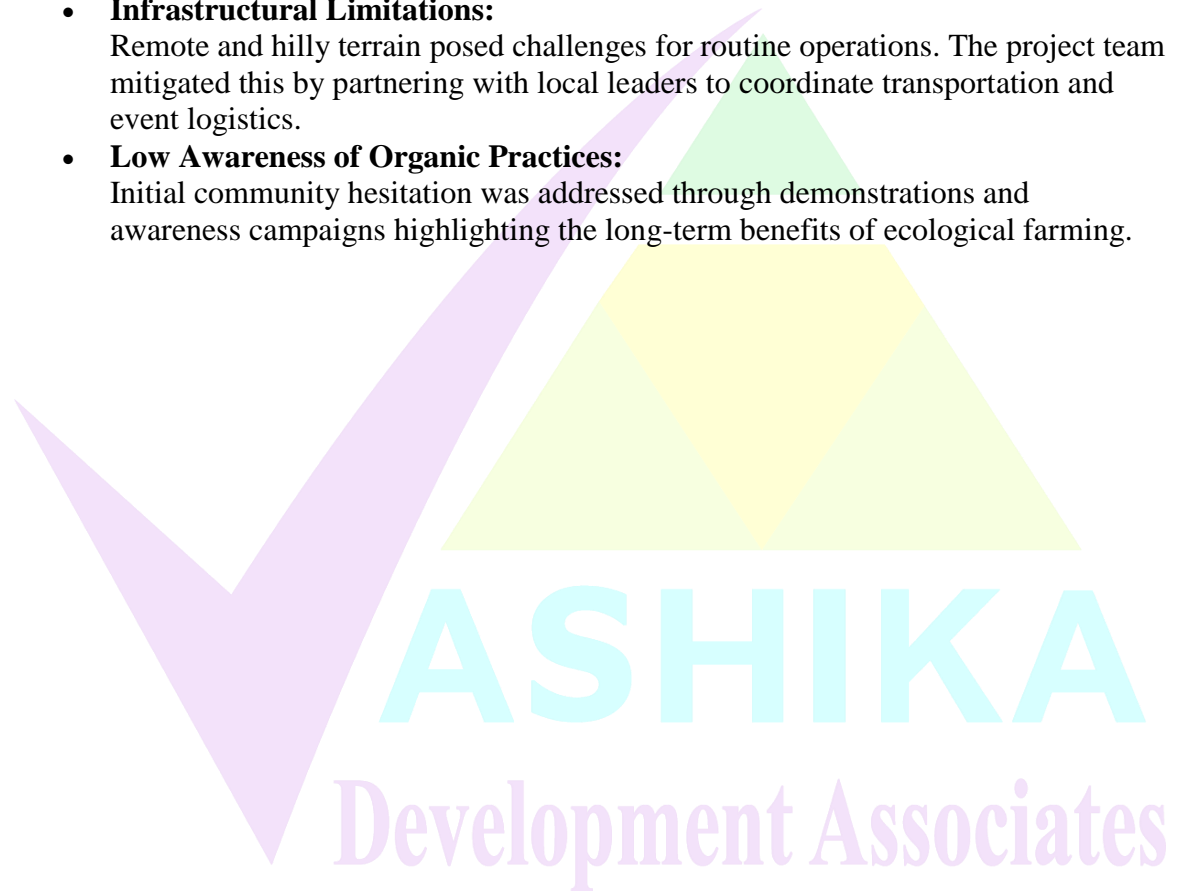
### Key Activities and Achievements (FY 2023–2024):

1. **Livestock and Poultry Health:**
  - Conducted two open vaccination camps in collaboration with government authorities, reducing disease-related losses among poultry and livestock.
2. **Environmental Awareness and Celebrations:**
  - Organized observances of *World Food Day* and *Environment Day* to promote sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly practices, and the use of organic fertilizers. Events were attended by local leaders and government officials, fostering a culture of ecological preservation.
3. **Agricultural and Tree Fairs:**
  - Hosted agricultural and technology fairs with the support of the Upazila administration. These fairs educated farmers on sustainable agricultural technologies and tree-planting methods.
4. **Agro-Ecology Forum Formation:**
  - Established a 15-member *Agro-Ecology Forum*, chaired by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), which held biannual meetings to exchange best practices and develop new strategies for local environmental resilience.
5. **Organic Farming Initiatives:**
  - Distributed seeds, vermicompost, and organic inputs for the cultivation of vegetables and paddy. Beneficiaries contributed 10% of the cost, fostering ownership and commitment to organic practices.
6. **Support for Beekeeping and Mushroom Cultivation:**

- Provided training and materials for beekeeping and mushroom farming, creating alternative income opportunities and enhancing biodiversity in the project area.

#### Challenges and Solutions:

- **Infrastructural Limitations:**  
Remote and hilly terrain posed challenges for routine operations. The project team mitigated this by partnering with local leaders to coordinate transportation and event logistics.
- **Low Awareness of Organic Practices:**  
Initial community hesitation was addressed through demonstrations and awareness campaigns highlighting the long-term benefits of ecological farming.



## Community-Based Resilience, Women's Empowerment, and Action (CREA)

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Donor:** Manusher Jonno Foundation
- **Duration:** 1 March 2023 – 30 June 2026
- **Budget:** BDT 20,167,424
- **Location:** Naniarchar, Rangamati Hill District

The CREA project was developed to address structural inequalities and systemic challenges that marginalize ethnic communities—particularly women and girls—in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The region continues to face deficits in socio-economic rights, governance, access to basic services, and recognition of customary practices.

Women in the CHT face persistent discrimination in areas such as property inheritance, land rights, employment, access to credit, extension services, and markets. Remoteness, dispersed settlements, and lack of infrastructure—such as skilled birth attendants and health facilities—contribute to a precarious environment, particularly for women and girls. Awareness of health rights and services is low, and formal service providers are often geographically inaccessible. Only 9% of childbirths in the CHT are attended by skilled personnel, compared to the national average of 24%.

Climate change has further exacerbated vulnerabilities. Indigenous women bear a disproportionate burden: walking long distances due to deforestation to collect firewood and forest products, managing household agriculture on low-fertility land, and facing frequent landslides and disease outbreaks. Many rely solely on traditional *Jhum* cultivation, with 62% of households living below the absolute poverty line, and per capita income 40% lower than the national average.

### Project Focus and Rationale

CREA was designed to respond to these deep-rooted challenges with integrated interventions in health, gender equity, governance, and resilience building in Naniarchar Upazila. The initiative emphasizes the distinct needs, roles, and challenges faced by women, men, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, including transgender individuals.

### Socio-Political Context and Gender Dynamics

The CHT has undergone significant demographic change since the 18th century and is home to 11 indigenous communities including Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya, Tripura, Chak, Pankhua, Mro, Lushai, Khayang, Bawm, and Khumi. In Rangamati, Buddhists make up the largest group (53.83%), followed by Muslims (39.28%), Hindus (5.62%), Christians (1.12%), and others (0.15%).

Historically, the region's natural resources attracted the British colonial government, which in the 1870s declared nearly 800,000 acres as reserved land, restricting *Jhum* cultivation and forcing indigenous people into deeper hill areas. Though the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation of 1900 recognized some land rights, a feudal system has persisted, with local governance of forests and land often excluding women from decision-making. In Village Common Forest (VCF) Executive Committees, for example, female members are frequently treated as silent observers.

The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act of 2010 allows for bail and compromises, often leaving victims without justice. With no Family Court in Rangamati, cases are tried under broader acts like the *Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000*. Many victims, especially poor rural women, lack the means to reach the District Legal Aid Office, and cases—particularly involving minors—are often dismissed due to procedural delays and weak witness testimonies.

While women's involvement in education and livelihood activities has grown, many still face community-level restrictions and gender-based violence, even when they are the primary earners. A study on Chakma and Marma women in Rangamati Municipality revealed ongoing structural barriers to empowerment.

#### **Aid, Identity, and Politics**

Humanitarian aid has played a major role in the post-conflict strategy for the CHT, especially since the 1997 peace accord. However, the distribution of aid has been deeply politicized. In this contested and resource-scarce region, access to aid is not only vital for survival—it also carries symbolic weight, often linked to legitimacy, power, and control.

Development Associates

## BRAC NFPE Bridge School in CHT

- **Status:** Ongoing
  - **Donor:** BRAC
  - **Duration:** 6 May 2023 – 31 December 2023
  - **Budget:** BDT 1,100,000
  - **Location:** Baghaichari, Rangamati Hill District
- 

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) remain among the most socioeconomically marginalized regions of Bangladesh. Over 62% of households in CHT live below the absolute poverty line, with 19% of the indigenous population relying solely on *Jhum* agriculture and another 9% combining it with other cropping methods (UNDP, 2009). According to the 2001 census, the region's per capita income is 40% lower than the national average. Events like the 2008 rat flood, which affected over 130,000 people (UNICEF), have further deepened food insecurity.

Education outcomes also reflect this marginalization. Primary and secondary school completion rates in CHT are significantly lower than national averages: 62.9% vs. 98.5% for primary, and 15.4% vs. 62.2% for secondary education. The rates of absolute and extreme poverty among ethnic communities were 45.7% and 28.4%, respectively (2016), nearly double the national averages. These challenges hinder employment opportunities for ethnic minorities and heighten their vulnerability (8th Five Year Plan).

In response to these persistent gaps, **BRAC has launched the NFPE (Non-Formal Primary Education) Bridge School project in CHT.** This initiative is designed to provide access to foundational education for children who are at risk of dropping out or have never attended school, especially in rural and hilly areas.

### Program Overview and Objectives

Since 1985, BRAC's informal education program has contributed significantly to Bangladesh's primary education goals. In 2023, BRAC began operating primary schools in CHT under the NFPE model, with the aim of preparing underprivileged children to transition to formal secondary education by 2025.

Partner NGOs—such as ASHIKA Development Associates—are implementing the program locally, ensuring community engagement and accountability.

### Institutional Coordination

- District and Upazila Education Officers have been formally informed about the NFPE schools.

- Communication has been established among government representatives (DCs and UNOs), local leaders (Union Chairmen and Members), and School Monitoring Committees (SMCs).

### Student Selection Process

Community engagement was central to student selection. Both small and large-scale meetings were held in the villages, followed by a student survey using Google Data Sheets. Designated representatives were responsible for monitoring this process.

Key criteria included:

- **Age range:** 8 to 12 years (as of 1 March 2023)
- **Gender balance:** Equal enrollment of boys and girls (50:50 ratio)
- **Inclusion of indigenous children:** Priority was given to students from indigenous communities
- **Birth documentation:** Birth certificates were collected from all enrolled students. Those without certificates were required to submit them within one month.
- **Batch size:** Each batch comprised 15 to 25 students
- **Disability inclusion:** At least one child with disabilities was enrolled per batch, with a maximum of five. If a batch had no disabled child, written approval from the program head was required.

### Teacher Recruitment Guidelines

The teacher recruitment process followed strict protocols to ensure quality and inclusiveness. The key criteria and policies included:

- **Citizenship & Health:** Teachers had to be Bangladeshi nationals with proof of at least two COVID-19 vaccine doses
- **Age:** Candidates were aged between 18 and 30 years
- **Digital literacy:** Candidates needed basic smartphone and internet browsing skills
- **Inclusive hiring:** Preference was given to individuals from marginalized backgrounds, including Dalits, Bede communities, women with disabilities, tribal groups, and BRAC graduates
- **Education requirement:** Minimum qualification was SSC (Secondary School Certificate)
- **Age flexibility for experienced educators:** Candidates up to 50 years old were eligible if they had teaching experience in BRAC NFPE schools (Vol. 1 cycle)
- **No dual employment or monetary exchange:** Teachers could not be employed in multiple schools, and all financial dealings in the recruitment process were prohibited
- **Backup teachers:** Each school had an alternate (substitute) teacher
- **Disciplinary compliance:** Previously suspended teachers were not eligible for rehire

- **Formal appointment:** Official appointment letters were issued to all selected teachers

### Teacher Recruitment Process (Continued)

A three-member recruitment committee was responsible for conducting teacher selection tests, with oversight provided by the Officer-in-Charge. The examination was scored out of 100 marks, distributed as follows:

- Mathematics: 50 marks
- English: 20 marks
- Bengali: 20 marks
- Verbal: 10 marks

All academic certificates submitted by applicants were verified online by BRAC's designated staff to ensure authenticity.

### Teacher Training and Compensation

- Selected teachers received **11 days of foundational training**, covering core subjects and child-centered teaching methods.
- Teachers were given daily allowances of BDT 110 and a lunch allowance of BDT 140 during the training period.
- **Monthly Salary:** BDT 4,500 for each teacher
- **Substitute Teachers:** Paid BDT 185 per working day
- **Festival Allowances:** Two per year, each valued at BDT 2,250. These are distributed in accordance with religious and indigenous celebrations—such as Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, Durga Puja, Christmas, and Buddhist Purnima.
- **Connectivity Support:** BDT 100 per month is provided for mobile and internet expenses.

### School Infrastructure and Environment

- Schools were established in **safe, quiet, and accessible locations**, away from religious institutions, markets, highways, or areas prone to dampness and poor lighting.
- **Building Structure:** Each school is approximately 336 square feet in rural areas (306 sq. ft in urban zones) and features:
  - Tin roofing with ceiling panels for insulation
  - Two separate toilets, with one exclusively for girls
  - A front-facing garden to promote environmental education
  - Electrical fixtures including fans and safe wiring
- **Utilities:** House owners receive:
  - BDT 900/month if electricity is available
  - BDT 800/month if not (for alternate energy support)
  - BDT 8,000 for constructing a toilet (including VAT/tax)

### Teacher Leave and Compensation

- Teachers are entitled to **one day of earned leave per month**, with a maximum of four days carried forward at the end of the year.
- Compensation for leave is BDT 185 per day, disbursed with the December salary.

### School Construction and Environment

The selection of school locations prioritizes **safety, accessibility, and a conducive learning environment:**

- Sites are chosen away from religious institutions, markets, highways, cowsheds, low-lying areas, or noisy and poorly lit zones.
- Schools include **two toilets per facility**, with one dedicated for girls.
- A **small garden** is planted in front of each school to enhance environmental awareness.

### Building Features:

- Rural schools measure **336 sq. ft.**, while urban schools are **306 sq. ft.**
- A **tin ceiling** improves insulation and lighting.
- Blackboards are bordered with **yellow paint** for visibility.
- Schools are equipped with **electric lighting and fan systems**, installed with safe wiring.

### Utility Allowances:

- BDT 900/month is provided to the house owner if the facility has electricity.
- If there is no electricity, BDT 800/month is allocated for alternative energy expenses.
- Toilet construction is supported with a **one-time payment of BDT 8,000** (including VAT and tax).

### Learning Materials and School Supplies

Books are sourced primarily from the **District and Sub-District Education Offices**. If an insufficient number of books is available, materials are borrowed or collected from local government primary schools. All distributed books are registered and tracked.

### Student Supplies Include:

- Wooden pencils, erasers, colored pencils, white paper, geometry boxes

### School Equipment Includes:

- Blackboard, signboard, attendance books, bound books, evaluation registers

- Chalk, duster, pens, pencils, fans, keys
- Educational aids like the Bangladesh and World maps, science equipment, calendars, games, large drawings, and compasses

All items are procured **locally** by a three-member procurement committee to ensure transparency and community involvement.

### Gender and Safeguarding Measures

To foster a **safe, inclusive, and gender-sensitive environment**, teachers are required to:

- Maintain updated records on each student's name and address
- Identify and report any child protection risks
- Maintain regular communication with students and their guardians regarding safety
- Work closely with School Management Committees (SMCs) and designated BRAC staff

All safeguarding activities must strictly adhere to **BRAC's child protection and gender policy guidelines**.

### Pre-School Opening Activities

Before the start of classes, BRAC and its partners undertook a series of preparatory steps to ensure a smooth and inclusive launch:

- **Parental Engagement:** Meetings were organized with parents to introduce the school model and encourage participation.
- **School Management Committee (SMC):** Committee members were selected and oriented to oversee school operations and accountability.
- **Resource Mobilization:** All necessary learning and teaching materials were procured and distributed in advance.
- **Coordination:** Communication was established with the designated Head Teacher to align responsibilities and expectations.

### Post-Opening Operations

Once the school opened, operational and educational protocols were promptly activated:

- A **weekly action plan** was developed for structured lesson delivery.
- An **aptitude assessment** was conducted for all students to understand their baseline learning levels, and the data was digitally stored for tracking progress.
- **Infrastructure Readiness:** The physical facilities of the school premises, including lighting, sanitation, and classroom setup, were ensured.
- **Material Distribution:** Required materials were distributed to both students and teachers to facilitate smooth day-to-day operations.

## Agami Foundation – Educational Assistance for Underprivileged Children in Bangladesh

বাংলাদেশের শিশুদের বিশেষ করে সুবিধা বঞ্চিত শিশুদের শিক্ষাক্ষেত্রে সহায়তা প্রদান প্রকল্প

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Donor:** Agami Foundation
- **Duration:** July 2022 – June 2025
- **Budget:** BDT 300,000

This project is implemented by **ASHIKA Development Associates** in partnership with **Agami Education Foundation (AEF)**, a non-profit and non-political organization focused on improving education for disadvantaged children in Bangladesh. The initiative is part of AEF's broader effort to support schools in remote and hilly regions of the country.

### Project Scope and Location

ASHIKA has been entrusted with implementing this project at **Kalapani Elephant Hill School in Guimara Upazila, Khagrachari**. The main objective is to:

- Enhance student participation in classroom activities
- Create better learning opportunities for underprivileged children
- Support families with skill development initiatives to break the cycle of poverty

This program integrates academic reinforcement with **poverty alleviation**, aiming to empower both students and their families through holistic support.

### Project Background

The **Agami Education Foundation (AEF)** is a voluntary, non-profit, and non-political organization committed to improving the quality of education for underprivileged children across Bangladesh. In its latest initiative, AEF is implementing the project titled *“Providing Educational Assistance to the Unprivileged Children of Bangladesh”* in 18 schools, with a focus on remote and hilly areas.

In partnership with **ASHIKA Development Associates**, this project is being implemented in **Kalapani Elephant Hill School**, located in Guimara Upazila, Khagrachari. The initiative aims to:

- Increase student participation in classroom activities
- Provide access to quality education and academic resources
- Support poverty alleviation through family-based skill development

- Strengthen student-teacher capacity in key subjects such as mathematics, science, and English

### Program Activities

#### School Support

- Provision of **educational materials** including school uniforms, exercise books, stationery, and classroom equipment
- Monthly **Tiffin support** to promote student attendance and nutritional wellbeing
- Payment of **schoolhouse rent** to maintain stable learning environments
- Strengthening of **student-parent-teacher relationships** through regular communication and engagement

#### Education Technology (EdTech)

To modernize learning and teaching:

- A dedicated content development team has been formed, consisting of:
  - 1 Manager
  - 3 Deputy Managers
  - 4 Coordinators
  - 2 Program Officers
- The team is responsible for producing over **400 educational videos** aligned with the national curriculum, to be published on platforms like YouTube
- Teachers are trained to:
  - Write educational scripts
  - Edit and review instructional videos
  - Use online tools and participate in training remotely, especially during periods like COVID-19 lockdowns
- A digital system is in place for collecting and evaluating teacher information

#### Teacher Training

The project includes extensive capacity-building for educators:

- Over **100 teachers** and **800 students** will benefit from **10 offline training sessions**
- Training is managed by one manager, several interns, and a volunteer

Key focus areas:

- Development of **interactive teaching methods** and **formative assessment techniques**
- Specialized training on the **Olympiad Method** for teaching mathematics
- **Hands-on science instruction** for teachers

- **Leadership and management training** specifically designed for head teachers

#### “Life is Fun” – Hands-On Science Education

Designed for students in **Classes 3 to 5**, this initiative targets:

- **1,200+ students** and **2,000+ guardians**

Program features:

- Conducted by one manager, interns, and a lead volunteer
- Interactive, 45–60-minute **hands-on science sessions** held in schools
- Topics include soil, water, air, energy, pollution, heat, plants, and animals
- Low-cost teaching aids, science videos, and activity sheets used
- Goal: eliminate fear of science, **reduce dropout rates by 5%**

#### Health for Education

In partnership with the **Doctors Platform**, a comprehensive health monitoring system has been introduced:

- One intern per school supports communication with healthcare providers
- **Health cards** are issued to every student to track medical history
- Each school hosts:
  - Health camps
  - Eye and dental checkups
  - Awareness campaigns
- Expected impact: improved student well-being and **reduced absenteeism due to illness** (target: 3,000 students)

#### Improving English Language Skills

To strengthen English instruction:

- **Four training sessions** are conducted for teachers
- Led by one manager and an intern
- Includes:
  - **School inspections**
  - **Simulation classes**
  - Distribution of training manuals, worksheets, and evaluation forms
  - Audiovisual teaching aids based on BRAC’s *English for Today* curriculum
- Supported by an **experienced lead volunteer**

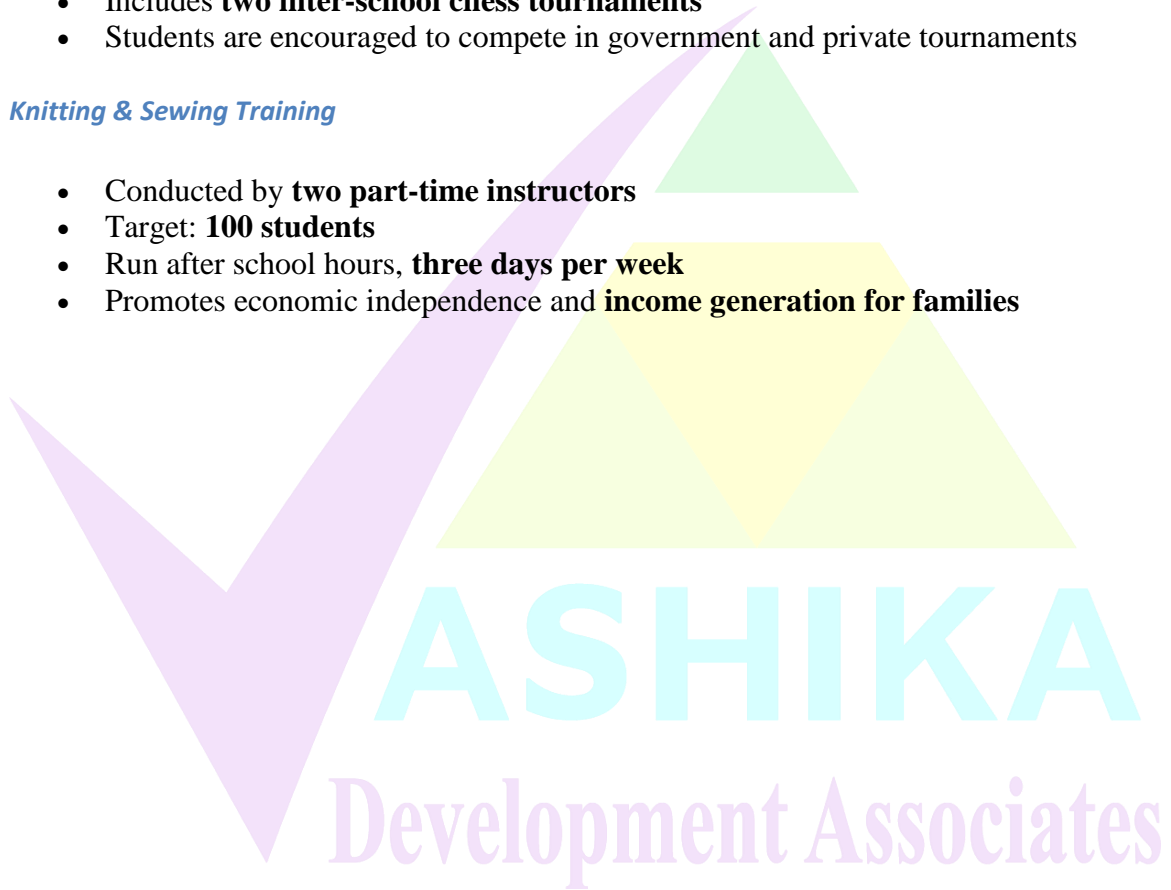
## Co-Curricular & Skill Development Activities

### *Chess Course*

- One part-time instructor is assigned to every two schools
- Chess classes are held three days a week
- Includes **two inter-school chess tournaments**
- Students are encouraged to compete in government and private tournaments

### *Knitting & Sewing Training*

- Conducted by **two part-time instructors**
- Target: **100 students**
- Run after school hours, **three days per week**
- Promotes economic independence and **income generation for families**



## ASTHA – Promoting Youth & Women Leadership for Peace and Development

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Donor:** Rupanor and the Embassy of Switzerland
- **Location:** Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts

### Project Overview

The **ASTHA Project** contributes to human development and aligns with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It supports the **Bangladesh National Youth Policy 2017**, emphasizing youth and women's engagement in leadership and social development in politically sensitive, inter-communal regions like CHT.

ASTHA fosters **intergenerational interaction, social harmony, and peace** by empowering local youth and forming civic platforms. These initiatives aim to increase youth participation in development processes and reduce conflict risks in the region.

### Progress and Activities

During the current reporting period, ASTHA focused on foundational and preparatory activities:

- **Inception Meeting:** Conducted with **38 participants** to align project understanding with key stakeholders
- **Youth Group Formation:**
  - Established **10 youth groups** across 10 Upazilas
  - Total of **300 members**, with **48% female representation**
- **Civic Platform Establishment:**
  - Created a **30-member district-level Civic Platform**, with 30% women's participation
  - Designed to advocate for minority rights and facilitate inclusion in governance
- **Community Whistleblower Network:**
  - Mobilized **300 youth and civic whistleblowers**
  - Conducted **117 courtyard meetings** involving **3,500+ community members** to promote democratic values and prevent political-communal violence

### Outputs and Achievements

#### Output 1: Community-Based Youth Groups

- Youth group inception, training, and implementation of **10 voluntary peacebuilding activities**

## Output 2: Civic Platform Activation

- District platform actively engages with civil society and policy actors

## Output 3: Awareness and Communication Initiatives

- Development of **keynote papers**, awareness meetings, and communication campaigns addressing rights, inclusion, and inter-community cohesion

### Good Practices and Lessons Learned

- Youth group formation proved effective in community mobilization
- Effective collaboration with local government boosted project outreach
- Community whistleblowers played a significant role in conflict prevention

### Challenges and Mitigation

- **Logistical Issues:** Difficulty organizing events due to long travel distances
- **Solution:** Event schedules were adjusted, and **travel allowances** provided to ensure participation of local officials and beneficiaries

The logo for ASHIKA Development Associates features a large, stylized arrow pointing downwards and to the right. The arrow is composed of several overlapping triangles in shades of purple, green, and yellow. The word "ASHIKA" is written in large, light blue, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the arrow. Below it, the words "Development Associates" are written in a smaller, purple, serif font.

ASHIKA

Development Associates

## Eliminate Child Labour in Bangladesh – Phase 4

বাংলাদেশে বুকিপূর্ণ শিশুশ্রম নিরসন (৪র্থ পর্যায়)

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Implementing Authority:** Ministry of Labor and Employment, Government of Bangladesh
- **Location:** Rangamati Hill District
- **Partner NGO:** ASHIKA Development Associates

### Background

To eliminate hazardous forms of child labor in Bangladesh, the Ministry of Labor and Employment launched **Phase 4** of the *Eliminate Child Labour in Bangladesh* project. The initiative aims to rehabilitate **100,000 child laborers** by providing:

- **Six months of non-formal education**, followed by
- **Four months of skill development training**

ASHIKA is responsible for implementing these activities in the Rangamati region. The program also focuses on raising social awareness to prevent children from entering hazardous labor and to reintegrate school dropouts into the formal education system.

### Baseline Survey and Planning

Before implementation, a **baseline survey** was conducted to assess the educational and skill development needs of participating children. Key preparatory actions included:

1. **Database Preparation:**
  - Within 60 days of contract execution, a detailed database of identified child laborers was created.
  - Information included names, photographs, parental details, home and work addresses, mobile numbers, and Bkash accounts.
  - The database was submitted to the project office.
2. **Beneficiary Identification and Enrollment:**
  - Children from district, upazila, and union levels who had dropped out or never attended school were identified.
  - Local officials including the **District Commissioner** and **Police Supervisor** assisted in data collection and validation.
  - Eligible children were enrolled in non-formal schools under the program.
3. **Curriculum Planning:**
  - Based on the baseline data and project office guidelines, a comprehensive work plan was developed.
  - This included curriculum design, timelines, training locations, and a list of educational materials.

- Beneficiaries received learning materials, while curriculum delivery was facilitated at the grassroots level.

## Implementation and Oversight

### 4. Monitoring and Supervision

- The implementing partner (second party) conducted continuous **online monitoring** of the education and training progress.
- **Local administration**, including district and upazila officials, provided **direct supervision** of field activities.

### 5. Service Delivery

- A total of **893 child laborers** received:
  - **Six months of non-formal education**
  - **Four months of skill development training**
- Training was conducted at facilities designated by the first party (e.g., Chittagong City Corporation).

### 6. Adjustable Timeline

- The education and training duration may be adjusted based on project needs.
- In such cases, **service charges** will be proportionately increased or reduced by the second party.

### 7. Community Committees

- Each training center formed a **Management Committee** comprising social workers, parents, and teachers.
- **City or Upazila Committees** were also formed under the leadership of local government representatives (DC/UNO), ensuring transparency and community ownership.

### 8. Financial Reimbursement

- The second party was reimbursed **BDT 16,000 per child** (VAT inclusive) for the full ten-month program, split as:
  - BDT 8,000 for education
  - BDT 8,000 for skill development training

### 9. Vocational

### Training

### Trades

The following skill development courses were offered:

1. Mobile phone servicing
  2. Block printing, batik, and embroidery
  3. Beauty parlor and hairdressing
  4. Plumbing and machinery repair
  5. Carpentry (woodwork)
  6. Radio and TV mechanics
  7. Tailoring and advanced embroidery
  8. Bicycle and rickshaw repair
  9. Handicrafts
- Necessary **machinery, tools, and furniture** were provided to support the training process.

## 10. Contractual Flexibility

- The second party holds the right to **terminate the agreement** in case of any irregularities or training failures.
- Similarly, the first party may reassign the training responsibilities to another NGO or volunteer organization if needed.

## Humanitarian Assistance to Families Affected by Flash Floods and Landslides – Rangamati (Alert B045)

- **Status:** Implemented
- **Donor:** Start Fund Network Bangladesh (with support from UKAID, Netherlands Embassy, JOA, Jersey Overseas Aid)
- **Duration:** 12 August – 25 September 2023 (45 Days)
- **Implementing Agency:** ASHIKA Development Associates
- **Budget:** BDT 6,899,162
- **Working Areas:** Rangamati Municipality, Bilaichari Sadar Union, Farua Union – Bilaichari Upazila
- **Target:** 700 vulnerable households

### Context and Background

Beginning on **3 August 2023**, Rangamati experienced continuous heavy rainfall, resulting in **severe flash floods and landslides**. The flooding caused widespread damage, impacting:

- **3,509 households** in Rangamati Municipality
- **1,525 households** in Bilaichari Sadar and Farua Unions

In response, ASHIKA, in collaboration with local government authorities, activated emergency mechanisms for:

- Emergency shelter support
- Road repair and accessibility
- Rapid needs assessment

### Beneficiary Selection and Assessment

To ensure accuracy and transparency, ASHIKA used the **Kobo Collect app** for a door-to-door needs assessment. Selection prioritized:

- Marginalized communities

- Women-headed households
- Elderly residents
- People with disabilities
- Households with damaged shelters

### Relief Components Provided

1. **Multi-Purpose Cash Grants (MPCGs):**
  - Each of the 700 selected households received **BDT 5,500** for immediate needs (food, shelter, medical expenses).
2. **Non-Food Item (NFI) Hygiene Kits:**
  - Kits included buckets, jerricans, soap, reusable sanitary cloths, and oral rehydration salts.
  - **700 kits distributed**
3. **Emergency Shelter Kits:**
  - **244 households** in the most affected areas received tarpaulins and ropes for temporary shelter.

### Distribution Process

Three distribution centers were established to ensure safety and accessibility:

1. Rangamati Municipality Head Office
2. Bilaichari Union Parishad
3. Farua Union Parishad

**Special arrangements** were made for:

- Pregnant women
- Elderly people
- Persons with disabilities

### Monitoring and Feedback Mechanisms

- **Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM):** Conducted with **311 households**
- **Exit Interviews:** Collected data on satisfaction, challenges, and usage of grants
- **Complaint/Feedback Mechanism:**
  - Feedback boxes and hotline numbers were installed in public areas
  - Ensured confidentiality and real-time community input

**Community-led selection** ensured transparency and promoted accountability.

### Key Achievements and Impact

- Immediate relief was provided to the most vulnerable
- High levels of satisfaction reported by beneficiaries

- Coordination among local authorities and partners minimized duplication and enhanced effectiveness

### Challenges and Lessons Learned

#### Challenges:

- Reaching remote and isolated areas
- Managing high demand and complexity in beneficiary selection

#### Lessons Learned:

- Community engagement improves transparency and ownership
- Digital tools (Kobo) enhance assessment efficiency
- Coordination with local leaders is critical for success

#### Recommendations for Future Responses

- Expand community **volunteer networks**
- Advocate for **flexible funding** to respond to dynamic needs
- Establish **minimum humanitarian standards** across agencies for coordinated, dignified response

### BUDDHA Project – Betterment of Underprivileged through Development and Downstreaming Household’s Approach (BOB-Bank Initiative)

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Donor:** Catuddisa Sangha, Japan
- **Duration:** November 2010 – June 2025
- **Location:** Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Bandarban Districts

#### Background and Objectives

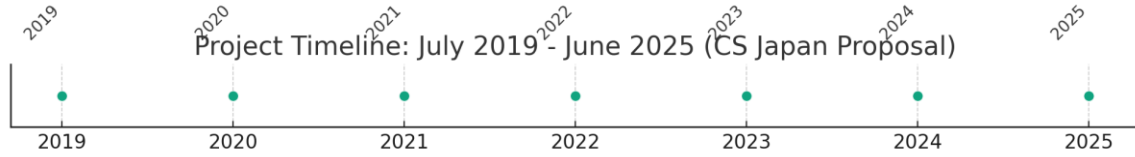
The BUDDHA Project, implemented by **ASHIKA Development Associates** with the support of **Catuddisa Sangha (CS), Japan**, focuses on improving the economic resilience of marginalized families in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) through community-managed microfinance and agro-enterprise development.

The **BOB (Bank of the Beneficiaries)** model was first introduced in **Dighalibagh village, Rangamati**. It has since expanded across multiple villages in the CHT. The initiative emphasizes:

- Enhancing **agricultural productivity** through technical innovation
- Establishing **market linkages and fair pricing mechanisms**

- Creating a **community-led revolving fund** for continued support

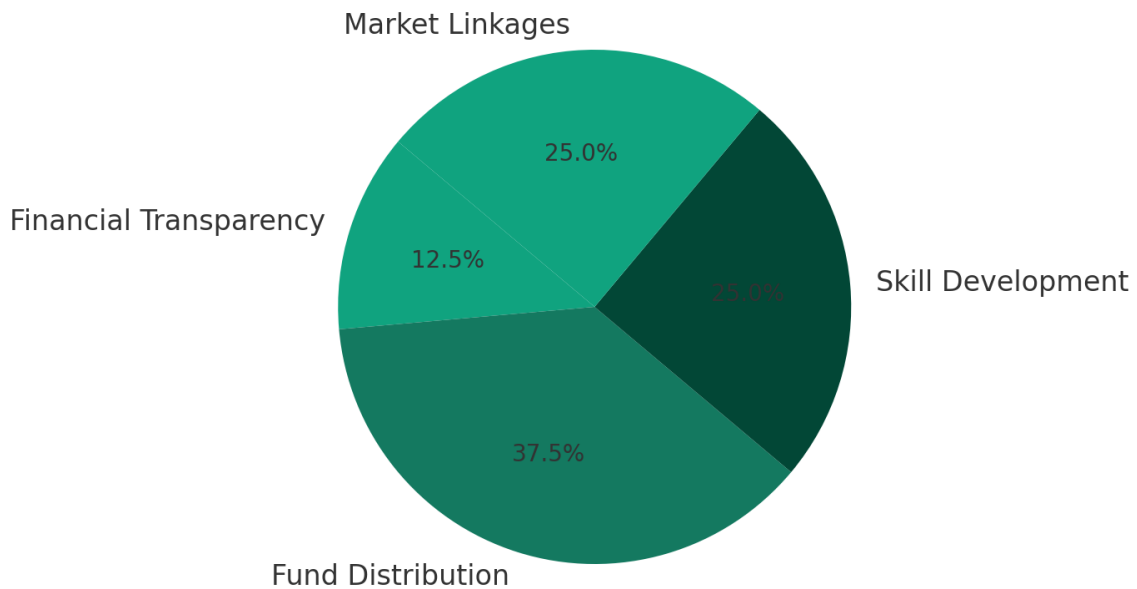
To ensure transparency and financial accountability, ASHIKA maintains a dedicated **Project Funds account**, jointly managed by three authorized signatories.



### Fund Management

- Initial remittance from CS Japan: **BDT 500,000**
- Total distributed: **BDT 547,048**
  - Includes an additional remittance of **BDT 47,048**
- Fund distribution across:
  - Rangamati
  - Khagrachari
  - Bandarban

### Distribution of Major Activities (BoB Narrative Report)



### Major Activities – Rangamati District

1. **Establishment of New BOBs**
  - Two BOBs created with 7–11 members each
  - Each group maintains its own bank account in the name of their para
2. **Newly Established BOBs**

- Dharmagiri Sadhona Kuthir Para, Mitinggachari, Kawkhali Upazila
  - Jibkallyan Banabihar Shakha Para, Kutukchhari, Rangamati Sadar
3. **Orientation Programs**
- Conducted at respective **UNO offices** before each disbursement
4. **Disbursement Summary**
- ASHIKA facilitated **four BOBs** in Rangamati Sadar
  - Total fund disbursed: **BDT 130,000**

**Additional Activities – Rangamati District**

5. The **Jum Foundation** managed **three legacy BOBs** in **Baghaichari Upazila**, distributing a total of **BDT 75,000**.
6. In **Kawkhali**, **three BOBs** received a total of **BDT 90,000**:
- Chelachara Dosobol Para, Ghagra
  - Swadharma Bihar Para, Ghagra
  - Dharmagiri Sadhana Kuthir Para, Mitingyachari
7. The initiative contributed to:
- Value addition and skill development in agro-based production
  - Establishment of **local outlet centers**
  - Improved **market linkages**, networking, and advertising

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**ASHIKA**  
Development Associates



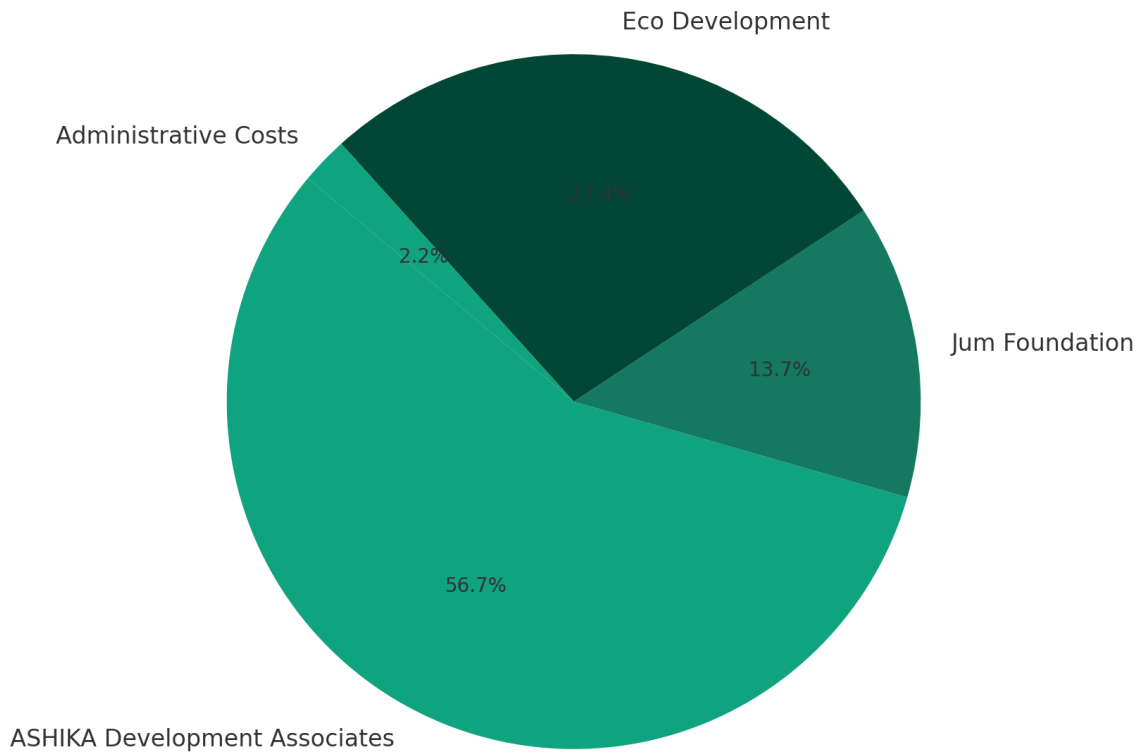
#### Major Activities – Khagrachari District

1. A new BOB was formed with 7–11 members and opened a bank account in the name of their para.
2. Newly established BOB:
  - **Milon Bouddha Bihar**, Pagujjechari, Panchari Upazila
3. Orientation for cash distribution was held at the **UNO Office, Panchari**.
4. Total disbursed: **BDT 90,000**, distributed across **three BOBs** implemented by ASHIKA.
5. Focus areas included:
  - Skill development in agro-based production
  - Establishing outlet centers
  - Market networking and follow-up support

## Major Activities – Bandarban District

1. Two new BOBs were established, each with 7–11 members.
2. Implemented by **Eco-Development**, these BOBs include:
  - Lulan Headman Para Bouddha Bihar, Jamchari Union
  - Lulan Punarbasan Para Bouddha Bihar, Jamchari Union
3. Orientation and cash distribution meetings were held at the **UNO Office, Bandarban Sadar**.
4. Total fund disbursed: **BDT 140,000**
5. Focus areas:
  - Agro-production and value addition
  - Outlet centers
  - Market access, branding, and advertising
  - Strategic follow-up

Budget Distribution Across NGOs (BoB Narrative Report)

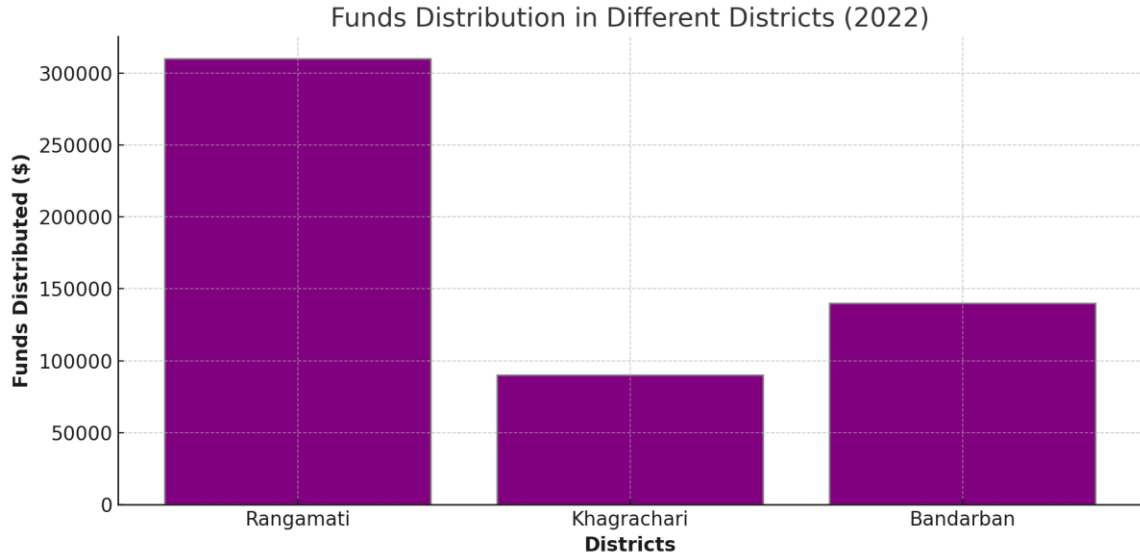


## District-Wide Summary

Total distributed across three hill districts: **BDT 535,000**

- **ASHIKA Development Associates:** BDT 310,000
- **Jum Foundation:** BDT 75,000
- **Eco-Development:**  
(Inclusive of administrative costs)

BDT 150,000



## CHT Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation Program

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Donor:** Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh
- **Duration:** 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2025
- **Budget:** BDT 120,000
- **Location:** Rangamati Hill District

### Overview and Key Activities

This initiative aims to raise awareness and provide support services for individuals affected by **leprosy and disability** in the CHT region. The project engages local communities through:

1. **Awareness Campaigns:**
  - Organized courtyard meetings with community members
  - Conducted information-sharing sessions in schools and with local NGOs
2. **Advocacy:**
  - Engaged educational institutions and other stakeholders to spread awareness
  - Advocated for **local government health and social welfare offices** to ensure public service access for affected individuals
3. **Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Materials:**
  - IEC materials have been effective in spreading awareness about leprosy, rabies, and dog bites
  - While no direct cases have been reported so far, communities are now more aware of the issues and available services

### Cultural Challenges and Community Perception

In many parts of the CHT, traditional healers are the first point of contact for health-related issues, which delays access to proper treatment. Many residents were unaware of services offered by the Leprosy Mission. ASHIKA has been actively working to bridge this gap by:

- Promoting **scientific understanding** of leprosy and rabies
- Educating the public on **where and how to access treatment**
- Encouraging communities to speak up and seek help without stigma

## IGA (Income Generating Activities) – Mushroom Cultivation Initiative

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) possess favorable climatic conditions for **mushroom cultivation**, especially due to their cooler temperatures compared to the plains. Indigenous communities, who traditionally foraged wild mushrooms, have now adopted cultivation as a viable income-generating activity (IGA), thanks to ASHIKA's interventions.

### Background and Evolution

- In 2008, ASHIKA lacked technical expertise in mushroom cultivation.
- Through the **PLIEG project**, and with technical assistance from **ICIMOD**, ASHIKA staff underwent training at facilities in **Savar, Bangladesh**, and **Godavari, Nepal**.
- These experiences laid the foundation for introducing mushroom as a livelihood option in CHT.

### Economic Impact

- Average earnings from mushroom cultivation: **BDT 1,500/month per household**
- Production cost: **BDT 23.50/kg**; Selling price: **BDT 30/kg**
- Local traders buy at BDT 80/kg and sell in markets at BDT 100/kg
- Annual income can increase by approximately **32%**, helping families meet daily needs and reinvest in livestock or agriculture

### Seed Production & Outlet Center

- In **2009**, ASHIKA established a **mushroom seed lab** in Rangamati:
  - Includes air-conditioned incubation space and autoclave facilities
  - Produces **36,000 seed packets annually** at a cost of **BDT 16.50**, sold at **BDT 20**
- The **Outlet Center**:
  - Helps cultivators avoid intermediaries by selling directly at better prices
  - Provides **steady income** to support salaries of 8 staff members (lab + center)

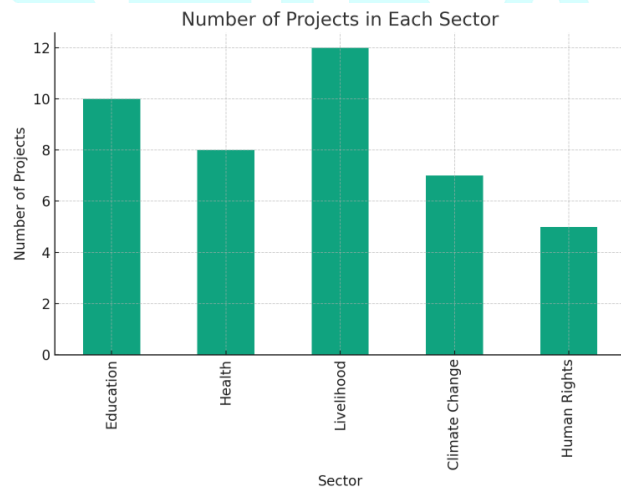
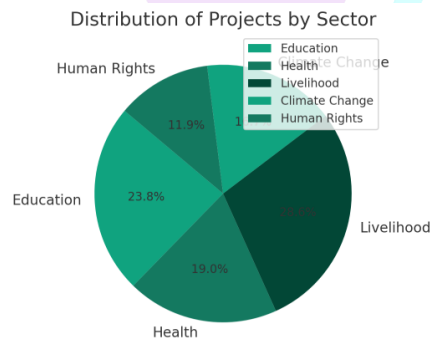
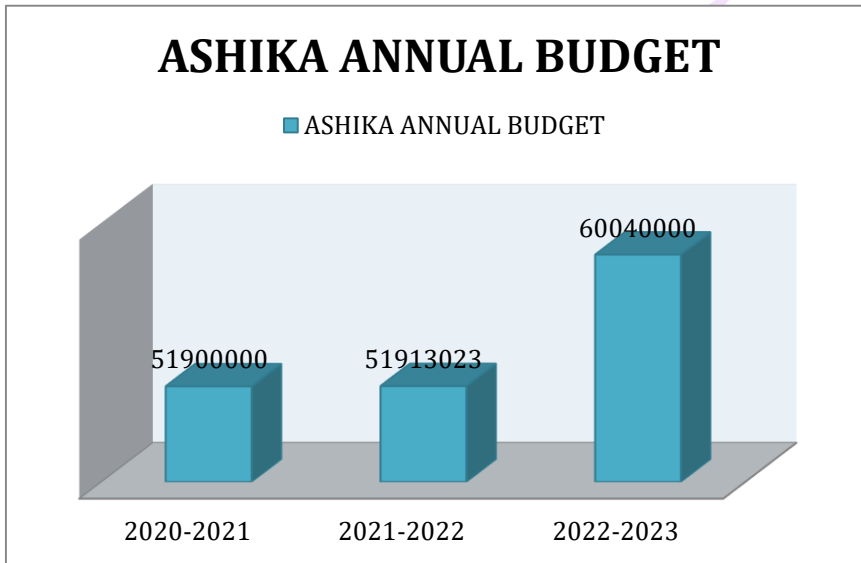
### Market Linkages

- ASHIKA facilitated trader-producer meetings
- Local traders now purchase mushrooms directly from producers, reducing transport costs and maximizing profits
- Strengthens **local supply chains** and encourages job creation within CHT

## Social Business Initiative

On **23 August 2014**, ASHIKA entered into an agreement with **Grameen Telecom Trust** to establish a “**Mushroom Seed Social Business**” in the CHT. The lab now:

- Serves **all three hill districts** and even areas in the **Chattogram division**
- Functions as a **self-sustaining model** with minimal external aid



# Our Funding Partners (2023-2024)



ASHI



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



四方僧伽

Catuddisa Sangha

# ABOUT ASHIKA

The ASHIKA Development Associates is a non-profit organization that is committed to the empowerment of communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) through integrated development programs. ASHIKA, which was established in 1999, is dedicated to the enhancement of livelihoods, the mitigation of disaster risks, the promotion of education, and the cultivation of climate resilience. The organization endeavors to improve the quality of life for marginalized groups by fostering strong partnerships and a dedicated team.

ASHIKA, which is situated in the Rangamati Hill District, provides services to the three hill districts of Bandarban, Khagrachari, and Rangamati. Amader Shikkha O Kaj (আমাদের শিক্ষা ও কাজ) is the acronym for the organization's commitment to the practical application of all forms of education—formal, non-formal, technical, and vocational—to enhance the well-being of communities.

ASHIKA is a proponent of environmentally friendly and cost-effective strategies that enable communities to sustain higher living standards, acknowledging the global impact of both globalization and climate change. ASHIKA prioritizes the support of capacity building and mitigation strategies to safeguard a healthy environment by reducing disaster risk and protecting against environmental degradation. The organization is dedicated to the development of a strong socio-economic foundation in the CHT by promoting climate-resilient livelihoods and sustainability.



# VISION

A self-reliant and climate-resilient CHT community empowered with sustainable resources and opportunities.



# MISSION

To foster sustainable development and resilient livelihoods for marginalized communities in CHT.

# ASHIKA CORE VALUES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



- Transparency
- Inclusivity
- Sustainability
- Community Participation.

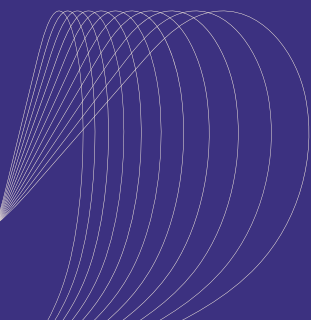
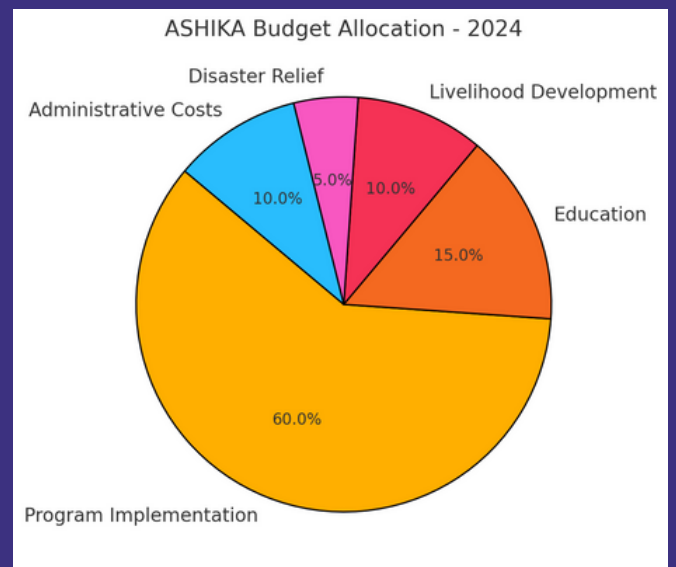
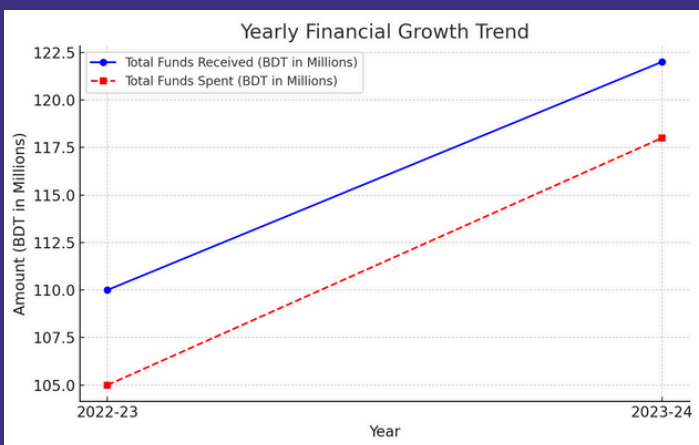
## Key Achievements

- Over 3,000 households benefited from livelihood improvement programs.
  - Successful implementation of WASH and livelihood projects in climate-vulnerable areas.
  - Established strategic partnerships with European Union, MJF, and other donors.
  - Conducted multiple disaster relief programs benefiting over 5,000 individuals.
  - Youth skill development initiatives provided training and employment opportunities.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHT

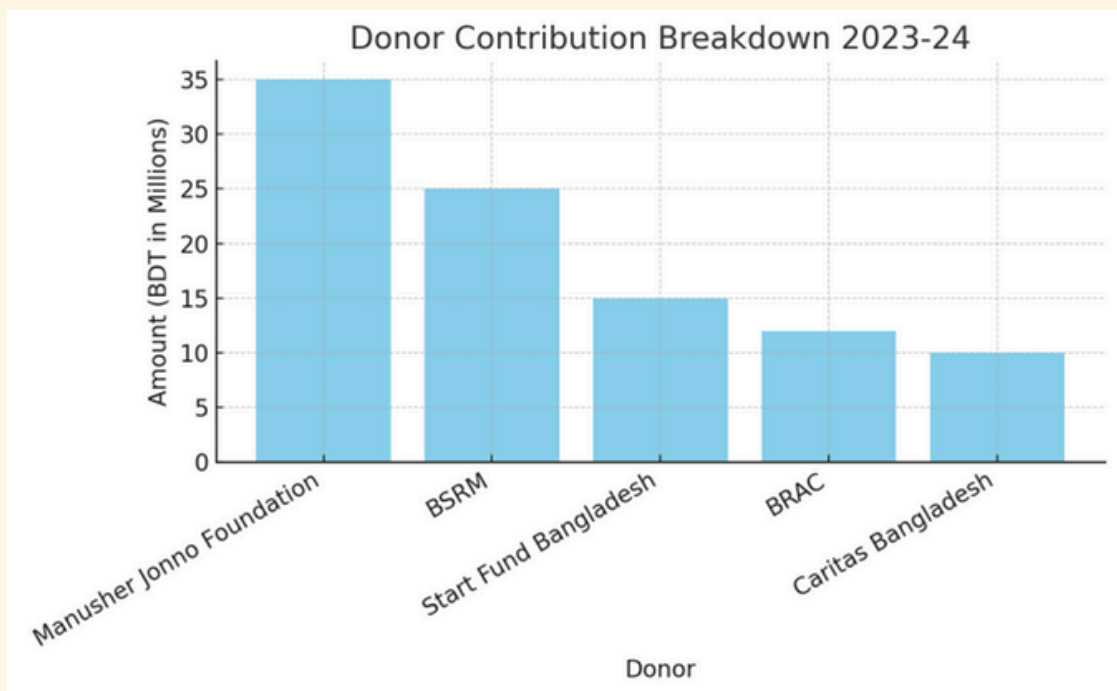
The following provides a thorough financial analysis of ASHIKA's revenue and expenses, emphasizing our open and responsible approach to fund use. The budget allocation for ASHIKA is shown in the above chart, where 60% of total expenses went toward program implementation. Significant investments were made in education, livelihood development, and disaster relief, while administrative costs stayed at 10%.

This financial growth trend shows a steady increase in funds received and spent compared to previous years, reflecting donor confidence and the scaling of ASHIKA's projects.

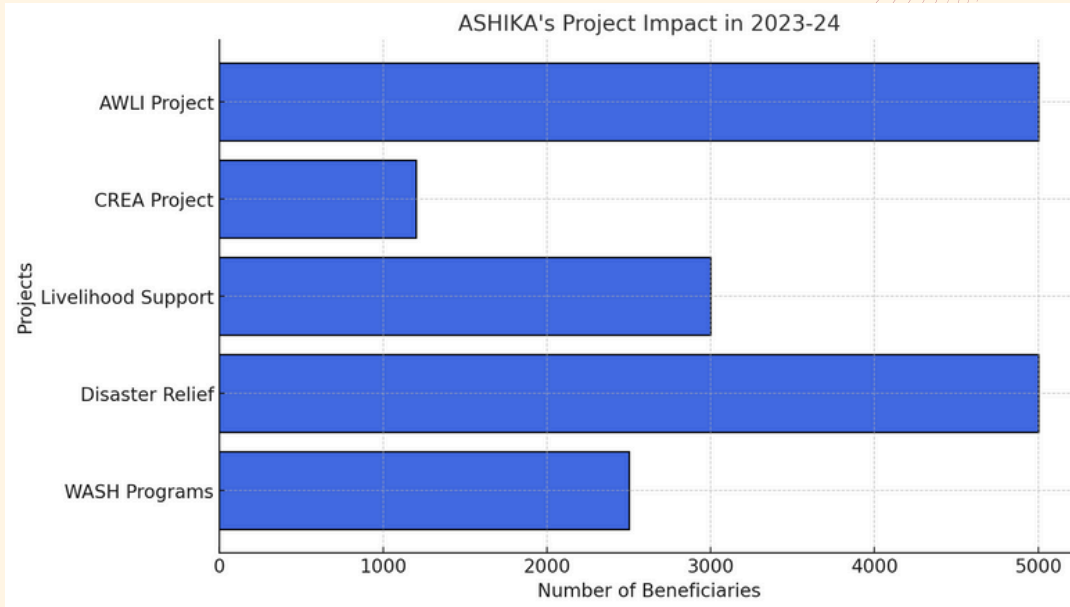


# PERFORMANCE

ASHIKA's funding in 2023-24 came from multiple donors, with the largest contributions from European Union, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), BSRM, Start Fund Bangladesh, BRAC, UKAID, CARITAS

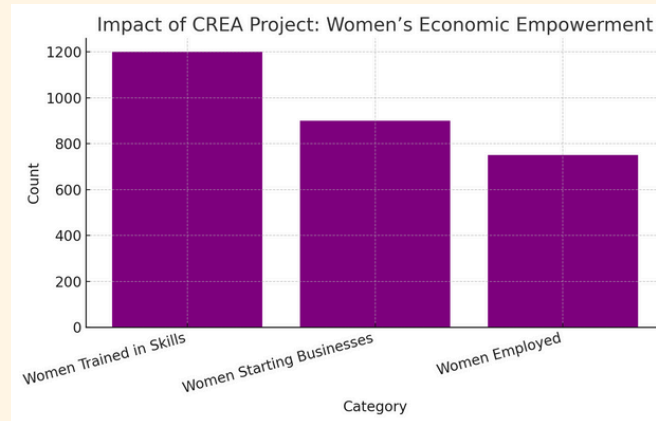


# PROGRAMS AND IMPACT



The chart above highlights the number of beneficiaries for each major ASHIKA project in 2023-24. The AWLI project had the highest reach, benefiting over 5,000 individuals through improved water and sanitation access.

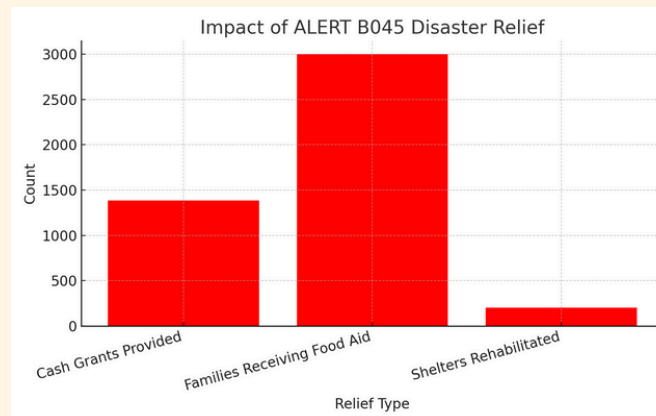
The side chart highlights the impact of ASHIKA’s CREA project, where more than 1,200 women received training, 900 launched businesses, and 750 gained employment.



### Case Studies & Success Stories

#### Rubel Islam's Story: Overcoming Disaster

Rubel Islam, a farmer in Rangamati, lost his home to a flash flood. Through ASHIKA’s emergency relief program, he received financial aid, housing support, and training in climate-resilient agriculture. Today, Rubel has rebuilt his home and successfully cultivated high-yield crops, securing a stable income for his family.

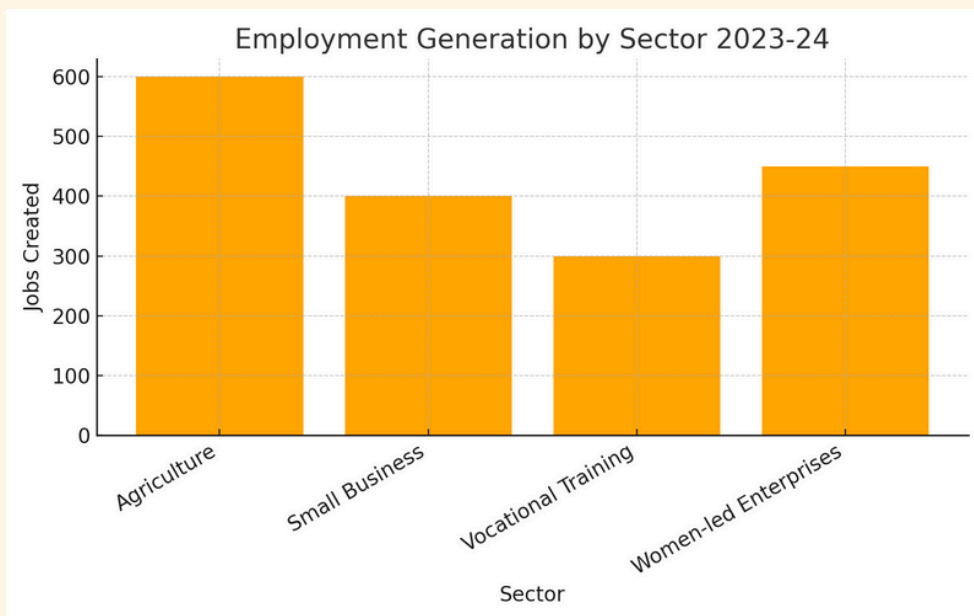


#### Chaiya Chakma's Story: Education & Empowerment

Chaiya, a young student from the indigenous community, faced financial hardship in continuing her education. With a scholarship from ASHIKA’s AWLI Project, she was able to continue her studies and is now an advocate for education in her village.

# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

We extend our gratitude to our key partners: European Union, Manusher Jonno Foundation, BSRM Group, and local government agencies for their unwavering support in achieving our mission.



The above chart illustrates employment generation across ASHIKA's projects. Agriculture and small business development contributed the most to job creation.

**ASHIKA Development Associates**  
Consolidated Statement of Receipts & Payments  
For the year ended 30 June, 2024

Particulars	Amount in TK	
	2023-2024	2022-2023
<b>Opening Balance</b>		
Cash in Hand	63,478	100,248
Cash at Bank	4,957,431	6,226,097
Outstanding Payable	958,577	
<b>Total Opening Balance</b>	<b>4,062,332</b>	<b>6,326,345</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
General Fund: ADA	44,433,919	65,371,055
Kambhe House 1st Floor, K.K. Roy Road, Rangamati	278,895	-
BRAC Pre Primary Schools in CHT	980,750	549,842
Ashika PECSGP Project of CHT	29,000	2,352,387
Conservation Communication under CHTWCA Project 94988	2,875,226	10,572,040
Brac NFPE BRIDGE SCHOOL IN CHT Project	1,510,214	-
ASHIKA CPPAEP-ii Project of CHT	757,430	-
ASHIKA Conventions Park	3,092,605	1,977,600
Ashika Education Project	120,868	-
Activity Village Court II	-	4,000
Empowerment through Integrated Livelihood and Right base Actions (EILIRA), MJF	-	226,332
Bangladesh Jhukipurno Shisusrom (4th state)	1,786,000	8,335,166
CHTWCA Livelihood Project	2,773,721	6,975,225
Community based Resilience, Woman's Empowerment and Action (CREA) Project	7,671,951	1,359,488
ASHIKA- Buddha of BOB Bank in CHT of Bangladesh	498,790	507,200
ASHIKA Agro Ecology	1,404,000	309,000
CPP Just Ecological Transition Agro-ecology Program in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh	-	1,068,131
Shuvolong Safe Drinking Water Social Business	-	-
Mushroom Seed Social Business	2,927,613	1,486,175
Gender Responsive Education and Skills Programme in CHT	1,507,844	2,658,943
Women and Girls Empowerment in CHT Through Education & Skills Project, UNDP	-	7,181,360
ASHIKA Craft Cane and Bamboo Furniture	1,216,943	306,293
AWLI	6,004,027	1,873,308
Activating Village Courts in CHT (Rang. Pack-A, Part-1)	-	168,122
Basic Literacy Project 64 District	-	-
Microfinance program	-	6,500
Asika Alart B045 Project	7,404,874	-
Ashika Astha Cluster -05 Project	6,886,305	-
Ashika Astha Contribution C-5 Project	1,550,250	-
ASHIKA -MJF PRLC Project	10,168,804	-
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>105,880,028</b>	<b>113,288,167</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>109,942,360</b>	<b>119,614,512</b>

  
**Biprop Chakma**  
General Secretary  
ASHIKA Development Associates  
Rangamati

  
**Md. Nizam Uddin**  
President  
ASHIKA Development Associates  
Rangamati



Particulars	Amount in TK	
	2023-2024	2022-2023
<b>Payments</b>		
General Fund: ADA	44,096,572	65,688,396
Kambhe House 1st Floor, K.K. Roy Road, Rangamati	232,825	
BRAC Pre Primary Schools in CHT	416,452	264,611
Ashika PECSGP Project of CHT	1,650	2,410,875
Conservation Communication under CHTWCA Project 94988	2,921,085	10,800,275
Brac NFPE BRIDGE SCHOOL IN CHT Project	1,371,914	
ASHIKA CPPAEP-ii Project of CHT	772,509	
ASHIKA Conventions Park	2,674,407	2,387,875
Ashika Education Project	120,825	
Activity Village Court II	2,986	4,980
Empowerment through Integrated Livelihood and Right base Actions (EILIRA), MJF	-	229,092
Bangladesh Jhukipurno Shisusrom (4th state)	1,786,000	8,335,660
CHTWCALivelihood Project	2,873,809	6,881,969
Community based Resilience, Woman's Empowerment and Action (CREA) Project	7,555,508	892,812
ASHIKA- Buddha of BOB Bank in CHT of Bangladesh	491,300	506,641
ASHIKA Agro Ecology	1,403,092	
CPP Just Ecological Transition Agro-ecology Program in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh	-	1,053,193
Shuvolong Safe Drinking Water Social Business	1,997	
Mushroom Seed Social Business	2,747,300	1,671,238
Gender Responsive Education and Skills Programme in CHT	1,534,850	2,635,488
Women and Girls Empowerment in CHT Through Education & Skills Project, UNDP	4,150	10,087,420
ASHIKA Craft Cane and Bamboo Furniture	1,226,853	595,520
AWLI	5,090,343	934,710
Activating Village Courts in CHT (Rang. Pack-A, Part-1)	1,315	167,380
Basic Literacy Project 64 District	1,387	1,265
Microfinance program	3,002,066	1,780
Asika Alart B045 Project	7,404,484	
Ashika Astha Cluster -05 Project	6,087,338	
Ashika Astha Contribution C-5 Project	1,550,250	
ASHIKA -MJF PRLC Project	7,770,822	
Skill Development Training on Livelihood Activities for Destitute ethnic Women of CHT		1,000
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>103,144,087</b>	<b>115,552,180</b>

  
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## **CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED**

- Problems with accessibility brought on by distant project sites and inadequate infrastructure.
- The implementation of the program was impacted by the effects of climate change, such as droughts and flooding.
- In disaster management efforts, closer cooperation with local government organizations worked well.
- Participatory planning and community involvement increased the program's sustainability and impact.

## **FUTURE PLANS & STRATEGIC GOALS**

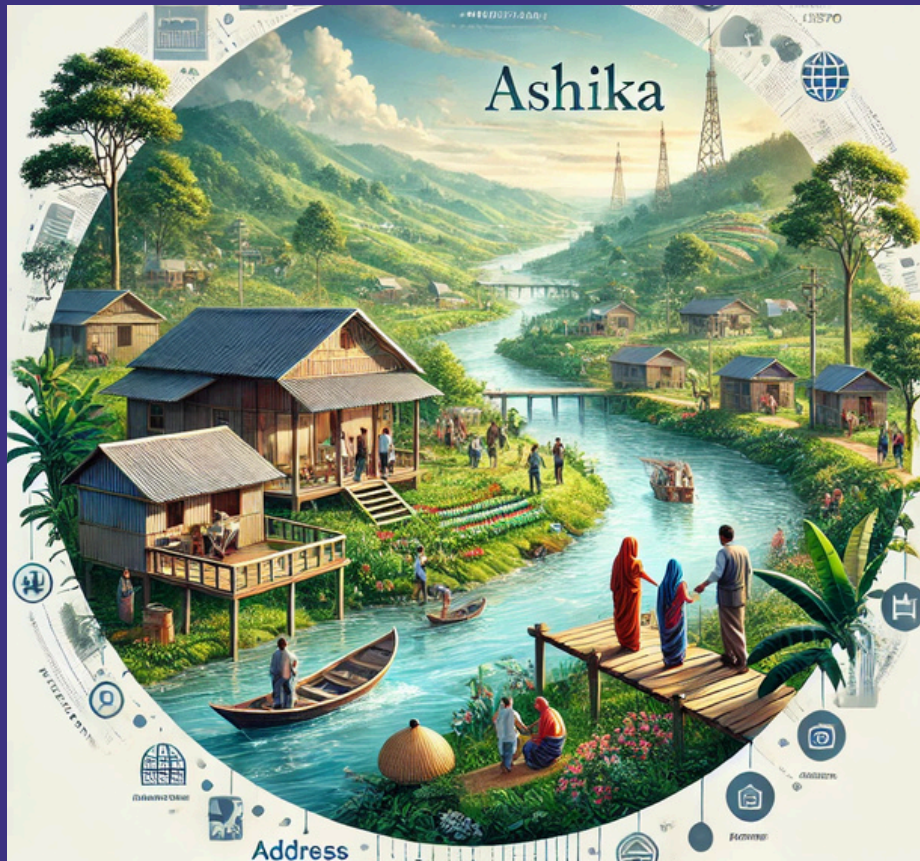
- The extension of livelihood assistance initiatives in isolated regions.
- Increasing efforts for disaster response and preparation.
- Using vocational training to improve the skill development of young people.
- Strengthening partnerships with international development organizations.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & DONORS

We express our sincere gratitude to our donors, partners—both past and present—and volunteers whose invaluable contributions have played a significant role in our journey and the success of the year 2023-24. Your unwavering support and collaboration continue to inspire and strengthen our mission. Thank you for being part of this journey with us.



# CONTACT US



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