

Background:

Uttara Development Program Society (UDPS) is an Institution for Social and Financial Services, founded in a remote village at Salander of Sadar Upazila of Thakurgaon distret in the year 1986 at the initiative of its founder AFM Akhter Uddin. In course of time, UDPS diversified its program activities like savings and microcredit operation, education, health and nutrition, water supply and sanitation, women empowerment, child labor, environment and disaster management, food security, housing, agriculture, livestock, fishery, livelihood development, vulnerable group development (VGD), improved cook stoves, char development, waste management, policy advocacy, vocational training etc. UDPS expanded its program activities covering 2752 villages/wards, 835 unions/municipality, 104 upazila of 21 districts under 5 divisions through its 100 branch offices, 21 area offices and 6 zonal offices.

Vision:

The vision of UDPS is to build Bangladesh through socio-economic development and sustainable cultural status, environment friendly, based on justice, free from exploitation and discrimination.

Mission:

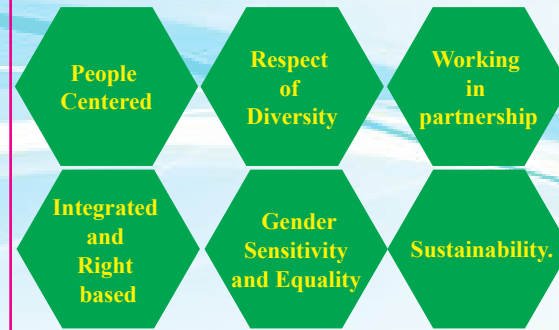
Socio-economic development of rural and urban poor of men and women, adolescent, children, disabled, unemployed youth and disaster affected mass people through an extensive and intensive participatory development process.

Objectives:

- Motivating the rural and urban women to form groups/samity, inspire regular savings, attend regular weekly meeting and provide microcredit so that they can participate in different economic activities.
- To provide support services to poor women, make them aware and conscious on education, health care, nutrition, sewerage and sanitation, family planning, environment, child care and women development.
- To extend cooperation and work with Government, donors, INGOs, individually owned or private organizations or national institutions engaged in socio-economic development works, natural/social disasters, rescue operation, relief and rehabilitation activities, welfare of disabled, crippled handicapped.
- To establish clinic, maternity hospital, hospital, opening service center and providing training.
- To establish school, college and vocational training institutions with a view to provide national curriculum based education and capacity building of the mass people.



Core Values:



Legal Status:

UDPS is duly registered with the following Government organizations Social Service Department, GOB Regn No. -Thak-297/2014 Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka- Regn No. S-2751(164)/2002 NGO Affairs Bureau, GOB- Regn No. - 436 Microcredit Regulatory Authority(MRA)- Regn No.- 03747-00981-0085

Management and Good Governance of UDPS :

UDPS has 2 Committees- one is General Committee (GC) and other one is Executive Committee (EC) to maintain efficient management, good governance and transparency of the organization. The General Committee consists of 15 members while the Executive Committee consists of 7 members. The duration of their membership is for 3 years and after expiry new members are inducted and nominated to replace them. The General Committee meeting usually held once in a year while the Executive Committee meeting held at least 4 times in a year for smooth management of the program activities.

Membership in National/International Forum:

- UDPS, as part of its networking activities maintains an effective membership with the following national and international organizations;
- Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster (NIRAPAD)
 - Credit and Development Forum (CDF)
 - Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)
 - STI/AIDS Network of Bangladesh
 - National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB)
 - The International Federation for Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM)

Donors and development partners:

UDPS implemented its microcredit and different types of collaborative projects with the financial support of the following donors and development partners since its inception:

1. Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), 2. Irish Aid/CWWB, 3. Concern World Wide-Bangladesh, 4. DFID/SHIREE/PAB, 5. Practical Action Bangladesh, 6. DANIDA/DLS/ADB, 7. Ministry of Labor & Employment, 8. IDCOL, 9. Ministry of Environment & Forest, 10. Cord

Aid/Concern Universal, 11. Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, 12. STP/Christian Aid, 13. World Bank/DPE/GOB, 14. UNDP, 15. UNICEF/ SIDA/ CIDA/ GOB, 16. Win rock International, 17. World Bank/DMFE/BNFE, 18. Bangladesh Bank, 19. CARE-Bangladesh, 20. GIZ/CNRS, 21. UNICEF/DPHE, 22 VSO Bangladesh, 23. PLAN International, 24. World Bank/ DPE/GOB, 25. USCC-B, 26. NGO Forum

Staff Strength:

UDPS has been implementing its program activities by skilled, well-trained and dedicated total staff: 657 (Microcredit staff: 579, Project staff: 78).

Target people and beneficiaries:

UDPS target people and beneficiaries are from rural, urban, cities slums and char areas who are poor, helpless, lagged behind people, marginal farmers and micro-entrepreneurs especially poor women. Total members: 70,100, Loan beneficiaries: 57,590 (Male:0 + Female: 57,590), Project beneficiaries: 32,297. Overview of Microcredit Program

Savings:

UDPS has been maintaining 3 saving accounts for the welfare of its members - (1) General savings and (2) Voluntary savings. UDPS pays 6% profit on annual basis to the members against their savings. (3) UDPS Monthly Savings Project (UMSP): Monthly installment of UMPS in each account is Tk100/-500/-

Microcredit:

Microcredit is provided to the members/clients based on the following components.

Jagoron (Rural and Urban Microcredit Program): Under this component, loan and financial assistance is provided to the poor women, manual laborers of rural and sub-rural areas and small and medium businessmen for utilizing their working ability, development of skills and use of local resources.

Buniad (Ultra-poor Program): In this component, loan is provided to the rural and urban poor people living below the poverty line, leading life with dearth of nutrition, illiterate and lack of awareness.

Agrosor (Microenterprise Program): The main objectives of the programs are to extend its financial services to the progressive members for undertaking economic activities that require larger amount of capital for expediting employment generation, creating new employment and income opportunities.



Sufalon (Seasonal and Agriculture Loan): Seasonal loans are provided to the beneficiaries for increasing their income instead of other loan recovery remains outstanding.

Shahosh (Disaster Management Loan): Financial assistance to the poor families; prevent them from selling valuable family assets or advance labour and enables them to cope with the aftermaths of disasters.

Microfinance for Marginal and Small Farmers (MFMSF): Loan is given to the marginal farmers for their daily agricultural works and inspiring the innovative endeavor in agriculture to increase productivity.

Some completed major projects:

So far the organization has completed more than 40 projects, some of them are given below.

1. Nodi -O-Jibon-II Project
2. Integrated interventions against drought for community empowerment (CCCCP) of PKSF Sanitation Hygiene Education and Water Supply.
3. Integrated Nutrition component under Pathways from Poverty,
4. Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children Project
5. Pathways from Poverty: Building Economic Empowerment and Resilience for extreme poor households in riverin areas (PPF) .
6. Awareness Raising and Intervention of Improved Cook Stove and Tree Plantation to Reduce CO2
7. Early Recovery Efforts to Flood Affected People to meet their Immediate Basic Needs project
8. Recovery efforts for food security and livelihood for flood affected people in NW Flood-2014.
9. Waste reduction, reuse and recycling (3-R) pilot Project
10. Capacity strengthening on community managed DRR and CCA
11. Eradication of Hazardous Child Labor in Bangladesh (EHCLB-III)
12. Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project
13. PLCEHD-2 Project
14. Distribution of allowances & providing training for Distress Mothers in Maternity Period
15. Participatory Livestock Development Project (PLDP)-1 and II
16. Dissemination of Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) Bandhu Chula.
17. Mainstreaming Livelihood Centered Approaches to DMP
18. Adarsha Gram Project-II

Ongoing Projects of UDPS

a) Humanitarian Assistance to the Flood Affected Communities of Sirajgonj and Jamalpur districts in Bangladesh- supported by Concern WW- Bangladesh funded by ECHO:

Multipurpose cash grants is provided to meet the basic needs and cash transfer through cash for work and livelihood support to 2600 flood affected beneficiaries household to restore their livelihood. Project area: Belkuchi and Kazipur upazila of Sirajgonj district Total budget was BDT 29.66 million.

b) Pumpkins Against Poverty supported by Practical Action Bangladesh.

The project was designed to help 6000 extreme poor households(30000 individuals) women living on flood protection embankments negotiated and secured operational access to sandbars, for improved income, food security, nutrition and access to markets. The project was implemented

at Kurigram sadar, Gangachara upazila and the budget was BDT 34.42 million .

c) Water Efficiency for Scaling up Sandbar Cropping through a market based approach (USAID-SWFF Project):

The project was designed to develop and promote a commercial model of sandbar cropping by creating access to barren sandbar lands to help the extreme and vulnerable poor households living on the flood protection embankment for their economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods development.. The project was implemented with 1000 BHHs at Pargacha, Kawnia, Gangachara, Ulipur and Chilmari upazilas from October, 2014 to September, 2017 with BDT 10.00 million.



d) Development of Distressed Women under VGD:

This project is implemented at Nachole upazila of Chapainababgonj and Porsha of Naogaon district for development of socio economic status of 2333 distressed and extreme poor beneficiaries.

e) Improved Cook-Stoves (ICS) Program of IDCOL:

UDPS implements the ICS Program in 4 clusters (Tarash, Raigonj, Ullapara and Kamarkhand upazila of Sirazgonj district to install, maintain and supplied 42,151 ICS for a period of 3 years.

f) Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households towards Elimination of their Poverty-ENRICH or Samridhhi of PKSF:

The overall goal of the program is to work with the poor, to create an enabling environment for them to achieve a humanly dignified living standard and enjoy universal human rights. It is implemented in 33 villages of Chandaikona Union under Raigonj upazila of Sirajgonj District. The project aims to provide education, health, credit, beggar rehabilitation, setting up enrich center, community level actions etc.



g) UDPS Medicinal Plant Project supported by PKSF:

This project is financially supported by PKSF to increase the income of the entrepreneurs through production, processing and marketing of quality medicinal plants. The duration of the project is 3 (Three) years. A total budget of BDT 12.28 million is spent for 4,600 beneficiaries who are engaged with different activities. The location of the project is Sadar and Singra upazila of Natore district).



h) UDPS Dairy Value Chain Project under PACE project of PKSF.

This project is financially supported by PKSF to increase the income and create employment opportunity of the entrepreneurs through production and marketing of milk products like butter, cheese, ghee, curd and chana. The duration of the project is 28 months with a total budget of BDT 8.00 million. The location of the project is Shahjadpur upazilla of Sirazgonj district and 2010 beneficiaries are engaged.



-) Conducting Baseline, End line Survey and Annual Progress Review for Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC Project).
-) Shifting the Power Project led by Christian Aid.
- k) Ovijatra Project supported by CAMPE(Gono Sakkharata Ovijan) and PKSF

Formal Institute of UDPS

Uttara Public School:

Uttara Public School was established in 2004 in Bogra town for providing quality education. It has been running standard primary education up to Class V . Extra curriculum activities such as song, dance, drawing, recitation, indoor games and physical exercise are included in the curriculum.



Uttara Agriculture Institute, Bogra:

UDPS has established the "Uttara Agriculture Institute, Bogra" at Ranirhat, PS. Shajahanpur, Bogra on with a view to offer Diploma degree on Agriculture and Fishery sector with its own fund. For any query, anybody can contact the Principal, Mr. Ahsan Habib, Mob: 01715081351 and Mr. Md. Shamsuddin , Coordinator (training and education cell): Cell # 01908405077.



Abdar Rashid Nurul Huda Technical Education Center

UDPS has established Abdar Rashid Nurul Huda Technical Education Centre at Rupshi, Enayetpur of Sirazgonj district. This technical education centre has got approval from Bangladesh Technical Education Board, Dhaka. This centre has been conducting four trades namely Electrical House Wiring, Plumbing and Pipe fittings, Dress making and Tailoring and Mobile Phone servicing on three/six months duration.

Departments of UDPS

HR and Admin Department:

UDPS has well experienced HR and Admin Department to provide better support services and guidance to all departments, zones, areas and branch offices including projects. The HR and Admin team have built an excellent rapport with the departmental management and their excellence in work, sincerity and hard work with good team spirit over the years.

Estate and Legal Support:

This wing is responsible for looking after the land, buildings, fixed assets and legal affairs of the organization.

Management of Accounts and Audits:

UDPS has been maintaining and managing fully computerized accounting system with skilled and experienced Accounts Officers in its head office and all branch offices. It has experienced audit team and conducts both Internal Audit and External Audits as it believes in transparency and accountability.

Research and Publications:

UDPS has a Research and Publication Cell responsible for research, printing and publication of books and periodicals on different program activities.



UDPS

Uttara Development Program Society

An Institution for Social & Financial Service

5/10 Homayun Road, Block-B, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

Phone : 02-9140902

E-mail : udps_dhaka@yahoo.com

Website : www.udps.org.bd