

Annual Report 2024



SUROVI

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SYNOPSIS

SUROVI, a voluntary organization with a rich history dating back to 1979, has been dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged children and women. The organization was founded by Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu, a visionary change-maker and a compassionate advocate for marginalized communities. Since its inception, SUROVI has focused on addressing the needs of underprivileged children and women in both urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. Its mission goes beyond creating reports or showcasing achievements; it is deeply rooted in a commitment to supporting and uplifting communities living in deprivation.

Taking a child-focused and community-based approach, SUROVI aligns its programs with the national agenda, government policies, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the years, the organization has expanded its initiatives to cover 38 districts across Bangladesh, directly impacting the lives of over one million vulnerable children, women, and individuals living in poverty or affected by crisis.

In 2024, SUROVI implemented several projects across various thematic areas to fulfill its mission. These initiatives included Primary and Secondary Education, Basic Education, Day Care Centers, Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK), Vocational Skill Training, Children Sponsorship, Scholarships for Orphans, Relief and Rehabilitation, Microfinance, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Emergency Response, and Seasonal Programs.

Key projects executed in 2024 include the following: Ability-Based Accelerated Learning

for Out-of-School Children and Adolescents, SUROVI School, Integrated Sponsorship Program, Gender Transformative Early Childhood Development, Child Bride to Bookworm in Bangladesh, Child Sponsorship, Student Scholarship, Orphan Scholarship, Sustainable Water Supply in Bangladesh, Emergency Relief for flood-affected people in Feni, Seasonal initiatives such as Qurbani, Ramadan support, Narir Khomota (Women's Empowerment), Microcredit programs, Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) and Oa, Aa, Ka, Kha School.

Through these efforts, SUROVI has empowered thousands of individuals by enhancing human resources, improving livelihoods, promoting better health and lifestyles, and reducing poverty. The organization's work not only contributes to its overarching mission but also supports the government's vision of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SUROVI's achievements in 2024 were made possible through the support and collaboration of various donors, funding agencies, partners, and stakeholders. Organizations such as UNICEF, PLAN International Bangladesh, Human Concern International (HCI) Canada, Canada Bangladesh Education Trust (CBET), Canada Bangladesh Muslim Community (CBMC), Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), Impact Investment Exchange (IIX) have played a vital role in ensuring the success of SUROVI's initiatives. The organization extends its heartfelt gratitude to these partners, as well as to individuals who generously supported its mission to uplift those living in poverty and distress.

Memorandum from the Honorable Founder &



I am delighted to announce that SUROVI has successfully concluded the year 2024 with the full implementation of its planned activities, achieving a significant milestone in pursuit of its mission. It also brings me immense joy to share that the organization is set to publish its Annual Report 2024, showcasing the accomplishments throughout the year.

Since its inception in 1979, SUROVI has remained steadfast in its commitment to promoting rights, equality, and justice in society. With unwavering dedication, the organization has worked tirelessly to create positive transformations in the lives of underprivileged children and women.

The year 2024 was another remarkable chapter for SUROVI, marking significant progress toward our goals. Through the execution of numerous projects and activities, we extended our support to thousands of vulnerable children and women living below the national poverty line. Additionally, we responded effectively to emergency situations arising from

I sincerely appreciate the hard work and dedication of our board members and stakeholders, whose efforts have been instrumental in accomplishing our objectives. I am deeply grateful to our donors, funding agencies, and development partners for their continued and invaluable support, which has enabled SUROVI to sustain its efforts and expand its assistance to those in need.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and well-wishers who have amplified their support toward lessening human suffering. My thanks extend to SUROVI's dedicated employees, whose relentless efforts have strengthened the organization's capacity and excellence.

With great respect and appreciation,

(Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu)

Founder & Chairperson, SUROVI

From the Desk of the Executive Director



The voluntary development organization SUROVI has been working in the field of Education, Early Childhood Development, Skill Training & Livelihood, WASH, Emergency Response, Child Protection, Climate Change Mitigation, Zero Hunger, Children Sponsorship, Student Scholarship and Poverty Eradication since 1979. It has been 45 years since SUROVI started working for the betterment of children & women in Bangladesh. In this regard, it is worth mentioning here the persisting need to identify and bear in mind the key challenges for SUROVI in relation to continuing its efforts and support to the needy children and women with a view to provide them a better life. Thus, based on the trust we have gained from the development partners within and outside the country, our aspiring staff and our commitment to the mission we will continue our efforts to make the nation a better place for children and women.

The organization implemented projects under several themes such as education, livelihood, humanitarian response, zero hunger, ECD, livelihood support, emergency response and poverty eradication. The focus of the year was to increase the access of children to schools, enhance the quality of education with a particular attention on marginalized population and address the humanitarian

response for the victims of devastating flood and cyclone.

This annual report embraces and provides glimpse of major activities that we accomplished in the year 2024.

I have had the privilege of visiting several areas of project interventions in almost all the themes we work in. Thus from my experience I am aware that meeting the needs of community people is a real challenge for us. However, we are trying our best to provide them what they deserve, particularly education, skills, protection, emergency response, ECD, WASH, poverty reduction and awareness building to make a resilience society.

I would also like to appreciate the efforts of all our colleagues as they are the real creditors of the success. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our development partners, individuals and organizations including government stakeholders, who have entrusted SUROVI and its mission and look forward to similar cooperation in the years to come.

In the reporting year SUROVI continued its operation of different projects supported by UNICEF, Plan International Bangladesh, Human Concern International (HCI), Canada Bangladesh Education Trust, Canada Bangladesh Muslim Society, Impact Investment Exchange, Infrastructure Development Company Limited, Ministry of Labour & Employment.

I am delightful to expose our effort and achievements of the year 2023 in spite of a lot of struggle and challenges faced throughout the year long due to post covid 19 affect, Ukraine-Russia war brought enormous sufferings to human life globally and made the situation more vulnerable.

Finally, we are grateful to receive strong support and encouragement in our initiatives from distinguished individuals and organizations, which have been imperative to enhance our performances in terms of quality and effectiveness. We also hope for the same thoughtful guidance and endeavors in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Md. Abu Taher'.

(Md. Abu Taher)
Executive Director

Distinct Contributors

SUROVI is much grateful to the individual contributors who stands beside the distress humanity with the priceless affords. First of all, we would like to mention the name of the Founder & Chairperson *Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu* for her unending effort to founding, growing up and nurture the organization since its inception. Her restless and continuous support flagged the organization as a humanitarian institution for ensuring education and developing human resources for the disadvantaged children. Till now she has been making her best exertion for changing the lives of vulnerable children and women by the continuous funding through the organization. Very silently, the Chairperson has been enormously funding a School since 1979. This school has been operating from pre-primary to grade ten educations for the underprivileged and working children.

Apart from the above, a number of individuals outspread their support to the miserable children and their families through this organization in the reporting year. This is too large to expose their name but we are much grateful and recognize their precious input and active participation to pave our path smooth.

We express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the caring personalities who made their best endeavor and took part in our voyage. This is to a large extent encouraging to feel their responsibility towards the rundown groups and get themselves involved with development initiatives for the miserable people of Bangladesh.

We hope this exertion of the kind hearten individuals will be continued in the coming days.

Abbreviation

ATEO	Assistant Thana Education Officer
BEN	Bangladesh ECD Network
BILS	Bangladesh Institute of Labor Studies
BNGCAF	Bangladesh National Girl Child Advocacy Forum
BSAF	Bangladesh ShishuAdhikar Forum
C4D	Communication for Development
CAG	Community Action Group
CAMPE	Campaign for Popular Education
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBCPC	Community Based Child Protection Committee
CBCPM	Community Based Child Protection Mechanism
CBET	Canada Bangladesh Education Trust
CBMC	Canada Bangladesh Muslim Community
CMC	Center Management Committee
CWC	Cure for Women and Children
DNCC	Dhaka North City Corporation
DPEO	District Primary Education Officer
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSCC	Dhaka South City Corporation
DWRN	Domestic Workers Rights Network
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EEOSC	Education Equity for Out of School Children
EU	European Union
FLE	Family Life Education
GCC	Gazipur City Corporation
GeTECD	Gender Transformative Early Childhood Development
GPS	Government Primary School
IPT	Interactive Popular Theatre
IT	Information Technology
LC	Learning Center
LGI	Local Government Institute
LRC	Learning Resource Center
MGTLA	Multi-grade Teaching Learning Approach
MSCR	Movement for Street Children Rights
NCTB	National Curriculum Text Book
PMS	Participatory Monitoring System
PPE	Pre-primary Education
SBK	Shishu Bikash Kendra
SM	Social Mobilization
SMC	School Management Committee
TEO	Thana Education Officer
TRC	Training and Resource Center
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education & Training
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund

SUROVI, a voluntary development organization, began its journey on 1 February 1979 through the dedicated efforts of renowned social worker and compassionate personality, **Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu**. Deeply moved by the plight of working children deprived of education, she was inspired to take action. Determined to ensure the right to education for child domestic workers, the founder and philanthropist established a school in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area.

SUROVI paved its path with a simple but powerful vision to bring hope and opportunity to disadvantaged children and women in Bangladesh. Established as a grassroots initiative, the organization was born out of deep compassion for those left behind in society, especially the urban poor, marginalized families and vulnerable communities. At that time, it was a significant challenge to bring child domestic workers out of their employers' homes to attend school. **Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu**, undeterred by social norms and obstacles, took on the challenge with courage and vision lighting the way for deprived children. Establishing a school for these working children was a remarkable achievement. Notably, the very first student of SUROVI School was 'Shanu,' a domestic worker from her own household.

Being a child focused organization, SUROVI concentrates its interventions towards rights, protection and development of children & youth particularly the disadvantaged, vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups through education, skill training, food

security, family assistance, sponsorship and scholarship support. During the last four decades, the organization has been enhancing its capacity to expand its area of operation in the diversified field to reach-out the most vulnerable children, youth, women

and families to bring them under a safeguard and creating an enabling environment to bloom their potentiality. With the heartiest effort, this is now possible for the organization to reach thousands of defenseless children, women and families living in the breadline making them capable.

Over time, SUROVI became a trusted partner of both national and international stakeholders. Through strong collaborations, the organization has implemented projects aligned with Bangladesh's national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From running pre-primary and primary education centers in underserved slums to providing scholarships for higher education, SUROVI has supported thousands of learners in realizing their dreams.

Today, SUROVI stands as a symbol of hope and transformation. Its story is one of perseverance, dedication and partnership; a journey that reflects the belief that every child deserves the right to learn, grow and thrive and every woman deserves the dignity of empowerment and independence. Looking ahead, SUROVI remains committed to expanding its impact, ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable continue to be heard and uplifted.

Our Vision

SUROVI envisioned a society where every child, women and youth will realize their rights and flourish their full potential without any discrimination which leads them to contribute to the society.

Our Mission

SUROVI is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by empowering disadvantaged children and vulnerable women through integrated development programs. Our mission focuses on education, child protection, gender equality, water, health, environment, emergency response and community capacity building, combining service delivery with a rights-based approach.

Legal Status

The organization is registered by the following government bodies:

- ≡ Registered with Department of Social Services in 1993 Reg. No. Dha-03000
- ≡ Registered with NGO Affairs Bureau in 1992 Reg. No. 655
- ≡ Registered with Microcredit Regularity Authority in 2014 Reg. No. 02604-04329-00751

Governance

The organization is managed by an executive committee comprised of seven members, play vital role in decision making, program execution, partnership building and coordinate with government and donors. The Executive Director of SUROVI is playing the secretarial role in the committee. The General Body of the organization consists of 27 members. The executive body is elected by the vote of the general committee members for a period of two years.

Target population of our interventions

Street and marginalized children, orphans, children with disabilities, working children, out-of-school children,

vulnerable women, slum dwellers and displaced populations, as well as disaster-affected communities.

Geographical Coverage

SUROVI reached out to 39 districts and 81 Upazila under 8 divisions in Bangladesh listed as: Bagerhat, Bandarban, Barishal, Bogura, Borguna, Chandpur, Chapain.gonj, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Cumilla, Dhaka, Dinajpur, Feni, Gaibandha, Gazipur, Gopalganj, Hobigonj, Jamalpur, Joypurhat, Jinaidah, Kurigram, Laxmipur, Magura, Manikgonj, Moulvibazar, N.gonj, Narsindi, Natore, Netrokona, Noakhali, Pabna, Patuakhali, Rajbari, Rajshahi, Sathkira, Shariatpur, Sunamgonj, Sylhet and Tangail.

Program Thematic Area

Education and Skill Development, Early Childhood Care & Development, Water, Health & Nutrition, Emergency Response, Relief & Rehabilitation, Food Security & Poverty Eradication, Climate Change Mitigation & Environment, Children Sponsorship, Student Scholarship, Women & Youth Empowerment, Awareness and Advocacy.

Professional Membership & Networking

Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN), Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Coalition for the Urban Poor-CUP, National Girls Child Advocacy Forum, Domestic Worker Rights Network (DWRN), Child Labour Elimination Forum, Street Children Activist Network (SCAN), Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS)

Working Approach

SUROVI has been working to develop human resources that enabling people to be self-dependent. The organization considers individual families to bring under program interventions. SUROVI

works with the ultra-poor families to bring a sustainable and meaningful change in their lives through an integrated socio-economic

approach. Children, women and disabled are the priority group of SUROVI's development interventions.

SUROVI PROGRAMS 2024

EDUCATION

SUROVI School (Primary & Secondary) SUROVI School is currently serving 350 underprivileged children from pre-primary to grade ten. The school provides completely free education, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent children from accessing learning opportunities. In addition, students receive free educational materials and school uniforms, enabling them to continue their studies with dignity and equal opportunity. Beyond academics, the school emphasizes co-curricular activities, nurturing creativity, leadership, and social skills among students. It also offers sports and games facilities, promoting physical well-being and holistic development.

Pre-primary Education

During the reporting year, SUROVI supported 18 pre-primary centers to strengthen early learning opportunities for young children. The organization also contributed to the renovation of government primary schools, creating safe and child-friendly learning environments. To promote inclusiveness, assessments were conducted for children with special needs, followed by the provision of essential aids to support their participation in education. In addition, Annual Reflection sessions and school-level planning meetings were organized to enhance program quality and ensure sustainability.

Inclusive Primary Education

SUROVI continued its commitment to ensuring quality education for all children through inclusive initiatives. During the reporting year, support was extended to 18 government primary schools and 70 Alternative Learning

Support Centres, enhancing access and learning opportunities for disadvantaged children. In addition, SUROVI operated its own schools for children living in urban slums, reaching a total of 10,350 learners with primary education services.

SUROVI implements an Ability-Based, Multi-Grade, and Multi-Level (ABAL) approach to ensure access to education for out-of-school children. Through 67 non-formal education centers in Dhaka South City slum areas, the program supported 3,000 children (aged 8–14 years) who were previously excluded from schooling, alongside outreach to more than 5,000 families in these urban communities. The initiative provides primary-level education and works to mainstream learners into the formal education system, enabling them to continue their academic journey and break the cycle of disadvantage.

Secondary Education

SUROVI provided comprehensive support to 22 secondary schools in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), reaching 2,600 children and 2,500 families living in urban slum areas. The program focused on building the capacity of teachers, students, and School Management Committees (SMCs) in inclusive education and counseling. Financial assistance was extended to students unable to pay tuition fees, while slow learners received targeted guidance through the *Big Brother & Big Sister* initiative. Additionally, GEMS corners were established in all 22 schools to foster holistic learning, and support was provided to the most vulnerable families through income-generating activities.

Scholarship Support

During the reporting period, the project provided educational assistance to a total of 571 students, supporting their continued academic development. This included 265 students from 53 colleges and 306 students from public universities. Each college student received BDT 12,000, distributed in two equal installments, while university students received BDT 32,000 in four equal installments. Specifically, the scholarship program supported 265 college students (66 boys and 199 girls) and 306 university students (177 boys and 129 girls). Additionally, 65 orphan students in secondary education (22 boys and 43 girls) were awarded scholarships valued at BDT 30,000 each to ensure they could pursue their studies without financial barriers.

Children Sponsorship

- ≡ Support 111 orphan children with food items, education materials, school uniform, house rent, medicine cost, dress and other necessary commodities on quarterly basis
- ≡ The sponsor support ensures the families food security and retain children in school and continue education
- ≡ Support provides on quarterly basis to the children's families

Computer Training

- ≡ Operate 01 computer labs in Dhaka City
- ≡ Provide IT training to 60 women for a period of 3 months
- ≡ Trainees are equipped with hands on skills on office package, internet browsing and data entry

WOMEN & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Skills & Opportunities for Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship (SOYEE)

- ≡ Support 120 young women to develop entrepreneurship in Dhaka South City
- ≡ Trainees are equipped with hands on skills on operating entrepreneurship
- ≡ Run 12 Youth Groups
- ≡ Capacity building for youth groups
- ≡ Engaging youths for developing social awareness
- ≡ Provide scholarship for higher education

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & DEVELOPMENT

Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK)

- ≡ Operating 70 Shishu Bikash Kendra in Dhaka urban slum communities
- ≡ Run 70 Fathers' Café'
- ≡ Supporting Pregnancy to 3 years' children
- ≡ Prepare 3-5 years' children for schooling
- ≡ Developing appropriate playing & learning material for the kids age 3-5 years
- ≡ Flexible schooling time and activity based learning approach

Day Care Centre

- ≡ Running 08 Day Care Centre for the children age 6 months to 5 years
- ≡ Children of working mothers and from poorest families get priority
- ≡ The centres provides care and nursing for the children from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

VOCATIONAL SKILL TRAINING (VST)

Tailoring & Doll Making

- ≡ Operating 25 Vocational Skill Training Centre on Tailoring & Dress making, Beauty Parlour, TV & Freezer Repairing
- ≡ Job placement for the graduates and ensure follow up

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

Safe Water & Sanitation and Awareness building

- ≡ Installing 128 deep water wells in the arsenic affected areas to supply arsenic free water to the communities
- ≡ Construct 50 sanitary latrines in the rural communities
- ≡ Develop awareness among the community people on the needs of safe water and sanitation

EMERGENCY RESPONSE, RELIEF & REHAB

Emergency Support, House & Latrine Construction

- ≡ Food support to 550 households and warm clothes support to 500 households with 3330 persons
- ≡ House construction for 50 families
- ≡ Setup 50 sanitary latrine for affected families

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Community Engagement

- ≡ Community Orientation and Dialogues with employers, SMC, Imam, parents meeting

- ≡ Develop & Disseminate communication materials
- ≡ Observe International Mother Language Day, Independence Day, International Literacy Day, International Women's Day, Child Rights Week, Victory Day through offline and online.
- ≡ Arrange Rally, meeting, competition of sports and cultural events and awarded prizes to the winners

SEASONAL PROGRAM

Ramadan, Qurbani, Winter Clothes

- ≡ Provide food support to the families living in poverty line during the holy Ramadan month to relief their hardship and meet nutritional requirement
- ≡ Distribute fresh meat to the families in need to observe holy Eid-ul-Adha and meet up dietary requirements
- ≡ Extend support to the destitute families with winter clothing

PROJECT EXECUTED IN 2024

SI	Project Title	Project Nature	Funding Agency/Partner	Geographical Coverage
1	Ability Based Accelerated Learning for Out of School Children & Adolescents	Non Formal Primary Education	UNICEF	Dhaka South City
2	Integrated Sponsorship Programme	Primary Education	Plan International Bangladesh	Dhaka South City
3	Gender Transformative Early Childhood Development (GeTECD)	ECD	Plan International Bangladesh	Dhaka South City
4	Child Bride to Bookworm in Bangladesh	Secondary School Support	Plan International Bangladesh	Dhaka South City
5	SUROVI School	Primary & Secondary Education	SUROVI funded	Dhaka South City
6	Narir Khomota	IT Education	Impact Investment Exchange	Dhaka South City
7	Students Scholarship Program	Education support	Canada Bangladesh Education Trust	Dhaka, Chattagram, Gazipur, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Sunamgonj, Magura, Sathkira, Pabna, Jenaidah, Bogra, Joypurhat, Manikgonj, Gaibandha, C.Nowabgonj, Gopalgonj, Rajbari, Moullovibazar, Cumilla, Dinajpur, Natore, Barisal
8	Child Sponsorship Program (CSP)	Education & Protection	Human Concern International	Dhaka, Bagerhat, Chandpur, Kishoregonj, Laxmipur, Netrokona, Sherpur

SI	Project Title	Project Nature	Funding Agency/Partner	Geographical Coverage
9	Scholarship for Orphans	Education support	Canada Bangladesh Muslim Society	Dhaka, Manikganj, Dinajpur, Moulavibazar
10	W63-Sustainable Water Supply in Bangladesh	WASH	Human Concern International	Chandpur, Noakhali, Mymensingh
11	RQ-58 Ramadan Food Distribution-Bangladesh	Food Security	Human Concern International	Dhaka North & South City
12	RQ-70 Qurbani in Bangladesh	Food Security	Human Concern International	Dhaka North & South City, N.ganj, Gazipur
13	Micro Credit	Poverty Eradication	SUROVI funded	Rajshahi and Laxsmipur
14	Improved Cook Stove (ICS)	Climate Change Mitigation	IDCOL	Sadar and Bochagonj in Dinajpur & Kapasia in Gazipur

Project Implemented in

In 2024, SUROVI implemented a diverse range of projects covering Education, Livelihood Skills Training, Child Protection, Health, Water & Sanitation, Climate Change Adaptation & Environment, Emergency Response, Relief & Rehabilitation, Poverty Eradication, Child Sponsorship, Student Scholarships as well as various Seasonal Programs.

Ability Based Accelerated Learning for Out of School Children & Adolescents

The project is supported by UNICEF and aimed to provide access to primary education for 3,000 out-of-school children (OSC) living in the poverty-stricken urban slums of Dhaka South City Corporation (Zone-3, Zone-4, and Zone-5), where thousands of children remain at risk of being excluded from education. By 2026, the project aims to enroll 3,000 OSC between the ages of 8 and 14, both children who have never enrolled in school and those who have dropped out. Of this group, 50% will be girls and at least 5% will be children with disabilities.



To ensure quality learning, the project has taken several capacity-building initiatives for teachers and support staff. These include basic pedagogical training, subject-based training, monitoring and assessment training, training on cross-cutting issues, as well as monthly refresher sessions.

Each learning centre is equipped with essential teaching and learning materials such as subject-based textbooks, storybooks, worksheets, exercise books, charts, flashcards, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, geometry sets, drawing books, colored pencils, white sheets, and play materials.



So far, 2,751 learners have been enrolled across 67 Learning Centres (LCs), comprising 1,636 girls (59.47%) and 1115 boys (41.53%). Among them, 82 are children with disabilities (44 girls and 38 boys), and 213 are working children (122 girls and 91 boys). Teaching and learning activities began following diagnostic assessments and the formation of learner groups. All 67 centres are conducting classes regularly in line with the academic plan and class routines.

Learners have participated in both written and oral assessments. Answer scripts were evaluated by LC teachers and results were documented through marksheets to track learner performance. Special attention has been given to low-performing students through targeted support, helping them overcome learning gaps and progress effectively.

Integrated Sponsorship Programme

With the support of Plan International Bangladesh, SUROVI has been implementing the Integrated Sponsorship Programme in Dhaka South City Corporation. The initiative engages communities, schools, civil society organizations (CSOs) and local government institutions by working directly with both rights holders and duty bearers. Guided by the CCCD approach (Child-Centered Community Development), SUROVI conducts awareness campaigns and organizes

meetings with children, parents, School Management Committees (SMCs), and Community-Based Organization (CBO) members. These efforts focus on raising awareness and ensuring timely enrollment of children in SBK (Shishu Bikash Kendra), pre-primary, primary and secondary schools across 10 primary catchment areas.

SUROVI also facilitates participatory school-level development planning and reflection sessions and organizes capacity-building workshops, training and exposure visits for teachers, SMCs, student councils and Thana-based resource pool members (TRC and Education Department). Additionally, SUROVI provides orientation to Centre Management Committees (CMCs) to strengthen the management of community-based SBK centers.

To further promote education, SUROVI supports the Local Education Network, working closely with children, youth, parents, teachers, SMCs, local government and the education department to uphold every child's right to quality education. Plan International Bangladesh plays a vital role by providing technical guidance, financial resources and monitoring support.

This programme directly contributes to achieving the country programme objectives under the impact area "Right to Education." It aims to benefit 10,350 children (at least 50% girls) across 5 education Thanas of Dhaka district, particularly focusing on marginalized and excluded groups. The project also ensures targeted support for the continuation of secondary education, while strengthening the existing education system to promote inclusive and quality learning opportunities for all.

**Gender Transformative Early
Childhood Development Project
(GeTECD)**

The Gender Transformative Early Childhood Development (GeTECD) Project aims to contribute to a broader goal by establishing a demonstrative model of gender-transformative early childhood development. To achieve this, the project focuses on three long-term outcomes that serve as its core objectives:

Long-term Outcome 1: Parents, primary caregivers, and other family members both women and men share decision-making, household responsibilities and child-rearing tasks equally, providing nurturing care to both girls and boys.

Long-term Outcome 2: Community leaders, parents, local authorities and teachers ensure that children have access to quality, gender-responsive and inclusive learning opportunities from *Shishu Bikash Kendras (SBK)* through to the early grades of primary school.

Long-term Outcome 3: Policy makers and decision makers develop a stronger understanding of the importance of investing in gender-transformative ECD policies, programmes and services along with knowledge of effective and scalable interventions.

To reach these outcomes, project activities are organized into three key components, with **social and gender norms** integrated as a cross-cutting theme:

- **Positive Gender Responsive Parenting** (community level)
- **Early Learning Centres** (SBK and early primary grades)
- **Policy Advocacy** (policy and national level)

Parenting is the lifelong process of nurturing, guiding, and supporting children as they grow and develop into responsible, independent and compassionate individuals. SROVI runs 70 “Fathers’ Café” to sensitize the fathers on their responsibilities on child

care and nurturing. Parenting is not only the responsibilities of mother, the project made the fathers’ aware on the issue through the activities of fathers’ café.

Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK): The Shishu Bikash Kendra(SBK) is a community-based early learning centre designed to prepare children aged 3–5 years as lifelong learners. Each centre accommodates 8–15 children from its catchment area, guided by trained facilitators. Activities include storytelling, rhymes, singing, play, and other joyful learning experiences. Teachers from pre-primary schools regularly collaborate with facilitators to strengthen learning. After completing SBK, children transition smoothly into pre-primary classes, with clear evidence of improved school readiness.



Care and Play Zone: The **Care and Play Zone** is a community-based early childhood care and development initiative, catering to children aged 6 months to under 2 years. Here, trained caregivers engage children in age-appropriate activities such as storytelling, rhymes, singing, and play to support early stimulation and development.

SUROVI, in collaboration with Dhaka South City Corporation, operates 8 play zone where children of working parents stay from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Each centre is staffed with two trained caregivers to ensure quality care and safety. These centres have proven to be

an effective model in supporting early childhood development and preparing children for future learning.

Child Bride to Bookworm in Bangladesh

The **Child Bride to Bookworm** project aims to reduce secondary school dropout rates in urban slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh, by increasing the number of girls and boys completing quality secondary education. The project employs a multi-phase approach that includes strengthening teacher capacity, creating an enabling learning environment, and providing need-based materials and support to marginalized learners, particularly those at risk of dropping out.

The project specifically targets children aged 11–16 years living in slum areas across Jatrabari, Shyampur, Bangshal, Wari, Sabujbag, Khilgaon, and Kodomtali (Wards 01, 07, 32, 33, 38, 41, 49, 59) under the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC). Direct beneficiaries include 4,000 boys and 6,000 girls, while indirect beneficiaries comprise parents, school teachers, students, PTA and SMC members, and community leaders from 22 secondary schools in DSCC area.

Key Achievements:

- Strengthened participation and collaboration of Student Councils (SCs), School Management Councils (SMCs), Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), and other stakeholders in school governance.
- Enhanced active support from SMCs, PTAs, SCs, and community members for initiatives promoting school completion.
- Secured commitment from authorities and donors to scale the model for reducing school dropout rates in other urban slum schools across Dhaka.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, school

closures temporarily disrupted main project activities. In response the project redesigned interventions to support families, students, SMCs, and school authorities, helping to prevent potential dropouts despite the crisis.

SUROVI School

Surovi School is a pioneering educational initiative for



underprivileged children in Dhaka, founded in 1979 by philanthropist **Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu**. Originally created to provide education to domestic child workers, it has grown into a respected NGO-run network delivering free schooling and support to marginalized youth. Syeda Banu, motivated by a belief that every child deserves basic education, started Surovi to serve those too impoverished to attend regular schools, particularly domestic helpers in Dhaka.

SUROVI School today caters primarily to children from extremely poor families, many of whom are first-generation learners. The school provides access to free education, learning materials, school uniforms, and supplementary support to ensure enrollment, retention, and progression. Beyond academic learning, the school emphasizes holistic development through co-curricular activities, life skills training, health and nutrition awareness, and personal



development.

Direct Beneficiaries: 365 students (Grades Pre-school to grade ten) enrolled in Surovi School (Of them, at least 50% will be girls), and retain throughout the 5 years' project period. In addition, 15 teachers and 2 school staff are considered as direct beneficiaries of the project.

Indirect Beneficiaries: Parents, siblings and community members benefiting from improved awareness, literacy, and empowerment.

Primary Education: From pre-primary to Grade 5, offered both in dedicated school campuses.

Secondary Education: Grades 6 to 10 follow the national curriculum, helping students prepare for further studies and break cycles of poverty.

Holistic Support for the Students:

- Uses the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) framework.
- Teaches co-curricular like art, music, sports and games
- Integrates pre-primary programs to reduce dropout rates and ease transitions into formal school

The school runs 2 shifts for primary level and secondary level students. The first shift (primary part: Pre-school to grade five) runs from 8:30am to 11:00am and the second shift (secondary part: grade six to grade ten) from 11:30am to 3:00pm. 35 students will be enrolled in each class from pre-primary grade eight while 25 students will be enrolled in grade nine and ten each. Education here is entirely free. Students don't need tuition fees. The school provides education material, school uniform free of cost. Children of all religions, ethnic minority groups, and even those with disabilities study here.

Narir Khomota (Women's Empowerment)

The primary objective of this project was to provide computer literacy skills to mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and sisters of students, empowering them to become productive human resources. The training was conducted in a six-month period at Dhaka South City, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Each training



session lasted 2 hours per day, spanning a total of 75 working days (75 days × 2 hours), amounting to 150 hours over three months for each batch. There were 2 batches trainees, each batch has 30 trainees, all were female. The instructor prepared a detailed daily lesson plan, breaking down the three-month curriculum into manageable sessions. Each shift consisted of ten trainees, with two participants sharing one computer. The instructor demonstrated all topics clearly, ensuring that participants could follow and practice effectively.

At the end of the three-month training, each trainee underwent an assessment using a structured questionnaire to evaluate their competency. All participants performed exceptionally well, indicating that the project objectives were successfully achieved.

The project spanned six months, during which a total of 60 women graduated and received certificates. These graduates are now proficient in

computer literacy, familiar with various software applications and capable of internet browsing and email communication. Equipped with these skills, the trained women are well-prepared to pursue employment opportunities or establish their own computer-based businesses for improved income.

Student Scholarship

With the generous support of Canada Bangladesh Education Trust (CBET), SUROVI is providing educational assistance to talented yet economically disadvantaged college students who face financial barriers to continuing their studies. This support helps them overcome vulnerabilities, complete their education and build the confidence needed to pursue higher studies, ultimately enabling them to become skilled human resources who can contribute positively to their families and society.

The primary objective of the project is to bring about qualitative changes in the education sector by nurturing capable human resources. It seeks to support talented and underprivileged students in continuing their education at the Higher Secondary and Tertiary levels in Bangladesh.

The project provides scholarships to financially challenged students with strong academic records, helping them improve their socioeconomic status. Special focus is given to ensuring that talented and disadvantaged students across colleges in Bangladesh receive the necessary support to complete their education. The initiative aims to extend scholarships to college students in all 450 sub-districts of the country.

In the year 2024, the project extended its scholarship support to 571 students, supporting their continued academic

development. This included 265 students from 53 colleges and 306 students from public universities. Each college student received BDT 12,000, distributed in two equal installments, while university students received BDT 32,000 in four equal installments. Specifically, the scholarship program supported 265 college students (66 boys and 199 girls) and 306 university students (177 boys and 129 girls). Additionally, 65 orphan students in secondary education (22 boys and 43 girls) were awarded scholarships valued at BDT 30,000 each to ensure they could pursue their studies without financial barriers.

Level of Education & No. of Institutions	# of Students in 2024	Male	Female
Higher Secondary (XI & XII) /53 Colleges	265 Students	199 (32%)	66 (68%)
University 4 th Year students/25 University	67 Students	53 (79%)	14 (21%)
University 3 rd Year students/25 University	77 Students	52 (68%)	25 (32%)
University 2 nd Year students/26 University	81 Students	41 (52%)	40 (48%)
University 1 st Year students/23 University	81 Students	31 (38%)	50 (62%)
Total Reach	571 Students	243 (43%)	328 (57%)

CBET scholarship support make easy the life of 265

college students of Bangladesh to continue their education in 2024. Besides, 306 students of 25 university from Bangladesh received CBET scholarship support and continuing their study comfortably in 2024. CBET scholarship program has Lessen



dropout risk of poor family students by candlelight of hope in the mind of students and families to complete education toward reaching their goal. Student got the opportunity to concentrate to better perform in academic activities that helps to manage better jobs and earning as well as support to families.

The Student Scholarship Project has made a significant impact on the education of college and university students. With the support received, students gained the confidence to pursue and continue their higher studies. This noble initiative has been widely appreciated by the local administration, college management committees, university authorities, and community members from all walks of life.

Child Sponsorship

The Child Sponsorship Project has created meaningful opportunities for vulnerable orphan and disadvantaged children studying in schools, colleges and universities to continue their education that helping transform their future. Through this support, it is anticipated that these children will grow into self-reliant individuals who can contribute positively to their families and society after completing their education.

The project provides comprehensive support not only to orphan, vulnerable and destitute children but also to their families. Assistance includes education materials, tuition fees, school uniforms, food items, cooking utensils, essential household commodities, hygiene and medical care and in some cases housing support.

In 2024, the project supported 111 orphans and highly vulnerable children from the poorest families across

Bangladesh. These children, enrolled in different schools, colleges and universities, received educational supplies while their families were also supported to improve their well-being. The distributed items included:

- **Educational materials:** exercise books, pens, pencils, geometry sets, colored pencils, drawing books and school bags.
- **Food items:** rice, powdered milk, lentils, flour, cooking oil, sugar and salt.
- **Health & hygiene items:** toothpaste, toothbrushes, mosquito nets, bathing soap, detergent and bed covers.
- **Clothing:** casual dresses, school uniforms and shoes.
- **Household supplies:** buckets, plates, mugs and glasses.
- **Cash & medical support:** house rent assistance and prescribed medicines.

These supports were targeted to children at risk of dropping out of school, victims of child marriage or those vulnerable to hazardous child labor and exploitation. By addressing these risks the project helps protect their physical and psychological well-



being.

SUROVI organized 4 events distribution of materials and cash support where the items were handed over to children in the presence of guardians and donor representatives. These events also served as opportunities to collect feedback from beneficiaries regarding

the quality and usefulness of the support provided. Recognizing the challenges of harsh winters, SUROVI distributed warm clothing to 111 children, ensuring that lack of winter wear did not force them to miss school.

To strengthen health awareness and care, SUROVI arranged a health camp for sponsored children. Reputed hospital doctors conducted checkups on campus, provided prescriptions and SUROVI supplied medicines as needed.

The Sponsorship Project has made a sustainable difference in the lives of children and their families by ensuring education continuity, improving food security, reducing parental stress and preventing child marriage, hazardous labor and trafficking. Above all, it has created a safe and supportive environment for children to grow and thrive.

W63-Sustainable Water Supply in Bangladesh

Sustainable Water Supply in Bangladesh project plans to set up deep water wells in the rural communities where people don't have access to clean and safe water and people don't have adequate knowledge on hygiene practice.

Safe and readily available water is important for public health, whether it is used for drinking, domestic use, food production or recreational purposes. Improved water supply and sanitation, and better management of water resources, can boost countries' economic growth and can contribute

greatly to poverty reduction.

SDG-6 calls for ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and ending open defecation. It also aims to improve water quality and water-use efficiency and to encourage sustainable abstractions and supply of freshwater.

The proposed project locations under Mymensingh, Noakhai and Chandpur district in Bangladesh are in remote geographical areas where rural inhabitants are severely deprived from accessing clean and safe drinking water. Water of shallow wells is contaminated with arsenic which is not drinkable. People can not afford deep wells due to high cost. People (particularly women) collect water from 30-35 minutes walking distance from their home which is time consuming and laborious. Community people often use pond or river water for washing, cooking and bathing purpose. People often suffer from Diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid fever, E. Coli infection, Hepatitis A and Arsenicosis by drinking polluted water.

Project Beneficiaries: The poorest families who don't afford to install water wells are considered as the beneficiary of the project.

- 6000 people from 1000 families of rural communities suffering from safe drinking water and safe sanitation facilities will be considered as project beneficiaries
- Family size considered 6 members on average
- 20 families will be benefitted from 1 water well

The project set up motor pump with deep wells. The wells were 600 feet depth on average varying from 400 ft to 800 ft based on the underground layer of water sources. PVC pipe installed in the underground deeper surface to ensure arsenic free safe water source.



A brick platform at least 3 ft high was made to set up a 750 litre capacity water tank. A submersible water pump installed and connected with the water tank. A lower concrete platform was constructed in front of the water tank so that the users can fetch water from the tap. Brick, cement and sands are used on this purpose. Each tube well had a drain /pipe connected with the platform to dispatch water away. The basement was 1 ft high from the ground level for keeping safe from the water logging due to heavy rain and flooding.

District	Upazila	Well s	HH	Pop u lation
Chandpur	Hajiganj	12	240	1452
Noakhali	Suborna char	13	305	1900
Mymensingh	Haluaghat	25	513	3125
Total		50	1058	6477

RQ58-Ramadan Food Distribution in Bangladesh

The Ramadan Food Assistance Project was designed to ensure food security for families living below the national poverty line, prevent hunger-related malnutrition and health risks, and improve the mental well-being of children, persons with disabilities, and elderly individuals. On the occasion of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr, the project supported 500 families (2500 individuals) with sufficient food items to meet their basic needs.



The project directly addressed three critical issues: food security, malnutrition, and mental well-being among impoverished families. Food assistance was distributed across specific locations in Dhaka South and North City Corporation Slum Locations, Rupganj in Narayanganj District and Sadar under Gazipur District.

In total, 500 families received Ramadan food baskets containing the following items: Rice 25 kg, Lentil (Pulse) 2 kg, Cooking Oil 2 liter, Powdered Milk 2 pack (each pack 500gm), Sugar 2 kg, Salt 2 kg, Chickpea 2 kg, Dates 2 kg, Egg 36 pcs and Fresh Meat (Chicken) 4 kg.

Through this assistance, families were able to meet their food and nutritional needs for one month, preventing illnesses linked to extreme hunger and significantly reducing stress. The project not only ensured food security but also improved the psychological well-being of beneficiaries by reducing anxiety and enabling them to observe fasting with dignity during Ramadan.

Against this backdrop, the Ramadan food baskets were a timely and meaningful intervention. Beneficiaries expressed that the support felt like a blessing, easing the burden of hunger, bringing peace of mind, and helping them focus on work and their children’s education rather than worrying about food. Ultimately the project contributed to:

- Strengthening food security for 500 families (2500 individuals).
- Meeting nutritional requirements and reducing hunger-related health risks.
- Improving mental well-being by relieving stresses and



- anxiety
- Reducing dependency and building resilience among ultra-poor communities.

The project created opportunity for food security and eliminate hunger for the ultra-poor families in the month of Ramadan. Thousands of families in the urban slums and streets in Dhaka City are living below poverty line. They are earning too little to buy foods for 3 meals. Many children and elder person go to bed without food. This is an incredible situation. The Covid-19 pandemic made them more vulnerable. They lost their jobs and earning. Price hike of food items and all other commodities make them distracted. This initiative demonstrated how targeted food assistance can provide immediate relief while also fostering long-term community resilience during one of the most significant religious and cultural occasions.

RQ70-Qurbani Fresh Meat Distribution 2024 in Bangladesh

The “RQ70-Qurbani 2024 in Bangladesh” project aimed to ensure food security and the mental well-being of families living under the poverty line. Selected families who are unable to afford cost of purchasing animal or manage meat to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha have receive a quantity of 5 kg fresh meat on the occasion. The beneficiary families could taste meat full of contents and had a good time during the Eid festival, the children, elderly and other members of beneficiary’s families could also meet their nutritional requirements.

The project extended support the beneficiary families living in poverty line with fresh meat on the event of Qurbani, one of the greatest Muslim religious festival. The project planned help the people living in the poverty line and does not have an opportunity to manage meat for a good meal even for months. The project created a great scope for

the unfortunate families having a good time during the Eid festival.

Selected families who are unable to afford cost of purchasing animal or manage meat to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha have receive a quantity of 5 kg fresh meat on the occasion. The beneficiary families could taste meat full of contents and had a good time during the Eid festival, the children, elderly and other members of beneficiary’s families could also meet their nutritional requirements.

A total of 638 households are benefitted from the project support. Number of total population is 3512 considering 5.50 members per family. The men, women and children are segregated here.

The number of beneficiaries projected in the original proposal: Men 452, Women 665, Boys 1145, Girls 1250, Total 3512 (total number of families 638 and per family 5.50 persons on average).

HCI supported Qurbani 2024 in Bangladesh project achieved the complete result set in the proposal.

- 638 families (households) and 3512 members living in poverty line and incapable to afford cost of buying animal for Qurbani were supported

with each 5 kg fresh meat



- The members of 638 families including children had a good time and enjoyed the Eid-ul-Adha (Qurbani) festival with huge mental satisfaction and pleasure
- The beneficiary families had an opportunity to pray to Allah with a spiritual mentality for themselves

and the contributors to Qurbani project.

- The project certainly contributed to achieve SDG-2 through ensuring food security and improve nutritional status for the ultra poor families.

The number of cows was 25, location wise (district) distribution: Dhaka City-13, Chandpur-2, Gazipur-2, Bagerhat -1, Azizpur Nawabgonj- 1 Cow, Keranigonj-3 cows and Narayanganj- 3.

A total of 3190 kg meat was distributed among 638 selected families. Each of the beneficiary families received 5 kg fresh meat. The meat was packed in a bag (printed with HCI logo) before distribution.

Improved Cook Stoves (ICS)

The Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) program aims to expand the use of energy-efficient cooking technologies in rural areas of Bangladesh. Its primary objectives are to enhance fuel efficiency, reduce indoor air pollution, minimize related health risks, and contribute to environmental protection.

The project is being implemented in Sadar and Bochaganj Upazilas of Dinajpur District, where a total of 12,800 ICS units have been manufactured, installed, and distributed among households. Of these, 3,000 are fixed single-mouth stoves with chimneys. SUROVI has played an important role by providing partial implementation support, including field-level supervision. Each cluster of the project area is overseen by a dedicated supervisor to ensure quality installation and follow-up services.

The ICS units are affordable, environment-friendly, and safe, offering both installation and post-installation maintenance services to households. To raise awareness and promote adoption, the project conducts a variety of

promotional activities such as film shows, school sessions, folk songs, miking, community meetings (CBOs, ward, and union committees), leaflet and brochure distribution, exhibitions, and workshops. These initiatives also train stove owners on proper use and maintenance.

The introduction of ICS has generated multiple positive impacts:

- Reduced workload for women, making cooking easier and faster.
- Improved health outcomes by lowering indoor air pollution and related hazards.
- Employment generation through stove production and maintenance.
- Fuel savings, with ICS reducing firewood consumption by up to 50% compared to traditional stoves, while also utilizing agricultural residues and dried dung cakes more efficiently.
- Environmental benefits, particularly in reducing greenhouse gas emissions such as CO₂ and CH₄, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation.

Overall, the ICS program is fostering healthier households, empowering women, creating livelihoods, and protecting the environment in rural Bangladesh.

Micro Credit

SUROVI provides small-scale credit to families living below the national poverty line, enabling them to pursue self-employment opportunities that generate sustainable income. This support helps beneficiaries meet their basic needs, care for their families, and improve their overall quality of life through better income, nutrition, health, and social well-being.

Key activities of the program include identifying eligible beneficiaries, forming groups (Samitees), promoting savings, and extending small loans to support income-generating activities. The

program primarily benefits the poorest households, empowering them to build resilience and financial independence.

In 2024, SUROVI implemented microfinance activities in Bagha and Baghmara upazilas of Rajshahi District and Laxmipur Sadar of Laxmipur District. Alongside credit support, SUROVI also organized awareness sessions for beneficiaries on critical social issues, including dowry, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, the dangers of child marriage and child labour, drug addiction, family planning, child mortality, malnutrition, climate change, safe motherhood, child care, and the importance of education.

The organization closely monitored income-generating activities to track progress, ensure profitability, and strengthen beneficiaries' livelihoods. Through these efforts, the program not only enhanced household income but also contributed to long-term livelihood development and improved family well-being. SUROVI is committed to expanding its microcredit initiatives as a vital strategy for sustainable poverty alleviation.

Community Capacity Building

The program is designed to strengthen the capacity of community members to face challenges and work towards their socio-economic advancement. Throughout the year, SUROVI organizes a variety of activities including training sessions, orientations, workshops, meetings, information-sharing initiatives and awareness building events delivered both online and offline for community members and SUROVI staff.

During the reporting year, SUROVI facilitated Community Orientation programs for Community-Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPC), CMC, Parents, Rural Community and project stakeholders on child protection, child

rights, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, climate change effects and adaptation, prevent environment pollution, personal and & environmental hygiene practice, needs of education for out of school children. In addition, the organization arranged CMC & Parents meetings, quarterly coordination meetings with SMC, CMC, CBCPC, Parents, City Corporation Authority, Primary & Secondary Schools, Govt. Education Department etc. Issue based sharing sessions, day observance, community dialogues have also been organized by the organization.

SUROVI conducted specialized workshop for Samity Leaders of the Microcredit Program to strengthen their knowledge in managing microcredit effectively. This initiative also aimed to enhance their leadership and group management skills, ensuring better sustainability and impact within their communities.

Staff Capacity Building

Capacity building has always been a core and continuous process for SUROVI to ensure the professional growth and effectiveness of its program staff. Recognizing that skilled and knowledgeable employees are essential for delivering quality services to the communities, SUROVI prioritized staff development throughout the reporting year 2024. A series of initiatives were undertaken, including training sessions, workshops, and orientation programs aimed at enhancing the knowledge, technical skills and overall capacity of staff members. These capacity-building efforts not only equipped employees with updated tools and techniques relevant to their work but also strengthened their confidence, leadership abilities and teamwork. By investing in the professional development of its workforce, SUROVI continues to build a strong foundation for effective program implementation and sustainable impact in the lives of the people it serves.

In the reporting year, SUROVI Organizes Foundation training on subject based pedagogy and refresher training on teaching-learning approach for the teachers and project staffs. Alongside, basic training and workshop were held on Management, PSEA, Gender Equality, Real Time Monitoring.

Awareness Building

Awareness is one of the most powerful tools for empowering communities and enabling individuals to respond proactively to the challenges they encounter in daily life. Since its inception, SUROVI has placed strong emphasis on awareness-building as a core strategy, implementing a wide range of activities through its diverse programs.

During the reporting period, SUROVI undertook extensive awareness initiatives aimed at sensitizing people on critical social, health, and environmental issues. These included organizing discussion meetings, awareness sessions, rallies, and day observations as well as disseminating information through various communication materials such as booklets, posters, festoons, leaflets, and film shows. The awareness campaigns highlighted pressing concerns such as: Prevention of child marriage, importance of education, disaster management and climate change adaptation, HIV & AIDS prevention, global warming and environmental sustainability, access to safe water and sanitation, addressing the implications of child labor, combatting human trafficking, child protection and safeguarding rights, eradicating dowry practices, preparedness for natural calamities, prevention of drug addiction, stopping violence against girls, women, and children and Hygiene practice. These initiatives were made more effective through the active involvement of community members, school learners,

local networks, NGO and civil society representatives.

SUROVI also placed special focus on the observation of national and international days, using these occasions to spread key messages and engage communities. The organization observed International Mother Language Day, Independence Day, International Child Labor Day, Global Action Week, International Literacy Day, Child Rights Week, Victory Day, International Women's Day and World Hand Washing Day.

Each observance was marked by a range of interactive and participatory activities such as discussions on the significance of the day, debates, handwriting competitions, drawing and painting sessions, cultural programs, and sports events. These activities not only created awareness but also fostered a sense of unity, responsibility, and positive social behavior among participants, especially the younger generation. Through such consistent and comprehensive efforts, SUROVI continues to build an informed, conscious and proactive community capable of addressing challenges and contributing to sustainable social development.

Advocacy

SUROVI continues to play an active role as a member of several national and thematic networks, including the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Bangladesh National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (BNGCAF), Domestic Worker's Rights Network (DWRN) and Bangladesh ECD Network (BECDN). Through the platforms, SUROVI contributed to a wide range of advocacy initiatives throughout the year.

The organization actively participated in policy dialogues, seminars, workshops, rallies, human chains and awareness campaigns, alongside the development

of IEC and promotional materials. The key advocacy issues addressed during the year included:

- Promoting the rights of domestic workers
- Eliminating child labor
- Preventing child marriage
- Enhancing child protection measures
- Promoting quality primary education
- Preventing violence against children, girls, and women

Collaboration with Local Authorities: During the year, SUROVI engaged in several constructive meetings with City Corporation Authorities, Ward Councilors, Marriage Registrars, Imams, Employers, and Community-Based Child Protection Committees. These discussions focused particularly on issues such as:

- Prevention of child marriage
- Curbing drug use among children and youth
- Addressing child labor
- Increasing access to quality primary education

Campaigns and Public Mobilization: SUROVI successfully organized mass gatherings and issue-based local campaigns, where critical child rights and child protection concerns were highlighted. These events were attended by Ward Councilors, City Corporation officials, and representatives from relevant government departments, ensuring strong stakeholder engagement and visibility of the issues at the community level.

Community-Level Engagement: Staff members actively participated in discussion meetings and workshops held at the community level. Many of these events were organized by community members themselves, creating space for open dialogue and awareness-raising on child protection, education, and women's empowerment. SUROVI staff also contributed by delivering speeches and sharing expertise on these subjects.

National and Local Networking: As a member of national advocacy platforms, SUROVI representatives took part in both local and national-level online and in-person seminars organized by network partners. Staff also contributed to key coordination and policy spaces, including:

- Monthly GO-NGO Coordination Meetings chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka
- Monthly District Task Force Meetings
- Meetings with Dhaka City Corporation
- Consultations with the District Education Officer
- Engagement with the Social Welfare, Women & Child Welfare Department, Local Government, and Health Department
- Participation in meetings with the Microcredit Regulatory Authority and the NGO Affairs Bureau
- Active involvement in discussions organized by the Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)

Success Stories

Story of Md. Anik
Centre: Battery Ghat Learning Centre
Code: 26-34-56-021

Md. Anik is an 11-year-old boy with a bright spirit and a strong determination to pursue education despite many challenges in life. He comes from a low-income family where both parents work hard to sustain their household. His father, Md. Abdul Haque, is employed as a salesman in a cloth shop, earning only BDT 8,000 per month. His mother, Mst. Lily Begum, also contributes to the family's livelihood by working as a domestic worker in different households, earning about BDT 6,000 per month.

Anik is the youngest among his siblings. He has three brothers and one sister. His eldest brother, aged 18, remains unemployed and does not engage in any work. The second brother, aged 14, studies in class nine while working in a shop; however, he does not provide support to the family at home. The third brother is also a student in high school. Their only sister, Ishana, attends the same SUROVI ABAL Centre as Anik and is currently in the Yellow Group.



Anik himself was enrolled in SUROVI ABAL Centre #21 in 2023. He began in the Red Group and has now progressed to the Yellow Group. His learning journey, however, has not been easy. At the age of three, Anik suffered a severe accident when he was badly burnt by boiling lentils. The accident caused serious damage to his right arm and leg, leaving them partially disabled. Despite receiving treatment, he never regained full strength in those limbs. As a result, Anik is unable to perform normal tasks with his right hand and instead relies entirely on his left hand for writing and other daily activities.

Although he faces physical limitations, Anik does not let them define him. He is described as a lively and somewhat fickle child, full of energy and curiosity. Alongside his studies, he actively participates in various co-curricular activities organized at the learning centre, which helps build his confidence and social skills.

Anik's family originally migrated from Kumarbhat village in Louhajang Upazila under Munshiganj district. They moved to Kamrangirchar, Dhaka about 15–16 years ago in search of better opportunities, as poverty forced them to leave their ancestral home. Currently, they reside in the Rupnagar Batteryghat area of Kamrangirchar, living a modest life with limited resources.

Despite all the hardships, Anik dreams of completing his education and becoming capable enough to support his family in the future. His resilience, determination, and eagerness to learn make him a source of hope for his family and a shining example of courage among his peers.

A Tale of Siyam Hossain Swamibag Shikhon Kendra-2

Siyam Hossain, a 10-year-old boy, was born in 2014 in a remote village of Barishal district. He is the only child of his parents. Siyam's father, Mohammad Sohel, was a day labourer, and his

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mother, Sabiha Begum, a housewife. However, life for Siyam and his mother was not easy. Before Siyam's birth, his father married for the second time, abandoned Sabiha Begum, and severed all communication with her. With no support from her husband, Sabiha returned to her mother's home, where she gave birth to Siyam.

When Siyam was just four years old, his grandmother, Roksana Begum, arranged a second marriage for her daughter, Sabiha. After the marriage, Sabiha moved in with her new husband, leaving Siyam in the care of his grandmother. From that time onward, it was Roksana who became both guardian and caregiver, raising Siyam on her limited means.

For eight years, Siyam and his grandmother lived in a rented house in Narayanganj. During this time, Roksana managed to admit Siyam into a local kindergarten, where he started schooling from class one. However, due to financial hardship and unstable living conditions, they later had to leave Narayanganj and move to Swamibag in Dhaka. Unfortunately, this transition forced Siyam to discontinue his schooling.

In early 2024, Siyam's situation came to light during a community survey of out-of-school children conducted by teacher Sumona Islam from Swamibag Shikhon Kendra-2. Recognizing his need, Siyam was enrolled at the ABAL Learning Centre. Following a diagnostic assessment, he was placed in the Yellow Group, giving him another chance to continue his education.



Siyam now lives with his grandmother, who works as a cleaner in an office, earning BDT 8,000 per month. Despite her hard work, it is extremely difficult for her to cover rent, food, and other household expenses with such a limited income. Each morning she leaves for work and only returns in the evening, leaving Siyam alone at home throughout

the day. Since Roksana only cooks at night, Siyam usually has to manage his breakfast and lunch with stale food. At times, he wanders around outside, as there is little to keep him engaged at home.

Despite these hardships, Siyam remains cheerful and hopeful. He loves playing cricket with friends in his community and often watches matches on television at their houses. His passion for the sport has inspired him to dream of becoming a professional cricketer in the future. At the same time, Siyam is very attentive to his studies. He attends school regularly, participates actively in class and is motivated to learn. He feels happy and grateful to have the opportunity to continue his education after such disruption in his early childhood.

Story of Mithila

Karatitola Shikhon Kendra-1 (LC code # 262948043)

Mithila was first identified by teacher Shahanaz Akter of Karatitola Shikhon Kendra-1 during a community survey conducted shortly after the launch of the ABAL for OoSC&A project in April 2023.

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Mithila's family had migrated from Barishal to Dhaka many years ago, though she cannot recall exactly when. She remembers only the hardships: her father, Hanan Shikdar, struggled to earn enough to provide three meals a day. In Dhaka, he began working as a day laborer in Dholaikhal, while her mother, Roksana Begum, took a job as a cook in a bachelor's mess. Due to extreme poverty, Mithila's younger brother was also forced into labor.

Mithila herself was born with an intellectual disability. Instead of going to school, she assisted her mother with cooking and earned a small income by attaching decorative "putty" to women's dresses during Eid season. Her parents never considered enrolling her in school, believing her disability made education impossible.

Tragedy struck when Mithila's mother was diagnosed with liver cancer. The family's financial condition made treatment unaffordable, and her father was unable to cope with both earning and caregiving responsibilities. After months of suffering, Roksana Begum passed away.

During this difficult time, SUROVI established Karatitola Shikhon Kendra-1. While surveying the community, teacher Shahanaz discovered Mithila and enrolled her in the learning centre. Following a diagnostic assessment, Mithila was placed in the Red Group.

Now, Mithila lives with her maternal grandmother, who runs a small shop in Karatitola. She attends the learning centre regularly, and during breaks she helps her grandmother with shop work and household cooking. Mithila also continues her interest in stitching and still sets "putty" on dresses whenever opportunities arise.

Despite her challenges, Mithila is determined to continue her education. She works hard both at school and at home, with the dream of securing a good job in the future.

Geographical Coverage

BANGLADESH

