

Annual Report (July'23 to June 2024)



Galaxy S22 Ultra



Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA)

47/1, Upatakaya, Hason Nagar, Sunamganj-3000, Bangladesh

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Content

| Sl # | Particulars | Page |
|------|---|-------|
| 01 | Cover Page | 1 |
| 02 | Content | 2 |
| 03 | Executive Summary | 3 |
| 04 | Executive Committee | 4 |
| 05 | Acronyms | 4 |
| 06 | Background of ERA | 5 |
| 07 | Legal Status, Vision, Mission, Goal, Objective | 5-6 |
| 08 | Guiding Values of the Organization and Governance Structure, | 6 |
| 09 | Program Operation and Management, Core program of ERA and Human Resource | 7 |
| 10 | Working area and Development partners (Target group) | 7 |
| 11 | Affiliation with other network/Alliance/Platforms, list of on-going project & Donor | 8-9 |
| 12 | Project Brief | 10-17 |
| 13 | Case Story | 18 |
| 14 | Annual Audit Report 2024 | 19-20 |
| 15 | Trusted Partners (Donors) | 21 |
| 16 | Back Page | 22 |

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the financial and operational performance of the FRA for the duration of July/23 to June/24. The report contains details of the efforts for Rural Advancement-FRA's achievements for the duration.

Established in 1997, Efforts for Rural Advancement (FRA) has been a dedicated humanitarian organization, consistently working towards sustainable development and emergency response initiatives in Bangladesh. In FY 2023-2024, FRA continued its mission to enhance community resilience, promote disaster preparedness, and improve livelihoods across vulnerable regions, particularly in Sunamganj district.



Throughout the year, FRA played a pivotal role in humanitarian response and disaster management and Rehabilitation, DRR and climate change, Women Empowerment, Health and Nutrition, Non-formal education, WASH, work with Ethnic Adolescent and Livelihood, which provided critical support to affected populations. As an active member of the District Disaster Management Committee in Sunamganj and the Upazila Disaster Management Committee, FRA strengthened local disaster management capacities through awareness sessions, volunteer group formation, and distribution of disaster warning equipment.

FRA has extensive experience in livelihood, WASH, women empowerment, education, health, nutrition, climate change adaptation, DRR, and social inclusion. It supports income generation, skill development, and sustainable agriculture to enhance resilience. FRA promotes safe water, sanitation, and hygiene awareness for better public health. It empowers women through leadership, economic participation, and rights awareness. In education, FRA provides non-formal schooling for marginalized children. Health and nutrition programs focus on maternal and child well-being. FRA also strengthens climate adaptation and DRR through community-based strategies and early warning systems. Inclusion is central, ensuring active participation of vulnerable groups. Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) program supported the educational needs of 900 children, fostering inclusive education in Kulaura Upazila under Moulvibazar Upazila.

The vision of Efforts for Rural Advancement-FRA is one of empowered women celebrated for their contributions to achieving secure and resilient livelihoods and sustainable futures for their households, communities and beyond through more democratic and transparently. This is being achieved by promoting women's leadership and productive and profitable engagement in intensified, sustainable development

*Dr. Psyche Islam
Executive Director
FRA.*

Executive Committee

| Sl | Name | Designation | Qualification | Occupation | Email ID |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 | Kazi Md. Abul Kalam Azad | Chairman | BA(hons), MA | Development Worker | azam.kazi@yahoo.com |
| 02 | Dr. Psyche Islam | General Secretary | MBBS | Physician and Development worker | era.haor.org@gmail.com |
| 03 | Mrs. Nishad Rahman | Treasurer | BA | Entrepreneur | nrahman481@gmail.com |
| 04 | Runa Shahin Ara Les | Executive Member | BA(hons), MA | Development worker | |
| 05 | Mohammad Shahjahan Chowdhury | Executive Member | BA | Journalist | shahjahan.chy7@gmail.com |
| 06 | Ajoy Kumar Dey | Executive Member | H S C | Business | Ajoy.kumer.dey22@gmail.com |
| 07 | Amal Chakraborty | Executive Member | H S C | Development worker | Amal1368@gmail.com |

Acronyms

| | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| ADB | Annual Development Plan | MP | Member of Parliament |
| ADB | Asian Development Bank | MTR | Mid-Term Review |
| ALO | Alternative Livelihood Options | NBD | Nation Building Department |
| APO | Annual Plan for Operation | NC | National Coordinator |
| BCC | Behavior Change and Communication | NCU | National Coordination Unit |
| CBO | Community-Based Organization | PM | Project Manager |
| CC | Cultural Communication | PO | Project Officer |
| CIDA | Canadian international Development | PEP | Poor and Extreme Poor |
| CV | Community Volunteer | PGA | Participatory Gender Analysis |
| FF | Field Facilitator | PNGO | Partner NGO |
| PSP | Participatory Strategic Plan | PRA | Participatory Rural Appraisal |
| CLTS | Community-Led Total Sanitation | RCR | Regional Coordinator |
| CRC | Community Resources Center | RCU | Regional Coordination Unit |
| DC | Deputy Commissioner | RO | Responsible Officer |
| DPM | Deputy Project Manager | RTI | Right to Information |
| DV | Disaster Volunteer | RR | Role and Responsibilities |
| EBF | Exclusive Breast Feeding | SC | Standing Committee |
| EMP | Emergency Management Plan | TOT | Training of Trainers |
| EPI | Expanded Program of Immunization | TOR | Terms of Reference |
| ESC | Education Standing Committee | UDV | Union Disaster volunteers |
| EWS | Early Warning System | UHC | Upazila Health Complex |
| FM | Financial Management | UNO | UpazilaNirbahi Officer |
| FFW | Food for Work | UP | Union Parishad |
| FP | Family Planning | UZP | UpazillaParishad |
| FWV | Family Welfare Visitor | VGD | Vulnerable Group Development |
| GIP | Governance Improvement Plan | VGF | Vulnerable Group Feeding |
| GIS | Geographic Information Systems | WB | World Bank |
| GoB | Government of Bangladesh | WLT | Women Leadership Training |
| HA | Humanitarian Assistance | WC | Ward Committee |

Background of ERA

Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA) is a development, humanitarian, non-profit, non-government organization (NGO) established in July 1997 with a group of local social development workers. It has been implementing integrated development activities in the district of Sunamganj, the northern eastern part of Bangladesh. The head office ERA is located in the district headquarters of Sunamganj.

The district of Sunamganj is located at the northeastern part of Bangladesh under Sylhet division. It is located in the bank of river the Surma. India bound the North border, Sylhet district is located in the East, Habigonj & Kishorgonj district is on the South and Netrokona district is on the west.

Sunamganj district is the one of the low-lying, disaster and poverty prone area in Bangladesh. Natural disasters like flash flood, heavy rain, sometimes earthquake is a common phenomenon in the district. River and soil erosions are one of the major disasters and natural water flow is disrupted due to siltation of river and channel. Flash flood damages crops just before the harvesting period and it is a normal phenomenon. Different water bodies bound most of the Upazilas, communication is very difficult. In the rainy season, country boat becomes the only mode of transport. During the dry season people have to walk and ride on boat (only main river way) to cross miles of distances. More than half of the year most of the areas goes under water during the rainy season.

95% of the total population are poor and among them 48% population are living under extreme poverty line and they are landless. Government services are very poor especially in education, health and employment generation. Literate rate is very below, high drop out rate from primary school, unemployment rate is very high, maternal and child mortality is comparatively very high any other district of Bangladesh. Safe water and sanitation are a burning issue in the low-lying areas.

Basic rights of poor people are violated due to poverty and lack of awareness. They are also exploited by water-lord (lease of haor). The livelihood situations of women are the most vulnerable due to very limited scope of involvement in IGAs and they have no power in decision making process in a family. Religious binding is another barrier of women empowerment.

ERA dedicated to reduction of suffering of the underprivileged people and the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Name of the Chief Executive | : Dr. Psyche Islam |
| Designation | : Executive Director |
| Contact address of ERA | : 47/1, Hason Nagor, Sunamganj-3000, Bangladesh. |
| Telephone | : +88 0871-63157, Mobile: +88 01783-053334 |
| Email | : era.haor.org@gmail.com |
| Website | : https://www.erahaor.com |

Legal Status

ERA has obtained the following registration from the respective department of government of Bangladesh.

Department of Social Service : Registration No.Sunam/ 289/99, Dated: 24 Feb. 1999

NGO Affairs Bureau : Registration No 2276, Dated: Oct 11, 2007

Vision

ERA envisages a poverty-free sustainable socio-economic equitable productive society.

Mission

The mission of the ERA is to establish a society where the disadvantaged people are united and organized, their basic rights are fulfilled, environmental and gender friendly sustainable livelihood options are satisfying their continuous needs.

Goal

The ultimate goal of the ERA is to assist the vulnerable and disadvantaged people to develop them socially and economically their greater organization through mobilizing their skills and available local resources for the improvement of the sustainable living standard and equal social rights.

Objectives

- To mobilize and organize rural poor women and men.
- To establish deprived people's rights on local resources.
- To improve the health and nutrition status through providing health education and ensure health rights through access to local health services and raise awareness to prevent HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- To generate income and employment through providing livelihood skill development training and micro finance.
- To reduce illiteracy through non-formal and adult education.
- To reduce disaster risk through life skill development, protection of mound and emergency response.
- To improve the environment condition at haor region (low lying area) through providing education on the sustainable environment, household waste management and tree plantation and open water fisheries management etc.

Guiding Values of the organization:

- Transparency
- Accountably
- Participation
- Gender equity
- Mutual respect

Governance structure

The supreme authority of the organization is **General Committee**, which is, consist of 21 (twenty-one) members from different professional. General Committee meets once in a year to review the organizational activity and provide necessary advice, approve the organizational audit report and annual budget. General committee elects the executive committee members of the organization for 2 years duration.

Advisory committee consists of 3 (three) members to provide time to time suggestion and necessary guidance to the Executive Committee. Executive Committee members select the Advisory Committee members for 2 years duration. Among them one is the Chief Advisor.

Executive Committee consists of 7 (seven) members from social development workers. The Executive member meets quarterly to review the organizational activities, provide necessary approval according to the requirement of the organization, and provide necessary advice to the Executive Director (ED) for any undecided issue. The Executive Director is accountable to the Executive committee. (Organogram of ERA is enclosed in Annex-I)

Program Operation and Management

Program Director (PD) is the head of all programs. PD is accountable to the ED. Each program is headed by a Program Manager (PM). Projects are implementing under respective Program Manager through the project team. The ED provides overall guidance to the PD and PM to implement project activities.

Core program of ERA

1. Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response (DRRER)
2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH)
3. Quality Education, Governance and Empowerment (QEGE)
4. Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock (ALF)
5. Health, Nutrition and Family Welfare (HNFW)

Human Resource:

| Staff category | Female | Male | Total |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Full time | 59 | 39 | 98 |
| Part time | 1003 | 989 | 1992 |
| Total | 1062 | 1028 | 2090 |

Working area of ERA

| Sl. # | District | Name of Upazila | # of Union | # of Village |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| 01 | Sunamganj | Sunamganj Sadar | 05 | 130 |
| | | Santiganj | 08 | 110 |
| | | Tahirpur | 07 | 205 |
| | | Bishwambharpur | 05 | 150 |
| | | Dharampasha | 02 | 34 |
| | | Dowarabazar | 09 | 225 |
| | | Chhatak | 5 | 150 |
| 02 | Moulvibazar | Kulawra | 13 | 43 |
| Total | 02 | 08 | 33 | 897 |

Development Partners (Target Group) of ERA

- ◆ Landless, hardcore poor women and men
- ◆ Fisherman
- ◆ Children
- ◆ Marginal farmers
- ◆ Adolescent girls
- ◆ Disabled people
- ◆ Adhibasi (Ethnic Community)

Affiliation with other networks/alliances/platforms

| Name of the networks/alliances/platforms | Types of representation (i.e. member/steering committee member/board member, etc.) | Duration/ Year |
|--|--|----------------|
| World Forum Foundation(WFF) | Member | 2016 to till |
| Health Rights Forum, Sunamganj | Secretary | 2021 to till |
| Localization Technical Working Group(LTWG) | Member | 2022 to till |
| National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh(NAHAB) | Executive Member | 2018 to till |
| Need Assessment Working Group(NAWG) | Member | 2022 to till |
| CIVICUS | Member | 2016 to till |
| Civil Society Alliance of Scaling Up Nutrition, Bangladesh(CSA Sun BD) | Member | 2017 till |
| Trust Law | Member | 2016 till |
| Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA)-Bangladesh | Member | 2023 till |

List of ongoing projects and donors:

| Sl. | Name of Project | Name of Donor | Project Duration | | Implementation Area | Major Task |
|-----|---|---|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| | | | Start date | Completion date | | |
| 1 | Mutual Learning for Improving Health and Nutrition Scenario | Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation | January 2020 | February 2027 | Santiganj | -Reducing maternal mortality and neonatal mortality. -Development of reproductive health. -The child's physical and mental development in the family. -Ensure adequate care and proper nutrition for every woman and baby. |
| 2 | Child & Youth Centered Development Project (CYCDP) | Plan International Bangladesh | February 2020 | June 2024 | Tahirpur | - Reduce child & Sexual harassment - Reduce cross border for Child and women - Establish Child rights |
| 3 | Contingency Stock and Bangladesh | Oxfam-GB | February 2019 | On going | Sunamganj | -Response in DRR |
| 4 | Health Rights Forum | BRAC James P Grant | March 2021 | February 2024 | Sunamganj | -collaboration with district health dept. |

| Sl. | Name of Project | Name of Donor | Project Duration | | Implementat ion Area | Major Task |
|-----|---|--|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | | | Start date | Completi on date | | |
| | Sunamganj and Bangladesh | School of Public Health, BRAC University | | | | - Ensuring health rights for service receiver |
| 5 | Second Chance Education Program in Bangladesh | Ministry of Primary and Mass Education | January 2021 | December 2025 | Kulaura, Moulovibazar | -Primary education - reduce dropout |
| 6 | VGD Program | Women welfare department, BD | November' 23 | March'25 | Chhtaka & Dharampasha | Work with vulnerable women to empower them. |
| 7 | CREA Project | Manusher Jonno Foundation | 1 st March '2023 | June 2026 | Biswambharpur | Climate change and women empowerment |
| 8 | Education Champion Network-7 | Malala Foundation | 1st April' 24 | 31 March'27 | Biswambharpur | To retain girls in education by increasing awareness of the barriers to girls' education and increasing access to financial support for girls to continue secondary education in Sunamganj |

Bangladesh and Nepal have faced similar healthcare and nutritional challenges, particularly among vulnerable populations such as women and children. The "Mutual Learning for Improving Health and Nutrition Scenario" project aims to address these challenges by facilitating the exchange of learning experiences, approaches, tools, and development strategies between two organizations: ERA in Bangladesh and RICOD in Nepal. These organizations represent their respective countries in this collaborative initiative.

The project seeks to contribute to the improvement of nutritional and healthcare conditions for women and children in targeted communities by promoting quality healthcare services through the efforts of both organizations. Initially, the project was designed to involve the exchange of participants between the two countries to share best practices. This was achieved through hands-on training, demonstrations, and planning sessions focused on primary healthcare.



Figure 1: Mid Term Review Team and Participants

The project has successfully completed its first round, yielding valuable lessons and insights. During the exchange, doctors Prianka Chakma and Rina Thapa made significant contributions to health initiatives. They provided medical consultations, facilitated awareness sessions on maternal and child health, and supported community health programs. Upon returning to their respective organizations, they applied their enhanced knowledge to implement improved health services and advocate for better healthcare practices.

Public Health Officer Urja Regmi and Nutritionist Taslima Akter played vital roles in the development and execution of nutrition programs. Their work included conducting workshops on balanced diets, addressing malnutrition, and designing locally adaptable nutritional plans. These plans were later integrated into community health programs in both countries.



Figure 2: Hygiene Session by Nepali Participants

Participants gained technical skills in advanced health assessment methods, data collection, and reporting. Nutritionists developed expertise in dietary analysis and the creation of culturally sensitive nutrition plans, while doctors enhanced their competencies in patient care and community health interventions. Additionally, soft skills such as cross-cultural communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and facilitation were cultivated during the exchange. These skills improved participants' abilities to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and adapt to different working environments.

Child & Youth Centered Development Project is implementing in Tahirpur Upazila under Sunamganj district which is an initiative aimed at promoting the holistic development of children and youth. The project focuses on creating safe spaces where children and youth can develop their physical, cognitive, emotional, and social skills through a range of activities and programs.

The project is centered on the idea that children and youth should be at the forefront of their own development, with their needs, interests, and perspectives guiding the design and implementation of programs and services. By empowering children and youth to take an active role in their own development, the project aims to promote their sense of agency, self-esteem, and resilience.

The child & Youth Centered Development Project works in partnership with local communities, organizations, and governments to ensure that children and youth have access to the resources and support they need to reach their full potential.



Figure 3: Ethnic Adolescent Group

Summary of programme progress – provide a summary of the programme's progress since start-up or the previous reporting period including a brief summary of progress towards the programme's overall impact.

Grading of progress towards outcomes - For each outcome, grade the status of progress. If any outcome is graded **Amber** or **Red**, explain *why* they have received this grade, *what* are implications to the programme and *how you plan to overcome* obstacles/challenges for the next period (in case any adaptations/revisions of expected outcomes are needed, this can be addressed under section 5):



Green – the work under this outcome is progressing according to plan.



Amber – the work under this outcome is not fully on track, however, delays/challenges are under control.



Red – the work under this outcome is not progressing according to plan / facing major deviations. Delays/challenges are not under control. Action needs to be discussed between the CO and SNO.

ERA has initiated a flood recovery initiative entitled "Restoration of Essential Services for Climatic Displacement affected communities of Bangladesh," in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) since October 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024. This project is made possible through funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and is being implemented in Chhatak and Dowarabazar Upazial under the Sunamganj district. The primary goal of this project is to provide rehabilitation support to communities affected by floods, enhancing their access to physical infrastructure, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH), income generation, and building resilience against future climate risks. Operational planning, and preparing implementation guidelines, as well as activities like Cash for Work (CfW), sanitary latrine installation, Killa construction, Project exit meeting at UP level, and School WASH, were all essential for a successful commencement of field-level operations. Conducting vulnerability assessments, identifying stakeholders, and garnering stakeholder support were also key focuses during this period. Through collaborative efforts with NRC, ERA effectively achieved these milestones, ensuring a strong start to implementation in an integrated manner.



Figure 4: Cash for Work (CfW)

By the KOBO survey tool, selection of CfW participants, sanitary latrine participants and initiation of Cash for Work activities were critical interventions during this period. Leveraging NRC's expertise, ERA successfully progressed in selecting participants for targeted interventions, and contributed to prepare the implementation guidelines in cooperation with NRC.

Adhering to the agreed plan, the ERA team accomplished all targeted interventions within the reporting period. Following standard procedures, nine CfW schemes were completed in coordination with respective Union Parishads (UP) and the Project Implementation Committee (PIC). A total of 400 CfW participants, including 22% females, were engaged successfully. One hundred fifty participants received



Figure 5: Boat distributed for Anticipatory Action

the first and second installments for latrine installation through Mobile Money Transfer (MMT). School WASH activity was implemented in a school. Finally, the four project exit meetings were completed at UP level.

Ensuring the quality of implementation, the ERA prioritized standard monitoring procedures through the team, field visit observations by ERA's senior management, and local administration. Incorporating cross-cutting issues such as community engagement, stakeholder integration, complaint mechanisms, safety security, protection, and safeguarding issues was given the highest priority at every step of implementation.

Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA) and Oxfam Bangladesh made a partnership for emergency response in Sunamganj. Emergency contingency stock is crucial for the organization to be prepared for unexpected events. It is reserve of essential items that can sustain life and provide basic necessities during emergencies such as natural disasters, power outages, or civil unrest. Contingency stock can help to maintain operations during supply chain disruptions or unexpected demand surges. Emergency contingency stock is vital for ensuring preparedness and resilience in the face of unexpected events.

Sunamganj district is prone to natural disaster such as flood, cyclones, and landslides due to its location in the haor basin. These disasters can cause significant damage to infrastructure, disrupt the supply of essential items, and lead to the displacement of local populations. Emergency contingency stock can provide a critical lifeline during such disasters, ensuring that people have access to food, water, and medical supplies until assistance can be provided. It can also help reduce the burden on relief efforts and ensure that aid is delivered to those in need in a timely and efficient manner.



Figure 6: Latrine installed in Emergency

Health Rights Forum Sunamganj in Bangladesh Project

Bangladesh Health Watch

The Health Rights Forum Sunamganj is a non-government platform in Bangladesh that aims to promote health and human rights for marginalized communities in the Sunamganj district. The platform focuses on improving access to healthcare services and advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations, including women, children, and people living in poverty. The forum works to raise awareness about health and human rights issues through community education and advocacy campaigns. They also provide medical care and support to those in need, including emergency services during natural disasters such as floods and cyclones.



Figure 7: CSO Coordination Meeting

One of the key initiatives of the Health Rights Forum Sunamganj is the establishment of a community-based health system that provides primary healthcare services to underserved communities. They work closely with local health workers and volunteers to deliver health education, medical consultations, and essential medicines to remote areas where healthcare services are limited or nonexistent.

The Health Rights Forum Sunamganj aims to improve the health and wellbeing of marginalized communities in Sunamganj district, and to promote the rights and dignity of all people regardless of their socio-economic status.

Out of School Children Program

Bangladesh
Government

The Out of School Children Program is an initiative in Bangladesh that provides education and training opportunities who were unable to complete their formal education. The program aims to provide these individuals with the skills and knowledge they need to improve their job prospects, income, and quality of life. The Out of School Children Program is implemented by the Bangladesh government in collaboration with various non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. It offers a range of course and training programs, including basic literacy and numeracy, vocational training, and entrepreneurship development.



Figure 8: School bag distribution ceremony

The program is particularly focused on reaching out to marginalized and disadvantaged communities, including women, people living in poverty, and those with disabilities. It aims to provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to improve their socio-economic status and participate fully in society.

The Out of School Children Program also provides support for learners in the form of scholarships, learning materials, and counseling services. It works to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment that meets the needs of all learners.

Through its efforts, the Out of School Children Program is contributing to the overall development of Bangladesh by empowering individuals to reach their full potential and contribute to the country's economic and social development. It is also helping to promote a more equitable and just society where everyone has the opportunity to access education and achieve their goal.

The proposed project is fully aligned with its Goal: **“Build women’s leadership capacity and increased resilience of the most vulnerable communities to address climate change impact”** with specific focus on climate driven impact that leverage community resilience against climate-related risk and boost up the collective social actions for preparing them to combat against climate change impacts. Actions are focused on empowering women and adolescent girls to establish access in local government structure that facilitate climate-driven actions in local development planning allowing interest of the most marginalized. The strategies will keep a transparent and accountable governance to promoting pro-poor oriented service delivery among the local government and service provider institutions, in order to mitigate the adverse climate effects protecting interest of most marginalized women, girls, boys, PwD and transgender within the targeted communities.



Figure 9: 16 Day Activism observation

The strategies of the proposed project are structured with a view to effective attainment of set outcomes. Approaching a comprehensive working modalities keeping focus on climate risk/vulnerabilities and alignment with interest of most marginalized where women, girls, boys, PwD and transgender will be given highest priority.

The climate related economic insecurity caused less priority to the girls education and potentially provoked the early marriage arrangement. The issue of dignity of women, girls adolescent are neglected which is often imposed unhealthy practices to the child marriage. The absence of sustainable income and employment opportunity is having a negative impact on climate risk and vulnerabilities. Climate focused capacity building at the community are still inadequate which hinders the climate resilient livelihood practices. Given the situation, climate risk education and climate friendly livelihoods development are of paramount importance which will accelerate the pace of sustainable development by creating a capable climate resilient community.



Figure 10: Sack Gardening

The deficiencies of girl's enrolment in secondary education are remain remarkable problem in the wetland areas of Bangladesh, which is one of the main obstacles in the way of proper growth and intellectual development of girls. There are various barriers limit to girls' secondary education in wetland areas, which are mostly influenced by social norms and cultural factors. Lack of awareness about the importance of girls' education contribute to lower enrolment and retention rates. Relatively economic challenge is highly observed as an obstacle to continue the girls' education. Poor access to and control over financial incentive and scholarships schemes are widely observed which impeded the girls schooling significantly. Insufficient social safety security repeatedly discouraged parents from girls schooling due to fear of harassment or incident. Having the situation the girls schooling is deprioritized and still are at risks where development is utmost importance to overcome the situation.

Goal: Accelerate provision of financial access to and control over the education schemes to boost up the girls' enrollment in secondary education.

Targeting: The proposed project will be targeted most vulnerable sub-district of Biswambharpur under Sunamganj district. The most vulnerable five secondary schools will be served by the efforts of the project which has already been identified by the respective communities and stakeholders' consultation. The primary target beneficiaries of the proposed project are Girls within the age range of 11 to 18 years, belonging to marginalized communities in selected working areas. The project is targeted to ensure enrollment of 750 girls in secondary education aligning multifaceted sources of education financial schemes. This includes rural areas characterized by limited access to girls' schooling in secondary education, economic constraints, and socio-cultural challenges.



Renovation of Sunamganj Girls Home and Flood Affected Schools Project was executed through a meticulous and inclusive strategy. Initially, a comprehensive assessment was conducted to identify the specific needs of both child home and school. This involved collaborative discussions with caregivers, educators, school management committee, Upazila education department, and District social welfare service department to gain insights into the unique requirements of each space. Subsequently, a detailed project plan was developed, outlining the scope of work, budgetary considerations, and a timeline for implementation. Renovation activities were carried out in a phased manner, prioritizing critical areas such as living residences in child homes and classrooms in schools. Skilled professionals and local contractors were engaged to ensure the quality and safety of the renovations. The school management community and respective departments played a pivotal role in the process, with active participation in decision-making and project monitoring. Regular communication channels were established to keep all stakeholders informed about the progress and address any concerns promptly. The successful completion of the program not only transformed physical spaces but also contributed to creating more nurturing and conducive environments for both children and students, fostering overall well-being and development.



Figure 12: Child Girls' Home (Before)



Figure 11: Child Girls' Home (After)

The Child Home Renovation program was delivered in Sunamganj Sadar Upazila, while the School Renovation activities took place in Dowarabazar Upazila, both located within the Sunamganj district. These specific geographic locations were chosen based on a thorough needs assessment that identified these areas as having a pressing need for infrastructure improvement. Sunamganj Sadar Upazila, with its child home, became the focal point for targeted renovations to enhance the living conditions of the children in these facilities. Simultaneously, Dowarabazar Upazila, within Sunamganj district, was selected for school renovations, with a focus on upgrading classrooms and essential facilities. The choice of these locations aimed to address the unique needs of both child home and school in distinct communities within Sunamganj district, contributing to the holistic development and well-being of children in the region.

Nestled in the remote Meghalaya hills, north of Tahirpur Upazila in Sunamganj district, resides a marginalized tribal community long deprived of their basic rights. Isolated from mainstream society, their voices remained unheard, and their struggles unnoticed. Recognizing their plight, the Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA) stepped forward with a mission to advocate for their rights and uplift their living conditions.

Initially, the community was reluctant to engage with ERA. Years of neglect and broken promises had eroded their trust in external organizations. However, through persistent efforts, ERA managed to build a bridge of trust. The organization engaged in open dialogues, emphasizing their genuine intention to work for the community's welfare. Gradually, the community leader was convinced of ERA's commitment, marking the beginning of a transformative journey.



ERA launched several awareness programs tailored to the community's unique needs. These initiatives aimed to educate them about their fundamental rights, health, and social responsibilities. One of the most touching moments emerged during an event organized by ERA when a teenage girl expressed, *"I have never seen the Upazila city."* For the first time in her life, she had the opportunity to visit the city, expanding her horizons and igniting dreams beyond the confines of her village.

To ensure sustained advocacy and representation, ERA facilitated the formation of a task force committee comprising community members. This committee became a platform for voicing their concerns and aspirations. Furthermore, ERA enabled the community's participation in various national meetings, providing them with a space to share their experiences and challenges on broader platforms.

Understanding the harsh realities of their living conditions, ERA also addressed their immediate needs. During the winter season, the organization distributed warm clothes, alleviating some of the community's hardships.

ERA's dedication extended to empowering the adolescents within the community. Through specialized sessions, ERA educated them about their rights, focusing on Sexual Reproductive Health. This knowledge instilled a sense of confidence and self-worth among the youth, inspiring them to advocate for themselves and their community.

ERA's intervention has been a beacon of hope for the tribal community of the Meghalaya hills. From initial skepticism to active participation, the community's journey reflects the transformative power of trust, education, and empowerment. ERA continues to stand by them, championing their rights and fostering a future filled with possibilities and dignity.

Habib Sarwar Bhuiyan & Co
Chartered Accountants

Efforts for Rural Advancement-ERA
Statement Of Consolidated Comprehensive Income
For The Year Ended June 30, 2024

| Particulars | Notes | Amount in Taka | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | 2023-2024 | 2022-2023 |
| INCOME: | | | |
| Grant Received | 10.00 | 63,918,010 | 60,483,838 |
| Bank Interest | | 199,626 | 45,233 |
| Total Taka: | | 64,117,636 | 60,529,071 |
| EXPENDITURE: | | | |
| Pay and Salary | 11.00 | 12,670,258 | 16,646,565 |
| Administrative Expense | 12.00 | 16,315,294 | 30,390,266 |
| Travel Allowances & per diem | 13.00 | 1,236,573 | - |
| Program Expenses | 14.00 | 22,476,147 | 17,430,973 |
| Advanced & Security money | | - | 185,127 |
| Bank Charge | | 116,139 | 83,821 |
| Total Expenditure: | | 52,813,411 | 64,706,881 |
| Excess of income Over Expenditure | | 1,304,225 | (4,177,810) |
| Total Taka: | | 64,117,636 | 60,529,071 |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial Statement.


Md. Shamsuddin Hossain
Manager Finance & Admin


Dr. Psyche Islam
Executive Director

Signed as per report of even date

Habib Sarwar Bhuiyan & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Registration no: CAF-001-010
Signed By:


Md. Shah Alam Mridha FCA
Partner
Enrollment No. - 0733
DVC: 2410060733A5660461


Place: Dhaka
Date: October 06, 2024



Efforts for Rural Advancement-ERA
Statement Of Consolidated Financial Position
As at June 30, 2024

| Particulars | Notes | Amount in Taka | |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | 30.06.2024 | 30.06.2023 |
| ASSETS: | | | |
| Non-Current Assets : | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 4.00 | 2,433,323 | 2,037,075 |
| | | <u>2,433,323</u> | <u>2,037,075</u> |
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | | |
| Advanced Income Tax | | 7,060,288 | 6,668,629 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalent | 6.00 | - | 2,790 |
| | | <u>7,060,288</u> | <u>6,668,629</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u>9,493,610</u> | <u>8,705,704</u> |
| FUND AND LIABILITIES: | | | |
| FUND ACCOUNT | | | |
| | 7.00 | 8,386,319 | 7,181,166 |
| | | <u>8,386,319</u> | <u>7,181,166</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | | |
| Temporary Loan | 8.00 | 1,107,291 | 1,524,518 |
| Accrual Expenses | 9.00 | - | 167,227 |
| | | <u>1,107,291</u> | <u>1,524,518</u> |
| TOTAL FUND AND LIABILITIES: | | <u>9,493,610</u> | <u>8,705,704</u> |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial


Md. Shamsuddin Koyes
Manager Finance & Admin


Dr. Paycha Islam
Executive Director

Signed as per report of even date:

Habib Serwar Bhuiyan & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Registration no: CAF-001-010
Signed By:

Place: Dhaka
Date: October 08, 2024


Md. Shah Alam Mridha FCA
Partner
Enrollment No. - 0733
DVC: 2410060733A5890481



TRUSTED PARTNERS



Inspiring Excellence



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



EFFORTS FOR RURAL ADVANCEMENT (ERA)
47/1, UPATAKAYA, HASON NAGAR, SUNAMGANJ.