

## JEEBIKA (Livelihood Project), Chandpur: Contribution towards Poverty Alleviation & Zero Hunger



**Prepared by:**

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**Implemented by:** Daffodil Foundation

## Project Background:

The first step towards sustainable development goal (SDG) is poverty alleviation. In Bangladesh, 5.6% of the population lives below the poverty line, and 18.7% live in extreme poverty (source: BBS, Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022). Poverty is a curse for any nation, and to eradicate poverty, every state takes various initiatives. The Government of Bangladesh is no exception to this. If the current trend continues, BBS believes that Bangladesh can eliminate poverty by 2031.

One of the five basic pillars of Islam (religion) is Zakat which strives to reduce inequality among people and eradicate poverty from the society. To alleviate poverty, it is not enough to provide financial assistance or show compassion. The entire process should consider the broader role of society and the family. These factors lead to the creation of "social capital," which is instrumental in poverty alleviation. Since 2015, *Daffodil Foundation (with the assistance of DIU) has been working on the "Jeebika" (Livelihood Development Project) in Chandpur district of Bangladesh, alongside providing financial support with the goal of ensuring poverty alleviation, removing hunger & malnutrition, access to pure water & sanitation, ensuring sustainable employment and other social development.*

This project is a social initiative aimed at empowering the underprivileged, and institutionalizing it. It helped the neglected communities (Beggar, widow, elderly people, unemployed youths, physically challenged persons, etc.) and provides them with opportunities for sustainable development. ***Through the provision of interest-free capital and disregarded group's health, sanitation, safe water, and skill development training, Jeebika project has made remarkable progress in the areas of SDG 1 (Zero poverty), SDG 2 (No hunger) and SDG 8 (Economic Growth).***

## Project Objectives:

- To create a poverty-free harmonious society where there will be overall development including improvement of livelihood of poor and deprived people and they will develop better moral qualities and human values.
- Provide sustainable employment and income growth for the target population through skill training, capital supply and management, access to local resources and services;
- Eliminating illiteracy through adult education and pre-primary education of children to develop life skills and capabilities;
- Ensuring the minimum health benefits of the target population through improving nutrition, providing health care, and ensuring public and local health care and increasing health awareness;
- Providing assistance to the disabled, widows, orphans, elderly, vulnerable people to reduce disaster damage and prevent humanitarian disasters at family and individual levels;

## Project at a glance



Project Title	Jeebika (Livelihood project) 02
Project contact person	Md. Asadullah Khan Galib, Project Manager
Project period	September 2018- August 2023
Project Beneficiaries	11,499 persons from 2,000 families. Males - 5,767 and females - 5,732 Groups: 32
Project Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kalyanpur Union</li><li>• Ashikati Union</li><li>• Maishadi Union</li><li>• Chandpur, Cumilla</li></ul>
Project Fund Disbursed to Target People	BDT 20,00,00,000 (200 million)

### Achievement and Contributions of the Project

- Members under this project now earn a monthly income range - 10,000-15,000 Tk. which is higher than the minimum wage as defined by the Government of Bangladesh. It means the project has helped them to come out of poverty that is also contributing to the achievement of poverty eradication plan of the Bangladesh Government and targets of UN SDG 1.
- The majority of members have transitioned from low (below BDT. 5000) to middle-income levels.
- There are visible improvements in the social conditions of the members like using sanitary latrines, pure drinking water, sustainable income generation, eating nutritious foods, education for their child, healthcare, etc.
- Successful members are now able to contribute to charitable donations to other poor and implementing a sustainable cycle for ensuring a poverty and hunger free villages.

### **Benefits provided from the Livelihood Project:**

- Interest-free loan facilities
- Free food, sanitation and healthcare services
- Training opportunities
- Educational support for children
- Livestock farming and veterinary care support

A comparative Picture of the Impact of the Project towards poverty alleviation, economic development and reducing hunger is given below:

<b><i>Before joining the Livelihood Project</i></b>	<b>Impact of the Livelihood Project</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Engaged in informal loans with high-interest rates</i></li> <li>• <i>Lived in extreme poverty</i></li> <li>• <i>Hindered in providing educational support to children</i></li> <li>• <i>Lacked access to safe water &amp; sanitation, nutritious foods, education for children, healthcare services</i></li> <li>• <i>Gender inequality and lack of women empowerment</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved financial stability and coming out of poverty line due to ensuring a sustainable income generating source</li> <li>• Increased social recognition</li> <li>• Successful in agricultural and livestock farming</li> <li>• Better education for their children</li> <li>• They have been liberated from the cycle of interest-based loans</li> <li>• Having access to nutritious foods, safe water, sanitation, healthcare services etc.</li> <li>• The project facilitated a good number of women to become successful entrepreneurs ensuring gender equality and women empowerment</li> </ul>

**The project helped the selected members in the form of:**

- Purchasing auto-rickshaw.
- Acquisition of agricultural machinery.
- Empowerment of women entrepreneurs.
- Successful business ventures.
- Poultry and livestock farming.
- Sending children abroad for employment and income.
- Success in agriculture.

**Conclusion:**

The “Jeebika” Chandpur Project 02 has made significant strides in improving the lives of the impoverished population. By providing interest-free capital, addressing their basic needs, and imparting skill training, the project has uplifted the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries, especially helped to eradicate poverty and access to nutritious foods of those families. However, further collaboration, expansion of services, and project duration extension are recommended to sustain and enhance these positive outcomes.



### Project Beneficiaries and Impacts



Assessment Phase:

