



Annual Report

BANGLADESH: 2023-2024

Big change starts small

**Practical
ACTION**

Our vision is for A WORLD THAT WORKS BETTER FOR EVERYONE

Practical Action is an international development organisation with a vision of a world that works better for everyone. Working together with communities and our global partners, we're developing innovative real-world solutions to build sustainable lives and livelihoods for people living on the frontlines of poverty and climate change. We're turning surviving into thriving and overcoming injustice, especially for women and vulnerable groups in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In Bangladesh, we work in four areas of focus and influence:



**Farming for
People and the Planet**



From Risk to Resilience

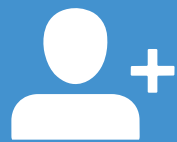


Ingenuity vs. Waste



Energy that transforms

Our reach and impacts in Bangladesh at a glance



313,198
people reached
(54% women)



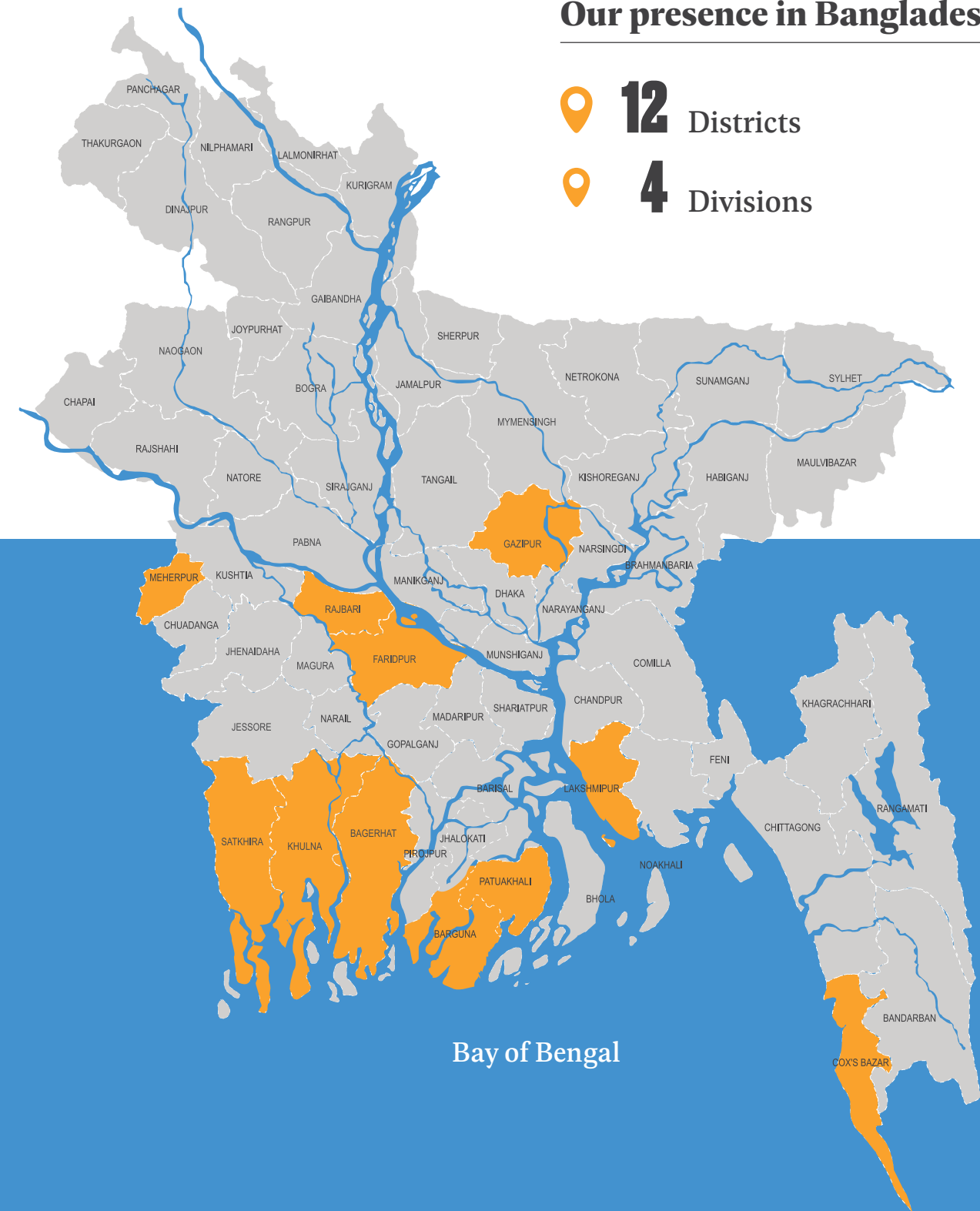
Direct reached
110,975
people (53% women)



Indirect reached
196,365
people (52% women)

Our presence in Bangladesh

 **12** Districts
 **4** Divisions





COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Since our founding in 1990, in Bangladesh, as a development agency, with a key aim to create a better world for everyone, we have focused on supporting communities both rural and urban.

Keeping the community and planet at the center of all our intervention, we strive to achieve decent and dignified lives and living conditions, while promoting environmental sustainability, access to viable entrepreneurship and finances, customised package of need-based capacity, access to nutritious food through ecosystem-based farming practices, access to affordable energy facilities, as well as access to a hygienic environment through providing smoke-free kitchens.

We believe our strength lies in our diverse partnerships with individuals, government agencies, private sector, national and international NGOs and civil society organisations. Committed to inclusivity, we strive to create a just society where everyone is valued, regardless of their gender, disability, religion, or ethnicity. In everything we do, we prioritise integrity, passion, and inclusiveness. To achieve these, we offer ingenious solutions.

We carry out our work under four thematic areas: Farming for People and the Planet, Ingenuity vs. Waste, From Risk to Resilience, and Energy. Last year, hand in hand with our partners, we implemented 16 projects within these themes, including several key research initiatives.

We have taken the challenge of supporting smallholder farmers, especially women from the most vulnerable regions, emphasising on climate-resilient farming, incorporated with renewable energy solutions. Through our comprehensive farming intervention tied up with early warning system and enhanced market access, our community base extends over 56,000 households.

Our focus is on improving the lives and livelihoods of sanitation and waste workers by building their skills in safe and healthy waste management, which includes solid, faecal and plastic waste. We work closely with municipalities and communities to bring sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Benefiting over 400,000 sanitation workers and their families, we strive to create a viable business model for plastic and sanitation waste workers and services, as well as to save the planet through a multipronged approach of entrepreneurship and access to finance.

Today, around 70% households depend on biomass fuels, which leads to indoor air pollution and significant health risks, particularly for women and children. The goal of our market-focused approach is to create a healthier cooking environment with cleaner air, with an aim to connect with 60 rural communities by 2025.

Networking and advocacy are two vital components of our work. As a voice of the community, we play the role of a bridge between community and policymakers aiming to secure benefits for the people we work for. Since 2016, Practical Action has been serving as the secretariat for one such national advocacy platform, Bangladesh Faecal Sludge Management Network (FSM Network).

I am excited to highlight our remarkable achievements in Bangladesh through this Annual Report. Thoughts, feedback, comments, and suggestions are welcome. Let us all build a better planet for our people.

Ishrat Shabnam
Country Director

FARMING FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET



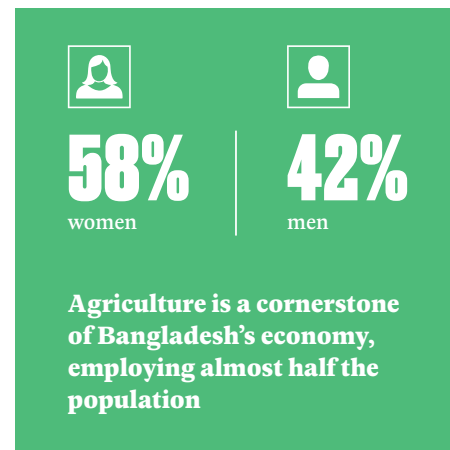
FARMING FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

More people rely on farming for their livelihoods than any other job, yet three-quarters of the world's poorest are farmers, showing that traditional agriculture isn't working for most. We support smallholder farmers (women and men) in creating agroecological systems that integrate nature with cultural and economic aspects. This sustainable method enhances living standards, protects the environment, and rebuilds resources, offering a viable alternative to intensive farming. By changing farming practices, we can uplift millions of families worldwide.

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economy, employing almost half the population, 58% women and 42% men. However, climate change is increasingly threatening smallholder farmers' livelihoods and food security by causing soil degradation, water scarcity, and information and technological gaps. Drawing from our extensive experience in sustainable agriculture, we collaborate with farmers, enterprises, and government agencies to provide knowledge, technology, and market access to tackle these climate-related issues.

One of our key initiatives, Nature-Based Adaptation towards Prosperous and Adept Lives & Livelihoods in Bangladesh (NABAPALLAB), is a newly adopted project of Practical Action in Bangladesh.

This project focuses on developing and implementing 'nature-based solutions' for adaptation in the country's selected Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs). With support from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and a consortium led by CARE Bangladesh, Practical Action aims to enhance climate resilience in the vulnerable ecosystem of the Sundarbans and Hakaluki Haor—a seasonal floodplain wetland in Bangladesh. We promote sustainable ecosystem management, contributing to improved livelihoods for vulnerable people in these areas through this initiative.



Challenges of Agricultural Practices in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is making progress towards becoming self-sufficient in agriculture due to its growing population and rising food demand. Converting forests and ecologically sensitive regions into farmland further disturbs these ecosystems. In coastal areas, the challenges are heightened by insufficient freshwater for irrigation and salt intrusion into the soil. Practical Action Bangladesh addresses climate change by promoting ecosystem-based farming, fishing, and livestock management. Through the NABAPALLAB initiative, we aim to reduce the impacts of climate change, such as saltwater intrusion, soil fertility decline, and loss of biodiversity.


Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture

The marsh wetlands of Hakaluki Haor and the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, are crucial for the lives and livelihoods of northeast and southwest people in Bangladesh. These ecologically sensitive regions are at risk of significant environmental damage due to climate change.

We aim to support people living in or near the ECAs in making changes that safeguard nature and ecosystems while enabling them to sustain their livelihoods. To reduce the vulnerability of agricultural systems to climate change, this initiative focuses on four key areas:



Climate-smart agriculture to adapt to water scarcity and salinity intensification.



Soil health enhancement through regenerative agriculture.



Nature-based aquaculture.



Climate adaptive livestock farming.

Climate-resilient Agriculture

We foster valuable and resilient crops to combat soil health, salinity, and water shortages in coastal regions affected by climate change. This crop production will ensure the cash flow and nutrition of the families living in these areas. Aquaculture promotes nature-based farming with successful species that fit local salinity, water, and seed (fish fingerling) sources. This technique promotes alternate seed (fish fingerling) sources to reduce wild stock pressure and prevent aggressive wild catch practices while preserving the natural environment.

Renewable Energy Adoption in Agriculture

Practical Action supports the development of biogas facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal waste, increase income, and combat climate change. These facilities will convert waste into energy and fertiliser from climate-resilient livestock. By implementing biogas plants, we can lower the use of biofuels, decrease carbon dioxide emissions, and produce renewable energy. Additionally, Practical Action is promoting the use of renewable energy in agriculture, introducing solar-powered equipment (solar-based chiller, irrigation, aerator, Thresher, Dryer, husking machine, solar home system) for agriculture production and post-harvest management. These methods reduce carbon emissions and nonrenewable energy use, restoring the environment.

Early Warning and Community Resilience

Due to the increasing frequency of climate-related disasters, it is essential to have early warning systems in place, especially in coastal areas where these disasters hit hardest. Practical Action is committed to sharing early warnings and advice to help protect lives and livelihoods and to improve communities' ability to adapt to climate change. As part of its efforts, the initiative will review and simplify the warning system for communities that depend on ecosystems and natural resources. It will ensure that these warnings are delivered promptly and effectively so that people in these areas can take action to protect themselves and their livelihoods.



We aim to enhance the climate resilience of marginalised communities that rely on natural resources in the Koyra, Dacope, and Paikgachha upazilas (sub-districts) of the Khulna district. This initiative is estimated to impact 56,000 households within these upazilas.

Our primary project participants are women living in these areas who are financially constrained. We collaborate with relevant ministries and line departments of the Government of Bangladesh and local government institutions such as Zila Parishad (District Council), Upazila Parishad (Sub-district Council), Union Parishad (Union Council), and other community-based organisations.

Ensuring Market Access for Sustainable Growth

Creating market linkages is a key part of our work. The main goal is to link farmers and other key players with market networks and support systems, making it easier for them to reach buyers. Better market access allows farmers to get fair prices for their products, supports sustainable farming practices, and helps grow the agricultural sector in the area.

We also focus on improving local food security and livelihoods by promoting regenerative farming and aquaculture. This approach helps families grow nutritious food for themselves while also earning income through selling their produce. We focus on two categories:

- **Household farming:** Families produce vegetables, livestock, and fish to satisfy their nutritional needs before selling surpluses for income.
- **Enterprises:** We address market demand for profitability while fulfilling family nutritional needs.

Both initiatives provide sustainable income for marginalised households, enhancing the resilience of local food systems.

**INGENUITY
VS.
WASTE**



INGENUITY vs. WASTE

Urban slums are growing, and the poorest communities often lack proper waste management and clean water, putting lives at risk. We are committed to making cities in developing countries cleaner, healthier, and fairer. This includes ensuring access to clean drinking water and improving sewage and waste management. Working with communities, and municipalities we deliver sustainable WASH services and improve hygiene practices, while also protecting the health and dignity of low-paid waste workers.

Bangladesh produces 80,000 tonnes of sewage daily, most of which is released untreated into rivers and canals. The country also generates around 22.4 million tonnes of waste yearly, seriously affecting the environment and people's health. The growing problem of plastic pollution makes these issues even worse. Practical Action works to tackle these challenges through partnerships by promoting financial support for Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), Solid Waste Management (SWM), and Plastic Waste Management.

With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), we started turning sanitation workers into cooperatives, first in Faridpur and then expanding to 11 cities by 2022. Using the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) approach, the goal is to provide proper sanitation for everyone, regardless of income, gender, or ability. We aim to improve the lives of 400,000 sanitation workers in Bangladesh by improving the work environment which would offer them better job opportunities and a more dignified role in city management.



- Installation of a pyrolysis machine and a boom for river plastic collection.
- Establishment of 9 City-Level Ad-hoc Committees (covering 11 cities) and a proposed National Ad-hoc Committee for the Sanitation Workers' Network (30% female representation).

82,128
individuals impacted (51% female) and

33,093
people supported from low-income/slum communities.

We promote financial inclusion and economic empowerment in the FSM sector through the FINISH Mondial (FM) project to address these challenges further. Under the “WASH-SDG” and FINISH Mondial (FM) project we collaborate with governments, entrepreneurs, communities, and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). We have been promoting long-term environmental sustainability and community resilience in Faridpur, Satkhira & Kalaroa Municipality by establishing integrated WASH and waste management services with local interventions.

In partnership with Faridpur Municipality, River Recycle, the Society Development Committee (SDC), and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), we have launched the project “Increasing Employment by Creating Value from Plastic Waste in Bangladesh.” In Faridpur, this initiative promotes a “circular economy” (a system where materials are reused instead of discarded) by transforming plastic waste into valuable products such as pyrolysis oil (similar to diesel) and black carbon.

We are partnering with Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) on a research project focused on producing “sludge to oil” (a high-quality diesel-like fuel) through “Hydrothermal Liquefaction,” a thermochemical process that converts organic materials into liquid biofuels.



Bangladesh produces

80,000

tonnes of sewage daily

Our country generates around

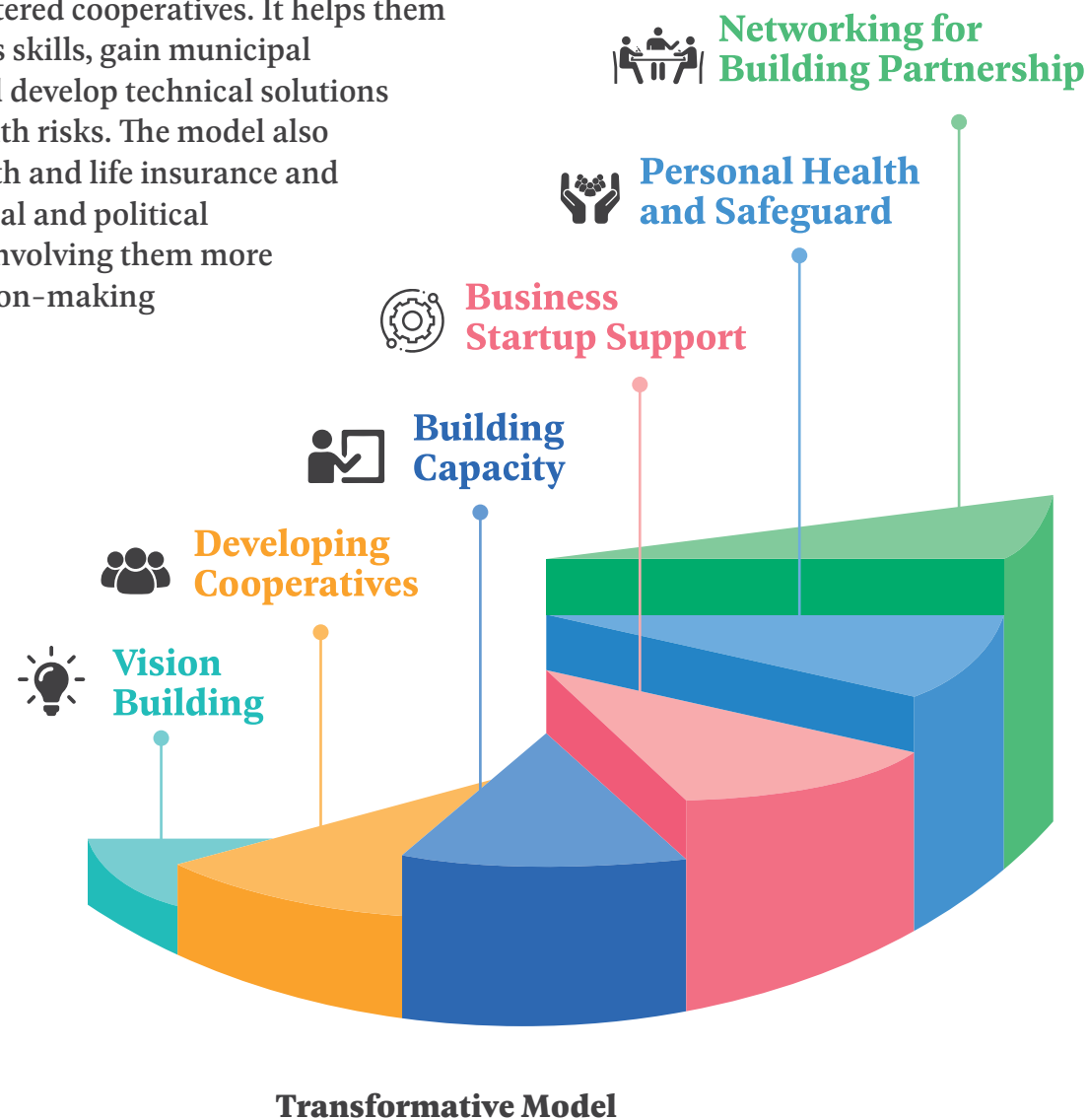
22.4

million tonnes of waste yearly

Empitier to Entrepreneur (E2E), a transformative model for the sanitation sector

This model aims to help informal workers become entrepreneurs. It involves creating groups that identify key challenges and build organisational structures. This cooperative approach is supported by government departments like the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in their investment programmes at the national level.

This model aims to improve the lives of sanitation workers by turning them into entrepreneurs through registered cooperatives. It helps them build business skills, gain municipal contracts, and develop technical solutions to reduce health risks. The model also provides health and life insurance and promotes social and political inclusion by involving them more in local decision-making processes.



Transformative Model

Strengthening Municipal and Local Government Collaboration

We work closely with municipalities to enforce waste policies, ensuring local waste management aligns with public health goals. We also partner with municipalities, waste businesses, and microfinance institutions to offer small loans for sanitation services like building toilets, collecting waste, and composting. Government agencies support these efforts by creating policies that encourage these partnerships.

Our collaborative partners



Our partnership with the municipality ensures efficient project implementation through coordination with committees like the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) and Town Level Coordination Committee (TLCC). We work with government agencies, NGOs, and sanitation workers to make decisions and avoid overlapping efforts.

We also explore funding opportunities with Bangladesh Bank for waste projects and collaborate with the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BPGMEA) to support plastic waste management technologies. Additionally, we work with labour and safety authorities to ensure fair employment, labour rights, and workplace safety for informal sanitation and waste workers.

Key Achievements of Our Policy Influencing

We have been advocating for sanitation workers to gain access to government institutions, including the Department of Cooperatives, Department of Social Services, Technical Training Center, Department of Women Affairs, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation, and the Deputy Commissioner's Office at the district level. Previously, these workers had little awareness of these resources. Our efforts are now beginning to show positive results for sanitation workers.

- To advocate sanitation workers' rights and recognition, a National Working Committee and city-level committees in 11 cities have been formed to strengthen their voices and push for change.
- We have also advocated for the government to recognise sanitation and waste work as hazardous, allowing workers to access more support and services nationwide.

Budget Increases and Municipal Influence

Cooperative members are now influencing municipal decisions and arguing for increased budget allocations for sanitation services; this year, budget increases for sanitation workers include Kalaroa (60%), Satkhira (30%), Magura (36%), Meherpur (66.6%), and Faridpur (15%). We also facilitated the completion and authorisation of the City Sanitation Plans (CSP) of the Faridpur and Satkhira municipalities.

Improving Safety and Dignity

We submitted a draft policy to the Ministry of Labour and Employment to improve wages, working conditions, and social protection for sanitation workers. We are also revising the National WaSH Policy (1998) with UNICEF to address their safety and dignity. In 13 cities, we advocated for increased budgets, gender equality, and better protective equipment for workers.

Practical Action is working with Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) to develop an affordable and accessible insurance scheme for waste and sanitation workers. The scheme offers vital protection at affordable premiums. 1,074 sanitation workers now have social security insurance, which provides financial protection for health and life events.



Capacity Building and Awareness

- Over 70 cooperative members received training to enhance leadership and ownership skills.
- 60 workers received training on income-generating activities (IGA).
- Public campaigns reached 200,000 people with sanitation messages, pamphlets, and community events.

Entrepreneurship of Cooperative Members

We created 321 jobs for waste workers and supported 17 plastic waste entrepreneurs, most of whom were women. Workers' incomes increased by 1,000 BDT per month. We also established a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) in Kalaroa, which generates 100,000 BDT from waste services.

Creating an Enabling Environment for Access to Sustainable Finance

We promote sustainable and bankable business models in waste management through training and matchmaking with financial institutions, supporting entrepreneurs in cities like Faridpur and Satkhira.

Building Resilient Infrastructure

- We built flood-resistant toilets in flood-prone areas.
- Improved waste services for 200,000 residents by upgrading facilities in Faridpur.
- Launched door-to-door waste collection services with cooperatives in Satkhira and Kalaroa.

Door to door Waste Collection Initiatives

We have successfully launched door-to-door waste collection services through agreements with local cooperatives in Satkhira and Kalaroa. In Satkhira, a women-led cooperative partnered with the municipality to provide waste collection services to 300 households. Similarly, in Kalaroa, two agreements were signed between the municipality and the local cooperative, offering waste collection and Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) services for another 300 households.

Advancing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Our initiative uses the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach to ensure the most vulnerable people benefit from essential services. Within cooperatives, gender equality has improved, with women holding 40% of leadership roles and actively participating in community events. We also trained 36 women in Satkhira and Kalaroa to produce compost using vermicomposting technology, supporting sustainable waste management and organic fertiliser production. Through our Income Generating Activity (IGA) training, 20 people received around BDT 150,000 in financial support, helping them earn a living and become financially independent.



Sustainable Sanitation for Economic and Environmental Benefits

We are focused on reducing plastic pollution and carbon emissions through our project. Our goal is to cut down approximately 1,072.5 tonnes of CO₂ each year. By promoting a circular economy where materials are recycled and reused, we aim to reduce waste and conserve resources.

We have improved sanitation systems and Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) by combining financial support, sanitation, and waste management at the local level. This approach has boosted public health, improved sanitation, and supported the local economy.



Creating Value from Plastic Waste

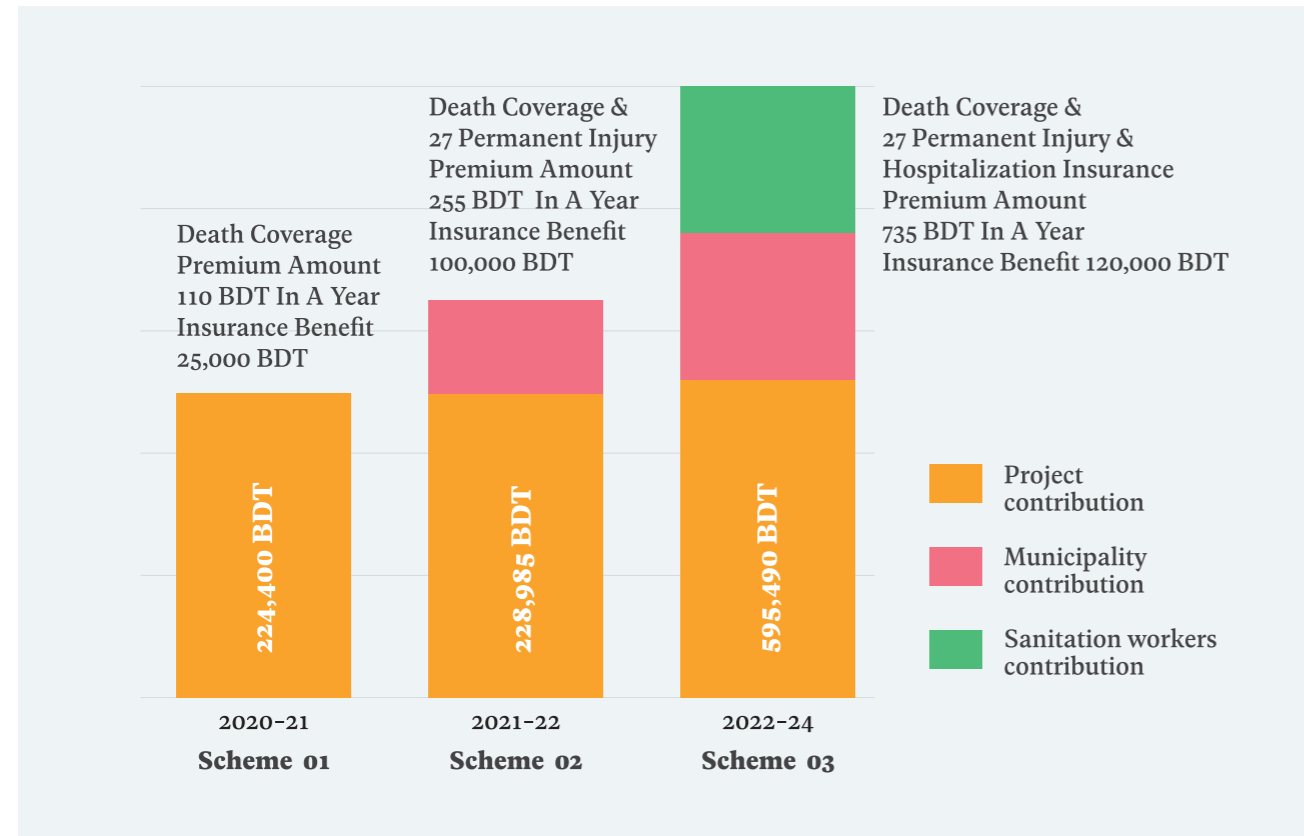
In partnership with River Recycle, we use advanced technology to stop plastic from entering rivers and convert single-use plastics into pyrolysis oil. Practical Action has installed cutting edge pyrolysis machine, first time in Bangladesh, at Faridpur Municipality, which processes up to 362 kg of plastic daily and cuts carbon emissions by 20 kg daily. This recycling method not only reduces waste and greenhouse gases but also provides income for waste and sanitation workers by allowing them to supply plastic waste as raw materials for the process.

Joint Research Project on Sustainable Fuel Solution

We are working with Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET) on a research project to create sludge oil using hydrothermal liquefaction. This oil can be used as a high-quality diesel substitute. The Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (BEPRC) funds the project to expand and improve sludge oil production. The oil has already been tested successfully at KUET, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), and Eastern Refinery Limited, marking an important step towards turning sewage waste into a valuable energy resource.

Social Security for Sanitation Workers

Practical Action has launched a Social Security Scheme (SSS) to support waste and sanitation workers in times of crisis. Partnering with Delta Life Insurance Company, the initiative offers life, disability, and hospitalization insurance for workers and their families. It ensures reduced medical costs, coverage for hospital care, and benefits in cases of permanent disability or loss of life. This scheme significantly reduces the financial burden on workers and their families during challenging times of illness and injury.



Shariful's Journey as a Sanitation Entrepreneur

Md. Shariful Islam, a 35-year-old sanitation entrepreneur from Munsif Bazar Kheya Ghat in Faridpur Municipality, has transformed his business with the support of Practical Action.

Reflecting on his experience, Shariful shared,

“ I received various trainings like business development, customer behaviour, documentation, and training on Construction of Climate Resilient Toilet (Flood Resilient Toilet) from Practical Action. From the training, I gained crucial knowledge such as how to maintain documentation, how to maintain logbooks, how to handle customers, and how to make sanitation products.



FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE

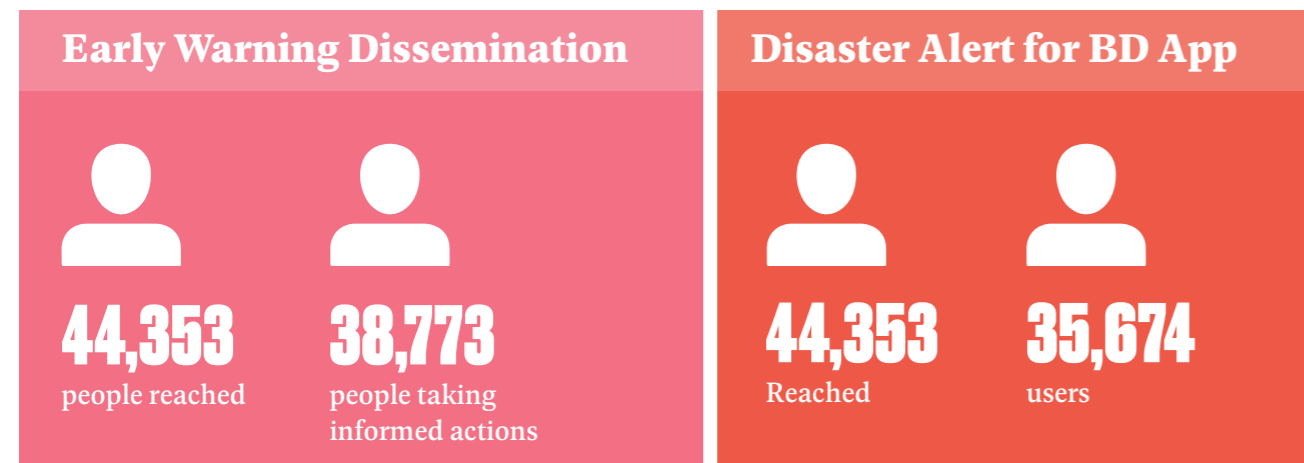


FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE

Climate change leads to more severe natural hazards, with vulnerable communities being the most affected. We incorporate climate adaptation across all sectors – energy, agriculture, climate resilience, and urban management. By promoting Early Warning System (EWS), we help communities mitigate the potential risks posed by an impending hazard. We also advocate for low-carbon, resilient development using eco-friendly technologies. Our aim is to empower communities to anticipate, prepare for, and recover from the impacts of natural threats, minimising disaster risks and protecting their livelihoods.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change; delaying adaptation will only worsen the situation and increase expenses. In this country, we emphasise local empowerment and active involvement of stakeholders and communities to enhance governance and support development strategies.

Practical Action, a founding member of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (ZFRA), has been working with the most vulnerable communities in Bangladesh to build flood resilience through the Zurich Flood Resilience Programme (ZFRP). We use the Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) framework to measure the resilience of local communities. Since 2013, the program has helped 250,000 people in Bangladesh become better prepared for flood disasters. The ZFRP has already completed its two phases: Phase I (2013–2018) and Phase II (2018–2024). The Disaster Alert for BD app is one of the key innovations from this Zurich-funded programme.



Additionally, we are engaged in a research project funded by the CITI Foundation titled “Early Warning Early Actions for Cascading Risks to Food Security”. This research examines the challenges and potential benefits of incorporating food system vulnerabilities into early warning systems to assess their impacts on communities and alert response.

As part of the World Bank-funded Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia Project, we have received the iCARE Innovation Grant from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) to implement the project “Digital Innovation in Early Warning Systems: Building Climate Resilience in Bangladesh”. We are upgrading and scaling up our Disaster Alert for Bangladesh app to enhance community preparedness and potentially could reach about 184,670 people.



Zurich Flood Resilience Programme

The Zurich Flood Resilience Programme (ZFRP), phase II (2018–2023), focused on the following:

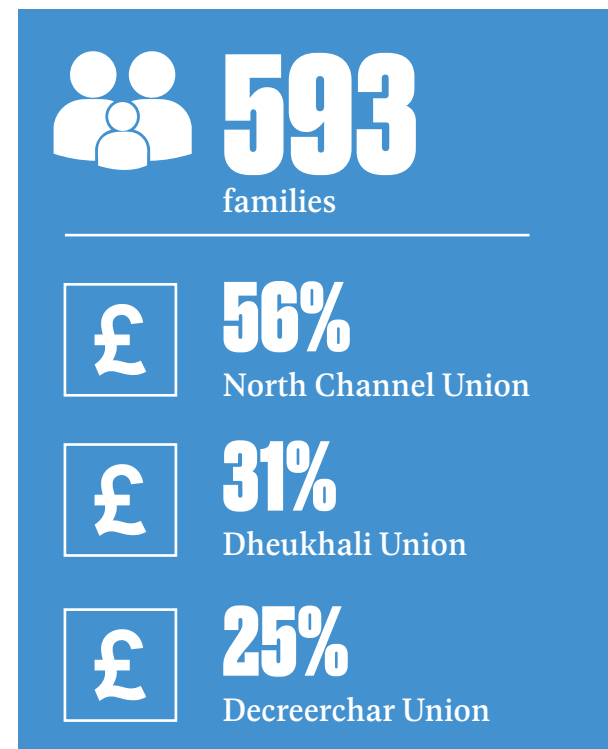
- Increasing investment in flood resilience.
- Improving policies at national and local levels.
- Enhancing flood resilience practices.
- Raising awareness and building institutional capacity.
- Strengthening the Early warning system (EWS).

With support from the local implementing partner, Village Education Resource Center (VERC), the project worked with eight communities across four unions: Decreerchar, North Channel, Char Nasirpur, and Dheukhali, under the Faridpur district. Practical Action uses the FRMC tool to evaluate the flood resilience of vulnerable communities, helping enhance their capacity to deal with recurrent flooding.

Advances in Flood Resilience and Local Resource Allocation

A total of 593 families received co-financed support for flood resilience practices. Based on the FRMC conducted in 2023, the overall resilience score has increased from 15 in 2019 to 44. Additionally, allocations for flood resilience have increased by 56 percent of the yearly budget in North Channel Union, 31 percent in Dheukhali Union, and 25 percent in Decreeerchar Union.

Increase in flood resilience allocation at local government budgeting



Key Flood Resilience Interventions

To demonstrate flood resilience practices, we have supported the communities with:

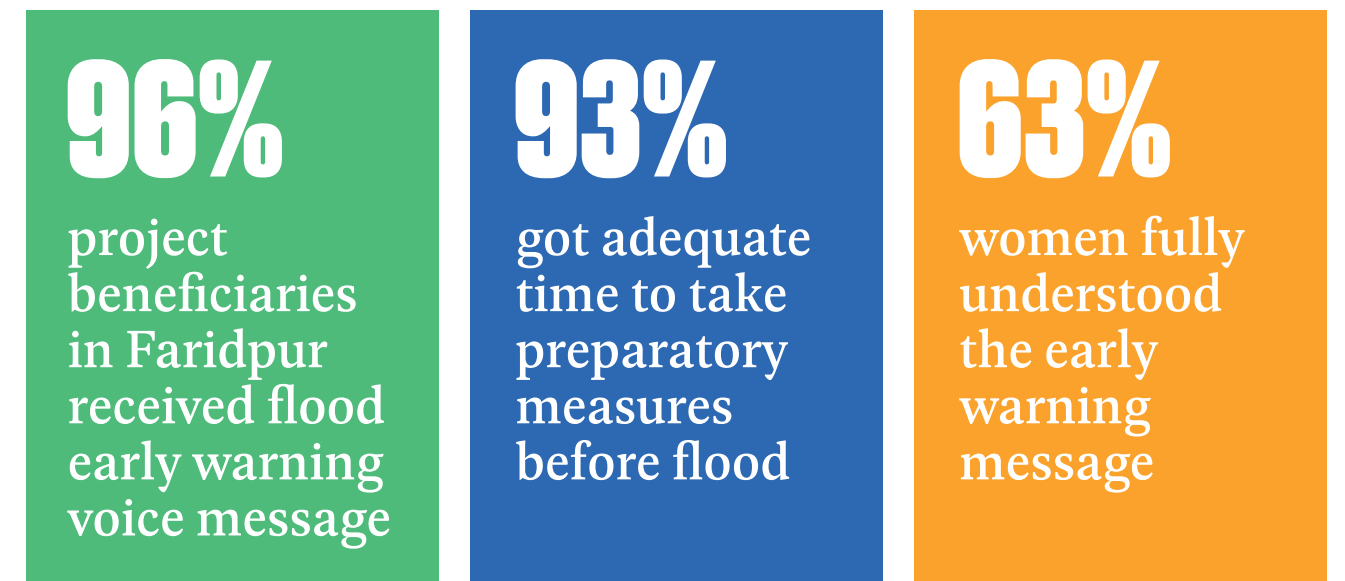
- 203 raised earthen mounds for homesteads.
- 74 flood-resilient goat and poultry sheds.
- 116 boats for flood emergencies and livelihoods.
- 32 elevated platforms for tube wells for safe drinking water.
- 68 flood-resilient toilets.
- Trained up 30 people as local Resilience Agents (First Aid, Search & rescue).
- Enhanced early warning dissemination to vulnerable communities.



Improving Localised EWS

Since then, we reach people through voice messages sent via mobile phone. So, you can merge these two paras- improving localised EWS and voice messages. A 2022 survey found that 96% of mobile users received these warnings, 93% had time to prepare, and 63% of women understood them.

Survey insights (2022)



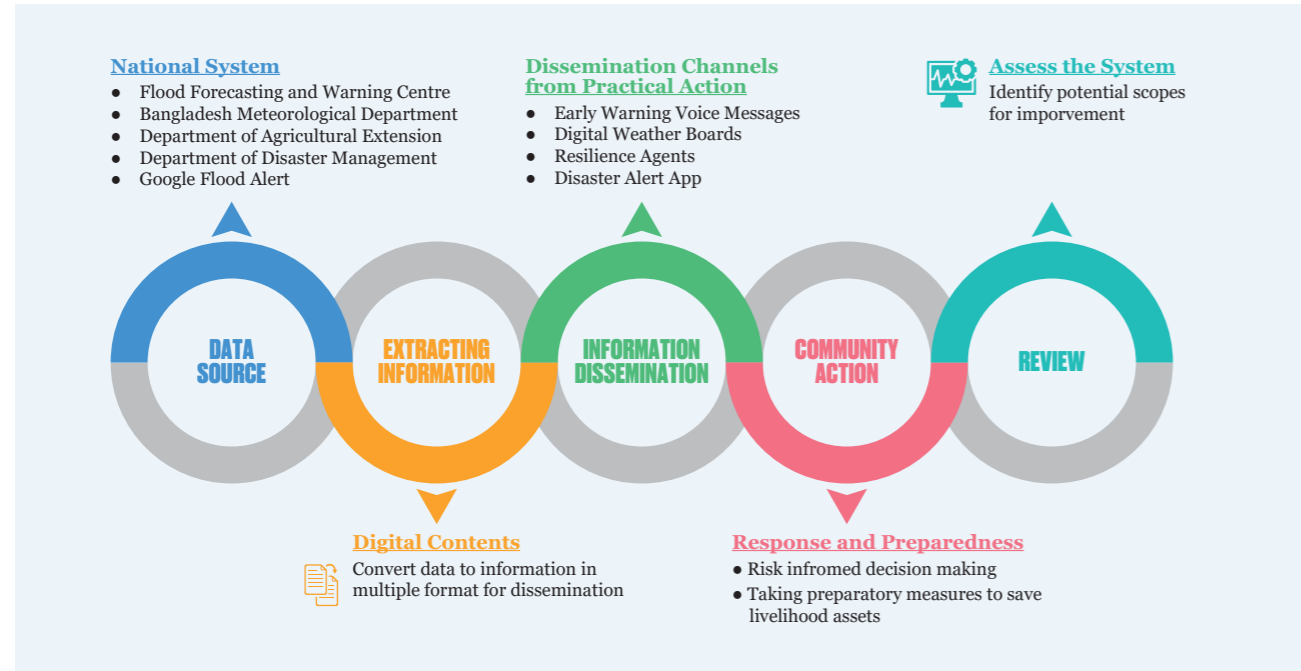
Voice Messages

During an impending disaster, we obtain information from the Bangladesh Meteorological Departments (BMD), Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) and the field implementing area and prepare comprehensible, contextualised voice messages.

Impact of voice messaging system



Early Warning dissemination pathways



Disaster Alert for BD App

The Disaster Alert for BD app links 38,341 registered national volunteers with government response teams to improve disaster management. Local resilience agents and UDMC members are encouraged to use it for rescue and response. It is a bilingual app, having enabled push notification system.



Role of Digital Weather Boards in Disaster Preparedness

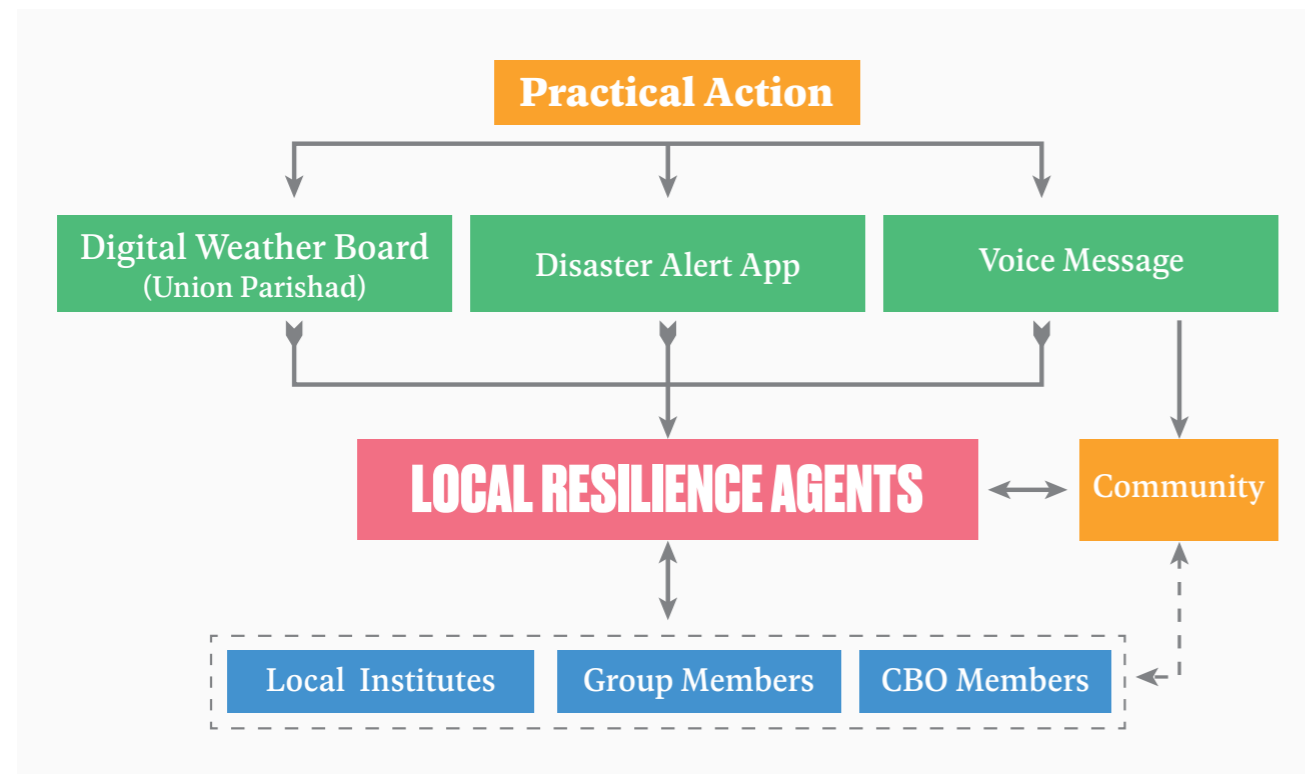
Digital weather boards (DWB) have been set up in unions' Digital Centres (UDCs) with the help of local government to share daily and weekly weather forecasts, local and national agricultural market prices, advisory services, and guidance for handling floods and other disasters. They reduce agricultural production risks with video demonstrations and tailored advice utilising online technology to collect data from BMD, Google, BAMIS portal, and FFWC.

বাজার দর	আলু	টমেটো	কাঁচা মরিচ	রসুন	পটল	মিষ্টি কুমড়া
কাওরান বাজার	৪০	১৪০	২০০	৭০	৮০	৪০
নর্থ চ্যানেল, ফরিদপুর	৩০	১২০	১৬০	০	০	৩০

Building Capacity for Effective Disaster Management

The project supported four Union Parishads (UPs) to formation of Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs), including 25 stakeholders, as specified in the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019. It provided capacity-building training to UDMC members with district and Upazila officials, advocated for increased disaster management funding, and encouraged community risk assessments to construct long-term disaster risk reduction programmes. To strengthen communities, the ZFRP appointed 30 Local Resilience Agents (LRAs) who transmit early flood warnings from the Disaster Alert for BD app and digital weather boards to communities.

How local resilience agents are helping disseminate localised flood warnings



Rabeya Begum, a resident of Dheukhali Union, has seen big changes in how her community gets ready for disasters. In the past, they struggled to prepare for floods because they rarely received early warnings.

“ Earlier, our preparation for floods was limited because early flood warnings were seldom received in the Chars. Now, with the early warnings we get from various channels, every family member is alerted during events like pandemics or floods, which greatly aid our safety and preparedness.

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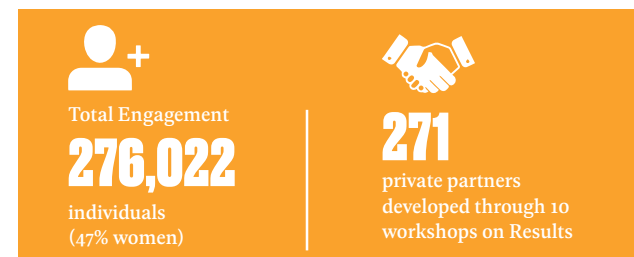
**ENERGY THAT
TRANSFORMS**



ENERGY THAT TRANSFORMS

Nearly three billion people lack safe cooking options, and almost a billion live without electricity. We work globally to develop clean cooking and renewable energy solutions to combat poverty. By collaborating with rural communities, displaced individuals, energy providers, and policymakers, we aim to enhance access to affordable energy in remote areas. Supporting off-grid energy markets and partnering with businesses and communities, especially women entrepreneurs, is central to our mission. We strive to reduce indoor smoke-related deaths and promote the transformative benefits of clean energy for health, education, and livelihoods.

Although energy can potentially change lives, many in Bangladesh, especially women and children, struggle significantly due to the limited access to clean cooking solutions. With almost 70% of homes depending on biomass fuels like wood and agricultural waste, traditional cooking methods sometimes cause indoor air pollution. These practices endanger health seriously while damaging the surroundings as well.



It is estimated that in 2019, PM2.5 household air pollution from the use of solid fuels for cooking caused 69,000 deaths. Solid fuels for cooking were also responsible for 15 percent of ambient PM2.5 and thus causing 13,500 (or nearly 15 percent) of the premature deaths from ambient PM2.5¹.

Practical Action offers affordable and accessible clean cooking solutions to tackle this problem in rural and urban populations. We have collaborated with the Household Energy Platform to create a comprehensive strategy for addressing the country's energy needs by distributing clean cookstoves to the most vulnerable. By 2025, we aim to distribute 35,000 higher tier clean cooking appliances across 12 sub-districts in Bangladesh.

Overall, Practical Action is working in the clean cooking sector by:

- Creating awareness and hence demand for clean cooking technologies among households.
- Enhancing the supply-side actors of the market system.
- Supporting the Government of Bangladesh with the update and finalisation of a National Action Plan for Clean Cooking. This initiative is supported by Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) as well as SEE-Clean Cooking.

Promoting Clean Cooking Systems for Households

Practical Action has actively promoted clean cooking systems for households, focusing on e-cooking appliances. Through strategic partnerships and targeted Behavior Change Campaigns (BCC), We have engaged communities in project areas such as Khulna, Satkhira, and Bagerhat. The campaign has raised awareness among 276,022 people, with a special focus on women, who comprise 47% of the participants.

Key strategies included:

- Distributing various BCC materials.
- Providing communication briefs to stakeholders.
- Organising knowledge exchange visits with relevant organisations, like the GIZ EnDev Ethiopia team.



Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Clean Cooking

Practical Action, in collaboration with SNV, is working towards establishing a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem for clean cooking in Bangladesh. Funded by The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), this project works on:

- Pipeline Development
- Access to Finance, through Innovation Grant Funds (IGF) and Results-based Financing (RBF)
- Strengthening an active and ambitious Enabling Environment

¹ World Bank 2023. Building Back a Greener Bangladesh: Country Environmental Analysis. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099032624044525190/pdf/P1759081e3a5d909a18d3f17f5402e40eba.pdf>



The Power of Clean Cooking for a Healthy Home

Clean cooking systems offer a range of benefits, including improved health, environmental protection, and climate change mitigation. By switching from traditional cooking methods to e-cooking appliances, households can significantly improve indoor air quality, reducing respiratory illnesses and other health risks. Additionally, adopting clean cooking technologies helps fight climate change by lowering greenhouse gas emissions from traditional fuel use. Environmentally, it reduces the need for biomass fuels like wood and charcoal, which helps conserve forests and prevent deforestation, thereby protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. Moreover, e-cooking appliances use energy more efficiently, reducing overall energy consumption, environmental pollution, and resource depletion.

People Started Feeling the Benefits

We have reached many households in our working areas, including 276,002 individuals. These families are now experiencing the positive impacts of using clean cooking devices. Dependence on traditional cooking fuels such as wood or biomass has decreased, and pollution in the kitchen and household has also been reduced. Resma, one of our Satkhira project stakeholders' stories, has highlighted these benefits.



E-cooking Resulting in Cost Savings

Resma, from Satkhira, used to rely solely on gas stoves, spending around 2,300 BDTs each month on 18.75 kg of LPG for her family of seven. When she learned about e-cooking through the BCC Campaign by the EnDev program by GIZ, she decided to try a rice cooker from Walton Plaza.

This change lowered her monthly cooking costs to about 1,800 BDT, with LPG use dropping to 12.5 kg. Beyond saving money, Resma gained more free time, which she used to start an online business, boosting her family's income.

Her story shows how e-cooking can reduce expenses, ease financial burdens, and create opportunities for economic growth and a better quality of life, demonstrating the positive impact of the BCC Campaign on empowering communities.

PRACTICAL ACTION CONSULTING BANGLADESH LIMITED

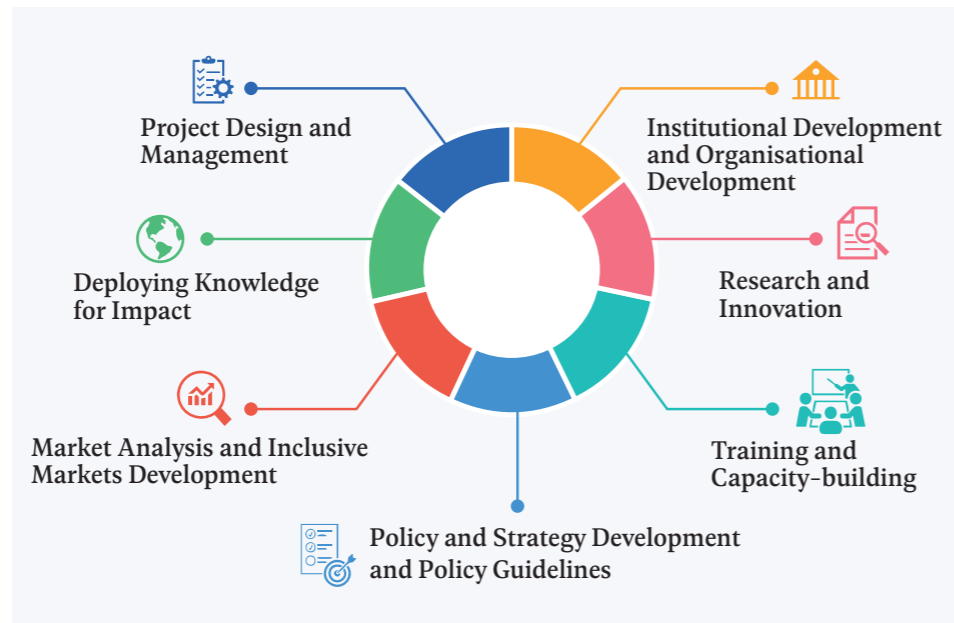
Practical Action Consulting Bangladesh Limited (PAC) is the technical and advisory branch of Practical Action, an international development organisation with a vision of providing practical solutions to meet people's needs and enable them to reach their potential. PAC offers high quality, independent advice to governments, NGOs, aid agencies, and the private sector. Operating through regional offices in West Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the UK, PAC combines international experts with local specialists, drawing on a network of over 550 regional staff and 2000+ experts.

In Bangladesh, Practical Action has had a strong presence for over 25 years, engaging in non-traditional sectors like urban sanitation, solid waste management, social housing, energy access, climate information services, conservation management, and disaster risk reduction. Since 2009, our organisation has successfully implemented 30 projects in Bangladesh. Practical Action has accumulated valuable experience by working alongside more than 120 NGOs in the past five years in Bangladesh, resulting in an annual turnover of 4.1 million GBP.

OUR EXPERTISE

We provide thought leadership and innovation to four of our focal areas. Our consultants work across and within the thematic areas, providing a range of services to our clients, including:

- Monitoring Evaluation & Learning
- Impact assessment & quality assurance



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

RUPSHA Project:

Completed a project titled ‘Supporting Socially Inclusive Development for Better Livelihood through Rupsha Power Plant’ in June 2023, financed by ADB.

The objectives of this project were to:

- 2. Introduce innovative practices to deliver socially inclusive and gender-sensitive benefits to the communities in the project area.
- 2. Focus on vulnerable households and women to improve living standards and the community’s quality of life.
- 3. Strengthen the project’s socioeconomic effectiveness and build stakeholders’ capacities.
- 4. Make an exemplary model that can be replicated in other NWPGL projects.

PAC Board Meeting:

The PAC Board Meeting was successfully held on 28th February 2024.

RJSCF Approval:

PAC got permission from The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies And Firms (RJSCF).

JOURNEY OF CHANGE AT A GLANCE

- 20+ Projects Implemented since 2016
- 120+ NGOs Partnered over the last five years
- £ 52888.9 GBP Annual turnover for FY 2022-2023

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI) & OUR APPROACH

We believe that addressing gender inequality and social exclusion is crucial to eradicating poverty and creating a better world for everyone. We are dedicated to embedding GESI (Gender Inequality and Social Exclusion) principles in all our work and programme to foster meaningful, inclusive change.

To achieve this, we integrate gender and inclusion at every stage of our programme cycle—from planning and design to implementation and evaluation. Our goal is not only to achieve gender-sensitive outcomes but also to promote gender-transformative results, which means actively enhancing gender equity and nurturing an inclusive culture in our projects and organisation.



Through these three levels, our efforts result in sustainable and inclusive impacts. We monitor and highlight the outcomes of our work with a model that captures gender results across various projects.

Our ultimate aim is to make gender and inclusion central to everything we do, ensuring both direct and indirect benefits for our communities. This approach strengthens our small starts to bring big changes towards gender equality.

LEARNING AND EVALUATION FOR IMPROVED IMPACT



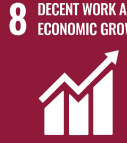



We are committed to upholding the highest standards in project implementation through an integrated system led by our Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Research (MEL&R) unit. This unit combines rigorous research with robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning practices to drive evidence-based decision-making and foster continuous improvement.

The MEL&R unit uses digital tools such as Kobo and MIS for efficient data collection and advanced research analysis, ensuring realtime monitoring and clear objectives. Emphasis is placed on stakeholder feedback, data quality checks, and adaptive management to align with both ethical guidelines and donor requirements. Process and results-based monitoring ensure the quality and impact of our interventions, supporting informed decision-making at every stage. Integrated research provides critical insights into the effectiveness of projects, enhancing overall outcomes. In addition, capacity building is a priority, with training offered to program state to improve data collection and program quality. We also strictly adhere to global data protection standards, prioritising ethical considerations and safeguarding all data. Lessons learned, and outcome harvesting are systematically gathered to refine strategies and enhance future interventions. Through this comprehensive approach, the MEL&R unit is crucial in enhancing project impact, ensuring accountability, and promoting sustainable development.

Driving Success Through MEL&R

- Commitment to High Standards and Quality
- Leveraging Digital Tools for Efficient and Real-Time Data Collection
- Ensuring Impact and Quality through Comprehensive MEL&R System
- Strengthening Capacity to Enhance Programme Effectiveness
- Adhering to Global Data Protection Standards
- Capturing Insights through Lessons Learning and Outcome Harvesting
- Promoting Sustainable Growth and Development

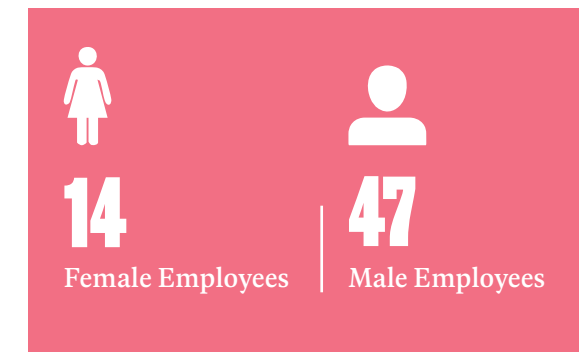
CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN BANGLADESH

 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Gender Equality (SDG 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work closely with women sanitation workers to make their lives and livelihoods dignified. We provide training to disadvantaged women, both in rural and urban areas, to help them prepare for climate risks, generate income, and build solidarity through unity.
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We manage waste (kitchen, faecal, and plastic) to improve access to clean water and sanitation for better public health. We put special emphasis of our waste management activities for poor people living in low-income communities.
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We advocate on behalf of waste and sanitation workers to the government, aiming to create jobs in waste management and provide business opportunities.
 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support rural poor communities in building flood-resistant houses and amenities such as tube wells and cattle shelters.
 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work to make cities clean and livable for everyone by managing waste, including faecal sludge, household waste, and plastic waste.
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Climate Action (SDG 13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work to promote the use of a mobile app called the "Disaster Alert App," which provides early warnings to people at risk from climate hazards, helping them protect their lives and livelihoods before disasters strike.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

RECRUITMENT

By March 2024, we had 61 team members in Bangladesh



EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Programmes Observed

- Women's inspiring women
- Annual Business Plan
- 16 Days of Activism
- Women's Day

EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

Insurance Coverage

Hospitalisation

- Accommodation
- All Other Expense
- Daily Room
- ICU/CCU/NICU
- Maternity Benefit
- Caesarian Delivery
- Normal Delivery
- Legal Abortion/Miscarriage

Outpatient

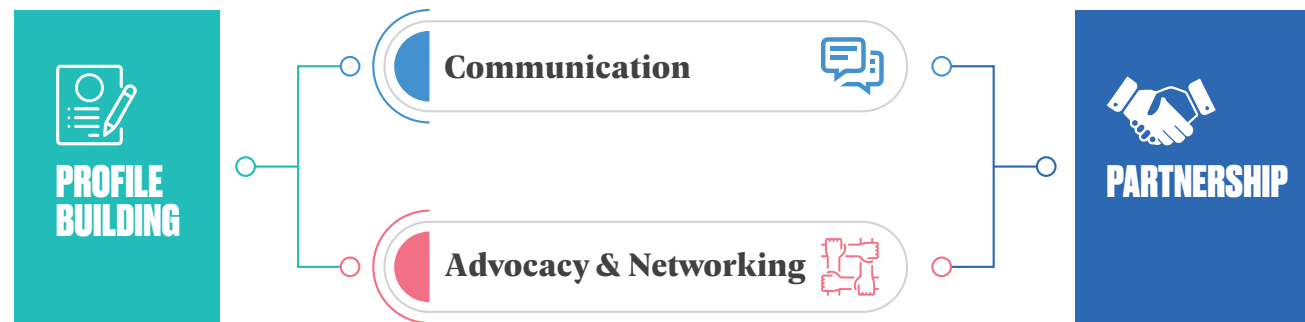
- General
- Dental
- Optical

GLOBAL LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

The Practical Academy website serves as a dynamic learning hub, empowering employees to enhance their skills through a diverse array of courses. There are around 1500+ courses available in that website. Users can easily navigate the courses and track their progress in that website. Also, for some courses they can earn certifications upon completion. With an interactive community forum, employees can exchange insights, collaborate on projects, and foster a culture of continuous learning within the organisation.

PROFILE BUILDING

Our Profile Building team includes Communications, Partnership Management, and Advocacy. With a small, committed group, the team works closely with each program and unit to enhance and build Practical Action's profile. The team produces all IEC and BCC content and videos with high professionalism. Assessing and selecting implementing partners, both NGOs and private sector, is one of the team's important responsibilities. Advocacy and networking with different platforms, government agencies, and donors is another milestone for the Profile Building team. Producing quality knowledge content, policy briefs, reports, case studies, still photos, and videos, arranging national and international events, and working with national and international media are among the team's activities. Here, we are sharing some significant digital content and videos for readers with QR codes. The team also manages the social media handles – LinkedIn and Facebook – and Practical Action's website.



Our Knowledge Contents





































BANGLADESH'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PRACTICAL ACTION Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2023

Particulars	Notes	Amount in BDT	
		30 June 2023	30 June 2022
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	7,490,906	9,934,970
Total non-current assets		7,490,906	9,934,970
Current assets			
Advance, deposits and prepayments	4	8,554,001	11,038,502
Cash and cash equivalents	5	77,291,275	110,474,648
Total current assets		85,845,276	121,513,150
Total assets		93,336,182	131,448,120
Funds and Liabilities			
Funds			
Unutilized donor fund	6	89,259,521	121,364,832
Total funds		89,259,521	121,364,832
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	7	3,534,118	4,660,690
Sundry Payable	8	542,543	2,751,046
Payable to Partner	9	-	2,671,552
Provision for Income Tax	10	6,015	-
Total current liabilities		4,076,661	10,083,288
Total funds and liabilities		93,336,182	131,448,120

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.


Head of Finance and IT



Country Director

As per our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated : Dhaka
30 April 2024

Anil Salam Idris & Co.
Chartered accountants
Firm Reg No. P-50874/2023




Md. Anwar Hossain, FCA
Managing Partner
ICAB Enroll No. 1415
DVC No. : 2404301415AS623182

1

PRACTICAL ACTION Statement of Income & Expenditure For the year ended 30 June 2023

Particulars	Notes	Amount in BDT	
		01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Income			
Grants income		173,323,755	248,695,434
Interest income		21,873	29,522
Total income		173,345,628	248,724,956
Expenditure			
Staff cost		91,854,146	104,631,641
Consultancy fees		2,704,308	2,754,506
Training		1,896,119	11,076,177
Meeting, Seminar, Workshop & Conference		10,187,162	7,882,256
Office rent and rates	12	10,008,843	10,517,998
Program Materials		926,435	968,000
Local travel		9,407,908	8,733,589
Head office expenses		2,656,964	3,411,252
Other materials input (including furniture and fixture)		141,697	-
Depreciation		2,444,064	3,292,421
Project expenses /Others	13	41,096,109	95,427,594
Total expenditure		173,323,755	248,695,434
Surplus of Income over Expenditures before Tax		21,873	29,522
Tax Expense for the Year		6,015	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit) after Tax		15,858	29,522

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.


Head of Finance and IT



Country Director

As per our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated : Dhaka
30 April 2024

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2

PRACTICAL ACTION
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Particulars	Notes	Amount in BDT	
		01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Receipts			
Opening balance			
Cash in hand		86,696	115,883
Cash at bank		110,387,952	144,673,505
Advance to PNGOs/staff		180,753	5,457,548
		110,655,401	150,246,936
Fund & Interest received during the year			
Fund received during the year	11	141,196,571	201,633,438
Bank interest received		21,873	29,522
		141,218,444	201,662,960
Total Receipts		251,873,845	351,909,896
Payments			
Staff cost		91,854,146	104,631,641
Consultancy fees		2,704,308	2,616,257
Training		1,896,119	10,226,889
Meeting, Seminar, Workshop & Conference		10,187,162	8,343,225
Office rent and rates	12	689,181	1,160,841
Program Materials		926,435	968,000
Travel and Conveyance		9,407,908	8,699,725
Head office expenses		2,656,964	3,411,252
Other materials input (including furniture and fixture)		141,697	-
Project expenses /Others	13	39,279,828	90,957,311
Prepayments (Office Rental)		9,319,662	7,304,883
Creditors bills Payment		4,417,005	945,933
Payments for Expenses		173,480,415	239,265,957
Purchase of Property, plant & equipment			
Computer, UPS and PABX		-	1,864,238
Office Equipment		-	124,300
		-	1,988,538
Total Payments for Operations		173,480,415	241,254,495



3

Particulars	Notes	Amount in BDT	
		01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Closing balance			
Cash in hand		50,530	86,696
Cash at bank		77,240,745	110,387,952
Advance to staff		1,102,155	180,753
		78,393,430	110,655,401
Total Payments		251,873,845	351,909,896

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Head of Finance and IT

Country Director

As per our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated : Dhaka
30 April 2024



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ICAB Enroll No. 1415
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4

OUR PARTNERS IN BANGLADESH



This project is funded by the European Union



BIG CHANGE

starts small

Visit us online at to find out more about
our work in Asia, Africa and Latin America:

practicalaction.org

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**Practical
ACTION**