

# Information on Outcomes of Implemented Projects Report

Implement: ARA (Action for Rural Advancement)

Supported: Bangladesh NGO Foundation

Mohadebaug, Circuit House More, Satkhira, Bangladesh



## 01. Introduction:

The south-western coastal region of Bangladesh, particularly Satkhira district, has long been recognized as one of the most vulnerable areas due to the combined impacts of climate change, arsenic contamination, increasing salinity in water, and the lack of adequate sanitation facilities. People in this region are constantly facing acute shortages of safe drinking water, a high prevalence of waterborne diseases, and multiple health risks. Among them, poor and marginalized groups especially women, children, and the elderly long are the most severely affected.

Consumption of arsenic-contaminated water leads to serious -term health complications, including skin diseases and cancer. Similarly, the use of saline water contributes to high blood pressure, kidney-related diseases, and creates particular health risks for women. On the other hand, inadequate sanitation systems accelerate the spread of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, and typhoid. These challenges not only affect public health but also reduce people's productivity, increase healthcare costs, and ultimately worsen the overall economic condition of vulnerable households.

In this context, ARA (Action for Rural Advancement) emerged as an effective and humanitarian initiative in the Satkhira region. With financial support from the Bangladesh NGO Foundation, ARA has been implementing a series of development projects since 2008. The primary goal of these initiatives is to improve the quality of life of local communities by ensuring access to safe drinking water, promoting improved sanitation, and providing humanitarian support to the most vulnerable populations.

The interventions implemented by ARA are mainly concentrated in three key areas: (1) ensuring access to arsenic- and salinity-free safe drinking water, (2) expanding hygienic and improved sanitation systems, and (3) providing safe shelter and care for neglected and vulnerable elderly populations. These projects have not only focused on infrastructure development but have also emphasized community awareness, behavioural change in hygiene practices, and active participation of local communities to ensure sustainability.

Importantly, ARA's initiatives have not been limited to the general population alone. Special attention has been given to marginalized and high-risk groups such as the Munda community, cyclone-affected families, and extremely poor households. Through these targeted interventions, ARA has significantly contributed to promoting social inclusion and ensuring that the benefits of development reach those who are most in need.

At the same time, ARA has set a strong humanitarian example by implementing the “Elderly Care Center (Old Age Home)” project. Through this initiative, vulnerable elderly men and women are provided with safe shelter, regular food, medical care, and psychosocial support, which has played a crucial role in improving their dignity and overall well-being.

This report has been prepared to present the outcomes, impacts, and achievements of the projects implemented by ARA with the support of the Bangladesh NGO Foundation. It highlights the positive changes brought into the lives of beneficiaries, including improvements in their health, economic conditions, and social well-being. Furthermore, the report demonstrates how these interventions have contributed to building a foundation for sustainable development in the coastal region.

Overall, these initiatives clearly demonstrate that with proper planning, effective implementation, and strong community participation, it is possible to achieve sustainable development even in highly vulnerable coastal areas. ARA’s continuous efforts serve as a strong foundation for scaling up future development interventions and creating long-term positive change in the lives of disadvantaged communities.

## **02. Objectives:**

The key objectives of these projects are:

- To ensure access to safe drinking water free from arsenic and salinity
- To expand the use of improved and hygienic sanitation facilities
- To prevent waterborne diseases and improve overall public health
- To protect the health and well-being of women, children, and marginalized communities
- To provide safe shelter and care for vulnerable and neglected elderly people
- To raise health and hygiene awareness at the community level
- To enhance the productivity and income-generating capacity of beneficiaries
- To build local capacity for ensuring long-term sustainable development

## **03. Activities Implemented:**

Over the years, Action for Rural Advancement (ARA) has implemented a range of interventions, including:

- Installation of arsenic- and salinity-free safe water sources
- Establishment of deep tube wells and community-based water supply systems
- Construction and distribution of hygienic latrines
- Organization of health and hygiene awareness campaigns
- Formation of community-based water management committees
- Provision of shelter, food, medical care, and support services for the elderly
- Emergency sanitation support for disaster-affected families

These activities were designed not only to provide physical infrastructure but also to promote behavioural change and community ownership.



## **04. Key Achievements:**

### **4.1 Safe Water and Sanitation**

- Hundreds of families have gained access to safe drinking water
- Significant reduction in risks related to arsenic and salinity contamination
- Increased adoption of hygienic sanitation practices

### **4.2 Health Improvement**

- Reduction in waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea and dysentery
- Improved health conditions for women and children
- Increased awareness of hygiene and sanitation practices

### **4.3 Elderly Welfare**

- Safe and secure housing ensured for vulnerable elderly individuals
- Regular provision of food, medical care, and essential services
- Improved psychological and social well-being of elderly residents

## **05. Impact on Beneficiaries**

Through these projects, a total of **5,508 beneficiaries** have directly benefited.

### **Key impacts include:**

- Most families now enjoy healthier lives due to access to safe drinking water
- Improved sanitation practices have significantly reduced health risks
- Decreased medical expenses for households
- Increased productivity and working capacity
- Improved school attendance among children



## **06. Special Interventions**

ARA has undertaken targeted initiatives for marginalized and high-risk groups:

- Provision of safe water and sanitation facilities for the Munda community
- Distribution of hygienic latrines to families affected by Cyclone Amphan
- Free sanitation support for extremely poor households

These interventions have played a vital role in promoting social inclusion, equity, and access to basic services for all.

## **07. Economic Impact Analysis**

The projects have contributed significantly to improving the economic condition of beneficiaries:

- Reduced healthcare expenses have increased household savings
- Fewer lost workdays due to illness
- Increased income opportunities and productivity
- Many families have become more self-reliant
- A significant number of households have moved out of poverty

## **08. Sustainability:**

To ensure long-term sustainability, ARA has taken the following measures:

- Formation of community management committees
- Establishment of local maintenance systems
- Training provided to users for proper use and upkeep

- Continuous awareness-building to promote long-term behavioral change

## **09. Challenges & Lessons Learned**

### **Challenges:**

- Ongoing impacts of salinity and climate change
- Limited financial capacity of poor communities
- Lack of awareness in some areas
- Infrastructure damage due to natural disasters

### **Lessons Learned:**

- Community participation is essential for sustainability
- Awareness and education are key to long-term success
- Strengthening local leadership enhances project effectiveness



Bangladesh Coastal water Tragedy

## 10. Project Information Table:

Grant Phase	Project Name	Allocated Amount & Date Received	Number of Beneficiaries	Summary of Benefits	Current Economic Status	Remarks
1st	Arsenic Mitigation & Sanitation Project	BDT 450,000 27/03/2008	80 families 400 persons	Reduced disease through safe water & sanitation	80 families improved economically	-
2nd	Arsenic Mitigation & Sanitation Project	BDT 450,000 17/09/2008	100 families 420 persons	Reduction in diseases	100 families improved	-
3rd	Arsenic Mitigation & Sanitation Project	BDT 450,000 07/12/2009	110 families 420 persons	Improved health conditions	110 families improved	-
4th	Arsenic Mitigation & Sanitation Project	BDT 450,000 22/12/2010	100 families 530 persons	Reduced disease prevalence	100 families improved	-
5th	Arsenic & Salinity Reduction Project	BDT 400,000 30/04/2012	70 families 350 persons	Reduced disease through safe water use	70 families improved	-
6th	Arsenic & Salinity Reduction Project	BDT 400,000 08/04/2013	70 families 365 persons	Disease reduction achieved	70 families improved	-
7th	Safe Drinking Water Project	BDT 450,000 30/04/2014	90 families 470 persons	Improved health through safe water	90 families improved	-
8th	Elderly Care Center Project	BDT 475,000 25/06/2015	10 persons	Food, clothing, medical care provided	10 beneficiaries supported	-
9th	Elderly Care Center Project	BDT 475,000 31/07/2016	10 persons	Same services provided	10 beneficiaries supported	-
10th	Elderly Care Center Project	BDT 450,000 02/10/2017	10 persons	Same services provided	10 beneficiaries supported	-
11th	Elderly Care Center Project	BDT 475,000 30/01/2019	10 persons	Same services provided	10 beneficiaries supported	-
12th	Elderly Care Center Project	BDT 400,000 26/08/2020	12 persons	Same services provided	12 beneficiaries supported	-

13th	Elderly Care Center Project	BDT 400,000 31/05/2022	12 persons	Same services provided	12 beneficiaries supported	-
14th	Elderly Care Center Project	BDT 400,000 31/01/2024	12 persons	Same services provided	12 beneficiaries supported	-
15th	Community-Based Safe Water Project	BDT 500,000 30/04/2025	1,550 persons	Reduced disease through safe water use	380 families improved	-

### **Special Grants:**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Allocation &amp; Date</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Economic Status</b>
Latrine & Tube-well Support for Munda Community	BDT 400,000 & 300,000 23/03/2020, 14/06/2020	27 families (200 persons)	Safe water & sanitation access	27 families improved
Latrine Distribution for Cyclone Amphan Affected Families	BDT 400,000 & 300,000 28/01/2021, 07/06/2021	23 families (365 persons)	Improved sanitation & health	23 families improved
General Latrine Distribution	BDT 400,000 & 200,000 23/06/2022, 28/08/2022	17 families (350 persons)	Access to sanitation facilities	17 families improved

### **Total Number of Beneficiaries: 5,508 persons**

The projects implemented by ARA (Action for Rural Advancement) have played a significant role in improving the quality of life of people in the coastal region. By ensuring access to safe water, improved sanitation, and elderly care services, these initiatives have contributed to better health, social well-being, and economic stability.

These successful interventions have created a strong foundation for scaling up sustainable development initiatives in the future.

#### **ARA (Action for Rural Advancement)**

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