

# BUILDING RESILIENT SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CLIMATE-AFFECTED MIGRATED SLUM COMMUNITIES IN SATKHIRA, BANGLADESH

A Sustainable Future for Climate-Affected Lives



The project "Building Resilient Services and Infrastructure for Climate-Affected Migrated Slum Communities in Satkhira" was launched in May 2023 to enhance the resilience and livelihoods of slum dwellers. The initiative focuses on skill development, community empowerment, and infrastructure improvement for climate-affected individuals, emphasizing women’s leadership and climate-smart solutions.

In its first year, significant progress was made, including forming women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs), conducting leadership training, and providing skill development for income generation. Infrastructure upgrades such as deep tube wells and technical support for vegetable gardening contributed to improving the community’s living conditions.

## FACT & FIGURE

Sl.	Fact	Figure
1	Name of the program	Building resilient services and infrastructure for climate affected migrated slum communities in Satkhira Bangladesh
2	Duration	May 2023 to April 2026
3	Supported By	Habitat for Humanity International Bangladesh, Climate Bridge Fund (CBF)
4	No. of project participants	137 Microfinance Program’s Beneficiary
5	No. of staff	09
6	Working Location	Satkhira Municipality, Satkhira.

## KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

### 1. Enhance Climate Resilience and Infrastructure Development:

Build resilient infrastructure, including drainage, communal toilets, and deep tube wells with bathhouses, to mitigate the impact of climate change and improve the living conditions of slum communities in Satkhira.

### 2. Empower Women and Promote Self-Reliance:

Establish women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and provide leadership, advocacy, and skill development training to promote women's leadership, self-reliance, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

### 3. Improve Livelihoods and Awareness:

Offer skill development, technical support, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) training to enhance family incomes, ensure health safety, and increase awareness of climate risks and adaptive strategies among slum dwellers.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (2023-24)

### Community Empowerment and Leadership Development:

- **Formation of Women-Led SHGs:** Established 4 SHGs with 80% women participation, fostering collective decision-making and leadership among slum residents.
- **Leadership and Advocacy Training:** Conducted 4 training sessions for SHG leaders, equipping them with skills to manage groups and advocate for community needs.
- **Risk Reduction and Slum Assessment:** Developed Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAP) and conducted Slum Risk Assessments (SRA) in four slums to identify vulnerabilities and solutions.



### Skill Development and Entrepreneurship:

- Provided skill development training to 25 climate-affected youth and unskilled laborers in trades such as tailoring, embroidery, masonry, electric wiring, and carpentry.
- Distributed equipment and cash grants to 25 trained individuals to support climate-adaptive businesses and self-employment opportunities.
- Facilitated one meeting with MSMEs to explore job placement for trained slum dwellers.



### Climate-Smart Agriculture and Gardening:

- Supported 25 slum women with orientation, seeds, and tools for homestead and rooftop vegetable gardening, promoting food security and income generation.

### Infrastructure Development:

- Constructed 1 community deep tube well with a bathhouse, ensuring access to safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation.

### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):

- Delivered WASH training to 50 climate-affected individuals, raising awareness about water safety and hygiene practices.

## IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

The project has significantly empowered slum communities in Satkhira by fostering women-led organizations, enhancing leadership and advocacy skills, and promoting climate-adaptive practices. Beneficiaries have increased income through skill development, become self-reliant with homestead gardening, and improved their access to safe water and hygiene facilities. The initiatives have elevated women's leadership roles, heightened community awareness of risk reduction, and enhanced overall health and resilience to climate challenges.

## KEY CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT

- **Socio-Cultural Barriers:** Resistance from some community members, particularly men, towards women-led initiatives and leadership roles in SHGs/CBOs.
- **Limited Awareness and Engagement:** Initial hesitation and low participation of slum dwellers in capacity-building activities such as training and meetings.
- **Economic Constraints:** The financial instability of beneficiaries makes it difficult for them to sustain climate-adaptive businesses without continued external support.
- **Environmental Challenges:** Frequent climate-related events like floods and cyclones disrupt project activities, particularly infrastructure development.
- **Technical Limitations:** Lack of prior technical knowledge among beneficiaries poses challenges in adopting and maintaining climate-adaptive technologies.
- **Logistical Issues:** Difficulty in sourcing quality materials and skilled trainers for housing solutions, drainage systems, and WASH infrastructure.

## PARTICIPANT REFLECTION

"My life has transformed since joining this project. The tailoring training and sewing machine I received have not only enabled me to contribute to my family's income but also brought stability to our livelihood. Now, I can support my husband and meet the needs of my family through my earnings. I aspire to help others like me—housewives and unemployed youth—by providing them with training and creating new opportunities for them. This project has significantly impacted our community by empowering many individuals through skill development, paving the way for self-reliance and better livelihoods. I am grateful to be a part of this initiative and hope to continue contributing to its vision."

Name: Madhuri Dey  
Husband: Arun Dey  
Age: 39  
Itagacha Purbopara Wapda Colony,  
Ward No. 7 of Satkhira Municipality,  
Satkhira

