



HEIFER[®]
INTERNATIONAL
BANGLADESH

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023

Message From The Country Director

Dear Colleagues and dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to publish the annual report of Heifer International Bangladesh for the financial year 2023. Over the last eleven years in Bangladesh, we are implementing our development interventions to end poverty and hunger while caring for the earth, and till date we have eventually become a part of 42,108 smallholder farming families in north, south and central part of Bangladesh to reinforce their efforts to secure sustainable living income and pursue self-reliance and resilience.

Our development interventions promote beef, goat, vegetable and flower as primary value chains along with dairy, poultry and high value fruits as secondary value chains to achieve living income benchmark of smallholder farmers and lead their dignified lives. We follow the Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) approach with integration of Market Systems Development (MSD), farmers are building stronger farmer producer organizations (FPOs) with active participation of women and making long-term systemic changes in their communities to achieve results in increased family income, food security and nutrition, women's empowerment, environmental conservation and strengthened value chains of various agriculture commodities.

Our signature program already formed 47 farmer producer organizations with average solely 900 women farmers and



these institutions are now growing into sustainable business 'Hubs' providing inputs, training, finance, marketing, transportation and business development services to members.

Heifer International Bangladesh has already set a strategic vision, bringing 400,000 families out of poverty, vulnerability and make them resilience through securing sustainable living income by 2030. In the coming year, Heifer International Bangladesh is planning to expand programs into new areas while continuing to explore, build and strengthen relationships with development organizations and networks, bilateral and multilateral organizations, private sectors, Bank and financial institutions, civil society organizations, research institutions, and the Government of Bangladesh to scale up and increase impact of our development programs.

Thus, I express my sincere gratitude to our project partners, donors, the Government of Bangladesh, knowledge partners, and Heifer International for their continuous support.

Nurun Nahar
Country Director



Financial Year 2023 Overview

Farmers' Income Improvement

42,108

farming families have improved their income and livelihoods.

Women-Led Farmer Producer Organizations

47 women-led farmer producer organizations established.

Market Sales

33,686

families sell their products at the markets.

87.4%

Women Empowerment

36,802 women empowered with a voice in household and community decision making
87.4%

41%

Sustainable Living Income

17,264 families achieved a sustainable living income 41%

91.32%

Climate-Smart Agriculture

38,453 families apply climate-smart agriculture techniques 91.32%

80%

Food Provision

33,864 families have adequate food provision round the year 80%



Total Revenue

USD

1,695,438



Total Expenditure

USD

1,669,994

ACHIEVING UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Heifer International Bangladesh's (HIB) signature programs are designed to ensure public and private sector commitments and investments for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through applying Heifer's Public-Private-Producer-Partnership (4P) model, we have contributed to bringing substantial improvements in the quality of life for **42,108** rural farming families in a sustainable manner.

1 NO
POVERTY



17,264 smallholder farmers have increased their incomes

2 ZERO
HUNGER



169,274 rural people have improved food security through improved production practices and access to markets

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



33,686 women farmers of 47 farmer owned agri-business with equitable access to markets, finance, and services

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



Heifer's bio-gas provides more affordable access to clean energy solutions

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



472 women-led MSMEs have grown their agri-businesses through inclusive finance and market practices

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



41% women smallholder farmer's have achieved a sustainable living income through heifer's integrated VBHCD and MSD approaches

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



Climate-smart Agriculture (CSA) practices have benefited **91.32%** of the most vulnerable people

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Public, private, and participants partnership (4Ps) have resulted in over **18,181 USD** in co-investments benefiting the rural poor

ABOUT --- HEIFER INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH

Heifer International started working in Bangladesh in 2006 under the guidance of Heifer International Nepal and gradually set up its Bangladesh country office in 2012 after being registered by the Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau. Heifer International Bangladesh (HIB) is implementing programs in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), local NGO partners, private sector, Bank and civil society organizations (CSO). To date, HIB has supported **42,108** smallholder farming families in Rajshahi, Natore, Sirajganj, Tangail, Kishoreganj, and Jashore districts of Bangladesh. HIB focuses on beef, goat, vegetable, and flowers as primary value chains and dairy, poultry, and high-value fruits as secondary value chains to support women smallholder farmers to achieve sustainable living incomes and lead dignified, self-reliant lives. Our projects strengthen local communities and ecosystems in the short, medium, and long term, to enable farmers to build income-generating food and farming businesses, while protecting and restoring the environment, ensuring long-term agricultural productivity. Our current programs also focus on improving food and nutrition security through agriculture innovation and inclusive markets.



Our Mission

Ending hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth



Our Goal

Provide support to smallholder farmers to reach sustainable living incomes.



Our Values

12

A set of

core values

known as the Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development form the foundation of our work. Cornerstones stimulate group wisdom and personal insights. All project participants take part in training around the Cornerstones, establishing a set of common values between them at the beginning of the partnership. Using the cornerstone as a framework, project participants develop the attitudes, behaviors and skill necessary to improve their own lives and gradually transform to their communities.

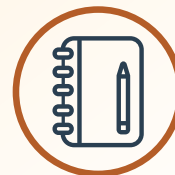
Our Approach

Our signature programs are designed and implemented through Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) with the integration of a Market System Development (MSD) approach, linking producers to consumers through value chain process in order to build sustainable food and farming businesses that strengthen rural economies, a pathway to Sustainable Living Income.

HEIFER'S 12 CORNERSTONES



Passing on the Gift



Accountability



Sharing and Caring



Sustainability
and Self-reliance



Improved Animal &
Resource Management



Nutrition
and Income



Gender and
Family Focus



Genuine Need
and Justice



Improving the
Environment



Full Participation



Training, Education
& Communication



Spirituality



Our Aspiration 2030 →



We set our aspiration to bringing **400,000 families** out of poverty, vulnerability and make them resilience through securing a living income of **US\$ 5,338** for each family by 2030. We will achieve our aspiration through implementing signature program, focused on scale, permanent impact and partnerships. We will promote rural prosperity by generating inclusive and resilient livelihood opportunities for women smallholder farmers and microentrepreneurs.



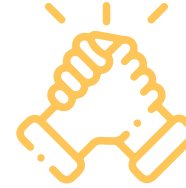
SCALE

Number of people reached and systems changed to enable long lasting pro-poor wealth generation and living income for small-scale farmers.



PERMANENCE OF IMPACT

Wealth generation, living income and resilience by establishing and supporting farmer-focused infrastructure and institution of rural economies.

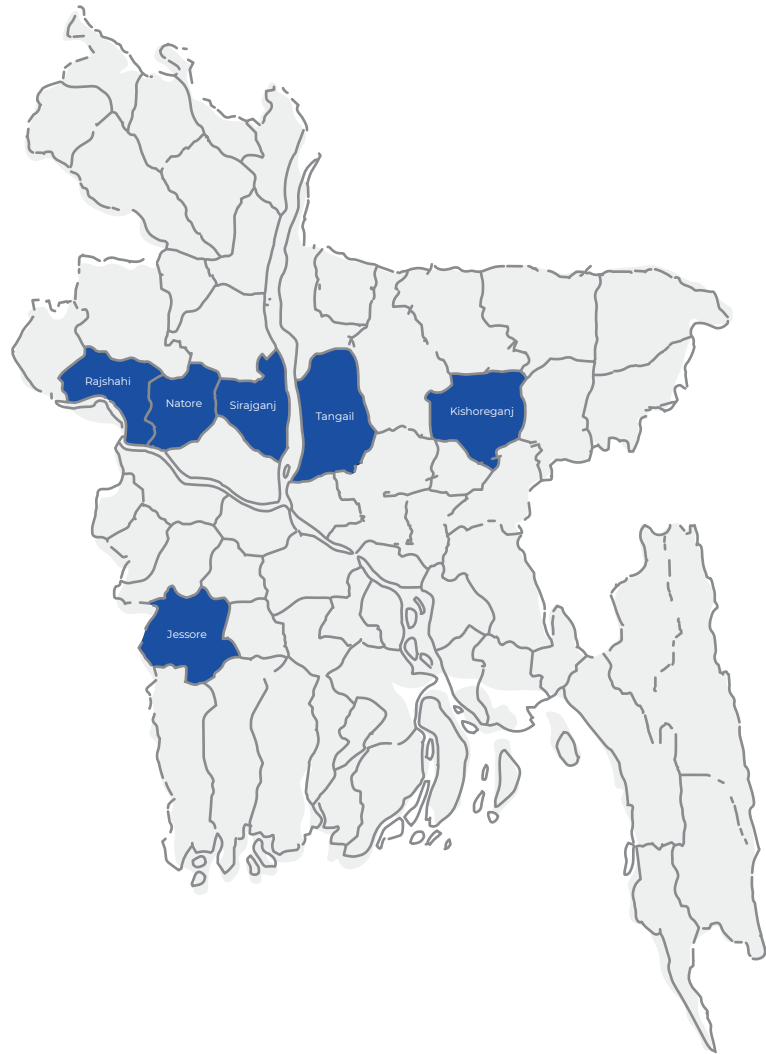


PARTNERSHIP

With national and local governments, financial service providers, technical service providers, private sectors, research institutions and partners in philanthropy.

Our Project Area

Till FY 2023, we have been a part of **42,108** smallholder farming families in 6 districts to help them to secure sustainable living income and pursue self-reliance and resilience.



OUR ACTIVE PROJECTS

Project title

Economic Enhancement through Strengthening Beef and Goat Market System (EES)

Project Summary

Economic Enhancement through Strengthening Beef and Goat Market System (EES) project has been supporting 34,500 smallholder farming families to achieve sustainable living income through strengthening the beef and goat value chains.

The project aims to increase incomes and improve food and nutrition security through systemic changes and social capital development by integration of VBHCD and MSD approach. The project reaches its goal through facilitative interventions that create scalable and sustainable market system impacts, benefiting rural households with the added value of expanding opportunities, especially for rural women in project areas.

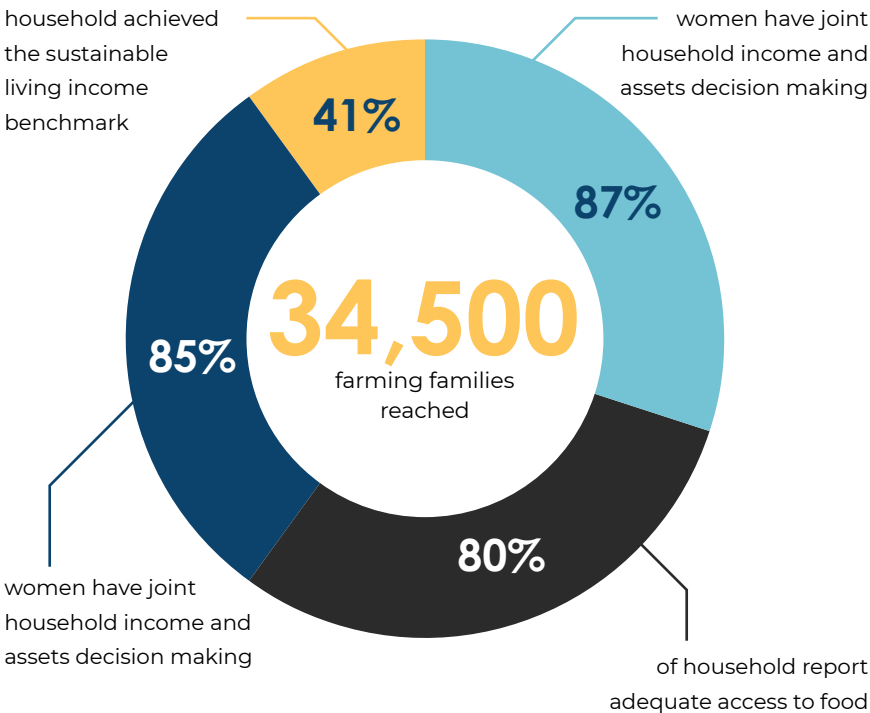
Location

Rajshahi, Sirajgonj, Natore, Tangail, and Kishorgonj

Project Period

FY2018 to FY2024

Key Achievements



OUR ACTIVE PROJECTS

Project title

Promoting Safe Beef and Goat Meat Brand in Bangladesh

Location

Rajshahi, Sirajgonj, Natore, Tangail, and Kishorgonj

Project Period

FY2023 to FY2026

Implementing Organization

WAVE Foundation, National Development Programme (NDP), Bangladesh Association for Social Advancement (BASA), Jagoroni Chakra Foundation (JCF), and Ashrai.

Project Summary

The project aims to promote safe and hygienic beef and goat meat brand in Bangladesh and close the living income gap of 52,800 smallholder farmers by FY 2026. The project focuses on product branding, public awareness, marketing of safe beef and goat meat, establishment of integrated meat processing plants and warehouses, and transportation support for live cattle. Through partnerships with MFIs and banks, the project will facilitate blended value chain finance for smallholder farmers to grow the livestock sector in Bangladesh.

Outcome



Established safe and hygienic beef and goat meat



Established integrated meat processing plant and live cattle markets



Promote marketing of safe beef and goat meat



Established warehouse and strengthen cooperatives as a sustainable institution



Increased access quality inputs and services



Increased healthy livestock production and productivity and reduced risks of zoonotic disease

OUR ACTIVE PROJECTS

Project title

Strengthening Climate-smart Vegetable and Flower Value Chain in Bangladesh (C4VFVC)

Implementing Organization

Jagoroni Chakra Foundation (JCF), and Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF)

Project Summary

The C4VFVC project aims to support a total of 12,000 women farmers through increasing social capital, institution development, adopting climate-smart vegetable and flower farming, ecosystem-based adaptations, post-harvest technology, and facilitating access to quality equitable markets, affordable finance and add-on services. The project will promote renewable energy solutions through installation of solar irrigation pumps in project areas, aiming to reduce production costs and increase access to renewable energy and sustainable use of water for cultivating vegetables, flowers, and irrigation. The project will also promote climate stress (drought, salinity, and heavy rainfall) tolerant vegetable variety, apply the appropriate technology (tissue-culture lab), use more organic fertilizer, soil testing facilities to improve soil healthy. Nature-based adaption measures (i.e., IPM, ICM, vermicompost, etc.) will also be promoted for reducing the carbon emissions as well as the cost of production.

Location

Jashore

Project Period

FY2023 to FY2027



Goal

Achieve sustainable living Income of farmers through strengthening climate-smart vegetable and flower value chain

Outcome

01

Strengthened rural communities and institutions to enable sustainable development through building social capital and community platforms

02

Increased safe vegetables and flowers production and productivity

03

Farmer adopted renewable energy solutions in vegetables and flowers farming

04

Strengthening agribusiness and inclusive market systems vegetables and flowers

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS IN FY 2023



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



During FY 2023, Heifer International Bangladesh provided

Heifer's 12 Cornerstones training to

8,700

participants

Climate smart animal management training to

5,694

participants

Crop management training to

1,000

participants

Enterprise development training to

550

participants

Leadership training to

262

participants

to enhance social capital and their sustainable livelihoods.





BEEF ENTERPRISE

During FY 2023, Heifer International Bangladesh supported **24,665 farmers** in beef fattening through promoting four months rearing cycle. The beef entrepreneurs have been earning significant income to achieve their sustainable living income benchmark.

GOAT ENTERPRISE

During FY 2023, Heifer International Bangladesh supported **10,277 farmers** in goat rearing through promoting elevated goat shed which is essential to save goat from diseases and increasing the production.





DAIRY ENTERPRISE

During FY 2023, Heifer International
Bangladesh supported **4,111**
farmers in dairy rearing
through improved animal
management practices.



VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

During FY 2023, Heifer International Bangladesh supported **1,000 families** to cultivate kitchen gardening and vegetable production. It contributes to increase income and meet nutritional demand of the families.

BACKYARD POULTRY PRODUCTION

During FY 2023, Heifer International Bangladesh supported **2,055 families** in backyard poultry production through promoting model poultry house.



ENTERPRISE AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS (FPOS)

Heifer International Bangladesh has been supporting **47 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** till FY 2023. Heifer Bangladesh already planned to shape all 47 FPOs in a strong institutional platform through integration of Values Based Holistic Community Development Approach and Market System Development Approach. All these 47 FPOs are led and governed by women.

The FPOs are promoting enterprises at households' level and they have created connection with private sector for creating access to inputs and other technical services for the livestock producers. Besides, The FPOs are investing a large volume of their income for members' capacity development, awareness creation, business development, and reduce environmental degradation. To ensure accountability and smooth financial management operations, Coop360 software was operated by 27 FPOs in FY 2023. Heifer Bangladesh plans to install Coop 360



PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

One of the key program priorities is to establish partnership with different private companies so that Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can run a wide range of businesses to meet farmers demand. In FY23, 40 FPOs established partnership with 14 private companies including Renata Ltd, ACI Agrovat Ltd, Square Agro Vet Ltd, Lal Teer Seeds Ltd, AR Malik Seeds Ltd, Ispahani Ltd, Russel IMP Ltd, ACI-Godrej Ltd, Aftab Feed Ltd, Nourish Ltd for accessing quality inputs and services.

BUSINESS PORTFOLIO OF THE FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS

In FY23, 14 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) started new business particularly feed, vaccination, vet medicine, vegetable seed, corn silage, vermin compost, moringa leaves processing, tricho compost etcetera. 02 FPOs scaled up their existing business particularly date jaggery sales from 0.5 MT to 4 MT and mango sales from 5 MT to 6.5 MT through utilizing Facebook based online platform – Samabaya Uddog. 31 FPOs earned USD 39,015 net income from different businesses in FY 2023 which is around 30% of their total net income.

LEVERAGED RESOURCES LOCALLY

Heifer Bangladesh leveraged

USD 4,877,903

locally in FY 23 from four bucket such as POG, local development, community fund and formal finance.

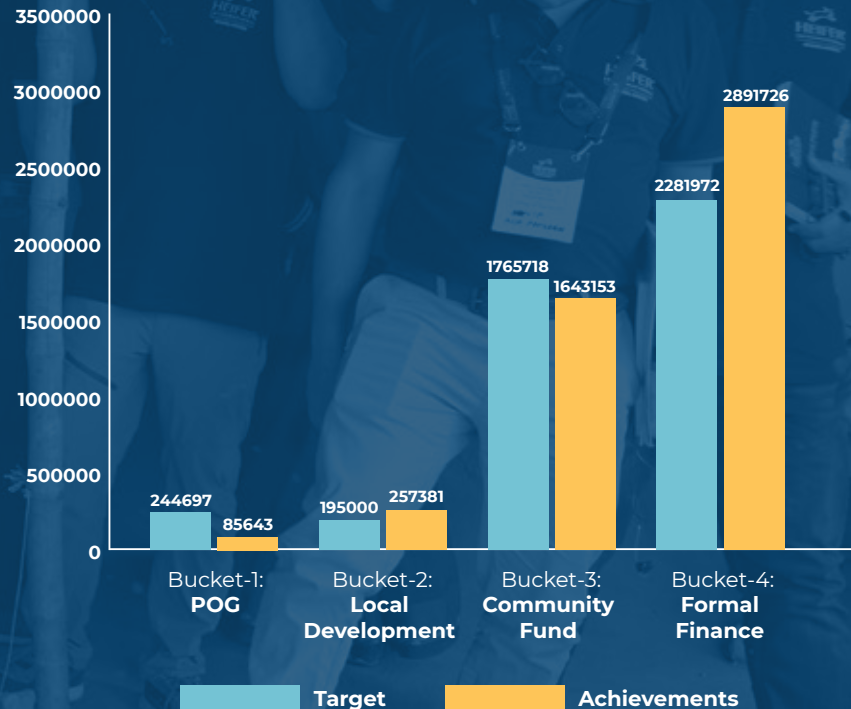


Figure: CaLF or Leveraged Resources Achievements in FY23



ACCESS TO FINANCE

Access to finance for rural women farmers is one of the significant interventions of Heifer Bangladesh which directly increase their living income. Agriculture finance is one of the most priority for the commercial banks which they hardly achieve by financing directly the farmers.

Heifer Bangladesh started partnership with commercial banks since September 2021. Till November 2023 it facilitated finance to 839 female farmers from commercial banks. These finances are done from the partnership with Bank Asia and BRAC Bank. These farmers have received total **USD 765,160** at only **4% annual interest rate** for augmenting their cattle farm and transform as enterprise.

Beyond these direct financing, City Bank – City Alo has also provided training on financial inclusion, access to banking services and kitchen gardening to the women farmer members of the cooperatives of Heifer International Bangladesh. Out of the training, the nonbanking women became aware on having banking services including the savings and loan products of the bank and way of accessing different

Workshop on 'ASIA STRATEGY ON LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT & CARING FOR THE EARTH'

On the first day, the workshop was inaugurated through opening remarks from Board Chair, CEO and SVP of Heifer Asia. Later, overview of Bangladesh signature programs, achievements, plans were presented to the participants.

On the second day (05 March 2023), started with a genesis of locally led development (LLD) in Heifer. Further on, each country programs shared their existing LLD practices in projects and Signature Programs.

The third day (06 March 2023), started through discussing 'Push and Pull Factors' of the LLD in the context of Heifer.

On the fourth day (07 March 2023) the workshop participants met with Heifer-supported women farmers and farmer-producer organizations, who are working to bolster food security and transform the region's agricultural sector, in rural Rajshahi and Natore.

The fifth day (08 March 2023) begun with an in-depth reflection by all the participants on the field visit. Later the day continued with in-comprehensive sessions and discussions about Heifer's Caring for the Earth Mission and Implementation.

The sixth day (09 March 2023) Asia countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, and Nepal) shared their current Caring for the Earth (C4E) practices.



Heifer International Bangladesh organized a workshop titled 'Asia Strategy on Locally Led Development and Caring for the Earth' from 04-10 March 2023 at Rajshahi, Bangladesh.





On the final day (10 March 2023) the participants developed and reported country specific strategies, initial development of action/work plan with approximate budget.

At the end of the workshop, Heifer International President, and CEO Surita Sandosham reaffirmed Heifer International's commitment to improving smallholder women farmers' production, household decision-making power and achieving their sustainable living income.





UNION AND UPAZILA LEVEL PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

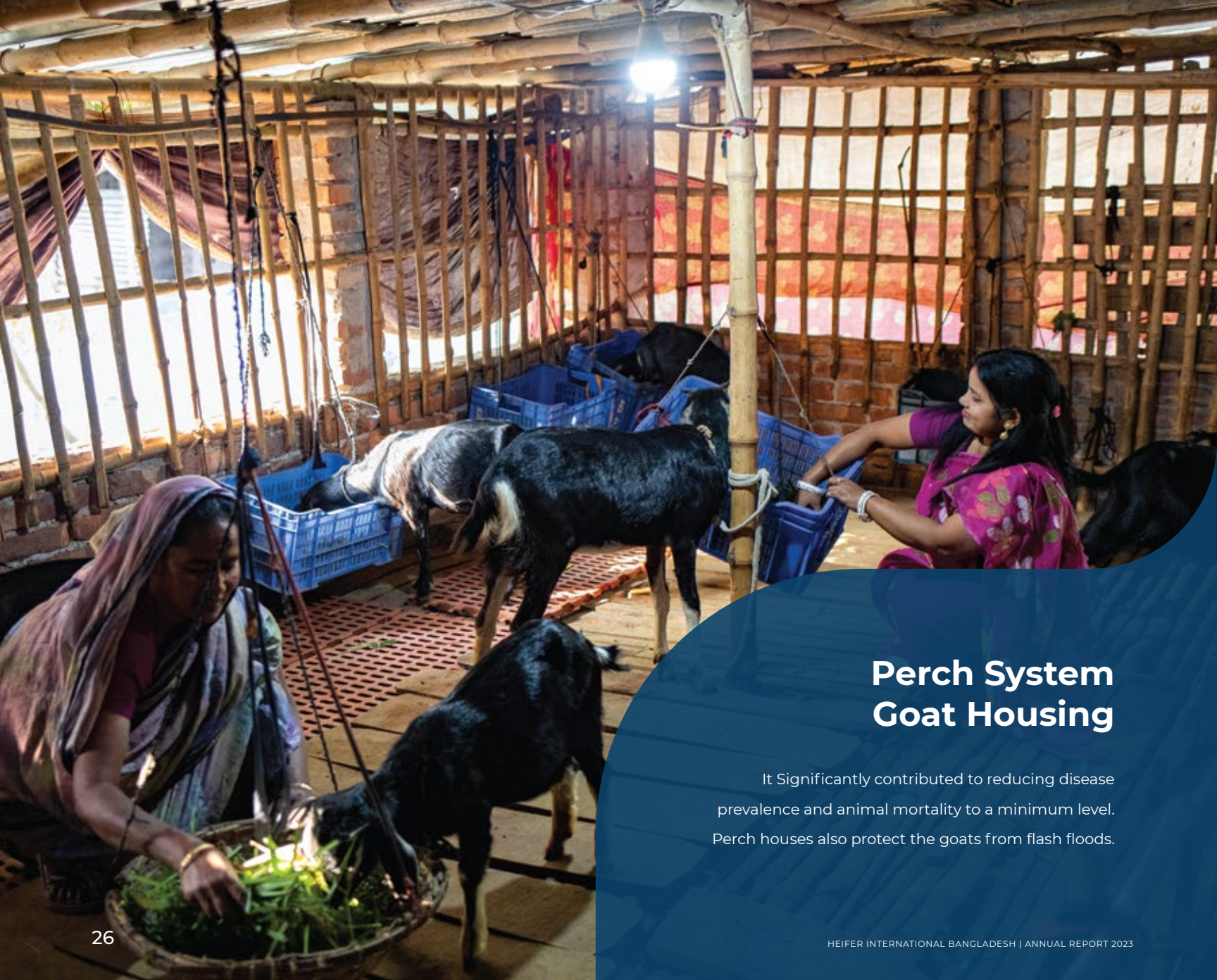
We have formed union and upazila level project advisory committee with the representatives of local government, government officials and local leaders to leverage local resources and bring their support to our project implementation. A total of 35 Union level project advisory committee and 04 Upazila level project advisory committee have already been formed.

OUR BEST PRACTICES



Climate Smart Livestock Farming (CSLF)

We promote improved animal breeding (artificial insemination for cow and buck service centers for goats), improved feeding practices (i.e., locally available crop residues and supplementation of diets with better quality green fodder), animal management practices which improve meat and milk production without increasing the number of animals and contributing to reduced GHG emissions.



Perch System Goat Housing

It significantly contributed to reducing disease prevalence and animal mortality to a minimum level. Perch houses also protect the goats from flash floods.

Green Fodder

It provides nutrition to the animals and reducing GHG emissions from livestock and increasing animal productivity.





Climate Smart Vegetable Production

We Promote climate stress (drought, salinity, and heavy rainfall) tolerant varieties, using more organic fertilizer to keep the soil moisture content, and applying nature-based adaption measures (i.e., mulching, soil testing) for reducing GHG emissions as well as building farmers' resilience to climate change.

Promoting Environmentally Friendly Fertilizers

i.e., vermicompost using cow dung, pit compost from kitchen waste, and discouraging the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers.





Introduce Digital Animal Weighing Scale for Cattle and Goat Sale

Heifer Bangladesh introduced digital animal weighing scale at the local animal markets for ensuring fair price to sell cattle and goat. For the first time, the digital animal weighing scale has been introduced in the 03 large cattle markets in Rajshahi, Sirajgonj and Tangail districts and **5,750 farmers** utilized it for selling their cattle based on live weight.

Hatching Pots

farmers are using locally made hatching pots for poultry egg hatching, where eggs are hatched without using fuel and without producing greenhouse gases in the environment.





Biogas **Generating Energy** **From Animal Waste**

We promote biodigester technology as a renewable energy solution for smallholder farmers using manure resulting in cooking gas and organic fertilizer and reduction of GHG emission from cow dung. We have already established 81 Biogas in our project location.

Collection Centre

We have provided support to FPOs to establish collection centre for aggregating their agri-products and sell in the market at fair price. A total of eight collection centres have already been established.





Personal Transformation, Strengthening Social Capital And Empowering Women

Our intervention support to personal transformation, strengthening social capital and empowering women in the project location through Heifer' 12 Cornerstones training, participatory self-review and planning and Gender training.

We strive to develop strong unity and trustworthy relationship among SHG and FPO members and ensure that women gain decision-making power where it is absent and that they develop skills to take on leadership roles at households, groups, and community levels.





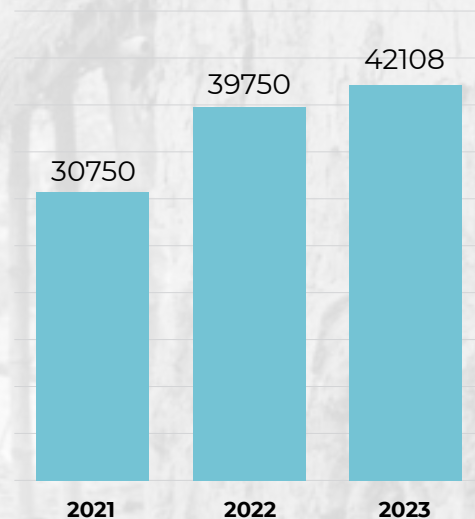
Agricultural Mechanization

Agricultural mechanization contributes a significant role in the successful transition from traditional agriculture to commercial modern agriculture with increasing production and productivity. increases efficiency and productivity. We supported different agricultural machineries (i.e., 20 power-tiller, 14 tractors, 20 power tiller, 06 thresher machine, 06 mustard oil machine, 07 forage and fodder cutter, 12 mini-trucks, etc.) to facilitate efficient, profitable and commercial agriculture.

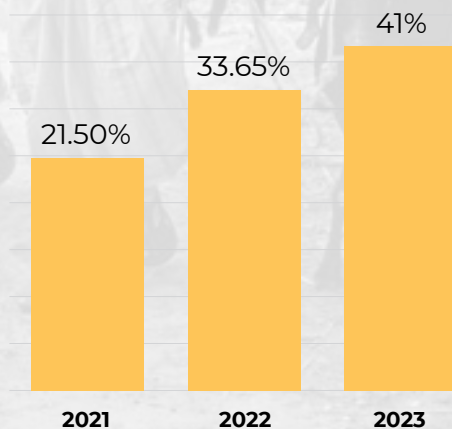


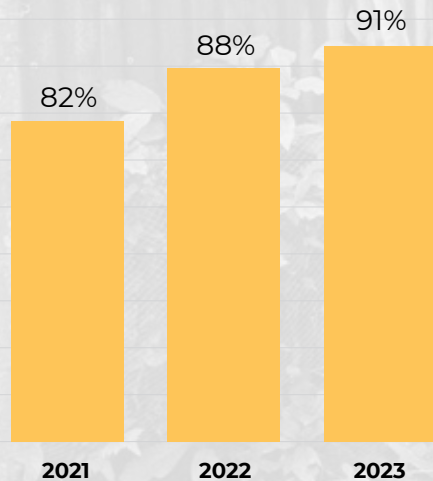
OUR IMPACT IN FY 2023

Number of
families have been
supported

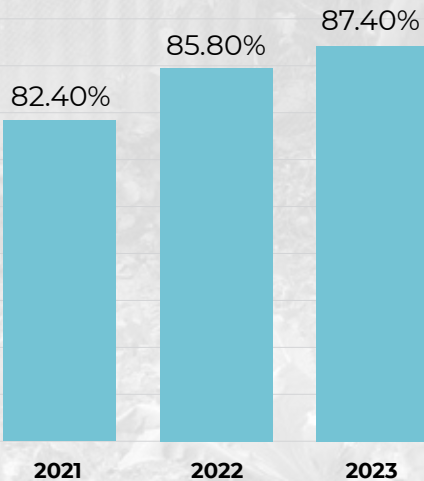


Families
achieved living
income

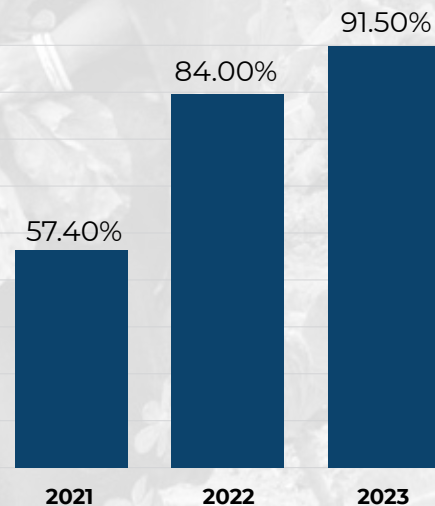




Percentage of families
**apply climate smart
agriculture (CSA)
techniques**



Percentage of women
**have a voice in household
and community decision
making**



Percentage of families
**demonstrated solidarity
and cooperation among
community members**

TURNING ADVERSITY INTO PROSPERITY



"Agriculture gave me a new life," reflects **Ayesha Siddiqa**, a resilient 43-year-old from Natore, as she recounts her journey from adversity to prosperity. Enduring years of abuse, Ayesha emerged from the shadows of her traumatic past to become a beacon of hope in her community.

"When Heifer's staff introduced cooperative societies in our area, I was hesitant," admits Ayesha, recalling her initial skepticism. *"But witnessing the transformative power of agriculture changed everything."*

Joining the Amra Shadhin Cooperative Society, Ayesha embarked on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. *"With each training session, I gained confidence and knowledge,"* she shares. *"I knew I had found my path."*

Empowered by the cooperative's support, Ayesha invested in homestead vegetable cultivation, poultry rearing, and livestock farming. *"Each venture was a stepping stone to a better future,"* she remarks. *"And the profits... they transformed my life."*

As her business thrived, Ayesha's entrepreneurial spirit flourished. *"The opportunity to expand into vermicompost production was a game-changer,"* she exclaims. *"I seized it with both hands."*



From a modest investment of BDT 8,000, Ayesha established a thriving vermicompost enterprise. ***"It's not just about profits," she emphasizes. "It's about making a difference in the lives of others."***

Today, Ayesha is more than a successful entrepreneur; she is a mentor and a role model. ***"I share my knowledge because I believe in lifting others up," she declares. "Together, we can create a brighter future."***

Looking ahead, Ayesha's dreams are as resilient as she is. ***"I want to support my daughter's education and empower her to chase her dreams," she states. "No more early marriages, only endless possibilities."***

Ayesha's story is a testament to the transformative power of agriculture and the human spirit. Through perseverance and determination, she has turned adversity into triumph, inspiring others to do the same.





PARTNERSHIP

Strong alliances are the key to advancing our mission. We believe the government, private sectors, financial institutions, development organizations, research institutions, and market actors plays an essential role in advancing our mission to end poverty while caring for the Earth.

Implementing Partners



Collaborating Partners



FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 30 JUNE 2023

ASSETS

	BDT	USD
(A) Non-Current Assets	4,864,400	44,222
(B) Current Assets	26,394,878	239,953
Prepaid Expenses	639,223	6,302
Cash in Hand & Bank Balance	25,755,655	234,142
Total Assets (A+B)	31,259,278	284,175

LIABILITIES

(C) Non-Current Liability		
Gratuity and Leave	5,919,863	53,816
(D) Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses	287,083	2,609
Total Liability (C+D)	6,206,946	56,426
Net Assets (A+B-C-D)	25,052,332	22,774
Represented by	4,864,400	44,221
Fixed Assest Fund	20,187,932	183,526
Unutilized Donor Fund	25,052,332	227,748

INCOME

	BDT	USD
Fund Received -Donor	186,498,153	1,695,437
Bank Interest	80	80
Total	186,498,233	1,695,438

EXPENDITURE

Livestock & freight	30,100,000	273,636
Horticulture and freight	2,751,524	25,013
Agriculture Equipment	38,745,943	352,235
Travel & Vehicle Operation	6,536,572	59,423
Training	20,607,146	187,337
Technical Service and Evaluation	8,396,888	76,335
Staff Salaries & Benefits	60,946,251	554,056
Office Expenses & Services	13,813,919	125,581
Other	-	-
Depreciation	1,801,100	16,373
Total Expenses	183,699,346	1,669,994



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