ACTIVITY REPORT
OUT OF FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION
FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

SABUJ SANGHA

VILL & PO : NANDAKUMARPUR
DIST : SOUTH 24 PARGANAS
P.S. : RAIDIGHEE
PIN : 743349
WEST BENGAL

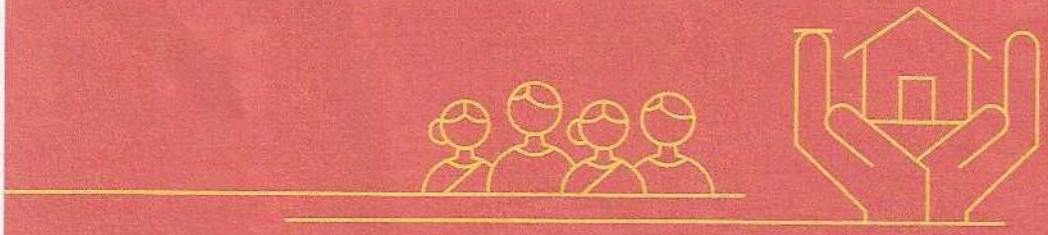
Secretary & Director
Sabuj Sangha



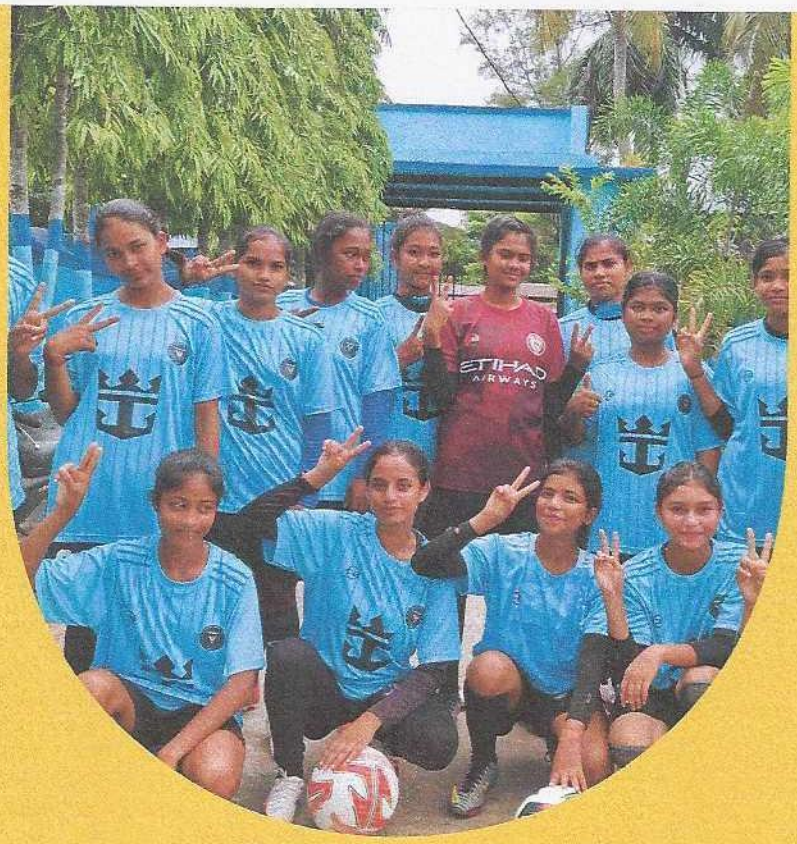
INTEGRATED PROGRAMMES

Building resilient villages through integrated, community-led development

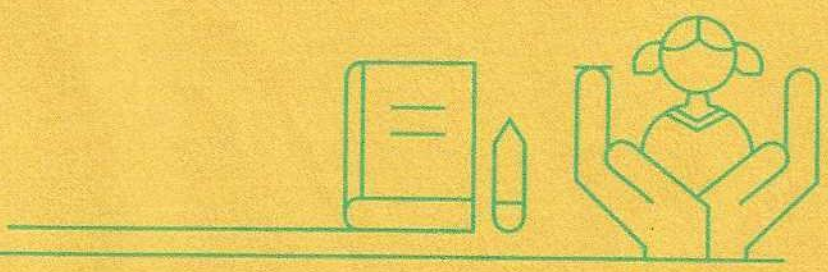
For over two decades, Sabuj Sangha has been implementing comprehensive models of rural development that recognise the interlinked nature of poverty, vulnerability, and resilience. Rather than addressing issues in isolation, these programmes integrate education, health, livelihoods, women's empowerment, environment protection, WASH, and community participation into a unified approach, The Gram Seva Programme in Nadia and the Holistic Rural Development Project (HRDP)-Parivartan in Sagar Island exemplify this model. Both initiatives enhance active partnerships with local governance systems, while also ensuring ownership by self-help groups, farmer collectives, and village committees. Sabuj Sangha's integrated programmes not only address immediate needs but also lay the foundation for strategic, long-term, community-driven change.



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SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT FOR MARGINALISED CHILDREN



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Nayantara - Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women

Location

State: West Bengal
Districts: Nadia
Blocks: Kalyani
Gram Panchayat: Shimurali
Villages: Kumarpur, Atalia, Harishpur, Rameswarpur, Narapatipara

District: Purba Medinipur
Blocks: Contai I, Deshapran
Gram Panchayats: 2
Villages: 4

Donors

Asha for Education

IndienHilfe Deutschland e.V.

The Nayantara Programme addresses deep-rooted social and gender norms towards child and early marriage, early pregnancy, by empowering adolescent girls to build agency and control their futures. It provides a safe platform for girls to build confidence, pursue education, develop life skills, and speak out against harmful societal practices. Nayantara nurtures leadership among girls through Kishori Bahini groups, life skills training, extracurricular activities, cultural programmes, and mentorship by Nayantara Mitras, creating a generation of young women who are determined to delay marriage, continue education, and pursue financial independence.

Updates of 2024-25

Total reach: 437 adolescent girls and young women

347 girls participated in **225 Kishori Bahini meetings**

115 adolescent girls received **10 trainings** conducted by Nayantara Mitras

208 extracurricular activity classes held.

1 child marriage prevented through the efforts of this programme

254 people reached through **3 street plays** on consequences and prevention of child marriage, women's rights, and environment protection

284 parents participated in **17 parents' meetings.**

450 people reached through **19 cultural programmes.**

26 girls passed secondary and higher secondary examinations.

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CASE STUDY

Saving Childhoods: Bilash Naiya rises from Adversity

In September 2024, a member of the Nayantara Kishori Bahini received a distressing report indicating that a child marriage was scheduled to take place that very evening in a nearby village. Responding promptly, she alerted her supervisor, who immediately mobilized the team to verify the information. By late afternoon, the team confirmed that the wedding was planned to occur during the auspicious sunset hour, locally referred to as mvgodhuli lagna..

Understanding the urgency, the team of young Kishoris, supported by Nayantara Mitras and staff, decided to intervene directly. When they reached the boy's home, they faced denial, evasion, and even intimidation from the family. Still, the girls stood firm, counselling them about the legal and emotional consequences of child marriage. When tensions escalated, they called Childline and the local police, ensuring official support. By nightfall, the police had detained the boy's family members, registered a case, and rescued the girl, placing her in a safe shelter. The marriage was stopped just in time.

Across India, child marriage continues to rob thousands of girls of their childhoods, education, and futures. Despite legal prohibitions, economic hardship, patriarchal norms, and social pressures often drive families to marry off their daughters early. This highlights the importance of community vigilance and youth leadership in preventing such violations.



The Nayantara Kishori Bahini, a collective of adolescent girls trained to challenge gender-based discrimination, demonstrated remarkable courage and coordination that day. Their timely action protected a girl from lifelong harm and strengthened collaboration between the community, Childline, and law enforcement.

This story is not just about one prevented marriage; it is a testament to what informed, empowered girls can achieve when they take a stand against injustice. Their voices are rewriting the narrative of what girlhood can mean in rural India: one of agency, solidarity, and hope.

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KSSN – Social Upliftment of First Generation Learners

Location

State: West Bengal
District: South 24 Parganas
Blocks: Mathurapur II
Gram Panchayats: Nandakumarpur
Nandakumarpur and surrounding 4 Gram Panchayats (Kailashpur, Mahabatnagar, Naranpur, Joykrishnapur)

Donors

Asha for Education

Established in 2000, for more than two decades the **Kishalaya Shishu Shiksha Niketan** is Sabuj Sangha's model school in the heart of the Sundarbans, designed to bring quality, holistic education to first-generation learners. In a region marked by poverty, climate vulnerability, and migration, the school nurtures children with joyful learning methods, digital education tools, life skills training, and co-curricular opportunities. It has become a trusted hub for parents and children alike, offering not just academics, but also nutrition through mid-day meals, free books, etc. ensuring all-round growth of disadvantaged children. Parents have increasingly appreciated the school's unique approach in combining structured academics with play-based learning and cultural enrichment. The school has set a new standard in education in the remote Sundarbans, offering a vibrant alternative to traditional government and private schools. Children are not only performing well academically but are also gaining confidence, discipline, and cultural exposure.

Updates of 2024-25

Total reach: 206 students (117 boys, 89 girls) enrolled in **preschool** and **primary sections**

Interactive smart panels installed to integrate digital methods into classroom teaching

Multiple trainings on pedagogy, life skills, and play-way methods conducted with teachers to strengthen capacities.

Students participated actively in cultural programmes, with the school gaining a reputation for excellence in extracurricular fields.



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Nabadiganta - Upliftment of Socially Marginalised Tribal Children

Location

State: West Bengal
District: Alipurduar
Block: Kumargram
Villages: Turturikhand and Uttar Nararthali

Donors

Asha for Education

Children in the tea garden communities of Alipurduar face multiple vulnerabilities, such as school dropouts, early marriages, child labour, malnutrition, and lack of protection services. The **Nabadiganta** programme seeks to break these cycles by providing children with access to non-formal education centres, nutritional and health support, life skills, and protection from child labour and marriage. It also works closely with parents, community leaders, and local institutions to build awareness and strengthen safety nets for children. Currently, Nabadiganta runs two non-formal education (NFE) centres in remote tea-garden communities.

Updates of 2024-25

Total reach: 173 children enrolled across both centres | **Girls: 91** | **Boys: 82**

95% attendance recorded across both centres

In 2024, **10** students passed **Class X** and **2** passed **Class XII**

Monthly nutrition provided to all children; regular hygiene/cleaning drives and health education are conducted

Natun Alo – Social Upliftment of Marginalised Children

Location

State: West Bengal
District: South 24 Parganas
Block: Mathurapur II
Villages: Nandakumarpur

Donors

Asha for Education

'Natun Alo' is a residential school run by Sabuj Sangha to rehabilitate and prevent children from entering exploitative child labour. Located in Nandakumarpur, one of the most vulnerable parts of the Sundarbans, the programme provides marginalized boys with a safe residential environment, regular schooling, life skills, and holistic care. It addresses the dual challenges of poverty and social neglect by ensuring education, health, nutrition, and personal development, enabling children to break the cycle of labour and deprivation.

Updates of 2024-25

Total reach: Boys: 22

Students advanced across grades III–XI; two boys appeared for the Madhyamik examination. Life skills, art and craft, yoga, prayer, sports, and extracurricular activities enriched holistic learning.

Regular health check-ups were conducted through Sabuj Sangha's Swarnalata Sabuj Seva Sadan Rural Hospital; each child maintains an individual health card. Special mentoring in English was provided to improve communication and future readiness.

Daily nutritional support was ensured with balanced meals covering breakfast, lunch, evening snacks, and dinner. Students actively participated in cultural and social events including Rabindra Jayanti, Independence Day, Saraswati Puja, World Environment Day, and the Annual Sports Meet.

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Child Sponsorship Programme

Location Mumbai & Pune (Maharashtra)

Donors **Individuals through IndienHilfe (Germany)**

Through the Child Sponsorship Programme, **82** **children** received foster parent support and **15** **children** received educational assistance, alongside medical aid for children and parents in need.

Rehabilitation for Deprived Children

Location Railway Squatter Colonies of South 24 Parganas, Sealdah South Division

Donors IKF FOUNDATION, USA

The RDCE initiative in Taldi railway squatter colonies provided holistic coaching to **40** **children (24 girls, 16 boys)**, promoting mainstream education with activity-based learning.

Partners' Collaboration Grant Project

Location India, Nepal & Bangladesh

Donors global fund for children

The Partners' Collaboration Grant Project, supported by the Global Fund for Children (GFC), created a unique platform for cross-country collaboration and learning among Sabuj Sangha (India), CDP (Bangladesh), and Atoot (Nepal). The initiative aimed to build capacities, exchange best practices, and pilot innovative approaches such as Sports for Development and Girls for Social Action.

Updates of 2024-25

Exposure visits, joint trainings, and participatory monitoring sessions using the Most Significant Change (MSC) technique facilitated rich knowledge exchange.

Partners drew from each other's experiences in livelihood models, youth engagement, and safeguarding practices.

The collaboration enhanced organisational skills in project formulation, donor engagement, and participatory evaluation.

Sports-based activities and girl-led initiatives were introduced, empowering adolescent girls as leaders and changemakers.

While developing a common module across diverse contexts proved difficult, the learning process strengthened adaptability and cross-cultural understanding.

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CASE STUDY

Saving Childhoods: Bilash Naiya rises from Adversity

In the fragile coastal belt of South 24 Parganas, where poverty and climate risks often push children into labour or early marriage, **18-year-old Bilash Naiya** from Kuemuri village stands as a story of hope. Born into a humble farming family, Bilash's life changed when his father died of cancer. The emotional loss and debt from medical expenses forced him to leave school and help his mother in the fields while his elder brother migrated for work.



Bilash's story mirrors that of many children in the Sundarbans who, left without parental support, are vulnerable to child labour, trafficking, and exploitation. To address this reality, Sabuj Sangha established 'Natun Alo', a residential facility for underprivileged children rescued from unsafe conditions. Identified by the local Village Pradhan in 2018, Bilash was enrolled in the programme.

At first shy and withdrawn, Bilash gradually found stability and encouragement at Natun Alo. With the support of caring teachers and mentors, he rebuilt his confidence and excelled academically—scoring 92.8% in Class 12 and later enrolling in Ashutosh College, University of Calcutta, where he is now pursuing a B.A. (Hons) in Geography.

Despite financial pressures, Bilash continues his education while seeking part-time work to support his family. His dream is to work in social development, helping other children like him reclaim their right to education and a safe, dignified childhood.



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LIVELIHOODS AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Building economic resilience, empowering communities

For decades, Sabuj Sangha has recognized that economic independence is at the heart of empowerment. In some of the most climate-vulnerable and economically deprived regions of West Bengal, the organisation has invested in strengthening women and families through skill-building, enterprise development, financial literacy, and access to markets. From goat-rearing and tailoring schools to women-led cooperatives and digital entrepreneurship, these initiatives are not just enhancing incomes, they are building confidence, dignity, and resilience. The programmes showcased here reflect how sustainable livelihoods and women's leadership can transform households and communities.



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Sundarban German Bakery

Location
State: West Bengal
District: South 24 Parganas
Coverage Blocks: Mathurapur I & II, Patharpratima, Kolkata

Donors
IndienHilfe Deutschland e.V.
HIF e.V.

The **Sundarban German Bakery**, established in 2015, is a pioneering **women-owned and women-managed cooperative enterprise**. It aims to provide sustainable employment to rural women, enhance their financial independence, and supply good quality, nutritious food products to local communities. By breaking gender stereotypes in a male-dominated trade, the bakery has become a symbol of women's empowerment in the Sundarbans.

Updates of 2024-25

16 regular and contractual staff employed (majority women), supported by **35** local vendors who sell products in the community.

Regular and contractual staff on average earn **₹2000-7000** per month; vendors earn between **₹2,500–₹10,000** monthly.

Daily production of **3** types of bread, **2** types of cake, and **37** types of biscuits, using **~300** kg flour/day.

Staff trained in production, packaging, quality monitoring, hygiene, and marketing.

The bakery became financially independent in **2024–25**, with computerized systems for accounts and inventory.

Expert guidance from Mr. Allard Jacobs (PUM, Netherlands) led to the introduction of new bakery items, improved hygiene, and low-cost infrastructure solutions.

Tailoring School

Location
State: West Bengal
District: Purba Medinipur
Block: Contai I

Donors
IndienHilfe Deutschland e.V.

To address unemployment among educated youth, especially women from marginalized communities, Sabuj Sangha established a **Tailoring School in Contai** with support from IndienHilfe e.V., Germany. Over the past two years, the initiative has enabled women to learn tailoring skills, produce and market garments and stuffed toys, and gain financial independence.

Updates of 2024-25

The school has successfully provided training and livelihood opportunities to **20** women.

Out of **20** women who received training, **10** are now working independently and earning up to **₹8,000** per month, which supports their families and strengthens their financial stability.

Participants are producing garments, bags, and stuffed toys, which are marketed locally, creating income and recognition for their craft.

Women have gained entrepreneurial skills, including product design, quality control, and small-scale marketing.

The project has enhanced confidence and decision-making power among women, strengthening their role within families and communities.

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Heidi Goats in Coastal West Bengal

Location

State: West Bengal
Districts & Blocks:
South 24 Parganas – Mathurapur II, Patharpratima, Sagar (12 villages)
Purba Medinipur – Deshapran, Contai I (4 villages)

Donors

IndienHilfe Deutschland e.V.

The **Heidi Goats Project** is designed to improve livelihoods and nutrition in some of the most climate-vulnerable villages of coastal West Bengal. By distributing **800 Black Bengal goats** to **400 marginalized families**, and combining this with training in scientific rearing, marketing, and financial literacy, the project has provided families with a sustainable income stream and improved food security. Women, in particular, have emerged as key caretakers and decision-makers in goat management, strengthening their role in family income and community resilience.

Updates of 2024-25

400 families across **16** villages benefitted directly through goat-rearing.

800 Black Bengal goats provided as starter assets for income generation.

Families received regular training in goat management, feed and healthcare practices, and financial literacy.

Improved household access to milk and meat, contributing to dietary diversity.

Families connected to local markets for sustainable income through goat sales.

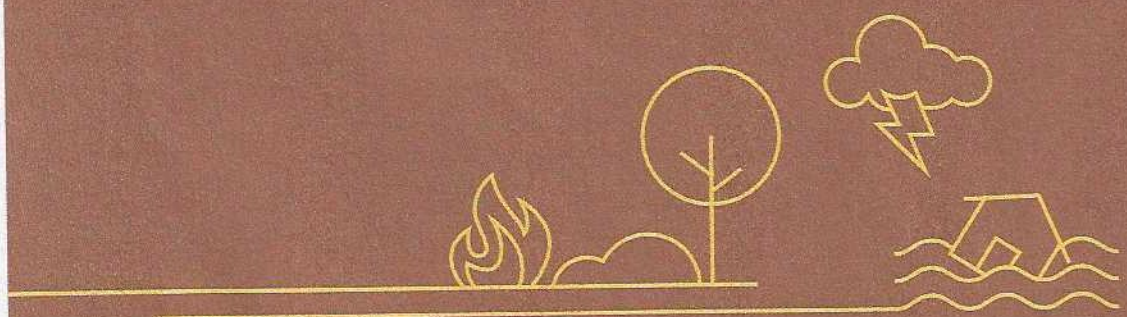


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ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE

Restoring nature, protecting ecosystems

At the heart of the Sundarbans, where lives are deeply intertwined with fragile ecosystems, Sabuj Sangha has long recognised that environmental sustainability and community resilience go hand in hand. From mangrove restoration and social forestry to renewable energy and disaster relief, the organisation's initiatives reflect a holistic approach to climate action. These programmes not only safeguard the natural environment but also equip vulnerable families with the means to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst recurring climate shocks. Through partnerships and active community participation, Sabuj Sangha continues to stand as a pillar of resilience, rebuilding both landscapes and lives.



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Sundari Resilience Project – Phase II

Location

State: West Bengal
District: South 24 Parganas
Blocks: Sagar

Donors

IndienHilfe Deutschland e.V.

BINGO! Niedersächsische Bingo-Umweltstiftung

The **Sundari Resilience Project – Phase II** builds on earlier efforts to restore the fragile ecosystems of Sagar Island in the Sundarbans. Implemented with the support of IndienHilfe and Bingo Foundation, the project combined **mangrove reforestation** with **community-based livelihood support** to strengthen ecological and economic resilience.

Updates of 2024-25

River shore plantations were undertaken despite the challenges of tidal waves and soil erosion.

Local communities, particularly women, are actively involved in plantation, awareness campaigns, and protection activities.

100 vulnerable families supported with poultry, goat-rearing, and pond-based farming as climate-resilient income alternatives.

Households gained both **environmental awareness and sustainable income** sources, reducing their dependence on fragile natural resources.

40 kWp On-grid Solar Plant at Nandakumarpur

Location

State: West Bengal
District: South 24 Parganas
Blocks: Mathurapur II
Village: Nandakumarpur

Donors

IndienHilfe Deutschland e.V.

With support from IndienHilfe and Solar Blick, Sabuj Sangha established a **40 kWp on-grid solar power plant** in Nandakumarpur, Sundarbans, inaugurated on **9th November 2024.**

The plant now powers key community institutions: Swarnalata Sabuj Seva Sadan Rural Hospital, Sundarban German Bakery, Sabuj Sangha's School and College.

The project reinforces Sabuj Sangha's mission of building a sustainable, equitable future in one of India's most climate-vulnerable regions.



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THANK YOU!

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