ACTIVITY REPORT
OUT OF FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION
FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

SABUJ SANGHA

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

Secretary & Director
Sabuj Sangha



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Sabuj Sangha is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of at-risk communities by offering comprehensive healthcare services and nutritional support. In line with our mission to foster healthier communities, we concentrate on critical health issues including malnutrition, maternal and child health, and access to primary healthcare. Our programs aim to deliver vital healthcare services, educate on health and hygiene, and ensure that all individuals—particularly women, children, and the elderly—receive the essential nutrition needed for their well-being. Through community-driven initiatives, health camps, and collaborations with local health authorities, we strive to promote sustainable health practices and support the overall development of the communities we serve in the districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, Nadia, Darjeeling, and Alipurduar.

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Community Health Programme

Location: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Supported by: Giving Foundation (UK), Hanseatic India Forum

In the year 2023-24, the community health programme covered a total 15669 population within the marginalized communities of Sundarbans region, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The safe motherhood is dedicated to ensuring comprehensive care for women throughout their pregnancy and postnatal period. This initiative focuses on facilitating access to essential services, from prenatal care to post-delivery support, while also emphesizing the importance of early risk identification and management.

3603 people (male-**1401**, female-**1956**, children-**246**) reached out through out-patient department

3889 people (male-**1529**, female-**2313**, children-**47**) reached out through outreach medical camp

2404 people availed pathology tests

149 people availed x-ray services

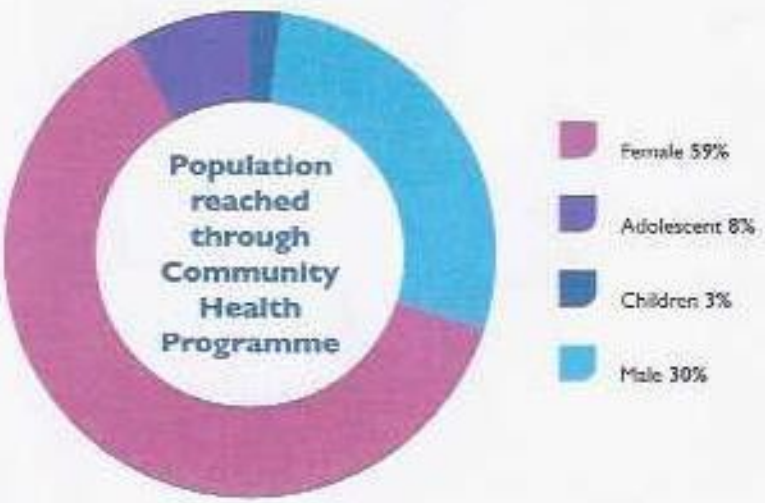
228 people availed USG services

354 people availed ECG services

438 people availed medical services from general indoor

1385 people reached through **87** community awareness meeting

853 people reached through **56** adolescent awareness meeting



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SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT OF **MARGINALISED CHILDREN**

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KSSN - Social Upliftment of First Generation Learners

Location: South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal

Supported by: Global Fund for Children (USA), Asha for Education, IndienHilfe, e. V (Germany)

Kishalaya Sishu Siksha Niketan, a vital initiative under Sabuj Sangha's educational programs, is committed to providing quality education to children from marginalized communities in the Sundarbans region. This institution not only focuses on academic excellence but also emphasizes the holistic development of its students. With a child-centric approach, Kishalaya Sishu Siksha Niketan offers a nurturing environment where children can learn and grow. The school is equipped with dedicated teachers who employ innovative teaching methods to make learning engaging and impactful. In addition to academic learning, the school promotes extracurricular activities, life skills education, and health and hygiene awareness, ensuring the overall well-being of its students. Through this initiative, Sabuj Sangha aims to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by empowering children with the knowledge and skills necessary for a brighter future.

208 boys and girls are currently enrolled in this school



Nabadiganta - Upliftment of Socially Marginalised Tribal Children

Location: Alipurduar District, West Bengal

Supported by: Asha for Education

This programme ensures that children from marginalised communities receive essential educational resources and opportunities for quality learning. In addition to educational support, Nabadiganta addresses critical health and nutritional needs by offering basic healthcare services and nutritional aid, essential for the children's overall development. By combining education with health and nutrition, the program seeks to create a holistically nurturing environment for children.

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180 children benefited from the **2** education centres

Basic healthcare services of free medical checkups and medicines through the Sanjeevani mobile medical clinics

A nutritious breakfast of boiled egg, banana and bread every day

Nayantara - Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women

Location: South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal

Supported by: IndienHilfe e. V (Germany), Asha for Education, Ramakrishna Foundation (USA), Kinderhilfe

Sabuj Sangha's flagship initiative, Nayantara, is making significant progress in addressing deep-rooted gender discrimination and challenges faced by girls in the remote villages of Sundarbans, including Mathurapur II, Patharpratima, and Sagar blocks in South 24 Parganas district. The program tackles critical issues such as the neglect of the girl child, early marriage, early motherhood, and high maternal and infant mortality rates. In addition to these crucial interventions, Nayantara enhances the physical and mental well-being of the girls by incorporating football into the curriculum. This approach fosters a supportive environment where girls can overcome gender barriers, acquire essential life skills, improve their physical and mental health, and become proactive agents of change, thereby contributing to sustainable development in the Sundarbans.

218 girls are enrolled in this programme

21 girls have successfully passed the Secondary Examination (10th standard) and are admitted to Higher Secondary courses

6 girls have successfully passed the Higher Secondary Examination (12th standard)

5 child marriages were prevented by the Nayantara girls in their community.



The achievements of these girls are particularly commendable since they are first-generation learners and fight against the odds of gender discrimination and stereotyping in their everyday lives to remain in the education system and become independent. Being part of the Nayantara programme has contributed significantly to building their leadership and confidence to challenge social norms and overcome the barriers imposed on women in society.

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Child Marriage Successfully Prevented: A Collaborative Effort by Nayantara Team and Local Authorities

On the morning of September 10, 2024, a Nayantara Kishori (a girl who was part of the programme) received an urgent tip from a friend about a planned child marriage set to occur that evening. Acting swiftly, the Kishori informed a Nayantara Supervisor, who immediately mobilized the team to verify the details. By around 4 pm that day, it was confirmed that the marriage was scheduled for the auspicious sunset hour, known as "godhuli lagna". The team consulted internally and deliberated on their options: visiting the site, informing the local government, or contacting ChildLine. Based on past experiences, they decided on a direct intervention.

The Nayantara team, consisting of three staff members, four Nayantara Mitras, and eight Nayantara Kishoris, quickly made their way to the boy's house where the marriage was to take place. As they approached, a man fishing nearby rushed to alert the household. Despite knowing that the family will try to hide the truth, the team pressed on, determined to prevent the illegal marriage.

Upon arrival, the family claimed that the boy had brought a girl home the previous night but had sent her back by morning. When questioned about the boy's whereabouts, the mother said he was in Raidighi (another location in the vicinity), while the father stated he was with friends, offering conflicting and evasive responses. The family's inconsistent answers and refusal to provide a contact number for the boy only heightened the team's suspicions. Despite the family's reluctance, the team continued to counsel them against proceeding with the child marriage.

Concerned that the girl might still be hidden nearby, the team called a local Panchayat member to further investigate. A thorough search of the premises did not reveal the girl's whereabouts. The Panchayat representative also counseled the family, suspecting that the girl was still in their custody.

The situation escalated when the boy's father brought in a woman community member to confront the Nayantara team, attempting to intimidate and dissuade them from further action. Despite the tension, the team informed ChildLine and a local police team was dispatched immediately. Prioritizing the safety of the Nayantara Kishoris and staff, the team briefly withdrew until police arrived.

Returning with the police, the team witnessed continued defiance from the family, who provided contradictory information and falsely claimed that the boy was missing. The police detained the boy's mother and sisters, investigating their involvement in hiding the girl and filing a missing person's report for the boy.

The next day, upon following up with ChildLine, the Nayantara team learned that the girl had been safely rescued and placed in a protective home, though the boy remained missing. Despite these challenges, the team felt a profound sense of achievement, knowing they had successfully intervened to prevent a child marriage and protect the rights of the young girl involved. This case stands as a testament to the power of swift, coordinated community action in safeguarding vulnerable children.

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Sponsorship of Marginalised Children

Location: Mumbai, of Maharashtra and South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Supported by: IndienHilfe, e.V. Germany, Hanseatic India Forum, e.V. Germany, Individuals

Sabuj Sangha extends child and youth safeguarding in Mumbai, Pune, and South 24 Parganas in West Bengal. The project supports marginalized children in slums by addressing education, nutrition, and medical needs, fostering their development toward healthy, enriched lives, and nurturing them to become responsible citizens.

Support rendered under this project:

58 children sponsored by foster parents

26 children supported for education

3 children supported for higher education

17 children supported for medical needs

Rehabilitation for Deprived Children

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

Supported by: Isan & Kusum Paul Foundation (IKP Foundation), State of Maryland, Washington, D.C., USA

Sabuj Sangha has been running an Education Coaching Centre, Sabuj Kunri for Rehabilitation for Deprived Children Through Education (RDCE) for the last few years at Taldi station area en route Canning in South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, India. This coaching centre is aimed for educational mainstreaming of deprived children from marginalised families of railway squatter colonies along the Taldi station railway tracks and surrounding areas. Activity-based holistic learning is promoted in this centre through yoga, gardening, games, prayers, crafts, etc.

24 girls and **16** boys have received educational support this past year

Natun Aalo - Social Upliftment of Marginalised Children

Location: Nandakumarpur village, Mathurapur II block, South 24 Parganas District

Supported by: Asha for Education

The challenging financial conditions in the remote regions of Sundarbans frequently result in children becoming victims of trafficking and child labour. The Natun Aalo program addresses this issue by operating a residential school specifically for boys from marginalized families who have been affected by child labour and trafficking. Currently, the school houses 26 boys, offering them educational, recreational, healthcare, and nutritional support to ensure a positive childhood and future. The children have shown notable progress in their participation in school activities and in maintaining discipline and routine.

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Child Support Centre - Aalor Disha - Social Upliftment of First Generation Learners

Location: South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal

Supported by: IndienHilfe e. V. Germany

Since 2021, Sabuj Sangha has been operating a Child Support Centre called 'Aalor Disha' in Champahati, a peri-urban area of Kolkata, located in the Baruipur Block of South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, India. The centre provides educational and personality development support to children from marginalized families living in slums along the railway tracks of the Sealdah division of Eastern Railways. Many of these children lack the essential care and affection needed for a responsible upbringing and often face dire financial conditions. Consequently, they may drop out of school, fall into addiction, or become involved in hazardous labour such as portering or rag picking. Additionally, there is a significant risk of these children being trafficked under the guise of job opportunities.

Currently, Aalor Disha supports 50 children—31 girls and 19 boys—from various localities, including Champahati, South Garia, Kalikapur 2, Kurali, and Chandaneswar. These children receive ongoing support, and mentorship, and are enrolled in formal schools, where they pursue their education with the hope of a better future.



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LIVELIHOOD & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

In marginalised communities, where economic opportunities are limited, women's participation helps break the cycle of poverty and social exclusion. It challenges traditional gender roles, promotes gender equality, and enhances women's social status. Additionally, including women in the workforce taps into a vast, underutilized talent pool, driving productivity and innovation. Through all its livelihoods initiatives, Sabuj Sangha promotes financial independence and empowers women to make decisions that improve their families' well-being, such as investing in education, healthcare, and nutrition. When women earn, entire communities benefit, leading to a ripple effect of economic growth and poverty reduction. Moreover, women's economic empowerment is essential for sustainable development, as it contributes to closing the gender gap and achieving broader societal progress.

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Journey from Homemaker to Entrepreneur: A Story of Transformation and Inspiration

Rupashi Dingal, a homemaker and marginal farmer from Dhablat village, struggled to support her family with a small plot and pond. Despite her efforts, household expenses mounted, especially with her two children in school. Seeing her potential, Sabuj Sangha's HRDP Parivartan team selected her for their Pond-Based Integrated Farming program. With financial aid and training, Rupashi embraced organic farming and vermicomposting. She grew crops like bitter gourd, tomatoes, and set up poultry on her pond's embankment. Within a year, she earned over Rs. 1,14,826 from her farm, named "Dingal Farm." Recognized as a resource farmer, Rupashi now plans to expand her venture, inspiring others to adopt sustainable farming practices. Her journey from struggle to success highlights the transformative power of determination and support.

Sundarban German Bakery

Location: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Supported by: Hanseatic India Forum, e. V. Germany

Sundarban German Bakery is a community-driven enterprise established in 2015 in Nandakumarpur, West Bengal, that plays a pivotal role in empowering women and fostering local economic development. The bakery provides employment and skills training to 45 individuals, including both men and women, creating a sustainable source of income for the community. It produces a wide variety of high-quality bakery products using premium ingredients, which are distributed locally and in Kolkata. The bakery generates a total monthly income of Rs. 48,000, significantly impacting the local economy by supporting its employees and local vendors. Women involved in vending can earn approximately Rs. 7,000 per month, enhancing their financial independence and family well-being. The bakery's dedication to women's empowerment is evident through its training programs, which equip women with the skills needed to become successful bakers and entrepreneurs, contributing to the community's overall socioeconomic upliftment.

280 kgs of flour are daily used in the bakery unit

26 types of cakes, biscuits, and breads are produced every day

50 families ensure livelihood

A total of **11** people daily run the bakery unit



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ENVIRONMENT & DISASTER RESPONSE

In the post-pandemic world, natural disasters, emergencies, and environmental degradation have continued to be pressing global concerns. The Sundarbans, in particular, face ongoing threats from ecological imbalances and climatic risks. This fragile region, known for its unique geography, urgently requires heightened community awareness and consciousness-raising efforts, alongside proactive climate change interventions, to mitigate the risks it faces.

Over the past year, our programs have specifically focused on addressing these environmental challenges. By raising awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of the environmental threats within the Sundarbans, we have worked to empower the broader community to take action and engage in sustainable practices aimed at preserving the region's delicate ecosystem.

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Sundari – A Resilience Programme

Location – South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Supported by – IndienHilfe, e. V (Germany)



In recent years, Sabuj Sangha has been unwavering in its commitment to the rejuvenation of mangrove vegetation in the Sundarbans. The mangrove plantation drives continued throughout FY 2023-24, carried out in close partnership with local communities and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

To ensure the sustainability of these conservation efforts, Mangrove Protection Groups (MPGs) were established, along with the development of Mangrove Sensitive Communities (MSCs). These groups play a vital role in safeguarding the mangrove ecosystem. In addition, members of the MPGs were provided with support to explore alternative livelihoods based on natural resources, such as poultry farming and pond-based integrated farming, further promoting both environmental conservation and economic resilience within the community.

50000 varieties of Mangrove saplings planted

150 Mangrove Protection Groups (MPG) supported for Alternative Livelihood (PBIF Goat Rearing, Poultry Farming)

10000 people sensitized on Environmental Education through awareness camps

Mangrove Plantation & Agroforestry

Location – South 24 Parganas and Nadia districts of West Bengal

Supported by – IndienHilfe, e.V. Germany, Hanseatic India Forum, e.V. Germany

2500 fruit trees were distributed to **500** families

150000+ Mangroves were planted

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Thank You

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