

39th Annual Report

2020-21



**"Transforming life;
Changing destiny"**



BTS

Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha

Our Supporters



GuideStarIndia



SOUTH ASIA VOLUNTARY ENTERPRISE (SAVE-UK)
SAVE - REGISTERED CHARITY NO : SC022264



*“No one has ever become poor by giving.”
-Anne Frank*

Thank you all for your benevolence!

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Address by Secretary



Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to present our 39th Annual Report, highlighting our accomplishments in the year 2020-21. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our incredible supporters, staff, and volunteers. Together, we directly impacted 26,972 individuals and indirectly touched the lives of 196,839 people in the remote Sundarbans of West Bengal, India.

In 2020, Cyclones Fani and Bulbul wreaked havoc, causing significant damage and displacing many. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the challenges. We're grateful for the support from organizations like Asha for Education-USA, Vibha-USA, AID-USA, and many more, as well as individual donors who enabled our relief and recovery efforts.

Our mission is to empower the vulnerable in the Sundarbans, particularly focusing on climate resilience and adaptation. We promote women entrepreneurs, community-led disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development. We extend our gratitude to our board members, civil society leaders, and government officials who joined hands with us in this mission.

We invite you to volunteer your time and expertise. Your contributions will make a difference.

**Thank you,
Susanta Giri**

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WHO WE ARE

Genesis

In 1978, a group of young people formed Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha as a village youth club for recreational activities for the youths of Baikunthapur village and its adjacent areas of Kultali Block under South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal. In 1982 a massive flood hit the Mpipithisland and the youngsters, observing the situation immediately rushed to the flooded areas to help victims through shifting them into safer places, providing them relief with food, water, medicine, blankets & clothing etc. as well as pleading Government for relief and support. These unemployed youth didn't have resource for such services; yet begged donations & subscriptions from the people with their passion. The youth were struck by the extent of poverty amongst the people on one hand and total lack of apathy and support from others. They realized the vulnerability of the people and need to contribute towards organized community development efforts. Thus the resolve to work towards building better facilities for the people in need and thus **Baikunthapur Tarun Sabgha**, in brief **BTS** was born.

Thematic Areas

- i. Climate Change Adaptations/Resilience Building (Ecological Restoration)
- ii. Mother-Child Health and Nutrition+(MCHN+)
- iii. Sustainable livelihoods and Women Empowerment
- iv. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security
- v. WaSH & Safe Adolescence
- vi. Child Protection and Quality Education to disadvantaged children.
- vii. Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction(CBDRR)
- viii. Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Programs(REEP)
- ix. Care of Older People & Safe Sights Program
- x. Convergence with Government Line Departments

Our Geographical Span

The organization is operational in 24 villages of four (4) Gram Panchayats under three (4) community development blocks; namely Kultali, Pathar pratima, Basanti & Namkhana of South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, India, covering the total population 196,839 directly giving benefits to about 26,971 people. Sunderban mangrove biosphere has been considered a highly productive ecosystem.

Our Mission:

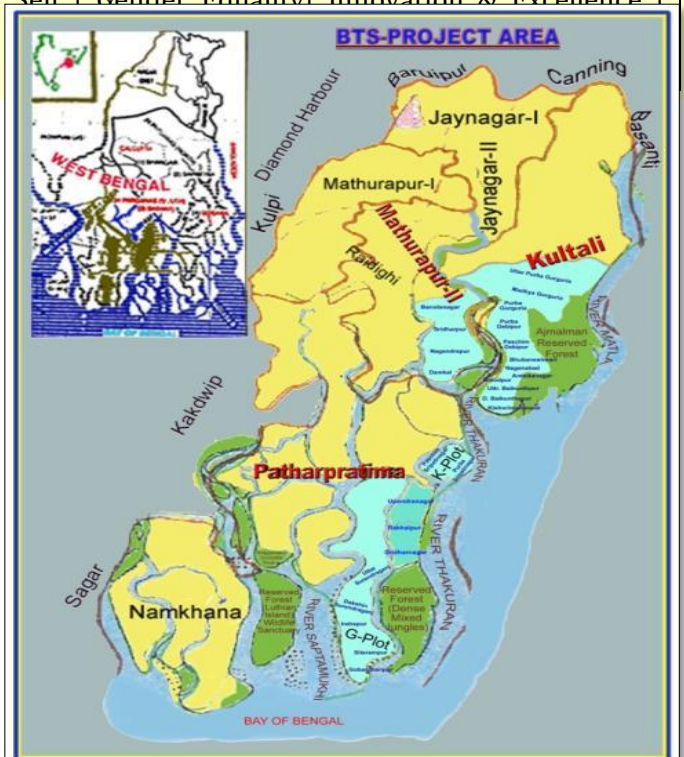
To provide equal opportunities to all sections of people for their comprehensive development and self-reliance in a sustainable and participatory approach enhancing special emphasis on cause and care of vulnerable women and their malnourished children, who are in acute need of proper care.

Our Vision:

BTS dreams of an enriched society where each and every individual will live respectfully with equal rights to information, socio-cultural observations, proper education & healthcare, thus promoting gender empowerment and childhood liberties at large.

Our Core Values:

Integration and inclusion | Respect | Service beyond Self | Gender Equality| Innovation & Excellence |



GOVERNING BODY

Mr. SusantaGiri, Secretary- Director



Susanta Giri, a brilliant student during his academic days and one of the very few from the delta to successfully complete his graduation with Honours in English from the University of Calcutta, came back to his birthplace just after his mother's sudden demise. The sufferings of the have-nots shocked and compelled him to stay back in his native village with the purpose to serve his poor, ailing brothers & sisters in the island areas of the Southern Sunderban. He visualizes a world where no one will die from hunger or a drop of life-saving medicine, suffering from humiliation or violation of the fundamental human rights...! Mr. Giri abandoned the sumptuous luxury of life in his efforts to share and stand by the sufferings and pains of his native village people.

A group of good supporting hands & caring friends in India and abroad are with him to patronize his efforts to serve the needy and the distressed, vulnerable & the weaker section of the populace. Mr. Giri spends many a sleepless nights in ensuring equality, fraternity and liberty at large which depict his unwavering love and affection for his nation-India. He loves to comfort and extend care and concern to relieve the distressed from their endless sufferings in every aspect of life namely food, clothing, shelter, education, healthcare etc. Mr. Giri is a follower of Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore and Mother Teresa. This relentless call within the core of his heart makes him a true visionary.

Mr. Kamal Ranjan Maity, President



Kamal Ranjan Maity is B.Sc., B. Ed. He is a kind-hearted person and a prolific music lover. Mr. Maity is a resident of Baikunthapur village. He is a retired faculty of a local Higher Secondary School. He is associated with BTS since 1989 in the capacity of President. He guides the organization as mentor, maintains values and ensures adherence to ethics, morality and statutory matters in connection to the organization.

Mr. HaradhanSau, Assistant Secretary



Mr. Haradhan Sau has been an integral part of BTS since 1989, serving as the Assistant Secretary. He is a Higher Secondary qualified individual who also holds the position of Head Teacher at the Path Bhaban School within our organization.

Mr. Sau is known for his enthusiasm and unwavering cheerfulness. He plays a pivotal role in providing strategic support to his colleagues within the organization. As one of the early associates involved in initiating societal development works under the BTS banner, he worked tirelessly alongside Mr. Giri to establish the organization on a solid foundation.

Mr. Haripado Jana, Treasurer



Haripado Jana is Madhyamik qualified. But he is highly experienced in financial management, serving the organization since 2000 as treasurer. In adjunct to his organizational responsibility, he is also a teacher of BTS-Path Bhaban School since his involvement with the organization. He has a good rapport with the community people which plays a key role in extending the benefits of various charity programs of the organization. Mr. Jana is a prolific music lover and he as a musician has a good fan follower too.

Mrs. PratimaNaiya, Member



PratimaNaiya is Madhyamik qualified and an ASHA Worker, under the Department of Health and Family Welfare (H&F.W.), Govt. of West Bengal by profession. She is now a BTS Governing Body member. She is very much passionate working with children. She is dynamic and experienced in the field of RCH, mother and child health.

Mrs. Naiya had been an active and valuable staff of our organization as well.



Mr. RanjitNaiya, Member

RanjitNaiya is Madhyamik qualified and nature lover. Cultivation is his primary occupation. He is associated with BTS as a GB member since 2004. He is a dynamic person and possesses high enthusiasm in charity. He is energetic and keen in discharging social duties and responsibilities in response to the call of his neighbours.

RanjitNaiya plays a pivotal role in guiding our team in many ways. He is thus invaluable for our organization.



Mrs. Manju Rani Maity, Member

Manju Rani Maiti, an Anganwadi Worker (AWW), under ICDS program, Govt. of West Bengal joined as one of the key Governing Body members a year ago. She is very caring and assists the Board in decision making process and quick resolution of problems. She brings in new project ideas and concepts helpful in resolving the distress of the local community at large.

She loves to remain busy with children in games, sports and engages in joyful learning as well. Manju Rani was our former GB member who decides to join the Board for doing more beneficial activities for the local community.



Mr. Ajit Kumar Khatuya, Member

Ajit Kumar Khatua, a rural cultivator, with his social service zeal serves our organization in many ways starting from escorting patients to Kolkata based hospitals, helping neighbours in distress and volunteering in many social activities targeted to benefit the rural poor and suffering humanity.

He with his good taste of social association has created a world of loving and caring people around him. He is responsible in organizing activities which are targeted for the cause people's good and future betterment. His positive attitude helps organization in discharging its mission and vision with diligence.



Mrs. Ashalata Das, Member

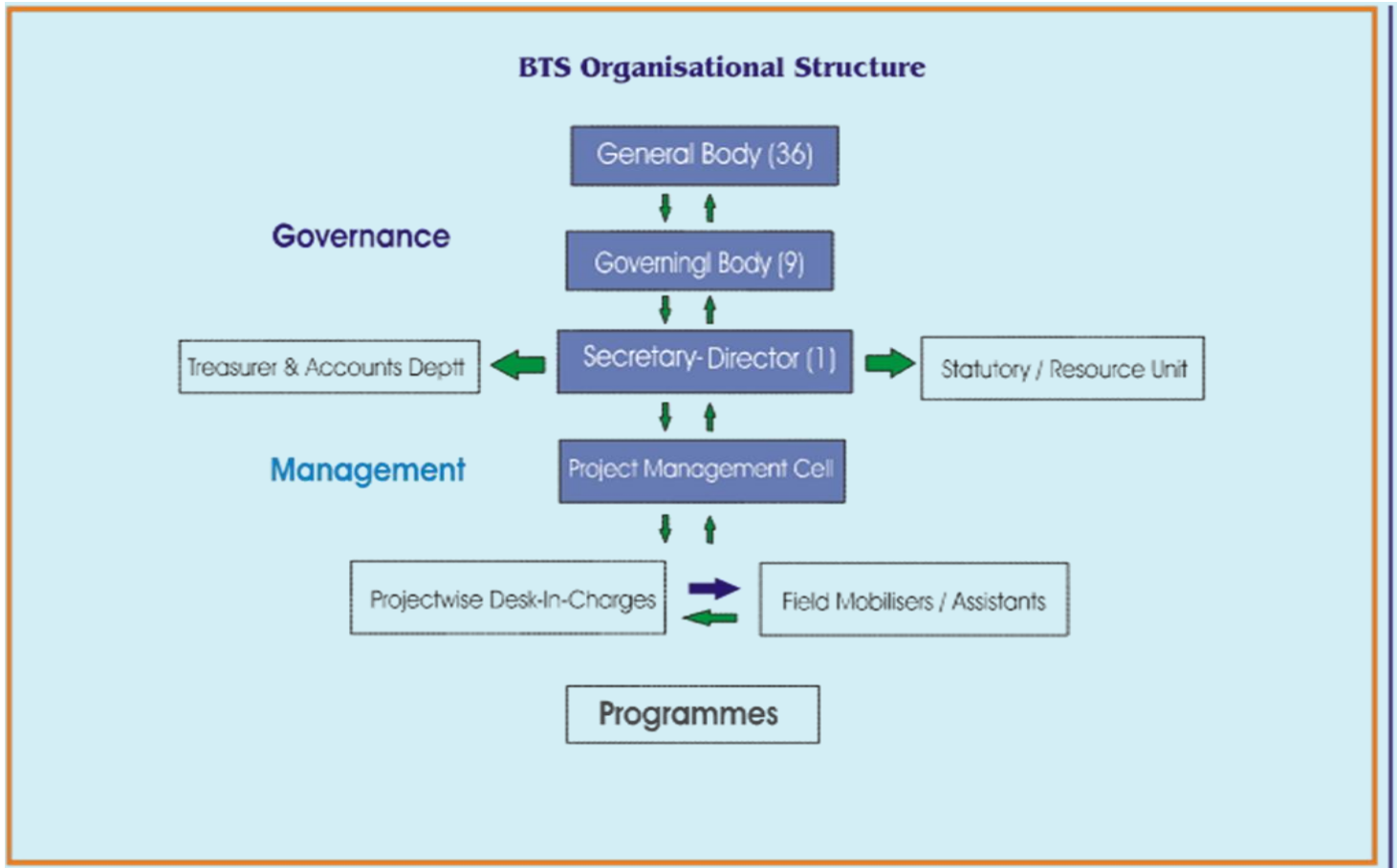
Being a rural housewife, **Ashalata Das** is associated with BTS since 1990 and she functions as a social animator with BTS's women empowerment programme through promoting Self Help Groups (SHGs). She provides strategic support to women SHG cooperative society and monitors its functions jointly working with their Board of Directors. She loves to stay connected with social needs of the time and guides our Board in accomplishing its mission.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Senior Management Team is responsible for overseeing daily activities of the organisation and guiding middle and field level personnel and volunteers. We have a total of 45 staff of which 23 are male and rest is female.

Name	Designation	Area of Operation
Mr. Susanta Giri	Secretary-Director	Head of Management
Mr. Sujit Chakraborty	Head of Resource M	Resource Mobilisation & Program Advisory
Mr. Indra Sen Das	Accounts Officer	Accounts Deptt.
Mr. Haradhan Sau	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	BTS-PathBhavan School, Head, Staff Operations
Mr. Haripada Jana	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	General Programs, Financial Operations
Mrs. Sujit Raul	Deak-In-Charge(DIC)	Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP)
Mrs. Chandana Maiti	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	Pre-School Centre/Proj. Samannay with ICDS
Mr. Debasis Giri	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	Sustainable Life & Livelihoods , DRR
Mr. Prasad Giri	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	Computer Literacy Program, CSP, IT Operations
Mr. Ravi Sankar Das	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	Attendance & Staff Movement
Mr. Bhagirath Das	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	Stock & Usage (General)
Mrs. Sujata Duari	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	Head, Sanitary Napkins Production Unit(SNPU)
Mrs. Tusi Maiti	Desk-In-Charge(DIC)	Head, Grameen Usha Silai School
Mr. Debprasad Sardar	Manager	Head, General Affairs

BTS ORGANOGRAM



BTS OBJECTIVES

- Serve the needy coastal vulnerable community people for their comprehensive development
- Develop the livelihood status of disadvantaged people living in nearby reserved forest areas
- Promote empowerment and child rights so that they can change their life style
- Mobilize community people and make them aware of education, health and livelihood opportunities
- Provide access to health services and promote the adoption of better health practices
- Facilitate sustainable livelihood development through training on agriculture, animal husbandry and handicrafts
- Capacitate vulnerable community frequently hit by natural disasters like cyclone & flood





Climate Adaptive Natural Farming (CANF) is a chemical-free farming system rooted in Indian tradition enriched with modern understanding of ecology, resource recycling and on-farm resource optimization. It is considered as agro-ecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity. It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations; maintaining soil aeration and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs. This process is expected to reduce dependency on purchased inputs. It is considered as a cost-effective farming practice with scope for increasing employment and rural development. Climate Adaptive Natural Farming (CANF) includes sustainability using existing natural resources through crop and livestock production systems to achieve long-term higher productivity and farm incomes under climate variability. CANF practices can alter the current situation and sustain agricultural production from the local to the global level, especially in a sustainable manner.

The Sundarbans is a disaster prone zone. Over the past couple of decades we are witnessing a gradual increase in the number of natural disasters hitting the area causing devastating losses to lives and properties. Cyclonic storms, floods etc. happen more often these days as a result of which farm-lands, ponds etc. get salinized and crops, fishes and livestock are lost. The local people find it extremely difficult to cope up with these incidents because they have to sustain on meager incomes.

To help the local village people sustain on their primary livelihood which is agriculture, BTS is relentlessly working over more than a decade in the region on the promotion and practice of Sustainable Agriculture which chemical free based on organic inputs only. BTS is implementing the bio-farming efforts with support from **AID (Association of India's Development), USA** with

the purpose to promote chemical free agricultural practices by building capacities of small and marginal farmers on preparation and use of organic manure, biofertilizers and pesticides with available local resources.

Below is a list of activities that BTS has carried out during 2020-21.

KishanPathsala- It is an innovative effort to enhance farmers' incomes through dissemination of agriculture-related information on technology, government schemes and modern and organic farming methods which include improving soil health and promotion of integrated farming.



Accomplishment in 2020-21

We organized 120 KishanPathsala programs which supported a total of 1200 farmers.

Sundarban Dibas (Day)-2020 Celebration: The Sundarbans is undoubtedly one of wonders of our world. A lush green forest of mangroves with its natural inhabitant, the well-known Royal Bengal tiger, makes it attractive, curious and famous. Due to increased pollution and global warming the delta is submerging slowly into the Bay of Bengal. Hence it is important to make a conscious and sustained appeal to the mass to preserve and protect this great Bio Diversity zone. To propagate this effort the Sunderban Day (Dibas) was celebrated by BTS, where our students, staff, volunteers along with the local people participated in joint rally.



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Bio Farming Practices: An integral part of the project is to promote Bio-Farming practices among the local farmers' community which predominately depend on the use of aerobic compost and associated liquid inoculums, bio-fertilizers and other organic additives and good management techniques to build soil. Some common training on Bio Farming techniques that we conducted in 2020-21 were:



- Liquid Fertilizer preparation
- Vermi-Compost preparation
- Vermi-Compost Pit Construction
- Compost Pit Construction



Accomplishment in 2020-21

523 farmers were trained in Liquid Fertilizer (TaralSar) making whereas 450 farmers underwent training in Vermi compost making. 640 units of Vermi Compost pits and 302 units of Compost pits were constructed in the 25 project villages by the trained farmers.

IPM & ICM Practices: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) conserves the ecosystem and ensures the reliability and stability of farm output whereas Integrated Crop Management (ICM) is a system of crop production which conserves and enhances natural resources while producing food on an economically viable and sustainable foundation.

Accomplishment in 2020-21

In 2020-21 4763 trainings on IPM and 3416 on ICM were organized by BTS during 2021-22. These together benefited a total of yyy farmers by capacitating them to improve crop production and protection.

Bio Farming Models: Bio-farming is a technique of cultivation which drastically curtails the use of chemicals leading to better to better quality food products with high nutritive values. At the same time, it includes crop rotation, crop residues, organic waste, green manure and use of bio agents for biological pest control.

The commonly practiced Bio Farming models are:

Nutrition Garden

- Mixed Farming
- Ridge and Furrow and
- Circle Garden



Bio Farming Model	Total Practicing Farmers	Total Village Count
Nutrition Garden	2540	24
Mixed Farming	1710	20
Circle Garden	42	10
Integrated Farming	1471	10

Community Seed Bank: In 2020-21 with the support of BTS, 5 Community Seed Banks (CSBs) are promoted in the project villages so as to preserve and re-use the local, country variety of salt tolerant seeds for further farming activities and reduce the dependency of the farmers on the markets for buying the seeds every year. In these CSBs 1-15 varieties of salt tolerant country paddy seeds along with seeds of indigenous vegetable crops, pulses (5 varieties) and cash crops of different kinds (32 species) are preserved.

Marketing of Organic Produce- BTS has already initiated local marketing of excess organic vegetables after their domestic consumption and such efforts by 30 and more farmers in Kultali and Patharpratima villages started to enhance public interest and more replication of

CHILD PROTECTION & QUALITY EDUCATION



Currently 200 students are enrolled in BTS-PathBhavan majority of whom hail from economically disadvantaged families. There are presently 6 grades from LKG to Class V.

Grade wise breakup of students in 2020-21 and 2019-20 are as follows

Grades	2020-21	2019-20	Status
LKG	54	44	<
UKG	31	42	>
Class I	36	23	<
Class II	32	42	>
Class III	21	22	<
Class IV	26	27	<

Beside the regular subjects students also learn computers and vocational skills like making chalks, mud dolls, seating coir mats etc.

They are also enlightened on climate change and bio-diversity as part of the environment education. The school curriculum also includes awareness education on health and hygiene; benefits of water conservation and hand washing with sanitation (WASH).

On all school days the students are provided free nutritious cooked meals / nutritious packet of snacks and are also able to access safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Landscaping, beautification of school premises by planting flower trees add to the aesthetics of the school environment and provide a cheerful and delighting environment for learning.

BTS-PRE SCHOOL CENTRES

BTS-Pathbhavan manages to provide a child-friendly and value-education based classrooms with recreational and joyful learning arrangements.

Child Parliament has been constituted for regular monitoring on Mid-Day Meal with nutritional opportunities supported by BTS in association with **HNF-CAF-India through Smile Foundation.**



Vibha-USA is supporting both the centers, since 2012-13, for enhancing the quality of the centers by providing uniform, TLMs, organizing Teachers Trainings, Nutritional Supplements etc.

Additionally BTS is also running a well-equipped **Children Resource Library** for the students to encourage students' book reading interests.

Becoming digitally literate is the order of the day. To help promote digital literacy among BTS Path Bhavan students, we developed **Computer Literacy Program (CLP)** supported by **Medha (Kallol Women's Forum-NJ), USA**. Interested children are taught basic computer application skills in theory and practice.



BTS also provided free text books, a set of school uniform, health and hygiene material etc. to the students like the past years to help shoulder the poor parents' economic burden and encourage them send their loved children to school regularly without accompanying and involving them in the any income generating activities like fishing, crabbing, small farming etc. in the region.



Project ICDS-Sammanya is an innovative project implemented in collaboration with Integrated Child Development Scheme, Govt. of WB, with the objective to continue 32 Awangadicentres located in both Kultali and Patharpratima Block backed with assistance from VIBHAUSA.

The main purpose of our intervention is to reduce the gaps in the deliverables (like attendance, services, inadequate infrastructures, monitoring etc.) by working collectively with the government, panchayats, parents and Anganwadi workers so that the AnganwadiCentres can promote best in the areas of mental, physical and social well-being of pre-school aged children attending there.

We organized monthly health checkups for the children, conducted yoga, assisted in staff capacitation, preparation and implementation of TLM. Anganwadi Workers are also trained in mother and child health and nutrition with special focus on developing nutrition gardens.



Alongside BTS administers 02 nos. of Crèche cum Pre-School Centre (PSC) for the children of working parents since 2002-03 at BTS-Pathbhavan premises. A total 50 children are attending in PSCs every year who after graduation take admission in LKG.



The project is under the Rajib Gandhi National Crèche Program, WCD, Central Social Welfare Board in collaboration with Directorate of ICDS and Women & Child Development, Govt. of West Bengal.

Vibha-USA also collaborates in Project Samannay and PSC by providing uniform, TLMs, teachers' trainings, nutritional supplement.

BTS-STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

BTS, under the scope of Student Sponsorship Program (SSP) continues to provide educational support to needy and meritorious students of the area. The students are academically very strong but come from disadvantaged families- they with little support and words of encouragement are able to create wonders. This is more than just a help, using this, the student can afford to bear the expenses of higher education and achieve their long cherished dream in life. SSP is one of the thrust areas in mainstreaming of education program by BTS.



There are 3 variants of this:

- ❖ **Child Sponsorship Program (CSP)** Students are supported upto matriculation
- ❖ **Student Sponsorship Program (SSP)** Here they are supported for Higher Secondary Education
- ❖ **Talent Sponsorship Program (TSP)** Supports students in colleges at UG and PG levels in various degree and diploma courses

A numbers of well-wishers called Friends of Kolkata & Abroad from both within and outside the country are donating to this cause. Many children, who otherwise would have lost in wilderness of becoming a child labourer find their dreams and aspirations realized through successful implementation of this program.

Total blocks covered

Total students benefited under SSP	17
Total students benefited under TSP	08
Total students supported in 2020-21	25

JIBAN JIBIKA

The implementation of Project JibanJibika (Livelihoods Development)-Phase III during the fiscal year 2020-21, under the aegis of People Progressive in India (PPI), USA, is a noteworthy initiative with a clear focus on improving the lives of marginalized and economically vulnerable widows in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal, India.

Targeted Beneficiaries: The project is designed to benefit a particularly vulnerable group of individuals—widows from families affected by tiger and crocodile attacks. These families often face severe economic hardships, as they lose their primary earners. By targeting this specific group, the project addresses a critical need in the community and ensures that those who have no one else to support them receive the assistance they require.

Sustainable Livelihood Development: The core objective of the project is to empower these marginalized widows with sustainable livelihood opportunities. By providing livestock assets such as poultry birds and goats, the project equips them with the means to generate income over the long term. Livestock assets have the advantage of producing valuable products like eggs and milk, making it a sustainable source of income for these families.

Income Generation: The project's approach to guaranteeing a minimal income is commendable. By distributing livestock assets and providing feeds, the project not only initiates income generation but also offers the necessary support to ensure the success of these livelihoods. This is particularly important as it helps secure a steady source of income for the beneficiaries.

Scope and Reach: The project's impact is significant, as it covers 353 families across 12 villages within 2 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under the Kultali Block. This broad reach ensures that a substantial number of affected families receive support, further contributing to the community's overall welfare.

Holistic Approach: By addressing both the economic and social needs of these widows, the project takes a holistic approach to livelihood development. It not only provides the means for income generation but also acknowledges the emotional and social support these widows require during difficult times.

In summary, Project JibanJibika (Livelihoods Development)-Phase III is a highly commendable initiative that directly targets a vulnerable section of the population in the Sundarbans region. By providing livelihood support through livestock assets, the project not only helps these widows secure a minimum income but also





fosters economic resilience and self-sufficiency. This approach has a positive impact on the well-being of these families and contributes to the overall development and empowerment of the community.

SUSTANABLE LIVE & LIVELIHOOD IN SUNDARBAN

Bread for the World (BfW) through CASA–New Delhi supported “Sustainable life and

livelihood of rural people through promotion of community based Disaster Risk Reduction in Sundarban deltaic communities” from October 2015 to March 2019 which was the first phase of its operation.

From April 2019, Phase II of the project commenced which brought more HHs (from 530 to 600) under its scope of operation in all the 5 existing villages of the Kultali Block.

The overall objective of the project is to empower local, rural men and women to the extent where they are able to adopt climate resilient models of livelihood and sustenance, suitable for the Sundarban deltaic region villages, in a collective approach.



Some key interventions:

Access to rights and entitlements: Community based organizations (CBOs) were made aware, capacitated and strengthened through participatory planning, collective implementation, advocacy, lobbying on issues like disaster risk reduction measures, controlling of violence

against women and children, awareness on economic disparity and gender issues. Social, economic and ecological changes were observed as our beneficiaries started mobilizing resources from the PRI (Self Govt.) and different income generating efforts were initiated alongside the conservation and preservation of local environment and ecology.

Social change: The intervened communities primarily belong to minority and economically backward areas. Earlier they didn't know about the various social welfare schemes launched by both the Central and State Governments because of lack of awareness, accessibility issues etc. But after conducting some sensitization meetings on different social welfare schemes like Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, JSY, SASPFAU, MGNREGA & PDS under NFSA people started to voluntarily discuss about their problems, issues pertaining to their accesses to these schemes and benefits. Community people were oriented about the role and function of Gram Sansad, Gram Panchayat etc. in the villages and encouraged to actively participate therein.

Economic change: Rural Sundarbans has good potential for development of agriculture and rural settlements, possess enough agricultural resources, has diverse natural productivity, a high proportion of reclaimed lands and climatic and agrarian conditions which are conducive of dairy, poultry, goat farming vegetable farming etc. During this reporting period BTS conducted some need based training programmes on poultry, goat rearing, farming practices like floating garden, hemline garden, nutrition garden, all in organic ways, the objective of which is to make the rural population aware of the local agrarian resources which they can explore optimally to ensure a decent livelihood.



Ecological Changes: People of the Sundarbans are basically dependent on mangroves and other Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) for their daily income. The community people used to cut the mangrove trees recklessly and use them as primary source of fuel. Due to lack of conservation efforts and awareness among the community about the importance of this vast natural reserve, protection and restoration of the mangrove and local flora and fauna became a challenge for this organization.



During this reporting period, BTS assessing the local need, conducted some awareness generation meetings on the benefits of mangrove protection, conservation and restoration which are:

- They help to reduce the breaching of the raised embankments
- Protect the farmlands, homes and livelihoods from getting damaged due to high tides and floods
- Restored mangrove ecosystems act as a nursery and feeding ground for fishes, molluscs etc. which can bring additional economic and nutritional value to the indigenous communities there etc.

These afforestation and restoration efforts, community people realized will prevent the islands and its inhabitants from quantum of loss made to land, property and lives caused by frequent natural disasters and climate change.

Project Impact Study

Village Name	Group Names	Total Groups Formed	Total members in Groups (2019-20)	Total members in Groups (2020-21)
Women Pressure Groups	Uttar Baikunthapur	05	65	68
	DakshinBaikunthapur			
	Kishorimohanpur			
	Binodpur-Ambikanagar			
	Nagenabad			
Farmers' Groups	Uttar Baikunthapur	05	60	65
	DakshinBaikunthapur			
	Kishorimohanpur			
	Binodpur-Ambikanagar			
	Nagenabad			
Disaster Management Task Force (DMTF)	Uttar Baikunthapur	05	75	80
	DakshinBaikunthapur			
	Kishorimohanpur			
	Binodpur-Ambikanagar			
	Nagenabad			
Youth Groups	Uttar Baikunthapur	05	55	69
	DakshinBaikunthapur			
	Kishorimohanpur			
	Binodpur-Ambikanagar			
	Nagenabad			

Some major indicators for change are as follows

- ❖ At least 600 beneficiaries from target villages are having access to existing Government welfare schemes [like NREGS, JSY, ICDS, Enrolment in Schools, IAY, etc.]
- ❖ DRR Plan is in place in all 5 targeted localities along with the active presence of 5 DMTF (Disaster Mitigation Task Force) teams in the respective communities
- ❖ Women are actively participating in local governance process and participating in household decision making as well



Climate Change Adaptations & Bio-Diversity

WWF-India continued to support the project on Bio-Diversity Conservation and Climate Smart Livelihood Promotion in the Sunderbans region this year in association with BTS.

A few study-related activities like:-

- Energy Access Study,
- Fishermen Social Study which included a study on the status of their present livelihoods (incl. their land & house holdings) were held this year.
- These complemented the existing project on conservation and regeneration of biodiversity through resilience building of the forest based communities in the Sunderbans region.

The forms of support included providing model Integrated Farming System (IFS) in organic way, backyard poultry, duck rearing, goat rearing, cattle along with homestead plantation which were extended to 63 HHs in South and North Baikunthapur villages under Moipith-Baikunthapur GP, 80HHs in Bhubaneswari village under Gurguria-Bhubaneswari GP and 83 HHs in Deulbarivillage under Deulbari-Durgapur GP, all under Kultali CD Block in South 24 Pgs. Dist.



Thus in 2021-22 a total of 226 HHs were supported under the scope of the existing project who otherwise would have risked their lives by pilfering into the reserved forest areas for income generation.



Sustainable Water Resource Management

The Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR), India lies in the tide-dominated southern part of deltaic West Bengal and supports 4.43 million strong population. Freshwater is a scarce resource in the SBR though it is traversed by numerous creeks and rivulets and receives a huge amount of precipitation during the monsoon months. However in the last 2 decades due to excessive and uncontrolled use of water for the purpose of irrigation by the local farmers constructing bore wells with bigger diameter pipes and lifting water continuously using high powered motorized submersible pumps, a massive depletion (by 4 - 6 metres) of ground water level occurred which resulted in many hand pumps becoming non-functional particularly during the hot summer months. Now a days, villagers also use tube well water for bath, washing household cookware etc. which are resulting in fast depletion of this scarce resource.

This scarcity of ground water reserve during the dry season and high salinity of soil and water make it very difficult for the people of the SBR to secure their livelihoods.

To ensure food security in the present changing climatic condition preventing misuse of water and harnessing of new water sources are essential. Awareness building among the communities, large scale rain water harvesting rejuvenation and reconnection of disconnected river channels, artificial recharge within shallow aquifers and desalination of shallow groundwater can be some other major policy options to meet the water demand in the SBR in the future.



Under the scope of this project we tried to educate the people in particular the farmer community on benefits of avoiding misuse of water and trying to conserve water-to the maximum extent possible at their ends. This we implemented conducting “Save Water Campaigns” in Kultali and Patharpratima blocks in the Sundarbans.

BTS, in collaboration with JGVK, Basanti and having support from UBU-Denmark implemented Sustainable Water Resource Management Project in 2020-21.

Disaster Relief and Restoration

This unprecedented move affected the lives of poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities who had to depend on daily wages for their sustenance. Many of our poor brethren, losing their jobs in Kolkata and other parts of the country were compelled to return back to their homelands, empty handed. They dreaded the fear of dying not from the virus but more so from hunger.

BTS came forward to support 26252 families across 18 GPs in 6 blocks in this moment of crisis.

Cyclone Amphan struck West Bengal on the afternoon of May 20, 2020 with sustained wind speeds of 155-165 kilometres per hour spiralling up to 185 kilometres per hour. It caused severe damage to lives and property in N-S 24 Parganas, Kolkata, Hooghly, Nadia and other South Bengal districts. Standing crops, thousands of trees were uprooted and power and water supply was interrupted in the state capital Kolkata. Many in the state have lost their entire homes as well.

The Sundarbans are the worst hit by the cyclone as it is an ecologically fragile zone.

River embankments were broken leaving several houses inundated and pond water salinized. The region is yet to recover from the damage caused by the erstwhile cyclones Aila, Fani and Bulbul when this havoc took place which aggravated the situation more than ever before.



With the support of various institutional and individual donors, BTS extended emergency relief and to Amphan affected families.

Post cyclonic support for the restoration of livelihood of the local villagers was also initiated. These include:

- Support for building back rural infrastructure
- Ensuring Food Security through livelihood restoration by capacity building and skill development trainings
- Trainings and workshops on the community rights and entitlements



CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND SAFE SIGHTS PROGRAM



BTS initiated the OSP (Old Age Support Program) alternatively called "Ashahay Bardhakshya" in its earnest effort to stand by the old age people who had to live in stark poverty. Every year we provide a monthly kit containing ration like rice, pulses, edible oil, soya chunks, potato, flour, puffed rice (muri) to 20 such old and feeble people in an effort to sustain in difficult economic conditions.

There are hundreds of such helpless elderly people who are in dire need of your kind support to keep them fed with care and concern so that the old and the infirm may find solace to think of a world of love & friendship.











BTS VISITS



Our Registrations & Empanelment

Registered / Empanelled Under (Acts/ Statutes/ Organizations)	Registration Numbers, Ids, Validity Date(s)
West Bengal Societies' Registration Act, 1961	Registration Number: S/39842 of 1982-1983 Date of Registration: 29th January, 1983
Foreign Contribution (Regulation) (FCRA) Act 1976/2010	Registration Number: 147110395 Date: 10th January, 199
Permanent Account Number (PAN)	AAATB6212B
Exemption U/S 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961	Order Number: DIT(E)/T-160/8E/35/1995-96 Date: 25th March, 1996 <u>IT RENEWAL 12A URN</u> AAATB6212BE19968 of 02.10.2021
Exemption U/S 80G (5)(VI) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, (Perpetual)	Order Number: DIT (E)/8E/35/1995-96/3367/7485 Date: 12 th February, 2012 <u>IT RENEWAL (80G/E) URN</u> AAATB6212BF20212 of 08.02.2022
Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN)	CALB19711G
Empanelled with NITI AAYOG(DARPAN), Government of India	Unique ID (UID): WB/2009/0002897
Validated by the CAF (Charities Aid Foundation)-India	Registration No: CAF/319/E-21/2017-18 Valid from: 7th June, 2017 to 6th June, 2020
Certified Transparency Key by the Guide Star India	Registration No: GSN 4809 Valid Till: December, 2022
GLOBAL UNIQUE (BRIDGE) ID:	<u>0695646867</u>

-  NitiAayog DARPAN NPS
-  IAG(Inter Action Group)-West Bengal
-  ATN (Anti-Trafficking Network)
-  CFC(Collective Form of Cooperation)-West Bengal
-  Give India
-  Americares India Foundation
-  Guides Star India
-  SHG Promotional Forum, Kolkata, WB

