

UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



HEAD OFFICE

Udvaboni Mohila Sangstha (UMS)

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Message from the Chairman

Dear Stakeholders,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present to you the **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) Annual Report for 2024–25**. This year stands as a testament to the power of collective action and the resilience of the communities we serve. Guided by our vision of a peaceful and equitable society, **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)** has remained unwavering in its commitment to addressing critical challenges, including health, education, poverty alleviation, women's empowerment, and climate adaptation in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh.

Throughout the past year, we have witnessed incredible achievements that demonstrate the transformative impact of our programs. Our health initiatives have reached vulnerable populations, ensuring access to essential healthcare services and awareness. Over 1,000 children from marginalized families were able to access inclusive and quality education through our programs, setting the stage for a brighter future. In parallel, we have made significant progress in empowering women and youth by equipping them with skills and resources to pursue dignified livelihoods, thereby breaking cycles of poverty.

One of the hallmarks of our work this year has been our focus on climate resilience and adaptation. Recognizing the devastating impacts of climate change on the coastal communities we serve, we implemented projects that supported farmers, fisherfolk, and other vulnerable groups in adopting sustainable and climate-smart practices. These initiatives have not only enhanced productivity and income opportunities but also reduced vulnerability to environmental shocks.

In addition, we have continued to prioritize building strong partnerships with local governments, private sector actors, and international donors. These collaborations have enabled us to scale up our interventions, ensuring long-term sustainability and greater impact. By empowering communities to take ownership of development efforts, we have strengthened their capacity to advocate for their rights and drive local solutions to pressing challenges.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated team, committed partners, and supportive stakeholders. Your unwavering contributions have been instrumental in turning our shared vision into reality. Together, we have not only reached over 3,800 individuals this year but also laid the foundation for lasting change in the lives of countless more.

Let us move forward with the same spirit of resilience and collaboration, continuing to address the challenges ahead and creating a future that is just, equitable, and sustainable for all.

Sincerely,

Chaya Bithi
Chairperson
UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)

Message from the General Secretary

Dear Friends and Partners,

As I reflect upon the year gone by, I am profoundly humbled and filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we have shared. Over the past 16 years, **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)** has remained unwavering in its commitment to uplifting disadvantaged communities, empowering them to actively participate in the socio-economic transformation of the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh. The year 2024–25 was no exception—marked by challenges such as the relentless impacts of climate change and global economic uncertainties, yet illuminated by remarkable achievements that continue to inspire hope and resilience.

This past year, our organization deepened its resolve to champion people-centered development, ensuring that every initiative was purposefully designed to meet the pressing needs of the communities we serve. Among our most notable accomplishments was the successful implementation of climate-resilient livelihood programs, which directly benefited over 2,000 smallholder farmers. Through the introduction of innovative farming techniques and training in climate-smart agriculture, we not only enhanced their productivity but also fortified their resilience against climate shocks—ushering in a new era of hope for their futures.

Our unwavering commitment to empowering women bore significant fruit as well. Hundreds of women gained access to skills training, financial literacy, and livelihood opportunities, enabling them to step into roles of independence, leadership, and inspiration within their communities. These programs reaffirm our belief that true progress is achieved when women are at the forefront of change.

In our continued pursuit of community resilience, we prioritized improving access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Through these efforts, over 1,500 households now enjoy clean drinking water, significantly reducing waterborne illnesses and improving health outcomes. Moreover, our work in disaster preparedness and response strengthened the capacities of local governments and community-based organizations, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to face future crises with confidence and efficiency.

These achievements are not ours alone. They are the result of your unwavering support, the steadfast collaboration of our partners, and the tireless dedication of our team, who work relentlessly to ignite transformative change in the lives of those we serve. Together, we have shown that resilience, compassion, and unity can triumph over even the greatest of challenges.

As we embark on the path ahead, let us continue to build upon this momentum—empowering more individuals and communities to embrace justice, equity, and sustainability. While the journey remains long, I am steadfast in my belief that, with your continued support and shared vision, we can create a future that shines brighter and more inclusively for all.

With heartfelt gratitude and warm regards,

Maria Bhuyan Merry

Executive Director

UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)

About UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)

UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS), established in 2000, is dedicated to fostering sustainable livelihoods and empowering marginalized communities, particularly women, in the coastal regions of Bangladesh. Rooted in a vision of a peaceful society based on justice, equity, and literacy for all, UMS emphasizes people-centered development with a strong focus on empowering disadvantaged and underserved communities.

The organization aims to drive socio-economic progress through grassroots initiatives centered on skill development, youth empowerment, and women's capacity building. UMS believes that sustainable development can only be achieved when communities actively participate in shaping their own futures.

UMS's key programs include Adaptive Agricultural Practices, Livelihood Development, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Humanitarian Response, Women's Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, and Skill Development Training (SDT). These initiatives equip disadvantaged youth and women with practical skills for economic participation and leadership roles. In addition, Income Generating Activity (IGA) trainings focus on agribusiness, poultry, fisheries, and livestock to enhance household income and economic resilience.

Furthermore, UMS promotes financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and micro-entrepreneurship to support the creation of sustainable businesses for underserved communities. Through multi-dimensional approaches such as Entrepreneurship Development Training and trade-based skills development, UMS strengthens beneficiaries' positions within their respective industries and markets.

The organization's efforts also extend to critical sectors including safe water and sanitation, primary healthcare, nutrition, disaster management, and climate change mitigation. By working to eradicate child labor, promote education, and advance gender equality, UMS strives to build a more inclusive and equitable society. With a holistic approach to community development, UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) remains firmly committed to uplifting vulnerable groups—especially women and children—and catalyzing lasting, positive change across Bangladesh's coastal regions.

OUR MISSION AND GOALS

Mission

To work with underserved and marginalized populations by mobilizing resources and ensuring their active participation in sustainable development initiatives, with a special focus on women, children, and vulnerable communities.

Goal

To complement government efforts by delivering high-quality, inclusive, and sustainable programs in the areas of poverty alleviation, health, education, human rights, disaster management, and climate resilience.

Core Values

- Inclusivity and Social Justice
- Accountability and Transparency
- Sustainability and Resilience
- Collaboration and Partnership

Target Group

UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) works with poor, marginalized, and disadvantaged communities, particularly women, children, ethnic minorities, char dwellers, and slum populations as its primary target groups. The organization also collaborates with organized community groups that seek support to uplift themselves through sustainable and self-driven development initiatives.

UMS strongly believes in the inherent capacity of individuals and communities to identify their own needs and lead their development agenda. Therefore, the organization facilitates capacity development by enabling access to information, appropriate technologies, and essential resources to ensure sustainable livelihood improvement through community-led efforts.

To implement its programs and reach target populations, UMS mobilizes funds from multiple donors and government sources. Using systematic methodologies and empirical evidence, the organization identifies target areas, communities, and beneficiaries in alignment with individual project goals and objectives. Services and interventions—including micro-finance support—are delivered based on community needs through transparent, participatory, and ethical approaches.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

a. Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

- Supported 500 households in adopting renewable energy solutions for sustainable living.
- Promoted environmentally friendly practices to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts.

b. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- Trained 1,000 women leaders in advocacy and leadership through the Gender Equality Initiative.
- Established women-led cooperatives to strengthen economic participation and access to productive resources.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-25

1. Expanded Reach and Area Coverage

- Active operations in Khulna, Jhalokathi, and Bagerhat districts, with additional interventions in other regions based on project requirements.
- Operated through three offices:
 - Head Office: Khulna
 - Morelgonj Office: Bagerhat
 - Barishal Office

2. Key Programmatic Achievements

a. Climate Resilience and Environmental Protection

- Implemented innovative climate response initiatives, including mangrove plantation drives and the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices.

c. Health and Education Services

- Provided maternal and child healthcare services to 5,000 beneficiaries, contributing to reduced infant mortality rates in project areas.
- Distributed educational materials to 2,500 underserved children, supporting literacy and inclusive education.

d. Livelihood and Economic Development

- Supported the formation of 100 self-help groups, benefitting 1,700 individuals through skills training and access to micro-finance services.
- Partnered with local industries to facilitate employment opportunities for 300 youth and women.

e. Disaster Preparedness and Response

- Conducted disaster preparedness workshops for 10,000 community members, strengthening resilience in cyclone-prone areas.
- Delivered emergency relief support to 3,000 families affected by Cyclone Hamza, including food assistance, safe drinking water, and hygiene kits.

KEY PROGRAMS OF THE PERIOD (2024–25)

1. Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) Partner Project

UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) implemented the PARTNER Project of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) as an implementing partner in Khulna, Satkhira, Jashore, and Bagerhat districts. The project aimed to transform agriculture toward high-value crops, ensure food and nutrition security, and build resilience to climate change by improving agricultural productivity—particularly in rice farming—and enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through demonstration-based learning.

The initiative promoted sustainable and nutritious food production, increased entrepreneurship and access to agricultural services, and supported the modernization of institutions and policies for agricultural transformation. Key interventions included the promotion of sustainable farming practices, introduction of high-yielding rice varieties, and farmer training on modern cultivation techniques.

Through close collaboration with BRRI, UMS ensured that agricultural research and innovations reached remote and underserved rural communities. The organization played a crucial role in community mobilization, capacity building, and facilitating the adoption of new farming technologies. Activities included seed distribution, training on pest management, irrigation systems, post-harvest management, and awareness-building on climate-resilient agriculture.

The project also established demonstration plots and organized field days, allowing farmers to witness the benefits of improved technologies firsthand. Climate-smart agricultural practices were promoted to help farmers adapt to floods, droughts, and salinity intrusion. Through this partnership, UMS contributed to sustainable agricultural development, poverty reduction, and rural resilience in Bangladesh.

2. Agricultural Fair (Agro-Tech Fair)

UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) successfully organized an Agro-Tech Fair to showcase advanced agricultural technologies and innovations aimed at improving productivity, sustainability, and climate resilience. The fair served as a collaborative platform for government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and farmers to exchange knowledge and foster partnerships for sustainable agricultural development.

Key Activities and Achievements:

- **Promotion of Food Security and Resilient Farming Technologies:** Advanced tools and climate-smart practices were demonstrated to highlight their role in sustainable food systems.

- **Hands-On Technology Demonstrations:** Over 10,000 farmers participated in live demonstrations of modern agricultural equipment and innovative farming systems.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Interactive sessions on food security, climate resilience, and women's empowerment reached more than 3,000 farmers, with 45% female participation.

The Agro-Tech Fair significantly enhanced farmers' awareness and capacity to adapt to climate challenges through sustainable agricultural practices.

3. Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) Program

The Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) Program, supported by the Department of Women and Child Affairs and implemented by UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS), focused on empowering vulnerable women through financial assistance, capacity building, and social protection.

During 2023–2024, the program mobilized 20–25 women's groups in Fakirhat Upazila of Bagerhat District. Participants—widows, single mothers, and economically disadvantaged women—received training on savings, leadership, and income-generating activities. Entrepreneur Development Training enabled beneficiaries to develop sustainable business plans, while bank account facilitation strengthened financial independence. Psychosocial support services further enhanced emotional well-being, contributing to improved quality of life, gender equality, and social inclusion.

4. Lactating Mother Support Project

In 2023–2024, UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) implemented the Lactating Mother Support Project with the support of the Department of Women and Child Affairs in Khulna Sadar. The project reached 1,050 lactating mothers, providing essential health services, nutrition counseling, and educational support.

Key interventions included health education sessions on breastfeeding, maternal nutrition, and early childhood care, along with training on infant care techniques. Through collaboration with local health facilities, mothers accessed regular check-ups, vaccinations, and medical consultations. Psychosocial support services addressed emotional challenges, while community engagement initiatives fostered a supportive environment for maternal and child health.

5. Rural Women's Development Project

The Rural Women's Development Project aimed to empower rural women by strengthening skills in agriculture, food processing, and household-based industries while promoting financial inclusion and leadership.

Key Activities and Achievements:

- **Entrepreneurship Development:** Over 5,000 rural women were trained in sustainable agriculture and food processing.
- **Capacity Building:** Training on climate-resilient agriculture and value addition increased productivity and income diversification.
- **Leadership Promotion:** Approximately 30% of beneficiaries initiated small enterprises or income-generating activities.

The project enhanced women's economic opportunities, leadership, and social status in rural communities.

6. WASH Initiative for Climate-Vulnerable Coastal Communities (Koira, Satkhira)

During FY 2024–25, UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) implemented a comprehensive WASH initiative in Koira, Satkhira, addressing challenges related to salinity, water scarcity, and sanitation.

Over 3,500 individuals benefited from the installation of 15 climate-resilient tube wells and rainwater harvesting systems. Additionally, 50 flood-resilient latrines improved sanitation for 500 households. Hygiene awareness campaigns reached 2,000 households, and 20 local WASH committees were trained to ensure sustainability and community ownership.

This initiative significantly improved public health and strengthened climate resilience in coastal communities.

7. Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation Program

The Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Program of UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) addressed climate vulnerabilities through awareness campaigns, tree plantation, preparedness training, adaptive agriculture, WASH, and maternal and adolescent health interventions.

In 2024–25, the program reached over 8,000 individuals through 50 community sessions. More than 10,000 saplings were planted, contributing to environmental protection. Adaptive agriculture training improved food security, while health and nutrition awareness benefitted over 1,500 women and girls. WASH interventions supported nearly 3,000 people.

8. National Microcredit Program (NMP)

The National Microcredit Program (NMP) played a vital role in poverty reduction and self-employment promotion among low-income households.

Key Activities and Achievements:

- Provided microcredit support to over 20,000 households.
- Supported agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and small-scale industries.
- Delivered financial literacy and enterprise management training.

Beneficiaries reported an average 30% increase in household income, demonstrating the program's impact on sustainable livelihoods.

SUCCESS STORIES

Transforming Lives Through Livelihoods

Shima, a mother of three from Morelgonj, transformed her life by joining a cooperative facilitated by **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)**. With access to micro-finance support and vocational training, she successfully established a poultry farm. This initiative

doubled her household income and inspired other women in her community to pursue income-generating activities, fostering collective economic empowerment.

Empowering Future Generations

Rifat, a 12-year-old boy from Barishal, now dreams of becoming a doctor thanks to the educational support provided by **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)**. Through inclusive learning and child-friendly education programs, he has gained the confidence and tools necessary to thrive academically and envision a brighter future.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH AND GOVERNANCE

Human Resources

- **Total Staff:** 46
 - Male: 22
 - Female: 24

Policy Framework

UMS maintains strong governance and management systems to ensure ethical conduct and operational excellence. Key policies include:

- Child Safeguarding Policy
- Gender Policy
- Emergency Response Policy

Governance Practices

The Executive Body and General Body of **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)** ensure participatory and transparent decision-making processes. Regular quarterly and biannual meetings provide strategic guidance, performance oversight, and accountability.

Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2025

1. **Scale Climate Resilience Programs:** Expand partnerships and introduce advanced climate-smart technologies.
2. **Deepen Community Engagement:** Strengthen grassroots capacity building for long-term sustainable development.
3. **Promote Innovation:** Pilot renewable energy solutions and sustainable livelihood models tailored to coastal communities.
4. **Strengthen Institutional Capacity:** Invest in staff development and organizational systems to maximize impact.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners, donors, and stakeholders—including government agencies and local communities—whose collaboration enables **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)** to advance its mission and empower underserved populations.

For more information, please contact us at 01711476400.
Together, let us build a just, equitable, and sustainable future.

Prepared by:
UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)
December 2025

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

Key Highlights

1. Livelihood Development and Poverty Alleviation

- Over 10,000 beneficiaries empowered through skill development and income-generating activities.
- Climate-resilient agricultural techniques introduced for 4,500 farming households in Khulna, Jhalokathi, and Bagerhat.

2. Health, Nutrition, and WASH Interventions

- Organized 7 community health camps, serving 3,200 individuals.
- Installed 10 new tube wells and promoted hygiene practices, benefiting 5,000 people.

3. Education Initiatives

- Reached 1,800 children through non-formal education programs in remote areas.
- Trained 150 community teachers to improve education quality.

4. Climate Change and Environmental Protection

- Planted over 20,000 trees through collaborative plantation drives.
- Conducted climate resilience workshops for 1,000 community members.

5. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- Empowered 3,500 women through skill-building and leadership development initiatives.
- Strengthened gender-based advocacy networks across project areas.

GEOGRAPHICAL REACH

In 2025, **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)** expanded its interventions beyond Khulna, Jhalokathi, and Bagerhat to include Barisal, Satkhira, and Pirojpur.

District	Major Activities	Beneficiaries
Khulna	Climate resilience, education, livelihoods	12,000
Jhalokathi	Health and WASH	7,000
Bagerhat	Tree plantation, microfinance	8,000
Barisal	Women empowerment	5,000

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS) remains firmly committed to transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness. In 2025, structured quarterly governance reviews were introduced to assess performance, evaluate project outcomes, and guide strategic improvements. These reviews actively engaged program staff, management, and board members, promoting shared ownership and accountability.

Participatory decision-making remained central to UMS's governance approach. Beneficiaries, local authorities, civil society actors, and donors were engaged in shaping priorities, ensuring community-driven and responsive programming. Feedback mechanisms strengthened relevance and effectiveness.

Transparency was upheld through the regular publication of annual reports, financial statements, and program updates. External audits confirmed financial integrity, and policies were updated to align with national and international standards. Capacity-building initiatives further strengthened governance bodies, staff competencies, and community oversight mechanisms.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, **UDVABONI MOHILA SANGSTHA (UMS)** will focus on:

- Expanding climate adaptation and resilience programs.
- Strengthening partnerships with national and international organizations.
- Scaling up education and health interventions for vulnerable populations.

Acknowledgments

We sincerely thank our donors, partners, community members, and dedicated staff for their continued trust and support. Together, we will continue to create lasting, positive change.

Contact Information

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