GRACE
Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Building resilient communities, empowering women, and protecting nature for a sustainable future.



Website: **www.gracebd.net**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



**Resilience begins when communities are empowered to transform adversity into opportunity. At GRACE, we believe lasting development means strengthening people's capacities, restoring livelihoods, protecting natural resources and ensuring that vulnerable communities can shape their own futures. This conviction guides our commitment to inclusive, community-led development in Bangladesh.**

**I am pleased to present GRACE's Annual Report for 2025–2026, reflecting our collective efforts, achievements and learning. During the year, we worked alongside vulnerable communities in Khulna to address climate change, livelihood insecurity, poverty, public health challenges and environmental degradation through community participation, local partnerships and practical interventions.**

**GRACE implemented six development initiatives spanning climate resilience, livelihood recovery, alternative livelihoods, health, nutrition and WASH, education, social welfare and environmental protection. Key achievements included livelihood support for 36 households in 2026, food assistance to 120 vulnerable households in 2025, engagement with 300 women through 12 community groups, and skills development to strengthen women's economic opportunities. A 250-foot drainage system also benefited approximately 150 households, demonstrating the value of community advocacy and local collaboration. These achievements represent more than activities delivered: they reflect opportunities created, capacities strengthened and confidence built. Women, young people, economically vulnerable households and marginalized communities will remain central to GRACE's development approach. We recognize, however, that climate risks, limited resources, economic insecurity and unequal access to essential services remain significant challenges. Stronger partnerships, sustainable financing, transparent management, effective monitoring and continuous learning are therefore essential.**

**Looking ahead to 2026–2027, GRACE will prioritize community-led climate resilience, climate-smart livelihoods, women's economic empowerment, health, nutrition and WASH, children's education, and nature-based solutions. We will also strengthen institutional capacity and partnerships to expand effective approaches linking environmental sustainability with inclusive social and economic development.**

**I extend sincere gratitude to our community members, programme participants, staff, volunteers, local authorities, partners, donors and well-wishers. Your trust and commitment make this work possible. Together, we will turn community aspirations into collective action and build a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future.**

**Chairperson**
**Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE)**
**Khulna, Bangladesh**

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Since independence in 1971, the country has faced political transitions, natural calamities, socio-economic challenges and human-made crises. Yet, through determination, innovation and courage, its people have continued to move forward. This spirit of resilience inspires GRACE's commitment to working alongside communities to build a more inclusive and sustainable future.**

**The reporting year 2025–2026 was an important period for GRACE. We continued serving marginalized and vulnerable communities, particularly those affected by poverty, climate change, disaster risks, health challenges, limited access to education and social exclusion. Our work recognized that development must go beyond economic progress to uphold dignity, justice, inclusion, good governance, access to essential services and equal opportunities.**

**During the year, GRACE implemented six development initiatives focused on climate change adaptation, disaster resilience, ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihoods, child development and youth engagement, health, nutrition and WASH, urban resilience, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, education and skills development. Key results included livelihood support for 36 households in 2026, food assistance for 120 vulnerable households in 2025, engagement with 300 women through 12 ICCRP groups, and the establishment of a 250-foot drainage system benefiting approximately 150 households. Skills development activities also supported women's participation in income-generating opportunities.**

**GRACE's vision is a world free from poverty, where human rights are respected, dignity is protected and every individual can participate in a resilient, inclusive and just society. Our work is guided by humanity, innovation, honesty, accountability, transparency, leadership, gender and youth sensitivity, community participation, justice, equity, inclusion, sustainability, resilience and collaboration. These values shape our programmes, partnerships and relationships with the communities we serve.**

**I extend sincere appreciation to our donors, development partners, government and local government institutions, civil society organizations, private-sector partners and well-wishers for their continued trust and support. I am equally grateful to the community members who participate in our initiatives, and to GRACE's Board, management, staff, volunteers and field colleagues whose dedication makes our work possible.**
**Looking ahead to 2026–2027, GRACE will strengthen climate-resilient development, sustainable livelihoods, health, nutrition and WASH services, education and skills development, women's and youth leadership, green entrepreneurship and strategic partnerships. We will also continue improving institutional capacity, accountability and evidence-based programming to strengthen programme quality and impact.**

**The challenges remain significant, but our shared commitment is stronger. Through collective action, innovation and compassion, GRACE will continue standing beside vulnerable communities as they build a future of dignity, opportunity and resilience. Together, we will continue to build, bond and belong—creating lasting change for people and communities.**
***With commitment and appreciation,***

**Executive Director**
**Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE)**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2025–2026, Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE), a women-led development organization based in Khulna, Bangladesh, continued to promote community resilience, sustainable livelihoods, women's empowerment, health and nutrition, WASH, children's education, and environmental protection. Working through community engagement, local partnerships, advocacy, awareness-raising and livelihood support, GRACE focused on addressing the interconnected challenges of climate vulnerability, poverty, water scarcity and social exclusion.

During the reporting period, GRACE implemented six development initiatives: the Integrated Coastal Climate Resilience Project (ICCRP), Zakat Assistance for Livelihood Recovery (ZALR), Voices from the Riverbank (VARL), the Public–Private Partnership Agro-Initiative, RESHAPE: Health, Nutrition and WASH, and Social Welfare, Community Awareness and Environmental Resilience. The combined stated budgets of these initiatives amounted to BDT 2,212,500 across their respective project periods.

GRACE's major achievements included supporting 36 households through livelihood recovery assistance in 2026 and providing festival-related food assistance to 120 vulnerable households in 2025. Under the Zakat livelihood initiative, reported average monthly household income increased from BDT 5,700 to BDT 12,200, representing approximately 114% growth. Through ICCRP, GRACE engaged 300 women across 12 community groups, strengthening participation in community development and resilience-building activities. Skills development initiatives supported 18 participants through sewing and freelancing training, with 11 reportedly establishing income-generating opportunities and three securing private-sector employment.

In health, nutrition and WASH, GRACE promoted maternal and child health awareness, nutrition practices, household gardening, hygiene and preventive healthcare. A 250-foot drainage system, established through local advocacy, benefited approximately 150 households by helping reduce waterlogging. Environmental initiatives included nature conservation, community cleaning, dengue-prevention awareness and tree planting. A community education and skills development centre also commenced with 20 children during June–July 2026.

GRACE's principal working areas were Ward 31 of Khulna City Corporation and Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna District, with potential opportunities to extend conservation-linked livelihood models to other locations. Its programmes prioritized women, women fishers, adolescent girls, children, young people and economically vulnerable households.

Financially, the audited statements reported annual income of BDT 936,232, expenditure before the reported annual surplus of BDT 927,013, and a surplus of BDT 9,219 for the year ended 30 June 2026. The six initiatives' combined stated project budgets of BDT 2,212,500 represent different implementation periods and should not be interpreted as annual expenditure. Project-wise actual expenditure and a consolidated unique-beneficiary total require further verification.

Key challenges included climate and livelihood vulnerability, resource constraints, unequal access to essential services, and the need for stronger monitoring, follow-up and documentation of results. Looking ahead, GRACE will prioritize sustainable livelihood diversification, stronger community ownership, improved financial and programme accountability, evidence-based monitoring, strategic partnerships and the scaling of effective nature-based and community-led solutions to build more inclusive, resilient and self-reliant communities.

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GREEN RESILIENCE AND COOPERATION FOR ECOSYSTEM

CHAPTER ONE

# Organizational Profile and Strategic Alignment



# Chapter One: Organizational Profile and Strategic Alignment

## 1.1 About GRACE:

Bangladesh's development journey is widely recognized as a story of resilience, transformation and determination. Since independence in 1971, the country has achieved remarkable progress despite facing political transitions, recurring natural calamities, environmental challenges and socio-economic inequalities. The people of Bangladesh have repeatedly demonstrated courage, adaptability and a strong capacity to recover and rebuild. However, the benefits of development have not reached all groups equally. Marginalized and disadvantaged communities, particularly in disaster-prone and climate-vulnerable regions, continue to face poverty, social exclusion, limited access to services, livelihood insecurity and unequal opportunities.

In this context, GRACE has emerged with a strong commitment to sustainable, inclusive and community-led development. The organization began its journey in 2013, when a group of motivated young individuals established the **Welfare and Peace Foundation Khulna (WPF Khulna)** and initiated small-scale voluntary activities in the Sonadanga area of Khulna City Corporation. From 2013 to 2023, WPF Khulna implemented community-based initiatives, including vocational training and tree plantation activities, benefiting both urban and rural communities in Khulna district. These early interventions were supported through community contributions and the voluntary commitment of its founding members.

WPF Khulna was officially registered with the Department of Social Services in 2016. In 2024, considering its expanded vision, mission and programmatic priorities, the General Board renamed the organization as **Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE)**. The decision was formally ratified by the Department of Social Services, and GRACE began operating under its new identity from April 2024, marking a new chapter in promoting resilience, social welfare, ecosystem restoration and inclusive development in Bangladesh.

GRACE works to support deprived, marginalized and climate-vulnerable communities by improving their quality of life, strengthening resilience and expanding access to equitable opportunities. The organization believes that sustainable development goes beyond economic growth and must include social justice, good governance, health, education, dignity, equality and meaningful community participation.

GRACE's development philosophy is rooted in honesty, transparency, accountability, inclusion and long-term commitment. It places communities at the center of development processes and promotes local leadership, partnership and collective action to address poverty, climate change, disaster risk, livelihood insecurity and social exclusion.

In the changing national context, GRACE values strategic partnerships with government institutions, development partners, civil society, the private sector and community-based organizations. Through collaboration, GRACE aims to strengthen community-driven climate adaptation, inclusive livelihoods, social protection, green enterprise, youth engagement and sustainable environmental practices, particularly in coastal, urban and vulnerable areas.

Guided by the spirit of **"building, bonding and belonging,"** GRACE remains committed to working with communities to create resilient, inclusive and empowered societies where every individual can live with dignity, opportunity and hope.

### 1.2 Basic Information and Legal status:

| | |
|---|---|
| **1. Full name** | **GREEN RESILIANCE AND COOPERATION FOR ECOSYSTEM** |
| **2. Acronym** | GRACE |
| **3. Identity** | GRACE is a non-government, non-profit, Social Development Organization committed to inclusive participatory and sustainable development for create, connect, and continue-always with the community |
| **4. Establishment date** | January 10, 2013 |
| **5.Legal Status** | **1. Department of Social Service:** Reg no#1552;<br>Date of registration# 10 January 2016 and Changed Name & date: Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE) on 08.07.2024<br>**2. NGO Affairs Bureau:** Reg no#3462;<br>Date of registration# 19 May 2025<br>**3. TIN:** 315441731694 registered on July 7, 2025 |
| **6.Correspondence Office, Dhaka Office** | Saila Reza Khan, Flat 3D, House 46/2, Road 2, Arab Ali Member Road, Diabari, Uttara, Sector 15, Dhaka 1230<br>cell no: 01924789083 |
| **7. Contact Person** | Md. Mamun Or Rashid<br>Executive Director<br>Mobile: +8801725415410<br>Email: mamun.rashid@gracebd.net |
| **8.Head Office (Khulna)** | 73/36 Modina Sarak, Bandhabazar, Labanchara, Shipyard-9201, Khulna, Bangladesh<br>Mobile: +8801725415410<br>Email: mamun.rashid@gracebd.net |
| **9.Social Media** | Website: www.gracebd.net<br>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/gracebdnet<br>Twitter: https://x.com/gracebdnet |

### 1.3 Bank Details:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name of Account | : | Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE) |
| Name of Bank | : | Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC |
| Address | : | Boro Bazar Branch, Khulna<br>[A Hossain Plaza(1st floor), Holding No. 04 & 05,<br>Sir Iqbal Road (Boro Bazar), Khulna] |
| Account no | : | 3381100006847 |
| Routing No | : | 090470374 |

### 1.4 Vision, Mission and Core values:

#### Vision:

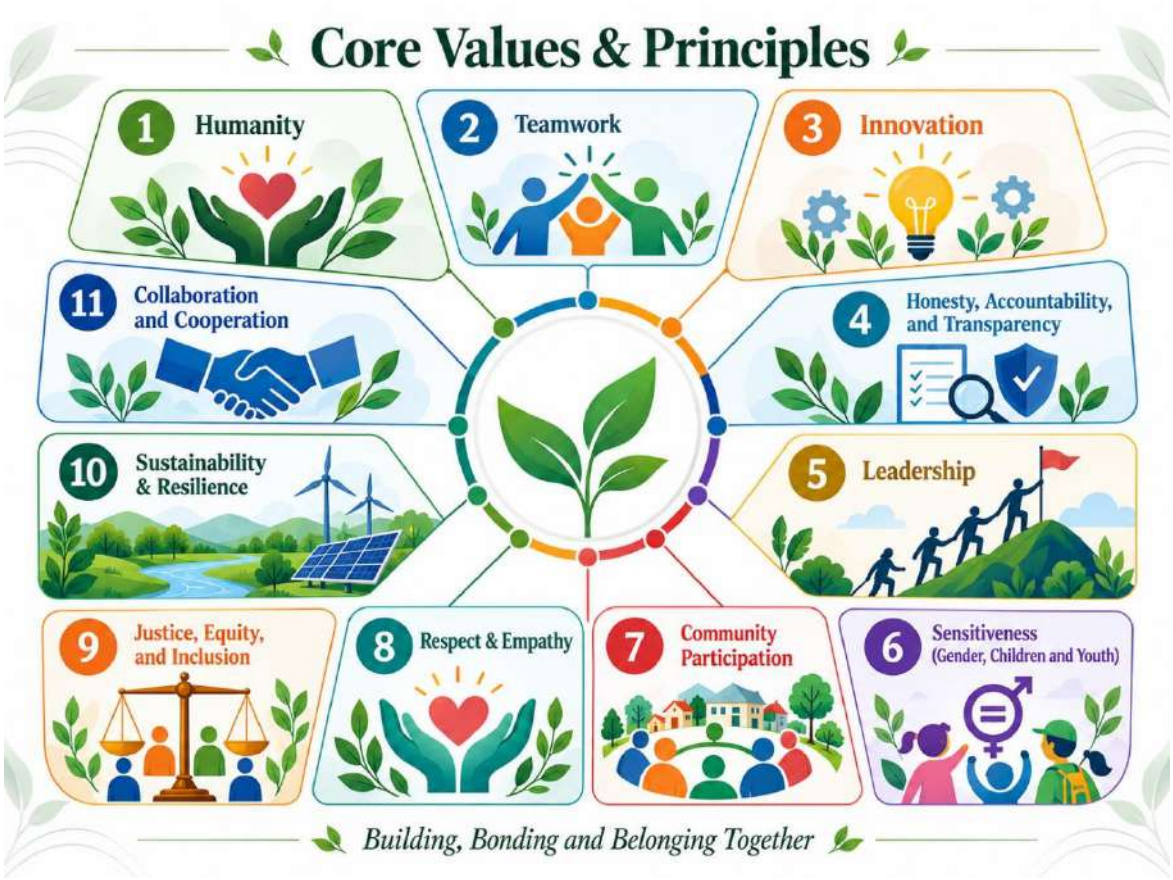
In our quest for a society free from poverty, we aim to promote human rights, uphold dignity, and champion social justice. Our commitment to youth and women's empowerment extends to building local capacities, eliminating gender discrimination, and mitigating vulnerability to climate change. By fostering an environment that prioritizes these values, we envision a

comprehensive transformation that not only eradicates poverty but also ensures the empowerment and resilience of our communities—building, bonding and belonging — together.

**Mission:**

GRACE's mission is to collaboratively work with communities, fostering socioeconomic advancement, promoting gender equity, and driving positive transformations among marginalized, disadvantaged, and vulnerable individuals in society. Through close partnerships with government line departments, local governance structures, civil societies, NGOs, private sectors, development partners, and diverse stakeholders, we catalyze inclusive and sustainable change. Committed to advancing resilient, equitable, and inclusive development in harmony with national and international frameworks, we strive to empower communities and strengthen solidarity—building, bonding and belonging — together.

**Core Values:**




a) **Humanity:** We prioritize human welfare and dignity in all our actions.
b) **Teamwork:** We emphasize collective effort and collaboration.
c) **Innovation:** We want to promote change through creative methods, to shine a light on ignored issues. We have a culture of improving ideas from the grassroots. We are resilient and view failure as something to learn from and do better next time.
d) **Honesty, Accountability, and Transparency:** We maintain integrity, responsibility, and openness in our operations. We believe in honesty. We want our work to be as visible as possible and maximum access to information regarding the management of resources and the impact of our actions, in pursuit of the highest level of social and economic accountability to encourage everyone to join us in our vision.
e) **Leadership:** We inspire and guide others towards achieving shared goals.
f) **Sensitiveness (Gender, Children and Youth):** We are committed to addressing gender disparities and promoting equality.
g) **Community Participation:** We engage and involve communities in our decision-making processes.
h) **Respect & Empathy:** We treat everyone with respect and strive to understand diverse perspectives. We believe in showing kindness and empathy towards all individuals,

regardless of their background or circumstances. By practicing compassion, we can create a more inclusive and understanding society

i) **Justice, Equity, and Inclusion:** We strive for fairness, equal opportunities, and inclusiveness for all.

j) **Sustainability & Resilience:** We are committed to protecting the environment and preserving resources for future generations. By promoting sustainability, we can ensure a healthy and thriving planet for all humanity

k) **Collaboration and Cooperation:** We believe in working together with others to address the challenges facing humanity. By collaborating with diverse perspectives and talents, we can create innovative solutions to complex problems.

**1.5 Thematic Area of GRACE:**




**1. Climate Change, Disaster Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration, Sustainable Environment:**

GRACE promotes climate-resilient communities by supporting disaster risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable environmental practices. Through community awareness, preparedness planning, nature-based solutions, and local adaptation initiatives, GRACE works to reduce climate vulnerability and strengthen the capacity of communities to withstand and recover from disasters.

**2. Children and Youth Development:**

GRACE is committed to creating safe, inclusive, and enabling environments for children and young people. The organization focuses on child protection, youth leadership, life skills development, civic engagement, and access to opportunities that help children and youth become confident, responsible, and productive members of society.

**3. Health, Nutrition and WASH:**

GRACE works to improve community health and well-being by promoting access to basic health services, nutrition awareness, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. The organization emphasizes preventive health, maternal and child nutrition, hygiene behavior change, and community-based health education to reduce health risks and improve quality of life**.**

**4. Urban Resilience:**

GRACE supports vulnerable urban communities to become more resilient to health, climate, social, and economic challenges. This thematic area integrates health, nutrition, climate adaptation, advocacy, women's empowerment, entrepreneurship development, and governance to strengthen inclusive urban systems and improve the living conditions of marginalized populations.

**5. Social Entrepreneur, Green Business Development and Private Sector Engagement:**

GRACE promotes sustainable livelihoods through social entrepreneurship, green business initiatives, and collaboration with the private sector. The organization encourages environmentally responsible income-generating activities, market linkage, innovation, and inclusive enterprise development to enhance economic resilience while contributing to sustainable development.

**6. Education & Skill Development:**

GRACE works to improve access to quality education and practical skill development for children, youth, women, and marginalized communities. The organization supports formal and non-formal education, vocational training, digital literacy, employability skills, and lifelong learning opportunities to empower individuals and improve their future prospects.

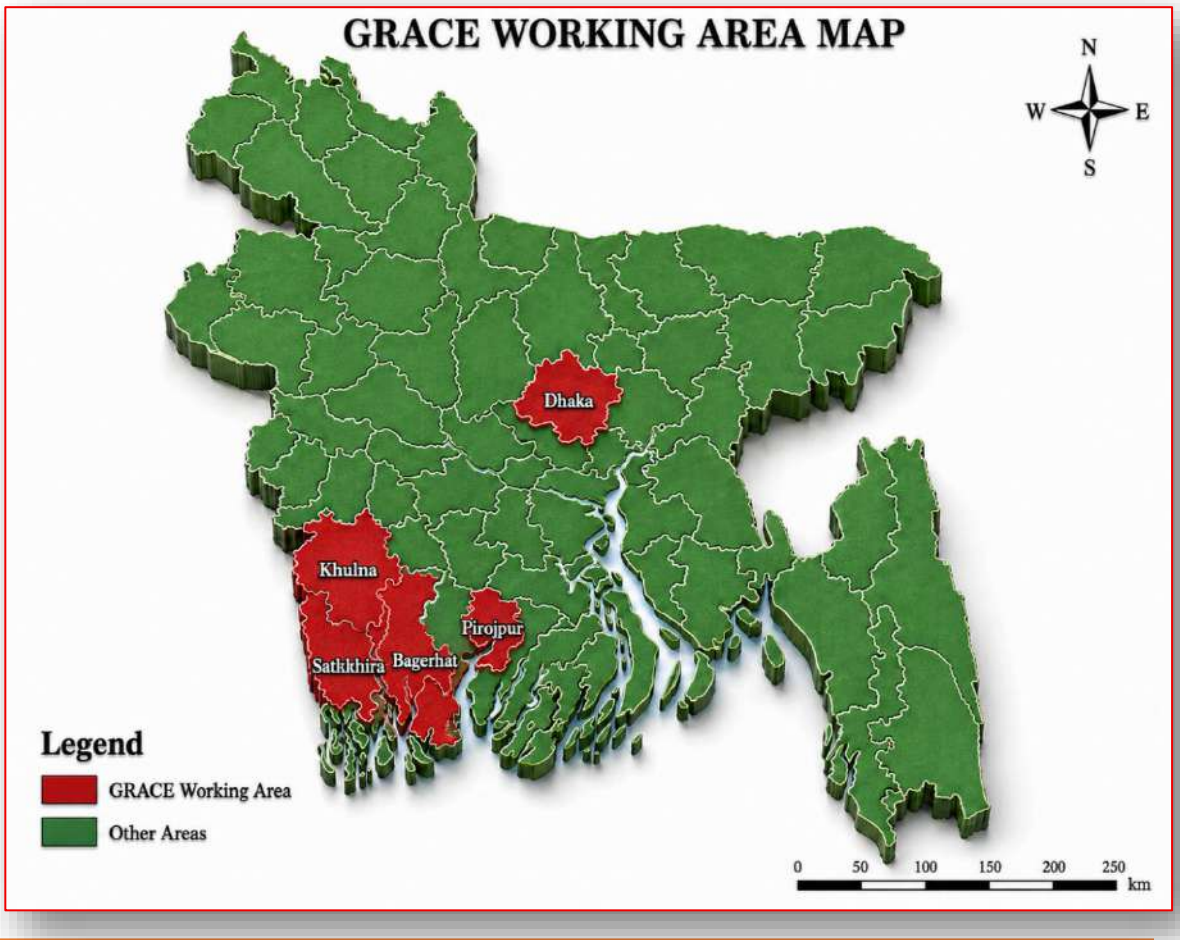
### 1.6 Working area of GRACE and coverage population

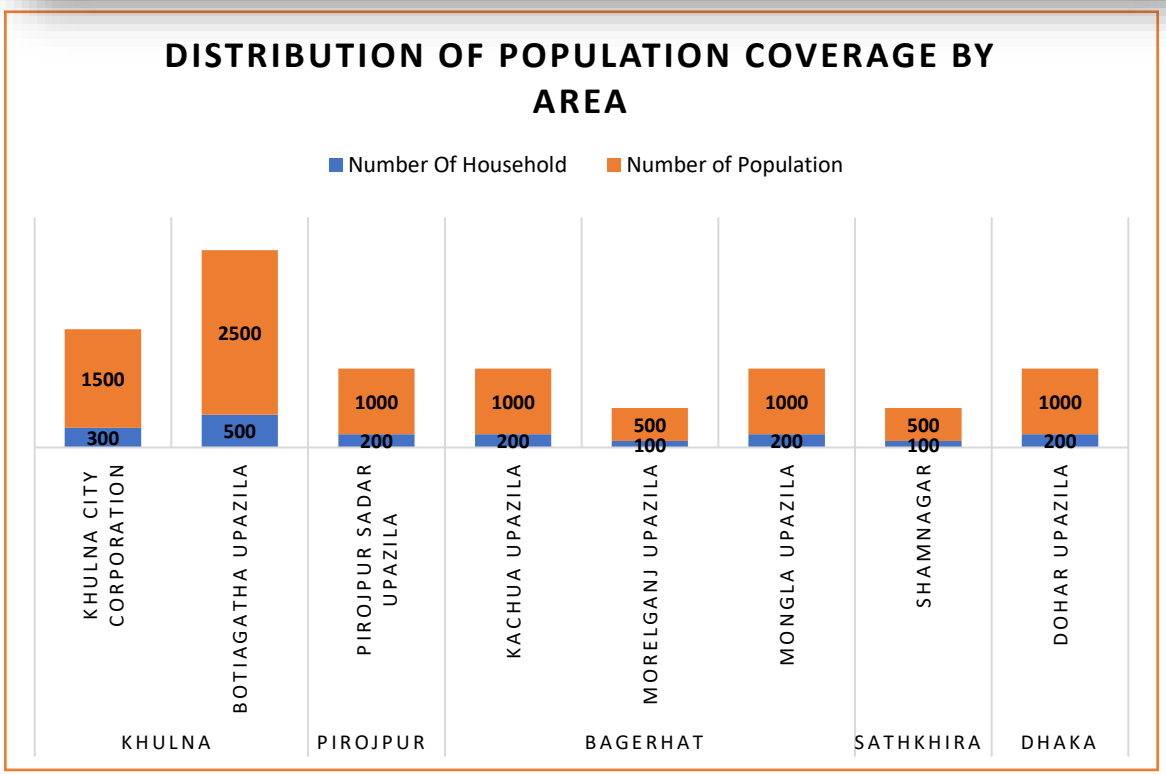
During the reporting year, GRACE implemented activities **in** Khulna, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Dhaka districts, covering selected city corporation, municipality and upazila areas. A total of 1,800 households, representing approximately 9,000 people**,** were reached through the programme**.**

The highest coverage was in Khulna**,** with 800 households and 4,000 people**,** followed by Pirojpur with 400 households and 2,000 people**.** In Bagerhat**,** the programme reached 300 households and

1,500 people, while Satkhira and Dhaka covered 100 households and 500 people, and 200 households and 1,000 people respectively.

This coverage reflects GRACE's continued commitment to supporting vulnerable communities across both coastal and inland areas of Bangladesh.



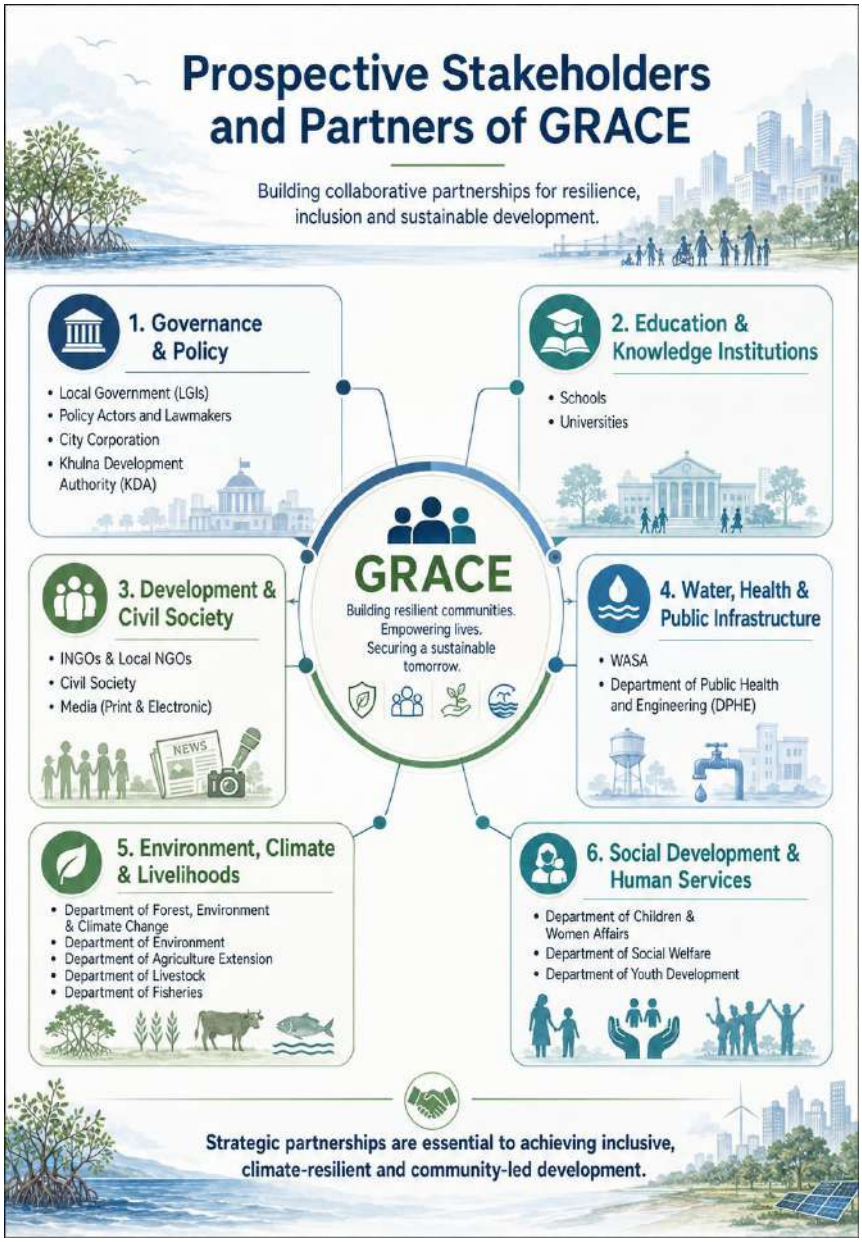



## 1.7 Social media engagement of GRACE

| Platform / Website | Link |
|---|---|
| Website | www.gracebd.net |
| Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/gracebdnet |
| X (Twitter) | https://x.com/gracebdnet |
| Instagram | https://www.instagram.com/gracebdnet |




## 1.8 Stakeholder's and Partners




**Prospective Stakeholders and Partners of GRACE**

- Local Government Institutions (LGIs)
- Policy Actors and Lawmakers
- Schools
- Universities
- International NGOs (INGOs) and Local NGOs
- Civil Society Organizations
- City Corporation
- Khulna Development Authority (KDA)
- Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA)
- Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)
- Department of Forest
- Department of Environment
- Department of Agricultural Extension
- Department of Women and Children Affairs
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Youth Development
- Department of Livestock Services
- Department of Fisheries
- Print and Electronic Media

## 1.9 Target Group

**GRACE prioritizes vulnerable and marginalized communities through inclusive, community-led development initiatives.**

- **Climate-Vulnerable Coastal Communities: People living in climate-risk hotspots.**
- **Climate Migrants: People displaced by climate change and migrating to urban areas.**
- **Vulnerable Adolescent Girls and Women: Women and girls facing social and economic inequalities.**
- **Poor and Marginalized Occupational Groups: Low-income workers and disadvantaged livelihood groups.**
- **Children at Risk: Children living in vulnerable situations and facing barriers to education and protection.**
- **People with Disabilities: Individuals requiring inclusive services and equal opportunities.**
- **Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous communities seeking to protect their rights, culture, and livelihoods.**
- **People Living in Slums: Urban families facing inadequate housing, limited services, and economic hardship.**



## 1.10 Key Guiding Policies:

GRACE believes that strong organizational governance is essential for promoting a participatory and rights-based approach in society. The organization has well-structured policies and guidelines to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective institutional management.

GRACE also has its own strategic framework to respond to contemporary development priorities and achieve its future goals under its defined thematic areas. A participatory administrative structure is in place to ensure better organizational performance and effective management of ongoing programmes.

The organization places strong emphasis on staff capacity building to empower its team and ensure quality programme implementation. GRACE also maintains a strong monitoring system that supports management, administration, and policy-level decision-making for the smooth operation of both programmes and the organization.

In addition, GRACE considers linkage development and networking with government departments, NGOs, and national and international organizations as one of its key institutional strengths. These partnerships help strengthen programme activities and contribute to achieving the organization's mission and vision. The list of GRACE's existing guiding policies is provided below:




1. Code of Conduct
2. Program Participant Protection Policy
3. Child Safeguarding and Protection policy
4. Anti-Traffiking in person Policy
5. Procurement policy
6. Information Discloser Policy
7. Gender Policy
8. PSEA
9. Anti-Corruption and Anti-Fraud Management policy

10. Vehicle Management Policy
11. Travel Perdiem & Accommodation
12. Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability
13. Occupational Health & Safety and Social Environment Management
14. Emergency-Response-Procedures
15. Anti-Money Laundering and terrorist financing
16. Share cost policy
17. Audit policy (internal, external and foreign)
18. Foreign Exchange risk management policy
19. Financial Management Policy
20. Human Resource Management Policy

### 1.11 Contribution to sustainable development Goals (SDG)

GRACE contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through nature conservation, climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, health, education, women's empowerment, and community development. By working with communities and partners, GRACE promotes inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and resilient communities for a better future.



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CHAPTER TWO

# Reporting Year at a Glance

(July 2025 to June 2026)



# Chapter Two: Reporting Year at a Glance

## Reporting Year at a Glance

**Community-led resilience • Inclusive livelihoods • Healthier families • Greener communities**

2025–2026 IN REVIEW

GRACE advanced an integrated, women-led approach to community development in climate-vulnerable communities in Khulna. Across six initiatives, programming connected livelihood recovery, climate resilience, health and nutrition, WASH, children's education, environmental protection and women's empowerment.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **6**<br>community initiatives | **300**<br>women engaged through 12 ICCRP groups | **291**<br>reported group sessions by July 2026 |
| **36**<br>households receiving livelihood support in 2026 | **20**<br>children at centre launch in June–July 2026 | **150**<br>households benefiting from a 250-foot drainage system |

**MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND EMERGING IMPACT**

| | |
|---|---|
| **LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY**<br>Zakat assistance linked food support with income generation. Among 36 livelihood-supported households, reported average monthly income rose from BDT 5,700 to BDT 12,200—about 114%. | **WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENCY**<br>Eighteen participants received sewing or freelancing training; 11 reportedly established income opportunities and three secured private-sector employment. |
| **HEALTH, NUTRITION & WASH**<br>Mothers' groups, cooking demonstrations, health camps and home gardening promoted healthier practices. A 250-foot drainage system reportedly benefits around 150 households. | **CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT**<br>Climate-smart livelihood learning, nature conservation, community cleaning, dengue-prevention awareness and planting of 16 fruit saplings supported local resilience. |
| **CHILDREN & YOUTH**<br>A community education and skills development centre began with 20 children in June–July 2026. Livelihood support also helped caregivers contribute to education costs. | **COMMUNITY AWARENESS**<br>The 2025 social welfare initiative sensitized 205 people, installed six awareness billboards and distributed 100 leaflets. |

**Figure note:** Figures are project-specific and may cover different dates or beneficiary categories. They are not a consolidated unique-beneficiary total.

## 2.2 Program Coverage

Documented activities were concentrated in two principal areas of Khulna District, with possible replication of conservation-linked agro-enterprise models in additional locations.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **WARD 31**<br>Khulna City Corporation<br>Urban resilience • WASH • Health<br>Livelihood recovery • Social welfare | **JOLMA UNION**<br>Batiaghata Upazila<br>Climate-smart livelihoods • Women's empowerment<br>Nature conservation • Education | **PIPELINE AREAS**<br>Dohar, Dhaka; Gopalpur Union, Kachua, Bagerhat<br>Prospective, subject to resources |

## 2.3 Beneficiary Outreach

GRACE prioritized women, adolescent girls, children, young people, women fishers, caregivers and economically vulnerable households through community groups, livelihood assistance, skills training, health and nutrition services, education support and environmental campaigns.

| OUTREACH CATEGORY | DOCUMENTED REACH / RESULT |
|---|---|
| **Women's groups** | 300 women through 12 ICCRP groups |
| **ICCRP livelihood assistance** | 50 women supported |
| **Zakat livelihood assistance** | 36 households in 2026 |
| **Skills development** | 18 sewing/freelancing trainees; 11 income opportunities reported |
| **Children's education** | 20 children at centre commencement |
| **Social awareness** | 205 people sensitized in 2025 |
| **Health and nutrition** | RESHAPE target: 1,025 people across 205 households |

**Data limitation:** Complete annual breakdowns by gender, age, disability, location and project were not available in the supplied records. Participants may overlap across projects. Verify and consolidate these figures through GRACE's MEAL system before publication.

## 2.4 Major Events and Milestones

**2025 | Eid assistance** Food support delivered to 120 households for Eid-ul-Fitr and 120 for Eid-ul-Adha.

**Oct 2025 | Public health & social awareness** Early marriage prevention and dengue awareness campaigns, community cleaning and public information activities.

**15–17 Oct 2025 | School greening** Sixteen fruit saplings planted at Raypara Government Primary School; around 40 students and teachers engaged.

**2026 | Livelihood recovery** Thirty-six households supported through small-business, poultry and livestock activities under the Zakat programme.

**Jun–Jul 2026 | Education & resilience** Education centre began with 20 children; 80 participants identified for climate-smart livelihoods and conservation; three RISE groups initiated.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

GRACE will build on these foundations by strengthening women's livelihoods, climate-resilient practices, community health, children's learning and environmental stewardship—while improving data quality, inclusion and measurement of sustained outcomes.

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# CHAPTER THREE

## Exploring Gaps: Assessments Conducted

### (July 2025–June 2026)





- Social Entrepreneur, Green Business & Private Sector Engagement
- Climate Change, Disaster Management & Environmental Protection
- Health, Nutrition and WASH
- Urban Resilience (Health, Climate Change, Advocacy, Governance)
- Education & Skill Development
- Women Empowerment, Children in Development and Youth Employment

# Chapter Three: Exploring Gaps: Assessments Conducted (July 2025–June 2026)

## 3.1 Multi-dimensional Household Vulnerability Assessment – Mathavanga Village, Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna

### 1. Background and Overview



Green Resilience And Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE) conducted a comprehensive household assessment in Mathavanga Village, Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna to understand multidimensional vulnerabilities among climate-affected peri-urban communities. The assessment covered 180 households and examined socioeconomic conditions, health and nutrition, WASH, education, livelihoods, social protection, and climate resilience.

The study was conducted during 20–31 January 2025 in a context where rapid urban expansion of Khulna City and climate-related stresses such as salinity intrusion, waterlogging, irregular rainfall, and livelihood disruption are increasing pressure on vulnerable households.

### 2. Objectives and Methodology



The assessment aimed to identify extremely poor and vulnerable households, understand service gaps, explore sustainable livelihood opportunities, and develop evidence-based intervention priorities.

A structured household survey approach was applied. Three trained enumerators collected data using a questionnaire covering socioeconomic status, maternal and child health, nutrition, WASH practices, livelihood options, education status, climate exposure, and social safety net access. Female household members were prioritized as respondents to strengthen gender-sensitive participation and inclusion.

### 3. Major Findings

**Socioeconomic Vulnerability:** The assessment found significant economic and social vulnerabilities. Around 41% of households earn below BDT 7,000 per month, while average income remains below sustainable livelihood levels. Educational deprivation is high, with 51% of respondents having no formal schooling. Housing conditions also indicate vulnerability, as 62.4% households live in katcha houses compared to the national rural average of 39%.

**Health, Nutrition and WASH:** Maternal health service continuity remains a concern. Only 32% of pregnant women completed four or more ANC visits. Although institutional delivery was relatively high, continuity of postnatal care was weak. Exclusive breastfeeding and minimum dietary diversity among women and children were substantially below recommended levels. Hygienic sanitation coverage was only 68.3%, and handwashing knowledge and practice remained low.




**Livelihood and Agriculture:** Household-level agriculture, livestock, poultry, and aquaculture adoption were considerably lower than national rural averages. Only 13% households practiced agriculture, 25% engaged in livestock rearing, 39% practiced poultry rearing, and only 1% practiced aquaculture, indicating limited livelihood diversification.

**Education:**
Education retention is a critical challenge. Only 37% of children completing primary education reach Class 10, while secondary dropout is extremely high. Poverty, limited support, and social barriers contribute to reduced continuation of education.

**Women's Economic Participation and Social Protection:** Women's participation in income-generating activities remains very low, with only 12% engaged beyond household work. Social protection coverage shows mixed results, with relatively better disability allowance access but low old-age allowance coverage.

**Climate Vulnerability:** Climate change awareness remains limited, with only 38% respondents understanding climate change concepts. However, climate-related migration pressure is high, with 44% households reporting climate-related migration experiences.

## 4. Key Program Priorities

Based on the assessment findings, GRACE identified several priority areas for future programming:

• Strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods through agriculture, poultry, livestock, aquaculture, and small enterprise support.

• Improving maternal and child health through ANC/PNC follow-up, skilled birth attendance, and community health support.

• Promoting nutrition improvement through breastfeeding counseling, dietary diversity awareness, and household nutrition initiatives.

• Expanding WASH interventions including hygienic sanitation, handwashing facilities, and behavior change communication.

• Supporting education retention through tutoring, stipends, and community engagement.
• Increasing women's economic empowerment through skills training, entrepreneurship, and market linkage.

• Enhancing climate adaptation awareness and community resilience planning.

## 5. Conclusion

The assessment provides important evidence on the interconnected vulnerabilities faced by peri-urban communities surrounding Khulna City. The findings demonstrate that poverty, climate risks, limited livelihood opportunities, weak education outcomes, and health and WASH challenges are closely linked.

The evidence will guide GRACE in designing inclusive, climate-responsive, and community-centered interventions to improve resilience, dignity, and sustainable development outcomes among vulnerable households.

Source: GRACE Household Vulnerability Assessment Report, Mathavanga Village, Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. The summary was prepared from the uploaded assessment document.



# 3.2 Voice of Riverbank

## Voices from the Riverbank: Life and Livelihood of Women Fishers Under Climate Pressure

Pilot Initiative on Alternative Livelihoods for Women Fishers for Biodiversity Conservation Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE) Kachubunia Shamshan Ghat, Jolma, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna, May 2026

## Background and Context



Bangladesh's coastal and riverine communities are among the most climate-vulnerable populations in the world. Women fishers and women from fisher households face multiple challenges including declining fish resources, climate-induced disasters, unstable income, limited livelihood options, poor access to services, and social exclusion. Under the project "Pilot Initiative on Alternative Livelihoods for Women Fishers for Biodiversity Conservation," GRACE conducted an assessment to understand the socio-economic, livelihood, health, WASH, education, and climate vulnerabilities of women fishers living along the Rupsha riverbank in Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. The assessment aimed to generate evidence for designing sustainable livelihood interventions, women's empowerment initiatives, and biodiversity-friendly resilience programs.

## Assessment Methodology

The assessment was conducted among 100 vulnerable households using structured household interviews and two focus group discussions (FGDs). A total of 50 women fishers participated in the consultation sessions held at Kachubunia Shamshan Ghat. Data collection covered demographic characteristics, livelihood patterns, income security, food and nutrition, healthcare access, WASH conditions, climate hazards, disaster preparedness, education, skills development, and adaptive capacity. Quantitative data were analyzed descriptively, while qualitative findings were reviewed thematically to identify key vulnerabilities and possible solutions.

## Major Findings

The assessment reveals that women fisher households experience multidimensional vulnerability.



• Livelihood vulnerability: Fishing is the primary occupation for 91% of households. More than half of households earn below BDT 7,500 per month from fisheries-related activities. Around 88% have no alternative livelihood opportunities, 63% are in debt, and 89% have no savings capacity.

• Women's empowerment: Although women contribute significantly to household livelihoods, only 28% have control over their own income. Women's participation in decision-making and disaster preparedness structures remains limited.

• Food security and health: Food insecurity and poor dietary diversity are major concerns. Only 12% of women achieved minimum dietary diversity, while many households experience reduced meal frequency during income shocks. Most households depend on local pharmacies during illness, indicating limited access to formal healthcare services.

• WASH challenges: Only 68% of households use hygienic latrines with water seals. Knowledge and practice of handwashing remain low, with only 26% having knowledge of the five critical handwashing moments.

• Climate and disaster risks: Flooding affects 88% of households and river erosion affects 76%. Around 82% of households live in fragile kutcha or temporary houses. Climate events reduce fishing days, damage assets, increase debt, and create long recovery periods.

• Education and skills: Only 58% of children attend school regularly. Poverty, disasters, child labor, and early marriage contribute to education disruption. Access to vocational training is very limited, with only 18% reporting training opportunities.

## Key Recommendations

Based on the findings, GRACE recommends an integrated resilience approach focusing on:

• Promotion of climate-resilient alternative livelihoods including poultry, livestock, fish processing, dry fish production, tailoring, small enterprises, homestead gardening, and adaptive aquaculture.
• Women's economic empowerment through skills training, access to productive assets, savings groups, financial literacy, market linkage, and increased decision-making power.
• Improvement of nutrition and health through maternal and child nutrition awareness, dietary diversification, community health support, and referral linkage with formal health services.
• Strengthening WASH services through hygienic sanitation improvement, household handwashing facilities, and behavior change communication.
• Enhancing disaster preparedness through improved early warning systems, household preparedness planning, women-friendly shelters, and inclusive community disaster management.



• Supporting children's education through learning support, dropout prevention, and protection-focused interventions.

• Expanding access to vocational training, digital literacy, climate adaptation knowledge, and livelihood extension services.

## Conclusion

The assessment demonstrates that women fisher households along the Rupsha riverbank face interconnected challenges related to poverty, climate change, livelihood insecurity, gender inequality, health, education, and social exclusion.

A long-term, gender-responsive, and climate-smart approach is essential to strengthen resilience among these communities. Through alternative livelihood development, women's empowerment, biodiversity conservation, and improved access to services, GRACE aims to support vulnerable riverbank communities toward safer, more dignified, and sustainable futures.

Source: GRACE Assessment Report – Voices from the Riverbank: Life and Livelihood of Women Fishers Under Climate Pressure.



## 3.3 Role of Access to Outdoor Playground on Children's Physical and Mental Health Development; A Study in Khulna City

**Background and Rationale**

Childhood is a critical stage of physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development. Safe outdoor play environments contribute significantly to children's healthy growth by encouraging physical activity, creativity, social interaction, emotional regulation, and psychological well-being. However, rapid urbanization, population growth, limited open spaces, and inadequate child-friendly recreational facilities have increasingly restricted children's opportunities for outdoor play, particularly in urban areas.

Recognizing the importance of child-friendly environments, GRACE conducted an assessment study titled **"Role of Access to Outdoor Playground on Children's Physical and Mental Health Development: A Study in Khulna City"** to explore how access to playground facilities influences children's physical health, mental well-being, social skills, and overall development. The study aimed to generate evidence to support child-centered urban planning, community development initiatives, and improved recreational facilities for children in climate-vulnerable urban settings.




**Study Approach and Methodology**

The assessment was conducted among **200 children aged 4–10 years** from selected residential areas of Khulna City, including children with and without access to playground facilities. A mixed-method approach was applied, combining structured questionnaires, observations, and community-level information gathering.

Playground accessibility was assessed based on the availability of a playground within **400 meters walking distance** from children's homes. The study examined socio-demographic characteristics, physical activity levels, nutritional status, emotional well-being, behavioral patterns, peer relationships, cognitive development, screen time behavior, and parental perceptions regarding outdoor play environments.

## Why This Study Matters

Children require safe outdoor environments to develop physically, emotionally, socially, and cognitively. However, rapid urbanization, limited open spaces, safety concerns, and inadequate recreational facilities are reducing children's opportunities for outdoor play. This assessment generated evidence on the importance of playground accessibility for creating healthier and more resilient communities.

## Assessment Snapshot

Study Area: Selected residential areas of Khulna City
Participants: 200 children aged 4–10 years
Assessment Focus: Playground access, physical development, mental well-being, social skills, and lifestyle behavior
Methodology: Structured questionnaire, observation, and comparative analysis
Playground Accessibility Indicator: Availability of playground within 400 meters walking distance

**Key Findings and Insights**

The assessment revealed that access to safe playground facilities has a positive association with children's physical and psychological development.

**Access to Playground Facilities**

- Among the 200 children surveyed, **63% had access to a playground within 400 meters of their residence**, while **37% lacked nearby access**.
- Accessibility was higher in Nirala Residential Area compared to Sonadanga Residential Area, indicating unequal distribution of child-friendly recreational spaces within urban communities.

**Physical Health and Development**



- Children with playground access demonstrated better physical development outcomes compared to children without access.
- Normal BMI-for-age status was significantly higher among children with playground access (**70.6%**) compared to children without access (**44.6%**).
- Children without playground access experienced higher levels of thinness and overweight/obesity, indicating a double burden of malnutrition.
- Statistical analysis showed a significant association between playground access and children's nutritional status ($\chi^2 = 13.67$, $p = 0.008$).

**Mental Health and Emotional Well-being**

- Children with playground access consistently demonstrated better mental well-being indicators.
- The average mental well-being score was higher among children with playground access (**approximately 3.22/5**) compared to children without access (**approximately 2.50/5**).
- Children with access reported better emotional stability, confidence, relaxation, and positive daily experiences.

**Social Development and Peer Interaction**

- Playground access contributed positively to children's social skills and peer relationships.
- Cooperative play was significantly higher among children with playground access (**78.6%**) compared to those without access (**45.9%**).

- Children without playground access showed greater preference for solitary play, suggesting reduced opportunities for social interaction and teamwork.

**Cognitive Development and Screen Time**

- Children with playground access showed stronger concentration, creativity, curiosity, and emotional regulation.
- Limited access to outdoor play spaces was associated with increased screen exposure.
- About **91% of respondents reported that children's screen time increased due to the lack of outdoor play opportunities**, highlighting the importance of accessible recreational spaces for reducing sedentary behavior.

**Community Perception and Challenges**

The assessment found strong community recognition of the importance of playgrounds for children's mental and physical development. Around **93% of respondents agreed that playground environments support children's mental well-being**.

However, several barriers were identified, including:

- Safety concerns (50%)
- Distance from playground facilities
- Poor maintenance of existing recreational spaces
- Fear of conflict or bullying

These findings emphasize the need for safe, inclusive, well-maintained, and accessible playground facilities in urban communities.

### Key Findings at a Glance

| Indicator | Key Result |
|---|---|
| **Playground Access** | **63% children had access to playgrounds within 400 meters; 37% had no nearby access.** |
| **Physical Development** | **Children with playground access showed better BMI-for-age outcomes.** |
| **Healthy BMI Status** | **70.6% of children with playground access had normal BMI compared to 44.6% without access.** |
| **Mental Well-being** | **Average mental well-being score was higher among children with playground access (3.22/5 vs. 2.50/5).** |
| **Social Skills** | **Cooperative play was higher among children with playground access (78.6% vs. 45.9%).** |
| **Screen Time** | **91% respondents reported increased screen time due to lack of outdoor play opportunities.** |

**Recommendations and Future Directions**

Based on the findings, GRACE recommends:



- Increasing investment in safe and accessible playground facilities in urban areas.
- Integrating child-friendly recreational spaces into urban development planning.
- Ensuring playgrounds are safe, inclusive, climate-resilient, and accessible for all children, including girls and vulnerable groups.
- Promoting community-based physical activity and recreational programs.
- Strengthening collaboration among government agencies, development partners, urban planners, and community organizations to improve children's health and well-being.

**Conclusion**

The assessment demonstrates that playground accessibility is an important environmental factor influencing children's physical health, mental well-being, social development, and healthy lifestyle practices. Safe outdoor play spaces are not merely recreational facilities; they are essential components of child-friendly and resilient communities.

Through this evidence-based assessment, GRACE highlights the importance of investing in child-centered urban development and promoting equitable access to safe recreational environments to ensure healthier, happier, and more resilient children in Bangladesh.

GRACE

GREEN RESILIENCE AND COOPERATION FOR ECOSYSTEM

# CHAPTER FOUR

## Programmatic Activities, Results and Impact under GRACE's Thematic Areas



- Social Entrepreneur, Green Business & Private Sector Engagement
- Climate Change, Disaster Management & Environmental Protection
- Health, Nutrition and WASH
- Urban Resilience (Health, Climate Change, Advocacy, Governance)
- Education & Skill Development
- Women Empowerment, Children in Development and Youth Employment

# CHAPTER FOUR

## Programmatic Activities, Results and Impact

### Organized under GRACE's Six Thematic Areas

A donor-facing synthesis of six community development initiatives
Khulna City Corporation and Jolma Union, Batiaghata, Khulna, Bangladesh

**Portfolio at a glance**

GRACE is a women-led development organization working with climate-vulnerable and marginalized communities to strengthen resilience, inclusive livelihoods, health, nutrition and environmental sustainability. This chapter synthesizes six initiatives into a thematic, impact-focused narrative. Figures are presented as documented results, targets or emerging outcomes as specified in the source material.



# Thematic Area 1. Social Entrepreneur, Green Business & Private Sector Engagement

**Turning local resources and conservation into inclusive economic opportunity**

## Programmatic Overview

GRACE's approach to social enterprise connects household livelihood recovery with responsible use of land, water and local productive assets. Across the Zakat Assistance for Livelihood Recovery (ZALR), Voices from the Riverbank—Alternative Livelihoods for Women Fishers (VARL), the Integrated Coastal Climate Resilience Project (ICCRP), and the Public–Private Partnership Agro-Initiative, GRACE is creating pathways for vulnerable households to move from short-term coping towards diversified income generation. The portfolio combines small-business assistance, poultry and livestock rearing, savings groups, practical skills, and the development of conservation-linked agro-enterprises.

The ZALR model links immediate food assistance with productive investment. In 2025, food support reached 120 households for Eid-ul-Fitr and 120 for Eid-ul-Adha. In 2026, 36 households received livelihood support: 11 for small businesses and 25 for poultry and livestock activities. Reported average monthly income among these 36 households rose from BDT 5,700 to BDT 12,200—approximately 114%. Twenty-one households reportedly established sustainable livelihood opportunities; seven reported around BDT 20,000 in monthly net income and savings of BDT 5,000–7,500 per month. These figures are programme-reported and should be interpreted alongside continued household monitoring.



## Programmatic Activities

- Provide targeted support for small businesses, poultry and livestock rearing, tailoring and other feasible household enterprises.
- Pair livelihood inputs with practical skills, savings habits, household follow-up and financial-resilience learning.
- Develop conservation-linked agro-enterprise options such as seedlings, organic compost and climate-resilient crop production.

**From implementation to measurable change**

## Activities Continued

- Build partnerships among private contributors, landowners, technical farmers, community participants and GRACE.
- Explore green employment opportunities and document enterprise continuity, income, savings and productive assets.

## Results and Evidence

ICCRP has supported 50 women with income-generating assistance, including small businesses, sewing machines, transport-related activities, and livestock and poultry rearing. Average reported monthly income rose from BDT 6,800 to BDT 14,000. In addition, 18 young women and other participants received sewing or freelancing training; 11 established income-generating opportunities, with reported earnings of up to BDT 30,000 per month, while three secured private-sector employment. The emerging lesson is that livelihood support is stronger when productive inputs are paired with skills, follow-up and market-relevant opportunities.

The agro-enterprise initiative extends this approach by linking nature conservation with enterprise development. With a stated self-funded investment of BDT 420,000, GRACE is advancing a model involving landowners, private contributors, technical farmers, women farmers, young people and the organization. Priorities include an agro-innovation laboratory, seedling production, organic compost, suitable high-yielding and salt-tolerant crop varieties, and income opportunities tied to land and water stewardship. These are programme directions and emerging pathways; the source material does not yet establish enterprise revenue or verified conservation gains.

| INDICATOR | DOCUMENTED RESULT / TARGET |
|---|---|
| **ZALR food assistance** | 120 households for Eid-ul-Fitr and 120 for Eid-ul-Adha in 2025 |
| **ZALR livelihood support** | 36 households supported in 2026 |
| **Reported ZALR income change** | BDT 5,700 to BDT 12,200/month; approximately +114% |
| **ICCRP livelihood support** | 50 women received income-generating assistance |
| **Skills-to-income pathway** | 11 of 18 trainees established income opportunities; 3 obtained private-sector employment |
| **Agro-enterprise initiative** | BDT 420,000 stated self-funded investment; approximately 100 intended participants |

## Impact and Strategic Significance

The combined portfolio demonstrates a practical progression from relief to recovery and from individual livelihood support to locally rooted green-enterprise development. Reported income improvements suggest stronger earning potential for participating households. The next phase is to verify business survival, net profit, savings, market access, employment quality and measurable benefits for land, water and biodiversity.

**GRACE's commitment**

GRACE will continue to strengthen community ownership, document participant experience and improve monitoring so that programme decisions are informed by evidence. Future reporting will distinguish clearly between targets, activities completed, reported outcomes and verified longer-term impact.

# Thematic Area 2. Climate Change, Disaster Management & Environmental Protection

**Strengthening resilience while protecting the natural systems communities depend on**

## Programmatic Overview

Climate vulnerability is a defining challenge for the communities where GRACE works. Coastal and peri-urban households face climate-related hazards, insecure livelihoods, pressure on land and water resources, and displacement-related socioeconomic stress. GRACE responds by connecting climate-smart livelihood skills, community preparedness, nature-based solutions and environmental stewardship rather than treating climate adaptation as a stand-alone activity.

Through ICCRP, GRACE engages women's groups in climate adaptation and nature-based livelihoods. Its Social and Behaviour Change Communication modules include climate-smart agriculture, livestock and poultry rearing, climate-change impacts, disaster preparedness and leadership, alongside health and nutrition topics. By July 2026, the project reported 291 group sessions across the implementation period, reaching 300 women, including 37 pregnant women. These sessions provide a platform for shared learning and stronger community capacity, although long-term changes in disaster losses or adaptive capacity still require systematic measurement.







## Programmatic Activities

- Deliver community learning on climate-change impacts, disaster preparedness, climate-smart agriculture and resilient livestock/poultry practices.
- Support alternative livelihood pathways for women fishers to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive income sources.
- Promote nature-based livelihoods, wetland conservation, organic composting, seedling production and salt-tolerant crop options.

**From implementation to measurable change**

## Activities Continued

- Organize practical community environmental action, including waste removal, disinfection, tree planting and care of green spaces.
- Develop monitoring indicators for resilience, adoption of practices, livelihood diversification and environmental outcomes.

## Results and Evidence

VARL, initiated in 2026 after a community assessment, links alternative livelihoods for women fishers with nature conservation and wetland stewardship. During June–July 2026, GRACE identified 80 participants and initiated capacity development on climate-smart livestock and poultry rearing, nature conservation and alternatives to fishing-dependent income. Three RISE (Rotative Initiative for Savings and Empowerment) groups were initiated to promote savings and collective action. These are early-stage results; longer-term outcomes will be assessed through income diversification, savings, adoption of resilient practices and community engagement in conservation.

The Public–Private Partnership Agro-Initiative adds a nature-positive economic dimension. It prioritizes organic compost, seedlings, climate-resilient farming and identification of high-yielding, salt-tolerant crop varieties, while linking land and water conservation to enterprise opportunities. GRACE's social welfare initiative also connected environmental health with public action: a waste-affected site in Labanchara, Ward 31, was cleaned and disinfected, and 16 fruit saplings were planted at Raypara Government Primary School in October 2025. These activities illustrate how adaptation, local environmental management and community participation can reinforce one another.

| INDICATOR | DOCUMENTED RESULT / TARGET |
|---|---|
| **ICCRP group-based engagement** | 12 women's groups; 300 women |
| **ICCRP reported sessions** | 291 by July 2026 |
| **VARL early implementation** | 80 participants identified; 3 RISE groups initiated |
| **Environmental action** | 1 community site cleaned and disinfected |
| **School greening** | 16 fruit saplings planted; around 40 students and teachers engaged |
| **Future measurement priorities** | Practice adoption, resilience, livelihood diversity and ecological outcomes |

## Impact and Strategic Significance

GRACE's emerging climate-resilience model combines knowledge, diversified livelihoods, collective savings and environmental action. This creates a foundation for households to better manage climate and economic shocks while strengthening stewardship of local ecosystems. As the projects mature, GRACE will need to document practice adoption, household risk reduction, enterprise viability, tree survival and tangible wetland or land-and-water conservation benefits.

**GRACE's commitment**

GRACE will continue to strengthen community ownership, document participant experience and improve monitoring so that programme decisions are informed by evidence. Future reporting will distinguish clearly between targets, activities completed, reported outcomes and verified longer-term impact.

# 3. Health, Nutrition and WASH

**Supporting healthier households through prevention, practical learning and community action**

## Programmatic Overview

GRACE's health, nutrition and WASH work recognizes that health outcomes are shaped by food diversity, caregiving practices, safe water, sanitation, hygiene, household income and access to preventive services. Project RESHAPE—Resilient Solutions for Health, Nutrition and WASH through Community Action—combines community awareness, mothers' groups, cooking demonstrations, community health camps, nutrition screening and referral, and home-based food production. Its stated target is 1,025 people across 205 households in Ward 31, Khulna City Corporation, and Jolma Union, Batiaghata.

GRACE established 12 mothers' groups involving 205 women participants for regular learning on maternal and child health, menstrual hygiene management, antenatal and postnatal care, and dietary diversity. Twenty-one community leaders received training in health and nutrition, climate-smart agriculture and livestock rearing. Three cooking demonstrations for mothers of children aged 6–23 months focused on nutritious meal preparation and complementary feeding. Household guidance addressed antenatal and postnatal care, early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and dietary diversity.




## Programmatic Activities

- Facilitate mothers' groups, household counselling and community sessions on maternal, adolescent and child health, nutrition, MHM and hygiene.
- Conduct cooking demonstrations and promote age-appropriate complementary feeding and dietary diversity.
- Organize community health camps and support nutrition screening, referral and follow-up for identified concerns.

**From implementation to measurable change**

## Activities Continued

- Provide seeds and encourage homestead or rooftop nutrition gardening to improve access to fresh foods.
- Promote rainwater harvesting awareness and collaborate with local stakeholders to improve drainage and reduce waterlogging.

## Results and Evidence




The programme also reports monthly community health camps offering general consultations, health education, and screening/referral for severe and moderate acute malnutrition. Seed distribution supported 205 mothers to establish homestead vegetable gardens. Reported results indicate that approximately 60% of mothers with children aged 6–23 months practise appropriate complementary feeding; around 20% of the target population received healthcare services through medical camps, and 13% reported feeling better. These are reported programme figures; the source material notes that a complete RESHAPE-specific before-and-after dataset and referral-completion data are not available.

Related ICCRP activities reinforce these efforts through SBCC sessions covering maternal and adolescent health, ANC/PNC, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, menstrual hygiene, dietary diversity and WASH. GRACE also promoted household rainwater harvesting awareness for the dry season, particularly October to March, when declining groundwater levels intensify water scarcity. Through advocacy and collaboration with local stakeholders, a 250-foot drainage system was established, benefiting approximately 150

households by reducing persistent waterlogging. Rooftop gardening promotion encourages urban households to grow nutritious crops and make productive use of available space.

| INDICATOR | DOCUMENTED RESULT / TARGET |
|---|---|
| **RESHAPE target** | 1,025 people; 205 households |
| **Mothers' groups** | 12 groups involving 205 women |
| **Community leaders trained** | 21 |
| **Complementary feeding** | Approximately 60% of mothers with children aged 6–23 months reportedly practise appropriate feeding |
| **Health camp reach/outcome** | Around 20% received services; 13% reported feeling better |
| **Drainage improvement** | 250 feet; approximately 150 households benefit |

## Impact and Strategic Significance

The integrated model helps turn health information into household-level action by combining group learning, demonstrations, screening/referral and food production. Reported complementary-feeding and service-access results are encouraging, while the drainage and water-harvesting work addresses environmental conditions that affect well-being. Stronger follow-up data on WASH practices, referral completion, garden continuity and health outcomes will help establish the scale and durability of change.

**GRACE's commitment**

GRACE will continue to strengthen community ownership, document participant experience and improve monitoring so that programme decisions are informed by evidence. Future reporting will distinguish clearly between targets, activities completed, reported outcomes and verified longer-term impact.



# 4. Urban Resilience (Health, Climate Change, Advocacy, Governance)

**Community-led solutions to urban health, water, drainage and environmental risks**

## Programmatic Overview

In Ward 31 of Khulna City Corporation, GRACE works with communities experiencing overlapping challenges associated with migration, limited resources, water scarcity, waterlogging, waste and climate vulnerability. Its urban resilience approach combines household-level adaptation with collective advocacy and practical improvements to shared spaces. The portfolio links health and WASH awareness, climate-resilient household practices, local infrastructure advocacy and community participation.



Under ICCRP, GRACE promoted household rainwater harvesting as a practical response to dry-season water scarcity, especially from October to March when groundwater levels decline. The awareness sessions encouraged households to consider rainwater as an additional source for domestic use. This is an awareness and behaviour-change intervention; the source material does not quantify the number of households that have installed systems or the volume of water collected. Follow-up should therefore measure adoption, functionality, affordability and seasonal use.

## Programmatic Activities

- Promote household rainwater harvesting awareness to help manage dry-season domestic water shortages.
- Use advocacy and collaboration with local stakeholders to address drainage and persistent waterlogging.
- Mobilize residents and volunteers for community cleaning, disinfection and dengue-prevention action.

**From implementation to measurable change**

## Activities Continued

- Use public information materials, rallies and community discussions to encourage prevention and local accountability.
- Promote rooftop gardening and greener household spaces as contributions to urban food security and environmental resilience.

## Results and Evidence



A tangible local infrastructure outcome was the establishment of a 250-foot drainage system through advocacy and collaboration with local elites and community stakeholders. Approximately 150 households reportedly benefit through improved drainage, reduced water stagnation and a more accessible living environment. This example illustrates GRACE's role in convening community priorities and encouraging local actors to contribute to solutions that may be beyond the reach of individual households.

The 2025 social welfare initiative further strengthened local environmental management through a community cleaning and restoration action around Bandhabazar and Modina Sharak in Labanchara, Ward 31. Residents and volunteers helped remove visible waste, disinfect the targeted area and raise awareness of mosquito-breeding prevention. The project also used billboards, leaflets, rallies and discussions to communicate dengue prevention and early-marriage prevention messages. Together, these activities show how urban resilience includes not only physical infrastructure but also public health, local governance, social awareness and collective responsibility.

| INDICATOR | DOCUMENTED RESULT / TARGET |
|---|---|
| **Drainage infrastructure** | 250 feet established |
| **Household benefit** | Approximately 150 households |
| **Community environmental action** | 1 site cleaned and disinfected |
| **Public awareness materials** | 6 billboards; 100 leaflets |
| **Water resilience** | Rainwater harvesting awareness; adoption not quantified |
| **Urban food/environment action** | Rooftop gardening promoted |

## Impact and Strategic Significance

The urban resilience work demonstrates the value of combining community awareness with practical environmental improvements and local advocacy. The drainage system provides a reported, visible benefit to households, while cleaning and dengue-prevention action help communities address shared environmental health risks. Future reporting should capture household-level changes in water access, duration and frequency of waterlogging, waste-disposal behaviour, dengue-prevention practices and rooftop garden adoption.

**GRACE's commitment**

GRACE will continue to strengthen community ownership, document participant experience and improve monitoring so that programme decisions are informed by evidence. Future reporting will distinguish clearly between targets, activities completed, reported outcomes and verified longer-term impact.

# 5. Education & Skill Development

**Keeping children learning while building practical skills for resilient livelihoods**

## Programmatic Overview

GRACE views education and skills as mutually reinforcing foundations of community resilience. When household income is insecure, children's learning can be disrupted and families may struggle to cover education-related costs. GRACE's integrated model therefore connects livelihood assistance for caregivers, community-based learning opportunities for children, and market-oriented training for women and young people.

Under ICCRP, GRACE supported 15 mothers with children through livelihood assistance, enabling them to continue small businesses or poultry rearing and contribute to their children's educational expenses. The source material reports an approximate contribution of BDT 5,000 per child annually towards education-related costs. GRACE also signed an MoU with a PKSF-supported community school to help continue educational support after the PKSF-funded project phased out in May 2026.

## Programmatic Activities

- Support continuity of community-based education through partnership and MoU arrangements with local school committees.
- Link caregiver livelihood support to children's education-related household costs.
- Provide practical sewing, freelancing and climate-smart livelihood training based on local opportunities.



**From implementation to measurable change**

## Activities Continued

- Connect training with productive inputs, self-employment pathways, group savings and follow-up support.
- Monitor children's attendance and learning, trainee employment, income and business continuity.

## Results and Evidence

Building on a community assessment conducted in May 2026, GRACE initiated a Children's Education and Skills Development Centre in June–July 2026. An MoU process with the committee responsible for continuing the PKSF-supported phase-out school was initiated, and activities commenced with 20 children. This is an initial implementation milestone rather than evidence of improved learning outcomes; attendance, retention, learning progress and continuation of services should be tracked over time.

Skills development is also linked to employment and self-employment. ICCRP provided sewing training to eight young women and freelancing training to ten participants. Of the 18 trainees, 11 established income-generating opportunities, with reported monthly earnings of up to BDT 30,000; three secured private-sector employment. The VARL initiative is also developing practical capacity for 80 participants in climate-smart livestock and poultry rearing and nature conservation, while three RISE groups create a platform for shared learning and small-scale enterprises. These pathways broaden the idea of skills development beyond classroom learning to include livelihood, financial and environmental competencies.

| INDICATOR | DOCUMENTED RESULT / TARGET |
|---|---|
| **Education centre** | 20 children at commencement |
| **Caregiver livelihood–education link** | 15 mothers supported |
| **Reported education contribution** | Approximately BDT 5,000 per child/year |
| **Skills training** | 18 sewing/freelancing trainees |
| **Employment and enterprise** | 11 income opportunities; 3 private-sector jobs |
| **VARL capacity development** | 80 participants identified |

## Impact and Strategic Significance

The combined approach supports continuity of learning while addressing the household economic pressures that can undermine education. Early results show that a community learning platform has been initiated and that some trainees have translated skills into income. To demonstrate longer-term impact, GRACE should track children's attendance and learning progress, the centre's operational continuity, gender and disability inclusion, trainee earnings, job retention and the contribution of household income to education costs.

**GRACE's commitment**

GRACE will continue to strengthen community ownership, document participant experience and improve monitoring so that programme decisions are informed by evidence. Future reporting will distinguish clearly between targets, activities completed, reported outcomes and verified longer-term impact.

# 6. Women Empowerment, Children in Development and Youth Employment

**Strengthening women's agency, children's opportunities and youth pathways to work**

## Programmatic Overview

Women's empowerment is central to GRACE's community development model. Women participate as members of organized groups, livelihood entrepreneurs, caregivers, trainees, community advocates and contributors to environmental action. The portfolio seeks to strengthen women's economic choices while also addressing children's development, adolescent health, household nutrition and young people's access to skills and employment.

ICCRP formed 12 women's groups involving 300 women and used group-based learning to address climate resilience, livelihoods, maternal and adolescent health, nutrition, WASH and leadership. Reported livelihood support to 50 women helped diversify income sources through small businesses, tailoring, transport-related activities and livestock or poultry rearing. The reported increase in average monthly income from BDT 6,800 to BDT 14,000 indicates improved earning potential among supported participants, although the source does not provide a full comparison design or disaggregated results for all groups.

## Programmatic Activities

- Organize women's groups and RISE savings groups to promote collective learning, financial resilience and local leadership.
- Provide women with livelihood inputs and market-relevant skills that can support self-employment and household income.
- Strengthen adolescent health, menstrual hygiene, nutrition and early-marriage prevention awareness.



**From implementation to measurable change**

## Activities Continued

- Support children's education continuity and connect household livelihood activities with education costs.
- Create youth skills and employment pathways and involve young people in community health and environmental action.

## Results and Evidence

Skills development has supported women's self-employment and youth employment pathways. Eight young women received sewing training and ten participants received freelancing training. Eleven of the 18 trainees established income-generating opportunities, and three secured private-sector employment. The VARL initiative identified 80 participants—particularly vulnerable women fishers and their households—for climate-smart livelihood development, and initiated three RISE groups to promote savings, mutual support and small enterprises. These groups can create a platform for women to pool knowledge, build confidence and take collective action, subject to continued facilitation and monitoring.



Children's development is addressed through education continuity, household livelihood support and community health and nutrition work. Fifteen mothers with children received livelihood assistance linked to education-related expenses, while a community education and skills centre began activities with 20 children. RESHAPE's mothers' groups, cooking demonstrations, household counselling and homestead gardening activities also support caregivers and children. The social welfare initiative engaged women, adolescents, youth, school participants and community leaders in early-marriage prevention, dengue awareness, cleanliness and tree planting. These combined activities promote a more enabling environment for women and children while creating practical roles for youth and community volunteers.

| INDICATOR | DOCUMENTED RESULT / TARGET |
|---|---|
| **Women's collective platform** | 12 ICCRP groups; 300 women |
| **Women's livelihood support** | 50 women under ICCRP |
| **Skills-to-income results** | 11 of 18 trainees developed income opportunities |
| **RISE groups** | 3 groups initiated; 80 participants identified |
| **Children's education** | 15 mothers supported; centre began with 20 children |
| **Adolescent health** | Approximately 71% of adolescent girls reportedly practise recommended MHM |

## Impact and Strategic Significance

GRACE's integrated approach positions women as economic actors and community leaders, not only as recipients of support. Early results indicate expanded livelihood opportunities, skills-to-income pathways and platforms for savings and collective action. Children benefit through education support and health/nutrition interventions, while youth gain opportunities for skills, employment and volunteering. Sustained impact will depend on tracking women's control over income and assets, group continuity, job quality, children's learning and safety, and meaningful youth participation.

**GRACE's commitment**

GRACE will continue to strengthen community ownership, document participant experience and improve monitoring so that programme decisions are informed by evidence. Future reporting will distinguish clearly between targets, activities completed, reported outcomes and verified longer-term impact.

# Portfolio-wide Contribution and Learning

Across the six initiatives, GRACE's programming links economic recovery, climate resilience, health and nutrition, urban environmental improvements, education continuity and women's empowerment. Rather than treating these issues as separate, the portfolio connects household capabilities with community systems: livelihood support can help families meet basic needs; savings and skills can widen economic choices; health and nutrition learning can support healthier practices; and advocacy can help address shared infrastructure and environmental problems.

## Cross-cutting contributions

- Locally mobilized resources: several initiatives are self-funded by GRACE or supported by well-wishers, demonstrating local commitment and the ability to initiate community responses.
- Women-centred delivery: women's groups, mothers' groups, RISE groups and livelihood activities provide platforms for participation, learning and collective action.
- Integrated resilience: climate-smart livelihoods, nature conservation, WASH, nutrition and savings are linked to help households respond to overlapping risks.
- Children and youth: education continuity, skills development, adolescent health and youth employment are incorporated into community resilience efforts.
- Partnership and advocacy: collaboration with school committees, local stakeholders, private contributors and community volunteers helps connect household action with wider local solutions.

## Evidence and accountability priorities

- Maintain a common indicator framework that records targets, reach, outputs, outcomes and impact separately.
- Verify income and savings changes with consistent baseline and follow-up periods, including net income and enterprise survival.
- Track education-centre attendance, retention, learning progress and continuity of service.
- Record health-camp reach, referral completion, household WASH practices, and sustained nutrition-garden adoption.
- Measure climate and environmental outcomes such as adoption of resilient practices, tree survival, drainage functionality and documented land/water conservation benefits.
- Disaggregate results by sex, age, disability and location where safe, feasible and relevant, and obtain informed consent for photographs and beneficiary quotations.

**Reporting integrity**

All numbers in this chapter are drawn from the project information supplied for this assignment. Where the source describes an activity as planned, emerging or initial, the narrative does not present it as a verified long-term impact. The source material contains differing project budgets and coverage definitions across initiatives; this chapter therefore reports project-specific figures rather than adding them into a single combined budget or beneficiary total.

GRACE
Green Resilience & Cooperation for Ecosystem

CHAPTER FIVE

# Ongoing Projects









# PROJECT PORTFOLIO

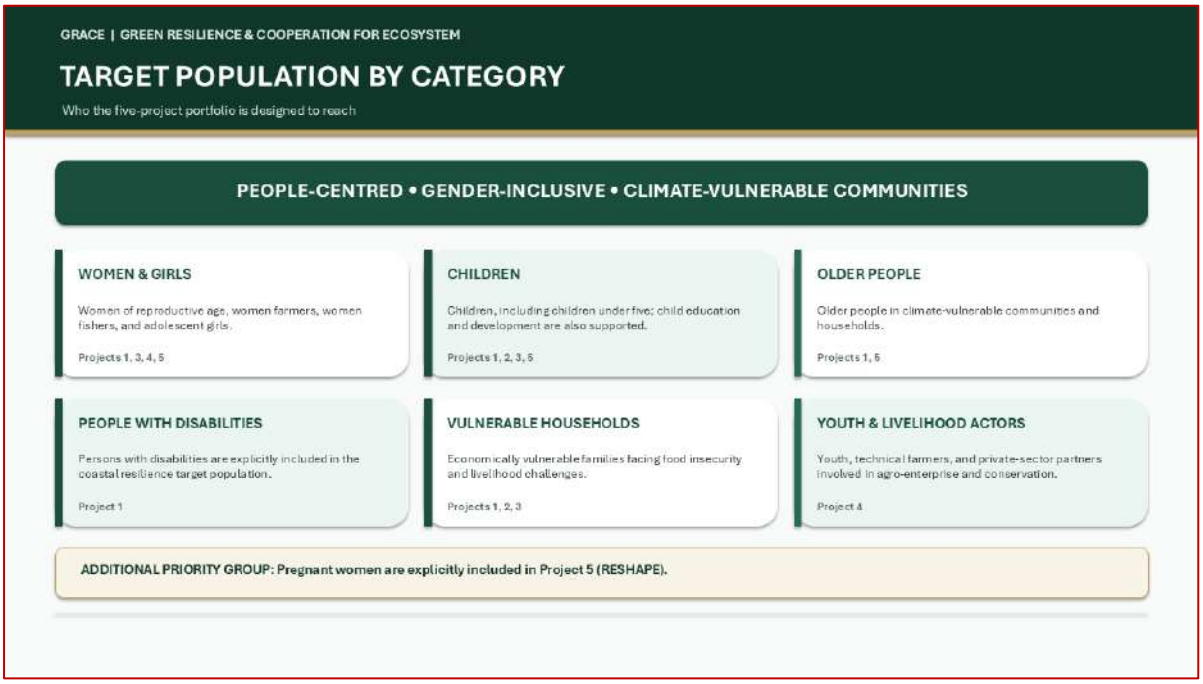
### Short Briefs | six Community Development Initiatives

GRACE is a women-led development organization working with climate-vulnerable and marginalized communities to strengthen resilience, inclusive livelihoods, health, nutrition, and environmental sustainability.

## Portfolio at a glance

| 6<br>Project briefs | BDT 2.21 million<br>Combined stated budgets | Khulna & Botiagatha<br>locations |
|---|---|---|



# Project 1. Integrated Coastal Climate Resilience Project (ICCRP)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal** | **To strengthen the climate resilience, livelihood security, and well-being of vulnerable coastal communities through inclusive, nature-based solutions.** |
| **Objectives** | • Build community capacity for climate-resilient and nature-based income-generating activities.<br>• Improve household nutrition, children's education, and financial resilience through livelihood and savings support. |
| **Target population** | Women, adolescent girls, children, persons with disabilities, and older people in climate-vulnerable communities. |
| **Coverage** | 300 households; approximately 1,250 people. |
| **Main components / expected outcomes** | Nature-based livelihoods; productive input support; improved household nutrition; support for children's education and development; savings mobilization and financial sustainability; community-led climate adaptation and climate change |
| **Funding / donor** | BDT 700,000; self-funded by GRACE. |
| **Location** | Ward 31, Khulna City Corporation, and Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. |
| **Duration** | January 2024–December 2027. |
| **Short description** | ICCRP is a community-based pilot promoting locally appropriate climate adaptation and nature-based livelihoods in coastal and peri-urban communities. GRACE has engaged 300 women in climate-resilience activities and locally relevant adaptation solutions. |
| **Goal** | To strengthen the climate resilience, livelihood security, and well-being of vulnerable coastal communities through inclusive, nature-based solutions. |

## Background and Context



Khulna is highly vulnerable to climate change, recurrent disasters and climate-induced displacement. According to the project context provided by GRACE, approximately 45% of Khulna City Corporation's population comprises migrants, while Ward No. 31 has an estimated 74% migrant population. Many residents have migrated from Pirojpur, Sarankhola, Mongla, Patuakhali and Bhola in search of income and survival opportunities. Women and children in these migrant communities face heightened socioeconomic vulnerability, including food insecurity, low incomes, limited access to essential services and concerns about personal safety.

## Our Approach

In January 2024, GRACE initiated the Integrated Coastal Climate Resilience Project (ICCRP), informed by a multidimensional vulnerability assessment and community consultations. Despite having no external grant funding, GRACE launched the initiative through contributions from its Executive Committee members, demonstrating its commitment to community-led change. The project adopted a women-centred, group-based approach, forming **12 women's groups involving 300 women**. Interventions were designed around community priorities, climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, health, nutrition, WASH and women's empowerment

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প্রশিক্ষণে অংশগ্রহণকারীদের
মাঝে বিতরণ
বিষয় : পরিবেশ চাষ ও বৃক্ষ বিতরণ
তারিখ : ১২ জুলাই ২০২১




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## Major Achievements and Emerging

**1. Improved Knowledge and Practices:** GRACE delivered eight Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) modules covering climate-smart agriculture, livestock and poultry rearing, maternal and adolescent health, ANC and PNC, breastfeeding, complementary feeding, menstrual hygiene management, dietary diversity, WASH, climate-change impacts, disaster preparedness and leadership. By July 2026, a total of **291 group sessions** had been conducted, including 134 sessions during July 2024–June 2025 and 148 during July 2025–June 2026, as reported by the project. The sessions reached 300 women, including 37 pregnant women, supporting improved awareness and practices related to health, nutrition and climate resilience.



**2. Women's Livelihoods and Income Generation:** GRACE provided income-generating assistance to **50 women** through small businesses, sewing machines, transport-related activities and livestock and poultry rearing. Average reported monthly income increased from **BDT 6,800 to BDT 14,000**, indicating a substantial improvement in livelihood potential. Tea stalls and goat rearing emerged as promising livelihood options. Three participants subsequently relocated—two to pursue better opportunities and one returned to her home area, where she continued tailoring work using her acquired skills.

**3. Skills Development and Youth Employment:** GRACE provided sewing training to eight young women and freelancing training to ten participants. Of the 18 trainees, **11 established income-generating opportunities**, with reported monthly earnings of up to BDT 30,000. Most became self-employed, while three secured employment in the private sector. These outcomes demonstrate the potential of market-oriented skills development to strengthen women's economic independence and livelihood resilience.

**4. Children's Education and Development:** GRACE supported 15 mothers with children through livelihood assistance, enabling them to continue small businesses and poultry-rearing activities and contribute towards their children's educational expenses. The reported contribution towards education-related costs was approximately **BDT 5,000 per child annually**. To strengthen continuity of educational support, GRACE also signed an MoU with a PKSF-supported community school to initiate a life-skills and education centre following the conclusion of the PKSF-funded project in May 2026.

5. Community Resilience and WASH

1. Mitigating Water Scarcity in Urban Poor Households

GRACE conducted awareness sessions to promote household rainwater harvesting as an alternative water source during the dry season, particularly from October to March, when declining groundwater levels intensify water scarcity. The initiative encouraged urban poor households to adopt rainwater harvesting practices to improve domestic water availability and strengthen household resilience to water shortages.



2. Improving Drainage and Reducing Urban Waterlogging

Through advocacy and collaboration with local elites and community stakeholders, GRACE facilitated the establishment of a 250-foot drainage system, helping address persistent waterlogging in the community. The intervention has benefited approximately 150 households by improving local drainage, reducing water stagnation, and creating a healthier and more accessible living environment.

3. Promoting Rooftop Gardening among Urban Households

GRACE promoted rooftop gardening among urban households to encourage the productive use of available rooftop spaces for growing vegetables and other nutritious crops. The initiative aims to improve household access to fresh food, reduce food expenditure, strengthen urban food security, and enhance environmental resilience through greener urban living spaces.





**Overall Impact and Way Forward**

ICCRP demonstrates how locally mobilized resources, women's collective action, practical skills development and integrated community services can contribute to resilience in climate-vulnerable urban and peri-urban settings. The project has supported livelihood diversification, improved access to knowledge and skills, and strengthened opportunities for women's economic participation and children's education. As implementation continues through December 2027, GRACE will prioritize sustained livelihood outcomes, continued monitoring of behavioural changes, stronger educational support and evidence-based measurement of household resilience.



"My husband was the sole breadwinner for our six-member family, but his permanent physical disability has left us struggling financially. My small tea stall earns only around BDT 6,000 per month, which is insufficient to support my family. Through GRACE, I see new opportunities to rebuild our livelihoods by applying my skills and hard work to our local land and water resources. I hope this initiative will help us recover and become self-reliant."

— **Laxmi Mistry**, Jolma | ID: 246

Project 2. A private initiative; Zakat Assistance for Livelihood Recovery (ZALR)

| **Goal** | **To improve the well-being, economic resilience, and self-reliance of vulnerable households through dignified and accountable Zakat assistance.** |
|---|---|
| **Objectives** | • Provide essential food assistance during Eid and other periods of need.<br>• Support income-generating activities and employment opportunities.<br>• Strengthen household savings, productive assets, and long-term self-reliance while upholding social dignity. |
| **Target population** | Economically vulnerable households, primarily from the Muslim community, prioritizing families experiencing food insecurity and livelihood challenges. |
| **Coverage** | 276 households; approximately 1,380 people. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Main components / expected outcomes** | Ramadan and Eid food assistance; Eid-ul-Adha meat distribution; small-business support; poultry and livestock rearing; household income generation; savings and financial resilience. |
| **Funding / donor** | Reported total: BDT 392,500; self-funded by GRACE and supported by well-wishers. |
| **Location** | Ward 31, Khulna City Corporation, and Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. |
| **Duration** | January 2025–June 2030. |
| **Reported activities (2025–2026)** | In 2025, food assistance reached 120 households for Eid-ul-Fitr and 120 for Eid-ul-Adha (240 assistance instances). In 2026, 36 households received livelihood support: 11 for small businesses and 25 for poultry and livestock rearing. |
| **Short description** | ZALR combines immediate food assistance with longer-term livelihood investments to help vulnerable families meet basic needs and build sustainable sources of income. The initiative promotes dignity, self-reliance, and financial resilience through community-based resource mobilization and targeted support. |
| **Budget verification note** | The listed activity allocations total BDT 392,500 (BDT 199,000 for 2025 food assistance and BDT 193,500 for 2026 livelihood support) |

## Context and Background

Climate-related disasters, displacement, rising living costs and insecure employment continue to place vulnerable households in Khulna and surrounding coastal communities under economic pressure. For many low-income families, meeting essential food needs while investing in income-generating opportunities remains a daily challenge. Recognizing that immediate relief alone cannot ensure lasting resilience, GRACE introduced its Zakat Assistance Programme to connect compassionate support with practical pathways towards economic independence.

## Our Approach

Rooted in solidarity, dignity and local resource mobilization, GRACE adopted a two-stage approach: addressing immediate food needs while investing in household livelihoods. Through private Zakat contributions mobilized from four Executive Committee members and well-wishers, GRACE demonstrated how locally generated resources can respond to community priorities even without relying exclusively on external grants. Beneficiaries were supported through festival-related food assistance, small-business development, poultry and livestock rearing, with a focus on strengthening productive assets, income generation and self-reliance.

## What We Did

- **Immediate food assistance:** Supported 240 vulnerable households in Ward No. 31, Khulna City, with Eid-ul-Fitr food packages and Eid-ul-Adha meat assistance in 2025.
- **Livelihood recovery:** In 2026, provided income-generating assistance to 36 households through small businesses, poultry and livestock-related activities.
- **Economic empowerment:** Encouraged beneficiaries to build productive assets, diversify income sources and develop regular savings habits.

- **Community-led resource mobilization:** Used locally contributed Zakat funds to bridge immediate humanitarian needs and longer-term livelihood opportunities.



## Key Impact

The programme's reported results indicate encouraging progress towards household economic resilience. Average monthly household income among the 36 livelihood-supported households increased from **BDT 5,700 to BDT 12,200—an increase of approximately 114%**. Of these households, 21 reportedly established sustainable livelihood opportunities, while seven achieved around BDT 20,000 in monthly net income and reported monthly savings of BDT 5,000–7,500. Among supported goat-rearing activities, the number of goats increased from four to seven, with reported asset value rising from BDT 32,000 to BDT 56,000.

Together, these results illustrate the potential of combining immediate assistance with productive investment to strengthen earning capacity, protect dignity and create opportunities for greater self-reliance.




## Plan for January–April 2027

GRACE plans to expand the programme through increased Zakat mobilization and targeted support for vulnerable households. Priorities include identifying and verifying eligible families, providing livelihood assistance for small businesses and livestock or poultry rearing, and delivering Eid-related food assistance. The programme will also explore employment opportunities linked to wetland conservation and integrated agriculture. Stronger household-level monitoring will track income, business continuity, savings, productive assets and food security, supported by transparent financial reporting and beneficiary feedback.

**Our commitment:** To transform the spirit of giving into practical opportunities—helping vulnerable families move from immediate hardship towards sustainable livelihoods, economic dignity and a more resilient future.

# Project 3. Voices from the Riverbank — Alternative Livelihoods for Women Fishers (VARL)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal** | **To improve the livelihoods, economic independence, and social well-being of vulnerable women fishers and their families through alternative livelihood opportunities and nature conservation.** |
| **Objectives** | • Develop alternative income-generating opportunities for women fishers.<br>• Strengthen women's technical, agricultural, and financial skills.<br>• Promote children's education, household nutrition, and savings.<br>• Build community capacity for nature-based solutions and wetland conservation. |
| **Target population** | 80 vulnerable women fishers, their children, and adolescent girls in riverbank communities. |
| **Coverage** | 80 households; approximately 380 people. |
| **Main components / expected outcomes** | Alternative-livelihood input support; climate-smart agriculture capacity building; nature-based solutions; wetland conservation; farmer-school training; nutrition-focused Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC); child education; savings mobilization; routine household visits and monitoring. |
| **Funding / donor** | BDT 250,000; self-funded by GRACE and supported by well-wishers. |
| **Location** | Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. |
| **Duration** | January 2026–June 2030. |
| **Short description** | VARL supports vulnerable women fishers to diversify their income while strengthening their role in environmental stewardship and wetland conservation. The project integrates livelihood development, children's education, nutrition awareness, and community capacity building to promote resilient riverbank households. |

**Building Resilient Communities Through Education, Livelihoods and Nature Conservation**

**Project Progress Report | January –July 2026**

**1. Context and Background**

In May 2026, GRACE conducted a community-level assessment to identify the key challenges faced by vulnerable households, particularly in relation to children's education, livelihood insecurity, climate-related risks, and dependence on fishing and other climate-sensitive livelihood activities.

The findings highlighted the need for an integrated approach that addresses immediate household needs while creating opportunities for long-term economic resilience, children's educational continuity, and sustainable natural resource management.

In response, GRACE initiated a community-based development initiative in June 2026, translating the assessment findings and recommendations into practical actions. The initiative brings together children's education and skills development, climate-smart livelihood practices, nature conservation, community savings, and household-level income-generating activities.

The initiative reflects GRACE's commitment to community-led resilience, inclusive development, and sustainable livelihoods, with a particular focus on strengthening the capacities and opportunities of vulnerable households.




**2. Our Approach**

GRACE adopts an integrated, community-centred approach that connects education, economic empowerment, climate resilience, and nature conservation. Rather than addressing these challenges separately, the initiative seeks to strengthen the relationship between children's educational opportunities, household income security, and sustainable use of local natural resources.

Our approach is built around four interconnected priorities:

- **Education and skills development:** Supporting continuity of educational services and creating opportunities for children's learning and development through a community-based centre.
- **Climate-smart livelihood diversification:** Strengthening participants' knowledge and skills in livestock and poultry rearing, alongside alternative livelihood opportunities that can help reduce vulnerability associated with fishing-related challenges.
- **Community savings and empowerment:** Establishing RISE (Rotative Initiative for Savings and Empowerment) groups to promote collective savings, mutual support, and small-scale household enterprises.
- **Community resilience and awareness:** Facilitating regular group sessions on disaster preparedness, health and nutrition, gender equality, climate-smart agriculture, and nature conservation.

By building on local knowledge, community participation, and practical livelihood opportunities, GRACE aims to create a foundation for households to become more resilient, economically empowered, and better prepared to manage future risks.




**3. What We Did**

During June–July 2026, GRACE initiated the following activities based on the findings and recommendations of the May assessment.

**3.1 Continuing Children's Education and Skills Development**

GRACE initiated the process of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the committee responsible for continuing the operation of the PKSF-supported phase-out school. The objective is to support the continuation of educational services and strengthen the sustainability of community-based learning opportunities.

The centre commenced its activities with **20 children**, creating an initial platform for continued educational support and skills development.




*Supporting children's access to continued learning and skills development.*

### 3.2 Building Capacity for Climate-Smart Livelihoods

GRACE identified **80 programme participants** and undertook capacity development activities focused on climate-smart livestock and poultry rearing, nature conservation, and alternative livelihood opportunities.

These interventions are intended to equip participants with practical knowledge and skills to diversify household income sources, respond to fishing-related livelihood challenges, and adopt more sustainable practices that support both economic resilience and environmental protection.




Building practical skills for diversified and climate-resilient livelihoods.

### 3.3 Establishing RISE Groups for Savings and Empowerment

GRACE initiated the establishment of **three RISE groups involving the 80 programme participants**. The groups are designed to promote regular savings, collective empowerment, and opportunities for small-scale income-generating activities.

Potential household enterprises include poultry rearing, small-scale cloth businesses, and fish culture. These activities aim to help households diversify income and strengthen their capacity to meet children's educational expenses and other essential family needs.

Monthly group sessions are also planned to provide continued learning and discussion on disaster preparedness, health and nutrition, gender equality, climate-smart agriculture, and related resilience issues.



Bringing community members together through savings, empowerment, and collective action.

**4. Impact and Emerging Results**

The June–July 2026 reporting period represents the initial implementation phase of the initiative. The activities undertaken have established an important foundation for linking education, household economic empowerment, and community resilience.

Key progress to date includes:

- **20 children** reached through the commencement of activities at the Children's Education and Skills Development Centre.
- **80 programme participants** identified and engaged in capacity development activities focused on climate-smart livelihoods and nature conservation.
- **Three RISE groups** initiated to promote savings, collective empowerment, and small-scale household enterprises.
- **Alternative livelihood pathways** identified, including poultry rearing, cloth businesses, and small-scale fish culture.
- **Community learning mechanisms** planned through monthly sessions on disaster preparedness, health and nutrition, gender equality, and climate-smart practices.

These are initial implementation achievements rather than evidence of long-term impact. Over time, GRACE aims to assess changes in household income, savings behaviour, livelihood diversification, children's educational continuity, and participants' adoption of climate-resilient and nature-positive practices.

The initiative's broader ambition is to help vulnerable households move beyond short-term coping strategies towards more sustainable and diversified livelihood opportunities.

**A Community Member's Voice**



> "Through my engagement with GRACE and our women's group, I feel encouraged to work together with other women, share experiences, and explore opportunities to improve our livelihoods. I hope this initiative will help us build a more secure and resilient future for our families."
>
> — **Nomita Bala**, ID 273, GRACE Beneficiary

*Nomita Bala, Jolma, JOBA Group, shares her experience and aspirations for a more resilient future.*

**5. Our Commitment**

GRACE remains committed to working alongside vulnerable communities to strengthen educational opportunities, expand sustainable livelihood options, and build resilience to climate-related and socioeconomic challenges.

Moving forward, GRACE will continue to support the operation of the Children's Education and Skills Development Centre, strengthen the capacity of programme participants, and facilitate the effective functioning of the three RISE groups. The initiative will also seek to support feasible household-level enterprises, encourage regular savings, and sustain community learning on disaster preparedness, health, nutrition, gender equality, and climate-smart practices.

Particular attention will be given to monitoring progress, documenting participants' experiences, and learning from emerging results so that future interventions respond to community priorities and local realities.

For GRACE, resilience means more than recovering from hardship. It means enabling children to continue learning, supporting families to build more secure livelihoods, empowering communities to act collectively, and protecting the natural resources on which their futures depend.

Through this integrated approach, GRACE seeks to contribute to communities that are more empowered, economically resilient, and capable of shaping a sustainable future.

# Project 4. Public–Private Partnership Agro-Initiative and Social Enterprise Development for Nature Conservation

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal** | **To promote sustainable livelihoods, environmental conservation, and community well-being through inclusive agro-enterprises and public–private partnerships.** |
| **Objectives** | • Develop income-generating enterprises linked to land and water conservation.<br>• Strengthen women's farming skills and youth employment opportunities.<br>• Promote safe food production, organic composting, and climate-resilient agriculture.<br>• Facilitate partnerships among private donors, landowners, technical farmers, and GRACE. |
| **Target population** | Approximately 100 participants, including women farmers, youth, technical farmers, and private-sector partners. |
| **Main components / expected outcomes** | Agro-innovation laboratory establishment; seedling production; organic compost production; identification of high-yielding, salt-tolerant crop varieties; land and wetland conservation; women's capacity building; youth skills development and employment; social-enterprise development. |
| **Funding / donor** | BDT 420,000; self-funded by GRACE. |
| **Locations** | Jolma Union, Batiaghata, Khulna; (Pipeline: Dohar, Dhaka; and Gopalpur Union, Kachua, Bagerhat) |
| **Duration** | January 2023–December 2033 (end date to be confirmed). |
| **Short description** | This initiative connects nature conservation with sustainable agriculture, local enterprise development, and employment creation. By bringing together farmers, youth, landowners, and private partners, GRACE seeks to develop replicable agro-enterprise models that generate livelihoods while protecting land, water, and biodiversity. |

## Context and Background

Climate-vulnerable communities in coastal Bangladesh face growing challenges in sustaining livelihoods while protecting land, water and biodiversity. Underutilized agricultural land, limited access to climate-resilient farming technologies and inadequate livelihood opportunities constrain the potential of women farmers and young people. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires more than conservation alone—it requires an approach that transforms natural resources into sustainable economic opportunities while safeguarding the ecosystems on which communities depend.

## Our Approach

GRACE is advancing a **public–private partnership model** that brings together private donors, landowners, technical farmers, young people and communities to connect nature conservation with inclusive agro-enterprises. With a self-funded investment of **BDT 420,000**, the initiative promotes locally appropriate agricultural innovation, productive land and water management, women's farming capacity and youth

employment. The model aims to demonstrate how collaboration, local knowledge and responsible private investment can create shared environmental, social and economic value.

## What We Did

- **Agro-innovation and sustainable production:** Promoted the development of an agro-innovation laboratory to demonstrate climate-resilient farming, seedling production and sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Nature-positive enterprises:** Prioritized organic compost production, identification of high-yielding and salt-tolerant crop varieties, and income-generating activities linked to land and water conservation.
- **Women's economic empowerment:** Focused on strengthening women's farming skills and enabling women farmers to participate in productive, market-oriented agro-enterprises.
- **Youth skills and employment:** Integrated youth capacity development and employment creation into the green-enterprise approach.
- **Partnership development:** Sought to connect private contributors, landowners, technical farmers and GRACE around a shared vision of conservation-led economic development.

## Key Impact and Emerging Outcomes

- **Conservation linked with livelihoods:** Established a programme framework that positions land and water conservation as a foundation for sustainable enterprise development.
- **Opportunities for inclusive participation:** Designed to engage approximately **100 participants**, including women farmers, youth, technical farmers and private-sector partners.
- **Potential for green employment:** Created a pathway for developing agricultural skills, seedling and compost enterprises, and youth-led livelihood opportunities.
- **A locally financed innovation model:** GRACE's self-funded investment demonstrates organizational commitment to developing locally driven solutions that can attract wider public–private collaboration.
- **Potential for replication:** The approach provides a foundation for extending suitable agro-enterprise and conservation practices beyond Jolma Union, Batiaghata, Khulna.




## Plan for July 26-June 2027

GRACE will prioritize strengthening partnerships, advancing agro-innovation and developing viable social enterprises linked to nature conservation. Key directions include expanding seedling and organic compost production, identifying suitable salt-tolerant crop varieties, strengthening women's farming and enterprise-management skills, developing youth employment pathways, and mobilizing private investment and technical support. GRACE will also explore opportunities to replicate the model in **Dohar, Dhaka, and Gopalpur Union, Kachua, Bagerhat**, subject to resources and partnerships. Monitoring will increasingly focus on enterprise performance, participant income opportunities, productive land use and measurable conservation benefits.

**Our vision:** To make nature conservation an engine of inclusive prosperity—where protected land and water support thriving enterprises, empowered women, skilled youth and resilient communities.

## Why It Matters

Healthy ecosystems and productive landscapes strengthen community resilience, create livelihood opportunities and improve local well-being. By restoring degraded land and promoting nature-based farming, communities can grow food, generate income and build a greener, more resilient future together.











### Community Action

This initiative brings people together to restore land, apply sustainable farming practices and create long-term opportunities for healthier communities and thriving natural environments.

## A Nature-Based Pathway

From barren, sand-covered land to productive green landscapes — through community effort, restoration, food production and learning.

1. **Land Restoration**
   Reclaiming degraded, sand-covered land and preparing it for productive use.



2. **Integrated Farming**
   Combining vegetables, seedlings and fish farming for multiple benefits from the same land.



3. **Community Participation**
   Hands-on training, knowledge sharing and collective action drive long-term success.



4. **Healthy Production**
   Vibrant crops and seedlings improve food security, create livelihoods and contribute to a greener environment.



## Seven Benefits in One Through Nature Conservation

**Stronger Communities, Greener Landscapes, Sustainable Livelihoods**

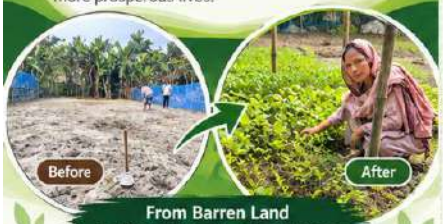



Nature-based solutions help transform degraded land into thriving, productive landscapes that support people, nature and brighter futures.

## Seven Benefits in One Through Nature Conservation

**Healthy landscapes. Stronger communities. A brighter, more resilient future.**

Nature conservation is more than protecting the environment — it creates real, lasting benefits for people. By restoring land, managing water, growing food and working together, communities can build healthier, greener and more prosperous lives.




**From Barren Land to Productive Green Landscapes**

1. **Restoring Sand-Covered Land to Productive Green Landscapes**
   Reclaiming degraded, sand-covered land and preparing it for productive use.



2. **Creating Jobs and Empowering Communities**
   Hands-on training, collective action and local employment opportunities build stronger, more self-reliant communities.



## Local People Healthy Food Thriving Ecosystems

When communities and nature work together, conservation delivers multiple benefits — for people, food, livelihoods and a healthier environment.

3. **Producing Safe Food and Promoting Healthy Consumption**
   Growing fresh, chemical-free vegetables and fish provides safe, nutritious food for families.



4. **Improving Community Health and Nutrition**
   Access to nutritious food, cleaner environments and greener surroundings support healthier, happier families.



### Community Participation Drives Lasting Change

From planning and training to land preparation, farming and maintenance, community members work together to restore land, produce food and create a greener, healthier future.

5. **Enhancing Community Well-Being and Quality of Life**
   Greener landscapes, productive farms and cleaner environments create more liveable, resilient and vibrant communities.



6. **Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystems**
   Trees, plants, ponds and green spaces help restore ecosystems, provide habitats and bring back natural balance.



7. **Securing Sustainable Incomes and Reducing Vulnerability**
   Diverse land and water-based production strengthens local income opportunities and helps communities better withstand future challenges.



# Project 5. Project RESHAPE — Resilient Solutions for Health, Nutrition and WASH through Community Action

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal** | **To improve community health, nutrition, and well-being through inclusive, community-driven interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene, and healthy living.** |
| **Objectives** | • Promote healthy dietary practices and improved household nutrition.<br>• Improve awareness and practices related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).<br>• Strengthen preventive healthcare and early identification and referral of malnutrition.<br>• Encourage sustainable, community-led health and nutrition practices. |
| **Target population** | 1025 population covering 205 Households, Women of reproductive age, pregnant women, children under five, and older people. |
| **Coverage** | Ward 31, Khulna City Corporation, and Jolma Union, Batiaghata, Khulna. Specific household and population targets were not provided. |
| **Main components / expected outcomes** | Health and nutrition SBCC; community health camps; physical exercise and healthy-lifestyle promotion; homestead nutrition gardening; cooking demonstrations; identification and referral of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM); targeted input support. |
| **Funding / donor** | BDT 420,000; self-funded by GRACE. |
| **Location** | Ward 31, Khulna City Corporation, and Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. |
| **Duration** | January 2023–December 2027. |
| **Short description** | Project RESHAPE promotes healthier and more resilient communities through practical interventions in nutrition, preventive healthcare, and WASH. It combines awareness raising, community health activities, home-based food production, and nutrition screening and referral to encourage sustainable improvements in household health and well-being. |

## Healthier Homes, Stronger Communities

*Resilient Solutions for Health, Nutrition and WASH through Community Action*

| 1,025 | 205 | BDT 420,000 |
|---|---|---|
| People targeted | Households targeted | GRACE self-funded |

## Context and Background

In coastal and urban communities of south-west Bangladesh, health and nutrition are closely connected to household income, food diversity, access to preventive care, safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Women of reproductive age, pregnant women, children under five and older people can face overlapping barriers to healthy living—particularly where household resources and access to services are limited.

National indicators underline why community-level action remains important. UNICEF's internationally comparable data for Bangladesh reports that, in 2022, 59% of the population used safely managed drinking-water services and 31% used safely managed sanitation services. These national figures provide context; they are not local baseline measurements for the communities served by RESHAPE.

**Project footprint** Ward 31, Khulna City Corporation, and Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. **Implementation period** January 2023–December 2027.

## Our Approaches

- Community-led behavior change: use Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) to discuss practical improvements in nutrition, personal hygiene, maternal and child health, and healthy lifestyles.
- Prevention and early action: connect awareness with community health activities, nutrition screening, and referral pathways for children and others who may need additional care.
- Learning by doing: use cooking demonstrations, dietary-diversity messages, physical activity promotion, and homestead nutrition gardening to turn information into household practices.
- Local ownership and inclusion: engage women, caregivers, community members and local service providers, with attention to the needs of pregnant women, young children and older people.
- Integrated resilience: link health and nutrition with household food production and practical WASH behaviors rather than treating these issues as separate concerns.



## What We Did?

GRACE's documented health and nutrition work in its target communities includes community awareness and household counselling, mothers' group engagement, cooking demonstrations, routine community health camps, and screening and referral for severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM/MAM). The organization also reports partnership arrangements intended to improve access to free health camps and discounted health services.




- Established e12 mothers' groups involving 205 women participants for regular shared learning and discussion on health and nutrition specially MHM, ANC PNC and Food diversity
- Trained 21 community leaders in health and nutrition, climate-smart agriculture and livestock rearing.
- Conducted three cooking demonstrations for mothers of children aged 6–23 months, focusing on nutritious food preparation and complementary feeding.
- Organized monthly community health camps offering general consultations, health education, and screening/referral for SAM and MAM.
- Provided household-level guidance on antenatal and postnatal care, early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and dietary diversity.
- Seed distribution and making homestead vegetable gardening to 205 mothers

## Key Impact and Emerging Results

- **Stronger Community Knowledge:** Mothers' groups and household counselling have created regular opportunities to improve knowledge of maternal and child health, personal hygiene, and dietary diversity.

- **Improved Complementary Feeding Practices:** Cooking demonstrations and nutrition counselling have helped caregivers translate nutrition messages into practical meal preparation. Approximately 60% of mothers with children aged 6–23 months are practicing appropriate complementary feeding.

- **Improved Access to Healthcare:** Community health camps and referral pathways have provided opportunities for basic health consultations and follow-up for identified health and nutrition concerns. Approximately 20% of the target population received healthcare services through medical camps, of whom 13% reported feeling better.

- **Enhanced Women's Participation and Local Leadership:** Group-based learning and leadership training have strengthened women's and community representatives' capacity to share health information and promote healthier practices.

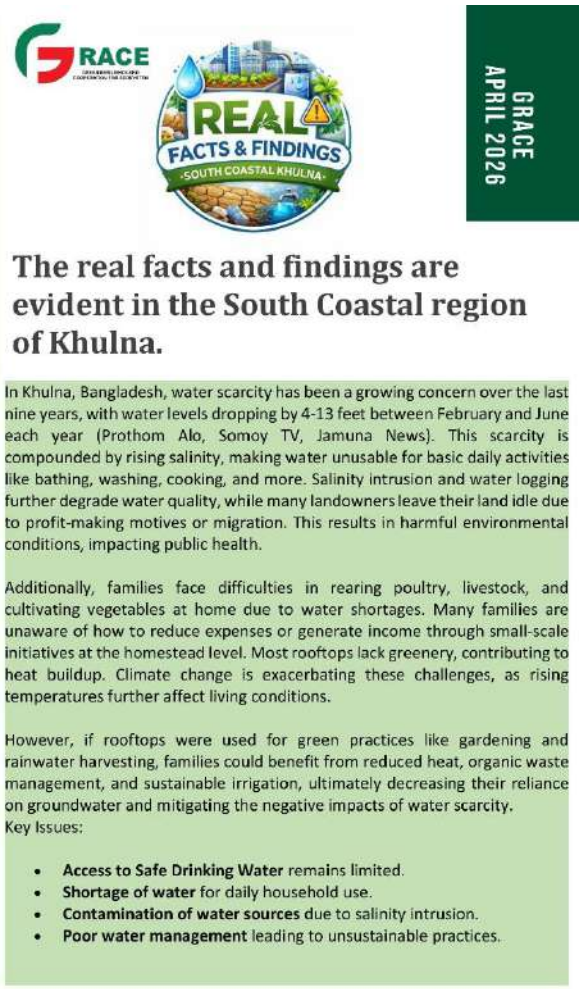



- **Increased Adoption of Homestead Nutrition Gardening:** Approximately 62% of households maintain homestead nutrition gardens throughout the year, while 30% maintain homestead vegetable gardens on a less consistent basis. However, 8% of households have not established a homestead nutrition garden, highlighting the need for further support.

- **Improved Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM):** Approximately 71% of adolescent girls practise menstrual hygiene management in accordance with recommended guidelines, indicating progress in promoting safe and healthy menstrual hygiene practices.

- **Integrated Approach to Community Resilience:** By combining nutrition education, preventive healthcare, WASH awareness, menstrual hygiene management, and homestead food production, GRACE is promoting healthier household practices and strengthening community well-being.




## Challenges and Learning

- Sustaining behaviour change: awareness sessions need regular follow-up, practical demonstrations and household reinforcement for healthy practices to become routine.
- Affordability and food access: knowledge alone cannot guarantee a diverse diet when nutritious foods, clean water or essential services are unaffordable or difficult to access.
- Referral continuity: screening is most useful when referral services are available, affordable and able to provide timely follow-up.
- Evidence and attribution: available public information does not provide a complete RESHAPE-specific results dataset, including verified before-and-after indicators, referral completion, or household-level WASH outcomes.
- Monitoring local WASH conditions: national statistics help explain the wider context but cannot replace local baseline and follow-up data for Ward 31 and Jolma Union.


RACE
WORLD HEALTH DAY
7th April 2026
THEME:
Together for Health.
Stand with Science.
Discussion Meeting at Community Level
with Mothers
Date:
7th April 2026
Venue:
Amtola Slum
Ward # 31, Khulna
Healthy People, Strong Communities, Better Tomorrow


RACE
HOMESTEAD NUTRIENT GARDENS
- SAFE FOOD, HEALTHY FAMILIES -
- MODEL VILLAGE PROJECT
HOMESTEAD
NUTRIENT
GARDENS FOR
SAFE FOOD AND
HEALTHY FAMILIES
98 are now being
replicated through 25
change makers to
build a model village
in coastal Mathavanga,
Botiaghata, Khulna.
JOIN NOW
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WWW.GRACEBD.NET

# Project 6: Social Welfare, Community awareness and Environmental Resilience

| | |
|---|---|
| **Goal** | **Improve social welfare, public health and environmental resilience in local communities.** |
| **Objectives** | Prevent early marriage, raise dengue awareness, improve cleanliness and promote tree plantation |
| **Target population** | Women, adolescents, children, youth, students and community members. |
| **Coverage** | Ward 31, Khulna City Corporation, and Jolma Union, Batiaghata, Khulna. Specific household and population targets were not provided. |
| **Main components / expected outcomes** | Early marriage prevention, dengue awareness, community cleaning, tree plantation and environmental awareness. |
| **Funding / donor** | BDT 30,000.00; Department of Social Service,Khulna under Ministry of social welfare. |
| **Location** | Ward 31, Khulna City Corporation, and Jolma Union, Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. |
| **Duration** | October-December 2025 |
| **Short description** | GRACE implemented community awareness, cleaning, dengue prevention and tree plantation activities to promote social welfare, public health and environmental protection. |

## 1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Social welfare in climate-vulnerable and rapidly growing communities is shaped by multiple and interconnected risks. In Khulna, challenges such as early marriage, dengue outbreaks, unmanaged waste and inadequate green space directly affect community well-being, especially for women, adolescent girls, children and low-income households.

With financial support from the National Welfare Parishad Fund through the District Social Service Office, Khulna under the Ministry of Social Welfare, GRACE designed a practical community initiative that combined awareness, environmental action and local participation. The intervention was implemented in Ward No. 31 of Khulna City Corporation and Raypara, Jolma under Botiaghata Upazila, where social protection, public health and environmental resilience are closely linked.

## 2. OUR APPROACHES

- Applied a community-led and participatory social welfare approach that linked awareness with visible local action.
- Engaged women, adolescents, youth, local leaders, students and volunteers in joint problem solving.
- Used rallies, discussion meetings, billboards and leaflets to communicate simple prevention messages.
- Promoted environmental improvement through waste removal, disinfection, tree plantation and care for community spaces.
- Worked with schools and community groups to encourage local ownership and long-term sustainability.

## 3. WHAT WE DID

## 3.1 Cleaning Action and Dengue Prevention

GRACE organized a community cleaning and restoration action in Labanchara Ward No. 31, especially around the Bandhabazar and Modina Sharak area, where unmanaged waste and stagnant water had created environmental and health risks for nearby households. Supported by local residents and volunteers, the initiative removed visible waste, disinfected the area and promoted the prevention of mosquito breeding.



*Community members and volunteers joined the cleaning and dengue prevention action in a high-risk area of Ward No. 31, Khulna.*

## 3.2 Early Marriage Prevention Awareness

Two awareness campaigns were conducted in Ward No. 31 and Raypara, Jolma to strengthen collective responsibility for preventing early marriage. Through rallies and discussion sessions, women, adolescents, youth and community leaders discussed the harmful consequences of early marriage, its legal and social implications, and the importance of timely community action and reporting mechanisms.




*Women and community participants took part in the early marriage prevention rally and discussion session.*

## 3.3 Tree Plantation and Environmental Stewardship

From 15–17 October 2025, GRACE implemented a tree plantation activity at Raypara Government Primary School. Fruit saplings were planted using organic fertilizer and protected with fencing to improve survival. The activity also helped connect students, teachers and community members to the importance of greener school spaces and long-term environmental care.



*Tree plantation at Raypara Government Primary School promoted hands-on environmental stewardship and greener learning spaces.*

## 4. KEY IMPACT

The initiative demonstrated that modest social welfare support can generate highly visible community outcomes when it is linked to participation, practical action and clear public messaging. The reported achievements below reflect the combined results of awareness, outreach, cleaning and plantation activities during the project period.

| Key Indicator | Achievement |
|---|---|
| Participants sensitized through awareness sessions | 205 people |
| Public awareness billboards installed | 6 billboards |
| Informative leaflets distributed | 100 leaflets |
| Tree saplings planted | 16 fruit saplings |
| Students and teachers engaged in plantation | Around 40 participants |
| Targeted high-risk site cleaned and disinfected | 1 community site |

- Raised awareness on the harmful effects of early marriage and strengthened community vigilance.
- Expanded public knowledge on dengue prevention and household hygiene practices.
- Improved cleanliness in a waste-affected area and encouraged more responsible waste disposal.
- Created stronger appreciation for green spaces, tree care and environmental responsibility among students and community members.
-

# 5. PLAN AND FUNDING DIRECTION FOR 2026

Building on the 2025 experience, GRACE plans to continue strengthening social welfare outcomes through integrated awareness, preventive action and community participation. The 2026 direction is to scale what worked well and deepen local ownership across community and school-based platforms.

## 2026 Program Priorities

- Continue early marriage prevention awareness with stronger engagement of parents, adolescents, local leaders and schools.
- Expand dengue prevention and community cleaning actions in densely populated and waste-prone areas.
- Maintain and extend tree plantation and greening activities, including sapling care and protection.
- Promote youth volunteerism and local leadership in social and environmental action.
- Strengthen monitoring, documentation and reporting for future learning and accountability.







CHAPTER SIX

# Advocacy, Campaigns and Community Mobilization





# Chapter Six: Advocacy, Campaigns and Community Mobilization

GRACE advances community-led development by connecting awareness, participation and local action. Its public reporting shows a practical approach to advocacy and mobilization: community discussions, rallies, youth volunteering, awareness materials, environmental activities and efforts to strengthen access to public services. These approaches support GRACE's wider commitment to climate resilience, gender equality, social inclusion and accountable local development.

## 4.1 Advocacy Initiatives

GRACE's advocacy approach starts with community priorities and seeks to connect local experience with the institutions and services that can respond. The organization's programmes promote dialogue on social protection, public health, environmental management, gender equality and climate-related vulnerability. Community-level meetings and stakeholder engagement provide opportunities for residents—particularly women, young people and other underserved groups—to raise concerns, identify service gaps and contribute to practical solutions.

During the reported awareness initiative supported through the National Welfare Parishad Fund and the District Social Service Office, Khulna, GRACE facilitated community engagement on early-marriage prevention, dengue prevention, cleanliness and tree plantation in Ward 31 of Khulna City Corporation and Raypara, Jolma Union, Botiaghata. The published account describes rallies, discussion meetings, public information materials and participation by women, adolescents, youth and local leaders. These activities linked social awareness with local action and promoted community responsibility for safer, healthier neighbourhoods.

**Advocacy priorities reflected in GRACE's public materials**

- Strengthening access to social safety-net services
- Promoting community voice in climate and resilience planning
- Advancing women's safety, dignity and participation
- Encouraging public-health and environmental action
- Building constructive links between communities and local institutions

## 4.2 Awareness Campaigns

GRACE uses community-facing communication and practical demonstrations to translate development priorities into understandable, actionable messages. Its published activities cover environmental cleanliness, tree plantation, dengue prevention, early-marriage prevention and gender-based violence awareness. Across its broader programme portfolio, GRACE also identifies climate resilience, disaster preparedness, health, nutrition, WASH, child development and social inclusion as core areas of work.

In October 2025, GRACE reported a month-long campaign combining awareness meetings and rallies with public billboards, leaflets, a cleaning drive and tree plantation. The published report records 205 community members sensitized through meetings and rallies, 100 leaflets distributed, six billboards used for public messaging, and 16 fruit saplings planted at Raypara Government Primary School. These are campaign-specific figures reported by GRACE and should not be presented as organization-wide annual totals.

GRACE also reported observing the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November to 10 December 2025 through discussion meetings, rallies and a united signature campaign. The activities

reinforced messages of equality, safety, dignity and collective responsibility to prevent violence against women and girls.

**Donor-facing result statement**

By combining dialogue, visible public messaging and community action, GRACE helps make social and environmental issues more visible and encourages residents to take shared responsibility for healthier, safer and more inclusive communities.

## 4.3 Community Mobilization

Community mobilization is central to GRACE's locally led approach. The organization's public materials describe youth volunteers facilitating community dialogue, raising local concerns, supporting humanitarian response and helping vulnerable households connect with social-protection services. GRACE has also reported engaging a group of 20 young women-led volunteers as part of its community-level work.

Women, adolescents, students, farmers, fishers, community leaders and local volunteers are engaged through awareness sessions, environmental initiatives, skills development, livelihood activities and community-based learning. In its integrated resilience initiative in Khulna City Corporation Ward 31 and Jolma Union, Botiaghata, GRACE connects community participation with climate-smart agriculture, livestock and aquaculture, disaster-risk reduction, green livelihoods, health and nutrition, and environmental action.

This approach seeks to move community members beyond participation as recipients of support towards active roles in identifying priorities, sharing knowledge, shaping local solutions and sustaining results. For annual reporting, GRACE should add verified figures for the reporting period on active groups, volunteers, women's groups, youth groups, meetings held, people reached and community-led actions completed.

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## Chapter Seven

# Partnership, Coordination and Networking



# Chapter-Seven

## Partnership, Coordination and Networking



GRACE's development model depends on collaboration among communities, public institutions, civil society, technical actors and development partners. Its stated partnership principles emphasize trust, transparency, complementary expertise, mutual accountability, shared leadership and localization. Through these relationships, GRACE aims to connect local knowledge with technical support and resources while keeping community priorities at the centre of programme design and implementation.

### 7.1 Partnership with Government

GRACE's public materials document collaboration with government structures, including the Department of Social Services and the District Social Service Office, Khulna. One published awareness initiative was supported through the National Welfare Parishad Fund under the Ministry of Social Welfare, with activities implemented in Khulna City Corporation Ward 31 and Jolma Union, Botiaghata. The programme combined





public awareness, youth engagement, cleaning and tree plantation to address community health, social protection and environmental concerns.

GRACE's wider programme approach includes linking vulnerable households with government social safety-net services and promoting dialogue on locally identified needs. Its climate-resilience work also emphasizes community knowledge and coordination with local institutions to improve preparedness, strengthen adaptive capacity and support sustainable livelihoods.

For a complete annual-report account, add the verified names of district and upazila administrations, union parishads, city-corporation offices and technical departments engaged during the reporting year, alongside the purpose and outcome of each coordination activity.

## 7.2 Partnership with Development Partners and Donors

GRACE describes partnership as a pathway to localization, shared learning and sustainable impact. Its website states that its management and technical team bring experience working with UN agencies, international and national NGOs, development partners, diplomatic missions, government institutions, private-sector actors and community organizations. GRACE's strategic direction prioritizes donor engagement, INGO/NGO partnerships, government collaboration, private-sector engagement and local resource mobilization.



GRACE has driving integrated community-driven resilience initiative in Khulna City Corporation Ward 31 and Jolma Union, Botiaghata, running from July 2024 to June 2028 and identified as own-funded through

contributions from GRACE core members. The initiative links climate-smart agriculture, livestock, poultry and aquaculture with disaster-risk reduction, green entrepreneurship, livelihoods, health, nutrition and environmental action.

GRACE's published activities also include support through the National Welfare Parishad Fund, Ministry of Social Welfare, with technical guidance from the District Social Service Office, Khulna. These examples demonstrate GRACE's experience combining organizational resources, public-sector support and community participation.

**Recommended annual-report insert**

Add a compact partner table listing each project/donor, project title, implementation period, geographic coverage, thematic focus, GRACE's role, funding status and the principal verified results. Include logos only where permission and donor visibility requirements are confirmed.

## 7.3 Civil Society and Private Sector Engagement

GRACE's partnership approach seeks to bring together NGOs, civil-society organizations, educational institutions, technical experts, community-based organizations and responsible private-sector actors. This is particularly relevant to its work on green livelihoods, climate-smart agriculture, nature-based solutions, health and WASH, skills development and social entrepreneurship.



At community level, GRACE's documented campaigns involved local youth groups, community leaders, students and teachers. Its broader strategy identifies private-sector engagement, market linkages, social enterprise and innovation as pathways for expanding livelihood opportunities and supporting sustainable solutions. The organization also expresses interest in collaboration with universities, research organizations, foundations, climate-finance actors and development institutions.

For the reporting year, GRACE should document the concrete value of these relationships—for example, technical assistance provided, referrals completed, training delivered, market connections established, co-financing mobilized, research undertaken or services made accessible to vulnerable groups.


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## Chapter Eight

# Organizational Governance and Institutional Capacity



# Chapter Eight

## Organizational Governance and Institutional Capacity

GRACE's institutional framework is designed to support accountable leadership, responsible resource management, safe programming and evidence-informed decisions. Its public governance materials describe an Executive Board, a management team and a Project Management Board, supported by organizational policies, strategic planning, human-resource arrangements and monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning systems.

### 8.1 Governance Structure

GRACE's website describes a seven-member Executive Board comprising a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer and two Executive Members. The published governance page reports four women and three men on the Board, reflecting the organization's stated commitment to women's participation in leadership. The Board provides strategic direction and oversight of policy, financial stewardship, compliance, risk management, partnerships and institutional development, while the management team oversees programme implementation and day-to-day operations.

GRACE also describes a Project Management Board that supports programme quality, performance review, risk management, compliance, financial stewardship, partnership and learning. This structure is intended to connect organizational strategy with implementation evidence and community priorities.

Decision-making is presented as grounded in transparency, participation, integrity and accountability. For publication, GRACE should confirm that board composition and role descriptions remain current for the reporting period and add information on board meetings, key decisions, oversight actions and conflict-of-interest procedures where documented.

### 8.2 Human Resources and Staff Capacity

GRACE's published human-resources page describes a small core team supported by youth volunteers and voluntary sector specialists. At the time of that page's publication, the website reported four permanent staff members and 20 youth volunteers, alongside voluntary expertise in areas such as finance, programmes, MEAL and social-business development. These figures should be reconfirmed before being used as current annual-report totals.

The organization's model combines professional experience with local relationships and volunteer participation. Capacity priorities reflected in GRACE's public strategy include programme quality, climate resilience, gender and social inclusion, safeguarding, MEAL, financial sustainability, digital transformation, partnership development and evidence-based programming.

To strengthen this section, insert the reporting-period staff profile and verified training data: number of staff and volunteers by gender and role, training topics, staff-days of learning, performance-development processes, occupational health and safety measures, and examples of how capacity development improved programme delivery.

### 8.3 Policies and Safeguarding

GRACE's public policy page lists a framework covering organizational conduct, participant protection, child safeguarding, gender equality, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), procurement, financial management, human-resource management, anti-fraud and anti-corruption, information disclosure, audits,

emergency response and other operational controls. The organization also publicly describes a commitment to safe, confidential channels for concerns through its safeguarding and Complaints Feedback and Response Mechanism.

These policies provide an important foundation for protecting participants, supporting ethical conduct, managing resources responsibly and meeting partner expectations. In annual reporting, GRACE should describe not only the policies that exist but also how they were implemented—for example, staff induction, code-of-conduct acknowledgement, safeguarding focal-point arrangements, referral protocols, procurement checks, financial controls, complaint handling and policy review.

**Policy verification before publication** Confirm the latest approved version and approval date for each policy. Verify that staff and volunteers received relevant orientation, that reporting and referral pathways are operational, and that any complaints or safeguarding cases are described only in aggregated, anonymized form and in accordance with confidentiality and survivor-centred principles.

## 6.4 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

GRACE's MEAL framework, published in October 2026, describes a results-oriented system that combines monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning. The framework emphasizes measurable indicators, routine data collection, community feedback, stakeholder consultation, beneficiary satisfaction, safeguarding and continuous improvement. It also describes a digital MEAL management system intended to support project monitoring, indicator tracking, data visualization, reporting and management decisions.

The published framework outlines organizational roles from governance oversight and executive leadership through programme quality assurance, MEAL coordination, field teams and community representatives. It also identifies learning practices such as quarterly learning reviews, After Action Reviews, case studies, success stories, knowledge-sharing sessions and learning briefs.

This approach supports adaptive programming: evidence and feedback can be used to identify gaps, adjust activities, improve service quality and strengthen accountability to communities and partners. GRACE should add annual reporting figures on assessments completed, indicators tracked, monitoring visits, feedback received and resolved, learning reviews held, data-quality checks completed and programme adjustments made as a result of evidence.

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## Chapter Nine

# Financial Management and Accountability

Income & Expenditure | Project Budgets | Transparency | Value for Money



# Chapter Nine

## Financial Management and Accountability

**Income & Expenditure • Project Budgets • Transparency • Value for Money**

**Responsible resource stewardship**

GRACE's programme financing combines organizational self-funding, locally mobilized Zakat contributions, support from well-wishers and public-sector assistance. This chapter summarizes the six projects' stated budgets and outlines the financial reporting information required for a complete, verified annual statement.

| 6 | BDT 2.21 million | Khulna & Botiagatha |
|---|---|---|
| Project briefs | Combined stated budgets | locations |




## 9.1 Income and Expenditure Summary

During the reporting period, GRACE implemented community development initiatives addressing climate resilience, livelihood recovery, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, social welfare and environmental protection. The organization’s financing approach combined self-funded programme investments, locally mobilized Zakat contributions, contributions from well-wishers and public-sector assistance.

| BDT 2,212,500 | 6 | 4 |
|---|---|---|
| Combined stated project budgets | Projects summarized | Funding routes represented |

The combined stated project budget is BDT 2,212,500 (approximately BDT 2.21 million). These amounts reflect project-level budgets across different implementation periods; they are not a verified total of income received or expenditure incurred during the 2025–2026 financial year.

### Annual financial figures to be confirmed

A consolidated statement of actual annual income, expenditure, opening and closing balances, and project-wise spending was not included in the information supplied. These figures should be inserted only after reconciliation with GRACE's accounting records.

## 9.2 PROJECT-WISE BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Reporting year: July 2025 – June 2026 | Currency: Bangladeshi Taka (BDT)

The table below distinguishes each initiative's total stated project budget from the budget and expenditure attributable to the reporting year. Reporting-year figures should be completed from approved budgets, ledgers and supporting financial records.

| PROJECT / INITIATIVE | FUNDING SOURCE | PROJECT TOTAL (BDT) Janu 2023-Dec 2030 | PROJECT DURATION | REPORTING-YEAR BUDGET (Jul 2025–Jun 2026) (BDT) | REPORTING-YEAR EXPENDITURE (Jul 2025–Jun 2026) (BDT) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Integrated Coastal Climate Resilience Project (ICCRP)** | GRACE self-funded | 700,000 | Jan 2024 – Dec 2027 | 275,312 | 279,249 |
| **Zakat Assistance for Livelihood Recovery (ZALR)** | GRACE and well-wishers | 392,500 | Jan 2025 – Jun 2030 | 193,000 | 193,000 |
| **Voices from the Riverbank — Alternative Livelihoods for Women Fishers (VARL)** | GRACE and well-wishers | 250,000 | Jan 2026 – Jun 2030 | 98,326 | 99,732 |
| **Public–Private Partnership Agro-Initiative and Social Enterprise Development for Nature Conservation** | GRACE self-funded | 420,000 | Jan 2023 – Dec 2030 (end date to be confirmed) | 165,187 | 167,549 |
| **RESHAPE — Resilient Solutions for Health, Nutrition and WASH through Community Action** | GRACE self-funded | 420,000 | Jan 2023 – Dec 2027 | 165,188 | 167,549 |
| **Social Welfare, Community Awareness and Environmental Resilience** | Department of Social Service, Khulna / Ministry of Social Welfare | 30,000 | Oct – Dec 2025 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| **TOTAL STATED PROJECT BUDGETS** | **Six initiatives** | **2,212,500** | **Project-level total** | **927,013** | **937,079** |

## 9.3 Financial Management and Audit

GRACE recognizes financial accountability, transparency and responsible resource management as essential to effective community development. Its funding arrangements—organizational contributions, locally mobilized Zakat funds, well-wisher support and public-sector assistance—require clear records, appropriate authorization and consistent reporting.

**CORE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY PRACTICES**

- Financial documentation: Maintain receipts, payment vouchers, invoices, bank records and supporting documents for programme expenditure.
- Budget monitoring: Compare approved budgets with actual expenditure, document variances and take corrective action where necessary.
- Project-wise accounting: Record income and expenditure by project and funding source to support accurate reporting and traceability.
- Procurement and asset management: Document procurement decisions, maintain asset registers and ensure resources are used for authorized purposes.
- Donor accountability: Prepare timely financial reports and retain supporting documents for review by management, donors and relevant authorities.
- Audit and compliance: Maintain statutory and organizational records and complete applicable internal or external audits in line with relevant requirements.

**Audit status of 2025— 2026 : Done by September 2026**

The information supplied for this chapter does not confirm whether GRACE's financial statements for 2025–2026 have been audited. Before publication, insert the verified audit status, auditor details, audit period and any material findings or recommendations, where applicable. Do not claim that an audit has been completed without supporting evidence.

## 9.4 Value for Money and Resource Utilization

GRACE seeks to maximize development benefits by combining local financing, community participation and integrated programme delivery. Its approach emphasizes practical interventions that address multiple dimensions of vulnerability while encouraging local ownership and longer-term resilience.

**ECONOMY**

**Mobilizing resources locally**

Self-funded initiatives, Zakat contributions and well-wisher support help direct available resources towards community priorities.

**EFFICIENCY**

**Connecting related activities**

Integrated group sessions and linked livelihood, health, nutrition and resilience activities create opportunities to use programme resources efficiently.

**EFFECTIVENESS**

**Focusing on practical results**

Reported income improvements, drainage benefits and the launch of community education activities provide evidence of outputs and emerging outcomes.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**Building local capacity**

Savings groups, practical skills, nature-based solutions and local partnerships are intended to help communities sustain benefits over time.

### Evidence of emerging value

- ZALR: Among 36 livelihood-supported households, reported average monthly income rose from BDT 5,700 to BDT 12,200. This is a programme-reported result and should be validated against household monitoring records.
- Urban resilience: A 250-foot drainage system reportedly benefits approximately 150 households.
- Education: A community education and skills development centre commenced activities with 20 children in June–July 2026.

These examples illustrate links between programme inputs and community-level benefits, but they do not independently establish cost-effectiveness. A stronger value-for-money assessment would compare actual

expenditure with verified outputs and outcomes, track unit costs where feasible, monitor livelihood and asset sustainability, and incorporate beneficiary feedback.

**Commitment to accountability**

GRACE will continue to strengthen budget monitoring, project-level documentation, transparent reporting and evidence-based learning so that available resources are managed responsibly and directed towards meaningful, inclusive and sustainable community outcomes.

Shaha & Co.
Chartered Accountants

# Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem(GRACE)

**373/36-Gha,Modina Sarak, Bandhabazar, Labonchara,Shipyard-9201,Khulna.**

**Income & Expenditure Accounts for the period from 1st July, 2025 to 30th June, 2026**

| Income | Amount in Taka | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2025-2026 | 2024-2025 |
| | | |
| Grant from Chairman | 15,000.00 | 2,50,000.00 |
| Grant from General Secretary | 3,40,597.00 | 2,03,500.00 |
| Grant from Md. Emranul Haque | 1,25,000.00 | - |
| Grant from Mst.Hosneara Begum | 1,30,000.00 | |
| Grant from Syed Ali Haider | 1,10,000.00 | |
| Zakat | 1,82,770.00 | |
| Grant from BJSP | 30,000.00 | |
| Bank Interest | 2,865.00 | |
| | | |
| **Total =** | **936,232.00** | **4,53,500.00** |

Dated: 06 September , 2026
Place: Dhaka

S. Dhar FCA, FCCA
Shaha & Co.
Chartered Accountants

SHAHA & CO. Dhaka Chartered Accountants

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Chartered Accountants

# Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem(GRACE)

**373/36-Gha,Modina Sarak, Bandhabazar, Labonchara,Shipyard-9201,Khulna.**

| Expenditure | Amount in Taka | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2025-2026 | 2024-2025 |
| Office Rent | 1,20,000.00 | 90,000.00 |
| Staff Salary | 4,14,000.00 | 69,678.00 |
| Developing Agro Innovation Lab | - | 43,000.00 |
| Food Assistance on the occasion of Eid-Ul-Fitre | - | 120,505.00 |
| Food Assistance on the occasion of Eid-Ul-Ajha | - | 52,600.00 |
| Small Business on Supplies and Livestock Assistance | - | 56,500.00 |
| Health Camp | - | 1,000.00 |
| Annual Sports Cost | - | 5,000.00 |
| Office Supplies | - | 2,720.00 |
| Furniture | - | 1,800.00 |
| Printing | - | 2,900.00 |
| Travelling | - | 3,200.00 |
| Entertainment | - | 1,800.00 |
| Mobile Bill | 8,700.00 | 2,400.00 |
| Monthly Group Meeting | 4,300.00 | - |
| Office Supplies | 40,712.00 | - |
| Emergency Response Training to Volunteers | 24,070.00 | - |
| SSD Fund Utilization (Printing Cost & Others) | 30,352.00 | - |
| CSA Training and Seed Distribution Duck | 23,100.00 | - |
| Cooking Demonastation Session | 14,675.00 | - |
| Vegetable seed Distribution | 14,450.00 | - |
| Capacity Building Training on CSA & DDR of the Women Group. | 5,910.00 | - |
| Ginger & Seasonal Seed Distribution | 12,940.00 | - |
| Program Participent Welcoming Meeting & Community. | 1,900.00 | - |
| Zakat Fund IGA Support | 1,82,770.00 | - |
| 16day Activities Observation | 5,600.00 | - |
| Staff & Vilunteer Capacity Building Training. | 4,350.00 | - |
| Beneficiary Validation Meeting | 1,800.00 | - |
| Bank Charge | 1,505.00 | - |
| Depreciation Charge | 9,779.00 | 10,666.00 |
| Sub Total | **9,20,913.00** | **4,61,969.00** |
| Surplus/Deficit during the year | 15,319.00 | (8,469.00) |
| Total | **936,232.00** | **4,53,500.00** |

Dated: 06 September , 2026
Place: Dhaka

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# Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem(GRACE)

**373/36-Gha,Modina Sarak, Bandhabazar, Laboncharа,Shipyard-9201,Khulna.**

**Receipt & Payment Accounts for the period from 1st July, 2025 to 30th June, 2026**

| Receipts | | | Amount in Taka | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2025-2026 | 2024-2025 |
| Opening Balance | 2025-2026 | 2024-2025 | 847.00 | 450.00 |
| Cash In Hand : | 847.00 | 450.00 | | |
| Cash at Bank : | - | - | | |
| Grant from Chairman | | | 15,000.00 | 2,50,000.00 |
| Grant from General Secretary | | | 3,40,597.00 | 2,03,500.00 |
| Grant from Md. Emranul Haque | | | 1,25,000.00 | - |
| Grant from Mst.Hosneara Begum | | | 1,30,000.00 | |
| Grant from Syed Ali Haider | | | 1,10,000.00 | |
| Zakat | | | 1,82,770.00 | |
| Grant from BJSP | | | 30,000.00 | |
| Bank Interest | | | 2,865.00 | |
| | | | | |
| **Total =** | | | **9,37,079.00** | **4,53,950.00** |

Dated: 06 September , 2026
Place: Dhaka

S. Dhar FCA, FCCA
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# Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem(GRACE)

**373/36-Gha,Modina Sarak, Bandhabazar, Labonchara,Shipyard-9201,Khulna.**

| Payments | Amount in Taka | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2025-2026 | 2024-2025 |
| Office Rent | 1,20,000.00 | 90,000.00 |
| Staff Salary | 4,14,000.00 | 69,678.00 |
| Developing Agro Innovation Lab | - | 43,000.00 |
| Food Assistance on the occasion of Eid-Ul-Fitre | - | 120,505.00 |
| Food Assistance on the occasion of Eid-Ul-Ajha | - | 52,600.00 |
| Small Business on Supplies and Livestock Assistance | - | 56,500.00 |
| Health Camp | - | 1,000.00 |
| Annual Sports Cost | - | 5,000.00 |
| Office Supplies | - | 2,720.00 |
| Furniture | - | 1,800.00 |
| Printing | - | 2,900.00 |
| Travelling | - | 3,200.00 |
| Entertainment | - | 1,800.00 |
| Mobile Bill | 8,700.00 | 2,400.00 |
| Monthly Group Meeting | 4,300.00 | - |
| Office Supplies | 40,712.00 | - |
| Emergency Response Training to Volunteers | 24,070.00 | - |
| SSD Fund Utilization (Printing Cost & Others) | 30,352.00 | - |
| CSA Training and Seed Distribution Duck | 23,100.00 | - |
| Cooking Demonastation Session | 14,675.00 | - |
| Vegetable seed Distribution | 14,450.00 | - |
| Capacity Building Training on CSA & DDR of the Women Group. | 5,910.00 | - |
| Ginger & Seasonal Seed Distribution | 12,940.00 | - |
| Program Particpent Welcoming Meeting & Community. | 1,900.00 | - |
| Zakat Fund IGA Support | 1,82,770.00 | - |
| 16day Activities Observation | 5,600.00 | - |
| Staff & Vilunteer Capacity Building Training. | 4,350.00 | - |
| Beneficiary Validation Meeting | 1,800.00 | - |
| Photocopy Machine | 22,000.00 | - |
| Laminating Machine | 2,000.00 | - |
| Bank Charge: 2025-2026 2024-2025 | 1,505.00 | - |
| Closing Balance : | 1,945.00 | 847.00 |
| Cash in Hand 847.00 | | |
| Cash at Bank : 1,945.00 - | | |
| | | |
| **Total** | **937,079.00** | **4,53,950.00** |

Dated: 06 September , 2026
Place: Dhaka

S. Dhar FCA, FCCA
Shaha & Co.
Chartered Accountants

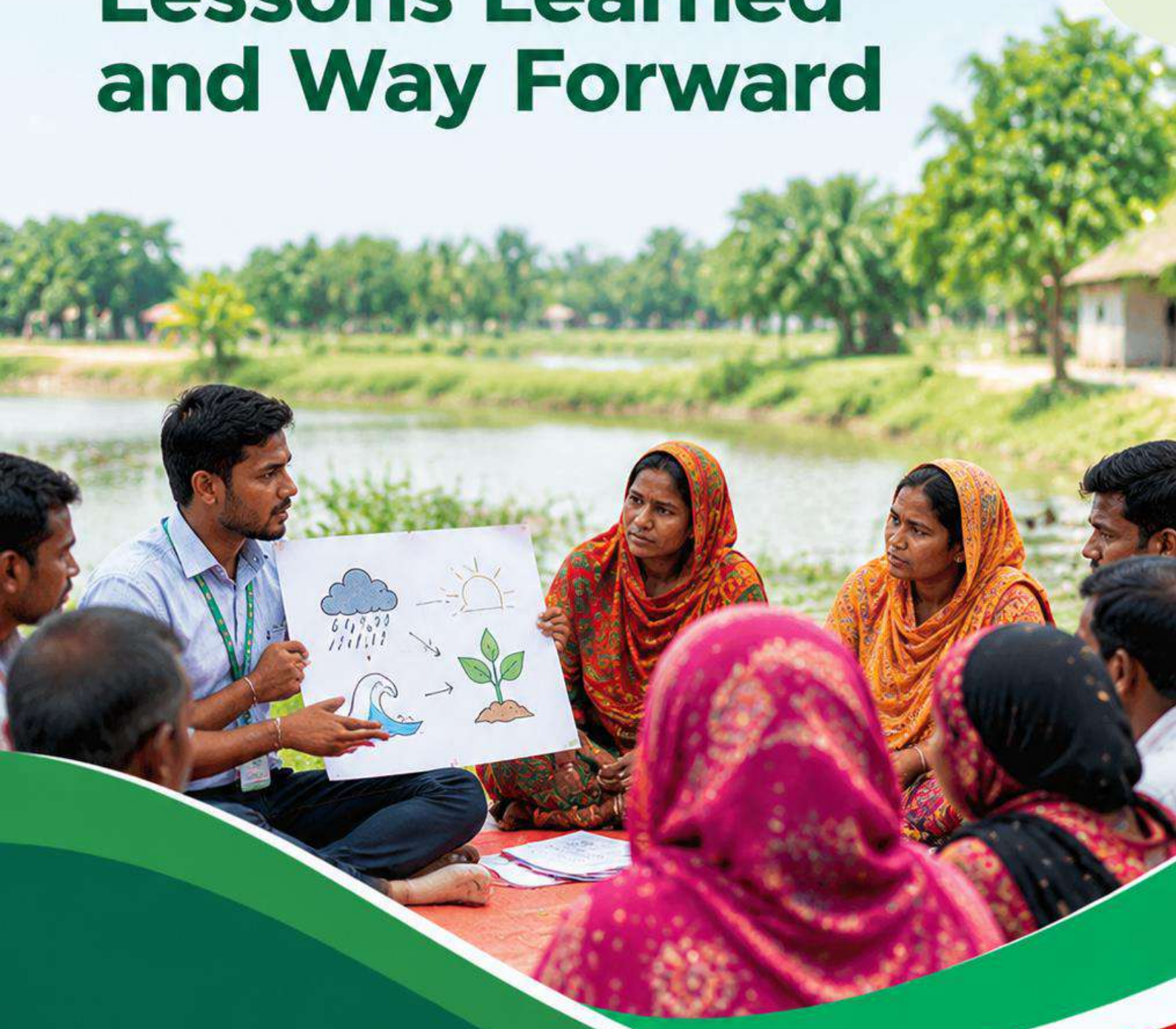
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GRACE
Green Resilience and Cooperation for Ecosystem (GRACE)

## Chapter Ten

# Challenges, Lessons Learned and Way Forward



# Chapter Ten

## Challenges, Lessons Learned and Way Forward

*Reflecting honestly. Learning continuously. Building resilient futures.*



During 2025–2026, GRACE continued to connect climate resilience, nature-based solutions, health and nutrition, livelihoods, women and youth empowerment, and community development. Field experience reinforces a central lesson: lasting change depends not only on activities delivered, but on community ownership, practical follow-up, reliable partnerships and evidence that helps programmes adapt. This chapter summarises key challenges, the lessons emerging from GRACE's initiatives, and priorities for 2026–2027.

**PROGRAMME EVIDENCE IN FOCUS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **120**<br>vulnerable households received festival-related food assistance in 2025 | **120**<br>households received livelihood support through small business, poultry or livestock activities in 2026 |
| **BDT 5,700 → 12,200**<br>reported change in average monthly household income under the Zakat livelihood initiative | **21**<br>supported households reported establishing livelihood opportunities |

**Reporting note:** Figures above are programme-reported results published by GRACE. They are presented as reported and should be read alongside the relevant project records.

**10.1 | KEY CHALLENGES**

GRACE's operating context and programme portfolio point to several connected challenges. These are not isolated issues: climate, household wellbeing, livelihoods, service access and implementation capacity often influence one another.

| | |
|---|---|
| **01 Climate, water and environmental pressures**<br>Coastal communities face salinity intrusion, seasonal shortages of safe drinking water and climate-related disruption. These pressures affect hygiene, family health, food production and income, making integrated and locally adapted responses essential. | **02 Predictable and flexible financing**<br>Climate resilience, health, nutrition, WASH, education and livelihood support require sustained follow-up. Locally mobilised contributions can unlock practical assistance, while replication and continuity depend on diversified funding, flexible resources and longer-term partnerships. |
| **03 Field operations and coordination**<br>Integrated programming requires coordination across community mobilisation, technical training, inputs, referrals, monitoring and market linkages. Maintaining regular follow-up across different locations and participant needs can be resource-intensive. | **04 Behaviour change and equitable participation**<br>Safer food, improved nutrition, hygiene and disaster preparedness depend on repeated engagement rather than one-off messages. Women caregivers, young people and households facing economic pressure need accessible, practical support to apply new practices. |
| **05 Institutional and service linkages**<br>Sustainable results often depend on connections with local government, health providers, safe-water services, social protection, technical experts and markets. Clear responsibilities, timely referrals and joint follow-up are important for closing service gaps. | **06 Monitoring, documentation and learning**<br>Resilience outcomes develop at different speeds. Tracking changes in income, savings, health practices, water security and environmental conditions requires reliable baselines, consistent indicators, disaggregated data, community feedback and credible case documentation. |

**Management implication**

The way forward is to plan for these realities from the outset: combine technical and community knowledge, budget for follow-up, clarify partner roles, and use monitoring evidence to adjust activities before small implementation gaps become larger barriers.

**10.2 | LESSONS LEARNED**

GRACE's field experience points to a set of practical lessons for designing programmes that are locally relevant, inclusive and more likely to last.





Community discussion and engagement

Household livelihood support

**01 Listen before designing**

Community knowledge helps reveal the everyday barriers behind headline problems. Consultations and household conversations should shape priorities, delivery methods and indicators from the beginning—not simply validate decisions already made.

**02 Pair immediate assistance with pathways to self-reliance**

GRACE's Zakat initiative links festival-related food assistance with small-business, poultry and livestock support. Programme-reported income and livelihood results illustrate the value of combining timely relief with productive assets, practical guidance and savings habits.

**03 Integrate food, health, nutrition and WASH**

Kitchen gardening, safe-food messages, caregiver counselling, cooking demonstrations, health camps and hygiene promotion reinforce one another. Families are better positioned to sustain healthier practices when advice is practical and linked to the resources and services available locally.

**04 Make women and young people active decision-makers**

Women's participation in livelihoods and environmental action, alongside youth skills development and children's life-skills activities, can strengthen ownership and continuity. Participation is most meaningful when people help identify priorities, lead activities and review results.

**05 Build on locally workable innovations**

Homestead gardens, climate-smart agriculture, livestock, poultry, aquaculture and agro-based enterprise offer practical entry points when adapted to local conditions. Training and input support should be paired with technical follow-up, savings and viable market connections.

**06 Use evidence to adapt and remain accountable**

Regular monitoring, community feedback, outcome tracking and learning reviews help teams identify what is working and what needs adjustment. Combining quantitative indicators with case stories makes results easier to understand and supports more credible programme decisions.

**Core learning:** Sustainable impact is strongest when local knowledge, practical support, partnerships and evidence are designed as one connected process.

In January 2024, GRACE initiated the Integrated Coastal Climate Resilience Project (ICCRP), informed by a multidimensional vulnerability assessment and community consultations. Despite having no external grant funding, GRACE launched the initiative through contributions from its Executive Committee members, demonstrating its commitment to community-led change. The project adopted a women-centred, group-based approach, forming **12 women's groups involving 300 women**. Interventions were designed around community priorities, climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, health, nutrition, WASH and women's empowermentIn January 2024, GRACE initiated the Integrated Coastal Climate Resilience Project (ICCRP), informed by a multidimensional vulnerability assessment and community consultations. Despite having no external grant funding, GRACE launched the initiative through contributions from its Executive Committee members, demonstrating its commitment to community-led change. The project adopted a women-centred, group-based approach, forming **12 women's groups involving 300 women**. Interventions were designed around community priorities, climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, health, nutrition, WASH and women's empowerment

### 10.3 | WAY FORWARD FOR 2026–2027

In 2026–2027, GRACE will aim to consolidate community-led models, strengthen the evidence base and deepen partnerships so that locally tested solutions can be sustained and replicated. The priorities below translate the lessons of implementation into an action-oriented agenda.

| PRIORITY | 2026–2027 ACTION | INTENDED RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Expand climate resilience programmes** | Undertake participatory risk assessment; strengthen water-security initiatives, early warning and disaster preparedness; and promote nature-based solutions, climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem-responsive livelihoods. | Communities better prepared for climate shocks; more resilient food and livelihood systems. |
| **2. Strengthen women and youth leadership** | Support women-led groups and youth participation in local planning; expand leadership, vocational, digital and enterprise skills; and create practical routes into green jobs and community decision-making. | Stronger local leadership, inclusion and access to livelihood opportunities. |
| **3. Enhance health, nutrition and WASH services** | Continue community health awareness, maternal and child nutrition support, screening and referral, cooking demonstrations, hygiene promotion and links with relevant health and safe-water services. | Improved preventive practices and stronger connections to essential services. |
| **4. Promote green enterprise and livelihoods** | Build on homestead gardens, the agro-innovation platform and climate-smart agriculture; support suitable poultry, livestock, aquaculture and small businesses; and strengthen savings, technical coaching and market access. | More diversified income opportunities, productive assets and household resilience. |
| **5. Strengthen institutional capacity** | Invest in staff development, governance, financial management, safeguarding, procurement, risk management, digital systems and diversified resource mobilisation to support responsible programme growth. | Stronger systems, accountability and organisational sustainability. |
| **6. Build stronger partnerships** | Develop practical collaboration with government departments, local government, service providers, NGOs, universities, research organisations, donors, private businesses and community structures. | Better coordination, complementary expertise, co-investment and wider reach. |
| **7. Improve monitoring and evidence-based programming** | Use clear baselines and indicators, disaggregated data, regular field reviews, community feedback and response mechanisms, learning reviews and case studies to guide programme adaptation. | More credible results, faster learning and stronger decisions about what to sustain or scale. |

#### LOOKING AHEAD

GRACE's next phase is to turn community insight into practical evidence, connect resilience with livelihoods and wellbeing, and build partnerships that sustain locally led solutions. Progress will be judged not only by activities delivered, but by whether households can protect health, maintain income, participate in decisions and recover from shocks.