

# Annual Report 2024



## Shishu Polli Plus

(A Project of The Sreepur Village, Bangladesh)





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# Editorial

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Mehedi Hasan

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# Our Year in Numbers



A safe home,  
food and clothing to

**327**

Mothers and children



**597775**

Nutritious meals to  
mothers and children



**6553**

Healthcare treatment at  
our clinic and referrals  
to local hospitals



**1260**

Hours of literacy  
classes for mothers



**2083**

Hours of schooling



**90**

Hours of swimming  
training for  
**42** children



**91**

Sessions of  
psychosocial  
counseling to mothers



**75**

Mothers received  
Training on Caregiving



**159**

Mothers took positive  
parenting training



## Board of Trustees



Patricia Ann Vivian Kerr  
Founder  
Overseas Director



Janette Porter  
Chair of Trustees



Derek Palmer



Sabbir Karim



Matthew Silvester

## Patrons



Lady Sue Tunnicliffe



Dame Sarah Storey

## Advisor



Rebecca Horsbrugh



Sue Coleman

# Senior Management Team



**Patricia Ann Vivian Kerr**  
Founder  
Overseas Director



**S. S. Alam Choudhury**  
Chairman-Bangladesh



**Aslam Hossain Khan**  
Project Incharge



**Nishat Anjum Lisa**  
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Chief of Fundraising &  
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Education & Beneficiary Training



**Md. Naim Mostofa**  
Programme Coordinator  
Rehabilitation and  
Livelihood Development



**Shahrul Islam**  
Senior Coordinator  
Maintenance





# Note From Overseas Director

**Patricia Ann Vivian Kerr**

As we look back on 2024, we recognize that it has been a difficult year across the world, marked by war, economic instability, environmental crises, and social unrest. Bangladesh has faced a tough year, with severe flooding and cyclones causing widespread damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and livelihoods. These disasters have tested the resilience of communities across the country. While our area was fortunate to remain free from major flooding, we did what we could to help by providing some essential supplies and medicines to those affected. Adding to these challenges, last summer's political upheaval here, led to great uncertainty.

The protests which led to the downfall of the party in power, resulted in casualties on both sides, ending only when the Prime Minister left for India. Amid the turmoil, there were moments of both division and solidarity—while some took advantage of the unrest, we also witnessed remarkable acts of kindness and unity among people of different backgrounds. Whilst it does take time, the interim government, under Dr. Muhammad Yunus is gradually bringing stability, and they have voiced a commitment to honesty and transparency.

Despite the difficulties, we are proud to share this Annual Report, highlighting the work we have been able to continue thanks to the dedication of our incredible staff and the unwavering support of people like you.

At SPP, we remain focused on our mission, continuing to provide support where it is needed most. However, the unrest has affected us- for the first time ever one of our female staff members was confronted by demands for money while traveling in a rickshaw near our gate. With great composure, she managed to talk them out of the assault although they did still rob the rickshaw driver. Travel between SPP and Dhaka has also become much more difficult due to demonstrations and road closures, particularly by garment workers. What was once a 1.5 to 3-hour journey can now take far longer—on one occasion, it took us a gruelling 10 hours- most of it spent at a complete standstill in the heat. Still, for the first time in their lives, many women and children in our care are experiencing something basic, yet profound- the ability to sleep at night feeling safe. Through our work, we are providing a secure environment within the project—but we are also creating lasting change. When women return to their villages, they take with them a sense of confidence and security that impacts their entire community. The ripple effect of this cannot be overstated. These women, often marginalized and vulnerable, are now empowered to stand up for themselves and for each other, their children, who once knew only uncertainty and fear, are learning what it means to grow up with stability. This gives us encouragement and hope for the future.

Looking ahead to 2025, we continue to celebrate the strength and diversity of our community. At Shishu Polli Plus (SPP), we mark all religious and cultural events, strengthening the bonds that unite us. In the coming weeks, we will celebrate International Mother Language Day, followed by Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. Recently, we witnessed this spirit in action during Saraswati Puja, the Hindu festival honouring the goddess of education. It was a joyful, colourful celebration, attended by Hindu staff and beneficiaries but watched by many other members of our community —a true reflection of the harmony we strive for. A Christian boy even blew the conch horn to start the prayers! The day ended with a special tiffin and a wonderful meal shared by all.


This past year has reinforced one key lesson: when we respect and uplift one another, we strengthen our ability to create real, lasting improvements in our own lives and those of others. The work we do together is about transforming lives and supporting mothers and children to have dignity, security, and hope.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support makes all this possible.



# Background of The Sreepur Village



A large group of women and children are posing for a group photo outdoors. They are standing in several rows under a large tree with vibrant red flowers. Many of the women are wearing blue or red headscarves and matching dresses. The children are dressed in various casual clothing. The background is filled with the branches and red blossoms of the tree, creating a lush and colorful setting.

Sreepur Village, widely known in Bangladesh as “Shishu Polli Plus (SPP),” is a purpose-built community located 50 kilometers from Dhaka in rural Bangladesh. Established in 1989, it serves as a refuge and safe haven for single mothers without male support and their children. These families can reside in the community for up to three years while gaining essential livelihood skills and knowledge to secure their long-term future.

At any given time, Sreepur Village supports approximately 150 single mothers and 350 children (aged 0-10), providing them with basic necessities such as shelter, clothing, food, healthcare, and education in a secure and nurturing environment. Over the past 35 years, the organisation has directly assisted more than 6,500 destitute single mothers and their children in breaking the cycle of poverty and achieving financial independence. Additionally, it has positively impacted the lives of tens of thousands of individuals across Bangladesh.

ShishuPolli Plus is unique in Bangladesh because it allows mothers to learn and grow while living with their children. It is the only place that offers long-term training for mothers without separating them from their children.





## Board, Governance and Operational Staff

Sreepur Village, Bangladesh, operates under the stewardship of a dedicated Board of Trustees and a professional team committed to fulfill its mission. The Board is comprised of members with extensive expertise in social development, finance, and governance, ensuring strong oversight and a clear strategic direction. The Trustees are instrumental in making key decisions to align the organisation's initiatives with its long-term objectives.

The Overseas Director, acting on behalf of the Trustee Board, provides operational guidance to ensure the effective management of the organisation. The Senior Management Team (SMT) plays a vital role in implementing the Board's strategic decisions, overseeing operations, and monitoring the performance of each department and section.

Regular Trustee Board meetings, along with the adoption of new governance measures, reinforce the organisation's commitment to transparency and accountability. To enhance participatory decision-making, the organisation has introduced the role of Project In-Charge. This role is designed to work in consultation with department and section heads (fostering) strengthening collaboration and ensuring seamless coordination across all areas of operation.

As part of our expansion strategy, ShishuPolli Plus incorporated in the state of Florida in 2022, securing 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the IRS. Our US operation is guided by a board of five Directors, enabling us to expand our fundraising capabilities in North America.



## Executive Summary

### Key Achievements

Shishu Polli Plus remains steadfast in its commitment to providing transformative support to marginalised women and their children. In 2024, we achieved remarkable milestones that underscore our dedication to our mission and vision.

### Key Achievements in the year of 2024

#### Holistic Support for Mothers and Children:

We provided a safe home, food, and clothing to **327 mothers and children**, ensuring their basic needs were met with dignity and care.

#### Nutritional Care:

A total of **597,775 nutritious meals and snacks** were provided, reinforcing our commitment to combating malnutrition and promoting healthy development.

#### Healthcare Services:

Our clinic administered **6553 treatments** and facilitated referrals to local hospitals, offering comprehensive healthcare solutions.

#### Education and Literacy:

- 1,260 hours of literacy classes were provided or taught to empower mothers with essential skills.
- 2,083 hours of schooling were conducted for children, contributing to their education.

#### Skill Development and Training:

- 159 mothers participated in positive parenting training, strengthening family bonds.
- 75 mothers completed caregiver training, enhancing their ability to support others.
- 90 hours swimming training was provided to 42 children, a vital life skill fostering boosting confidence and safety.

#### Community Reintegration:

Our social workers conducted extensive follow-up to ensure families safely reintegrated into their communities with continued support.



# Vision

To ensure our organisational activities address the needs of destitute and marginalised mothers and their children, empowering them to overcome challenges and thrive in mainstream society.

# Mission

To transform the lives of Bangladeshi mothers without male support by equipping them with vocational, educational, and technological skills. Our goal is to empower them to return to their rural villages with confidence and independence, enabling them to support their families and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

# Core Values

Shishu Polli Plus is dedicated to providing long-term rehabilitation services to underprivileged children and their mothers. By addressing issues such as poverty, social stigma, and trauma, we create a nurturing environment where healing and growth are possible.

Our self-contained village provides a nurturing environment where families receive comprehensive care, including nutritious meals, healthcare, and quality education. Mothers develop essential vocational and life skills, preparing them for successful reintegration into their home communities

Shishu Polli Plus serves mothers and their children who face significant hardship due to absent or limited paternal support within Bangladesh. Our project welcomes/accepts mothers with at least one child under 11 years old who fall into one of these categories:

- Mothers who are widowed, divorced, or have been abandoned by their spouse (with no contact for a minimum of one year)
- Single mothers who have never married
- Mothers whose husbands have severe physical or mental disabilities that prevent them from providing adequate support

In 2024, we made significant strides toward achieving our mission and vision. We look forward to building on this progress in the coming year, ensuring brighter futures for the communities we serve.



# Success Story

## Jahidul Islam



**"My name is Jahidul Islam, and I am 11 years old.**

I come from Narsingdi, where I lived with my mother and three siblings after my father passed away. I struggled in school and eventually dropped out due to harsh punishments and poor performance. Life changed when an SPP staff member visited our village and introduced us to their educational facilities. At SPP, I started from scratch, learning to read, write, and solve basic math problems. I have also discovered a love for drawing and have won awards in competitions. The teachers here are kind and encouraging. Now, I dream of continuing my studies and securing a respectable job in the future."

# Impact Case Studies



## Anjana's Journey of Transformation with Shishu Polli Plus

Anjana, a 25-year-old single mother from the flood-prone region of Sunamganj, Bangladesh, faced immense challenges after separating from her husband six years ago. Left destitute, she struggled to care for her two young children, now thriving in Class 3 and Class 1 at the Shishu Polli Plus (SPP) School. Arriving at SPP in a state of emotional and financial vulnerability, Anjana found safety and support. SPP provided her with shelter and enrolled her in tailoring programme, where she quickly excelled. Alongside mastering tailoring, she received training in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business management, equipping her for a sustainable livelihood. Today, Anjana is a skilled professional with a clear rehabilitation plan to open her own tailoring shop upon returning to Sunamganj. Her children are also benefiting from quality education at SPP, ensuring a brighter future. Anjana's story highlights SPP's transformative impact on vulnerable women and children through shelter, education, skills training, and counselling. She now aspires to support her family, contribute to her community, and empower others by creating employment opportunities for women facing similar struggles. This journey of hope and empowerment is a testament to how organisations like ShishuPolli Plus enable long-term transformation through targeted intervention.



# Children and Mother Care



## Programme & Operational Updates During the Reporting Year

### Child & Mother Care (CMC)

Child & Mother Care (CMC) is one of the five core programmes of Shishu Polli Plus, dedicated to supporting single mothers and their children. The programme's objective is to empower beneficiaries by providing essential services and equipping them with the skills to lead better lives within their communities.

Currently, CMC is serving 222 children and 105 mothers, ensuring they receive comprehensive care, including accommodation, nutrition, and skill development. The ultimate goal is to foster confident, self-reliant individuals capable of meeting their basic needs independently.

## CMC Units and Facilities

The CMC unit operates across seven houses, categorised on the age and needs of children:

| House Name    | Children Sections  | Age Group   | No. of Children |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Rosemery Kerr | Baby House         | 0-4 years   | 71              |
| Kashful       | Toddler House      | 4-8 years   | 30              |
| Krishnochura  | Middle Boys House  | 8-10 years  | 07              |
| Krishnochura  | Big Boys House     | 10-12 years | 23              |
| Polash        | Middle Girls House | 4-8 years   | 35              |
| Bokul Tola    | Big Girls House    | 8-14 years  | 16              |
| Special Care  | -                  | Adults      | 8               |

*Additionally, a central kitchen ensures the provision of nutritious and balanced meals for all beneficiaries.*



## Balanced Diet Plan

The CMC team follows a structured dietary plan, as suggested by a certified nutritionist, to ensure beneficiaries receive five healthy meals daily.

### Key activities and services provided by the CMC unit include:

- **Accommodation:** safe and secure housing for beneficiaries.
- **Nutrition:** balanced meals and snacks are provided five times per day
- **Family management:** creating a homely environment within the family unit
- **Skill development:** self-care sessions for mothers and children to integrate into SPP's environment.
- **Hygiene and comfort:** Distribution of toiletries, bedding items, and ensuring personal hygiene.
- **Health and wellness:** Counselling sessions, recreational swimming, and child development activities at "Anchal."
- **Cultural and recreational activities:** Monthly cultural programs, annual picnics, and observance of religious and national holidays.
- **Parenting and leadership training:** Sessions on positive parenting and caregiver responsibilities.

### Service Highlights in 2024

- **Leadership Training:** Selected mothers were appointed as leaders for their family units.
- **Beneficiary Associations:** Formed associations to foster strengthen collaboration and self-management.
- **Token Economy System:** Through token incentives encouraged positive behaviour and skill-building through token incentives.
- **Counselling and Awareness:** Held counselling sessions to enhance social and emotional well-being.

The CMC continues to serve as essential foundation of Shishu Polli Plus, ensuring that mothers and children receive comprehensive support, nurturing resilience and self-reliance to reintegrate into their communities with dignity and confidence.



# Clinic and Healthcare



The Clinic and Healthcare Section of Shishu Polli Plus (SPP) is dedicated to provide primary healthcare services to beneficiary mothers and children at the on-site clinic. A skilled team of three Nurses and a Section Assistant ensures the delivery of essential care, addressing both routine and emergency health needs.

## Key Activities in 2024

### 1. Primary Healthcare Services

- Provided treatment for common illnesses such as fever, cold, bronchial asthma, back pain, and minor injuries requiring stitches, IV cannulation, and injections.

### 2. Specialised Care

- Facilitated psychological patient care in collaboration with external doctors.
- Referred emergency cases to nearby government hospitals and private medical centres.

### 3. Communicable Disease Management

- Cared for patients with communicable diseases, an internal quarantine centre for isolation.



#### 4. Health Awareness Sessions

Conducted sessions on:

- Handwashing, waste management, drug overdose prevention, and personal hygiene.
- Scabies and lice prevention programmes.
- Malnutrition awareness and first aid.
- Organised external campaigns, including EPI-TT vaccinations, vitamin-A supplementation drives, and COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

#### 5. Water Quality Monitoring

- Performed water quality tests every four months with local government support.

#### 6. Health Campaigns

- Arranged health awareness sessions at local primary schools for children.

#### 7. Annual Circumcision Camp

- Organised a circumcision camp for male children as part of routine healthcare services.

### Achievements in 2024

**Surgical Interventions:**

- o Three mothers received surgeries fully funded by SPP for:
  - Adenomatous Goitre
  - Chronic Dacryocystitis (left eye)
  - Cholecystectomy
- o One child underwent a herniotomy surgery funded by the clinic.

The Clinic and Healthcare Section ensured the continued provision of essential and emergency healthcare services, expanded outreach through awareness campaigns, and strengthened its commitment to the health and well-being of SPP's residents. These efforts align with the broader organisational mission of empowering vulnerable mothers and children.



This holistic approach reflects SPP's dedication to maintaining a high standard of health and wellness for all under its care.

# Education



## Education Programme, Behavioural Support and Token Economy

At Shishu Polli Plus (SPP), the Education Programme addresses the lack of literacy and education among many mothers and children who arrive at our facility. The programme offers a variety of educational opportunities tailored to children's ages and learning capabilities. Our Primary School, operating on-campus from Shishu Bikash Kendra (Early Child Development) to Class 3, uses block teaching methods. Each teacher focuses on one class, continuously monitoring and assessing students' progress. Children in Classes 4 to 10 attend nearby community primary and high schools.

Co-curricular activities, including art, sports, dance, and music, are integral to promoting holistic development and ensuring education is engaging and enjoyable. These initiatives aim to prepare children for mainstream education and help them integrate into society with confidence.

### Highlights of the Education Programme in 2024

#### 1. Academic Achievements:

- Two girls passed the Secondary School Certificate exam with grade point averages of 3.07 and 4.06.

#### 2. Awareness Sessions:

- Conducted "Good and Bad Touch" sessions for Grades 1 to 10.

#### 3. Waste Management:

- Introduced waste bins for mothers and children to encourage proper waste disposal.

#### 4. Scholarships:

- Eight children received primary-level scholarships from the Amena Sheikh Foundation.

#### 5. Child Rights Week:

- Celebrated through rallies, essay writing, handwriting competitions, and quizzes involving children, mothers, and staff.

#### 6. Support low achieving Students:

- Provided extra afternoon classes for seven preschool students since September 2024 to help them join the educational mainstream.





## Annual Sports Day

The Annual Sports Day, organised by the Education Department, brought joy and physical development to the children. All children participated in various events chosen by their teachers, and winners received prizes after each event.

## Day Celebrations

Shishu Polli Plus observed special days such as the importance of International Mother Language Day, Independence Day, Victory Day, and Saraswati Puja. Activities included art competitions, cultural events, essay writing, handwriting competitions, quizzes, and discussions on the significance of these days.



## Additional Support for Students

Throughout the year, 20 students from various classes received additional support in Bengali, English, and Mathematics. This extra guidance helped bridge educational gaps and aligned them with their grade-level expectations.

## Class-wise Education Support in the reporting year

| Grade/Class               | Boys       | Girls      | Total      | Remarks                          |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| SBK (ShishuBikash Kendra) | 13         | 19         | 32         |                                  |
| Pre-Primary to Grade 3    | 80         | 66         | 146        | SPP School                       |
| Classes 4-5               | 12         | 10         | 22         | Outside Tepirbari Primary School |
| Classes 6-9               | 6          | 20         | 26         | Outside Tepirbari High School    |
| <b>Grand Total</b>        | <b>111</b> | <b>115</b> | <b>226</b> |                                  |

## Evening Study

**Two teachers facilitated evening study sessions:**

- One teacher focused on classes 4 and 5, helping students with English and Mathematics.
- The other supported high school students in the same subjects.

## Looking Ahead

The Education Programme remains committed to empowering children with knowledge and skills, nurturing creativity, and promoting holistic development to help them build a better future.

# Universal (Life Skills) Training



## Universal (Life Skills) Training

Many beneficiary mothers at Shishu Polli Plus arrive with limited literacy, life skills, and awareness of their rights. This lack of knowledge and skills leaves them vulnerable to social abuse, deprived of income opportunities, and excluded from essential services, including healthcare. To address these challenges, SPP provides universal (life skills) and livelihood training, empowering mothers to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and perspectives necessary for sustainable development and self-reliance.

## Training Objectives

**The universal training programme focuses on:**

- Enhancing awareness of rights and responsibilities.
- Building confidence and self-esteem.
- Equipping mothers with problem-solving, decision-making, and interpersonal skills.
- Preparing them for independent living and sustainable livelihoods.

## Implementation

While residing at SPP, mothers balance daily responsibilities with active participation in universal and livelihood training sessions. These sessions aim to transform their knowledge, skills, and attitudes, ensuring their long-term development and empowerment.



## Universal Training Topics in 2024

**The following topics were covered under universal training:**

1. Child Rights and Protection
2. Family Management
3. Money Management
4. Conflict Management
5. Induction of SPP
6. First Aid
7. Problem Solving and Decision Making
8. Future Planning
9. Self-esteem and Confidence Building
10. Positive Parenting
11. Legal Rights
12. Understanding Emotions
13. Interpersonal Skills
14. Personal Health and Hygiene
15. Food and Nutrition
16. Anger Management
17. Relationship Education
18. Small Business
19. Pre-job Preparation

Universal training at SPP plays a vital role in empowering beneficiary mothers with essential life skills. By equipping them with the tools to navigate challenges and build better lives for themselves and their children, SPP continues to foster sustainable development and long-term resilience.

# Child Welfare and Behaviour Support

(Including Safeguarding Mother and Children)



## Token Economy

SPP employs the Token Economy system to encourage positive behaviours, moving away from punishment or criticism. We believe in the power of rewards to promote positive actions. Both mothers and children earn tokens for exhibiting good behaviour, which they can use to purchase items from the Token Shop. For residents who demonstrate repeated unacceptable behaviour, the Beneficiary Development Committee implements intervention plans to help improve their social and emotional skills, fostering creating a more positive community atmosphere.



## Safeguarding

At SPP, we are committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for children, women, and vulnerable adults. This is achieved by implementing safeguarding measures that align with our policy standards and best practices. Several training sessions were organised for children, mothers, and staff on important topics such as Child Rights & Protection, Good Touch & Bad Touch, Positive Parenting, and Relationship Education. A suggestion/complaint box was also installed to allow for the reporting of any protection-related concerns. The Safeguarding Committee responded to all reported cases, taking necessary action and offering support to beneficiaries. The committee works proactively to protect children and vulnerable adults, developing intervention plans to enhance their welfare.





## Swim Safe Programme

The Swim Safe Programme teaches vital life-saving skills to children aged 6–12, ensuring their safety around water and offering peace of mind to parents. While children at SPP have limited water exposure (on average 40 children a day will die from drowning), they may face life-threatening situations in their communities. This programme equips them to swim 25 meters, float or tread water for 30 seconds, and perform dry-land rescues. In 2024, 33 out of 42 children successfully completed the training, reducing the risks of fatal and non-fatal drowning, especially during summer months.



# Girls Cricket

In many social contexts, girls are under represented in sports, particularly crickets, minimal physical contact compared to sports like football, is an ideal choice for girls. To address this gap and empower girls, promote gender equality, and improve their mental health, SPP launched the Girls' Cricket Project years before. A female cricket coach has been teaching the sport to girls in seven local high schools including the SPP girls' team.



## Highlights of the Girls' Cricket Project in 2024



- i. Formation of eight Girls' Cricket teams across eight high schools.
- ii. Preparation of the cricket ground and score board at SPP.
- iii. Celebration of World Environment Day 2024 with rallies, tree planting, art and quiz competitions, and a documentary show on climate change and its impact.
- iv. Organise of three friendly cricket matches at SPP.
- v. Coordination meeting held with the head teachers of the eight high schools.
- vi. Distribution of cricket materials to the eight participating schools.

This initiative has successfully empowered girls through sports, fostering developing or strengthening team work, building confidence, and creating new opportunities for gender equality.

# Success Project and Girls Night Shelter



## Slum and Urban Community Children Education Schooling Support (Success)

We remain committed to reaching as many children as possible, particularly those living in urban slums that face significant barriers to accessing and continuing education. These challenges are compounded by extremely low family incomes, inadequate infrastructure, and high population density. Many children in these areas drop out from school to contribute to household income, working as manual labourers, domestic workers, or caregivers. Additionally, early marriage, especially for young girls, is a persistent issue in slum communities.

In January 2018, we launched the Urban Street Children Programme at our Dhaka office in Nikunja-2. This initiative includes a Street Girls Night Shelter and the SUCCESS Project, aimed at supporting slum and urban community children in education. Although the project was temporarily halted during the COVID-19 pandemic, it resumed in late 2021.

Since November 2021, 50 children from local slums, who have family or extended family in the area, have participated in the SUCCESS Project. These children, aged eight and above, are either enrolled in or have returned to primary schools in Nikunja and Khilkhet. The programme prioritises children from families with limited incomes and ensures close monitoring of their educational progress.

We work collaboratively with schools and families to support the children's education. Quarterly meetings with parents and teachers at our office help address educational challenges and celebrate achievements. Regular inspection of school attendance registers is conducted to ensure accountability.

To alleviate the financial burden on families, we provide monthly stipends: 800 Bangladeshi Taka for one child and BDT1,400 Bangladeshi Taka for two children in same family attending school. While this amount is less than what the children might earn through child labour, it is sufficient to encourage families to keep their children in school. Families lose access to this financial support if their children drop out of school, but dropout rates are fortunately rare, as families deeply value the programme.

The SUCCESS Project also supplies essential learning materials such as books, school bags, and stationery. Additionally, we run a Toy Resource Centre, open exclusively to SUCCESS children on school days from 1.30 PM to 3 PM. This space provides supervised homework support, board games, and other recreational activities. On average, 30 children utilise this resource regularly, benefiting from a safe and enriching environment unavailable in urban slum settings.

We maintain gender parity in the programme, with an equal ratio of girls and boys enrolled. However, we place particular emphasis on reaching out to girls and are planning to extend support to older girls in the near future.

The overarching goal of the SUCCESS Project is to ensure that children from underprivileged backgrounds receive at least a primary school education. By addressing educational inequality, the project aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4: Quality Education. The programme meets SDG Target 4.5 by supporting vulnerable children who have dropped out of mainstream education due to poverty, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future.

## Girls Night Shelter

The Girls Night Shelter offers a safe havensafe and secure environment for 8-10 street girls each night from 5 pm to 8:30 pm. The shelter provides essential facilities including showers, food (bread and eggs), recreation, and safe accommodation for girls who primarily come from Dhaka Airport railway station. The shelter operates daily to meet the urgent needs of these vulnerable girls, offering a supportive environment where they can sleep safely and access necessary resources.







## Art Design and Creative Learning Project

At Shishu Polli Plus, children from vulnerable families develop creativity through our Art, Design & Creative Learning Programme. They learn marketable skills in drawing, painting, and design, focusing on income-generating arts essential for daily life. This training empowers them with future career opportunities. Resident artist Mr. Milon Rob leads the program with professionalism and passion, ensuring children gain practical skills that can support their livelihoods.



# Rehabilitation and Livelihood Department





## Rehabilitation and Livelihood Department Overview

The Rehabilitation and Livelihood Department is dedicated to empowering single mothers and their children, with a focus on reintegrating them into society. The department provides comprehensive skill development training and fosters partnerships with employers, corporate sectors, industries, and service organisations to create employment opportunities for mothers who complete the programme and are ready to re-enter the workforce.

In addition to this, the department offers crucial support to mothers during their reintegration into their communities. This assistance is provided in two phases: pre-reintegration and reintegration. During the pre-reintegration phase, mothers are placed in the community house and community placements to help them transition back to everyday life.

The department also ensures that children continue their education and offers discharge kits, financial aid, or in-kind support to mothers, depending on available resources, to facilitate their successful re-entry into their communities.



## Department Structure

### Rehabilitation and Livelihood Department

Rehabilitation

Livelihood & Skill  
Development

Agriculture

Digital Literacy

### Residence Enrolment Process

Our team actively raises awareness about our services in the most underserved areas of Bangladesh, aiming to assist mothers and children in need. We collaborate with other NGOs and government organisations such as the Union Council, Social Welfare Office, and Women and Child Affairs Office, and hold meetings with single, divorced, separated, or abandoned mothers who lack support from male figures. During these meetings, we introduce our services and activities.

When a mother is identified as needing support, a social worker conducts a home visit to assess the family's situation. If the family meets the criteria, the mother is invited to Shishu Polli Plus for a 7-day trial period. Following this, the family can be enrolled for up to 3 years, during which we develop an Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) for each family member, focusing on their health, nutrition, education, training, and overall well-being. Our team closely monitors each individual's progress to ensure the most effective support.

### Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation and reintegration of mothers who graduate from SPP involve several key activities:

- Individual Rehabilitation Plan
- Resource Plan
- Monthly Pocket Money
- Beneficiary's Mandatory Savings and Bank Account
- Liaison with local government and NGO facilities
- Family Negotiations
- Placement in Community House or CBS (Community-Based Support)
- Job Placement
- Discharge Kits and Post-Discharge Follow-Up

In the final year of their three-year stay, mothers transition from SPP's residency to Community Reintegration Houses, where they live alongside other families. Some mothers are reintegrated directly into their own communities, with community based support offered in the last 3 months before their release. These reintegration phases are vital, as they provide mothers with the skills to

manage their households independently while receiving continuous support from our team.

Social workers and community development officers regularly visit the homes of mothers in transition, ensuring that individual rehabilitation plans are being followed. After graduation, the mothers are supported to start Income-Generating Activities (IGA) to ensure their self-sufficiency. Our team continues to monitor their financial stability, children's schooling, health, hygiene, sanitation, and social integration for up to two years.

Achievements in the reporting year:

- Total admissions: 55 mothers and 94 children.
- Successful reintegration: 62 mothers and 131 children.
- Discharge kits and IGS support provided to 28 mothers.
- Community House and CBS placements:
  - o 26 mothers and 65 children in Community Houses.
  - o 22 mothers and 51 children in CBS.
- Indirect support services provided to 19 long-term beneficiaries (orphaned children) for job placements, financial management support, wheelchair repairs, medical aid for individuals with disabilities and arranged wedding ceremony.



## Key Activities in 2024

### Awareness-Building Activities

In 2024, the department reached 1,500 people through 105 networking events organised with volunteers, government bodies, NGOs, and both current and former beneficiaries. These events were held in areas such as Sunamganj (Tahirpur), Dinajpur (Chirir Bandar), and Barishal (Agaijhara), and provided an opportunity to inform local communities about SPP's services.

## Development Partners' Meeting

A meeting was held on December 4, 2024, in Parbotipur, Dinajpur, with government officials and NGOs. The UNO (Upazilan Nirbahi (executive) Officer) emphasised strengthening partnerships with relevant government departments and NGOs, acknowledging the positive impact of SPP's holistic approach to community development.

## Beneficiary Enrolments in 2024

In 2024, the department enrolled 70 mothers in the SPP. Though 15 mothers dropped out, 55 remained active participants. A total of 97 home visits were conducted to inform and engage mothers from 15 districts, ensuring that mothers from diverse regions have access to the support they need.



## Impact on Beneficiaries

By the end of 2024, total of 62 mothers had successfully reintegrated into their communities following the Rehabilitation Matrix (Health, Education, Livelihood, and Empowerment). Among them total of 35 mothers have used the skills they learned in the Skill Development Programme to support their families and generate a regular income. Notable achievements include:

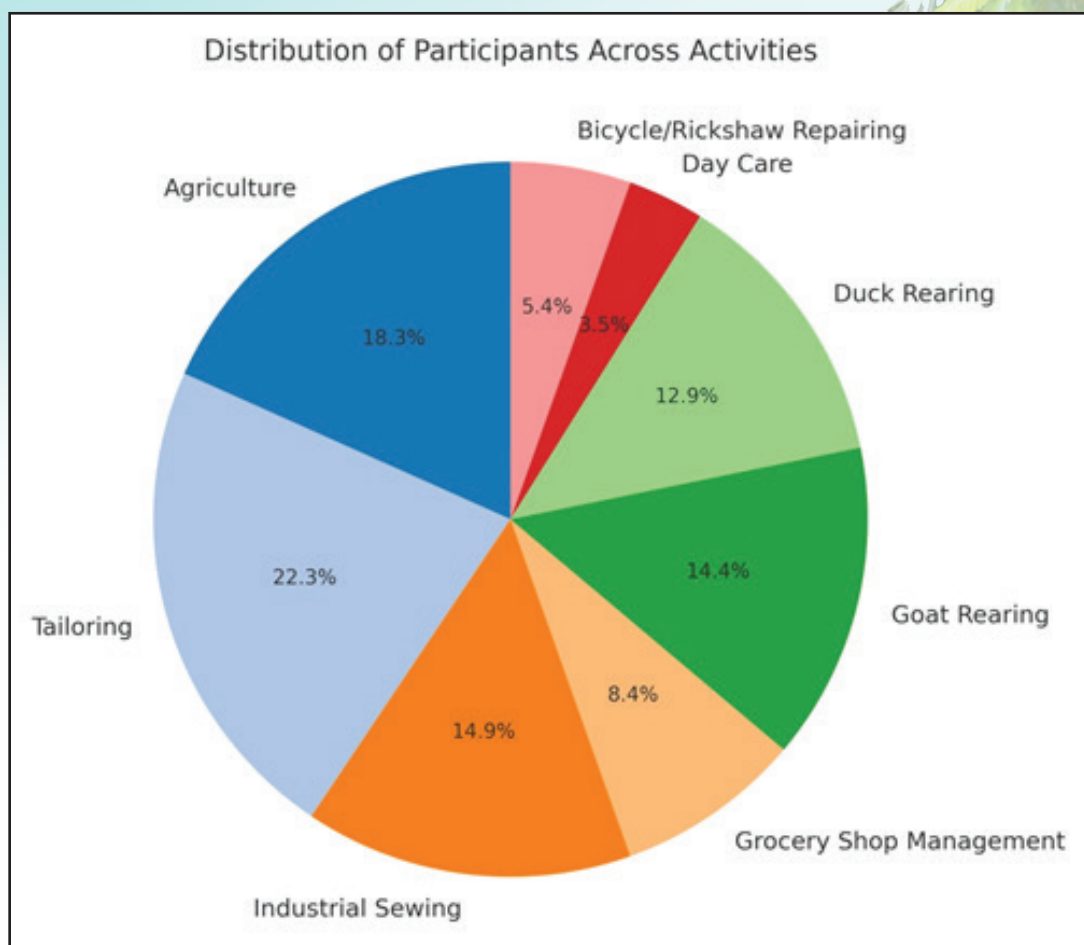
- Total of 7 mothers secured formal employment in Day Care and overseas remittance earning shortly after reintegration.
- 22 mothers leasing agricultural land for farming and livestock activities.
- 6 mothers launching small businesses or engaging in goat rearing.

## Livelihood and Skill Development Programme

The Skill Development Programme provides single mothers with the vocational training needed to improve their livelihoods and achieve financial independence. The programme offers training in various areas, including tailoring, sewing, grocery shop management, agriculture, day care, and more.



In 2024, 52 mothers participated in livelihood and skill development training

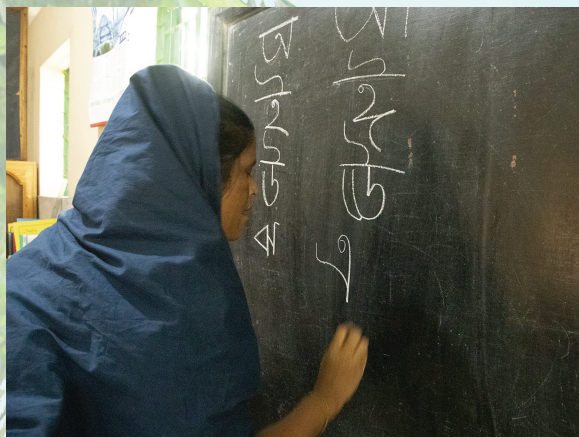


### Bicycle Repair and Maintenance Programme

In 2024, the department launched a new vocational training programme in Bicycle Repair and Maintenance. Total of 115 beneficiary mothers received this training with a valuable skill that offers sustainable income opportunities, particularly in rural areas where bicycles are a primary mode of transport. This initiative not only provides a steady income but also reduces dependence on seasonal agriculture, helping mothers achieve financial independence year-round.

### Achievements in Livelihood Development

- After reintegration total of 10 mothers got engaged in Entrepreneurship and Land Leasing for Agricultural and Livestock Activities for income generation.
- Participants reported a significant increase in household income
- Several mothers have trained additional women in their communities, amplifying the programme's reach.



## Literacy Programme

The Literacy Programme aims to empower mothers by teaching essential skills such as reading, writing, and numeracy. Mothers are placed in classes based on their literacy levels, ranging from beginner (Level-1) to fluent (Level-5). This programme is a vital part of the SDP, providing mothers with the educational foundation they need to succeed.



## Sack Gardening

Introduced in October 2018, the Sack Gardening component teaches mothers how to grow vegetables in sacks, offering a sustainable solution for families in flood-prone areas. This technique allows mothers to grow fresh produce at home, with the potential to sell surplus crops, creating a source of income.



## Talking Science

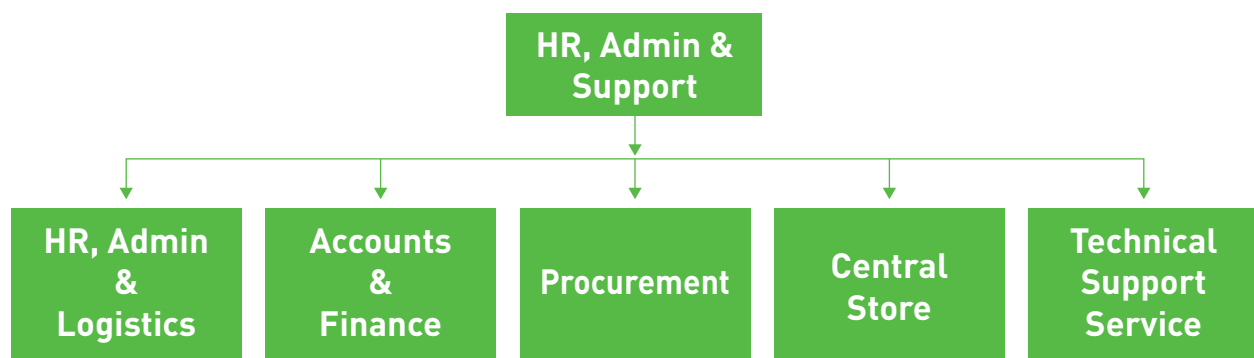
The Talking Science initiative, launched in January 2021, aims to help mothers understand basic scientific principles and apply them to daily tasks. This programme improves mothers' practical skills, making their day-to-day activities more efficient. Every Day Science was launched in 2010.

# HR, Admin & Support



## HR, Admin & Support

In Shishu Polli Plus (SPP), the HR, Admin, and Support departments function as a centralized unit, managing both the project office and various zonal offices. The department combines multiple sections, ensuring efficient coordination across the organization. Key responsibilities including recruitment, employee management, performance appraisal, grievance handling & disciplinary activities, training, and administrative tasks such as logistics support and office maintenance. Additionally, the department handles support services like security, transport, and supplies. The operational structure of this department is organized through a streamlined organogram that outlines clear lines of responsibility and coordination between different sections, facilitating efficient communication and workflow. This integrated approach allows SPP to maintain consistency and efficiency in its operations, supporting its mission and objectives.



- **HR, Admin & Logistics:**

The HR, Admin, and Logistics sections manage SPP's core HR management & development functions, administrative operations, security, and vehicle support. This section also handles staff training programs, event management and contributes to strategic development to ensure smooth operations and efficient organizational growth.

- **Accounts & Finance:**

The Accounts & Finance section manages financial records, monitors fund utilization, and ensures proper budgeting. It handles accounting tasks, tracks expenses and revenues, prepares financial reports, and ensures compliance with financial regulations for effective resource management and planning.

- **Procurement:**

The Procurement section manages supply chain operations, including demand verification, vendor sourcing, quotation comparison, and ensuring efficient supply. It also conducts market price surveys and finalizes selling prices for products produced in SPP, ensuring competitiveness with current market rates.

- **Central Store:**

The Central Store at SPP handles all procured supplies, storing and distributing those as per standard procedures. The Central Store team also manages a Fair Trade Shop, which is a retail centre within the SPP premises. This shop offers commodities and groceries at lower prices to employees and beneficiaries.

- **Technical Support Service (TSS):**

The Technical Support Service (TSS) oversees all electrical, mechanical, and civil work at SPP, ensuring seamless operations. A team of experienced and skilled staff is dedicated to providing effective and timely services. TSS coordinates and supervises all technical activities, ensuring high standards and smooth execution of projects.

## Key Lessons from Supporting Single Mothers

This year, our work with single mothers, mostly from rural Bangladesh, has highlighted the need for stronger support systems, particularly through digital solutions such as the SPP app.

1. **Increasing Needs:** Despite national progress, single mothers face persistent poverty and inequality. Digital tools, such as apps for financial aid tracking and digital literacy training, can empower them and bridge gaps in services.
2. **Healthcare and Skills:** Our programmes have improved access to healthcare and skills development, but digital barriers remain. We plan to expand e-learning platforms and SPP apps to improve reach and impact.
3. **Emotional Support:** Mental health is often overlooked. Mobile apps for counselling and virtual support groups can reduce isolation and stigma, offering essential psychosocial support.
4. **Ongoing Challenges:** Single mothers remain highly vulnerable to poverty and malnutrition. Digital financial tools, including mobile banking and SPP's apps, can help address these challenges.
5. **Future Focus:** We aim to launch a comprehensive app providing healthcare, skills training, and financial resources, while advocating for digital inclusion policies. By integrating e-commerce and digital marketplaces, we hope to build long-term resilience and independence in to their community.

## Future Needs and Opportunities

As we look to the future, our organisation remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing the challenges faced by single mothers and their children. Guided by our experiences, data from this year, and global priorities such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are identifying new opportunities and setting ambitious goals to scale our impact in the coming year.

## Aligning with Global Goals

Our programmes align with multiple SDGs, demonstrating our commitment to global development priorities. By focusing on SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), we ensure that our efforts contribute to a sustainable future.

## Plans to Adapt and Scale Up

**In response to lessons learned and emerging challenges, we plan to:**

- **Scale Up Existing Programmes:** Expand our successful interventions to reach more single mothers and children in underserved areas through digital platform.
- **Leverage Technology:** Introduce digital tools for fundraising, monitoring, and training, networking and delivery to improve efficiency and transparency.



- **Strengthen Impact Measurement:** Develop more robust metrics to evaluate the long-term impact of our programmes, ensuring we continuously refine our approach.

We invite our stakeholders to stay involved and support these critical initiatives. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of single mothers and their children while contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

This approach ties our goals to SDGs, highlights the specific areas requiring support, and presents actionable opportunities for stakeholders, ensuring alignment with global and local development priorities.

### **Branding, Digital Development and Fundraising**

In 2024, Shishu Polli Plus (SPP) actively pursued diverse fundraising initiatives to support its mission of empowering single mothers and their children. A significant highlight of the year was the Zakat Campaign, which allowed donors to fulfil their religious obligation while contributing to impactful programmes. Funds raised through this campaign were channelled to provide essential services, including food, healthcare, education, and skills training for underprivileged families. Alongside the Zakat Campaign, SPP secured funding from local and overseas donors, corporate partnerships, and individual contributions. Creative campaigns, targeted appeals, and donor engagement events played a vital role in sustaining this support. Despite facing challenges in the fundraising landscape, SPP remains committed to transparency and accountability, ensuring every donation drives meaningful change in the lives of vulnerable families.

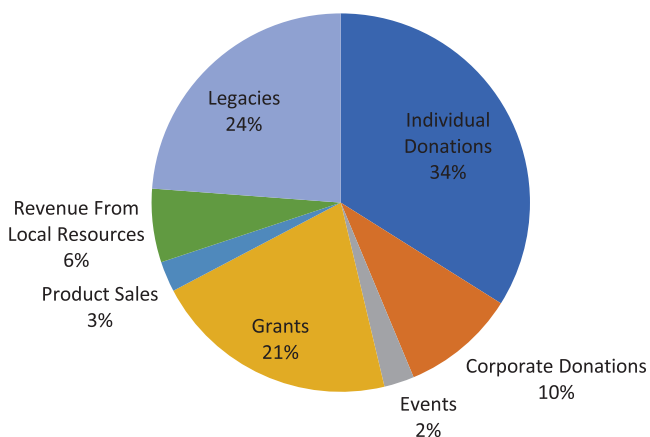
This year, SPP also focused on enhancing its branding and embracing digital platforms to expand its reach. Efforts included promoting online donations, implementing a Beneficiary Information Management System (BIMS), and leveraging digital tools to connect with a broader audience. These initiatives aim to increase visibility, improve operational efficiency, and attract more support.

Despite these advancements, SPP continues to rely heavily on funding from individuals, corporations, small donor agencies, and charities. With monthly running costs averaging approximately BDT 30,00,000, rising expenses and growing needs underscore the importance of achieving greater financial sustainability through income-generating activities. The organisation is fortunate to receive practical help, goods, and monetary contributions from a growing number of individuals, companies, and donor organisations. While it is impossible to list every generous supporter, SPP is deeply grateful for their unwavering support, which enables the organisation to continue its vital work.

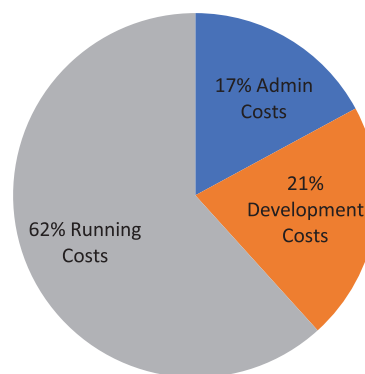
# AT a Glance Income & Expenditure 2024



## Income



## Expenditure





# At a Glance Shishu Polli



# Shishu Polli Plus Project



- |  |                                       |                                     |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Main Gate                           | 16. Swimming Pool                     | 31. Security Dormitory              |
| 2. Mosque                              | 17. Round House                       | 32. Halfway House                   |
| 3. Technical Support Services          | 18. Basketball Ground                 | 33. Worker Rest Room                |
| 4. School                              | 19. Staff Quarter & Germents Training | 34. Scrap Material Store            |
| 5. Admin Building                      | 20. Staff Quarter                     | 35. Training for Goat & Puffed Rice |
| 6. Clinic                              | 21. Security Dormitory                | 36. Beneficiary Guest House         |
| 7. Hadmade Paper & Big Dinning         | 22. Incinerator & Compost Area        | 37. Training for Tailoring          |
| 8. Sayakunjo (Rehab Office)            | 23. Maternity Building                | 38. Training for Shop               |
| 9. Big Girl's House                    | 24. Staff Quarter                     | 39. Duck Training Area              |
| 10. Water Tank                         | 25. Staff Quarter                     | 40. Hand Loom Shed                  |
| 11. CMC Office, Big/Middle Boy's House | 26. Staff Dormitory                   | 41. Shaheed Minar                   |
| 12. Middle Girl's House                | 27. Female Domitory                   | 42. Green House                     |
| 13. Special Care House                 | 28. Overseas Director House           | 43. Sreepur Village Trade           |
| 14. Baby House                         | 29. Agriculture Training Office       |                                     |
| 15. Baby Play Ground                   | 30. Cow Shed                          |                                     |



# SMA Foundation: Annual Overview 2024



The Sreepur Mothers Artisan Foundation (SMA Foundation), established last year as a distinct entity of Shishu Polli Plus, continues to provide critical support to single mothers. Through the production and sale of handmade paper, handicrafts, handloom products, printing press materials, and jute items, the foundation empowers mothers to achieve economic independence. Each product is crafted with care and precision, ensuring exceptional quality and unique designs that resonate with customers. SMA Foundation's commitment to supporting Shishu Polli Plus reflects its dedication to social responsibility and its belief in sustainable and ethical business practices as catalysts for positive change.

In 2024, SMA Foundation maintained a strong emphasis on production and financial management, contributing significantly to organisational sustainability. Production of items such as handmade paper sheets, notebooks, scarves, and gamchas (towels) showcased consistent efforts throughout the year, reinforcing the foundation's role in empowering single mothers and generating income.

The foundation is proud to be an associate member of national network organizations such as the ECOTA Fair Trade Forum and a member of Bangla Craft, the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC), and the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) as a Guaranteed Member. Additionally, SMA Foundation has established linkages with Hotel Regency, Hotel AMARI, and the Parjatan Corporation, Dhaka.



Shishu Polli Plus joyfully celebrated its 35th anniversary on 6th February 2024. The day commenced with the ceremonial release of balloons by the Honourable Deputy Commissioner and Founder, Patricia Kerr. The celebrations featured vibrant cultural performances by beneficiary mothers and children. As part of tradition, the organisation hosted an Open Day, allowing local residents to visit and experience the project firsthand. The festivities concluded with a delightful meal shared by beneficiaries, staff, and guests, making the occasion truly memorable.





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