



BUILDING RESILIENCE ACROSS CLIMATE VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



WHO WE ARE

We at Footsteps are a next generation organization driven by the mission to empower communities to become resilient to social and economic challenges, challenges that hold them back from overcoming their poverty barriers.

A next generation organization is an organization which prioritizes and maximizes future social and economic benefits of individuals and communities, solving social issues for a lifetime through community empowerment. Through innovation and a human centric approach, we are working towards building a world which is empowered in overcoming extreme poverty, injustice and inequality.

OUR VISION

We envision a world resilient to every form of poverty, injustice and inequality, where people realize their true potential and has the power to address social challenges with their own capacity.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to build communities resilient to social challenges through innovative social programs and solutions which last for a lifetime, restoring hope and dignity for communities by breaking their barriers to poverty, injustice and inequality.

CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Innovation
- Resilience
- Trust
- Empowerment
- Impact & Hope



OUR CORE PROGRAMS



PROJECT TRISHNA

Project Trishna is a holistic WASH program which empowers communities with safe water and sanitation access. The program customises and implements WASH systems in communities, creates community awareness and value for WASH, and builds community capacity to maintain the given solutions on their own without further donor support.



SHUSHASTHER ODHIKAR SHOBAR PROGRAM

Shushasther Odhikar Shobar is a holistic health program that works towards ensuring and improving quality of public health infrastructure and services, especially in last-mile communities. SOS intends to improvise and strategize traditional public health models along with innovative new models which makes healthcare services easily accessible and affordable for communities in vulnerable regions.



DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

The Disaster Resilience Programme concentrates on building community resilience to natural and social disasters. DRP focuses on improving critical aid capacity and deployment, rehabilitating affected livelihoods and building community resilience in the face of future disasters like floods, cyclones or disease outbreaks, in order to build community capacity in tackling disasters without depending on further external support.



PROJECT WECAN

Project WECan works towards building environmental advocacy and integrating green energy and strategies within our communities. The program works towards creating a society that is concerned about promoting renewable energy sources such as solar, hydro, and wind while creating value for a green economy consisting of plastic recycling and pollution reduction schemes.



PROJECT BRITTO

Project Britto works on improving livelihood of marginalized households, especially socially and physically disadvantaged individuals, through provision of skill, knowledge and capacity which promotes an individual's financial, social and economic wellbeing. The program serves as Footsteps' core poverty graduation initiative.

BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

As one of the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of Climate, communities across Bangladesh remain at high risk of losing their lives and livelihoods due to sea level rise, frequent flooding cyclones, storms, tidal surges, land erosion, disease outbreak, etc. Amongst these communities, women and children are considered the most vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change.

The following statistics highlight the alarming risk of Climate Change in Bangladesh:

- *2/3rd of Bangladesh is less than 5 meters (15ft) above sea level (The Guardian)*
- *Around 4cr people might be displaced due to climate change: PM (TDS)*
- *Over 19 million children across Bangladesh- a quarter of them under 5- bear the brunt of climate change disasters- UNICEF (TDS)*
- *In 2023, temperatures in Dhaka hit 40.6C (105F) – the highest in six decades – leading to a rise in hospital admissions and at least 20 deaths (The Guardian)*



BUILDING RESILIENCE ACROSS CLIMATE VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Footsteps takes a holistic approach through its multidimensional programs to address and improve the capacity of a community in withstanding the impact of Climate Change. In order to enhance community resilience to climate change, four key factors are crucial to be addressed:

Social Resilience

Protecting and Improving
Access to basic needs and
rights within community

Health Resilience

Protecting and Improving
Health, WASH and nutrition
within community



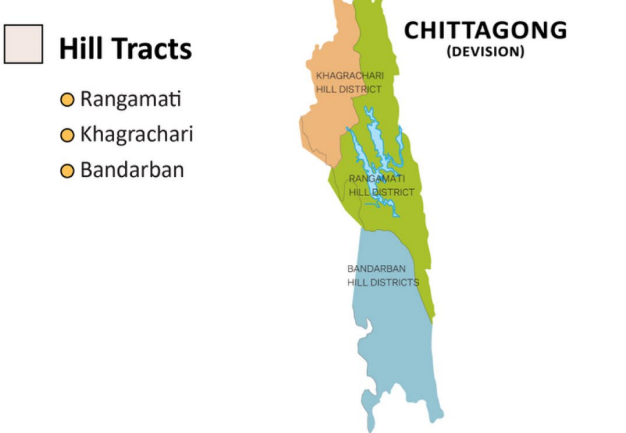
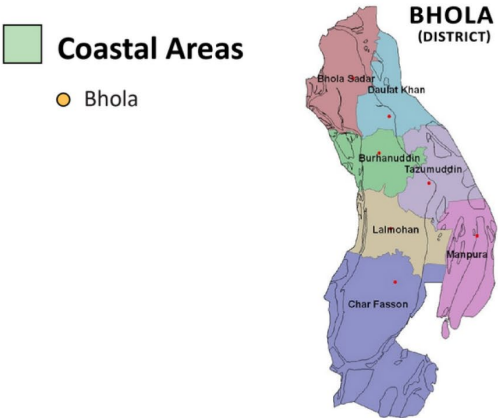
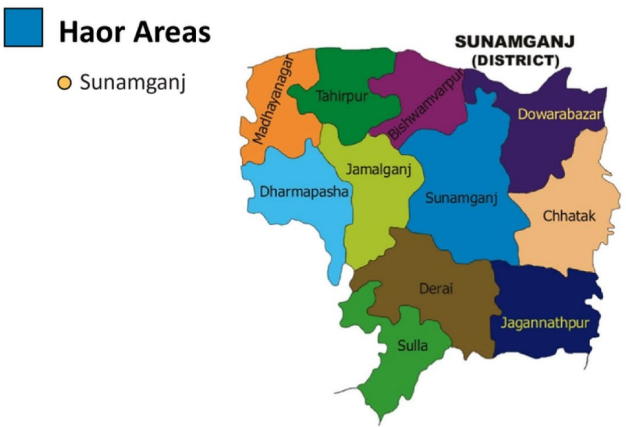
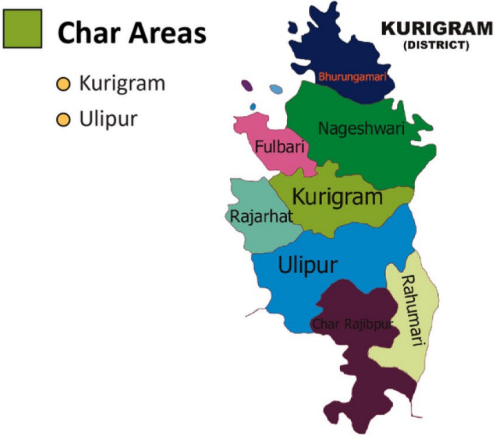
Financial Resilience

Protecting and Improving
financial assets, cashflow and
economy within community

Infrastructure Resilience

Protecting and Improving
infrastructure which mitigates the
impacts of climate within
community

INTERVENTION AREA FOCUS



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

- ❖ Ensure Access to WASH in climate vulnerable communities
- ❖ Mobilizing EV Ambulances in the last mile
- ❖ Creating satellite health centers in the last mile
- ❖ Protecting a Family's Livelihood with Disaster Resilience Bag
- ❖ Safeguarding Farmers and Fishermen from Lightning Strikes in the Northeast
- ❖ Converting Flood water into Dreamwater
- ❖ Enhancing financial and disaster preparedness knowledge
- ❖ Enhancing Energy Freedom for Fishermen Communities through Solar



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

Ensure Access to WASH in climate vulnerable communities

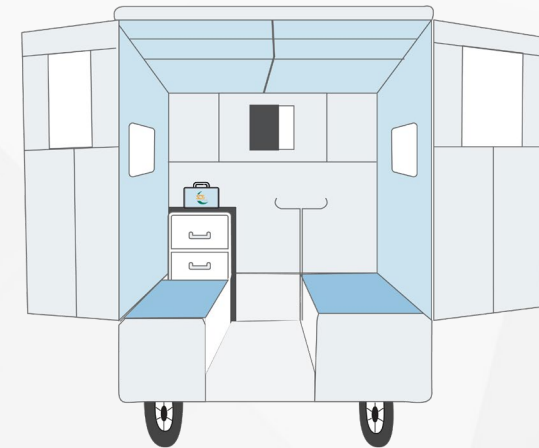
- **Problem Statement:** Absence of clean drinking water is becoming more dire with the changing climate, as frequent floods and tidal surges are beginning to contaminate groundwater sources in high risk areas. Arsenic contamination is currently on the rise due to exposure of groundwater to sediments brought in with flooding an seawater.
- Through Project Trishna, Footsteps is expanding its reach in ensuring safe water and sanitation in communities constantly impacted by floods, cyclones and tidal surges
- Trishna will target schools, hospitals and small village neighborhoods in high risk areas to not only ensure safe water but also to reduce risk of waterborne diseases and arsenic contamination within the community



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

Mobilizing EV Ambulances in the last mile

- **Problem Statement:** Due to underdeveloped roads and limited logistical services, people in Haors, Chars and the coast face tremendous difficulty in reaching health centers for critical treatment, often resulting in permanent health condition and even loss of life. Developing robust health logistics is crucial especially with increasing frequency of life threatening diseases and health conditions in the last mile
- Through the SOS Health Program, Footsteps aims to develop and implement low cost electric vehicle ambulances in marginalized remote areas which are severely impacted due to climate events
- The low cost EV ambulance will be operated by an individual trained by SOS program on paramedic services, ensuring wellbeing of patients while being transported to the nearest health center.



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

Creating satellite health centers in the last mile

- **Problem Statement:** Absence of health facilities and doctors in rural spaces often puts communities at risk of preventable diseases reaching critical stages, where treatment cost becomes high where people have to travel long distances even for a proper medical consultation
- The SOS Health Program is working on converting rural pharmacies, which are widely present, into satellite health centers by integrating digital capital (computers, testing devices, software) in order to improve inventory management and doctor connectivity in the last mile
- Bangladeshi doctors from both home and abroad will be onboarded on the digital interface, with pharmacy owners being trained on guiding the patients in utilizing the digital facilities in the pharmacy.



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

Protecting a Family's Livelihood with Disaster Resilience Bag

- **Problem Statement:** During a disaster event like cyclone or flood, families are often able to escape from the disaster site but at most times have to leave behind their assets and valuable items such as cash, important identification and asset documents, electronics, etc.
- These items are crucial in safeguarding and promoting their livelihoods, without which such families are at risk of falling much further into the poverty cycle.
- To protect a family's livelihood items, the Disaster Resilience Programme has designed a waterproof backpack which families can use to store and carry their valuable items before and during a natural disaster. The goal is to enhance a family's capacity in escaping a disaster event with their valuable items with them.



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

Safeguarding Farmers and Fishermen from Lightning Strikes in the Northeast

- **Problem Statement:** The Haor regions in Bangladesh, like Sunamganj, face a critical issue with increasing lightning strikes, particularly affecting farmers and fishers. Recent incidents resulting in deaths underscore the urgent need for protective measures, such as constructing lightning sheds near haors, to safeguard lives in these vulnerable areas.
- To protect these farmers and fishermen, the Disaster Resilience Programme has initiated DRP Lightning Shed, which will act as a protective shelter, offering a safe space for farmers and fishermen during storms in vulnerable areas such as the Haors. It reduces the risk of direct exposure to lightning, providing an immediate and tangible solution to enhance safety.



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

Converting Flood water into Dreamwater

- **Problem Statement:** During flood, traditional water sources such as tubewells and PSFs are submerged leaving communities without a reliable source of drinking water, while ironically surrounded by a mass of water.
- To provide a reliable source of drinking water during floods as well as to harness surface water, Footsteps has designed the Dreamwater Portable Filter under its Disaster Resilience Programme
- The lightweight yet powerful filter can convert any type of surface water, especially flood water, into drinking water using its 5 stage filtration process to remove majority of the contaminants and viruses from source water
- Rural women are being trained on using Dreamwater in order to become disaster respondents and water entrepreneurs by converting flood water into drinking water in their communities



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

Enhancing financial and disaster preparedness knowledge

- **Problem Statement:** The absence of financial and disaster preparedness heightens vulnerability to Climate Change. Inadequate financial readiness leaves individuals exposed to economic shocks, while the lack of disaster preparedness amplifies the severity of crises, resulting in increased loss of lives and property.
- Through our Disaster Resilience Programme, Footsteps aims to conduct several community level awareness workshops and provide materials and knowledge to improve financial and disaster preparedness in climate vulnerable communities
- The workshops will include engaging awareness presentation, activities and brochures uniquely designed with the power of Artificial Intelligence



KEY FOCUS IN 2024

Enhancing Energy Freedom for Fishermen and Farming Communities through Solar

- **Problem Statement:** Majority of isolated homes in the last mile struggle to experience electricity due to connectivity and poverty challenge. In many cases, families have not been able to experience electricity for decades putting them in the bracket of energy poverty.
- Through Project WECan, Footsteps will be solar panels to power lighting and fans in low income fishermen and farming households across coastal Bangladesh
- The project will not only ensure a sustainable access to power for low income fishermen and farming families, but also reduce the financial burden of affording electricity which results in energy poverty in the target areas/



CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Britto Climate Resilient Bazaar

Designing an elevated and durable structured bazaar space immune to strong winds and floods, capacitated with WASH facilities, shelter zones, storage facilities, health clinic, etc, acting as a disaster shelter during climate disasters like flood, cyclones and heavy storms.

Britto Bhaater Hotel

Building a restaurant model run by women and young girls affected by climate disasters, where their local culinary skills create an income opportunity and promote both food security and culture in their communities.



IMPACT: AT A GLANCE

5,91,565

people empowered to overcome poverty barriers across Bangladesh

3,74,138

people empowered with water and sanitation solutions

42,789

people empowered with improved public health infrastructure and services

35,119

People empowered with climate adaptation and mitigation solutions

2,000+

changemaker network actively working on improving local livelihoods



OUR TEAM



SHAH RAFAYAT CHOWDHURY



BARRISTER
MOHAMMAD TAQI YASIR



MD. AL- ABDULLAH HIMEL



MASUMA AZIZ



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OUR PARTNERS



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

