

PKSF

P O R I K R O M A



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Hon'ble Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus inaugurates PKSF Bhaban-2



Dr Muhammad Yunus, the Honorable Chief Adviser to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, inaugurated the PKSF Bhaban-2, a second building PKSF has constructed as part of its initiatives to extend services to marginalized and low-income people of Bangladesh in support of their efforts to improve their lives and livelihoods. While inaugurating the building in Shyamoli, Dhaka on 14 September, he expressed hope that PKSF's capacity would be further strengthened in achieving this objective.



The Honorable Chief Adviser said, "Human beings are born to be entrepreneurs; they did not come to this world to do jobs." Recalling his close involvement in the establishment of PKSF, he stated that the institution's current capacity is commendable and

should be harnessed to make greater investments in social business through its Partner Organizations (POs). "Our journey towards poverty alleviation has been long; our preparation is sound; now we must begin our work on a larger scale."

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Human beings are born to be entrepreneurs; they did not come to this world to do jobs.

— Dr Muhammad Yunus

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Adviser to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Science and Technology, attended the event as the Special Guest. The program was presided over by Zakir Ahmed Khan, Chairman of PKSF, and the welcome address

was delivered by Md Fazlul Kader, Managing Director of PKSF.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed said that PKSF is a world-class organization. Major international development partners place their trust in PKSF because of its transparency, accountability, and effectiveness. However, noting that PKSF is not dependent on these development partners, he stated,



"PKSF's own financial capacity is its greatest strength. ... PKSF has not only expanded itself but also facilitated the growth of its Partner Organizations." He called upon PKSF and its Partner Organizations to further accelerate their ongoing activities in education, health, and skills development alongside microfinance.

“

PKSF's own financial capacity is its greatest strength. ... PKSF has not only expanded itself but also facilitated the growth of its Partner Organizations.

— Dr Salehuddin Ahmed



PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan said that PKSF began its journey in fiscal year 1990–91 with a fund of only BDT 24 crore. Currently, PKSF's outstanding loan to its Partner Organizations at the field level stands at BDT 14,000 crore, with only 0.67% of the amount is overdue. This financing has played a vital role in generating a loan outstanding of BDT 86,000 crore for the Partner Organizations. Recalling the contribution of

Dr Muhammad Yunus in establishing this successful institution, he said, "Based on his guidance, PKSF was established with an entirely different approach, using



A section of guests at the inauguration ceremony of PKSF Bhaban-2

the Government of Bangladesh's own resources and a separate management. From the very beginning of PKSF's journey, and during his two decades of service as a Member of its Governing Body, the role of Dr Yunus in providing a strong foundation to this institution was immeasurable." He also highlighted the significant role of PKSF's unique institutional and governance structure in its success.

In the welcome speech, PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader said that there are two reasons that add to the festivities of this special day. "First, the strategic vision of the Honorable Chief Adviser to the Government of Bangladesh, and his guidance in shaping PKSF's strategic policies during his nearly two-decade-long stint as a distinguished Member of its Governing Body, helped consolidate the institution's activities.

The second reason is that the Honorable Adviser to the Ministry of Finance, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, who is present on the stage, significantly strengthened PKSF's financial and institutional foundation during his tenure as its Managing Director from 1996 to 2005. It was also during his tenure that the PKSF Bhaban-1 was constructed. Having both him and Yunus Sir with us today at the inauguration ceremony of the PKSF Bhaban-2 makes it a very special day for us."

At the beginning of the ceremony, the Chief Adviser unveiled the inaugural plaque of the PKSF Bhaban-2. A documentary on PKSF's financial and other





development initiatives and an audiovisual presentation highlighting memorable moments of Dr Muhammad Yunus and Dr Salehuddin Ahmed with PKSF, were screened at the event.

Among others, the Cabinet Secretary, the Principal Secretary and the Press Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Adviser, along with other senior government officials, members of the PKSF Governing Body and General Body, representatives of various development partners, and chief executives of PKSF's Partner Organizations, were present at the event.

At the end of the event, members of PKSF's Governing Body and General Body as well as the Executive Vice Chairman of the Microcredit Regulatory Authority joined the Honorable

Chief Adviser and the Honorable Adviser to the Ministry of Finance for a photo session.

PKSF began its journey in 1990 with the objective of ensuring sustainable development of the poor through employment generation by providing financial services. The PKSF Bhaban-2 has been constructed in response to the growing needs of 22.5 million families served through its Partner Organizations at the field level. This new building will house an information center showcasing selected BSTI-certified products of entrepreneurs directly supported through PKSF's Partner Organizations. In addition, PKSF's research and training activities will also be carried out from this building.



PKSF Board Members and the Executive Vice Chairman of the MRA pose for a photo with the Hon'ble Chief Adviser and the Hon'ble Finance Adviser.

Harnessing local capacity, collective action needed to tackle climate impact Says Finance Adviser while inaugurating training for climate journalists



Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed has called for collective action utilizing local capacity to combat the impacts of climate change. Speaking as the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony of a three-day training titled “Navigating Climate Finance: Media Reporting” held on 8 September, he said that in Bangladesh, local communities are always the first responders in case of any disaster. He also noted that Bangladesh is among the leading countries globally in disaster management.

Special Guests at the event included the Press Secretary to the Honorable Chief Adviser, Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, and ERD Secretary Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky. The event was presided over by PKSf Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan. PKSf Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader delivered the welcome speech. ERD Additional Secretary AKM Sohel outlined the objectives of the training. The training, jointly organized by PKSf and the Economic Relations Division (ERD), aims to enhance the capacity of journalists in climate finance reporting. A total of 58 journalists from leading media outlets of the country participated in the training.

Dr Salehuddin stressed that addressing climate change effectively requires the coordinated efforts of scientists, policymakers, institutions, financial resources, and the people. He said, “We need around USD 29 billion for climate adaptation, and yet our current inflow of funds is minimal.” He also praised PKSf as a world-class organization.

Special Guest Mohammad Shafiqul Alam highlighted the wide-ranging impacts of climate change on the economy, politics, and public health. Urging journalists to bring the stories of affected communities to the global stage, he stated that the government has prioritized climate adaptation and mitigation in its national strategic agenda. He also lauded PKSf’s role in creating an effective grassroots platform for implementation of relevant initiatives.

ERD Secretary Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky remarked that Bangladesh is playing a leadership role in the global climate discourse. “This journey is long, and we all—government, development partners, civil society, private sector, and the

media—must work together,” he said. He explained that ERD acts as a bridge in financial engagements with development partners and emphasized on the importance of data and information accuracy. Reports and data presented by the journalists at international forums, he said, strengthen strategic discussions.

Chairing the session, PKSf Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan said that PKSf currently works with over 20 million low-income families across Bangladesh. Among its wide range of initiatives, enhancing people’s capacity to adapt to environmental and climate change impacts is a priority area. He expressed hope that journalists would be more skilled in reporting on climate change impacts and finance after the training.

In his welcome remarks, PKSf Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader noted that climate adaptation has been given special importance in PKSf’s *Strategic Plan 2025–2030*. He called on journalists to play a more proactive role in ensuring climate justice for the people of Bangladesh.

ERD Additional Secretary AKM Sohel said that Bangladesh is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Reducing this risk, he said, requires foreign assistance and strong commitment from developed countries. The purpose of this training is to raise public awareness and present Bangladesh’s climate reality on the global stage.



A training session of ‘Navigating Climate Finance: Media Reporting’

From apprentice to achiever: An impact of PKSF's Ustad-Shagred Model



The apprenticeship model, which began in medieval Europe as a form of technical training, was later adopted by many technologically advanced countries to transform their youth into skilled human resources. Today, youth trained under this model play a vital role in driving the growth of microenterprises in these countries.

Over the decades, Bangladesh's informal education system has developed around the traditional 'Ustad-Shagred' (Master-Apprentice) model. In numerous trades, including light engineering, carpentry, automobile repair, and handicrafts, this model has long been the main channel for skill transfer. Through it, apprentices gain not only technical expertise but also values such as discipline, patience, diligence, and integrity. The ustad serves as a mentor, a guardian and a moral guide.

Md Farid Uddin (25), a resident of Hope Purbopara in Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat district, had little idea about the traditional 'Ustad-Shagred' model before joining PKSF's RAISE project. Through its informal apprenticeship program, he received training under Md Faruk and became a successful example of this age-old system. Yet, Farid's path to success was shaped by perseverance and hardship.

Farid grew up facing constant financial struggles. Although he wanted to pursue his education, lack of money forced him to drop out early. His father, the family's only earner, found it increasingly difficult to support his unemployed son and often scolded him out of frustration. Watching these daily quarrels, Farid's mother, Farida Begum, silently prayed for a

better future for her son. Her prayers were answered when she attended an outreach event organized by Ahead Social Organization (ASO), where she heard stories of young people whose lives had changed through the 'Ustad-Shagred' model of the RAISE project. She took Farid to the ASO office. There, Farid chose to learn welding, and on 1 January 2023, he began his apprenticeship under Master Craftsperson Md Faruk at Faruk Engineering Workshop.

Ustad Faruk shared with his apprentice Farid the story of his life's struggles, as well as the journey behind establishing Faruk Engineering Workshop. Farid also received life skills training that boosted his confidence. Gradually, he overcame his despair and feelings of inferiority and, under his Ustad's guidance, mastered the finer aspects of welding. After completing six months of training, Farid's sincerity, skill, and reliability deeply impressed Ustad Faruk, who offered him a job in his workshop with a daily wage of BDT 450.

Over time, Farid became a skilled craftsman. Together, the Ustad and his Shagred decided to take on contract-based projects. With support from the RAISE project, Farid took a loan of BDT 100,000 to buy welding equipment. He started making iron doors, windows, and balcony grills, which he sold to his Ustad on a contract basis. As a result, his income steadily increased, and he now earns about BDT 38,500 per month. Farid has built a semi-pucca two-room house for his family, each brick in its walls reflecting his determination and long-cherished dreams. "Just as my Ustad showed me the light in my life," says Farid, "I too want to train new apprentices one day and set up my own modern welding workshop."

Under the RAISE project, 26,796 unemployed youths like Farid have completed hands-on training through the apprenticeship program. Among them, 2,347 have become new entrepreneurs, while 13,870 have secured wage-based employment (as of August 2025). PKSF's RAISE project has institutionalized the traditional 'Ustad-Shagred' model. Here, the ustdas impart not only technical skills but also the wisdom of their life experiences to their shagreds. The apprentices, in turn, learn more than just a trade - they gain life skills, communication techniques, conflict management abilities, and basic knowledge of business operations. As a result, each young person emerges confident, capable, and ready to become an entrepreneur - just like Farid.

PKSF observes Youth Day 2025

On 12 August, PKSF observed the National and International Youth Day 2025 across the country with the theme 'Youth Advancing Multilateral Cooperation, Through Technology and Partnerships'. Under PKSF's ENRICH program, 106 Partner Organizations (POs) arranged colorful processions and discussion sessions in 176 upazilas across 64 districts. Besides, under PKSF's RAISE project, 11,868 youths joined various events, including processions organized by 83 POs.



Joint initiative of PKSf and Orbis
Eye screening for 1 million people, 100,000 cataract surgeries to be conducted



PKSF and Orbis International have launched a joint initiative to provide eye screening for 1 million low-income people and conduct 100,000 cataract surgeries over the next two years. The initiative, titled 'Comprehensive Cataract Services in Bangladesh', aims to eliminate avoidable blindness from Bangladesh.

The initiative was inaugurated on 24 September at PKSf Bhaban. The event was presided over by Zakir Ahmed Khan, Chairman of PKSf. The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Md Saidur Rahman, Secretary of the Health Services Division under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Special Guests were Professor Dr Md Abu Jafor, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and Christie Hubbard, Director of Foundations and Institutional Resource Development at Orbis International. The welcome address was delivered by Md Fazlul Kader, Managing Director of PKSf, while the vote of thanks was offered by Md Hasan Khaled, Deputy Managing Director of PKSf. An overview of the initiative was presented by Dr Munir Ahmed, Country Director of Orbis International Bangladesh.

The Chief Guest, Md Saidur Rahman, said that without eyesight, a person becomes unable to work. When vision is restored through cataract surgery, individuals regain their ability to work, which significantly contributes to enhancing national productivity and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He further stated that this initiative will strengthen the National Blindness Prevention Program through a coordinated public-private action plan.

Special Guest Christie Hubbard said that cataract is the major cause of blindness in Bangladesh, and yet it is one of the most easily treatable conditions. In nearly four decades, Orbis International has achieved remarkable success in restoring the eyesight of thousands of people in Bangladesh through cataract surgeries. She praised PKSf's innovative initiatives, leadership, and commitment, and thanked PKSf for its efforts in poverty alleviation.

PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan said that PKSf places special emphasis on mitigating health- and livelihood-related risks, while implementing preventive healthcare and primary treatment initiatives. He noted that in many remote areas where government services often cannot reach, PKSf continues its activities through its Partner Organizations. He expressed hope that this initiative would make a significant contribution to poverty alleviation.

PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader said that since 2012, PKSf has been implementing initiatives of this kind. Recently, PKSf developed its Strategic Plan based on three core pillars—enhancing economic opportunities, building resilience, and enhancing capacity. One of PKSf's key strategic goals is to reduce livelihood- and health-related risks. To this end, preventive healthcare activities are already being undertaken. This joint initiative with Orbis International to reduce the prevalence of avoidable blindness will help restore the eyesight of rural and marginalized communities and pave the way for their overall development.

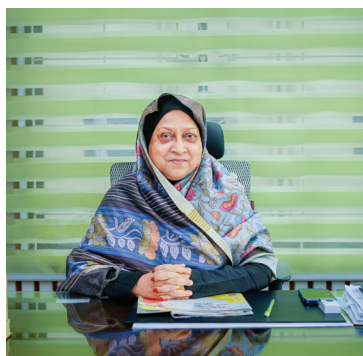
The overview of the initiative was presented by Dr Munir Ahmed, Country Director of Orbis International Bangladesh. He shared that across the country, around 550,000 people aged 30 years and above are visually impaired, with nearly 70% suffering blindness caused by cataracts. Since a large portion of them belong to the working-age population, this has a negative impact on national productivity.

Under this initiative, eye screenings for one million patients will be conducted through 5,000 outreach programs with support from PKSf's Partner Organizations. Over 1,200 healthcare workers will be trained on primary eye screening, and referral at Orbis-affiliated eye hospitals. Across 50 districts, 200 government-run Community Eye Centers and more than 100 Vision Centers operated by Orbis-affiliated eye hospitals will function as referral and follow-up points. Furthermore, 25 Orbis-affiliated eye hospitals will play a key role in performing cataract surgeries.

'Microcredit generates self-employment'

Monowara Begum

Executive Director, Prottiyashi



For nearly 42 years, Monowara Begum has been serving as the Executive Director of Prottiyashi, a renowned non-governmental development organization in the southeastern region of Bangladesh. Currently, the organization is implementing a wide

range of development initiatives—encompassing education, health, climate change adaptation, and other sectors—through 142 branch offices in 93 upazilas and municipalities of 14 districts. Under its diverse programs, Prottiyashi has organized around 1.05 million families. Monowara Begum was interviewed by PKSf's Assistant General Manager Mohammad Minhaz Uddin Shaikh and Manager Masum Al Jaki, for PKSf Porikroma.

PKSF: You founded Prottiyashi in 1983. What inspired you to engage in social development activities?

Monowara Begum: I got married, while studying in class eight, into an educated and politically conscious family in Boalkhali upazila. Both my husband and mother-in-law encouraged me to continue my education. My husband was an active organizer of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. At our home, discussions on various social and political issues were a regular affair. On my way to and from school, I often witnessed the struggles on the faces of the poor in the village—an experience that deeply moved me to work for their betterment. Motivated by that urge, in 1980, I founded an organization named Akubdondi Mohila Sangstha to empower women. I was the General Secretary of that organization, which later evolved into what is now known as Prottiyashi.

PKSF: What kind of challenges did you face when you started working in the microcredit sector?

Monowara Begum: When I began organizing women through courtyard meetings in 1983, the idea of women stepping outside their homes was frowned upon. Deep-rooted religious conservatism and superstition made it challenging for us to work. Some fanatics even branded me as a Christian. Despite all these obstacles, I never gave up. Gradually, as our education and health initiatives began to bring tangible benefits to families and communities, people's attitudes started to change. At one stage, I introduced the microcredit program to ensure people's economic self-reliance.

PKSF: How did Prottiyashi become a Partner Organization of PKSf?

Monowara Begum: In 1990, we received a small grant from South Asia Partnership—Bangladesh (now one of PKSf's Partner Organizations) and initiated savings and microcredit program on a limited scale in Boalkhali upazila. To expand our

operations, we applied in 1995 to be enlisted as a Partner Organization of PKSf. At that time, the current Managing Director of PKSf, Md Fazlul Kader, visited Boalkhali to witness our activities firsthand and provided valuable suggestions. Following his guidance, we improved the quality of our programs to meet PKSf's standards, and on 31 May 1995, Prottiyashi became a Partner Organization of PKSf.

PKSF: Please tell us about PKSf's contribution to strengthening your organization.

Monowara Begum: The relationship between PKSf and Prottiyashi is much like that of a guardian and a child. With PKSf's financial and technical support, alongside our microcredit programs, we are now implementing various non-financial interventions, including programs for the elderly and adolescents, as well as WASH activities. Moreover, PKSf's continuous monitoring, supervision, training, technical assistance, and guidance have laid a strong foundation for enhancing the quality of our work, improving staff capacity, and ensuring effective institutional management.

PKSF: How does the microcredit program contribute to poverty alleviation and women's empowerment?

Monowara Begum: Microcredit is a financial service that enables low-income individuals to undertake income-generating activities without requiring collateral. It creates self-employment and enhances active participation in local production systems, thereby contributing to the overall revitalization of the rural economy. Over 90% of microcredit clients are women. Microcredit serves as a comprehensive process for women's empowerment.

PKSF: You received the Prime Minister's Award in 2002. What specific achievement was this honor in recognition of?

Monowara Begum: Receiving the national award for my special contribution to maternal and child health and family planning was one of the most memorable moments of my life. This recognition stands as a testament to our collective courage, shaped by years of dedication, perseverance, and unwavering commitment.

PKSF: Please share with us the future plans of Prottiyashi.

Monowara Begum: We envision Prottiyashi as a development organization the success stories of which will one day inspire communities across every corner of Bangladesh.

PKSF: What advice would you like to give to the development workers?

Monowara Begum: I would like to urge my fellow development workers to perform their duties with utmost integrity, honesty, transparency, and respect for human rights and equality. To the young professionals, my message is simple—love the work you do.

PKSF: Thank you. We wish you good health.

Monowara Begum: Thank you as well. My sincere gratitude to the PKSf Management.

Scan to read the
full interview in
Bangla



80K entrepreneurs to get SMART services

PKSF is implementing the Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) project, aiming to foster resilient green growth in microenterprises by adopting climate-resilient, resource-efficient practices. Supported by the Government of Bangladesh and jointly financed by the World Bank and PKSF, the project provides diverse financial



The World Bank delegation is visiting a biogas plant in Munshiganj

and technical services to approximately 80,000 micro-entrepreneurs across the manufacturing and the processing, the agriculture, and the service sectors. Under the SMART project, 63 sub-projects are being implemented at the field level through 49 Partner Organizations (POs).

Keisuke Iyadomi, the World Bank's new Task Team Leader for SMART, visited field activities in Rangpur on 17 July. He witnessed three eco-block production centers in Rangpur Sadar upazila. Bushra Nishat, Environmental Specialist, the World Bank; Gokul Chandra Biswas, SMART Project Coordinator; and AKM Zahirul Haque, Deputy Project Coordinator of SMART, accompanied him.

A five-day quarterly progress review meeting was held under the SMART project from 27 – 31 July. Its inaugural session was presided over by PKSF's Deputy Managing Director Md Mashiar Rahman. It was attended by 150 officials from 41 POs, along with SMART PMU officials.

On August 26, a World Bank delegation led by Anne Jeanette Glauber, Practice Manager for Environment and Natural Resources, visited the field activities of SMART in Louhajang upazila of Munshiganj. Earlier, on 25 August, a courtesy meeting between the World Bank representatives and PKSF officials was held at the PKSF Bhaban, with Md Mashiar Rahman, Deputy Managing Director of PKSF, in the chair.

PKSF and North South University sign MoU

PKSF and North South University (NSU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fields of education and research. The MoU was signed on 25 August at the administrative office of NSU by NSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Abdul Hannan Chowdhury and PKSF Deputy Managing Director Md Mashiar Rahman on behalf of the PKSF Managing Director.

NSU's Director of Career and Placement Center Professor Dr Md Taufiqul Islam and PKSF General Manager (Research & Development) Dr Taufiq Hassan Shah Chowdhury were also present at the event. Under this MoU, PKSF and NSU will work jointly to promote innovation, growth, and sustainable

development. In addition, NSU students will be encouraged to participate in PKSF's activities through internships and field visits.



Discussion meeting on PKSF's Strategic Plan 2025–2030 held

PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan said that the PKSF *Strategic Plan 2025–2030* will be the core document guiding the organization's future journey. He noted that it is not merely a written plan, but a roadmap that will open new horizons of possibilities for the next generation. Speaking at a discussion meeting held at the PKSF Bhaban on 4 September, he further stated, "PKSF has always stood beside low-income people and will continue to do so. We are working to enhance their economic opportunities, resilience, and capacity. Besides, we are strengthening the institutional capacity of PKSF and its Partner Organizations."

PKSF officials attended the event organized days after the PKSF Governing Body approved this Strategic Plan for implementation during the period 2025–2030.

In his welcome and inaugural remarks, PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader expressed his heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the formulation of the plan. He urged everyone to work collectively toward its effective implementation and hoped that, through concerted efforts, PKSF will achieve its envisioned goals.

The key features of the Strategic Plan were presented by Dr AKM Nuruzzaman, General Manager of PKSF. The question-answer and open discussion session was conducted by Additional Managing Director Mohammad Jashim Uddin. He stated that PKSF is determined to extend its services to 25 million families by 2030. At the same time, 100,000 youths will receive skills development training to enhance employment opportunities both at home and abroad.

Adviser to Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock praises PKSF's crab hatchery initiative

Farida Akhter, Hon'ble Adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock visited the 'Training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management' organized by PKSF for crab hatchery entrepreneurs on 21 September as part of her official visit and praised PKSF's crab hatchery development activities. The training was organized under PKSF's RHL project at the Crab Hatchery and Nursery Complex in Cox's Bazar. The training began on 24 August. A total of 20 participants, including crab hatchery entrepreneurs, and technicians from private and government crab hatcheries, took part in the 26-day, three-phase theoretical, technical, and practical training. Initially, the seven-day theoretical training was completed on 30 August. The second phase of practical training was held from 14 to 21 September. Participants received hands-on lessons on practical aspects of crab hatchery operation during the training.

To address the adverse impacts of climate change in the coastal areas of Bangladesh, PKSF has been implementing



The Hon'ble Adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock visits training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management

the RHL project since 17 August 2023 with financial support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Under this project, technical and financial support is being provided to establish 50 crab hatcheries and 500 crab nurseries. The project is also providing support to 20,000 crab farmers.

BD Rural WASH for HCD project's tenure extended

The Government of Bangladesh has been implementing the BD Rural WASH for HCD project in 182 upazilas of 30 districts across 8 divisions since 2021. Considering the overall activities, achievement of expected results, importance of the project, and field-level needs, the Government of Bangladesh, the World Bank, and the AIIB have decided to extend the project period until 31 December 2026. During the

extended period, as per the project target, 10 lakh safely managed twin-pit toilets will be constructed. As of July 2025, a total of 1,08,879 safely managed water supply systems and 5,50,656 safely managed twin-pit toilets have been constructed. By this time, BDT 370.6 crore has been disbursed for safely managed water supply and BDT 1,771.7 crore for safely managed sanitation at the field level.

81% in full-time employment: Sustainable success of RAISE Apprenticeship program



A Tracer Study on the RAISE Apprenticeship Program conducted jointly by PKSF and the World Bank reveals that the apprenticeship component of the RAISE project has made a significant contribution to youth employment, skills development, and social empowerment. The study, which covered 2,529 apprentices from the first three cohorts/intakes of the program, shows that 64% of participants secured wage-based employment while 24% became self-employed. The unemployment rate declined notably from 13% in cohort 1 to only 7% in cohort 3. Among those employed, 81% obtained full-time jobs, while 59%

managed to secure employment within one month of completing their training. Reflecting the overall satisfaction level, 98% of apprentices rated the training as 'good' or 'excellent', and most master craftspersons expressed a preference for recruiting their own apprentices first. Furthermore, 93% of apprentices reported an increase in self-confidence, and 90% stated that their social status improved after participating in the program. Despite these achievements, certain challenges persist, including the lack of modern equipment, limited access to capital, and social barriers that restrict women's participation in nontraditional trades. The study recommends extending the training duration based on trade requirements, strengthening job linkages, incorporating modern and emerging technology-based trades, and adopting gender-sensitive initiatives. The findings of the study were presented by the World Bank at a meeting held at the PKSF Bhaban on 2 July.

To enhance the participation of marginalized communities, the number of RAISE-implementing POs has been increased from 70 to 89 and the number of participants has been raised from 175,000 to 225,500. An orientation meeting on 'Project Operations and Implementation Strategies' was held on 3 July at the PKSF Bhaban with representatives from the newly selected POs under the RAISE project. PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader was present in the opening session.

Official launching of SICIP-PKSF project PKSF to provide free skill training to 12,000 low-income youth



The SICIP-PKSF project will transform the underprivileged and backward communities of the country into skilled manpower and ensuring their sustainable employment through modern industrial demand-based technical training. Under the regular training program of this three-year project, 12,000 youths of the country will be provided training free-of-cost. Of them, 30% will be women. Priority will be given to youth from low-income families and marginalized areas in the remaining 70%. Trainees will receive residential training in 12 trades. After successful completion of the training, necessary support will be provided for self- and wage-based employment. These were shared at the formal inauguration of the PKSF part of the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)—being implemented by the Government of Bangladesh—at PKSF Bhaban on 28 July. PKSF also signed agreements with the partner training institutions for the project supported by the ADB.

The Chief Guest, Finance Secretary and National Program Director of SICIP Dr Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder said PKSF and its Partner Organizations can make an effective contribution to the state's efforts to develop a skilled manpower.

The Special Guest, Additional Secretary and Executive Program Director of SICIP Mohammed Walid Hossain, said advanced training is being arranged abroad to improve the quality of trainers.

In his address, PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan said that the existing demographic advantage of Bangladesh will not last long. To utilize this dividend, SICIP-PKSF will play a supporting role in various initiatives taken by the Government of Bangladesh for developing a skilled workforce.

In his welcome speech, PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader said that under the SICIP-PKSF project, wage-based and self-employment of the target population will be ensured by providing training in the manners approved by the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA).

PKSF Additional Managing Director Mohammad Jashim Uddin said that in addition to the existing 12,000 people, the training needs of another 8,500 people—persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and third gender—have been submitted to the government. PKSF's Senior General Manager and Chief Coordinator of SICIP-PKSF Md Ziauddin Iqbal gave a brief presentation on the SICIP-PKSF project.



As part of the 'July Uprising Celebration 2025', PKSF officials brought out a procession from the PKSF Bhaban in Agargaon on 5 August and joined a mass gathering in front of the National Parliament Bhaban.

EU Ambassador praises PKSF's extreme poverty alleviation initiatives

His Excellency Michael Miller, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, visited the activities of PKSF's Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People—European Union (PPEPP-EU) project at Koikhali Union of Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira district on 11 September. He was accompanied by Edwin Koekkoek, First Counsellor, and Meher Nigar Bhuiyan, Programme Manager (Resilient Livelihoods) of the EU Delegation to Bangladesh, along with PKSF's Deputy Managing Director Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Project Director of PPEPP-EU Dr Sharif Ahmed Chowdhury, and General Manager Salina Sharif.

The EU delegation inspected various activities including a nutrition fair, a primary healthcare camp, a drawing competition, demonstrations on age-appropriate ideal food selection and preparation methods, and the distribution of assistive devices for persons with disabilities. The delegation also visited different income-generating activities (IGAs) undertaken by project participants. The EU Ambassador highly praised the project. He said, "Extremely poor people have transformed their livelihoods and are now connected with mainstream economic growth. Their stories of success are truly inspiring."

The PPEPP-EU project is providing multidimensional services for the sustainable development of about 215,000 extremely poor households in 145 Unions of 12 districts, focusing on livelihoods, inclusive finance, nutrition and primary healthcare, women empowerment, disability inclusion, disaster and climate adaptation, and community mobilization.



The project observed 'World Breastfeeding Week 2025' from 1–7 August with the theme 'Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems'. To mark the occasion, rallies and discussion sessions were organized in coordination with various government initiatives at district and upazila levels, along with awareness sessions through Prosperity Village Committees, Mother and Child Forums, and other platforms formed under the project. Sports and competitions were also organized with active participation of adolescent girls from Social Development Centers supported by PPEPP-EU.

Moreover, 500 individuals have received treatment from mental health camps organized under the PPEPP-EU project in remote and poverty-prone areas. Doctors from the BCS (Health) cadre provide consultation, treatment, and medicines at these camps.

ECCCP-Flood project: A unique example of flood resilience and sustainable solutions

Members of two teams from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) visited the working areas of PKSF's ECCCP-Flood project. From 9–11 July, representatives from the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of the GCF and Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division (ERD) visited Saghata upazila in Gaibandha district to review the activities of the ECCCP-Flood project, which was completed in May 2024.



The visit aimed to assess the sustainability of project interventions, their impact on local livelihoods, and the innovations introduced in the early flood warning system. It was observed that even after the completion of the project, local communities have been able to protect themselves through the adaptation measures introduced under the project. The GCF representatives highly appreciated the outcomes and effectiveness of the project interventions.

From 22–24 July, Shalini Sharmila Basnayake Kurukulasuriya, a Consultant of the GCF, visited the activities of the ECCCP-Flood project at Islampur in Jamalpur.

As part of her efforts to gather field-level experiences and stories for the upcoming COP-30 conference, she met project participants and observed how they are effectively utilizing various climate-resilient measures—such as raised homesteads, sanitary latrines, flood-resilient tube wells, cultivation of flood-tolerant crops, and slatted sheds for goat and sheep rearing.

The visit reaffirmed that despite the completion of the project, its benefits are expected to sustain for a long time due to the strong community ownership. The project is serving as a powerful model for addressing the challenges of climate change.

Canal re-excavation plays vital role in irrigation in Barind region

Under PKSf's ECCCP-Drought project, 25 kilometers of canals were re-excavated during the 2024–2025 fiscal year in selected Unions of Rajshahi and Naogaon districts of the Barind region. As a result of this initiative, farmers in the area are now irrigating about 650 hectares of agricultural land using canal water, while the availability of water throughout the year has increased for around 11,000 people. Moreover, the use of canal water has reduced use of groundwater and lowered fuel consumption and costs. Overall, the initiative is



playing an important role in reducing environmental pollution.

Md Faridul Islam (42), a farmer from Manoharpur village of Naogaon district, said, "As the Manoharpur canal was filled due to sedimentation, I had to spend 45–50 liters of diesel worth BDT 5,100 last year to irrigate my two bighas of Boro paddy field. This year, after the canal was re-excavated, it holds plenty of water. As a result, I needed only 25 liters of diesel, costing BDT 2,600, to irrigate the same land."

A workshop titled 'Learning Sharing, 2025' was organized on 31 July, to evaluate the field-level activities and progress of the ECCCP-Drought project for the fiscal year 2024–2025. PKSf Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader attended the workshop held at the PKSf Bhaban. He said, "The capacity of PKSf's Partner Organizations must be enhanced in all areas, including project implementation, to combat climate change." Executive Directors, focal persons, and project coordinators of 18 implementing entities of the ECCCP-Drought project participated in the workshop.

Call for strengthening inclusive disaster management

Due to its geographical location, climate change, and rapid urbanization, the intensity of disasters in Bangladesh is increasing gradually. Although government and non-government initiatives contribute to disaster response, effective disaster management is not possible without the active involvement of diverse demographic groups and local communities. These observations were made at a seminar titled 'Disaster Management in Bangladesh' held on 28 September at the PKSf Bhaban. Disaster management expert and PKSf General Body Member Gawher Nayeem Wahra gave the keynote speech on Disaster Management. PKSf Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan and Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader also spoke there. Among others, PKSf Additional



Managing Director Mohammad Jashim Uddin was present. Speakers noted that disaster risk reduction means taking measures to minimize losses, casualties, and other adverse impacts caused by disasters. They emphasized on the importance of identifying and assessing risks and taking necessary preparedness and preventive actions accordingly.

Workshops on climate change held in Khulna

Two separate workshops on climate change were recently organized in Khulna district under PKSf's GCF Readiness-2 project. At the workshop titled 'Understanding Climate Change and Climate Finance: National and International Perspective' held on 8 July at Khulna University, discussants said that there is no alternative to gaining knowledge and working with expertise to address the impacts of climate change. They emphasized on the vital role of students, researchers, and university teachers in this regard. The workshop, organized by Khulna University with financial support from PKSf, was attended by the university's Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Md Rezaul Karim as the Chief Guest. It was chaired by Professor Dr Md Yousuf Al Harun of the Environmental Science Discipline. PKSf Deputy Managing Director Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed presented the keynote paper at the event which was attended by teachers, researchers, and students.

The other workshop titled 'Measures for Environmental Conservation and Addressing Climate Change' was held on 23 September at the Conference Room of the Divisional Commissioner's Office in Khulna. The event was chaired by Professor Dr Shah Alam, Director of the Regional Center of the National University. Khulna Divisional Commissioner Md Firoz Sarker attended the workshop as the Chief Guest. PKSf Deputy Managing Director Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed was the keynote speaker. He shared PKSf's interventions including environmental protection, climate change, and the Green Climate Fund. The workshop was attended by representatives from various government and non-government organizations, local government bodies, development partners, educational institutions, and civil society in Khulna Division, along with over a hundred Imams and senior officials from the District Administration, Islamic Foundation, and the Department of Environment.

PKSF, ADB discuss financing for eco-friendly housing initiatives

A Consultation Mission of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) met PKSF high-ups at the PKSF Bhaban on 11 August to discuss on the 'Inclusive Affordable Housing Finance Project'. In his welcome address, PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader said improving the living standards of low-income communities would require increased financing for housing tailored to their needs. He recommended using hollow concrete blocks instead of clay bricks in house construction, emphasizing on environmental considerations. PKSF Deputy Managing Director Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed delivered the closing remarks, following a presentation by PKSF General Manager Dr AKM Nuruzzaman on 'Housing Loan Program implemented by PKSF'.

The meeting included addresses from ADB's Financial Sector Specialist and Mission Leader, Monica Mei V Carino-Young, and Senior Project Officer and Co-Mission Leader, Mohammad Rashed Al Hasan, among others. The ADB representatives emphasized on the importance of incorporating climate-resilient features in the housing construction under the proposed project.

On 12 August, the ADB Mission visited the PKSF's housing finance program being implemented through Partner Organization National Development Programme (NDP) in the



ADB Mission Leader exchanging views with a program participant

Sirajganj Municipality area. PKSF has been implementing the program with its own funds since 2019, with the primary objective of improving the housing conditions for the low-income population. As of August 2025, PKSF has disbursed BDT 1,013 crore to 38,088 borrowers through 205 branches of 25 Partner Organizations across 52 districts. During the visit, the ADB delegation praised the quality of the PKSF's program and the visible positive changes it has brought to the living environment of low-income communities.

Training activities

Training for PO officials: As part of enhancing the capacity of Partner Organizations (POs), the PKSF Training Center is currently conducting 13 classroom-based training courses. During July–September 2025, a total of 243 high- and mid-level officials from various POs received training under 8 courses conducted in 11 batches at PKSF Bhaban.

Training for PKSF officials: In July–September 2025, a total of

78 PKSF officials participated in four training programs and 24 workshops organized at PKSF Bhaban and different institutions across the country. In addition, 27 officials attended international training programs and workshops held in Egypt, the United States, the Philippines, and Japan.

Internship Program: During July–September 2025, three students from different universities served as interns at PKSF.

BCS (Audit and Accounts) cadre probationary officers visit field activities

Probationary officers of the BCS (Audit and Accounts) cadre, currently undergoing training at the government training institute Financial Management Academy (FIMA), along with senior officials of the institution, visited PKSF's credit and development programs at the field on 2 July. They visited the credit groups of members of PKSF's Partner Organization



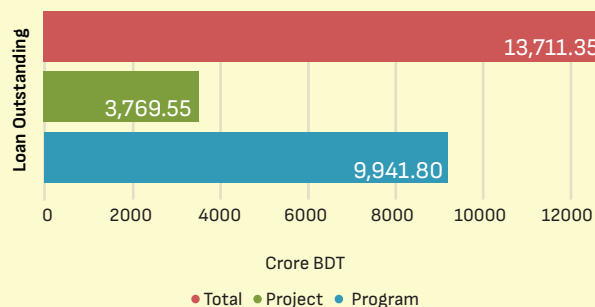
Society for Development Initiatives (SDI) in Savar and Dhamrai upazilas of Dhaka district, as well as various microenterprises including mini garments, handicrafts, dairy, poultry farms, and meat processing activities. They exchanged views with the entrepreneurs, discussing various types of savings deposits, member selection methods, and other support received from SDI, gaining a clear understanding of the program. Following the visit, the trainee officers highly commended PKSF's role in improving the quality of lives for the poor people.

The delegates discussed with the entrepreneurs about the process of having loans, effective use of loans, different types of savings deposits, member selection procedures, and other forms of support provided by SDI, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the activities. After the visit, the probationary officers commended PKSF's role in improving the living standards of the poor.

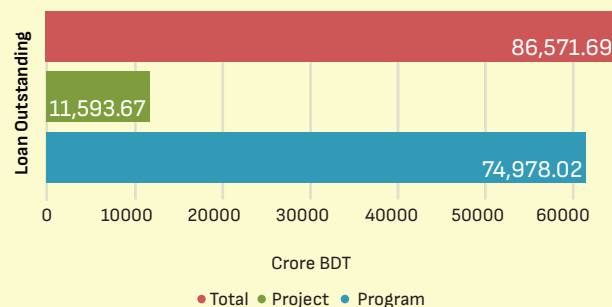
PKSF's loan program

Up to July 2025, the amount of loan disbursed from PKSF to its Partner Organizations (POs) was BDT 72,785.10 crore and from POs to borrowers was BDT 9,27,152.68 crore. The amount of loan outstanding of PKSF with POs was BDT 13,711.35 crore and POs with borrowers was BDT 86,571.69 crore. Besides, members' savings at the POs amounted to BDT 35,835.90 crore.

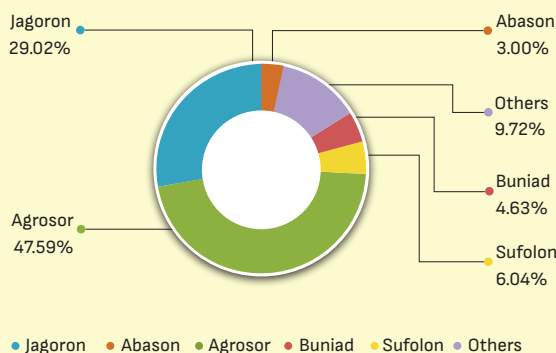
Loan outstanding (PKSF with POs): As of July 2025, the amount of loan outstanding of PKSF with POs was BDT 13,711.35 crore, of which the loan outstanding under the core program was BDT 9,941.80 crore (72.51% of the total loan outstanding) and the same under the projects was BDT 3,769.55 crore (27.49% of total loan outstanding).



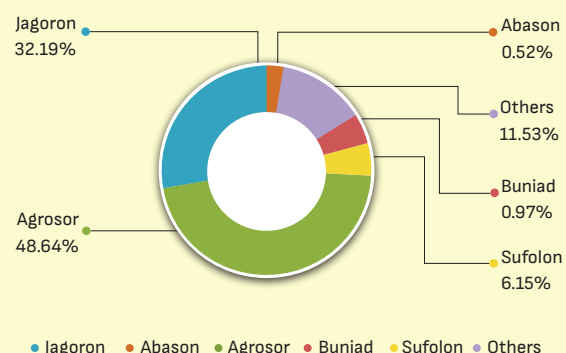
Loan outstanding (POs with borrowers): As of July 2025, the amount of loan outstanding of POs with borrower was BDT 86,571.69 crore, of which the loan outstanding under the core program was BDT 74,978.02 crore (86.61% of the total loan outstanding) and the same under the projects was BDT 11,593.67 crore (13.39% of the total loan outstanding).



Sector-wise loan outstanding (of PKSF with POs): As on July 2025, the total amount of loan outstanding of PKSF with POs was BDT 13,711.35 crore -- BDT 6,524.69 crore in microenterprise loan (Agrosor), BDT 3,978.59 crore in microcredit for moderate poor (Jagoron), BDT 635.25 crore in microcredit for extremely poor (Buniad), BDT 828.06 crore in agriculture loan (Sufolon), BDT 411.83 crore in housing loan (Abason Loan), and BDT 1,332.93 crore is others loan.



Sector-wise loan outstanding (of POs with borrowers): As on July 2025, the total amount of loan outstanding of POs with borrowers was BDT 86,571.69 crore -- BDT 42,104.89 crore in microenterprise loan (Agrosor), BDT 27,866.22 crore in microcredit for moderate poor (Jagoron), BDT 836.40 crore in microcredit for extremely poor (Buniad), BDT 5,325.01 crore in agriculture loan (Sufolon), BDT 454.41 crore in housing loan (Abason Loan), and BDT 9,984.76 crore in other loans.



Members and borrowers: As of July 2025, the total number of members of POs was 2.08 crore, of whom 1.95 crore were women (93.75% of the total members). At the same time, the total number of borrowers was 1.59 crore, of whom 1.49 crore were women (93.71% of the total borrowers).

Loan recovery rate: As on July 2025, the recovery rate of loans from POs to PKSF was 99.84% and from borrowers to POs was 99.11%.

Non-financial services: Along with financial services, PKSF is providing different non-financial services through its POs including health and nutrition, training and development, uplifting the quality of the lives of the elderly, education scholarships, value chain development, agricultural technology extension, flood- and salinity-tolerant crop cultivation, ensuring safe drinking water supply in salinity-prone areas, cultural and sports activities for the adolescents, capacity-building activities.



RMTP-supported entrepreneur Reshma wins 'Youth Volunteer Award 2025'

Suraiya Farhana Reshma, an entrepreneur supported by PKSf's RMTP project, has received the 'Youth Volunteer Award 2025'. In recognition of her voluntary work and inspirational contributions to the young generation, she received the award from Hon'ble Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus on 15 September. Reshma is an entrepreneur supported by the sub-project titled 'Market system development of safe meat and dairy products' under the RMTP project implemented through Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK), a Partner Organization of PKSf in Sherpur, Bogura. She produces about 250 tonnes of vermicompost every month on her own land. Alongside this, she is providing training to local youth in poultry rearing, vermicompost production and marketing. Currently, 25 individuals are working in her farm.

The RMTP is being implemented across the country with funding from PKSf, IFAD, and Danida. The project is providing support to improve the income, food security, and nutritional

status of 611,491 small and marginal farmers, entrepreneurs, and other market actors engaged in selected high-value agricultural product value chains. The sixth supervision mission of IFAD was conducted from 20–31 July. A team of eight specialists, led by Thierry Mahieux, visited the value chain development activities implemented through PKSf's Partner Organizations—National Development Programme, Mousumi, JAKAS Foundation, and Gram Unnayan Karma.

On 30 July, the mission team presented their field observations at a pre-wrap-up meeting chaired by PKSf Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader, and expressed satisfaction over the progress of the project. On 31 July, the mission team presented their field observations and progress of the project in the wrap-up meeting chaired by Nazma Mobarek, Secretary, Financial Institutions Division. The mission urged to complete the RMTP within the agreed timeframe while ensuring quality implementation.

PKSf to install 500 desalination plants in coastal areas

PKSf will set up more than 500 solar-powered desalination plants in the coastal areas of Bangladesh to mitigate the acute drinking water crisis. Using the Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology, these plants will provide safe drinking water to low-income communities in Satkhira, Khulna, and Bagerhat districts. On 30 September, this information was shared at a meeting held at the PKSf Bhaban to brief relevant stakeholders on the Safe Water Project (SWP).

The inception meeting was chaired by PKSf Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader. He said that to address the scarcity of safe drinking water in coastal regions, PKSf is installing desalination plants through an appropriate business solution with active community participation.

Additional Managing Director Mohammad Jashim Uddin noted that since Cyclone Sidr in 2007, PKSf has been working to ensure access to safe drinking water in coastal districts. Deputy Managing Director Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed explained that Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants remove dissolved salts and other harmful substances, making water safe for drinking. General Manager Dr AKM Nuruzzaman also spoke.

Financed by the Adaptation Fund, the Safe Water Project aims to increase access to potable water in project areas from 30.3% to 95% within the next three years. The project will also test the quality of saline water. With a budget of USD 5 million, the project is expected to directly benefit around 500,000 people living in the country's coastal regions.

BOOK POST

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