

PKSF

P O R I K R O M A



2026 April-June
1433 Boishakh-Ashar

With PKSF's support, young people
are getting immediate job opportunities at
job fairs after completing their training.
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Democratization of economy Govt's core objective: Finance Minister

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said democratization of the economy lies at the heart of the current government's political philosophy. He said the government's main objective is to ensure every citizen's participation in economic activities. He added that PKSF will receive full government support in implementing initiatives toward this goal.

He made these remarks on 10 May while speaking as the Chief Guest at the inauguration of the second phase of the RAISE project, held at PKSF Bhaban-1. The event, titled 'Stepping Forward: The Inauguration of RAISE-2', was chaired by PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan. Nazma Mobarek, Secretary of the Financial Institutions Division, was the Special Guest. Dr Gayle H Martin, Acting Division Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, the World Bank, was the Guest of Honour. The welcome address was delivered by PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader.

The Chief Guest emphasized on the importance of ensuring that the benefits of economic growth reach people at the grassroots through equitable distribution and that of building an inclusive economy by mainstreaming disadvantaged and marginalized people. Praising the activities of PKSF, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said, "PKSF's development philosophy is completely aligned with the government's goals."

Nazma Mobarek said that, alongside financing, PKSF is working for the sustainable development of low-income people by assisting entrepreneurs in enhancing their skills and by providing technical support, technology transfer, and market linkages. She expressed hope that PKSF would expand its efforts further in the development of the microenterprise sector, leading to sustainable employment opportunities for a larger number of people.

Dr Gayle H Martin of the World Bank said that more than two million young people enter Bangladesh's labor market every year, making it essential to equip them with technical skills and employment opportunities. She noted that the second phase of the RAISE project will ensure training and greater participation of more women as part of the project's efforts

to make a positive contribution in this area.

Expressing gratitude to the government for awarding PKSF the Independence Award 2026, Zakir Ahmed Khan said that the vast majority of employment in Bangladesh is centered in and around the informal sector, which currently contributes more than 30% to the country's GDP. He noted PKSF has organized nearly four million microentrepreneurs, creating about seven million full-time jobs. To sustain this "silent revolution", he said, the time has come to ensure greater domestic financing alongside foreign assistance.

Md Fazlul Kader said that, under PKSF's Strategic Plan, efforts to improve the quality of employment are continuing through 13 ongoing programs built around three core pillars — decent employment creation, capacity enhancement, and risk mitigation. These interventions have been further strengthened through the successful implementation of nearly 50 specialized projects. He remarked that PKSF is now fully prepared to transform microenterprises into one of the key engines of national economic growth by creating productive and decent employment opportunities across the country.

A total of 423,100 people will directly benefit from RAISE's second phase, concluding in 2030. Priority will go to young people from climate-vulnerable areas like char, haor, hill tracts, and coastal regions. Special emphasis will be placed on Dalit communities, small ethnic groups, and young people with disabilities. To boost women's labor force participation, 1,600 women will receive training on home-based childcare entrepreneurship. Field-level participants shared success stories at the event. Partner Organization representatives said the project is helping connect youth to employment.

On 29 April, a USD 150,750,000 Subsidiary Agreement was signed between the Government of Bangladesh and PKSF to develop youth skills and create employment, adding additional funding to the RAISE project. Nazneen Sultana, Joint Secretary of the Finance Division, signed on behalf of the government, while Md Mashiar Rahman, Deputy Managing Director, signed for PKSF.

PKSF receives recognition for Best Innovation Initiative



PKSF's 'GIS-Based Supervision & Monitoring System' has received the recognition of the Best Innovation Initiative at the government's Innovation Showcasing 2025–26 event. Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury attended the event, organized by the Financial Institutions Division on 6 July, as the Chief Guest. He presented the award for the Best Innovation Initiative to Md Fazlul Kader, Managing Director of PKSF.

The GIS-based system is enabling more efficient supervision and monitoring of project implementation and field-level activities. Under PKSF's BD Rural WASH for Human Capital Development project, data, photographs, and GPS-based location information on safe sanitation and water supply systems are being collected and monitored in real time. As a result, project implementation has become more

transparent, accountable, and effective.

The event showcased innovative initiatives from 25 departments and institutions under the Financial Institutions Division, and based on evaluation, five institutions were awarded for the best innovation initiatives in five categories. The award-winning initiatives were as follows: Janata Bank PLC's 'Janata Pay' in the State-owned Commercial Bank category; Probashi Kallyan Bank's 'e-Migration Loan Service' in the State-owned Specialized Bank category; the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority's 'Insurance Mobile App' in the Regulatory Authority category; Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation's 'Automation of Document Return Process' in the Financial Institution category; and PKSF's 'GIS-Based Supervision and Monitoring System' in the Other Institutions category.

PKSF recognized as 'Most Impactful' institution

PKSF has been recognized as the 'Most Impactful' Institution for its outstanding contribution to Bangladesh's financial inclusion and in national development. The recognition was jointly conferred by BRAC Bank PLC and The Business Standard. The award was presented to PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader, at a ceremony held in Dhaka on 5 July.

In a congratulatory message sent to PKSF, Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, Managing Director and CEO of BRAC Bank PLC, and Inam Ahmed, Editor of The Business Standard, said they were proud to honor PKSF in recognition of its work in transforming people's quality of life. They noted that PKSF has been playing a unique and far-reaching role in the country's overall development by accelerating financial inclusion. They expressed hope that this recognition would inspire PKSF to continue its public welfare initiatives and make an even greater contribution to the country's long-term sustainable development.

In response, PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader said,

"This recognition will inspire us to further strengthen our initiatives to accelerate the country's inclusive growth. PKSF is institutionally committed to this end."

A total of 25 institutions were honored for their outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life of the people of Bangladesh.



PKSF increases financing by 45% in FY 2026-27 to accelerate decent employment creation



Prioritizing skills development, employment generation, and sustainable economic development for low-income people, PKSF has approved a financing target of BDT 160 billion for FY 2026-27, which is 45.34% increase over the outgoing fiscal year. The budget and the annual work plan for FY 2026-27 were approved at PKSF's 15th General Body meeting, held at PKSF Bhaban-1 on 23 June.

The meeting provided necessary guidance to ensure effective utilization of the incentive fund announced by Bangladesh Bank for the CMSME sector, which will create the opportunity to disburse an additional BDT 50 billion in this sector. Alongside conventional financing, PKSF will strengthen sustainable employment and entrepreneurship through blended financing approaches combining skills development, innovation, debt finance and equity finance. Special emphasis will also be placed on creative economy and

climate adaptation initiatives. Particular attention will be given to expanding skills training, entrepreneurship development and market linkage initiatives for youth, women and marginalized communities. At the same time, research activities supporting poverty reduction, skills development, and employment generation will be strengthened. These initiatives are expected to contribute significantly to increasing productive employment and creating a more enabling environment for entrepreneurship.

Earlier in the day, a meeting of PKSF's Governing Body was also held. Both meetings, chaired by PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan, were attended by Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader and Board Members Dr Shahid Akhtar Hossain, Nurun Nahar, Farzanah Chowdhury, and Dr Md Taufiqul Islam. Members of the General Body were present at the General Body meeting alongside the Governing Body members.

PKSF receives special incentive fund of BDT 50 billion for microenterprise development

To stimulate rural economic activities and accelerate sustainable employment by supporting grassroots cottage and microentrepreneurs, Bangladesh Bank announced a special incentive fund of BDT 50 billion on 23 May, to be implemented through PKSF. The program aims to expand access to finance for microentrepreneurs, create employment opportunities for youth and women, promote value addition to primary products, and improve product quality through appropriate certification. It will be implemented through three key components: financial services, cluster-based value chain development, and entrepreneurs' skills development.

With a target of creating 2 lakh jobs, PKSF will support the development of potential business clusters across the country. The fund will operate as a revolving fund, ensuring a continuous flow of financing and supporting the gradual integration of the cottage and microenterprise sector into the formal economy.



\$70 million GREEN Project agreement signed to develop climate-resilient agriculture, environment-friendly enterprises

PKSF has signed a subsidiary loan and grant agreement with the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance to implement the 'Growth for Climate Resilient and Environmental Entrepreneurship and Nutrition (GREEN)' project to bring about integrated progress in the development of climate-resilient agriculture, environment-friendly enterprises and nutrition sectors.

PKSF Deputy Managing Director Dr Akond Mohammad Rafiqul Islam and Finance Division's Joint Secretary Mst Nazneen Sultana signed the agreement at the Bangladesh Secretariat on 3 June.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will finance USD 70 million for this project through the Government of Bangladesh. The project will be implemented nationwide from 2026 to 2031. Priority will be given to some regions of the country based on poverty trends, climate risks and agricultural potential.

About 260,000 people will come under this project. They will include poor and marginal farmers, women and youth entrepreneurs, small agricultural entrepreneurs, families in climate-vulnerable areas, and people from small ethnic minorities.

The project will prioritize building climate-resilient and environmentally friendly food systems, expanding inclusive financial services, and building institutional capacity. In addition, emphasis will be placed on contributing to the creative economy, safe food production, expanding climate-resilient agriculture, increasing the income of rural entrepreneurs, and building sustainable production systems.

PKSF, IFAD, FAO , WFP explore partnership

A high-level consultation meeting was held at PKSF on 15 June to discuss potential collaboration on building a climate-resilient food system in Bangladesh under the GREEN project. Representatives of the IFAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and the World Food Programme (WFP) took part in the meeting.

The meeting focused on strengthening partnerships to support climate-resilient agriculture, food security, nutrition, agroecological technologies, sustainable entrepreneurship development, and food systems transformation in Bangladesh.

The meeting was chaired by PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader. Among others, Dr Valentine Achancho, IFAD's Country Director for Bangladesh; Maribeth Black, Deputy Head of Programme, WFP; Dia Sanou, Deputy Country Representative, FAO Bangladesh; and Dr Akond Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Managing Director, PKSF, spoke on the occasion.



During the discussion, Dr Achancho emphasized that IFAD's support extends beyond financing. "We provide loans through the Bangladesh government for technical training and capacity-building support to beneficiaries to ensure sustainable development outcomes," he said.

Speaking at the meeting, Md Fazlul Kader highlighted the importance of promoting Bangladesh's microenterprise sector as a driver of inclusive growth. "Finance alone cannot create magic. Sustainable transformation requires a combination of finance, technical support, market access, innovation, and capacity development," he commented.

The PKSF Managing Director further emphasized on PKSF's focus on demand-driven technical assistance, low-cost interventions, value-added agriculture, resource-efficient and cleaner production (RECP), and market-based solutions that remain sustainable beyond project completion. He also stressed on the need for internationally recognized food testing laboratories and certification systems to strengthen food safety, quality assurance, and export competitiveness.



PKSF launches Preventive Healthcare program

PKSF has officially launched its Preventive Healthcare program to help prevent diseases among low-income communities, reduce their out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure, and strengthen their capacity to cope with health-related risks. The event, held on 1 July at PKSf Bhaban-1, was chaired by PKSf Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader.

PKSF MD said a healthy population is a must for achieving sustainable poverty reduction, developing human capital, and fostering the growth of microenterprises. He emphasized that ensuring good health of microentrepreneurs is essential for helping them thrive. Illnesses often push families into financial hardship due to medical expenses, while also reducing entrepreneurs' productivity and income. Noting that Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure in the world, he stressed that expanding preventive healthcare services is crucial to reducing this financial burden.

Md Fazlul Kader also said that PKSf has long been implementing a wide range of non-financial interventions alongside promoting financial inclusion through its Partner Organizations (POs). In alignment with the Government's policies on health, nutrition, and maternal health, PKSf has taken up the program. He emphasized that the resources allocated for this program should be viewed as an investment.

In the initial phase, the program will cover approximately



680,000 members and their family members through 39 POs of PKSf. The program will prioritize to pregnant women and new mothers, newborns and under-5 children, adolescents, women of reproductive age, older persons, and persons with disabilities. In the open discussion, PO representatives expressed their confidence that the program would make a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh.

Cataract surgery program to be further expanded among underserved communities: Orbis International President

Kathleen Sherwin, President & CEO of Orbis International, said that, the cataract surgery program — jointly conducted by PKSf and Orbis International will be further expanded among climate-vulnerable and underserved communities. She made these remarks at an event held at PKSf Bhaban-1 on 20 April. She highly appreciated the activities of PKSf and its Partner Organizations (POs).

In his welcome speech, PKSf Managing Director highlighted

PKSf's Strategic Plan 2025-2030. He described the cataract surgery program as a humanitarian initiative, and said that PKSf will use its extensive nationwide network of POs to implement such humanitarian activities in the future.

At the event, PKSf Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan said that poverty cannot be determined only through economic criteria. It is a multidimensional issue. Therefore, a concerted effort should be made to reduce poverty, in which Orbis International can be a partner of PKSf. He further said that PKSf will work in coordination with organizations like Orbis International to implement any service program for the country's development.

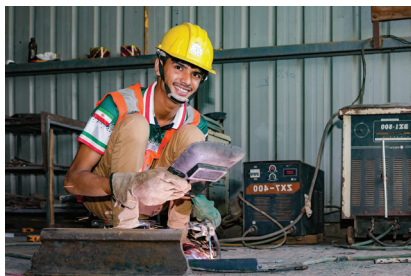
Dr Munir Ahmed, Country Director of Orbis International, Bangladesh, said that the cataract surgery program has increased awareness of eye care among the local people. He praised PKSf and its POs for this.

Under the 'Comprehensive Cataract Services for People Living in Poverty in Bangladesh' initiative, as many as 27,800 low-income people have regained their sight through cataract surgery in the last six months. Over the same period, nearly 200,000 individuals received primary eye screenings. This program is being implemented in 59 districts of the country through 115 POs of PKSf and 30 partner hospitals of Orbis International Bangladesh.



RAISE job fair: A new horizon of skills, opportunities and employment

'Where there's a will, there's a way' — 18-year-old Md Sabbir Hossain of Kushtia has turned this timeless proverb into a reality. He turned his life around by acquiring technical skills. Sabbir's journey proves that with the right opportunity and unwavering determination, adversities can be overcome. Today, he has not only transformed his own life but also



emerged as an inspiring role model for thousands of young people.

Sabbir is the son of a marginal family in Kushtia. After completing his Junior School Certificate (JSC)

examination in 2022, he was forced to discontinue his education due to financial hardship. It was at this critical juncture that he enrolled in PKSF's RAISE project's training program. Under a six-month intensive apprenticeship in the Small Engineering trade, he received hands-on training from a master craftsman at Tofazzal Engineering Workshop in Kushtia.

After completing the training, Sabbir applied for the position of Welder at Kiam Metal Industries Ltd. during a job fair organized by PKSF's Partner Organization (PO) Shiropa Development Society in Kushtia. He was selected for the job on the spot. He officially joined the company on 11 June and now earns a monthly salary of around BDT 14,500. Upon completing six months of service, he will be entitled to corporate benefits, including a provident fund and health insurance.

RAISE project's job fairs have become a gateway to fulfilling the aspirations of thousands of youth like Sabbir. To date, 46 job fairs have been organized across the country, attracting around 12,525 trained apprentices seeking employment. Of them, 6,292 secured jobs on the spot, including 1,888 women.

The job fairs have played a vital role in bridging the gap between skills development and employment for disadvantaged youth. So far, 735 employers have participated, including 243 formal-sector and 492 informal-sector enterprises. Participating organizations include Square Foods, Square Toiletries, Walton, Transcom, PRAN-RFL, Singer, MyOne, Kiam, Youngone, Suzuki Motors, Karupannya, Samsung, Nabil Group,

Ayesha Abed Foundation, Bdjobs, Symphony Mobile, Matador Group, Anwar Group of Industries, and Nagad.

A total of 77 job fairs are planned nationwide by June 2027. Beyond creating employment opportunities, these events are fostering long-term linkages between skilled human resources and employers.

Unlike a typical job fair, RAISE follows a different approach. Preparation begins well before the job fair itself. The process starts with identifying unemployed, unskilled, low-income, and school-dropout youth at the local level. They are then enrolled in suitable trades based on their interests, abilities, and the demands of the local labor market.

This skills development and employment strategy is built around the 'Ustad-Shagred' (Master-Apprentice) model. For generations, this model has been an effective means of acquiring technical skills in Bangladesh. PKSF has transformed this traditional practice into a structured and formal apprenticeship training model. Under RAISE, skilled and experienced master craftsmen from relevant trades are selected, trained, and provided with incentives. Their workplaces serve as training centers where apprentices receive hands-on training in real work environments over a period of six months. They acquire practical technical skills while also developing workplace discipline, a sense of responsibility, and professional work ethics. Throughout the training period, their progress is regularly monitored, and they receive a training allowance. Besides, apprentices receive 40 hours of life skills training, job counselling, and a final competency assessment conducted by independent experts, followed by certification.

Every year, at least 2.2 million youth enter Bangladesh's labor market. Yet many are unable to secure decent employment due to a lack of market-relevant skills and limited access to employers. At the same time, employers across various industrial and service sectors often struggle to find suitably skilled workers. The RAISE project's job fairs are effectively bridging this gap by connecting trained youth with potential employers.

A job transforms lives, secures a family's future, restores confidence, and inspires youth. Sabbir's story is not an isolated one; it reflects the aspirations of thousands of young Bangladeshis who, when given the right opportunity, can shape a better future for themselves.

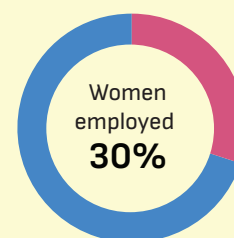


Employing institutions: **735**

Formal-sector **243**

Informal-sector **492**

Male-female ratio among those immediately employed



Female 1,888 Male 4,404

SMART project to expand resource-efficient practices in microenterprises

PKSF has been implementing the Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) project since August 2023 to promote resilient green growth by adopting climate-resilient, resource-efficient practices in microenterprises. Implemented with the support of the Government of Bangladesh and jointly financed by the World Bank and PKSF, the project provides various financial and technical services to micro-entrepreneurs. SMART aims to deliver these services to approximately 80,000 microenterprises across the processing, agriculture, and service sectors.

Under the project, 70 sub-projects are currently being implemented in 54 districts through 54 Partner Organizations (POs). Against these sub-projects, BDT 1,501.80 crore has been disbursed as loans and BDT 78.32 crore as grants to the POs, as of May 2026.

Financial and technical assistance has been provided to 58,209 micro-entrepreneurs through the sub-projects as of May 2026. Each of the supported entrepreneurs are independently implementing at least two Resource-Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) practices in their enterprises. In addition, 53,282 micro-entrepreneurs have already been trained on topics including environmental vulnerability awareness and management strategies, the need for RECP, preparatory steps for adopting the practice, and branding and certification.

A total of 354 business cluster-based environmental clubs have been formed to serve as a common platform engaging communities and entrepreneurs within their respective business clusters. In addition, Environment and Climate Change Units have been established at 54 POs.

A World Bank delegation conducted the Mid-Term Review mission of the SMART project from 5-16 April. The mission was led by Task Team Leader Keisuke Iyadomi. World Bank



Metal sheets are being precisely cut with the help of a Computer Numerical Control laser cutting machine.

representatives visited the field activities of 13 sub-projects across various parts of the country and held direct discussions with micro-entrepreneurs. Following discussions with PKSF and the Financial Institutions Division and the Economic Relations Division, the delegation noted that the project's progress has been found satisfactory. In particular, the World Bank delegation noted that the adoption of the RECP method is reducing production costs and increasing profits for micro-entrepreneurs, which is having a positive impact on the country's economy and environment.

In addition, the 11th meeting of the SMART project's Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held at the Bangladesh Secretariat on 12 April. The meeting was chaired by Nazma Mobarek, Secretary of the Financial Institutions Division. The meeting concluded that the overall progress of the project remains satisfactory.

PKSF, SANEM sign research agreement



To generate deeper insights into the quality of employment created through the various interventions of PKSF, a research agreement was signed on 7 July at PKSF Bhawan-1,

between PKSF and the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM).

The agreement signing ceremony was attended by Md Fazlul Kader, Managing Director of PKSF, Dr Bazlul Haque Khondker, Chairman of SANEM, and senior officials from both organizations.

Earlier, on 19 April 2026, PKSF and SANEM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Building on that understanding, this agreement formally marks the launch of a joint research initiative between the two organizations.

Under the proposed research to be conducted under this agreement, the nature and quality of employment generated through PKSF's various programs will be assessed. The findings will also help identify practical strategies for promoting more relevant, productive, and decent employment opportunities in the future.

PKSF Audit Committee holds meeting to strengthen institutional governance



The third meeting of the PKSF Audit Committee was held on 13 May 2026 at PKSF Bhaban-1. The meeting was chaired by Dr Shahid Akhtar Hossain, Member of the PKSF Governing Body and Convener of the Audit Committee. It was attended by Prof Dr Md Taufiqul Islam and Lila Rashid, PhD, both Members of the PKSF Governing Body and the Audit Committee. This committee was formed at the 260th meeting of the PKSF Governing Body held on 29 June 2025 to strengthen PKSF's financial management, transparency and institutional governance.

In addition to reviewing the implementation progress of previous decisions, the committee approved its work plan for FY 2026–2027, the report on the audit activities of the Internal Control and Compliance (ICC) Department, and the audit reports on the Human Resources Department and the Management Information System.

The committee also reviewed the compliance reports on the external audits of PKSF's Partner Organizations for FY 2024–2025 and recommended that these be placed before the next meeting of the PKSF Governing Body. The meeting further discussed the appointment of auditors for FY 2026–2027 and recommended that the relevant proposals be submitted to the next meeting of the Governing Body and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for approval.

The committee expressed satisfaction after reviewing PKSF's half-yearly financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2025. The meeting was also attended by A Khaleque Miah, Secretary of the Committee and Head of the ICC Department; Bibhuti Bushan Biswas, Head of the Finance and Accounts Department; along with other officials of the ICC Department.

Discussion meeting held on digitalization of PKSF's activities

A discussion meeting titled 'Digitalization of PKSF's Diverse Operations' was held on 13 April at PKSF Bhaban-1 to explore ways of making the inclusive finance system more effective, sustainable, and future-ready. The meeting featured detailed discussions on the implementation of the Decision Support System (DSS) and Digital Financing initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable income growth and improving the livelihoods of PKSF's low-income members at the grassroots.

The meeting was attended by PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader. Khondokar Sakhawat Ali, Visiting Research Fellow at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), was the keynote speaker. Deputy Managing Directors of PKSF, along with officials from the IT Unit and the Credit Operations Unit, also participated.

The meeting emphasized on transforming PKSF's vast database of around 20 million members into an integrated digital platform and using data analytics, artificial intelligence, and predictive tools to support policymaking, risk management, and service expansion.

The keynote speaker said that a robust and interoperable digital finance ecosystem would make financial services more accessible and affordable for marginalized communities. Reviewing the current context, opportunities, and challenges of inclusive finance, he emphasized on the need to develop an integrated digital platform that combines Mobile Financial Services (MFS), Agent Banking, and Digital Banking to enhance financial service delivery by microfinance institutions.

The meeting noted that digitalization would enable the automation of routine and labor-intensive tasks, allowing officials to focus more on innovation and analytical work. It also highlighted that the use of the DSS, GIS-based monitoring, Credit Scoring, and other predictive analytical tools would make monitoring and supervision at both PKSF and its Partner Organizations more dynamic and effective.

PKSF would play a leading role in building an integrated and efficient digital financial ecosystem by promoting digital literacy, developing technology-driven human resources, and ensuring the necessary investments.

Climate-resilient IGAs open new livelihood opportunities for coastal communities



PKSF's RHL project-supported members sold 5,641 goats and sheep during Eid-ul-Azha 2026, with the total value standing at approximately BDT 5.5 crore. They currently own

46,119 goats and sheep, with an estimated market value of around BDT 45 crore. Under RHL, 10,276 poor and extremely poor members vulnerable to climate change in coastal areas have received support, including the construction of slatted sheds for goat rearing, training on the slatted shed method of goat rearing, vaccination, and necessary credit assistance.

To address the challenges of traditional vegetable cultivation caused by high soil salinity and flooding in coastal areas, the RHL project introduced ginger cultivation in sacks in March 2025. Under this method, members can grow ginger in a controlled environment, even in homestead areas or on small plots of land. A total of 6,188 members have received support under this initiative. As a result, total ginger production reached 170,000 kg at the end of the season. By selling the ginger produced during February–March 2026, the members earned a total of BDT 3.6 crore.

PKSF has been implementing the Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) project in seven coastal districts since August 2023, with funding from the Green Climate Fund.

PKSF to install 180 desalination plants in coastal areas

To address the shortage of safe drinking water in Bangladesh's coastal region, PKSF will install 180 Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in selected upazilas of Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira under its Safe Water Project (SWP). These plants will meet the daily safe drinking water needs of nearly 180,000 people. To reduce energy costs, 20% of the energy required to operate the plants will come from solar energy.

To strengthen climate adaptation capacity and promote sustainable water management, Knowledge Hubs will also be established in the three districts. These hubs will serve as centers for water quality testing and assurance, training on plant operation and maintenance, and knowledge sharing.

Nearly 73% of the people living in Bangladesh's 19 coastal districts are forced to rely on saline and unsafe water. The situation is particularly alarming in Khulna, Bagerhat, and Satkhira. Rising sea levels, increasing soil and water salinity,

cyclones, tidal surges, and depletion of groundwater are gradually rendering conventional water sources unusable.



PKSF disburses BDT 14.08bn in housing loans for low-income people



PKSF has disbursed BDT 14.08 billion in loans to 50,184 members under its Abason loan program as of May 2026. The loans are provided for the construction of new houses as well as the renovation and expansion of existing ones. In addition to ensuring safe, sustainable, and decent housing, the program has played a significant role in improving the living standards, social dignity, and security of low-income households.

Implemented with PKSF's own financing, the Abason program is implemented through 358 branches of 32 Partner Organizations across 125 upazilas in 42 districts.

Knowledge-sharing meeting held on technology-driven IGAs in agriculture



PKSF organized a knowledge-sharing meeting on 7 April to build a sustainable and resilient agricultural system. The meeting featured in-depth discussions on the development of climate-resilient agricultural technologies and the expansion of multi-harvest rice cultivation.

The meeting was chaired by PKSf Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan. PKSf Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader moderated the session while renowned geneticist Dr Abed Chaudhury delivered the keynote presentation. Among others, Dr Manzoor Ahmed, Chairman of Partner Organization FIVDB, and agricultural scientist Dr Shaikh Tanveer Hossain also spoke at the event. The speakers emphasized that ensuring food security requires the sustainable management of soil fertility, the development of high-yielding and

climate-resilient crop varieties, and their rapid expansion.

PKSF is playing a vital role in strengthening farmers' capacity and enhancing agricultural productivity. More than 50% of the financing in Bangladesh's agriculture sector is disbursed by PKSf's Partner Organizations. In line with its 'Strategic Plan 2025–2030', PKSf is implementing a wide range of interventions with a strong focus on export-oriented value addition and diversified agro-processing, developing effective business models for sustainable technology transfer, promoting climate-resilient agriculture production systems, improving market access for farmers, expanding resource-efficient agricultural technologies and practices, and advancing agro-ecological farming to protect the agricultural ecosystem.

PKSF, CIMMYT discuss avenues of cooperation in agricultural development, food security, employment generation

A discussion meeting was held on 8 June between PKSf and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) to identify potential areas of collaboration in developing Bangladesh's agricultural sector, ensuring food security, creating employment opportunities, and expanding agriculture-based enterprises and businesses.

The meeting, held at PKSf Bhaban-1, was chaired by PKSf Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader. A delegation led by Owen Calvert, Country Representative of CIMMYT Bangladesh, presented the organization's ongoing activities and achievements in Bangladesh.

The delegation highlighted that CIMMYT has been making significant contributions to agricultural research and development in Bangladesh for more than four decades. In particular, the organization has been implementing a wide range of initiatives, including the development of improved germplasm, high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties, disease management, conservation agriculture, intercropping, post-harvest loss reduction, farmer-led Living

Libraries, carbon trading through Alternate Wetting and Drying technology, and farmer-friendly agricultural mechanization. These initiatives have played an important role in making agriculture in Bangladesh more resilient and sustainable.

Both PKSf and CIMMYT expressed their commitment to jointly identify priority areas of cooperation and work together to promote sustainable agricultural development, thereby contributing to Bangladesh's overall economic progress.



'Microfinance is not just about lending; it is a continuous process of building people's economic capacity'

Mohsin Ali

Executive Director, WAVE Foundation



In this exclusive interview with Masum Al Jaki, Manager, PKSf, Mohsin Ali, Executive Director of WAVE Foundation, a Partner Organization (PO) of PKSf, reflects on his long journey in the development sector, the evolution and achievements of WAVE Foundation, and his vision for the future.

PKSF: How did your journey as a development practitioner begin? What inspired you to work for ordinary people?

Mohsin Ali: I grew up in Darshana, Chuadanga. From an early age, I witnessed the socio-economic realities of rural life, the hardships, the struggles, and the deprivation faced by ordinary people. Those experiences inspired me to do something meaningful for them. Alongside my studies, I formed small groups of people and initiated various community welfare activities.

As a student, I was deeply influenced by the 1969 Mass Uprising, the Six-Point and the Eleven-Point Movements, and later by the Liberation War of Bangladesh. My experiences during the Liberation War training, followed by my student life at the University of Dhaka, broadened my understanding of society, the economy, and politics. They also gave me practical experience in organizational leadership, collective decision-making, respecting differing opinions, and working to uphold people's rights.

By the 1980s, as ideology-based politics gradually began to lose its influence, I came to realize that bringing about meaningful change in people's lives required working directly alongside them. The humanitarian efforts of various development organizations during the devastating floods of 1988 inspired me deeply. It was then that I decided to devote myself to improving people's lives through social development initiatives. That belief marked the beginning of a new chapter in my journey as a development practitioner.

PKSF: In 1990, you took the initiative to establish WAVE Foundation in Darshana. What made you feel the need to set up a development organization at that time?

Mohsin Ali: My desire to work for social development, along with the poor environmental conditions in Darshana, inadequate sanitation, and limited access to safe drinking water made me realize the need for a local organization dedicated to improving environmental and public health. At the same time, I witnessed firsthand the poverty, deprivation, and limited access to development services faced by rural communities. I felt there was a need for an organization that would not only provide support to marginalized people but also help build their capacity. Driven by this vision of empowering people and bringing about social change through local leadership and initiative, 'Grameen Poribesh Kallyan Sangstha' (now WAVE Foundation) was established on 24 April 1990 with the goal of building 'a just and prosperous society'.

PKSF: WAVE Foundation began its journey with programs like adult education, tree plantation, and family planning, and later expanded into microfinance, good governance, rights, and livelihood development. What drove this evolution?

Mohsin Ali: In the early years, we focused on awareness-raising and environment-related initiatives, including adult education, tree plantation, and family planning. Over time, however, we realized that raising awareness alone was not enough, people also needed economic empowerment to break the cycle of poverty. Our field experience highlighted the importance of microfinance as a means of strengthening people's economic capacity. Gradually, we expanded our work to include microfinance, livelihood development, agriculture, good governance and rights, women's and youth empowerment, and climate adaptation. The driving force behind this transformation was our commitment to promoting the holistic development of people.

PKSF: WAVE Foundation has undertaken a range of initiatives to promote the economic and social empowerment of women. In your view, what have been the most significant changes?

Mohsin Ali: WAVE Foundation places equal importance on the participation and leadership of both women and men in all its programs. With support from PKSf, it has implemented a wide range of initiatives, including skills training in agriculture, livestock, tailoring, and handicrafts, as well as microfinance, entrepreneurship development, leadership training, participation in local government, and social empowerment. These interventions have brought about significant improvements in the social standing of many women. The most notable changes include women's increased economic empowerment, reduced violence and discrimination, greater participation in decision-making, stronger local leadership, and increased involvement in politics.

PKSF: WAVE Foundation has long been working on food rights, good governance, and citizen participation. In your view, how important are these issues in building a more just and inclusive society in Bangladesh?

Mohsin Ali: Through our programs on good governance, rights, and justice, we work to promote participatory governance, democratic decentralization, accountability in public service delivery, economic governance, human rights, access to justice, and tolerance for diverse political views. We are also running campaigns to promote food as a human right and to advocate for the enactment of a Food Rights Act. Building a just and inclusive society requires not only

transparency and accountability in public services, but also ensuring that poor and marginalized people have access to those services, the opportunity to participate in decision-making, and the ability to raise their legitimate demands. Through 'Lokmorcha', WAVE Foundation's community-based social platform, people are organized to voice their concerns and present their legitimate demands to local government officials and elected representatives. This has helped establish a participatory model of good governance at the local level.

PKSF: Climate change, food security, and sustainable agriculture are now global challenges. In this context, what strategies and programs is WAVE Foundation pursuing?

Mohsin Ali: WAVE Foundation is addressing climate change, food security, and sustainable agriculture through an integrated approach. Our work focuses on promoting agroecological practices, producing safe food, conserving biodiversity, empowering farmers, strengthening smallholder and family farming, and developing agricultural entrepreneurs. With support from PKSf, we are currently establishing an Agroecology Learning and Tourism Centre, which we envision as an important learning hub for South Asia. At the same time, we are promoting climate justice and expanding the use of green technologies, including solar-powered irrigation, to encourage the wider adoption of renewable energy.

PKSF: How would you assess PKSf's contribution to the growth of WAVE Foundation?

Mohsin Ali: Becoming a Partner Organization of PKSf in 1996 was a significant milestone for WAVE Foundation. This partnership has provided us not only with financial support but also with opportunities to strengthen our institutional capacity, enhance staff skills through training, improve

management practices, and implement new development programs. Over the past three decades, PKSf has remained a reliable development partner, supporting our institutional growth every step of the way. Beyond microfinance, PKSf's support for innovative initiatives in agriculture and food security, entrepreneurship development, climate adaptation, and skills development has made WAVE Foundation's programs more structured, effective, and sustainable.

PKSF: Could you share WAVE Foundation's vision and future plans?

Mohsin Ali: Over the past 36 years, WAVE Foundation has made remarkable progress through its diverse programs and interventions. Looking ahead, we aspire to establish WAVE Foundation as a self-reliant, knowledge-based organization. We have already successfully integrated digital technologies into our microfinance operations.

We are also strengthening our research initiatives and have begun publishing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reports, a practice we intend to continue. At the same time, we are promoting more professional and effective institutional management through data-driven decision-making and collective leadership.

Our goal for the future is to bring into the mainstream those who have remained excluded from the development process, thereby advancing inclusive development across all the areas where we work.

PKSF: Thank you. We wish WAVE Foundation continued success in the years ahead.

Mohsin Ali: Thanks to PKSf too. I hope our partnership with PKSf in this journey of social development will grow even deeper and more fruitful.

PPEPP-EU project working for the development of 2.15 lakh extremely poor families

Under PKSf's PPEPP-EU project, appropriate financial and non-financial services are being provided to nearly 2.15 lakh extremely poor families across 145 Unions in 12 districts, through 19 Partner Organizations (Pos). So far, BDT 3,066.61 crore has been disbursed as loans to expand members' income-generating activities. With the project's grant and loan support, members have so far implemented 284,745 income-generating activities. In addition, 80,757 members have been provided with farming, non-farming, and technical training. Under the project, 45,591 malnourished pregnant and lactating women have been identified and provided with necessary healthcare services.

To mark 'National Nutrition Week 2026' from 23-29 April, rallies, discussion sessions, food basket distribution, counselling on nutritious food intake, and demonstrations of nutritious cooking methods were organized in the PPEPP-EU project's working areas. In addition, to mark World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April, discussions, processions, and cultural programs were organized at Prosperity Village Committees, Mother and Child Forums, Disability Forums, and Social Development Centers (Adolescents).



To connect the targeted extremely poor with mainstream economic growth and employment, PKSf has been implementing the 'Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People-European Union (PPEPP-EU)' project since October 2022. Supported by the Government of Bangladesh and co-financed by the European Union and PKSf, PPEPP-EU provides multidimensional services covering resilient livelihoods, nutrition and primary healthcare, inclusive finance, disaster and climate change adaptation, women's empowerment, and disability inclusion.

Emphasis placed on transforming PKSF Training Center into future-ready institution

Participants at a workshop titled 'PKSF—Partner Organization Learning Dialogue 2026' stressed on the importance of transforming the PKSF Training Center into a modern, efficient, technology-driven, and future-ready institution. They emphasized that the conventional training system should no longer be viewed merely as classroom-based processes, and rather be restructured into an integrated learning ecosystem.

The day-long workshop was held on 11 May at PKSF Bhaban-1 to define the roles of Partner Organizations (POs) in strengthening the current operations of the PKSF Training Center and shaping its future development roadmap. The workshop was inaugurated by PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan, while PKSF Managing Director Md Fazlul Kader addressed the closing session. Executive Directors and Training Focal Persons from 24 POs participated in the event.

To scientifically assess the quality of training and its actual impact at the field, PKSF has launched a special research initiative titled 'Effectiveness of PKSF Training Programs for

POs: A Comparative Analysis Using the Kirkpatrick–Phillips Framework'. The findings of the study are expected to serve as an important milestone in formulating long-term training strategies and assessing the financial and social returns on training investments.

During the April–June 2026 quarter, 13 training courses were organized at PKSF Bhaban and other institutions across the country, with the participation of 100 PKSF officials. During the same period, 11 workshops involving 403 officials were held at PKSF Bhaban. In addition, two PKSF officials attended the 'Invest in Children Policy Academy Convening' organized by the World Bank in South Africa, while two others participated in the '2026 Adaptation Fund Readiness Write-Shop' held in the Philippines.

PKSF also organized four batches of training titled 'Refresher Training on Climate Change and Development' for 120 PO officials at PKSF Bhaban-2.

In April–June 2026, internships for four university students were ongoing under the PKSF Training Center.



1,793 people employed through SICIP–PKSF project

To reduce poverty, develop a skilled workforce, and create employment opportunities, PKSF is implementing the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP) under the Finance Division of the Government of Bangladesh.

In the first phase of the project, training and employment support are being provided to young people from marginalized communities across the country through 21 Partner Training Institutions. So far, 4,525 trainees have been enrolled, including 1,717 women. Of them, 2,791 have successfully completed the final assessment and received certification, while 1,793 have already secured employment. The first phase aims to provide training and employment support to 12,000 people.

In the second phase, the project will provide training and employment support to 8,500 people: 7,300 participants from Small Ethnic Communities, 1,000 Persons with Disabilities, and 200 third-gender individuals. So far, 900 trainees have

been enrolled, including 725 from Small Ethnic Communities and 175 Persons with Disabilities. Among them, 289 are women, accounting for nearly 32% of the total trainees.

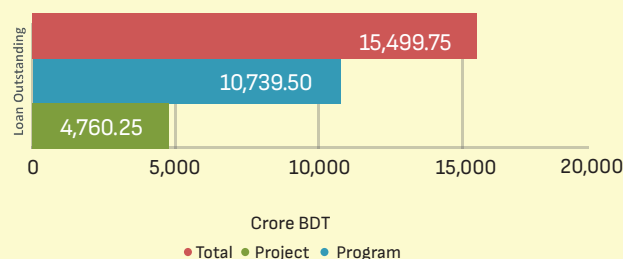
Under the project, each of the 1,000 trainees with disabilities will receive essential equipment worth BDT 10,000, enabling them to pursue self-employment and sustainable livelihoods.



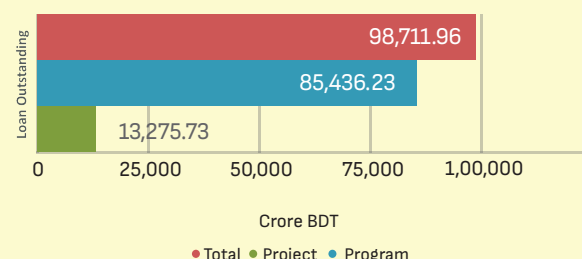
PKSF's Loan Program

Up to April 2026, the amount of loan disbursed from PKSF to its Partner Organizations (POs) was BDT 80,586.59 crore and that from POs to borrowers was BDT 10,58,748.03 crore. The amount of loan outstanding of PKSF with POs was BDT 15,499.75 crore and POs with borrowers was BDT 98,711.96 crore. Besides, member' savings at the POs amounted to BDT 40,782.85 crore.

Loan outstanding (of PKSF with POs): As of April 2026, the amount of loan outstanding of PKSF with POs was BDT 15,499.75 crore, of which loan outstanding under the core program was BDT 10,739.50 crore (69.29% of the total loan outstanding) and the same under the project was BDT 4,760.25 crore (30.71% of total loan outstanding).

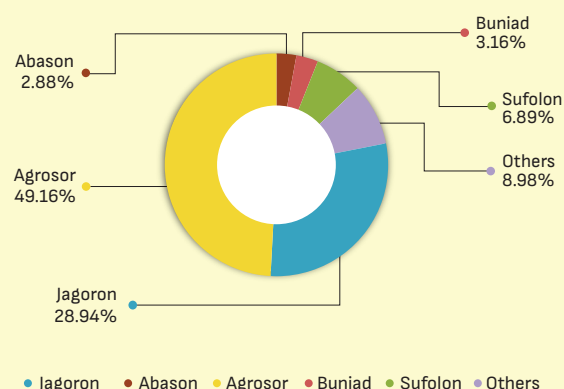


Loan outstanding (of POs with borrowers): As of April 2026, the amount of loan outstanding of POs with borrowers was BDT 98,711.96 crore, of which loan outstanding under core program was BDT 85,436.23 crore (86.55% of the total loan outstanding) and the same under the project was BDT 13,275.73 crore (13.45% of total loan outstanding).



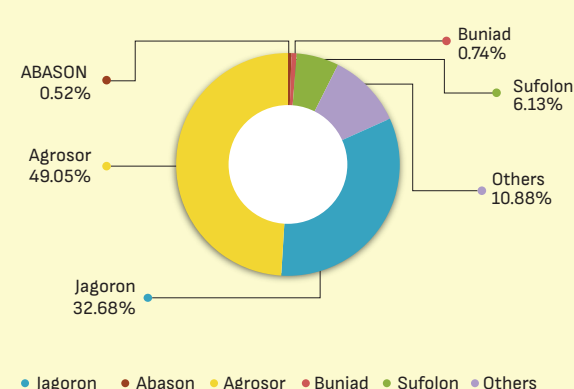
Sector-wise loan outstanding (of PKSF with POs)

As on April 2026, the total amount of loan outstanding of PKSF with POs was BDT 15,499.75 crore -- BDT 7,619.63 crore in Microenterprise Loan (Agrosor), BDT 4,484.94 crore in Microcredit for Moderate Poor (Jagoron), BDT 489.61 crore in Microcredit for extremely Poor (Buniad), BDT 1,067.24 crore in Agriculture Loan (Sufolon), BDT 446.70 crore in Housing Loan (Abason Loan) and BDT 1,391.64 crore in Others Loan.



Sector-wise loan outstanding (of POs with borrowers)

As on April 2026, the total amount of loan outstanding of POs with borrowers was BDT 98,711.96 crore -- BDT 48,417.36 crore in Microenterprise Loan (Agrosor), BDT 32,258.97 crore in Microcredit for Moderate Poor (Jagoron), BDT 734.51 crore in Microcredit for Hardcore Poor (Buniad), BDT 6,053.87 crore in Agriculture Loan (Sufolon), BDT 509.16 crore in Housing Loan (Abason Loan) and BDT 10,738.09 crore is Others Loan.



Members and borrowers: As of April 2026, the total number of members of POs was 2.19 crore, of whom 2.05 crore were women (93.61% of the total members). At the same time, the total number of borrowers were 1.67 crore, of whom 1.57 crore are women (94.01% of the total borrowers).

Loan recovery rate: As on April 2026, loan recovery rate of loans from POs to PKSF was 99.83% and from borrowers to POs was 99.14%.

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, and capacity-building activities.

Significant improvements in income, livelihoods of 7.5 lakh families through RMTP



PKSF's Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (RMTP) has made a significant contribution to building a more dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable foundation for Bangladesh's rural economy. By increasing the incomes of micro-entrepreneurs, improving food and nutrition security, and expanding value chains in the agriculture sector, the project has strengthened the contribution of microenterprises to the national economy.

Speakers made these remarks at the closing ceremony of the six-year RMTP, co-financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Danida. Held on 29 April at PKSFBhaban-1, the event was presided over by PKSFBChairman Zakir Ahmed Khan. Nazma Mobarek, Secretary of the Financial Institutions Division, was the Chief Guest. Dr Valentine Achancho, Country Director of IFAD Bangladesh, was the Special Guest, while PKSFBManaging Director Md Fazlul Kader delivered the welcome address. Md Habibur Rahman, Deputy General Manager of PKSFBand RMTP Project Coordinator, gave a presentation on the project.

In her remarks, Nazma Mobarek said that RMTP has shown how meaningful progress in developing rural entrepreneurs and ensuring food security is possible through the proper combination of planning, innovation, and partnership. Building on the project's success, she noted, PKSFBwill soon launch another project, titled 'GREEN', financed by IFAD.

Dr Valentine Achancho said, RMTP is not only a success, it is but a proof of concept at scale as well. It has demonstrated that when finance, training, and markets are combined through strong institutions, they become catalytic, delivering transformation that does not end with the project, but

continues, expands, and matures. It is not just the closing of a project. It is the demonstration of what is possible when vision, partnership, and effective implementation come together at scale. This is not the end of a partnership; it is the transition to a new level of ambition.

PKSFBChairman Zakir Ahmed Khan said, "RMTP is more than just a project; it stands as a successful model for sustainable transformation in the rural economy. Its effective initiatives will continue to be carried forward across different contexts, from rural areas to urban settings. PKSFBwill work to take these successful approaches forward in the years ahead."

In the welcome remarks, Md Fazlul Kader said that through the RMTP, significant progress has been made in expanding financial services for microentrepreneurs, as well as in introducing modern technologies, strengthening market linkages, and supporting branding and certification. "PKSFBremains firmly committed to continuing its efforts to ensure the sustainable development of microentrepreneurs by promoting decent working conditions, addressing risks, and enhancing skills."

The project presentation highlighted that RMTP engaged over 7.5 lakh families through 90 agriculture-based value chain sub-projects. Among the participants, agricultural production increased by 66%, income rose by 49%, and profits grew by 41%. At the event, four RMTP-supported entrepreneurs described how the project helped them move from being job seekers to job creators by boosting production, increasing income, and expanding market access. Many of them have also received recognitions at the national level. Products produced with the support of the project are now being exported.

BOOK POST

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