

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



Bansra Birangana Seva Samity



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A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

BBSS (Bansra Birangana Seva Samity) is a women led, Autonomous, Frontline and Grassroots level organization working to prevent human trafficking of women and girls in the source area of Sundarban, West Bengal, India.

We are mainly working for peoples of SC, ST and Minority community who are most vulnerable. We are mainly working for gender based violence, prevention of trafficking and empowering trafficked survivors and vulnerable women. Our programs are- I) Community-based rehabilitation programs of 77 trafficked survivors II) A Survivor leader group named ICON working for system strengthening of government and making policy of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for trafficked survivors III) Women's economic empowerment through livelihood. IV) Building resilient community to make the vulnerable villages safe from trafficking IV) Strengthening levelihood of survivors and vulnerable women through Tailoring.

BBSS has also formed a survivor's leadership group named ICON with 16 survivors of Canning-I, Canning-II, Basanti, and Baruipur block. The ICON leaders are organizing awareness camps regarding trafficking, early marriage, social stigma, and domestic violence. Besides that, they also assist other survivors for rehabilitation and legal aid.

Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous support and collaboration of our esteemed partners, including Kolkata Sanjog, TATA AIG, Kamonohasi, Azim Premji Foundation (APF), Oasis India, My Choice Foundation, Kolkata Sanved, Tech Mahindra Foundation as well as government agencies. Your unwavering commitment has been pivotal in overcoming challenges and driving positive change at the grassroots level.

As we look ahead, we are confident that our collective efforts will continue to yield success in combating human trafficking, domestic violence, child labor, and early marriage. Together, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of a safer and more just society for all.

AMINA KHATUN LASKAR
SECRETARY, BBSS



WORKING AREA

Total 14 blocks in south
24 parganas

At present BBSS is working under Canning sub division of South 24 parganas, of SUNDARBON viz. Canning-I, Canning-II, Basanti, Gosaba and adjoining blocks viz. Baruipur, Sonarpur, Bhangorh-1, Jaynagar-I, Jaynagar-II, Kakdwip, Mathurapur-I, Mathurapur-II, Kultali and Jaynagar. The Samity works in the murky villages of around 192 GPs mostly abounding in rivers and highly poverty- stricken.

Vision And Mission

Vision

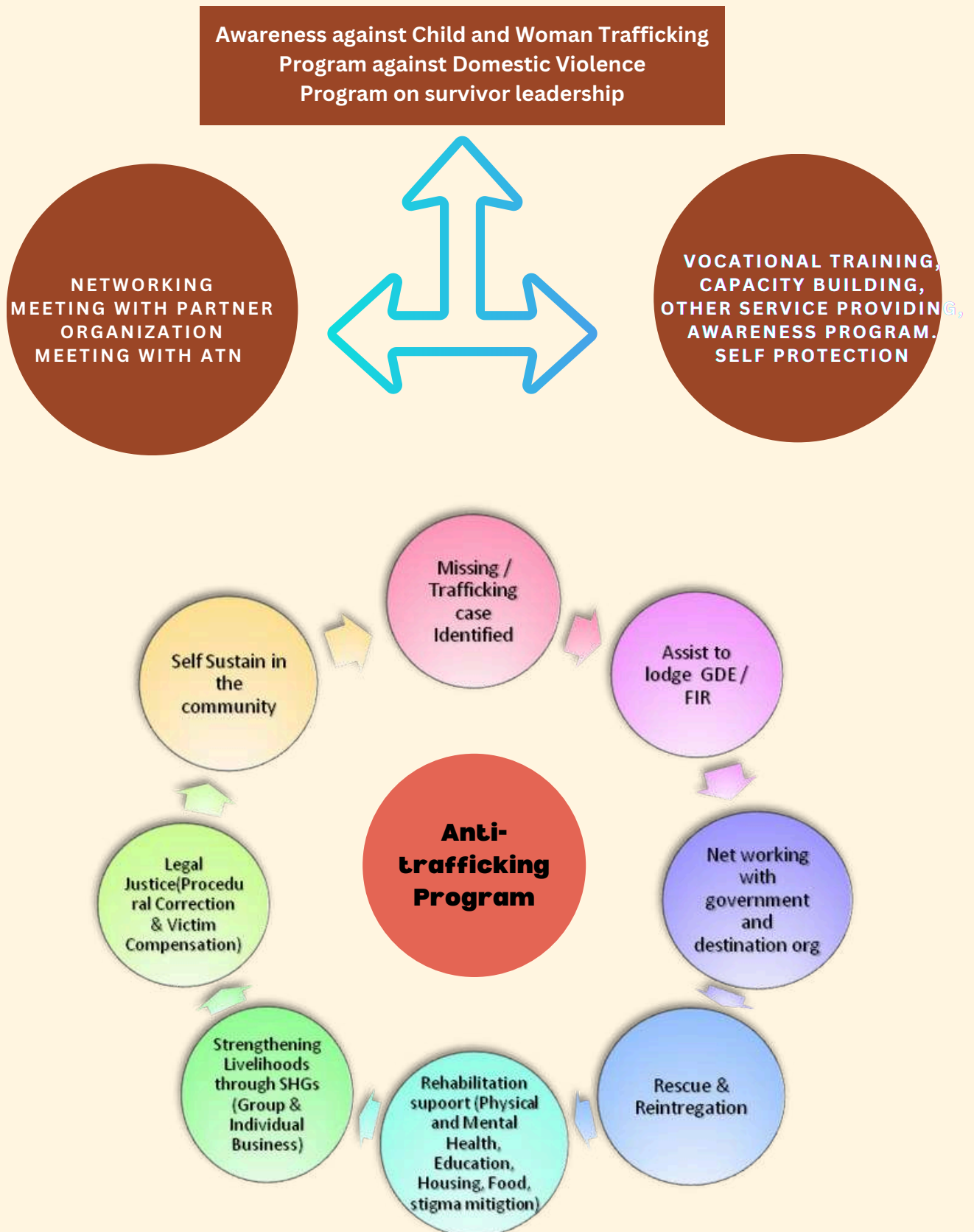
To prevent recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person under the age of 18 for the purpose of exploitation (including prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor and services, slavery or practices similar to slavery) and also to build a society where woman and children can flourish without any violence and discrimination.

Mission

To provide opportunities to trafficked and other survivors of Sundarban for their overall social and economic development.



BBSS' STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING CHILD AND WOMEN TRAFFICKING



PREVENTION OF CHILD AND WOMEN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, SUNDARBON

11

Rescued

5

Missing

8

GDE

15

TOTAL TRAFFICKING CASES

7

FIR

In south 24 Parganas, the trafficking rates are very high and especially in Sundarban the rates are increasing day by day. The main reasons behind Trafficking are - Poverty, Drop Out, usage of social media, early marriage, unsafe migration, Lack of meaningful Livelihood options, Lack of awareness about trafficking, Gender violence etc. In Sundarban the peoples are not socio-economically empowered so when an unfamiliar person offers some lucrative job offers towards the families for their children or promises to marry their daughter for her better future then the family easily believe them without understanding their intention behind it.

In **2023-2024** BBSS handled 15 trafficking cases in south 24 Parganas, especially in Sundarban and adjoining blocks of Canning-I, Canning-II, Basanti, Baruipur, Kultali, Bhangore, and Lakshmikantapur. Most of the time BBSS are sourcing the cases from Government stakeholders (Police, BDO, Panchayet), existing survivors, peer groups, community stakeholders, CWC, AHTU, Rescue foundation, etc. With the support of CWC, police, and the Mission Mukti Foundation and rescue foundation, the victim has been rescued and bring her back home.

PROGRAMS AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND STIGMA



- **COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPS:** BBSS ORGANIZES AWARENESS CAMPS IN TRAFFICKING-PRONE VILLAGES, EFFECTIVELY RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF TRAFFICKING AMONG VILLAGERS. THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE, WITH COMMUNITIES APPRECIATING THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN SUCH CRITICAL DISCUSSIONS.
- **FORMATION OF ICON SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP GROUP:** WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP GROUP COMPRISING 16 ADOLESCENT GIRLS, KNOWN AS ICON, TO LEAD OUR ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES. THEY PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN RAISING AWARENESS, ASSISTING VICTIM FAMILIES WITH REINTEGRATION, AND PROVIDING CRUCIAL SUPPORT TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN VULNERABLE VILLAGES.
- **SURVIVOR-LED LEADERSHIP:** OUR SURVIVORS ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGING IN LEADERSHIP ROLES WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE VILLAGES, SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES AND MOTIVATING OTHER ADOLESCENT GIRLS TO BECOME ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE IN THEIR OWN LIVES. THEY PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS, INCLUDING PROMPTLY REPORTING MISSING GIRLS TO AUTHORITIES.

98

Total Awareness camps

3900

Total People Reached

PROGRAM AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a violence or other abuse that occurs in a domestic setting, such as in a marriage or cohabitation. Domestic violence is often used as a synonym for intimate partner violence which is committed by one of the people in an intimate relationship against the other person and can take place in relationships or between former spouses or partners.

To combat the same we are doing family counseling of both parties and trying to find out the best possible solution where both parties are agreed.

Impact

97

Total Domestic
Violence Cases
Registered

51

Mutually
Settlement

17

Intervention towards
Legal Aid through
DLSA



SURVIVOR CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mental Health

We have counseled almost **55 survivors** of trafficking, and domestic violence at Canning SD Hospital, and Basanti block hospital in South 24 Parganas currently 15 survivors are undergoing treatment at Canning SD Hospital and Basanti block hospital and they are also receiving free medicines from the hospital.

Physical Health

34 survivors' was facing issues of various diseases like skin, gynecological, physical health treatment has been successfully done before Canning SD hospital and Basanti block hospital under Canning Subdivision in South 24 Parganas.

Education

We are supporting in **22 survivors** education. They are re-admitted them in school and they are pursuing their further study. For minor cases, we are applying before DSWO, South 24 parganas for providing stipend of Rs. 4000/- monthly to the needy girls under CNCP scheme.

GR, Tarpaulin, Housing, Sanitation, and other services

Survivors are availing the services on their own from Panchayet, BDO, Panchayet Samity, and SDO. If they face any difficulties then social workers are assisting them for getting the same.



STORIES OF CHANGE

1

Rekha Khatun (Name Changed) share her incredible change story

Rekha Khatun, a 17-year-old from Bhangore, faced trauma and depression after being trafficked. Her family, led by her father, a daily laborer, couldn't support her, leaving her isolated. However, BBSS intervened, providing mental health treatment, family counseling, and community awareness campaigns. Rekha joined ICON survivor groups and re-enrolled at Bodra Balika Bidyalaya, focusing on her studies. Leadership programs empowered her, and her family's acceptance grew. Now stable, Rekha advocates against trafficking, facilitates adolescent groups, and accesses government services. With resilience and community support, Rekha overcame adversity, reducing stigma and finding peace.

3

Change Story of Sujata (Name Changed)

Sujata, from a poor family, was trafficked to Bihar at 16. Rescued by police and BBSS, she returned home and married Ziarul Tarafdar, but still faced poverty. Inspired by meeting other trafficking survivors at BBSS, she joined Muktangana SHG in 2021. With a Rs. 10,000 loan, she started a grocery business. Now earning Rs. 400-500 daily, she bought a freezer to expand her offerings. Financially independent, she hired a tutor to resume her education. Supported by her family, Murshida has four children and lives peacefully, regaining respect and stability in her community.

2

Story of Rupa (Name Changed)

Rupa, from a poor family, was trafficked to Islampur in 2019. After escaping two years later, she returned home pregnant and faced severe depression, stigma, and family abuse. With the help of a CBO social worker, she received mental health counseling and joined Muktangana SHG. Awareness camps and family counseling were conducted to reduce stigma. After three months, she stabilized mentally and joined the ICON group for support. Financially struggling, she trained at Swabhimaan Tailoring Unit and now earns Rs. 4000-5000 monthly. In November 2023, DLSA awarded her Rs. 80,000, but she is appealing for more compensation. Now an ICON Leader, she fights for survivors' rights and works to prevent trafficking, early marriage, and domestic violence in her village.

4

Change Story of Anjali (Name Changed)

Anjali (Name Changed), a 17-year-old girl from a very poor family, father Iliyaj Mondal is a daily labor by profession and mother Achiya Mondal is home maker residing at Balbali Laskar Para under the Baruipur block. After returning home from trafficking she had faced lots of stigma from her relatives and neighbours. She was in trauma and many mental health issues like anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts. After that, BBSS, a Community-Based Organization (CBO) met with Rubina and her family, carefully documenting her case history. Rubina began receiving mental health treatment and counselling at Canning Sub-Divisional Hospital. Through six month of consistent counselling sessions, her mental health gradually stabilized. To reduce stigma family counselling has been done as well as awareness camps has been organized about awareness on social stigma. As her condition improved, Rubina started engaging with Duty Bearers (DBs) to access government services alongside other survivors. BBSS motivated Rubina and her family to engage with jori work at her home as she has no interest in studies at all. Today, Rubina Mondal is mentally stable and actively participating in regular training sessions provided by BBSS.

LEGAL

SUPPORT TOWARDS TRAFFICKED SURVIVORS

Procedural Correction- Justice



- Total 27 cases through Alipore and district courts, west bengal.

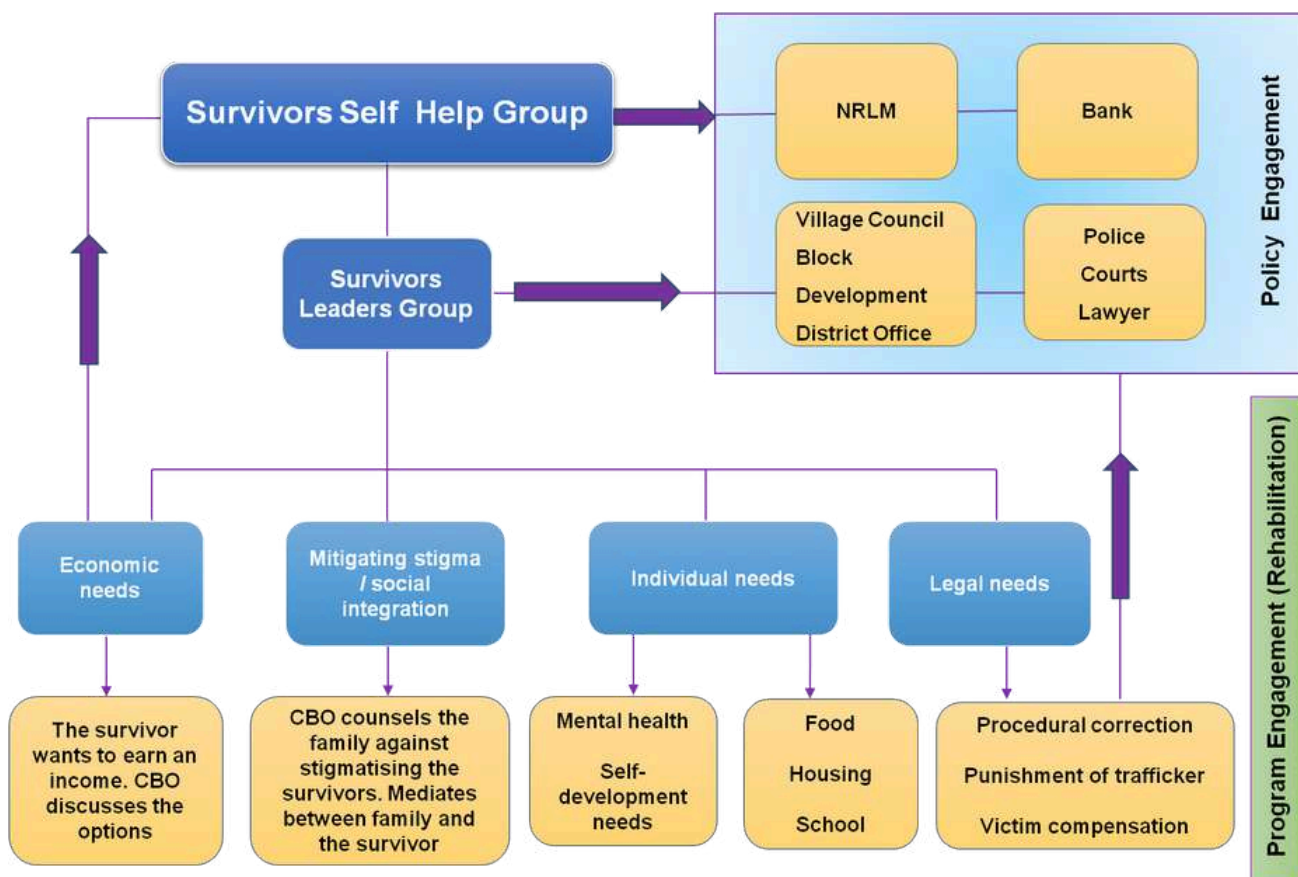
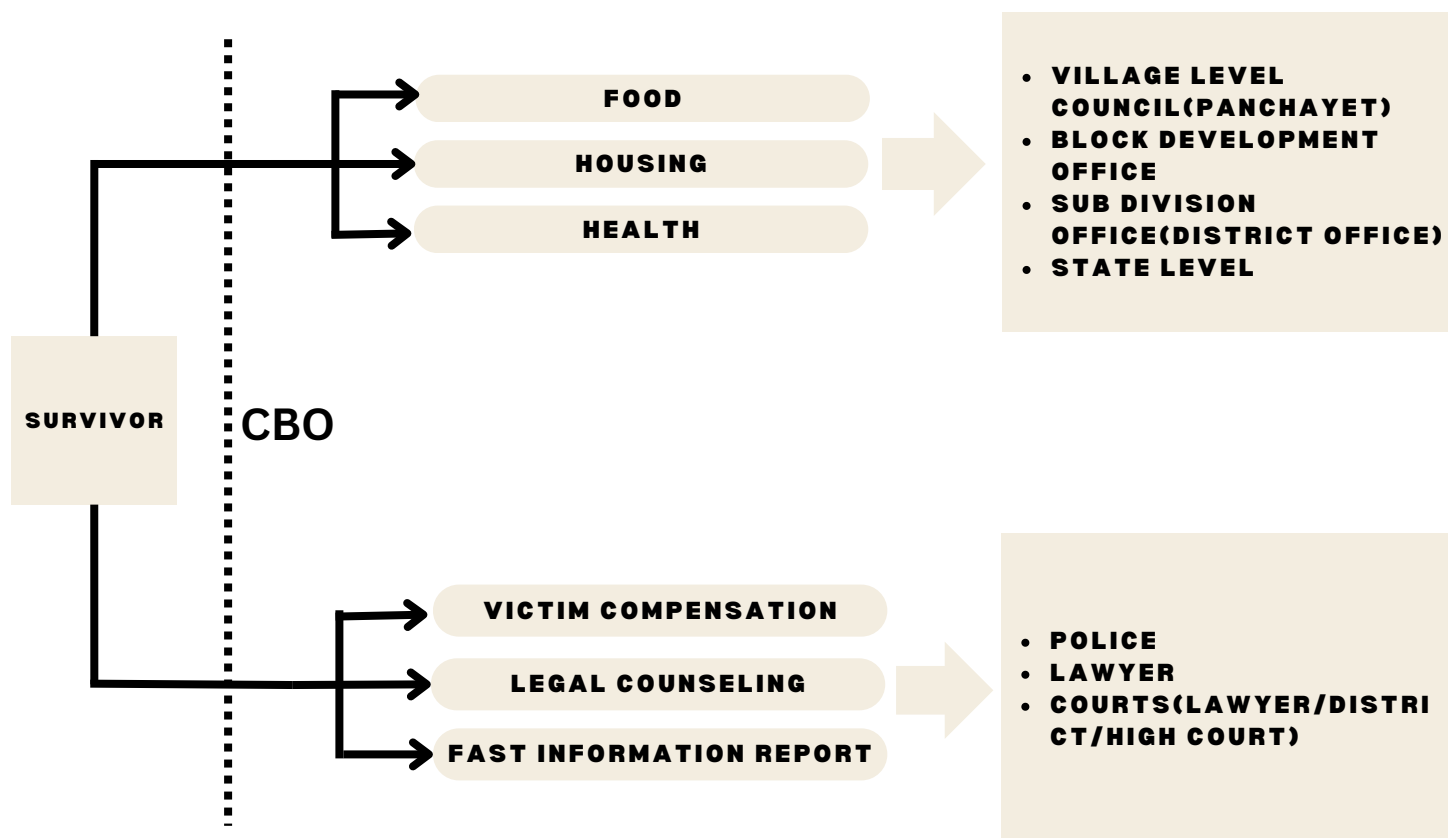
Victim Compensation



- Total VC filed is 23 before DLSA and SLSA
- Total VC amounting of Rs. 16 lakh credited towards 5 survivors
- 18 survivors VC amount are at the processing stage



SURVIVOR POLICY INTERACTION



Survivor Leadership Program

ICON

"A survivor leadership group consisting of 16 survivor leaders supporting in survivor rehabilitation and combatting trafficking, social stigma and early marriage"



Activities of ICON

Organizing awareness camps at trafficking-prone villages for combatting child and women trafficking, social stigma and early marriage.

Doing family counseling of stigmatized survivors for preventing stigma.

Assisting other survivors in getting rehabilitation services

Advocacy/Escalation to the government

Tri-Party case management meeting with government duty bearers about survivors' livelihood, legal, and other rehabilitation services.

Formation of VLCPC committee in Panchayets and participating in the monthly meeting.



Impact shots

62

Total Awareness
Camp
Conducted

24

Family counseling
done of
Stigmatized
survivors

24

Family counseling
done of
Stigmatized
survivors

Survivor Livelihood Program

With the support of TATA AIG, at present 52 trafficked survivors and other vulnerable girls are doing tailoring work at Swabhimaan tailoring unit. The survivors are vulnerable, their family belongs below the poverty line and they are not socio-economically empowered. Tailoring is a very good livelihood option and through tailoring work like making frocks, shirts, Kurti, Nighty, pants, etc. they will be able to generate a good amount of money and it will meet their family's day-to-day needs.

65

Total Survivor Engaged

2150

Total People benefited from this



SWABHIMAAN

A step towards self dignity

Swabhimaan tailoring unit was started in Mar 2021 with 40 trafficked and other vulnerable survivors. The main objective of the Swabhimaan was to empower the trafficked and vulnerable girls/women socio-economically so that they can strengthen their livelihood as well and trafficking will be reduced. Two Tailoring units were started under Canning-I and Basanti block. After that, more vulnerable needy women joined the unit as trainees. At present, 65 trainees are engaged with Swabhimaan, making Designer Nighty, Kurty, Frock, and Shirts. Among them, 23 girls are doing tailoring work from their homes and earning amounts of Rs. 3500 to 4500.

By the support of TATA AIG, we are trying to make swabhimaan a brand from the last 2 years but as per research a minimum 5 years time period is required to make any product a brand. We also hope that in the upcoming 2 years we take Swabhimaan in the next level and create its brand value with Tata AIG's association. so that more number people can connect with it as a brand. As a result more vulnerable will find a meaningful livelihood option for them and their family members as well.



Impact shots

65

Girls are engaged in meaningful livelihood

300

Peoples have been benefited indirectly

46

Survivors included in SHGs

STORIES OF CHANGE (Swabhimaan)

1

Payel Das (Name Changed) share her incredible change story

I belong to a very poor family, my father is a daily laborer by profession and my mother is a housewife. I grew up with many deprivations and hardships from my childhood. After passing the Madyamik exam I gave up my studies due to family's financial constraints. Then I feel very depressed when I think about what I will do in my life. After that, I contacted BBSS and they informed me about SWABHIMAAN. Then I joined Swabhimaan as a trainee and learned tailoring work from the trainer. 1.5 year have been passed I working at Swabhimaan and earning Rs. 3500/- per month.

3

Rukmina Khatun (Name Changed) share her story

I am a trafficked survivor and I am living in the Delta areas of Sundarban. My family's financial condition is very poor. After returning home from trafficking I used to feel depressed and anxious. After 6 months I became stable and normal after so many mental health counseling sessions. Then I contacted BBSS and my rehabilitation journey started from there. Then I started tailoring work at Swabhimaan and after 9 months I completely learn the work. On behalf of BBSS, I have been given a Tailoring Machine. At, present I am working from my home and earning good money.

2

Sathi Biswas (Name Changed) share her story

Myself is Sathi Biswas and I am 29 years old. My father is a daily laborer by profession and my mother is a homemaker. Living at Amtala village under Canning-I block. Due to my family's financial condition, I gave up my study when I was in 8th standard. After that, I got married at the age of 16 forcefully. After giving birth to 2 children, my husband used to start an affair with someone else. After some days my husband left home leaving me and the kids behind. Then I feel very depressed about how I will meet my and my children's day-to-day needs. After that, one day I came to know about BBSS and I contacted them. Secretary of BBSS Amina Khatun Laskar informed that they are running a Tailoring Unit named Swabhimaan. At this unit, girls are making Nighty, Kurti, Frock, and Trouser, etc. Then I used to collect Nighty from there and sell the same in my village. At present, I am selling 65-75 nighty's per month and able to make a profit of Rs. 3000/- monthly. Through earning, I am meeting my children's basic needs to some extent.

4

Rupama Laskar (Name Changed) shared her life changing story

Myself is Rupama Laskar and I am 25 years old. Due to poor financial conditions, I gave up my studies at a very early age. I live in the delta areas of Sundarban and in our area work opportunity is very less. After covid my father became jobless. My father is the only earning member of my family After that, we have been facing a lot of hardships and I was feeling very depressed. Suddenly, one day we came to know about Swabhimaan from one of my friends who was working there. Then we joined there as a trainee and from last 11 months I have been working here and earning Rs. 4000/- monthly.

Survivor self-help group

Survivors face many problems due to risky living in their family and society; they do not have their own house, no clothes, no food, no income, no idea about their rights, and no ability to work so their dreams are not fulfilled. In that case, empowerment is needed; BBSS believes that survivors can achieve it through hard work and patience. We have set up 3 SHGs so that the survivors can make themselves self-reliant by doing individual and group businesses.

Similarly, in 3 blocks of the Canning sub-division, 4 self-help groups have been formed under Canning 1, Canning-2, and Basanti block viz. Swabhumi, Matribhumi, Muktangana, and Mohini SHG with 56 trafficked Survivors and other vulnerable girls. They are saving money every month, doing meetings on a regular basis. They are solving their problems through discussion, and planning to do group business for making themselves self-reliant. They will become self-reliant and also show the way to others.

Impact shots



At present BBSS is working upon 4 survivors SHGs under Canning sub division-

I) SWABHUMI, Canning-I block (10 members)

II) Matribhumi, Basanti block (13 members)

III) Muktangana, Canning-II block (13 members)

IV) Mohini, Basanti block (10 members)

4

**SHGs formed
under Canning
Sub Division**

46

**Survivors
included in
SHGs**

24

**Survivors are
earning their
livelihood by
doing business**

Capacity building training of SHGs

Participants-

4 SHGs consisting of trafficked survivors and vulnerable womens under Canning-I, Canning-II, and Basanti block in South 24 Parganas viz. Swabhumi, Matribhumi, Muktangana and Mohini

Core Activities-

- I) 5 Golden Rules (Panchasutra) of a SHG.
- II) The Concept of Self-Help Group.
- III) Management and Financial Norms of SHG
- IV) Bookkeeping for an SHG- Need and Importance
 - a) Why is bookkeeping is required for a self-help group?
 - b) Concept of having a bookkeeper in SHG
- V) Significance of SHG monthly meeting
- VI) Importance of Group Bonding in SHG

**Total 38 SHG
members got
trained
through the
Capacity
building
training**



Intervention Towards Livelihood

14

JORI WORK

17

STATIONARY

19

FISHERY

21

GOATRY

11

FRUIT
SELLING

07

KITCHEN
GARDEN

05

GROCERY
SHOP

17

POULTRY



Step towards sustainable environment

BBSS, a grassroots community-based organization (CBO) working to prevent human trafficking in the Sundarban region, has launched a tree plantation initiative as a step towards a sustainable environment. This effort aims to restore the region's natural ecosystem, which is frequently impacted by cyclones and environmental degradation. By planting trees, BBSS not only contributes to reducing carbon footprints but also helps protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change. The initiative fosters environmental awareness and resilience among local populations, aligning with BBSS's mission to create safer, healthier living conditions while empowering survivors and vulnerable groups in Sundarban.



Impact shots

339

Total Tree
Planted

391

Total adolescents
engaged in the
group

3

blocks under
Canning Sub
Division, South 24
Parganas

Adolescent Group Facilitation led by survivor leaders



By the support of Azim Premji Foundation, We are forming Adolescent groups in villages in south 24 Parganas. In every group, 10 to 13 survivors and other vulnerable girls are there. They are working for preventing child and women trafficking, early marriage, and social stigma. If any child marriage and other incidents will happen in their villages then immediately they inform the BBSS office to prevent the same.

6 Adolescent groups have been formed under Canning-I, Canning-II, and Basanti blocks. ICON leaders are coordinating with the group members and take monthly updates from the group members. By forming adolescent groups a network will be build in every villages so as a result we can trace the trafficking, early marriage and social stigma cases.



Impact shots

39

Total Group Formed

391

Total adolescents engaged in the group

3

blocks under Canning Sub Division, South 24 Parganas

Safe Village Program

Human Trafficking is a heinous crime in our society and preventing trafficking awareness among the people is the primary key objective. Preventing trafficking is impossible if we do not educate the families and villages that traffickers are targeting. In India, most families have no idea that their girls are being taken and sold into sexual exploitation. The family gets easily tempted by unknown persons by some lucrative job offer, fake marriage proposal and etc.

In association with my choice foundation, we are organizing awareness programs in schools and villages of trafficking-prone areas for the prevention of trafficking, child marriage, Social Stigma, and Drop Out. The objective of the program is to see families become the focus of prevention and transformation of the most pervasive and intractable forms of violence against women and girls-early marriage and human trafficking. Save village program is conducting in trafficking prone villages to raise awareness among the peoples towards child and women trafficking, early marriage, and domestic violence.

Besides that, we are also conducting awareness programs at junior high schools, high schools and Madrasa's for raising awareness among adolescents about trafficking and early marriage.

177

Total safe village program conducted

109098

Total Numbers of peoples reached



TRAINING of Master Trainer

Venue- Mirch Mashala; Gariahat, Kolkata

Sub- One-day Training on Basic Training Skills and Role of Trainer

Participants- 16 on behalf of Sanjog, BBSS and PAT

Facilitator- Dr. Ashis Kumar Das, Consultant Training and Development

I. Training Objective- Enabling the participants to conceptualize, managing, and conducting training.

II. Learning Objectives:

At the end of training participants will be able to:

- explain basic training skills.
- relook and explore training abilities and strength through training session demonstration.

General observations

- A conducive learning environment was created by giving positive feedback along with very minimal feedback on the areas that needs further improvement.
- All the participants shared their views and feedback to each other to improve the training skills.
- Repetitive discussion and feedback on basic skills of training like voice modulation, session methods, timing, interaction with participants, managing questions from participants, overall presentation skills, selection of topic, cooperation with co-trainer, content delivery method, and self evaluation will help the participants to be conscious during conducting session.



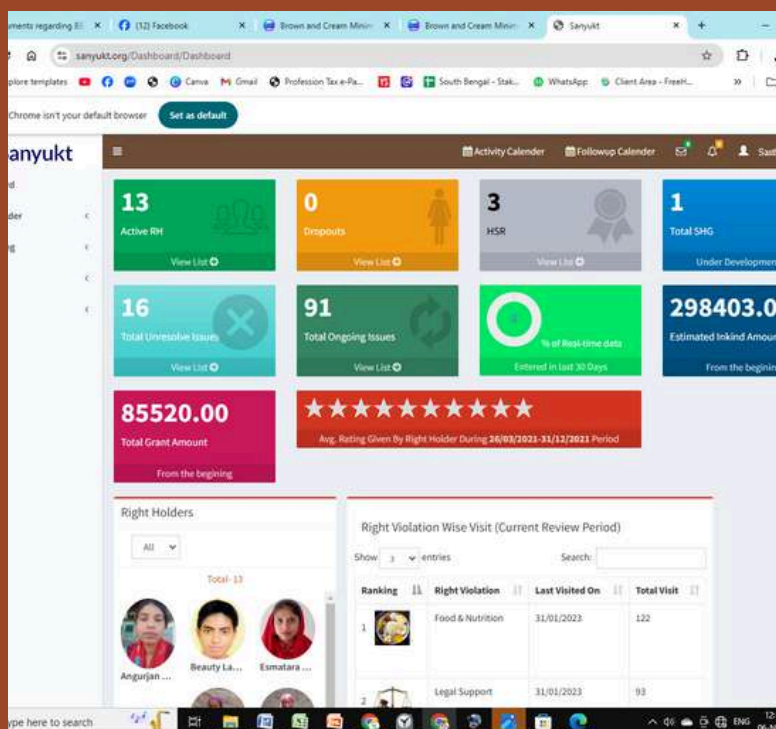
MIS & TECHNOLOGY

Sanyukt MIS (Management Information System)

MIS stands for Management Information System that means through MIS application an organization can store the data of their day-to-day activity. After a month the organization can evaluate their activity of the whole month through the MIS.

Kolkata Sanjog Initiatives a social impact organization in Kolkata has developed an MIS system called Sanyukt and BBSS is working with Sanjog as a partner on the rehabilitation of trafficked survivors in south 24 Parganas.

At this time 4 social workers of BBSS are using the Sanyukt app on smartphones provided to them to manage data relating to case management and rehabilitation of 33 survivors. The social workers are getting MIS training on a regular basis so that they will be equipped with more knowledge about MIS and make hassle-free entries.



CBR & MIS system sharing with Duty Bearers



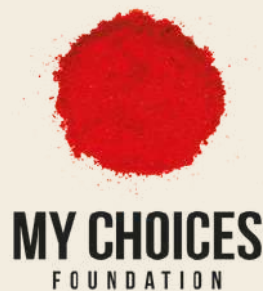
Workshop done at 5 GPs under Canning Subdivision regarding presenting CBR and MIS to PRI DBs. Specially, GP Pradhan and Secretary expressed their admiration for the MIS, its utility. They further indicated their intention to convene a meeting with their board to explore the development of a similar system tailored to their needs.



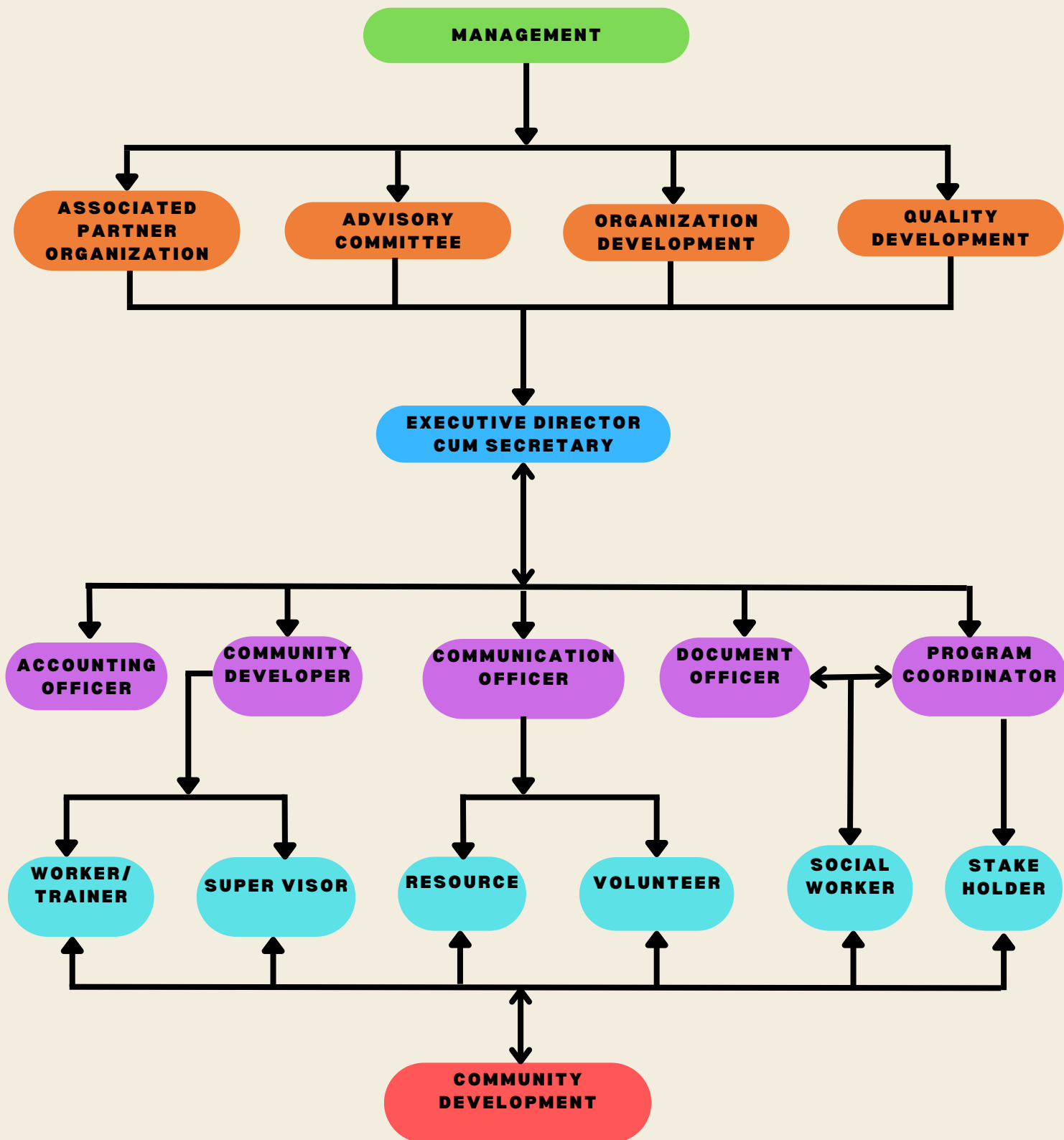
Networking Meeting with Stake Holders and CBOs



Partners in Solidarity



Structure of Organization





Thanks for all your Support



**C/o. Amina Khatun Laskar, Canning Cinema Hall Road,
Canning Town, South 24 Parganas**



7001751578 / 9733809985



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