



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021- 2022

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MEMBER OF CTCN (CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE & NETWORK)



&

CANSA (CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SOUTH ASIA)



ISO 9001-2015 CERTIFIED & A REGISTERED NGO UNDER NITI AAYOG,  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE, GOVT. OF INDIA

## MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT

In 2020, the World took a complete turn as Covid-19 hit across the world taking lives of crores and devastating the lives, economy, healthcare as well as education field. In short, nothing was left unaffected, and no one could stay completely safe from the impacts. And the situation only turned worse by 2021 as the aftermaths continued. Crores of people losing their livelihood and lives of family members and relatives made the world vulnerable. However, vaccine came as a boon with a hope to get rid of the pandemic in the coming months.

All plans, set goals and finances were jeopardized. The organizations like us were also awestruck to take any action in such situation. Everyone was feeling the wrath and pain and yet was trying to come forward and help each other but with Covid restrictions, the opportunities and resources were also limited. However, like last years, the goodwill continued to find its way and many well-wishers came forward to support.

SEED along with its well wishers and funding organizations continued to serve the community within limited resources. Apart from regular education, health, and livelihood support, it continued the plantation programmes to reduce the Climate wraths and balance the environment. Life Skill training programmes, supporting disaster victims and Maintaining Quarantine Centre at Kolkata Police Training academy was among the major activities of this year.

Prof. Jyotiranjana Naskar  
President, SEED

## HISTORIAL BACKGROUND

A group of renowned professionals, belonging to almost all strata of the society in Kolkata, West Bengal inspired by some social celebrities started with some relief works in remote rural areas of South 24 Parganas and Sundarbans, in association with different local administrative bodies in 1995. After the success of their efforts, they decided to form an organization named "Naktala Centre for Socio-Economic Reform and Environmental Conservation" that will work for people, with the people and by the people. Developmental consultants and renowned social workers joined hands and thus the organisation was registered in 1996 under the West Bengal Society Registration Act 1961. The organization was later renamed SEED (Society for Socio Economic and Ecological Development). Thus, the organization started working for the vulnerable people to bring about a positive change into their lives.

The organization first started working for the land rights and awareness generation about the entitlements among the Oraon tribe community of South Kolkata. Following this, many other assignments and projects were continued.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEED

SEED (Society for Socio Economic and Ecological Development) is a non-profit grass roots NGO for the development of the peri-urban and remote rural areas of West Bengal. Equality, Education, Empowerment and Environment are the four focus areas of SEED.

The organization developed a platform for various social action programmes to alleviate social and economic problems of the people of different regions of West Bengal especially in the coastal areas of Sundarban and arid regions of Purulia district, Himalayan regions of Kalimpong and Jharkhand. The activities of the organization are mainly into –

- Free Coaching Centre for the poor vulnerable community children
- Women SHG mobilization and Capacity Building of women SHGs
- Women Health (basic preventive care and menstrual hygiene management)
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Skill development training
- Plantation
- Disaster Response
- Plantation
- Renewable Energy

The first significant project of SEED was on 'Environmental awareness mapping programme' in the KMC ward No 100, which was sponsored by 'West Bengal Pollution Control Board' in 1999. The project was accomplished with the maximum involvement of the local people and local CBOs.

The second project was a humble attempt on finding out 'Problems and prospects regarding formation of SHGs (Self Help Groups) among rag pickers in East Kolkata'. This project was sponsored by CARE India, another national level development organization.

The next project in 'East Kolkata Wetland area' was totally self-funded. The aim of the project was to work on the vulnerable communities of the area, support in their development and education. The main purpose was to organize a campaign to declare it as a protected area. It also aimed at biodiversity conservation, wetland conservation and livelihood development.

SEED has carried out various training programmes under various projects for the unemployed youths and women of the underprivileged section sponsored by different State and Central Government agencies like Department of Environment, Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of West Bengal, NABARD, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Central Foot Wear Training Centre, Dept. of Technical Education, Govt. of West Bengal, National Institute of Technical Training and Research, Department of Science & Technology and NES, Government of West Bengal, Nehru Yuba Kendra, the World Bank etc. But so far, SEED has not been empanelled as training institute by state or central government departments and/or bodies.

Apart from the above-mentioned State and Central Government Departments and/or agencies, SEED has also imparted trainings for Care India, Central Board for Workers' Education, Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM), New Delhi, Marine Fishermen Organization, Food & Engineering Department, IIT -Kharagpur, Sagardwip Fishermen Association, Department of Panchayats, Centre for Environment & Education, Ahmedabad, etc.

Since, 2012, SEED has been an implementing organization for the World Bank funded ICZMP (Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project), West Bengal in Sagar Island. Under this project, SEED has been actively working for the livelihood development of the vulnerable poor communities.

SEED is also a privileged member of CANSA (Climate Action Network of South Asia), a global network of Non-Governmental Organizations working to promote government and individual action to limit human induced climate change.

In this year, SEED has formed 500 new SHGs in different blocks of Sundarban and done their bank linkage as well as credit linkage under NABARD supported Bank Linkage programme. They were provided capacity building trainings in different livelihood options like handicraft item preparation, spice making at home, homestead fish cultivation, organic agriculture, horticulture, and aquaculture.

SEED has conducted workshops on Low Carbon Farming in Sagar Island with technical support from IIT, Kharagpur and Climate mobilization rally in Sundarban and Kolkata. Apart from this, plantation programs were conducted under CSR supported activities.

The organization has also been registered with the Implementing Agencies Hub at Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICR) and is a member of CTCN (Climate Technology Center and Network).

SEED has installed sanitary napkin vending machines in few Govt./Govt. sponsored schools of Kolkata and organized awareness generation programmes on menstrual hygiene management and taboos/myths around the issue.

The awareness programmes on menstrual hygiene, taboos, myths, and life skill trainings were provided in different parts of Jharkhand and Odisha.

## ACTIVITIES IN 2021-22

Literacy Promotion Programme in the remote coastal area of Namkhana  
Block of Sundarbans, District South 24 Parganas

Education has been one of the four pillars of SEED since its inception. SEED undertook the mission of bringing back the underprivileged dropout children back to schools since beginning.

This year also, SEED continued its education the literacy promotion programme in the slum areas of Saratpally Joynagar 2 Block and Ashurali village of Diamond Harbour Block 2. Most of the children here are first generation learners from the families of agricultural labours or fishermen.

The purpose of this literacy promotion programme was to bring back the dropout children to schools and to support the poor children who do not get support from families.

A total of 244 children were supported under this programme by providing free coaching by the teachers associated with SEED. Apart from the regular subjects of school curriculum, they were taught about General Knowledge, Current affairs, environmental issues and extra-curricular activities likes sports, dance, debates, recitation etc. The whole programme was funded through crowdfunding resources.

The free education programme for underprivileged children of the remote Ghoramara Island of Sundarban was also continued. SEED is providing free educational support to the children of this climate affected island. The free coaching centre provided education support to 80 students from class VI to Class X.

## Life Skill Development Programme at West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha Supported by Australian High Commission

To use sports as a leveler to give the marginalized and financially weaker communities the confidence to face the world as a level playing field, SEED associated with Australian Rules Football Association of India (ARFAI) funded by Australian High Commission.

This program was also continued to provide life skill education to 2860 marginalized children from three eastern Indian states between the age of 16 to 25 years using sports as a tool. Using sports as the leveller and creating a safe, welcoming environment for the children help them get introduced to Footy and learn best practices in terms of behavior. SEED was entrusted to provide these Life Skill training programme to these youths.

SEED conducted 6 such training programmes in 3 states (West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha) in the ToT (Training of the Trainers) mode.

Life skills facilitate the development of the psychological skills that are required to deal with the demands and challenges of everyday life. They can be physical (e.g., taking the right posture), behavioral (e.g., communicating effectively), or cognitive (e.g., making effective decisions). Life skills are an often-used indicator of positive developmental outcomes understood as competencies that help youth become more capable and thriving individuals and better at making decisions that benefit their health and future.

Teaching athletic skills without life skills sends the wrong message to adolescents. It reinforces the belief that their world can change if they become better athletes. When skills are taught so that the learner understands that the skills are transferable and know how to transfer from one domain to another, the effect can be immensely powerful.



## Objective

- To equip the youths with the social and interpersonal skills that enable them to cope with the demands of everyday life and prepares for successful.
- To inspire them to pursue and achieve attainable goals.
- To utilize their coping skills and react appropriately to life's adversities.
- To install positive morals, values, responsibility and accountability for their actions.
- Developing leadership roles by identifying social identity, communications skills and responsibility.

The Life Skill session for these youth leaders designed as below-

### *Ice breaking session through a coordination game*

The participants had to follow a particular number of claps while walking in a room without colliding with each other. The number of claps and speed of walking was changed throughout the game to check their concentration, coordination, and physical skills.

Following this game, the participants were asked to identify their own strengths and weaknesses throughout the activity. They were asked what the things about themselves that are need changing, accept the thing about themselves that can't change and feel good about themselves with all the flaws. This was practiced finding their ability to identify their own problems and honesty.

They learnt to give and accept compliments to other team members for the good qualities they have, try to improve weakness if they could and if not then concentrate on their strengths. The session also taught them trying not to find fault with others to make themselves look better and not to compare self with others as each of them are unique.

### Goal Setting

For the development of a whole individual, a person needs to have certain skills like making decision and use of all types of information. This session promotes mental well-being for a better choice in young people and equips them to face the realities of life and find personal and professional goal. To start with, they were first involved in a “Hunter Game”. Like a hunter lost in the deep jungle, they had to reach their goal (the hunt, role played by the trainer). But, in the whole process, the trainer will try to divert their attention by clapping. They will be out of the game if the hunt can sense their presence like what happens in jungles. The session aimed at determining and motivating their hard work mentality, patience, dedication, imagination skills, time management and developing knowledge about the hunt (their goal).

### Communication Skills

One of the most important areas of life skills is interpersonal and communication skills. These are the skills that we use to make connections with other people. Unfortunately, there are also many barriers to effective communication in any communication situation. These can lead to misunderstanding or even conflict. This session was to develop these effective communication skills among the participants. This includes-

Dynamics of Communication- Face to face communication, tone of voice, choosing the right words, how to use your eyes, mouth, hands and overall body posture.

For this, an activity of casual gossiping session among two participants was included. All the participants were divided in a team of two. They stood at one feet distance from their partner initially and then the distance was increased and decreased with short time gap. After that, the participants were asked what they observed in their partner while

gossiping and the things that changed with distance and barrier from the sounds of gossiping of others.

The next part was to learn value communication like respecting everyone from a child to an elderly one while communicating. And in the following activity, their eyes were blindfolded and only sensing the claps of each other they were to walk around the room without hurting each other.

### Leadership Development Skills

This session was aimed at identifying and developing leadership qualities among the participants. The participants were divided in 4 groups and they were tied with a rope individually and as a team also. Each group was given equal time to come out opening the knots together. When they successfully completed the task, the trainer asked them the difficulties they faced and how they overcame the same. Each one of them was asked the good qualities of the other member which helped them in the process to come out of the knot. They were asked to identify one leader of their choice mentioning the reason and also nominate themselves for the same giving one reason.

In the next game, half of the members were blindfolded and half rested like audience. Then the trainer patted any one of the blindfolded participants and asked others to identify the person who was chosen by the trainer as their leader. The process was repeated and thus opinion was built.

The purpose of both the activities were to give identify qualities of the participants, giving equal opportunities to each member and also observing the perception of the team about their leader.

### Team Building

This session was about team coordination, keeping faith in the leader and flexibility. Here also, 4 groups were formed and each group was given a ball. They need to keep the ball above the ground for maximum time and

each participant can only use one hand at a time. This activity was conducted to analyze their faith in each other, how they coordinate with team members and do they give preference to the victory of the team or focus more on individual performance. At the end of the game, each participant was asked to identify their own flaws which led to the fall of their ball on the ground finally. Some said they thought the other member will catch the ball, so they didn't, others said that more force was used thus misbalancing the ball, another point came out that one participant didn't give enough chances to other members. So, they were asked to work on these points for a better strong team. The two-day event saw SEED carry out their life skill education session for all the state Youth Leaders and each participant seemed overjoyed with the experience they had over the two days.

#### Eye check-up and treatment camp for 100 patients at Jharkhali Island, Sundarban

Jharkhali Island of Sundarban is one of the remotest islands of the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve with hardly any proper medical facility. They need travel hours to reach nearest Hospital at Namkhana Block for serious issues. So, having an eye specialist is just out of question here! The SEED field staffs noticed a lot of people here have small to severe eye issues, but they could not afford to pay the fees and travel far to the city for availing the treatments.

Considering this, SEED with support from Roshni Eye Foundation organised an Eye check-up and treatment camp for 100 patients at Jharkhali Island, Sundarban. Seven eye-specialists were brought to provide best treatment to these vulnerable coastal people.



### Agriculture fair of Organic produces at Durbachati Village Pathar Pratima Block, Sundarbans

More than 1800 farmers participated with their organic produces in this Agriculture fair organised at Durbachati Village Pathar Pratima Block, Sundarbans from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021. The 2 days fair observed a footfall of more than 10,000 thousand visitors and total turnover was 9 lakhs 65 thousand in this small duration.





## Livelihood support to tiger attack victim families of Jharkhali Island, Sundarban

In Sundarban, every Year, many people die because of tiger attacks when they go for catching crabs, fishing, or collecting honey from forest for their livelihoods. Most of the time, such victims are the sole bread earner of the family, and the families are left with no immediate alternate earning option after the death due to tiger attacks.

In beloved memory of late Barindra Kumar Das, SEED along with his family members, came forward to support 50 such tiger attack victim families and 25 other vulnerable coastal families of Jharkhali Island, Sundarban. Each family was given 10 chicks so that they can start a livelihood of their own as well as get nutrition.





## Installation of Micro Solar Domes among 600 vulnerable coastal SC, ST families of Ghoramara Island

Ghoramara Island is one of the worst affected whenever any cyclone hit in recent years. With mere 5 sq.km area and around 1100 families, the Island lacks basic amenities like electricity, proper communication system and healthcare facilities.

With an aim to make their lives little better with light and energy, SEED has installed Micro Solar Domes among these 600 vulnerable coastal SC, ST families supported by Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, IIT Kharagpur and NBIRT Kolkata





## Plantation programme at Charcharia Fisheries in Bamanghata GP

2000 fruit plants were planted by SEED in association with Bamanghata GP with support from "Impact for Change" and "Continental" at Charcharia Fisheries, Bamanghata in East Kolkata Wetland, popularly known as the Kidney of Kolkata and a Ramsar site.

It is expected to enhance the biodiversity of the area while adding to the nutritional value of the local community and providing little livelihood support.



## Livelihood support to Climate victim families of Ghoramara Island

Climate Victims of Ghoramara Island are struggling for a sustainable livelihood and here SEED with the support of the well-wishers stands beside these coastal communities by giving chicks to these families.





## Plantation programme in Nadia and Sundarban with CSR support from Continental

As part of their 150 years of celebration, Multinational National Company Continental has jointly conducted plantation programme with SEED in their Factory at Kalyani, District Nadia.



## Mangrove plantation in Sundarban

The Amphan Cyclone in 2020 has damaged 1,200 sq km of mangrove forests in the Sunderbans. The speed of the cyclone was drastically reduced by the mangroves thus protecting the communities living around the coastal area to a large extent.

The Sundarbans mangrove ecosystem has become vulnerable due to increasing climate threats, erosion, and deforestation. The inhabitants and biodiversity are at the risk of evasion. It is only reforestation of mangroves that can protect the communities, their livelihood, and the biodiversity from disasters.

To ensure long-term sustainability of the embankments which is spread about 3,000 km, a multi-species dense mangrove community is required to be planted to make the embankment stronger.

Considering this, SEED has started mangrove plantation drive across Sundarban. With support from MNC Continental and other organizations, SEED has planted 18000 mangrove saplings across Sundarban this year.





## Awareness programme on Protection of Biodiversity of Sundarbans

To address the issues related to Climate Change among the Coastal community of Sundarban and East Kolkata wetland area various awareness programmes on protection of surrounding Biodiversity were conducted by SEED.



To fight with climate change effects, sea level rise and stress of cyclones SEED started a mangrove plantation drive in Sundarban. The mangroves which act as the first layer of protection for the vulnerable coastal community of Sundarban were grown in a nursery developed by SEED with support from local SHG women.

Total 10 awareness programmes of one day duration each were conducted with total participants of 750 in association with Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The Bamunghata & Kheadaha 2 GP of East Kolkata wetland area, Jharkhali GP, Nalgora GP, Durbachati GP, Rudranagar GP, Muriganga1 GP, and Ghoramara GP.

## Preparation of Mangrove Nursery at Nafarganj village of Basanti Block

It is not so easy to plant mangroves and grow them healthy. Just sticking the propagules in the mud can have various risks like pest attack and crabs which feed on the cambium layer of the propagules and defoliate newly planted plants.

A nursery is a place where seedlings are raised and handled until they are ready for permanent planting. It is an essential part of reforestation programs and industrial plantations. It can produce healthy planting stocks and subsequently high survival when outplanted.



Larger plants raised in the nursery will assure survival since the barnacles could no longer enclose them. As the plants grow larger in diameter, the barnacles fall off. Mangrove plants are also raised to bigger sizes in the nursery to withstand the inhospitable conditions of denuded or degraded and open coastal environment.

Hence, a Mangrove nursery was prepared at Nafarganj village of Basanti Block of Sundarban in association with the tiger attack victim families of Sundarban to fight the dreaded effects of Climate Change and storm surges.

#### Workshop for Primary School teachers for joyful learning during post Covid time

The Covid-19 pandemic has imposed challenges to the teachers also and many teachers have faced problems while shifting to online classes from classroom teaching during the shift of mode of education.

Most are working harder and more hours than before. Teachers individually and collectively have innovated, inventing new ways of teaching but not possible for many of them.

With an aim to support these hard working and dedicated teachers, SEED in association with “Namkhana Kalpataru Ashram” has conducted a Workshop for 40 Primary School Teachers from 3 Blocks of #Sundarban. During these two days workshop, they were taught about various ways of “Joyful Teaching” so that the students find the online classes more fascinating.





## Distribution of books and plant saplings to underprivileged girl children of Namkhana Block

SEED in association with "Nagerbazar Bandhab Welfare Society" & "Kalpataru Ashram Namkhana" has reached these 80 underprivileged girls of #Namkhana Block with some text books on the subjects of Science and Arts. Lockdown and covid-19 and later #Yaas Cyclone has taken toll on their studies as many mud houses went under water and most of the girls lost their books along with other households. The girls were very happy to have these books in their hands.



Besides this, a brief quiz session was organized among the girls about general knowledge and Environmental topics. The aim was to encourage them in learning new things and create awareness about their surrounding environment. The participants were also given a sapling of fruit and flowering plants so that they feel responsible towards creating their own greenery.



## SEED Bank for Climate resilient paddy seeds in Pathar Pratima Block, Sundarban

Farming is not just a livelihood means for the Farmers, but it is their Life, their way of living! The Cyclone Yaas did not take only livelihoods in Sundarban, but it took away their hopes of life which was mainly based on agriculture. The farming lands were under salt water for few days thus making them barren for immediate farming. So, after losing their only means of livelihood they became hopeless and is living in poverty.



During this situation, SEED came up with a little hope to bring a smile on their faces. The concept was 'Community Participation for Community Benefit'. SEED in association with "Society for Durbachati Social Action & Transformation" along with Durbachati Gram Panchayat and Pathar Pratima Block Agriculture department prepared 5 "COMMUNITY SEED BEDS" of salt tolerant variety of paddy seeds in regular sweet water land. Once the saplings grow up, it will be distributed among 1200 farmers of Pathar Pratima Block for sowing in salt water contaminated lands.



## Distribution of salt tolerant paddy seeds among the cyclone victim farmers of Kakdwip Block, Sundarban

Yaas Cyclone devastated the agricultural fields like last year leaving the farmers of Kakdwip Block in tears! The cultivation fields have been inundated by saltwater making them uncultivable for next few years. Hence SEED comes forward again with a little solution by giving them salt tolerant variety of paddy seeds so that they can continue their only means of livelihood for now.

SEED prepared 5 “COMMUNITY SEED BEDS” of salt tolerant variety of paddy seeds in regular sweet water land with support from local communities so that the farmers can continue their main livelihood of farming even after flooding of their agricultural fields with salt water.



## Free Education centre at Nalgora GP, Sundarban for the underprivileged children

The effect of Covid Pandemic that started in 2020 continued even this year. Apart from loss of lives and livelihood, education sector has been hampered badly. Education acts as the catalyst of Socio-economic improvement of the country and this strong pillar was moved by the lockdown and pandemic. The schools were closed for a long period and online education has become the sole mode to continue education.

However, due to lack of adequate digital infrastructural support, the children of remote areas cannot get regular access to online education facilities. Financial inability and lack of digital literacy among the parents also act as great hindrance. This can lead to increase in dropout rate and child labour among underprivileged communities.

Considering above factors, SEED with the support of Senior Doctor Association started a free Coaching Centre at Nalgora GP, Sundarban, South 24 Parganas district West Bengal for the underprivileged children. The centre is being run maintaining physical distance and safety measures so that their education is not hampered even during this pandemic situation.

579 local students of poor families studying from class VI to XII have been benefitted this year through this centre. The coaching is mainly given for English and Science subjects to enhance their formal education.

#### **Village Health Clinic and Health awareness programmes for rural coastal communities of Sundarban about Covid pandemic**

As several health issues came along Covid pandemic, the situation got complicated in Sundarbans along with across the country. Lockdown and Covid restrictions also made it more challenging. The underprivileged coastal rural communities of Sundarban were not well equipped with information and facilities to deal with this critical health situation.



Last year, with support from Senior Doctor Association from Kolkata, SEED set up a Village Health Clinic at Nalgora village of Joynagar Block 2 for the vulnerable community members of the area. The Doctors organised several health check-up camps maintaining Covid norms for primary health care support especially for covid 19. The service from this Clinic continued this year as the need for the centre continued and rather demand was increased with more awareness among the Migratory laborers, marginal farmers and fishermen community who took benefit from here last year. There were 24300 beneficiaries under this clinic this year.

#### Development of Village Resource Centre in Sundarban & Distribution of sewing machines among underprivileged women of Kultali Block

Covid-19 had multiple level of impact in the lives of communities living in Sundarban. Starting from livelihood, health, education to psychological health, all aspects were affected. To overcome these affects, a holistic approach with overall support was immediate requirement. Considering this, SEED with support from Senior Doctors forum set up a multi-purpose village Resource Centre at Sarat Pally of Joynagar Block 2, Sundarbans, District South 24 Parganas in 2020. The service from the centre continued this year too.

The centre is being utilised as Free coaching centre for poor students, primary healthcare centre as well as training centres for entrepreneurship and livelihood development for local vulnerable community women groups and farmers. This self-sustainable centre is being run by self-generated fund and only nominal fees are collected from beneficiaries whereas students are exempted from any fees.

Sewing machines were distributed among underprivileged women who know about stitching and sewing but do not have machine to make it as a livelihood option.



### Maintaining Quarantine Centre at Kolkata Police Training Academy

During the Covid-19 crisis, everyone came forward with whatever little support they could provide to the affected patients and their families. SEED also tried to stand with its pillars strong.

Initially, SEED took the responsibility of maintaining a Quarantine centre at Kolkata Police Training Academy, supported by Kolkata Police, Govt. of West Bengal. This programme was continued this year also and provided to the 740 affected police personnel apart from providing healthy food.

## Workshop on Sanitation Awareness in Sundarban

Inadequate WASH services can increase the risk of COVID-19 spread, along with other diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis. Post covid brought several health issues and without proper awareness of sanitation and hygiene. Building good personal hygiene habits is one of the best ways to protect from many illnesses such as cold, flu, gastrointestinal infection, and even COVID-19.

In the Sundarbans, the people had to deal with the double burden of COVID-19 and cyclone Amphan. The cascading impact on women's hygiene and safety was reported by residents as restricted access to sanitation services, resulting from infrastructural damage and inundation, compelled some women to resort to open defecation, which was further compounded by movement restrictions imposed due to COVID-19.

People were advised to use protective equipment (e.g., face masks, gloves etc.) to protect against COVID-19 infection, The coastal communities here were mostly unaware about proper waste disposal practices that could help to prevent the COVID-19 transmission at the community level. The increased use of protective equipment like masks and their haphazard disposal created environmental threats. To avoid the infection, it is suggested that take off the wears upon return home, put them in a safe location where they cannot potentially contaminate other things, and wash them. They were advised to properly dispose of used mask, gloves, and tissue in a separate covered bins or bags.

Community toilets are often unhygienic, lack functioning water and ventilation systems, and are not disinfected properly. The use of community toilets often compromised compliance with social distancing protocol. So, they were advised on how the toilets should be properly sanitized after use.



8 workshops were conducted in Jharkahli Island of Sundarban on various issues of sanitation and hygiene that benefited around 2600 beneficiaries and the programme was funded by individuals and crowdfunding.

#### Cloth Distribution in Nafarganj GP of Sundarban before the festive season

A new piece of cloth on the festival of Durga Puja among the Bengali community is not like any other new cloth, it is an emotion associated with all Bengali families! So, to share this happiness with the communities involved with our services, SEED gifted new sarees to these women of Nafarganj GP of Sundarban.



#### Scholarship to underprivileged meritorious girl students of Class XI & XII in Namkhana Block

In memory of their only son, a couple from Kolkata pledged to support underprivileged young children in their studies in association with SEED. Under Debojyoti Memorial Scholarship, scholarships were provided to poor meritorious girl students of Class XI & XII in Namkhana Block.





## Session on Agricultural activities following the Cyclone Yaas in Hingalgang Block, Sundarban

Post pandemic and cyclone affects, the coastal villagers of Sundarban were at a loss about their agricultural activities which suffered a lot. With an aim to properly guide them by understanding the basic needs of the villagers, this session was organised at Mamudpur village of Hingalgang Block of Sundarban. After thorough discussion, interaction and understanding their needs, the agriculture experts suggested various solutions that can be fulfilled with joint effort.



## Distribution of kitchen utensils among the flood victim families of Ghoramara island

Followed by the dreaded Yaas Cyclone, the coastal area victims of Ghoramara Island struggled a lot to get back to their normal lives. Apart from losing livelihood, many families have lost basic amenities like kitchen utensils without which cooking food is a challenge even if they get relief materials.

Hence, considering this as one of the basic needs to start life afresh, SEED in association with Dakshin Kolkata Kal Kushali has distributed basic kitchen utensils for cooking daily foods. Most of them had to borrow utensils from their relatives or neighbours for cooking. The women of the families were very happy and relieved after receiving these utensils and thanked the volunteers for understanding their requirement.





## Distribution of food and other relief materials among cyclone victim families of Ghoramara island

The cyclone Yaas made thousands homeless without proper food and livelihood. In this critical situation, the first necessity was to provide them basic needs like food, shelter and medicine.

SEED with support from several well-wishers, came forward to provide initial reliefs like tarpaulin, food items such as biscuits, rice, potato, salt, oil, Daal, Soyabean, Turmeric Powder, Bleaching Powder, Lime, Soaps, Masks, ORS and Torch light as there was no power.

Besides this, cooked food was provided in initial days as the victims were not in a situation to cook immediately.





## Cleaning of contaminated ponds of Ghoramara island due to Yaas cyclone

Cyclone Amphan has left many villages in the Sundarbans inundated with salt water from the sea that has contaminated drinking water sources. The cyclone destroyed dozens of pipelines that used to supply drinking water to the islands surrounded by rivers fed with saline tidal water from the sea. Salt water from these rivers has gushed into the villages through breaches in the embankments filling up the sweet water ponds and hundreds of tube wells.

Ponds needed to be drained and treated with chemicals before they can become freshwater reservoirs again. The volunteers of SEED with support from local community members stepped in to clean these ponds of Ghormara Island, Sundarban.

The aim was to provide clean water to the families as soon as possible for cleaning utensils, washing clothes, taking bath and other household chores.





### Distribution of free sanitary pads and basic medicines among the cyclone victims of Ghoramara island

The Nation-wide lockdown has taken toll on the menstrual hygiene of poor coastal rural women. Disrupted supply of raw materials for preparing affordable sanitary pads has forced to keep them shut. Due to remoteness of the Ghoramara Island, Sundarban, many could not even reach the island even if they wished to.



A great shortage of affordable sanitary napkins across the country is forcing many women to adopt the old unhygienic methods of managing their monthly period. To make this basic hygienic need accessible to adolescent girls and women, SEED came forward to distribute sanitary pads and basic medicines to adolescent girls and women to provide them a hygienic menstruation.

#### Livelihood training for the coastal community women of Sundarban

Followed by Covid-19 and Yaas Cyclone, many families became jobless including the women of the house who also used to work in the agricultural fields. All of them needed an alternate livelihood option that could be practised from home with easily available resources and cost-effective raw materials.



With an aim to empower the local village women with alternative livelihood options, SEED organized a workshop on Home Baking techniques with minimum available resources. Bori making is another skill that were taught to these women as most of them were already practising it but without professional skills and knowledge.

They were taught how it can be properly stored and packed for long duration and better taste.

The programme was organized keeping all safety norms!



