USAID's ESHO SHIKHI PROJECT

Bangladesh has made great strides in primary education, particularly in increasing access to primary education and promoting gender equality within education systems. More than 16 million students are enrolled in Government primary schools from Grade 1 to Grade 5, with a net enrollment rate of 97.42% (97.44% girls and 97.39% boys)[1]. The Government of Bangladesh's National Education Policy 2010 has one major objective 'teach the Bangla language with correct pronunciation and in a standardized way to students'. Learning Bangla is also crucial to understanding other lessons properly, which are delivered in Bangla, the mother tongue and official language of the country.

ESHO SHIKHI PROJECT

USAID's Esho Shikhi Project (Esho Shikhi), in partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) and through the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), is supporting the implementation of the country's Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP4)[2]. Esho Shikhi project focuses on developing the capacity of government primary school teachers to teach Bangla literacy. USAID/Bangladesh is providing

> Esho Shikhi will impact an estimated **2.3** million early-grade students in learning **Bangla** as independent readers

assistance to PEDP4 through technical support to Esho Shikhi led by Winrock International with its two consortium partners.

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of Esho Shikhi is to improve Bangla reading skills of Grade 1 and Grade 2 students to develop them as independent readers. Esho Shikhi works to increase learning opportunities, improve quality education, and build the capacity of communities to support education and respond to disasters.

MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

Esho Shikhi is fully integrated with the national-education system, and is working through national, district, and upazila level government stakeholders. The project is strengthening the professional capacity of teachers for taking various initiatives to develop early- grade students as independent readers in reading Bangla following the national curriculum.

The project targets four result areas:

1) Learning Opportunities Increased

2) Enhanced Teaching Quality and Teaching Learning Materials to Improve Quality of Education in Selected Subject (Bangla)

3) Capacity of Field Level Mentors Strengthened to Deliver Quality Education

4) School Communities' Ability to Mitigate and Manage the Effects of Shocks and Stressors on Education Access and Quality Improved.

[1] Annual Primary School Census (APSC) 2021
[2] PEDP4- aims to provide quality primary education for all Bangladeshi children from pre-primary to grade 5 through an inclusive and equitable education system

These result areas will contribute to selected sub-components of the Government of Bangladesh's PEDP4 that include:

- 1.2 Textbooks and Teaching- learning Materials
- 1.4 Teacher Education
- 1.5 Continuous Professional Development
- 1.6 Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) in Education
- 2.7 Education in Emergencies and
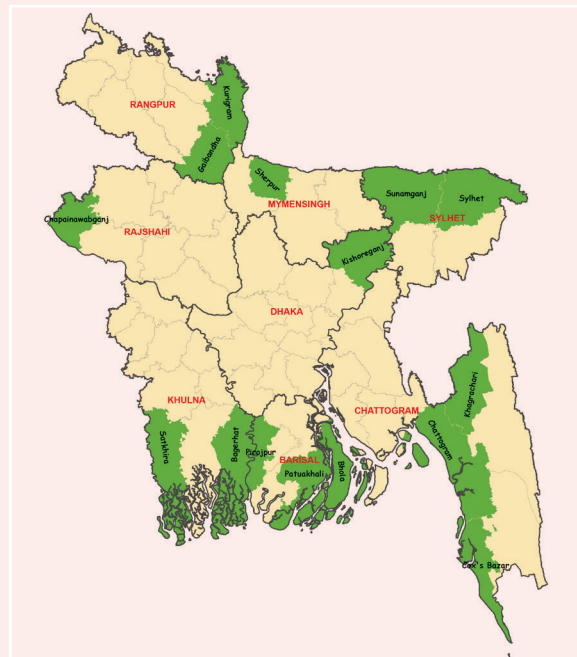- 2.8 Communication and Social Mobilization.

The project will also engage parents, communities, Parent and Teacher Associations (PTAs) and School Management Committees (SMCs) to strengthen support for Bangla reading skills.

Various initiatives of Esho Shikhi including curriculum development, teacher training and community engagement will impact an estimated 2.3 million children in Government Primary Schools to develop their skills in learning Bangla literacy and attaining quality education.

ESHO SHIKHI AT A GLANCE

Esho Shikhi provides support to 10,048 schools under 81 upazilas of 15 districts covering 8 divisions.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

DIVISION NAMES	DISTRICT NAMES
Barishal	Bhola, Patuakhali, Pirojpur
Chattogram	Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Khagrachari
Dhaka	Kishoreganj
Mymensingh	Sherpur
Khulna	Bagerhat, Satkhira
Rajshahi	Chapainawabganj
Rangpur	Gaibandha, Kurigram
Sylhet	Sunamganj, Sylhet

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT (ANTICIPATED)

Schools	**10,048**
Students	**2,300,000**
Nation-wide master trainers trained	**2,048**
Teachers trained	**30,000**

(Head teachers: 10,048 & Bangla subject-based teachers: 20,000)