

Profile of



LEDARS

Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society

Head Office:

Village: Munshigonj, Post Office: Kadamtala,

Upazila: Shyamnagar, District: Satkhira, Post Code: 9455,
Bangladesh.

Telephone: +88-01713 462821, +88 01712 030338

E-mail: mohongus@yahoo.com, ledars_bd@yahoo.com

www.ledars.org



1. Full Legal Name: Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS)

2. Address:

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3. Branch Office: Horitola Road, Nakipur, Shyamnagar, Satkhira

4. Contact parson: Mohon Kumar Mondal, Executive Director

5. Date of establishment: 1 January, 1996

6. Bank Information: Bangladesh Krishi Bank. Shyamnagar Upazila Branch, Satkhira, Bangladesh.

Account No. SB 508,

7. Legal Status:

SI no	Authority	Reg. No	Date
01	Social Welfare Department	Sat- 241	11. 05. 1999
02	NGO Affairs Bureau	2477	2 September 2009

8. STAFF STRENGTH

Currently the organisation has 16 fulltime paid staff and a lot of volunteers to run its programme activities. The table below gives the present status of the staff members of the organisation.

SI. no	Position	Male	Female	Total
1	Managerial level	5	2	7
2	Field level	6	4	10
3	Volunteers	18	8	26
	Total	29	14	43

9. Working Area:

SI. no	District	Upazila
1	Satkhira	Shyamnagar, Kaloroa and Debhata
2	Khulna	Koyra and Khulna municipality
3	Jessore	Keshobpur, Sarsa

10. Evolution OF LEDARS

Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS), is a non-profit and non-political organization that has been working for social, economical and environmental development of the poor and marginal people of the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh since 1996. The previous name of LEDARS was Gana Unnayan Shangstha (GUS). The name has been changed in 2007 to address the government regulation and to avoid the duplication of name in the NGO Affairs Bureau. When unplanned shrimp cultivation, river erosion and various natural disasters compelled the coastal people to be migrated in the urban areas during the early 1990s, the organization emerged from a local club to a development organization to stand beside the vulnerable people to support their livelihood security and establish their rights. LEDARS has been registered under the Social Welfare Department and NGO affairs Bureau, Government of Bangladesh. As defined, the organization works with landless, unemployed male & female, coastal fishermen and the Sundarbans resource users groups in general.



To protect the coastal environment and mangrove biodiversity, LEDARS initiated a CBO network and involved Union Parishad to create a movement in 2001. The organization first highlighted the widows of the tiger killed males in the Sundarbans, who are the most vulnerable community in the Sundarbans impact zones. In order to create a wider constituency to address the whole coastal issues, LEDARS tries to build alliances with the like minded and similar organizations.

11. VISION

Contribute poverty reduction by creating access of the poor & marginal public resources through effective community based management.

12. MISSION

Devise people with appropriate methods to raise voice for establishing basic and human rights in order to ensure livelihood security of the most vulnerable and socially excluded segment of the population.

LEDARS is committed to

- To aware the people about adverse effect of environmental degradation and climate change,
- To building capacity of the marginal people on climate adaptive agriculture and alternative income source,
- To Conserve the Bio-Diversity of the Sundarbans Mangrove forest and conserve coastal Eco-system and Nature,
- To create access to education of underprivileged children,
- To organize Sundarbans resource user community for sustainable resource extraction,

- To create opportunity on necessary medical services to the of the vulnerable poor,
- To create opportunity with sustainable livelihoods to vulnerable women specially women headed families,
- To establish just society through conduct advocacy in respect of ensuring sustainable environment, human rights and good governance.

13. LEDARS Themes and programs

Theme-1: Climate Change and Livelihood Security

A. Awareness Rising on Climate Change

Though the peoples of Bangladesh are not response of adverse climate change but peoples of our country suffering most. Those peoples who are migration form the coastal area are not aware about climate change. On the other hands, there have the local adaptation mechanism and peoples can secure their livelihood following that adaptation. In this séance when LEDARS found that conservation of coastal environment is not possible without a greater movement of civil societies and local development organization (CBO). LEDARS initiated a network with the membership of the coastal CBOs, which deal the Sundarbans, human rights and coastal environment issues. In 2003, LEDARS organised an environmental movement namely ‘Eco-club movement” within the CBO network. Around 30 Eco-club formed and activating to preservation of the coastal environment and capacity building of the community for adaptation to climate change vulnerabilities. This project was supported by **CARE Bangladesh RVCC** project. The RVCC project was a CIDA funded project that provided LEDARS fund and capacity building of LEDARS and its networks. The CIDA funded project finished at January 2006 and LEDARS is continuing this activities with the support of Niagara Volunteer for Bangladesh.



B. Community based adaptation to Climate Change in southwest coastal region of Bangladesh

For climatic change and its effect, the south western part of Bangladesh became vulnerable. Peoples losing their livelihoods. For sea level rise, salinity are expansion inside of the residence. Drinking water decreases. Agricultural production losing day by day and the are is like now a saline dissert. Peoples are migrating from here for better livelihoods. LEDARS is building capacity to reduce economic vulnerability of climate change by following activities

- Demonstration of the local sustainable saline tolerant agriculture in the shrimp firm.
- Demonstration of the storm and flood resistance houses





- Mobilize peoples to reactivate the local drinking water sources and install PSF
- Demonstration to the community based rainwater harvesting system.

LEDARS is providing support to the community for demonstrating the viable technologies in hosing, vegetables, agriculture, drinking water, etc with the support of Niagara Volunteer for Bangladesh.

C. Campaign for Prevention of Saline Water to Restore Agriculture in Coastal Region of Bangladesh:

The southwest coastal region of Bangladesh is mostly affected by Sea Level Raise and negative impact of climate change. From very inception of the human settlement, people used their land for agriculture. But since 1998s, people introduce saline water shrimp farming. Saline water shrimp farming increasing the climate vulnerability of the people in southwest. It caused decreased of agriculture, unemployment of agriculture labor, damaged the drinking water sources, destroyed the livestock, etc. People are migrating from this area for better livelihoods. In this circumstances, LEDARS along with other NGOs and civil society organized a campaign to sensitize the government to stop the saline water shrimp farm and restore the agriculture based livelihoods. LEDARS conductive differential program under this campaign like, human chain, signature collection, press conferences, memorandum submission, community people mobilization, etc.



D. Climate Change Adaptation and Communication Center:

LEDARS along with Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and Environmental Discipline of Khulna University are developing a climate change adaptation and communication centre in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh. The south-western coastal region of Bangladesh is most climate affected area of Bangladesh and even in the world. People are leaving this area for better livelihood. But it is one of the most vulnerable area of the country. 85% of the people are extreme poor and have no capacity to adapt with adverse effect of climate change for lack of information, technology, low cost adaptation strategy, etc. LEDARS is trying to set up a adaptation center for in this area for to support the vulnerable people to adapt with climate change. For details please follow the link: <http://www.ledars.org/climatechange.php>

Theme: 2. Water and Sanitation

A. Providing Water Education and Supports to the Community

LEDARS is working for providing drinking water



and sanitation facilities to the community people. The area faces a severe scarcity of drinking water due to sea level rise and expansion of saline area. The community people of this area are very poor and ignorant about hygienic practice. LEDARS provides Pond-sand-filter (PSF) and Rain Water Harvesting Plant for preservation of rain water and provide ring-slab for latrine. LEDARS also motivates people about hygienic practice.

B. Support for Arsenic Filtration Efforts (SAFE)

LEDARS is supporting to the community of the arsenic affected area. Kanchan Arsenic Filter is one of the most viable technology to remove arsenic. As a test basis LEDARS installed more about 100 Filters in Keshobpur, Sarsa of Jessore and Shyamnagar upazial of Satkhira district.



C. Cyclone SIDR rehabilitation Project with PSF.

The divested cyclone SIDR affected he coastal area at 15 November 2007. Gabura is one of the victims union of Shyamnagar where most of the drinking water sources damaged. LEDARS with association of Asia Arsenic Network installed 5 PSF in Gabura and more then 1000 families are getting drinking water by this project.

D. Piloting Bio-sand filter in coastal zone:

In the coastal area there have lots of drinking water pond. People can not drink it because of turbidity and other bacterial contamination. LEDARS has been piloting the Bio-sand filters in the most saline area of southwest coastal zone. It is a MIT introduced technology made by local available materials. This filter treat the raw water for drink. But it only treats sweet pond water.



E. Water Action Group of Bangladesh

Water Action Group of Bangladesh (WAG'B) is a network of the grassroots NGOs who primarily focus on the water and sanitation issues. LEDARS leads this group to build their capacity on WATSAN, IWRM and mitigate arsenic in the ground water.

4th World Water Forum and Kyoto World Water Grand Prize 2006.

LEDARS presented the success story of local action entitled "CBO turns into development in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh" during the session of "Asian Civil Society Innovate Change" on 19th March 2006 in the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico. (Refer to Local action no LA 0329 (<http://www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx/files/LocalActions.pdf>, or <http://www.freshwateraction.net/library/WWF4%20-%20ASIA%20session.prn.pdf>). The action also awarded by the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize as top ten semi-finalist of the world (URL:<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1385&L=0>).



Theme: 3. Human Rights and good governance:

A. Strengthen Agricultural Labour Rights Initiatives

A large number of agricultural labourers become unemployed and many of them migrated to the neighbouring city and country to earn their livelihood as the consequences of commercial shrimp farming, however, a good number agricultural labourer still are struggling to manage their livelihood in the working are of LEDARS. Existence of surpluses labourers in the area reduced their bargaining capacity to claim fair wages from their employers and thus the agriculture landowners or shrimp farmers employ those labourers paying lower wages. In this context, LEDARS formed "Krishi Sromik

Federation" to protect their labour rights. Currently the organization has been implementing a project to protect agricultural labours rights with the funding support from Manusher Jonno Foundation since October 2006.



B. Rights Alliance in the southwest coastal region

LEDARS has been leading an alliance to ensure rights of the poor and marginal people through building capacity of the NGOs in southwest coastal region of Bangladesh on rights based programming.

Theme 4: Education and Poverty Reduction

A. Child literacy centre for children of Tiger Widows and Sundarbans Resource user Families:

LEDARS set up one child literacy centre in Pankhali Village with the support of Nigara Volunteer for Bangladesh. Working child from tiger widows and vulnerable Sundarbans resource user group are getting basic and live skill education there. To engage the children with education main stream of Government is the main objective of LEDARS.



B. Child Sponsorship Program

At 2011, LEDARS started the Child Sponsorship Program for the school going student of ultra poor families. Donation is collecting from individual from home and abroad. Under this program we are providing support for books, papers, tuitions fees, pen, school dress with shoes, water filter, etc. Please visit this link for details: <http://www.ledars.org/donate.php>

C. Promoting Science Education in Secondary School

LEDARS is working for promoting science education in the secondary school in Shyamnagar and Kaligonj Upazila o Satkhira with the support of Bangladesh Freedom Foundation. 20 Science Clubs formed for each 20



selected schools. Student, teachers, School Management Committee and parents are being motivated for science education.

Theme: 5. Livelihood Security Program

A. Alternative Livelihood Program (ALP):

LEDARS provides training and financial assistance for alternative income source of Sundarbans resource user groups through: organization development, savings, skill development training and small entrepreneurship development in order to enhance their food and income security.



B. Advocacy to create Access on Public Services of the Tiger Victims Widows:

Widows of the tiger victims in the Sundarbans are most vulnerable community in the southwest coastal region. The tiger victims widows are most vulnerable for lack of livelihood options and property. By this project LEDARS support the widows through organize self-help groups, provides seed money to their account, skill development training and support to the marketing. It is an Action Aid Supported Project.

C. Ensure livelihood security of the tiger victims widows in the Sundarbans impact zone.

Widows of the tiger victims in the Sundarbans are most vulnerable community in the southwest coastal region. LEDARS is facilitating different activities to publicise the issue locally and nationally. Besides, it is advocating for creating access to the social security programme of the government though local government and other service delivery organisation since 2004. In addition LEDARS provides free education for the children of the widows.



Theme: 5. Emergency response:

LEDARS has been responding to the emergencies of different types.

a. SIDR Responding program

LEDARS provided relief support to the households in Shyamnagar.

b. Cyclone SIDR Rehabilitation Program with Pond Sand Filters (PSF)

Gabura is the most affected area by SIDR in Shyamnagar. LEDARS established 5 PSF in the SIDR affected area with the support of Aisa Arsenic Network.



c. AILA Emergency response program

LEDARS quickly responded at the AILA



affected area and distributed a huge relief to the community in Padmapukur and Gabura union with the support of Action Aid Bangladesh, BARCIK, Aisa Arsenic Network and Niagara Volunteer for Bangladesh.

d. Early Recovery Program of AILA

LEDARS is still engaged in the early recovery program in Gabura union with the support of Save the Children, Asia Arsenic Network and Niagara Volunteer for Bangladesh. LEDARS dewatering 17 ponds in the area and re activating 17 PSF's LEDARS also support the adolescent girls of the AILA affected area. In this work LEDARS is conducting Social Monitoring of the UNDP supported program in Gabura union of Shyamnagar upazila.

14. Management of LEDARS

A general council/committee of 19 members is the supreme authority of organization. General council, bi-annually for policy formulation & execution of its programs, elects an executive committee of seven members chaired by president. Policies formulated by executive committees are implemented by its volunteers & Executive committee member headed by the secretary general. President and secretary general of the organization are accountable for program implementation, monitoring, evaluation & finance to the executive committee. Additionally it has an advisory committee for support the Executive Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee:

No	Name	Designation	Gender	Profession	Relationship among them
1.	Bidhusoroba Mondal	President	Male	Principal, Munshigonj College	Not Applicable
2.	Sujata Rani Mistry	Vice President	Female	Development Worker	Not Applicable
3.	Mohon Kumar Mondal	General Secretary		Development Worker	Not Applicable
4.	Md.Abdul Bari	Treasurer	Male	Social Worker	Not Applicable
5.	Md. Shawkat Hossain	Office Secretary	Male	Lecturer	Not Applicable
6.	Mrs. Madhabi Rani Mondal	Member	Female	House wife	Not Applicable
7.	Dalim Kumar Ghoram	Member	Male	Local Government Representative	Not Applicable

15. MEMBERSHIP and PARTNERSHIPS:

LEDARS established funding and technical partnership with the following organizations over the last few years. These are:

1. Action Aid Bangladesh
2. Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF)
3. Both ENDS
4. Save the Children, Australia

5. OXFAM-GB (CSRL)
6. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
7. Centre For Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)
8. Niagara Volunteer for Bangladesh
9. Asia Arsenic Network
10. Freshwater Action Network
11. Climate Action Network, South Asia-CANSA
12. Climate Change Development Forum-CCDF
13. International women Health Coalition
14. Global Water Partnership
15. Bangladesh water partnership
16. Japan Water Partnership
17. Water Integrity Network
18. Asia Pacific Water Forum
19. Asia Pacific Adaptation Knowledge Network

For details

Please visit our website: www.ledars.org

Or contact

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Executive Director

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