



MUKTI

A Socio-Economic Development Organization

November 2021

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MUKTI Formation, Mission & Vision

Formation

We do not believe that only a lump sum monetary aid will solve the problems of our society. The effect of such aids is transient only. Therefore, we endeavor to dig out the root causes of different problems and construct holistic solutions that would best help our society.



Vision

To engage largest number of volunteers to create grassroots level socio economic development organization that contributes towards sustainable development of people in need.



Mission

To work as healer for our society in the area of health, education, agriculture, livelihood, environment and rights and Disaster Relief



Mukti is registered under the Government of India Trust Act Section 64 (Reg. No. IV-104/2005 (09-03-2005)). It has an executive board that frames the policies and passes down action items to the ground level working committee. The executive board is elected for a two-years term.



S O C I A L

Sustainable integrated social solution

Operated by expertise and valuable time of volunteer

Concept that began with real life story

Ideated on Sunderban, UNESCO World Heritage Site

Aided by volunteer based governance structure

Lean Infrastructure and maximum field works

950+ People Behind

Common **people** who has mindset to work for society but could not afford due to family responsibilities

Legal Status

Registered under the Govt. of India Trust Act Sect 64 (Reg. No. IV-104/2005 (09-03-2005)), Compliance with **12A, 80G, FCRA, DARPAN, Registered with Ministry of corporate affairs(CSR-1)**

Experience

17+ years of experience in 6 areas- **HEALER** i.e., Health, Education, Agriculture, Livelihood, Environment, Rights & Governance & **Disaster Relief**

Women Power

46% of our employees and **61%** of overall beneficiaries are women

Offices and Personal

2 city offices and **6 field offices** along with 30 support centers, ran by 550+ personals

Fund Distribution

40% of our fund raised by our own volunteers and 60% by partner support. **94%** fund goes to end beneficiaries

For the People

So far, we have reached to **1.5 million** people and every year touching **100,000 people** lives for their betterment

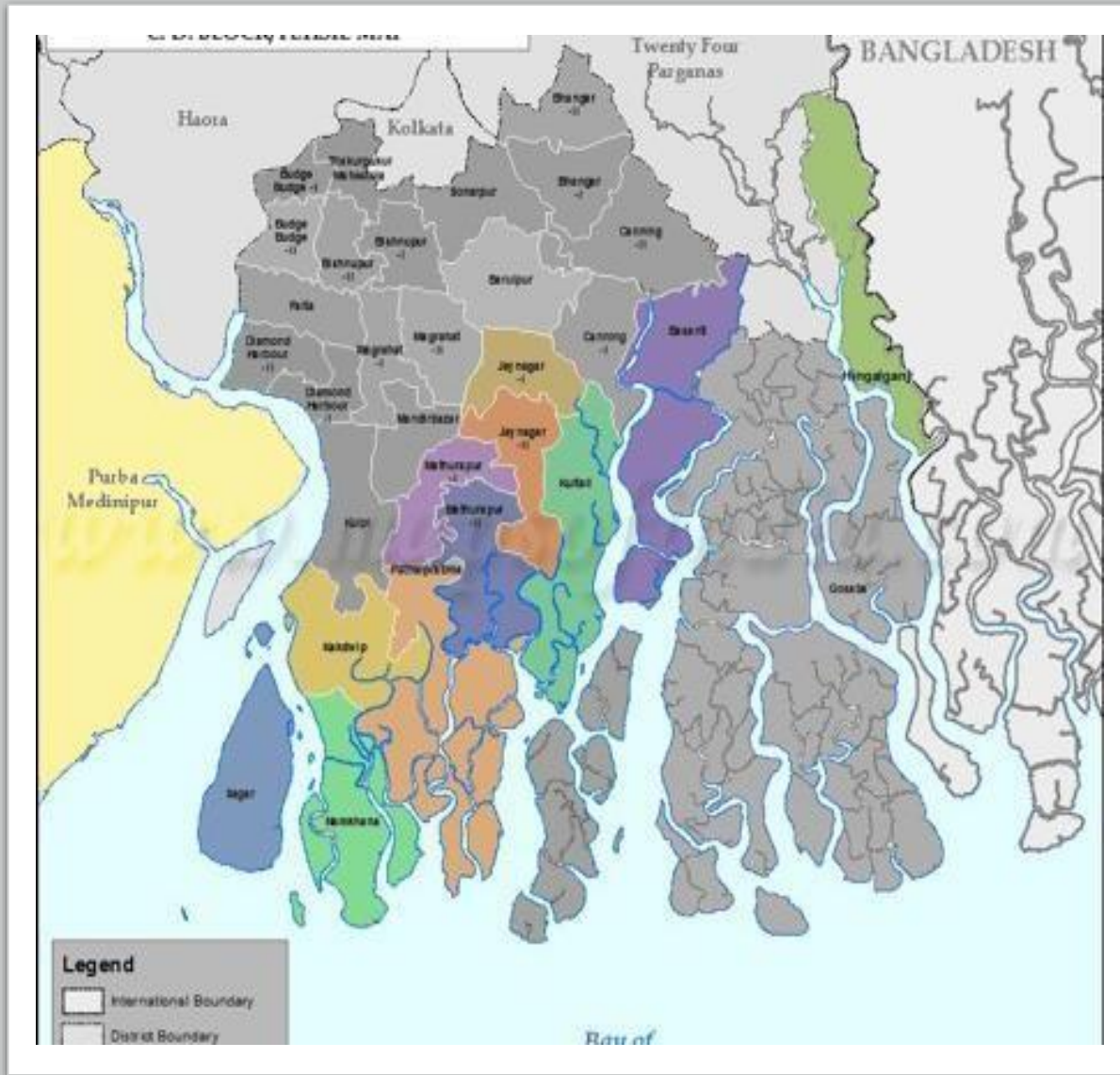
Works at Grassroot

95% of MUKTI's workforce works at **field (grassroot)** level of any project

Awards & Recognition

FICCI Award, Vivek Swanman, Star of Asia, True LEGEND, Amricare, Bharat Excellence, APJ Abdul Kalam Award, Krishi ranta Awards





- Mostly operating in Sundarbans region.
- 14 Blocks of 24 Parganas South and North
- Starting from Sagar Island to Hingalganj

Mukti's Presence in Sundarbans

Working Areas of MUKTI

MUKTI works as the **HEALER** in the communities, to heal and reduce vulnerability of the people of last miles through its various projects under six focused programs - **HEALER**

Projects: (03)

- VOICE,
- EmPOWER (RTI Act awareness),
- Women and child rights and Legal Aids

Rights
&
Awareness

Projects: (07)

- Go Green (Plantation drives)
- GrEEN (Solar power),
- NaRKEL,
- Mangrove Plantation
- Road Side Plantation
- Cyclone Tolerant House
- Disaster Relief & Response

Environment
&
Disaster
Response

Projects: (05)

- Mukti Community Development Fund (MCDF),
- Mukti Community Business,
- SWAS (Swawlamban Accelerator in Sundarbans)
- Development of Marketable Handicrafts
- Model Village

Livelihood
&
Economic
Security

Health,
Water &
Sanitation

Projects: (05)

- Medical camps,
- Hello Beta,
- OCs support to PHCs,
- Community Clinic,
- Village Sanitation project

Education
&
Empower
ment

Projects: (06)

- Mukti Support School (MSS)
- Kisholaya School,
- Talented Students Sponsorship (TSS),
- Book Bank,
- Mukti Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Value Education for Mukti Sathi

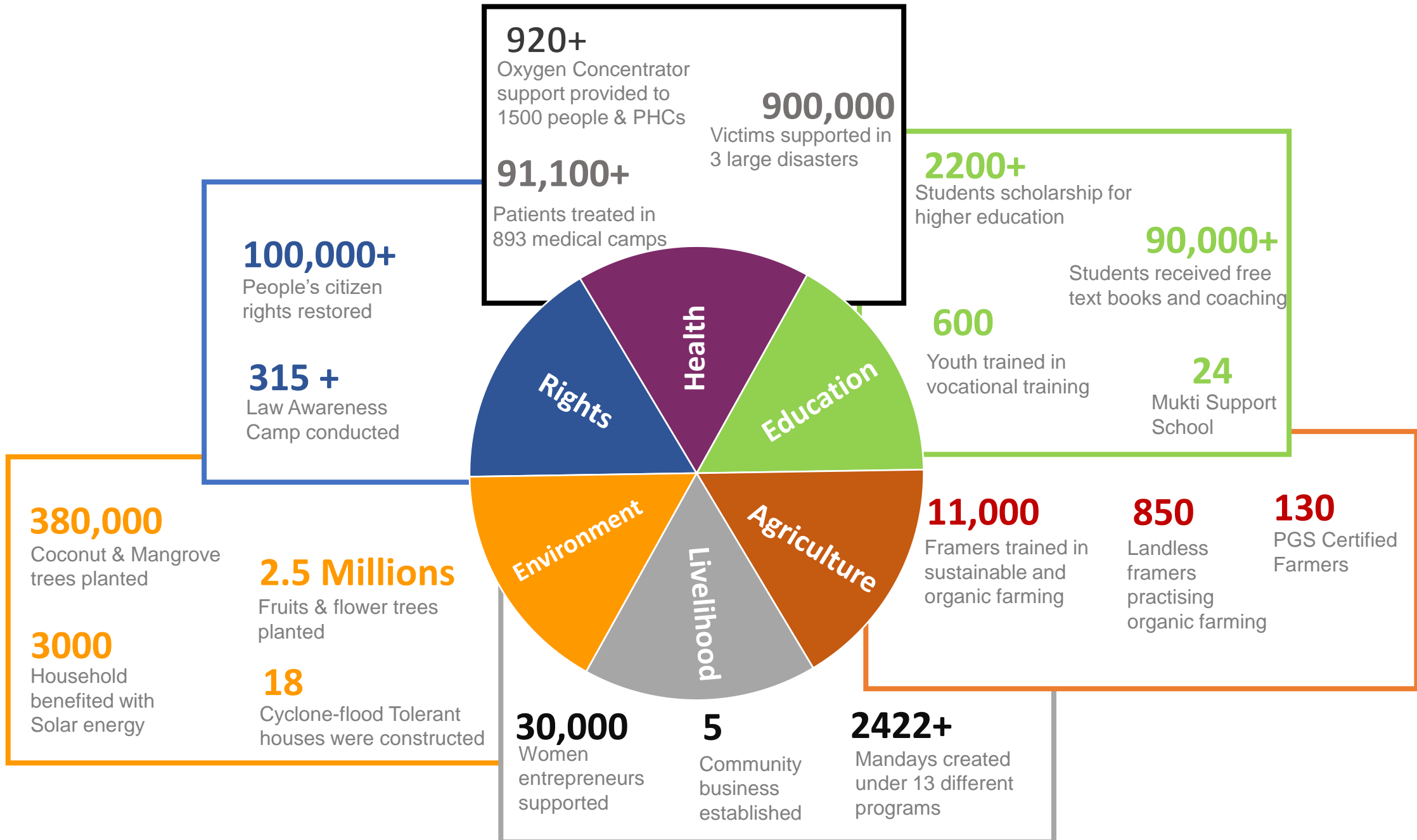
Agricultural
Reform

Projects: (04)

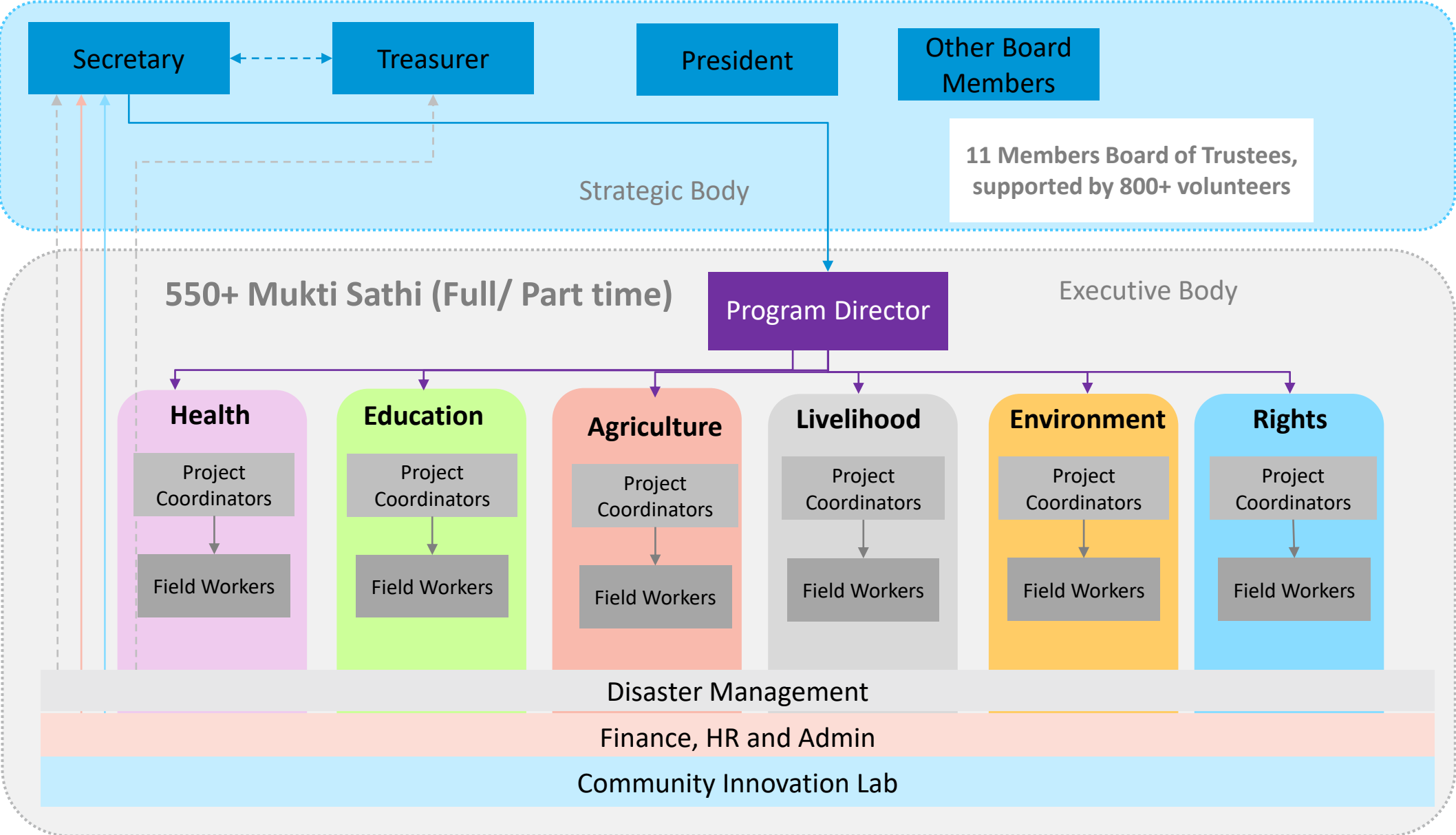
- Sustainable Agriculture Movement (SAM),
- Organic farming & Marketing
- Horticulture & Organic Micro gardening
- Kitchen gardening



Impact on Society - Counting



Mukti Operating Model



Medical Camps & Sanitation

Social Challenges

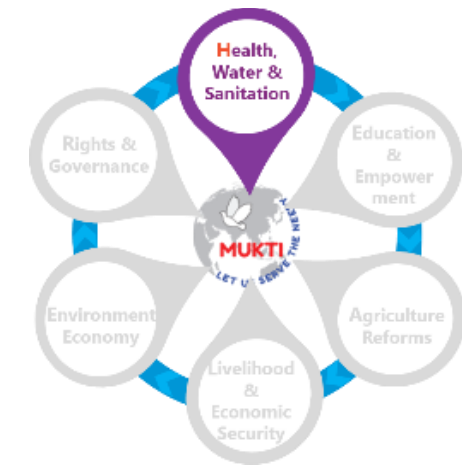
- Sundarbans is a cyclone prone area
- Low awareness on Health and hygiene
- Lack of good hospital or PHC
- People still visit village Akins

Solution Approach

- Importance on hygiene awareness and sanitation
- Health camp on disaster area
- Health awareness camp and large-scale health screening
- Working on Portable Health Solution using modern devices and IT

Social Impact & Achievements

- 20000 toilet built
- 612 Health camp organized
- More than 32,000 people treated
- 165 health awareness camp organized
- Health support to community during Aila, Kerala flood, Bulbul and Amphan disaster time.



MUKTI Support School

Social Challenges

- No educated person in family. Hence, cannot guide or monitor at home.
- Teacher to student ratio is extremely poor in schools. In some cases, 1 teacher manages 200 students
- Students need more personalized support & attention.
- Drop out rate increases as the students move up the ladder

Solution Approach

- School buildings are hired in morning & evening time for coaching purpose
- Additional buildings have been constructed to serve more need
- Focused on critical subjects like Mathematics and English
- Special coaching organized for Madhyamik (standard 10) candidates
- Teachers Training to increase efficiency

Social Impact & Achievements

- 15 coaching centers serving more than 2500 students yearly since 2005 totaling 21,000 So far
- The boys and girl's student distribution is closely 48:52
- Around 75 teachers get a part time job in this support school
- The school dropout reduced drastically as the students started getting support in their daily studies
- Every year special coaching with experienced teachers from Kolkata to trained for Madhyamik exam.
- Parents became aware of the progress of their children and encouraged to put more focus.



Talented Students Sponsorship (TSS)

Social Challenges

- Higher education is exorbitant
- It is even costlier for the students from village as they need to find accommodation in city
- People from village finds it very difficult to arrange hard cash to cope up with the expense
- A huge number of talent gets wasted due to lack of proper economic support

Solution Designed

- MUKTI appeals to volunteers to sponsor students in different categories
- The students are divided into different categories like Arts, Science, Engineering, Medicine and the sponsorship amount is determined accordingly
- Designed thoughtful selection process to identify talented but needy students
- Regular touch-point meeting between sponsors and students so that a sponsors can motivate students
- To inculcate the social practice amongst students, 100hours of social work is mandatory in this program

Social Impact & Achievements

- Sponsors are continuing sponsorship for a long period **uninterruptedly 150 per year 1000** students so far.
- Students are getting jobs in multiple private and public sectors featuring great success of the program
- With regular status update from TSS team and meeting with their sponsored students, the sponsors found it very effective and value adding sustainable model
- Very nature of the program is creating good human with the mind-set of giving back to society



Education & Empowerment



Book Bank

Social Challenges

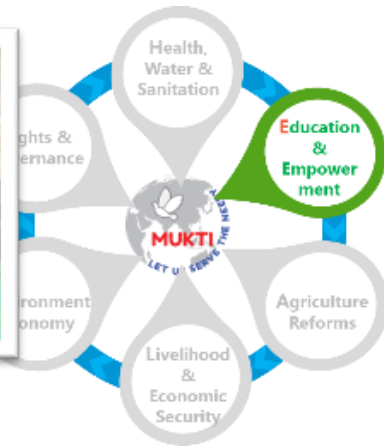
- Although there are enough schools in the locality, overall literacy rate is very low
- School dropout rate is very high
- Due to poverty, there is no money to buy books and educational materials
- The books supplied by schools are not sufficient to meet the present requirements of the students

Solution Designed

- MUKTI has created a collection of textbooks ranging from standard V to master degree
- Books are given to the students as a loan for a year
- Books are distributed and collected back through the teachers and volunteers of a particular region.
- A committee comprising of selected teachers and volunteers decide the student list and any need for additional books for a particular year
- All financially challenged students having limited or no access to textbooks are covered under this program

Social Impact & Achievements

- Around 5000 students from 19 schools receives textbooks from MUKTI each year **65000** kids so far
- It was started with a schools in a small village in Sundarbans and now it has the reach to the remotest part of Sundarbans.
- The school dropout reduced significantly as books became free for all financially challenged students
- As more students came forward this led to improved literacy rate in this area.
- Local schoolteachers and some volunteers impulsively came forward to support this initiative and made it a success.



MUKTI Institute of Technology

Social Challenges

- While the literacy rate in village has been increased due to several initiatives of MUKTI, unemployment became the budding issue in the area
- Young generation get educated, but they are not that smart to compete with other privileged class
- The educated young generation are not willing to go back to work in field and take up professions like farming, fishing etc.

Solution Designed

- The initiative designed to create opportunity for alternate profession for the young generation from village by giving them vocational training
- A survey conducted to identify possible areas for training. Computer Training, Electrical work and Driving are found to be the needed training
- MUKTI Institute of Technology formed with Computer Training Facility as a first step
- A provision for electrical work has been kept for future growth and expansion

Social Impact & Achievements

- MUKTI has started the institute with computer training program initially 300 kids yearly , 400 so far.
- The program is at its initial stage and yet to judge the impact
- To encourage students, MUKTI has offered a free course for beginners and received a brilliant response
- In parallel we have started a spoken English class and have got considerable response
- The above two courses has attracted students and we have reached around 40 paid students now
- The target is to make this training center to a sustainable model, which can bring job facilities to the educated young generation of Sundarbans



Sustainable Agriculture Movement (SAM)

Social Challenges

- Production cost is too high, and yield started coming down on diminishing rate year after year due to uncontrolled use of chemical pesticide and fertilizer
- The disastrous cyclonic storm Aila damaged the soil of Sundarbans in 2009 and made farming impossible
- Over all societies' health is compromised due to unsafe food

Solution Designed

- MUKTI Organized farmers of Sundarbans to address the challenges
- Sustainable Agriculture (SAM) project is to motivate people to use organic fertilizer and pesticide
- In-house organic fertilizer and pesticide production after proper training
- Promote organic kitchen gardening and Introduce the process of landless farming
- Plan for organic certification to get more market value.
- Developing supply chain for marketing

Social Impact & Achievements

- 12000 members in association (MOFA – MUKTI Organized Farmers Association)
- 750 farmers practicing fully organic and others reducing dependency on chemical
- MUKTI trained farmers to be trainers for other farmers (TOT model)
- **“Krishi Ratna”** Award by Govt. West Bengal for organic farming to one of our farmers. **Vivek Samman Award** to Mukti for organic farming.
- First organic vegetable shops opened in Kolkata, running 8 such weekly stores
- Quickly spreading across many other farmers to join the initiatives

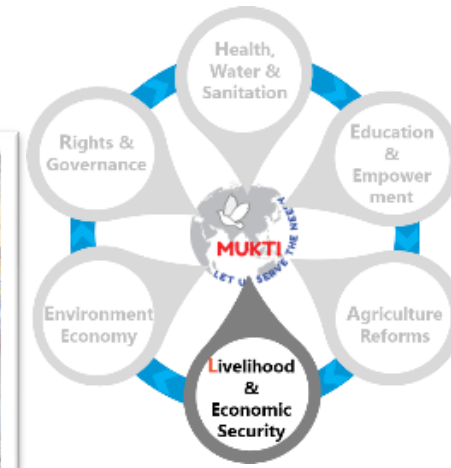


MUKTI Community Development Fund (MCDF)

Livelihood & Economic Security

Social Challenges

- Single breadwinner family , socially deprived women
- Single crop cultivation and low land per capita
- Limited opportunity of other employments in rural area
- Exploitation by local moneylender
- Compelling to migrate to town and exploring wrong means for livelihood



Solution Designed

- Creating of small group with 10-15 women as Self-Help-Group (SHG)
- Social investors contribute to generate fund
- Encouraging individuals for micro-savings and making responsible
- Supports loan with 0% interest
- Autonomous elected body of SHG takes care the management & execution of the group
- Provide free trainings to equip them for new business
- Initial administrative support from MUKTI to stabilize a group



Social Impact & Achievements

- 2415 groups formed with 30,000 registered SHG member
- Around 1800 women have taken loan and till today 1200 doing business successfully
- 2600 women supported with different types of capacity building trainings in last 2 years e.g. Incense Stick Making, Food Processing, Soft toy making, Exotic Bird breeding etc.
- Total 26 MCDF branches
- 100% loan recovered so far
- Till date 107 Social Investors came forward and invested to this program



Natural Revolution with Coconut for Ecology & Livelihood (NaRKEL)

Social Challenges

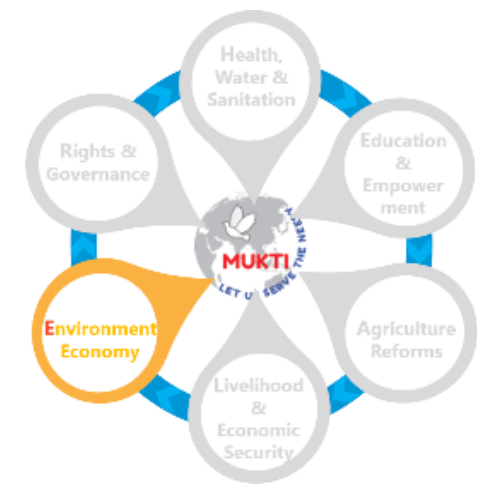
- Sundarbans is always under threat for multiple reasons like Rising Sea Level, Salinity, Climate change, Cyclones and some man-made disasters like illegal wood cutting and oil spills etc.
- 30% land of Sundarbans is barren which not being used for cultivation
- Soil erosion and cyclone is very common in Sundarbans
- The average per capita income of a family is below national average

Solution Designed

- Coconut plantation project taken up by MUKTI to save Sundarbans from natural calamities and generate a livelihood at the same time
- SHG women are engaged in raising coconut plants in riverside and barren land
- Community is engaged in building nursery and plantation of Coconut tree
- MUKTI is now the registered participant of United Nations Global Compact

Social Impact & Achievements

- Mukti is promoting coconut plantation in Sundarbans since 2008.
- We have planed 1.5 lakhs coconut 40000 started giving fruits
- SHG women are getting Rs 500 support per year for each coconut tree which they are raising on barren land
- Mukti organized Environment fair to generate awareness amongst community



Fruits and Flowers Plantation - Go-Green

Social Challenges

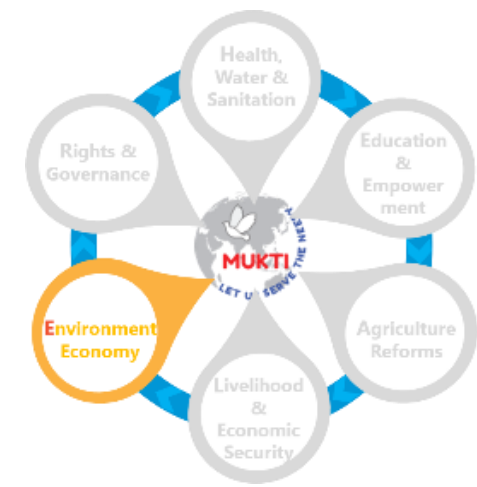
- Sundarbans is always under threat for multiple reasons like Rising Sea Level, Salinity, Climate change, Cyclones and some man made disasters like illegal wood cutting and oil spills etc.
- Environment challenge is not only affecting Sundarbans, but also a constant threat to the whole world due to uncontrolled urbanization

Solution Designed

- Promoting large scale plantation of fruits and flower.
- Increase beautification of villages and roadside to increase green and protect soil erosion.
- MUKTI participates in multiple plantation initiative with local clubs and volunteer organizations to spread the awareness of a healthy environment
- MUKTI is now the registered participant of United Nations Global Compact

Social Impact & Achievements

- Set up a 6-acre land fruits and flower nursery to promote low-cost seedling
- We have planed 1.5 lakhs coconut and 2 million other plants so far
- The awareness has been increased within villagers and they have taken up the Beautification initiative with full seriousness
- More volunteers got engaged in the urban area as MUKTI took part in multiple environment initiatives



Rights to Information (Project VOICE)

Social Challenges

- Corruption becomes a blocker for the poor and downtrodden section of society to get the proper benefit from any government policy
- Lack of awareness of their rights is the key issue for the poor to demand for their justice
- The women suffers most due to lack of awareness

Solution Designed

- MUKTI's RTI program is primarily focused on building awareness in all section of the people
- We conduct training for CBO/CSO/NGO locality
- The awareness training is also extended to Government stakeholders
- RTI Help Center is set up at district level to act as a single window for assistance and creating mass awareness.
- Create documentation for ready access and understanding
- Legal intervention and support for BPL community and the women who are facing domestic violence and trafficking

Social Impact & Achievements

- Mukti is working in 10 Gram Panchayats from 5 Blocks
- Around 164 Civil Body Organizations (CBO) are trained on RTI Act, General Law and Government Schemes
- MUKTI hire professional theater group to conduct street theaters to generate awareness within mass
- MUKTI RTI team create RTI leaflets, books and application formats to distribute to common people for their awareness and case filing
- MUKTI has several success stories where we helped people to get their pension, ration card, BPL card and even helped to get justice in the selection process for a job.



Mukti Model Village

Social Challenges

- The Purboshridharpur village of Mathurapur-II block is devoid of many basic facilities like Transport, Education, Health and Hygiene, livelihood etc.
- The village is situated in interiors of south 24 pgs district, thus making it the victim of more vulnerable corrupt practices.

Solution Designed

- MUKTI's pledge to develop Purboshridharpur village as a Model village
- The village will consist of good education facility, better livelihood opportunity for the villagers and the good medical services.
- The concept of Clean and Green village
- Awareness for the villagers

Social Impact & Achievements

- Mukti will provide a means of livelihood generation to the villagers
- The women empowerment will lead to decrease in domestic violence and human trafficking cases in the area
- The living standard of community will increase which will led to a better education for the children



MUKTI COMMUNITY CLINIC



Mukti Gram Clinic

- Patients are being treated by the doctors at Mukti Community Clinic at Purba Sridharpur village under Nagendrapur Gram Panchayat of Mathurapur Block II.
- Served more than 1000 patients in January with local clinic visit
- Served 200+ patients with global panel doctors from across globe with various specialty clinic
- Mukti is charging Rs 20 flat for local clinic & flat Rs. 50 for global clinic – consultation & Medicine both cover with in this cost.
- Clinic is OPEN 6 days a week and Thursday is OFF
- Clinic is fully loaded with basic medical equipment's like sphygmomanometer, X-Ray viewer, Sugar testing kits etc.



AMPHAN Cyclone Relief Work
MEDICAL CAMP
BY
MUKTI *বঙ্গবিলম্বিত*
সপ্তমবার
১১/০১/২০১০

Block : Sagar // Place :

CONDUCTED BY IMPLEMENTED BY SUPONSORED BY USA BASED

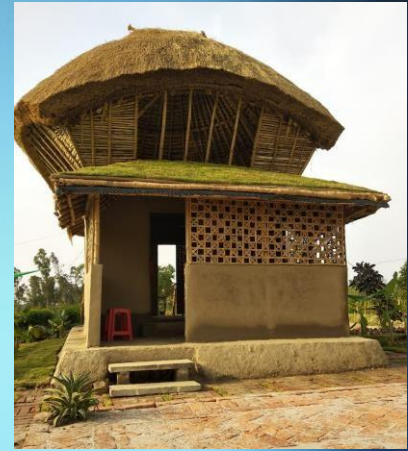


Mukti Gram

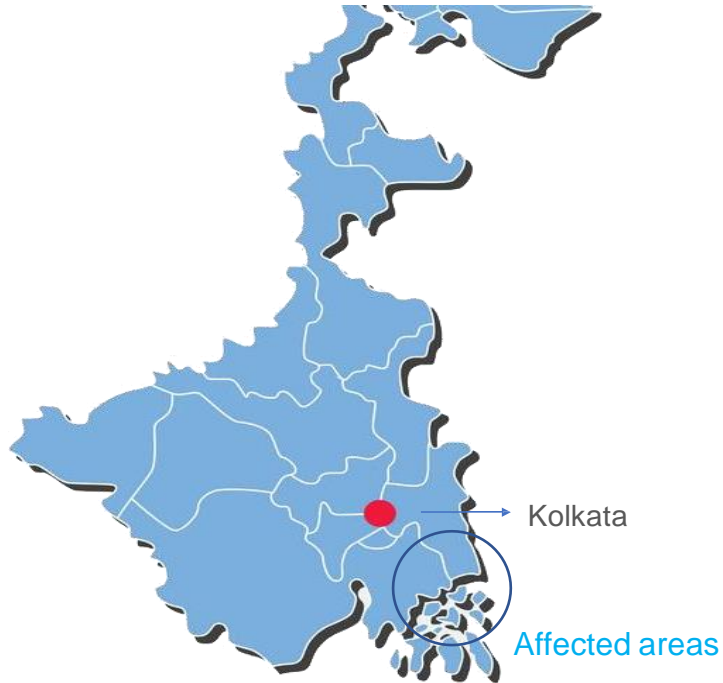
MUKTI has constructed 3 Cyclone tolerant houses on prototype basis under the guidance of an architectural firm.

The proposed area, Purbashridharpur is prone to frequent cyclones & the impact is huge enough to affect the lives and livelihood of the community.

The cyclone tolerant house is very affordable, cyclone & flood resistant and a mass village housing solution at the time of natural hazard.



Accelerating Climate Change Crises



- 1970 Cyclone Bhola (500k+ killed)
- 2009 Cyclone Aila (1M+ homeless)
- 2019 Cyclone Bulbul (3.5M+ affected)
- 2020 Cyclone Amphan: strongest since 1833; 1M+ homes damaged; 700K+ acres farmland destroyed *
- 2021 Yaas damaged 70-80 % of firm land with saline water

- DASRA reports 70% of sex-trafficking victims in India comes from the area (ground reports showed a huge increase in trafficking post Cyclone Aila)

- COVID-19 pandemic & cyclones have created financial distress & lack of food security / sustainable livelihood

Nearly 1.4 billion people live along the coastline of the Bay of Bengal. Coastal Bengal region has a population of over 5 million.



Disaster Response

- De-Watering of Flooded Saline Water for 2500 ponds
- Books, Stationery & Tuition support to 3000 students
- Food For work for 30,000 families
- Community Based Seedling Preparation
- Conducted 10 Medical Camps on daily basis, treated near about 32,000 people
- Repairment of damaged School classroom and building
- Relief Material (Tarpaulin, Mosquito nets) support to 4800 homeless people
- Food distribution to 50,000 families
- 1.5 lac Mangrove Plantation

A	Amphan Relief work
1	Drinking water support to flooded area
2	Relief Support Tarpaulin, Mosquito Nets, Food packets
3	Community Kitchen to feed hungry people
4	Food for work in River Embankment rebuild
5	De-watering of Community ponds from saline water for reserving sweet rain water for domestic and agriculture purpose.
B	Amphan Recovery plan short term
6	Women sanitary napkins for hygiene
7	Baby food and Nutrition
8	Medical Camps, each camps with 1 doctors, and medicine free for 100 Pa
9	Paddy Seedling preparation and Farmers Support 60 bighas of Bijtala
10	Nursery preparation to generate large quantity seedling including Mangr
11	Educational stationery and book support to impacted students
C	Post COVID19 and Amphan Recovery plan
12	Mangrove and road side nursery and plantation
13	Coconut Nursery and Plantation
14	Food security to Migrants and Amphan impacted families
15	livelihood generation support to SHG women
16	Model clean and green village for job creation and food security
17	Cyclone tolerant housing

Relief Work





Relief Work

Samsung Triple Camera
PINTU KUMAR
PURKAIT Galaxy M30s

Mukti efforts during Cyclone Bulbul & Amphan



Under Pratapaditya Gram Panchayat ...
muktiweb.org



Support the victims of Cyclone Amphan ...
muktiweb.org · In stock



Relief Work At Kakdwip ...
muktiweb.org



Cyclone Amphan Emergency Relief ...
muktiweb.org



Under Pratapaditya Gram Panchayat ...
muktiweb.org



Under Pratapaditya Gram Panchayat ...
muktiweb.org



Amphan: Initial updates from DRCSC a ...
aidindia.org



Support the victims of Cyclone Amphan ...
muktiweb.org · In stock



AMPHAN Caused Pain: Mukti Provides ...
muktiweb.org



Cyclone AMPHAN shattered Sunderba ...
muktiweb.org





Disaster Response

Landfall on Sundarbans on 26th May 2021.

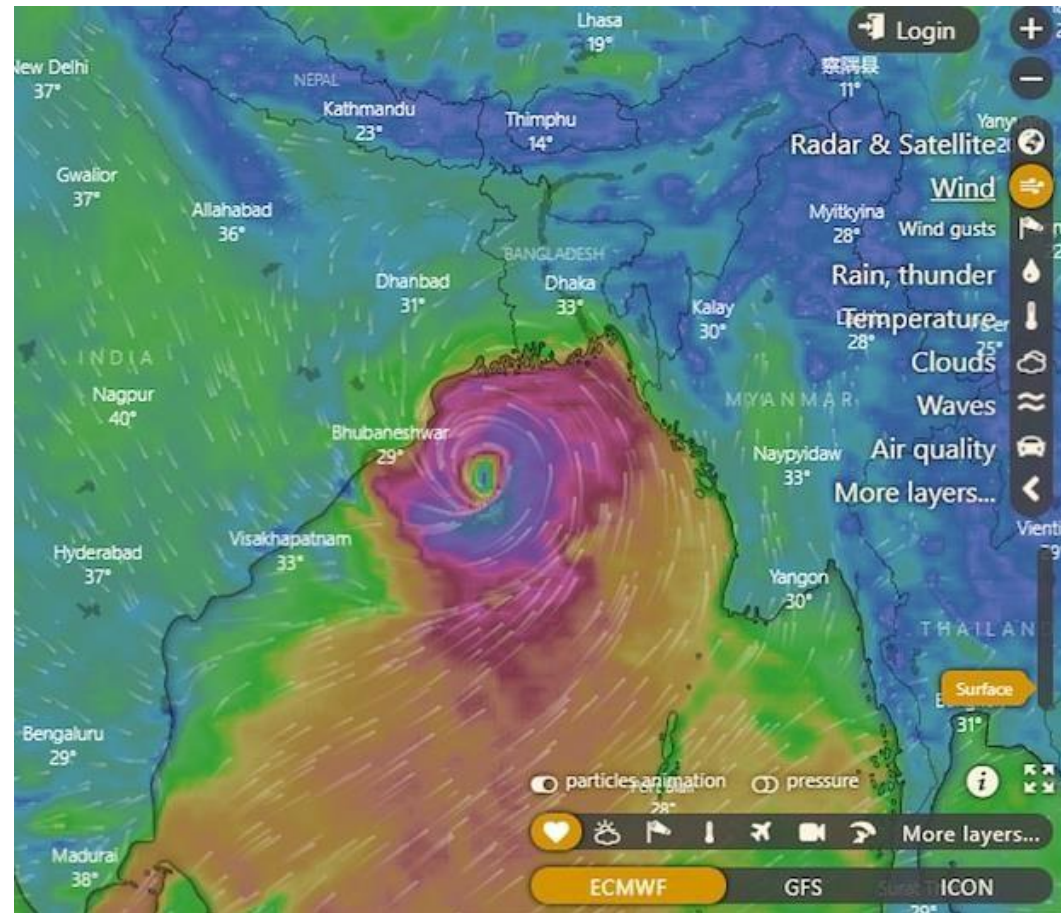
Wind speed of 130-140Km/hr

Estimated 15cr of loss to the state economy

10 million people directly impacted

Saline water flooding leading to damage of 90% of agricultural land

6 people died





YAAS- The Trail of Destruction



Relief Work - Building of River Embankment

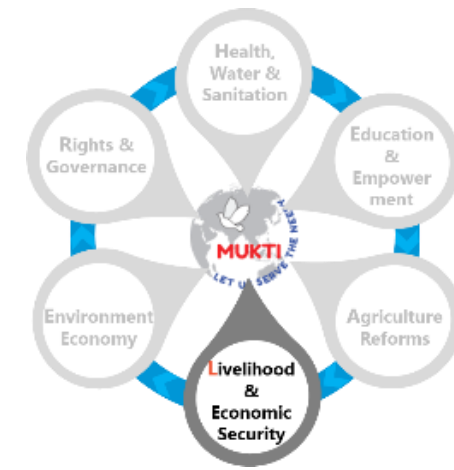




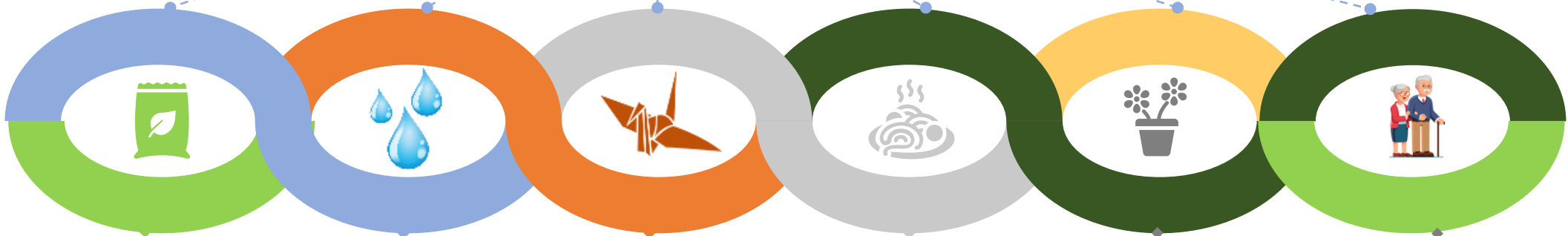
Relief Operations being carried by MUKTI



Mukti Community Business



MCB



MUKTI Fresh

To establish the supply-chain for organic vegetables



MUKTI Beverage

Make available purified drinking water at very low costs



MUKTI Craft

To establish supply-chain and marketing of SHG products



MUKTI Cloud Kitchen

To supply home made organic food



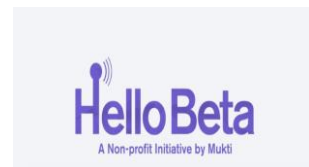
MUKTI GREEN

Value chain for seedling marketing and supply at low cost



HELLO BETA

To support elderly people with essentials services



Livelihood & Economic Security





9
Currently serving number of patients
(Online)

1,144
All time total number of patient served

168,864
Total hours of O₂ served

34,651
Total Tonnes of O₂ served

4,898
Total number of requests
(Online - 306 + Phone Calls - 4,592)

1,175
Total number of FREE meals supplied
till date

Hello Beta – Live tracking
& Social Impact

www.hellobeta.in

Work- Flow



HelloBeta Website

Patient reach out to website for help & fill the registration form

01



Verification

The team will verify the detailed submitted by the patients & take a call accordingly

02



Call Centre

Patient will receive an email and call from call center to take the machine from the warehouse

03



Re-distribution

The patient will provide used Oxygen concentrator back to Mukti for reuse of others

04

Covid-19 Relief (since April 2021)



AROBINDO @tweet_aro · 2h
Finally got concentrator for stabilising my mom.
[@muktiindia](#) big thumbs up to your efforts for extending support at such uncertain times.. You guys are a god send. Keep up the good work. Much appreciated !!



Mukti Covid Care Unit



Mukti Cloud Kitchen

S.NO	CLOUD KITCHEN CENTRE	ARE COVERED	MEAL SERVED TILL DATE
1	Maniktala	Maniktala, Ultadanga, Gurudas lane, Canal east Road, pin - 64, 67 and 76	93
2	Konnagar	Konnagar, Uttarpara, Near Rishra and Hindmotor	169
3	Baranagar	Baranagar, Dakshineswar, Near Birati, Kamarhati, Dumdum, Belgachhiya	198
4	Katwa	Katwa , Purbo bardhaman	242
5	Kamarhati	kamarhati Municipalty area	52
6	93 Ward	Jodhpur park, Dhakuriya, Ballygung, Jadhavpur, Baghajatin, Behala, Thakupukur, Santoshpur, Naktala,	463
7	salt lake	Saltlake, Bidhannagar, near Dumdum	105
8	Chunsurah	Bandel, Chandannagar, Chunsurah	124
Total Meal Served in 8 centres			1446





Press Coverage

SHOUBHAR • 18 FEBRUARY 2020 • Sunday • পূর্ববঙ্গ • ১ম পৃষ্ঠা • ১১০০ • ১১০০ • ১১০০

এই সময়

মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করতে উদ্যোগী রাজ্য রায়াদিঘির মহিলা সম্মেলনে বললেন পূর্ণেন্দু বসু

রায়াদিঘির মহিলা সম্মেলনে প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে অংশগ্রহণ করেছেন প্রধানমন্ত্রী শ্রী নরেন্দ্র মোদী। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত সম্মেলনে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর উপস্থিতিতে রায়াদিঘির মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করার উদ্যোগ নিয়ে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে। প্রধানমন্ত্রী বলেন, রায়াদিঘির মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করার উদ্যোগে সরকার সর্বোচ্চ গুরুত্ব দেবে।

রায়াদিঘির মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করার উদ্যোগে সরকার সর্বোচ্চ গুরুত্ব দেবে। প্রধানমন্ত্রী বলেন, রায়াদিঘির মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করার উদ্যোগে সরকার সর্বোচ্চ গুরুত্ব দেবে। প্রধানমন্ত্রী বলেন, রায়াদিঘির মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করার উদ্যোগে সরকার সর্বোচ্চ গুরুত্ব দেবে।

আজ সকাল থেকেই দেশের বিভিন্ন জায়গায় একে একে কলকাতা জেলার মানুষেরা মাস্ক পরিধান করেছেন।

মাস্ক পরিধান করা ছাড়াও হাত ধোওয়া এবং স্বাস্থ্যকর খাবার খাওয়াও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।



শিশুদেরকে মাস্ক পরিধান করা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।



Sunderbans hunger spectre

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের প্রধানমন্ত্রী শ্রী নরেন্দ্র মোদী। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত সম্মেলনে প্রধানমন্ত্রীর উপস্থিতিতে রায়াদিঘির মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করার উদ্যোগ নিয়ে আলোচনা করা হয়েছে।

আজকাল

রায়াদিঘির জটায় জৈব চাষের রমরমা

রায়াদিঘির জটায় জৈব চাষের রমরমা।



রায়াদিঘির জটায় জৈব চাষের রমরমা।



A book in hand, a vision for future

A book in hand, a vision for future.



রায়াদিঘির জটায় জৈব চাষের রমরমা।

Debt repaid with mission to serve poor

Debt repaid with mission to serve poor.



রাজ্য সরকার মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করতে উদ্যোগী : পূর্ণেন্দু বসু

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রাজ্য সরকার মহিলাদের স্বনির্ভর করতে উদ্যোগী : পূর্ণেন্দু বসু।



Sunderbans hunger spectre

DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: A third of 15,000 families associated with a Sunderbans-based non-profit organisation are staring at starvation because of the ongoing lockdown, the founder of the NGO said.

“Our reach is limited to five blocks in the Sunderbans. This number is from those five blocks alone. The actual number of people in a similar or worse condition in the entire region will be huge,” said Sankar Halder, the founder of Mukti, whose work includes agricultural support for farmers, education of children and self-help business groups for women, to name a few.

Mukti has just concluded a survey among dependent families in Patharpratima, Mathurapur I, Mathurapur II, Joynagar II and Kultali blocks in the wake of the lockdown. The survey categorised the fami-



People stand in queue to receive rice and potatoes from Mukti in the Sunderbans earlier this week

stuff for around 2,000 families, with help from some Calcutta-based organisations, led by the Kolkata Gives Foundation. But the fate of many others remains uncertain.

Halder shared a series of videos with Metro that captured the mood of the households the Mukti volunteers visited during the survey.

One such video shows a

but what do I cook?),” the middle-aged woman asks the volunteer.

Another video shows an elderly couple sitting in another mud house, with tarpaulin sheets acting as walls. The woman, who identifies herself as Geeta Naskar, says she is a “cancer patient” and shows a big red lump on her right breast.

groups that make puffed rice, pickles, bori, dairy and other edibles.

The women are also involved in poultry farming. They sell their products in the local wholesale markets from where the produce is sold in Calcutta and other places.

But the lockdown has shut most wholesale markets. The entire supply chain, from wholesaler to transporter to retailer, has been crippled.

“Only one or two small bazaars are open. Say a farmer produces 200 quintals of ladies’ fingers, he can sell only a minuscule portion in the retail market. His main source of income is the wholesale market. If that is shut, the farmer’s income is also gone,” Raghunath Bairagi, a Mukti volunteer, said. “Around 95 per cent of our sales channels are shut.”

The NGO has been ferrying a small portion of the or-



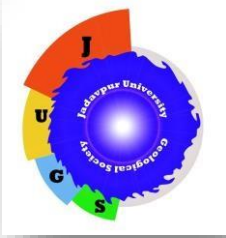
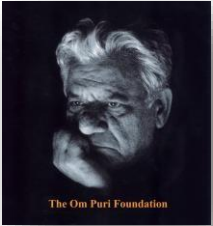
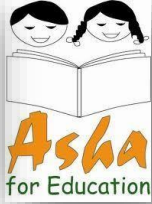
Members of some families in the Sunderbans who have had little or nothing to eat because of the lockdown

The Telegraph

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Etu4flmRbfl>



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Meetings



Thank You