# ANNUAL REPORT





Association for Socio-Economic Advancement of Bangladesh

### 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Association for Socio-Economic Advancement of Bangladesh

#### Advisor

Dr. Md. Shariful Alam

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Mahfuza Khanam, Executive Director, ASEAB

#### **Editorial Team**

Md. Mizanur Rahman Khandakar Zakaria Ahmed Nurul Islam Md. Reajul Islam

#### Assisted by

Senior Management Team (SMT), ASEAB

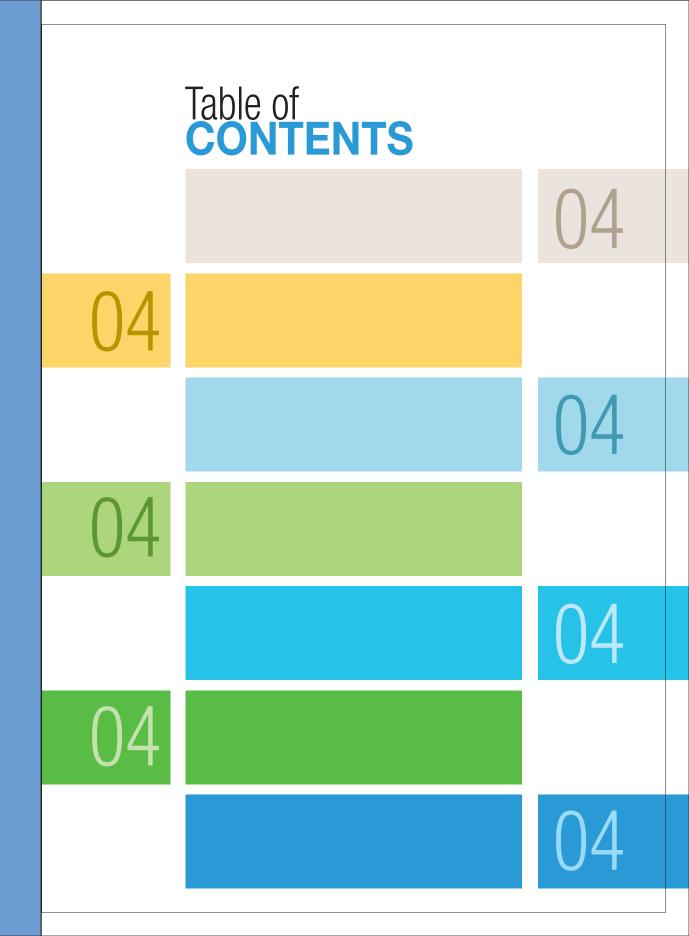
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# **CHAIRPERSON'S** NOTES

Reflections on 2024 and aspirations for 2025

As we step into 2025, we reflect on the activities, and growth of ASEAB over the past year. While 2023 was a landmark year, celebrating ASEAB's 30th anniversary, in 2024 we made new resolutions to advance our mission and deepen our impact in the communities we serve.



This year, ASEAB through its diverse programs and initiatives, reaffirmed its core principles of inclusivity, mutual respect, collaboration, and social justice.

In 2024, ASEAB expanded its footprint across various thematic areas, addressing pressing challenges while aligning closely with national priorities and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have strengthened our partnerships and collaborations with government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and other key stakeholders, whose support has been pivotal to our progress.

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The resilience and determination of our program participants and beneficiaries remain the cornerstone of our success. Their stories of courage and perseverance inspire us every day to redouble our efforts and refine our approaches. These stories remind us of the importance of listening, learning, and standing in solidarity with those we serve.

As we close this year, ASEAB is positioned for transformative growth. Beyond our ongoing programs, we recognize the need to amplify our role in policy research and advocacy, ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and acted upon in shaping public policies. This strategic shift will enable us to bridge the gap between grassroots realities and systemic change.

Looking forward, 2025 presents an opportunity to solidify ASEAB's impact further and expand our reach. With the lessons from the institutional assessment and long-term agenda-setting, we are committed to strengthening our organizational capacity and fostering innovation. The path ahead will demand resilience, creativity, and the unwavering dedication of ASEAB's leadership and team.

On behalf of ASEAB, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, government and non-government agencies, and, most importantly, our beneficiaries. Your trust and collaboration empower us to move forward with confidence and purpose. To our team, your tireless efforts and commitment inspire hope for a brighter future.

As we embark on another year, let us renew our shared commitment to creating a more just, equitable, and compassionate world. Together, we can continue to build a future where everyone can thrive with dignity and opportunity.

Kazi Minhazul Alam Chairperson



# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S** Statements

2024 the year we passed by

↑ s we bid farewell to 2024 and Astep into 2025, we take a moment to reflect on another remarkable year in ASEAB's journey. While 2023 marked the celebration of our 30th was a year of action, commitment to the communities we serve.

Throughout this year, ASEAB remained steadfast in its mission to uplift the lives of marginalized people, particularly women, children, and those living with disabilities. Our programs and projects in 2024 focused on addressing critical areas such as education, health, livelihood support, and social empowerment, reinforcing our dedication to creating an inclusive and equitable society.

The year was marked by both challenges and opportunities. Rising economic pressures and social disparities highlighted the urgency of our work. In response, ASEAB amplified its efforts to strengthen resilience in vulnerable communities. By fostering partnerships, leveraging innovative approaches, and building local capacities, we ensured that our initiatives continued to deliver sustainable impact.

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2024 also underscored the importance of adaptability. As global and local contexts evolved, ASEAB embraced change with a forward-looking approach. We prioritized enhancing institutional capacities, refining our strategic focus, and investing in the professional development of our dedicated team. These steps have positioned us to address the complexities of a rapidly changing world more effectively.

Significantly, this year saw us deepen our engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aligning our programs with national and global development frameworks. From promoting quality education to advancing gender equality and supporting climate resilience, ASEAB's efforts in 2024 reflected our commitment to driving meaningful change at every level.

As we prepare for 2025, we do so with a clear sense of purpose. Among our priorities is strengthening our policy advocacy efforts, ensuring that the voices of the underserved are heard in decision-making spaces. We are also embarking on new initiatives to expand our impact, focusing on long-term strategies that address systemic challenges while fostering innovation and collaboration.

None of this would have been possible without the invaluable support of our partners, collaborators, and stakeholders. To the government and non-government agencies, your collaboration has been integral to our success. To our program participants and beneficiaries, your resilience and trust remain our greatest source of inspiration. And to our dedicated team, your hard work and commitment continue to drive ASEAB's vision forward.

As we step into 2025, we carry with us the lessons of 2024 and a renewed determination to create a better future for those we serve. Together, let us continue to build pathways to opportunity, equity, and dignity for all.

#### Mahfuja Khanam **Executive Director**



#### **ASEAB Governance**

# **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



Kazi Minhazul Alam Chairperson



Mahfuja Khanam Secretary (Executive Director)



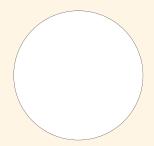
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Professor Kazi Minhajul Alam





only improved living conditions in these areas but also expanded its reach across the country, evolving into a national organization of significant impact.

Today, ASEAB's interventions have touched nearly every division of Bangladesh, directly contributing to the empowerment and improved livelihoods of over a million individuals facing multi-dimensional challenges. Through its diverse programs, ASEAB has addressed critical issues aligned with more than 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From creating livelihood opportunities to mitigating social injustices, tackling deprivation, and reducing inequality, ASEAB remains at the forefront of fostering sustainable development across Bangladesh.

In its journey toward driving change, ASEAB has established itself as a credible and accountable organization. It is registered with various regulatory bodies of the Government of Bangladesh, including the NGO Affairs Bureau (since 1995), the Trust Act (since 2002), the Microcredit Regulatory Authority (since 2008), and the Joint Stock Company (since 2009). These registrations underscore ASEAB's commitment to transparency, good governance, and ethical integrity in all its operations.

As ASEAB continues to grow, it remains steadfast in its mission to create lasting, positive change for the marginalized and to build a society where every individual can lead a dignified and empowered life.

#### Vision

ASEAB strives to create an egalitarian society that promotes the people's social, economic, political, cultural, moral, environmental, humanitarian, and ethical rights and enables poor people to prosper.



#### Mission

ASEAB aims to improve the living standard of the underprivileged and bring about a qualitative change ensuring sustainable development by emancipating the needy, especially women, children, and physically challenged people, from the clutches of multifaceted social and economic constraints and deprivation.



### **Legal Status**

- NGO Affairs Bureau Registration no.: 950, 28 June 1995
- Micro Credit Regulatory Authority (MRA) Registration No.: 00104-03016-00164, 16 Mar 2008
- Certificate of Registration of Societies Registration No.: 88, 12 October 2002
- Joint Stock Companies & Firms Registration No.: S-10672, 10 December 2009

# ASEAB's strategic approach

Considering the current development challenges and humanitarian context, ASEAB's key strategic agenda is to bring a significant change in the community. Accordingly, it has identified 3 key strategic pillars aligning with SDGs and ASEAB's mission. ASEAB has laid out its programs and values to contribute to its strategic vision.

#### Inclusive Economic Empowerment

- Economic development
- Gender equality
- Social Security
- Disability Inclusive

# Resilience and Well being

- Climate Change adaptation
- Health and Nutrition
- Humanitarian
   crisis

# Education and Capacity building

- Education
- Vocational and Technical education
- Youth development

# Programs



**Strategic** 

pillars

Micro-investment and entrepreneurship



Health and Nutrition



Women Economic Empowerment



Humanitarian Response



Social Justice, rights and governance



Advocacy and Communication



Water and Sanitation

#### **Values**



Mutual Respect



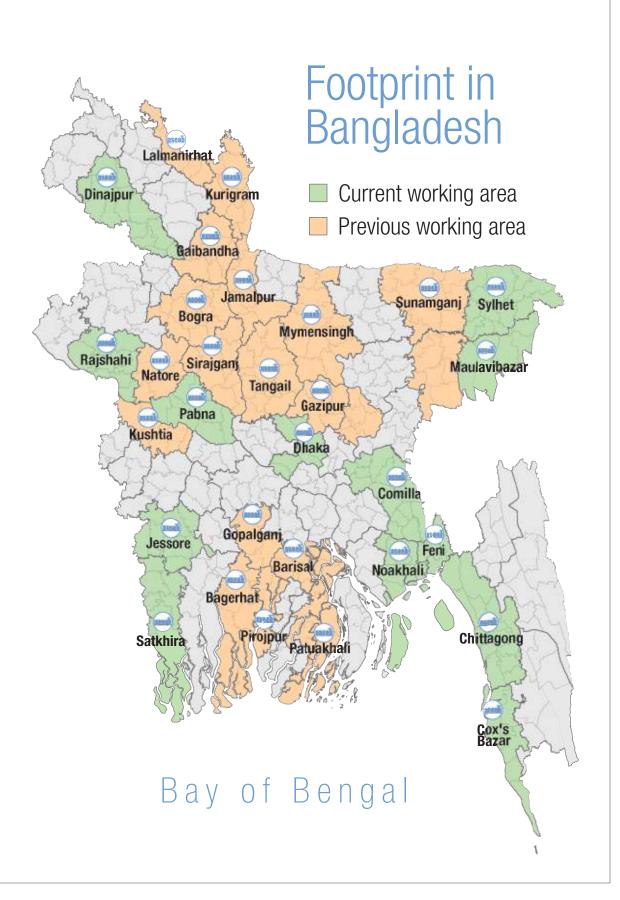
Ethical Integrity



Dignity and Inclusivity



Innovation and Effectiveness



# Contributions in

#### Education Program

- Supported 320 students 166) girls and 154 boys through 8 learning
- **Provides consistent** formal education support to 175 students from **ASEAB Shikha** Niketan.





#### **ASEAB Community Hospital**

- Provided healthcare services to 2,500 patients, including specialized services
- Provide free cataract operation facilities to 425 patients.



#### Sobujpolli Project, Dinajpur

• Engaged 300 participants in women's entrepreneurship development.



#### Sobujpolli Project, Pabna

• Supported 300 participants with various community development activities. (150 women participants and 150 children). Women empowerment and education of children through develop women entrepreneurship and education



#### Cox's Bazar **Health Program**

 Delivered healthcare services to 34,012 individuals, including primary healthcare, maternal care, and psychosocial support.





- Assisted 1,400 flood victims and 500 cyclone-affected individuals.
- Treatment & Rehabilitation support to 363 injured people by anti student movement in July-August 24
- Facilitated medical treatment for 363 students, enabling them to continue their recovery journey and regain their health.



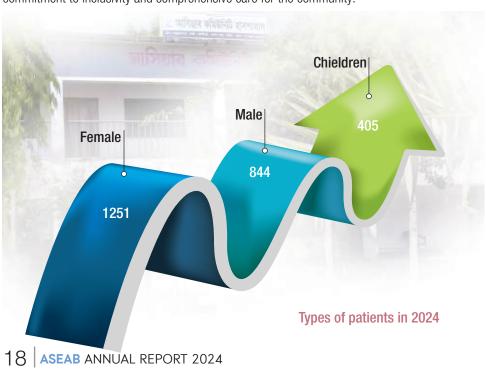
# Progress in 2024

# 1. Resilience and Wellbeing

### 1.1 ASEAB Community Hospital

Considering the demand and requirements of char people, ASEAB established a community hospital adjacent to the char areas and operates this hospital since 2000. The hospital has made a significant contribution to ensure the healthcare service of the char people and plays a vital role as a center for healthcare service for char community. Through this hospital, more than 50 patients ?? (monthly or total??) received different health care service.

In 2024, ASEAB Community Hospital continued its mission to provide accessible and quality healthcare, serving 2,500 patients, bringing its cumulative service total to an impressive 20,244 individuals. The hospital offered specialized diagnostic services, including ECGs, UCGs, and blood tests, conducting 1,990 yearly tests. The hospital maintained a balanced demographic reach, treating 1,251 females, 844 males, and 405 children, demonstrating its commitment to inclusivity and comprehensive care for the community.



#### Case Study 1



### Restoring Hope: Sadiq Ali's Journey to Vision and Livelihood

Md. Sadiq Ali, a 68-year-old bicycle and rickshaw repairer, has been in his profession for over 40 years. Once supporting a family of four, he now lives with only his wife, as his son and daughter take care of their own families. Sadig's declining vision over the past two years made it difficult to work, leading to reduced income and frequent scarcity of food. Eye treatment seemed unattainable for him. On 23rd May 2022, Sadiq learned about a free eye camp organized in Pabna by ASEAB, sponsored by BDesh Foundation USA and IMANA. Encouraged by his local imam, he visited the camp, where doctors diagnosed him with cataracts and recommended surgery. Along with 36 other patients, Sadig traveled to Bogura's Grameen GC Eye Care Hospital. After thorough examinations, his cataract surgery was successfully performed on 24th May 2022?? (report of 2024).

The following morning, as doctors removed his eye bandage, Sadiq joyfully exclaimed, "I can see like a child!" For the first time in years, he envisioned a future where he could resume his work and improve his life. The hospital provided him with glasses, medicines, and guidance for post-operative care. Sadiq followed all the guidelines and attended check-ups after a week and a

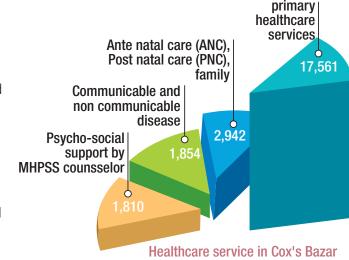
month. Fully recovered, he returned to repairing bicycles full-time, significantly improving his family's financial situation. Now, he and his wife are content, and Sadiq regularly prays at the mosque, expressing gratitude for the generous donors and medical staff who restored his vision. Two months after his surgery, Sadiq's life has transformed, allowing him to work, support his family, and pray for those who made this possible. His story is a testament to how timely care can



#### 1.2 Cox's Bazar Health Program

In Cox's Bazar, ASEAB has been implementing a number of health programs with support of Bangladesh Foundation and Human Relief Foundation. In Rohingya Camp, ASEAB has a satellite clinic. Through this satellite clinic and operating different health camps, ASEAB supported the Rohingya refugee community more.

In 2024, Cox's Bazar Health Program expanded the reach of healthcare services to 34,012 individuals. Primary healthcare services accounted for 17,561 consultations, while maternal and family planning services supported 2,942 individuals. Additionally, 1,854 people benefited from screening and management of diseases, and 1,810 received psychosocial support. The program's outcomes were notable, with



27,210 individuals gaining awareness about health, WASH, and hygiene, and 2,795 safe deliveries ensured. This comprehensive approach highlights ASEAB's commitment to addressing both preventive and curative healthcare needs.

### 1.3 Cataract Eyecare

With the invaluable support of the BDesh Foundation, ASEAB has transformed the lives of 3,649 individuals by facilitating cataract surgeries, giving them the priceless gift of restored vision. For many, this surgery marked the beginning of a new chapter, allowing them to



regain independence, return to work, and reconnect with their loved ones. Beyond surgeries, ASEAB also organized extensive eye care programs, offering sight check-ups to identify vision issues and provide early intervention. These initiatives not only restored hope but also empowered individuals to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

1.4 Humanitarian Response ASEAB's humanitarian response initiatives have been a lifeline for disasteraffected communities, reflecting its commitment to alleviating human suffering. During the devastating flash floods in Feni, ASEAB acted promptly to distribute essential relief materials to 1,693 individuals, ensuring their immediate needs for food, clean water, and basic supplies . Similarly, in the aftermath of destructive cyclones, ASEAB provided temporary shelter and recovery resources to 565 individuals, helping them rebuild their lives and restore a sense of security. These timely interventions not only reduced hardship but also underscored ASEAB's resilience and RELIEF FOR FLOOD V preparedness in responding to oken of Love emergencies. Feni, Bangladesh Beyond disaster response, ASEAB extended crucial support to injured participants of the antiquota movement. With the generous backing of the BDesh Foundation, ASEAB facilitated medical treatment for 363 students. Flood support **Cvclone** Quarbani Remal Meat support 1603 3250 599 **Humanitarian support** 







#### **Women Empowerment and Economic Growth**

The program provided an initial seed fund of BDT 10,000 to each of the 150 women, organized into seven groups, totaling BDT 1.5 million. Utilizing a group-based funding approach, the beneficiaries were able to accelerate their business growth by reinvesting their funds in productive activities. Regular follow-ups by the project team ensured effective utilization of the funds, resulting in a current collective fund of BDT 1.96 million across the groups.

Qualitative assessments reveal significant progress among the women entrepreneurs, highlighting the efficacy of the group-based fund approach in enhancing income-generating capacities. Moreover, the initiative fostered a culture of savings and mutual support through the establishment of a group welfare fund, which provides assistance to the most vulnerable members during times of need.

#### **Support for Child Education**

In addition to economic empowerment, the project has been dedicated to supporting the education of underprivileged children. The program covers school tuition fees, provides essential educational materials, and facilitates academic support through private tutoring. As a direct result of these interventions, 100% of the beneficiary students have continued their formal education. This success demonstrates the project's commitment to ensuring that children from marginalized backgrounds receive consistent and quality educational opportunities.

Overall, the Sobujpolli Jeebika Livelihood and Child Welfare Program exemplifies ASEAB's holistic approach to community development by integrating women empowerment with educational support, thereby fostering sustainable growth and resilience within the community.

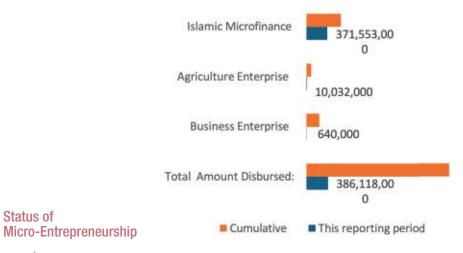






#### 2.2 Micro-Entrepreneurship

ASEAB has been implementing micro-finance program to enhance micro-entrepreneurship for marginalized poor. The Micro-finance program has proven to be a cornerstone for fostering micro-entrepreneurship, providing essential financial support to empower small businesses and agricultural enterprises. This reporting period underscores the program's capacity to catalyze growth and resilience among entrepreneurs, especially through its emphasis on Islamic Microfinance and other tailored loan options. A total of Tk 386,118,000 was disbursed during the reporting period, bringing the cumulative figure to Tk 2,532,738,000. This capital infusion has enabled entrepreneurs across sectors to establish and expand their ventures. The program's focus on Islamic Microfinance accounted for the majority of disbursements, with Tk 371,553,000 allocated to support businesses compliant with ethical financing principles. Agricultural loans worth Tk 10,032,000 and business loans of Tk 640,000 further reinforced efforts to bolster key sectors that drive community livelihoods. The program's outstanding portfolio of Tk 212,282,568 reflects its ongoing commitment to sustaining entrepreneurial growth. With an average loan size of Tk 48,783 and tenures ranging between 46 weeks to 1 year, the program ensures accessibility and flexibility for diverse entrepreneurial needs.



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# Operational Supporting Entrepreneurs

The program's operational framework is tailored for efficiency and impact. With 29 dedicated field officers managing an average of 337 clients each, the program ensures that entrepreneurs receive personalized support and guidance. Reduced operational costs, now at Tk 5,428 per loan compared to a cumulative average of Tk 6,941, reflect the program's commitment to optimizing resources for greater outreach. Additionally, a cost recovery ratio of 120.32% underscores the program's sustainability, enabling it to reinvest in

# Entrepreneurial Stability and Challenges

community-driven initiatives.

The repayment rate of 95.56% during this period, while slightly below the cumulative rate of 98.11%, demonstrates the resilience of micro-entrepreneurs even in challenging circumstances. However, arrears amounting to Tk 18,347,825, particularly those overdue by more than 181 days, highlight areas for improvement in repayment support and credit management. Addressing these issues will be critical to ensuring long-term entrepreneurial stability.



#### **Insights and Path Forward**

The loan program is not merely a financial tool; it is a catalyst for microentrepreneurship and community transformation. Its emphasis on Islamic Microfinance aligns with cultural and ethical preferences, empowering businesses to thrive in a values-driven manner. Agricultural and business loans play a vital role in diversifying economic activities and enhancing food security.

Nevertheless, challenges remain, particularly in managing arrears and maintaining repayment discipline. Strengthening borrower education, providing

targeted repayment support, and implementing proactive credit risk strategies will enhance the program's impact. Furthermore, scaling operational efficiencies and leveraging technology can help expand the program's reach to underserved communities.

#### Case Study 2

# Shiuli's Journey Towards Economic Stability



Shiuli, aged 28, lives in Govindapur, Sagarkandi Union, Sujanagar, Pabna, with her husband, a daily laborer, and their two children. Her daughter, Mim Akter Maria, a third-grader. is a sponsored child under ASEAB's Child Welfare Project funded by the BDesh Foundation (SF ID-0577). With no land except a small homestead, Shiuli joined the project's Sabui Palli Chameli Women Entrepreneurs Group. She regularly attends meetings, saves, and contributes to the

welfare fund. Shiuli has saved 2,600 BDT and received a 10,000 BDT loan. She invested in 10 ducklings (1,000 BDT) and a goat (8,000 BDT). After four months, she sold four ducks for 5,500 BDT and used the money to cultivate onions on 33 decimals and tomatoes on 20 decimals of leased land. She expects to earn 60,000 BDT each from the harvests. Her goat has given birth to a kid, increasing its value to 12,000 BDT. Shiuli dreams of expanding her livestock farm in the future.

# 3. Education and Capacity Building

#### 3.1 Cox's Bazar Education program

ASEAB Technical Institute enthusiastically launched its new academic session for 2025, offering a dynamic blend of academic and vocational training from Class 6 through SSC vocational courses. The institute opened its doors to a vibrant cohort, enrolling 5 boys and 25 girls in Class 6, and 3 boys alongside 8 girls in Class 7—totaling 41 motivated students eager to learn and grow. In addition to a strong academic foundation, ASEAB has enriched its curriculum with specialized trade training. Students have the unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in Refrigerator and AC Repairing, ICT and Computer Skills, Apparel, and General Mechanics. This integrated approach not only equips students with essential technical skills but also prepares them for future employment by bridging the gap between theory and practice. By fostering both academic excellence and practical expertise, ASEAB is committed to nurturing a generation of skilled professionals ready to meet the challenges of the

166 154 320 Girl Boy students

Cox's Bazar Education program

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#### 3.2 ASEAB Shikha Niketan

ASEAB has made significant progress in promoting education and capacity building, particularly among marginalized and vulnerable communities in Pabna. A key initiative in this endeavor is ASEAB Shikha Niketan, a formal school established in the char region of Pabna. Serving as a vital educational hub, the school provides consistent access to quality education for 175 students, ensuring that children in this remote area are not deprived of learning opportunities.

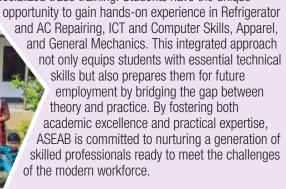


ASEAB Shikha Niketan follows the national curriculum prescribed by the Government while also incorporating moral education to foster ethical and social development among students. The school operates with five sections, covering classes 1 to 5, offering a structured and supportive learning environment. Upon completion of primary education, ASEAB facilitates the transition of students to secondary schools and monitors their academic progress to ensure continued learning and success.

The impact of this initiative is reflected in the 2024 academic results, where 98% of students successfully completed their primary education and secured admission into Class 6 in formal secondary schools. Through this structured approach, ASEAB remains committed to making education accessible and sustainable for children in disadvantaged regions, ensuring that no child is left behind in their pursuit of knowledge and personal growth.

### 2.3 ASEAB Vocational Training

ASEAB Technical Institute enthusiastically launched its new academic session for 2025, offering a dynamic blend of academic and vocational training from Class 6 through SSC vocational courses. The institute opened its doors to a vibrant cohort, enrolling 5 boys and 25 girls in Class 6, and 3 boys alongside 8 girls in Class 7—totaling 41 motivated students eager to learn and grow. In addition to a strong academic foundation, ASEAB has enriched its curriculum with specialized trade training. Students have the unique

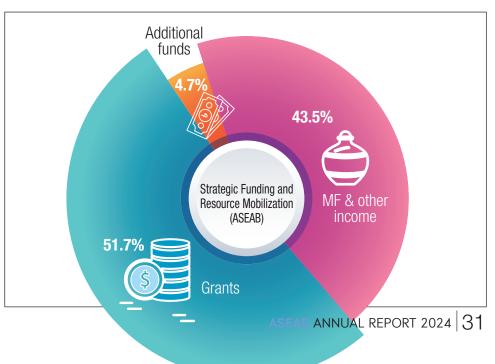


# Financial Performance

In 2024, ASEAB demonstrated robust financial management and unwavering commitment to its humanitarian mission. Operating with a total budget of BDT 147,665,102, the organization successfully implemented key projects while exercising fiscal prudence. The actual expenditure for the year was BDT 116,308,416, reflecting a strong budget utilization of 79%. This disciplined spending allowed ASEAB to support a range of vital programs and initiatives without compromising on its strategic goals.

### Strategic Funding and Resource Mobilization

The financial backbone of ASEAB's operations was built on a diverse portfolio of funding sources. Major contributions included grants amounting to BDT 60,180,678, complemented by income from various streams (MF and other sources) of BDT 50,652,160, and additional funds totaling BDT 5,475,578. This diversified funding structure not only underpins the organization's operational resilience but also reinforces stakeholder confidence in ASEAB's ability to deliver impactful outcomes. Donor support played a critical role in 2024. Notably, the BDesh Foundation emerged as the largest contributor with BDT 48,183,328, followed by significant contributions from the Ministry of Health (BDT 2,000,000) and the Human Relief Foundation (BDT 9,997,350). This donor mix reflects broad-based confidence in ASEAB's mission and the trust placed in its operational strategies.





## Program Implementation and Impact

ASEAB's project portfolio for 2024 spanned several critical areas, including child welfare, food distribution, emergency relief, and healthcare services. Key initiatives, such as the "Sponsor A Child Program for Rohingya Displaced Children" (Phases 08 & 09), were supported by substantial funding, while food distribution efforts during Holy Ramadan provided much-needed relief to both Rohingya communities and citizens of Bangladesh. In addition, projects like the delivery of primary health services in Cox's Bazar and low-cost cataract surgery for underprivileged populations highlight ASEAB's holistic approach to community support and empowerment.

The diversity of projects underscores the organization's agile response to the varied needs of vulnerable communities. From emergency Qurbani meat distributions to flood relief and rehabilitation, each program was carefully calibrated to address immediate crises while also building longer-term resilience among beneficiaries.