



BITAN

Institute For Training Awareness And Networking



ANNUAL REPORT **2016-2017**



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Institute For Training Awareness And Networking

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ANNUAL REPORT **2016-2017**

BITAN is a non-governmental organization working for 13 years to provide quality integrated services to the underprivileged sections of the community with particular focus on young people between the age group 10-24 years. BITAN choose adolescent youth as one the prime target group as this is the section covering larger percentage of the entire population. This is the section which has immense power to bring change and carry bigger responsibilities, yet they are neglected and have not been given much importance. Making them empowered is empowering the nation.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



ORGANISATION DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name of the Applicant | BITAN Institute of Training, Awareness and Networking |
| Head Office Address | 342/A/1/C, "JOY GURU VILLA" M.G. Road (Bina Cinema More). Budge Budge Kolkata 700137, West Bengal bitanorg@gmail.com 08017638070 |
| Other address (Project Office) | 1. Tribeni PSPD Unit (ITC Colony area), Tharmal Battala, Chandrahati, Hooghly District 2. H/O of Subrashis Debnath Newtown, P.O & D.T Alipurduar, Pin:736121 (North Bengal Office) |

LEGAL STATUS | Major Registrations

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 12 AA | DIT (E) / 8E/07/2013-14/S-94/ 1703-05 |
| 80 G | DIT (E) /8E /07/2013-14/G-183/1706-08 |
| Registration in Society Registration Act | S/1L/31020 Date: 5th August, 2005 |
| FCRA Registration | 147120907, dated 11.07.2011 |
| PAN | AABTB1380R |
| TAN | CALB16250D |
| Name of the Legal Holder | Asit Kumar Sasmal, Secretary, BITAN |

ORGANISATION STATUS

VISION

Vibrant community where the most vulnerable and marginalized youth (boys and girls) lead fulfilled lives as they are valued, included and empowered

MISSION

Overall empowerment of youth following an integrated approach

TARGET POPULATION

Youth, women of reproductive age group (15-49) and children (0-5 years)

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of BITAN for the year 2016-2017. The four main projects that BITAN worked on during the period has been one of great learning for the organisation and enhanced the capacity and skills of BITAN.

The project GSK - Save Lives made remarkable achievement in facilitating financial assistance under Janani Suraksha Yojana or JSY for institutional delivery. The project has worked towards promoting institutional delivery. As a result of which there is an increase of almost 21% in cases of insitutional delivery compared to the base line.

Integrated Solid Waste Management Project is another flagship programme of BITAN. Over the last financial year BITAN has put in concerted effort to increase the reach of the project, involve women in leadership role and make the project financially sustainable. The project registered noticeable improvements in six aspects of the project.

Under Basic Health Care and Support Programme and SABLA, BITAN has brought about life-changing improvements under several aspects.

These successes and and improvements not only positively influenced the the lives of the beneficiaries but have also enhanced the capacity, skills and confidence of BITAN.

I take this opportunity to thank and express my heartfelt gratitude to all donor who have supported us in our endeavours and motivated us to perform better and better everyday. I also thank the entire staff team of BITAN for their relentless hardwork and effort.

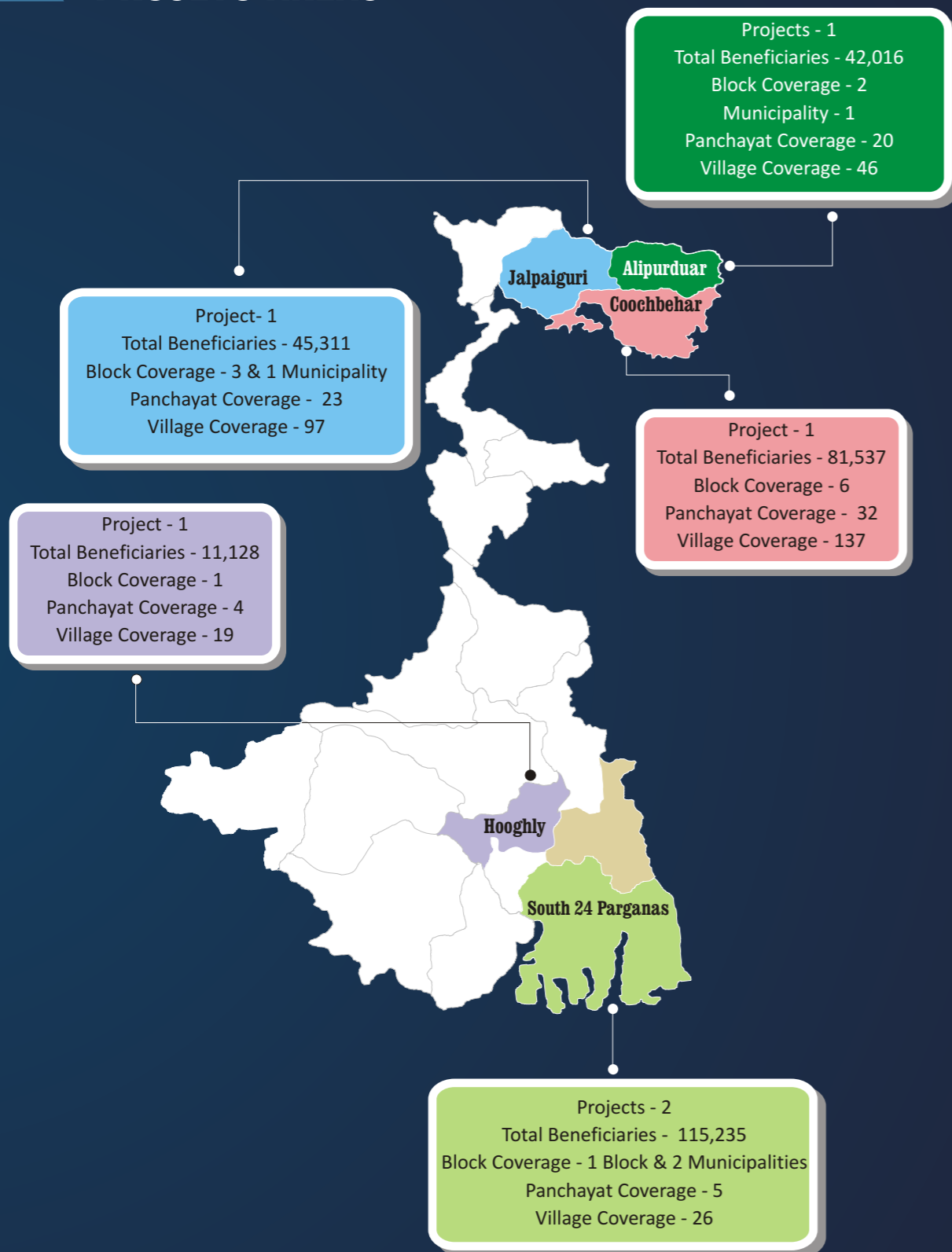
Last but not the least I would sincerely like to thank the people for whom and with whom we work. There favourable response and participation has taken the projects to a new heights and contibuted to making this society a better place.

I wish and hope that BITAN will continue to strive and reach out to the most needy in the coming days.

Asit Kimar Sasmal
Secretary
BITAN



PROJECT AREAS



GSK | SAVE LIVES

This is a very challenging project implemented by BITAN. Save Lives project, as the name suggests aims at saving lives of people through improving the overall health, nutrition and sanitation conditions of the people of Nayabasti slum focusing primarily at maternal and child health issues. The challenges were on two fronts. First; the issue of maternal and child health had never been a priority in the lives of these people and second; in order to effectively sensitise the core target group namely the women, the entire family members of the community had to be taken into confidence.

The baseline survey conducted by Bitan at the beginning of the project found an alarming rate of 79.59% women who delivered at home and only around 3% mothers fed the first milk, colostrum to their babies and a dismal 5.26% mothers practiced exclusive breastfeeding for first six months. Moreover existing traditional and religious mindsets of people coupled with lack of basic infrastructure and amenities posed a formidable challenge to the project.

Bitan however took up the challenge, systematically conducting community mobilisation and sensitisation programmes. Some key activities undertaken by Bitan under the project are:

- Organised nutrition demonstration camp at Nayabasti where mothers were taught to cook low cost nutritious food and relate it to the Nutrition Chart
- In order to help reduce the problem of drinking water scarcity Bitan installed a tubewell after discussion with the community
- Bitan took up several advocacy and linkage initiatives. One such initiative was meeting with Health Administrative Unit of the Municipality and government hospitals. The pregnant mothers were encouraged and helped registration and in obtaining MCP cards. Moreover the project staff wholeheartedly supported and promoted the government led health programmes so that all project beneficiaries participate and reap the benefits.
- Bitan regularly provided community level health services including arrangement for Referral service constant supervision of children under 2 years, pregnant and lactating mothers and formation of Mahila Arogya Samiti as per the provision of NUHM. But the biggest task was possibly to counsel and convince pregnant women to register at the hospitals to ensure institutional delivery and avail government benefits.
- Bitan project staff also facilitated the opening of bank accounts of 5 pregnant women so as to receive the monetary benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana.
- Apart from this, Bitan observed and celebrated Orange Day to mark the importance of a healthy life. The day was spent in spreading awareness on basic health and hygiene aspects of general well being.



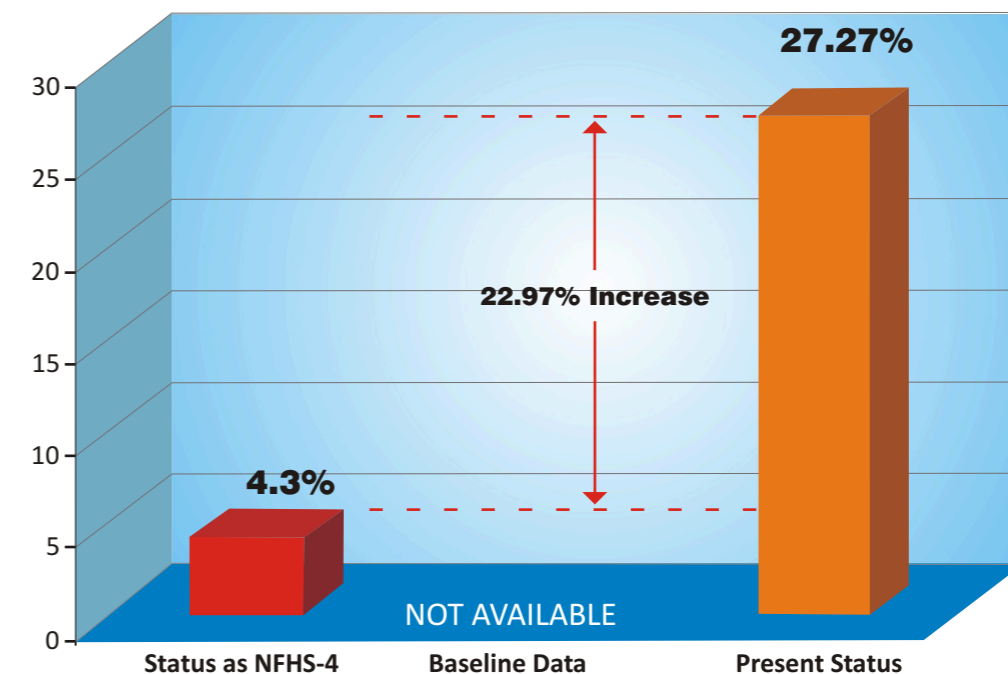
Major Achievements

The major achievements are primarily measured against the baseline conducted by Bitan.

- One remarkable achievement has been in the area of availing financial assistance under Janani Suraksha Yojana or JSY for institutional delivery. The baseline conducted during October 2015 indicated not a single mother received the assistance. However one and half year into the project, data shows that almost 23% mothers received the assistance. This is around 5.45% more than NFHS-4 urban data fact sheet.
- Institutional delivery climbed from 20.41% initially to 41.40% marking an increase of almost 21%

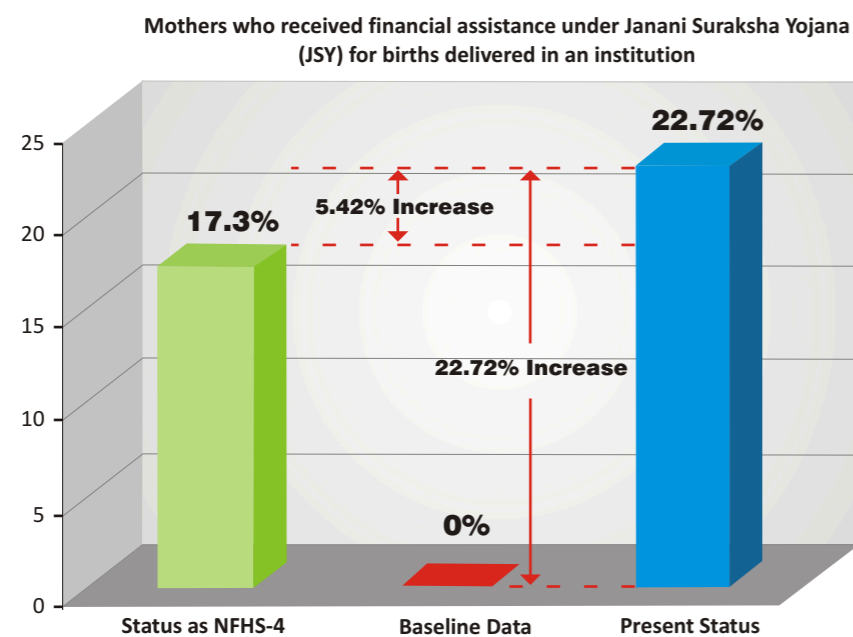
- Another significant achievement has been the increase in percentage of the children born at home who were taken to a health facility for check-up within 24 hours of birth. This data was not available during base line. NFHS-4 urban data fact sheet mentions it as 4.3%. The achievement of has been at a whopping 27.27% in 18 months; almost 23% increase.
- In the practice of exclusive breastfeeding though the achievement of Bitan stands a bit lower at 54.5% against 61.1% in NFHS-4 urban data fact sheet, however when compared to the baseline which was at 5.26%, the increase is more than 49%.

Children born at home who were taken to a health facility for check-up within 24 hours of birth



These are just some of the key achievement of BITAN. There also has been some roadblock that has slowed its progress. For example Mothers who received postnatal care from a doctor/nurse (It's a service provision of Govt. But it is done by our project staff)/ LHV/ ANM/ midwife/other health personnel within 2 days of delivery at present stands at 68.2%. This present parameter is lower than what it used to be six months earlier. The reason behind this is that during this period is the retirement of honorary health worker with no immediate replacement.

These achievements indicate the intensity and gradual effectiveness of community mobilisation and steady change towards improvement in health seeking behaviour with respect to MCH.



Case Story



18 year old Rani Mahato is a resident of Nayabasti. A member of the minority community, Rani married 21 year old Sujit Mahato, a driver by profession. This mixed marriage was not accepted by their family. With no one to guide and support them, things turned bleak when Rani was pregnant in the following year. It was the project that stood by them. The project staff during their home visits met Rani counseled and convinced her to have herself registered at the hospital. The staff helped and facilitated the process of obtaining a hospital and MCP card and she received proper ANC checkups.

On 15 December 2016 Rani gave birth to a healthy baby boy at Chittaranjan Hospital. They are now in very healthy condition and her child is receiving regular timely immunisations.

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Integrated Solid Waste Management Project or ISWMP of BITAN is supported by ITC Ltd. since 2014. The project is implemented in four panchayats of Chinsura Mogra block in Hooghly district.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the decentralised approach in waste management system and convert bio waste into organic compost for promoting sustainable agriculture practices and reduction of disease load in semi-urban areas. And in doing this the project aims to meaningfully engage the SHGs and create livelihood opportunities, build linkages to government schemes and develop a community ownership.



Key Activities of the Project

- **Strengthening partnerships and relationship.** Bitan made an all out effort to forge new partnerships and strengthen existing ones in order to take the project forward. Keeping the SHGs at the centre Bitan facilitated a process of dialogue, discussion and mutual support to ensure the effectiveness of the project.
- **Sensitisation and awareness.** Without deep seated awareness among the community members the project would yield half hearted results. Bitan ensured that the project staff at all levels spread awareness about the project and sensitise the community on collaborative approach. House to house visits were conducted to obtain a maximum reach, coupled with sansad level

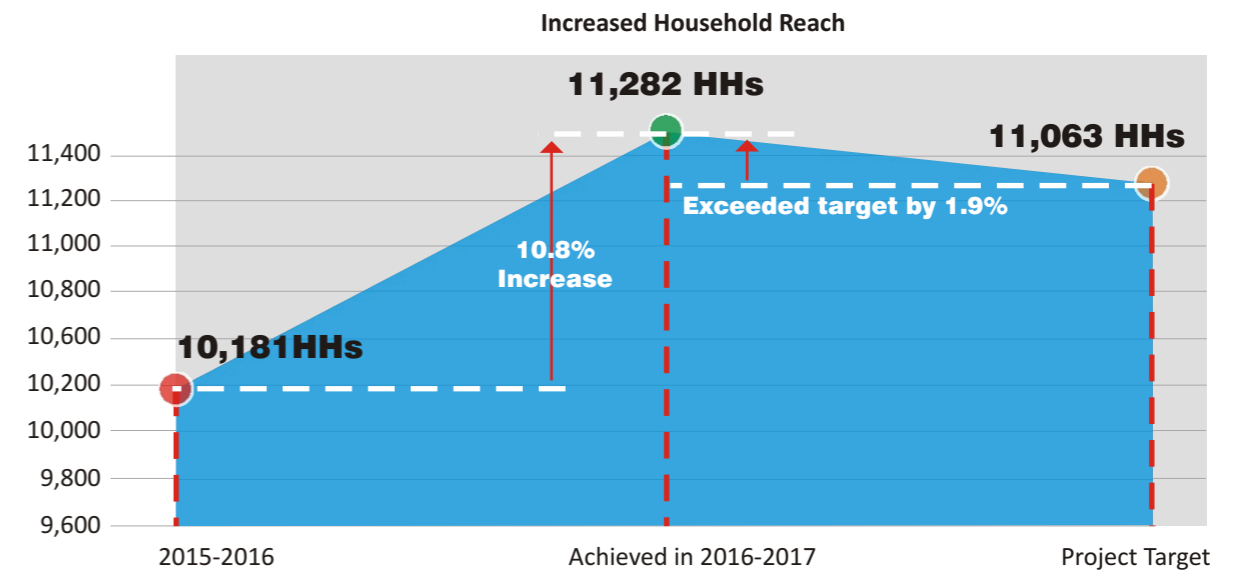
sensitisation meetings.

- **Capacity building.** SHG cluster members and Paribeshbandhus were given hands-on intense orientation and training on programme operation, technical details and like skills to carry out the works for maximum impact.
- Training workshops for Paribeshbandhus and SHG Cluster members
- Monthly review meetings
- Advocacy and Linkage with all the concerned government authorities and other institutions like SDO, BDO, Jt. BDO, Bank, ADO, BMOH, ICDS workers
- Participation at rallies observing World Hand Washing Day and World Toilet Day organised by MSK partners
- Participation in District level convergence meeting
- Participation at Health Camp
- Participation in 4 rallies to generate awareness among the community members and mobilize them for waste segregation at source, and to involve adolescent girls as change agents in the



Major Achievements

Increased Reach. Compared to the year 2015-2016, Bitan was able to increase the household coverage under the project by 1,101 households in 2016-2017. It needs to be mentioned that number exceeded the set target of 11,063 households for the year. This reflects the effective penetration of the awareness in the community by the project staff. (Chart or graph)



Women Led Project Approach. Of the 180 persons engaged in the project 165 are women. They contribute in performing the major activities under the project. Further of the total number of persons gainfully engaged 156 belongs to the Scheduled Caste and 3 to the Scheduled Tribe, indicating how the project has created opportunities to engage people from the marginal sections of the society.

Improvement in Collection and Waste Management. In comparison to 2015-2016 the project has been able to register noticeable improvement in six major parameters in 2016-2017.

| | Waste Collection and Management | 2015-2016 Weight in Tonnes | 2016-2017 Weight in Tonnes | Change Weight in Tonnes |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Waste Collected | 709 | 990 | 281 |
| 2 | Recyclable Waste Collected | 5.2 | 16 | 10.8 |
| 3 | Compostable Waste Collected | 468 | 755 | 287 |
| 4 | Manure Produced | 65 | 98 | 33 |
| 5 | Recyclable Waste Sold | 5.2 | 14 | 8.8 |
| 6 | Municipal Dump* | 235 | 218 | 17 |

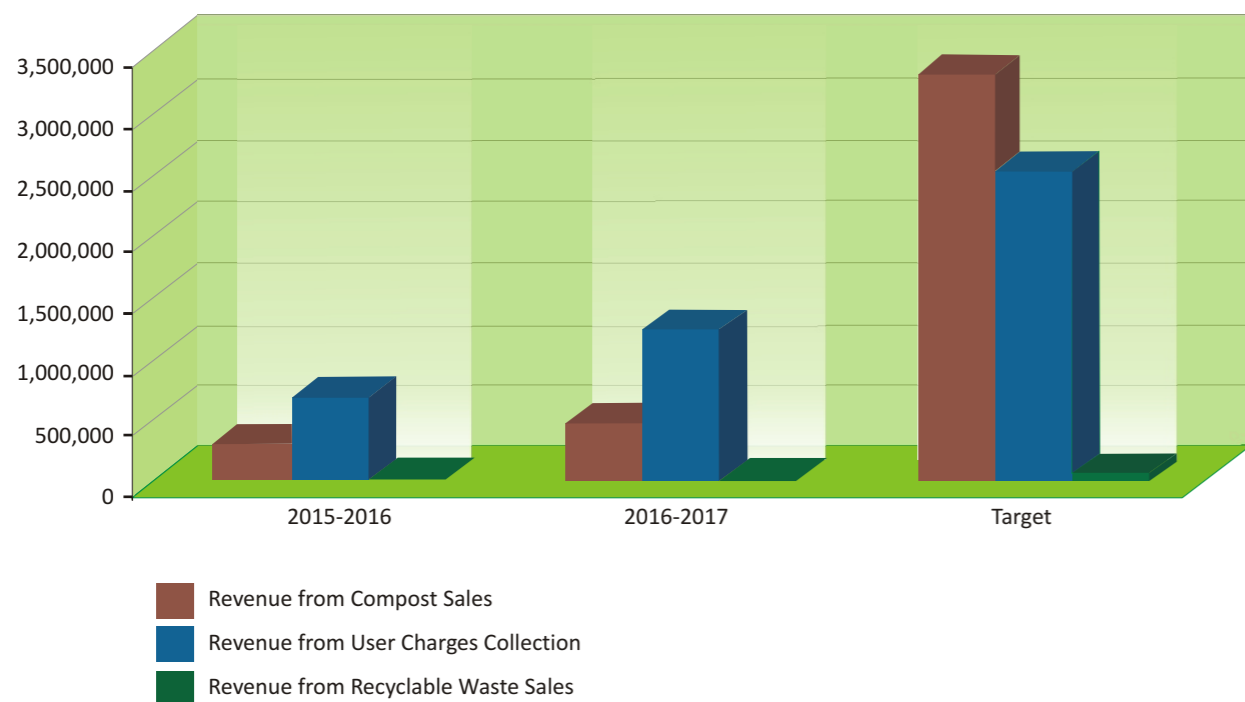
*The reduction or decrease indicates improvement

In all the six parameters ambitious targets were set in order to bring about tangible change through the project. In some way the set target was not feasible in many aspects, so the project could not reach the target. However in some parameters like compostable waste collected the project achieved as high as 89% of the target.

Improvement in Revenue Generation. There were three parameters for revenue generation. These were:

1. Revenue from compost sales
2. Revenue from user charges collection
3. Revenue from recyclable waste sales

It is true Bitan could not achieve the combined target of Rs. 5,901,916 set for the year 2016-2017; however what is remarkable is that for all the three parameters, the revenue generation for 2016-2017 is far more compared to 2015-2016. Further Bitan has achieved a significant increase amounting to almost 73% in total revenue generation through waste management in the present year. This is notable in terms of financial stability of the project.



Other Achievements

Bitan has been able to achieve a robust stakeholders engagement in the project through constant community sensitisation and mobilisation activities. Panchayats were directly involved in

strengthening SHG cluster. Panchayats have also extended their support in solving operational problems. Besides Bitan participated in different activities organised by the panchayat and played a part in decision making process in gram sabha meetings.

Case Story

A fighting spirit can change everything. Rupali Doyari of Gaharpur, Chandrabati II panchayat, had just completed her class XII when she met Babin over phone. The telephonic chats gradually turned into an affair of love and soon love culminated into marriage.

Young Babin Doyari from Amta realised the pressure of running a family after their marriage. He was only a class X pass and had no other skill or qualifications to find a good job. The money he earned as a welder was not enough to have both ends meet.

The in-laws too were not happy at the development and they began pressurising Rupali for money from her father to build a house. Failure of which, led to ill treatment. But more was yet to come. When Rupali was pregnant, she was driven out of her in-laws house and took shelter with her father, where she gave birth to a baby girl. In an effort to earn, Rupali began coaching students. Her husband occasionally came and did whatever he could. It was during that time, when Rupali joined integrated solid waste Management Project as a cluster monitor of Gaharpur samsad of Chandrabati II Gram Panchyat. SHG cluster had selected her for her good behaviour.

Today her child is 7 year old and is studying at Tribeni Primary School. Rupali teaches a group of students every evening after completing her project work during the day. She feels proud to be a self-dependent woman and wants to raise her child properly.



BASIC HEALTH CARE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Project Basic Health Care and Support Programme works toward maintaining regular coordination with different stakeholders to identify certain major issues and work towards a joint solution. With the active support of women's groups the project facilitates health services to ensure that it reaches the unreached. The project is operated in 2 panchayats, covering 10 villages and 52 AWCs.



Major Activities

Information collection from AWCs and Sub Centres. In order to understand the ground scenario at the Anganwadi Centres and Sub Centres Bitan conducted need assessment and collected relevant information the findings of which helped in project planning.

Develop plans at different levels. A total number of 58 Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) members were trained on the structure, functions and role of VHSNC following the GoI guidelines. This has helped in improving the knowledge of VHSNC members and develop need based advocacy plans at all levels.

Supporting VHSNC. Bitan helped in formation of VHSNC with the support of the Panchayat. Bitan facilitated in the development of Annual Health Plans for the Panchayat. It has also provided leadership and support in the supply of piped drinking water, which was found to be in acute shortage during the need assessment. Bitan offered Rs. 5,000 for the initiative.

Networking with Adolescents. A total of seven camps were organised covering 218 girls. The activity included awareness generation and training on Life Skill Education (LSE), Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Leadership skills. The knowledge in leadership, communication, ARSH & nutrition related issues improved among 15 peer leaders.

Capacity Building. Bitan organised capacity building programmes for ANMs on immunisation drop outs and spot feeding at AWCs. Besides Bitan also provided training to members of PRI, VDC and GUS with the purpose of identifying case stories and conduct a needs assessment with all stake holders in the community.

Case Stories

During discussion in one of the VHSNC meeting at Mayapur GP, the community raised the issue of lack of water supply in the area and requested the VHSNC to take some action. The problem of water supply was not new to the area and was a burning issue which needed immediate action. After a series of facilitation meetings with all stakeholders the community agreed to raise some fund but requested BITAN and the Gram Panchayat to come forward towards solving this problem. Both BITAN and the GP members including Pradhan felt the need to be part of such a good initiative and they too committed to give some fund which would ensure piped water supply in the area. With this thought in mind Rs. 4,000 from the community, Rs. 2,500 from Mayapur GP and Rs. 5 000 from BITAN was raised for completion of the initiative.

Today water is being supplied three times a day in the area to around 100 families and the people are happy to lead and implement this community driven initiative. On completion of this initiative the community decided to build the platform of the source of the water and the GP Pradhan has committed that he will complete the same from the existing funds available at the Gram Panchayat.



SABLA

SABLA-KP Convergence program is a flagship program of Rajib Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls-SABLA, Govt. of India

The aim of this program is to improve the status and wellbeing of adolescent girls (11-18 years) and empower them by providing education in RSH, life skills education and health & nutrition education.

Bitan is implementing the project in three districts of West Bengal; Alipurduar, Coochbehar and Jalpaiguri.



Major Achievements

| | Progress marker | Achievements | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Alipurduar | Coochbehar | Jalpaiguri |
| 1 | Capacity building of the adolescent girls following integrated learning games for girls (LGG) training module at the Kishori Samooch level | 1,335 LGG sessions conducted | 4,957 LGG sessions conducted | 9,810 LGG sessions conducted |
| 2 | No. of AGs received Kishori Cards | 11,565 | 30,881 | 34,210 |
| 3 | No. of Kishori Cards regularly updated | 4,928 | 5,631 | 13,677 |
| 4 | No. of AGs re-admitted | 86 out-of School AGs | 157 | 162 |
| 5 | No. of girls visited health institutions through exposure visits | 1,231 | 3,877 | 1,421 |
| 6 | No. Of AGs trained by respective PCs/FFs on Land Based Livelihood | 1,437 | 772 | 527 |
| 7 | No. of AGs practicing Land Based Livelihood options/developed kitchen garden at their homes | 475 | 212 | 67 |
| 8 | No. of K1 and K2 cases solved | 44 | 56 | 72 |
| 9 | No. of early marriage cases prevented | 6 | 6 | 4 |