



ANNUAL REPORT

Minority Women Livelihood Development Project



Funded by Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF)

Implemented by Nice Foundation

Project Duration: August 01 2025 to July 31 2026

Project Area: Batiaghata and Dumuria Upazilas, Khulna District

Prepared by: Nice Foundation

1. Executive Summary

The Minority Women Livelihood Development Project is a 12-month livelihood initiative implemented by NICE Foundation with financial support from the Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF). The project focuses on poverty alleviation, women's economic self-reliance, and improved quality of life among poor and marginalized women. The project is currently implemented in Batiaghata Upazila of Khulna District.

During the reporting period, 21 poor minority women were initially provided with two female sheep each, totaling 42 sheep. The project applies an asset-multiplication approach: one lamb produced by each beneficiary is collected and transferred to an additional poor woman. Through this mechanism, the benefits of the initial productive assets are extended to another 21 women, bringing the total number of women reached through the project's direct and expanded benefit mechanism to 42.

The project combines productive asset support with training, technical guidance, monthly meetings, savings promotion, monitoring, and community participation. Two case studies presented in this report demonstrate how sheep rearing, poultry activities, training, and regular follow-up have contributed to increased confidence, productive assets, and livelihood opportunities for beneficiary women.

2. Project at a Glance

Particular	Details
Project Title	Minority Women Livelihood Development Project
Implementing Organization	NICE Foundation
Funding Organization	Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF)
Project Duration	August 01 2025 to July 31 2026
Project Area	Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna District
Project Goal	Economic self-reliance and social and economic empowerment of poor minority women
Initial Beneficiaries	21 poor minority women
Initial Sheep Distributed	42 sheep (2 female sheep per beneficiary)
Additional Women Reached	21 poor women through transfer of one lamb from each initial beneficiary
Total Women Benefiting	42 women

3. Project Goal and Objectives

3.1 Goal

To ensure the economic self-reliance of poor minority women and promote their social and economic empowerment.

3.2 Objectives

- Provide 42 sheep to 21 poor minority women to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and contribute to improved quality of life.
- Provide training on sheep rearing, care, feeding management, disease prevention, and basic treatment.
- Install a nameplate at the house of each sheep recipient to enhance project visibility and accountability.
- Organize regular monthly meetings on sheep rearing, disease prevention, breeding, care, management, and experience sharing.
- Create opportunities for poor women to build productive assets through free sheep support and contribute to increased household income.

4. Major Activities and Achievements

Activity	Achievement
Beneficiary selection and verification	Poor and marginalized women were assessed and selected according to project criteria.
Sheep distribution	21 beneficiaries received two female sheep each, totaling 42 sheep.
Training	Beneficiaries received practical training on sheep rearing, feed management, disease prevention, and proper care.
Monthly follow-up	Regular training, counseling, experience sharing, and technical support were provided.
Asset multiplication	One lamb from each initial beneficiary was collected and provided to an additional 21 poor women.
Savings promotion	A savings mechanism was introduced for beneficiaries, including regular monthly deposits in individual accounts.
Community participation	Beneficiary participation and local experience were incorporated into project planning and implementation.

5. Asset Multiplication and Beneficiary Expansion

A key innovation of the project is the transfer of productive assets from one beneficiary to another. Initially, 21 women received two female sheep each. As the sheep produced offspring, one lamb from each beneficiary was collected and transferred to an additional 21 poor women.

This approach establishes a scalable livelihood model in which the original productive assets generate opportunities for additional families. It also demonstrates how limited resources can be used successively to expand livelihood support beyond the initial beneficiary group.

6. Training, Capacity Building and Technical Support

Training and technical support were integral components of the project. Beneficiaries received practical guidance on sheep rearing, feeding and nutrition management, disease prevention, breeding, animal care, and basic management.

The project experience indicates that asset provision alone is not sufficient for sustainable livelihood development. Continuous training, counseling, mentoring, and field-level follow-up help beneficiaries manage productive assets effectively and strengthen their capacity to generate income.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

A strong Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system is essential to measure project progress, beneficiary outcomes, asset growth, and implementation challenges. The project emphasizes regular data collection, beneficiary follow-up, field-level monitoring, and analysis of socio-economic changes.

- Monitor the condition, growth, and reproduction of sheep.
- Track beneficiary participation in training and monthly meetings.
- Document changes in productive assets and livelihood opportunities.
- Identify implementation challenges and opportunities for improvement.
- Use monitoring findings for future planning and evidence-based decision-making.

8. Beneficiary Case Studies

8.1 Subarna Goldar – On the Path to Self-Reliance

The life of 49-year-old Subarna Goldar from Par-Batiaghata village in Batiaghata Upazila of Khulna District was one of constant struggle. Her husband, Nitai Goldar, is a day laborer. As the family owns no agricultural land of its own, he earns his livelihood by working on other people's land. They have three children—two daughters are married, while their only son is currently studying at the intermediate level. Apart from their homestead, the family has no other assets.

Her husband's income alone was not sufficient to meet the family's expenses. Therefore, Subarna also worked as a day laborer. Despite the hard work of both husband and wife, they could not save any money after meeting their basic household needs. She was always worried about the future. Her biggest concern was how to establish a sustainable source of income for her family.

At that time, with financial assistance from the Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF), NICE Foundation began implementing a livelihood project in Par-Batiaghata village of Batiaghata Upazila, Khulna. Under the project, two female sheep were provided free of cost to poor and marginalized families. Following the project's prescribed criteria, Subarna Goldar's family was assessed and verified, and she was selected as an eligible beneficiary.

Before distributing the sheep, NICE Foundation arranged a one-day training for her at the Upazila Livestock Office on sheep rearing, feed management, disease prevention, and proper care. After completing the training, she received two female sheep. Subsequently, she was provided with regular technical support through monthly training sessions and counseling.

Applying the knowledge she gained from the training, Subarna began raising the sheep with great care. In addition, on her own initiative, she purchased and started raising ducks and chickens, creating another opportunity to generate additional income for her family. Through regular care and proper management, her two sheep have now given birth to two healthy lambs. Her flock currently consists of four sheep, which has not only increased her assets but has also created the potential for greater income in the future.

The project has focused not only on livelihood development but also on building a habit of saving. For emergency needs, NICE Foundation opened a bank account in her name, where she regularly deposits BDT 50 every month. This savings habit has given her greater confidence and peace of mind in facing future uncertainties.

Subarna Goldar says, "I used to constantly worry about how we would run our household. Now, the sheep are not just assets to me; they are my hope for the future. Without the training, I might not have been able to raise the sheep so properly. Now my flock has grown, and I am also raising ducks and chickens. Gradually, my family's income is increasing."

She further says, "The support from the Bangladesh NGO Foundation and NICE Foundation has brought new hope into my life. I now believe that with opportunities and proper guidance, poor people can also change their lives. In the future, I want to expand sheep rearing on a larger scale and improve my family's financial condition."

The transformation in Subarna Goldar's life demonstrates that timely training, appropriate asset support, and regular follow-up can play an important role in improving the quality of life of marginalized women. With the support of the Bangladesh NGO Foundation and the initiative of NICE Foundation, this project has not only created a new source of income for her family but has also laid the foundation for a self-reliant and dignified life.

8.2 Minoti Roy – A Story of Livelihood Improvement

Minoti Roy, daughter of Haridas Roy, is a widow from Par-Batiaghata village in Batiaghata Upazila of Khulna District. She does not own any land. Her family consists of a son and a daughter. Her daughter is married, while her son works as a day laborer. As she has no land of her own, Minoti lives on her parental property, but the family does not have a safe and decent house either. Her son's limited income is not enough to meet all the household expenses. Therefore, Minoti also has to work as a day laborer to support the family. However, due to irregular income and limited earnings, there was no significant improvement in her family's financial condition. She was always worried about the future and could not find any way to generate additional income.

At that time, NICE Foundation started activities in her community through a project being implemented with financial assistance from the Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF). Under the project, an initiative was taken to provide two sheep free of cost to poor and marginalized families. In accordance with the project's beneficiary selection criteria, a survey was conducted to assess Minoti Roy's socioeconomic condition. Following the assessment and verification process, she was selected as a project beneficiary.

After being selected, NICE Foundation arranged a one-day training for her at the Upazila Livestock Office on sheep rearing, feed management, disease prevention, and proper care. After completing the training, she received two female sheep. Subsequently, NICE Foundation provided her with regular monthly training and counseling.

Applying the knowledge gained from the training, she began raising the sheep following proper management practices. At present, her two sheep have given birth to two lambs. Alongside sheep rearing, she also took the initiative to purchase and raise ducks and chickens. As a result, a new avenue for increasing her family's income was created. Gradually, she has been able to generate additional income from livestock and poultry rearing, which is playing an important role in meeting the family's daily needs.

In addition to creating income-generating opportunities, NICE Foundation also considered her future financial security and opened a savings account in her name. She deposits BDT 50 every month into the account. This small but regular saving has created a secure financial foundation for her to rely on during emergencies and has encouraged her to develop a habit of saving.

Today, Minoti Roy is much more confident than before. Through regular training, technical assistance, and asset-based support, she is not only increasing her family's income but also moving toward a more secure and improved future. Her transformation demonstrates that timely and appropriate support, skills development, and regular supervision can play an effective role in improving the quality of life of a marginalized woman. Minoti Roy's success story is a shining example of the positive impact of a project implemented with the support of the Bangladesh NGO Foundation.

Minoti Roy says, "The support from the Bangladesh NGO Foundation and NICE Foundation has brought a new ray of hope into my life. Previously, I had to depend solely on my income from day labor. Now I have a total of four sheep, including two lambs. I am also raising ducks and chickens. This has created an opportunity for me to earn additional income, and I am also able to save money regularly. I pray for their well-being and hope that they will continue to stand beside more marginalized women like me."

9. Key Lessons Learned

- Community participation strengthens project ownership, relevance, and acceptance.
- Productive assets should be accompanied by practical training and technical assistance.
- Regular monthly meetings and experience sharing increase beneficiary confidence and management capacity.
- Asset multiplication through transfer of offspring can expand benefits to additional poor women.
- Savings promotion can strengthen beneficiaries' financial resilience.
- Regular monitoring is necessary to identify challenges, document outcomes, and improve implementation.
- Adequate funding is important for increasing the number of beneficiaries, improving veterinary services, strengthening vaccination and disease prevention, and expanding training coverage.

10. Challenges and Scope for Expansion

The current scale of the project remains limited and cannot cover all poor households in the target communities. Increasing the number of sheep and expanding the beneficiary base would allow more women to participate in income-generating activities.

Additional resources are also needed to strengthen veterinary care, health services, vaccination, disease prevention, training facilities, and technical support. Expansion would help increase household income, savings opportunities, food security, and the overall economic self-reliance of disadvantaged women.

11. Sustainability Strategy

- Continue the asset-multiplication mechanism by transferring offspring to additional poor women.
- Maintain regular technical training and counseling for beneficiaries.
- Strengthen savings practices among participating women.
- Continue monthly meetings and peer learning.
- Develop stronger monitoring and documentation systems.
- Seek additional resources to scale the model to more villages and women.

12. Conclusion

The Minority Women Livelihood Development Project demonstrates a practical approach to improving the economic self-reliance of poor and marginalized women through productive asset support, training, technical assistance, savings promotion, and asset multiplication. The initial distribution of 42 sheep to 21 women has created a pathway for extending benefits to another 21 women through the transfer of lambs.

The experiences of Subarna Goldar and Minoti Roy illustrate how livelihood assets combined with knowledge, follow-up, and community-based support can create greater confidence and new opportunities for disadvantaged women. Building on these results, continued funding and expansion can help transform the initiative into a broader, self-reliant, and scalable livelihood model.