

Puppet Master Economy

Demographic Dividend and Mortality Patterns Changes

Is population a blessings or a curse? Over the last two centuries economists like Malthus, Boserap, Simon Fred, Harrod-Domar, Lewis and others introduced a number of theories on these interactions. Many argue that population is not a burden, but unskilled overpopulation is a matter of concern.

The term demographic dividend has gained popularity during the last few years. Demographic dividend refers to a period - usually 20 to 30 years - when economic growth may result from a decline in a country's mortality and fertility and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population. As women and families realize that fewer children will die during infancy or childhood, they begin to have fewer children to reach their desired number of off springs, further reducing the proportion of non-productive dependents. This fall is often accompanied by an extension in average life expectancy that increases the share of the population that is in the working age group. According to UNFPA, a country with both increasing numbers of young people and declining fertility has the potential to reap a demographic dividend.

During the last four decades, Bangladesh has experienced a dramatic decline in fertility and mortality. In the year 1971, the fertility rate was 6.95%, which is now 2.21%. Statistics reveal that the total fertility rate has declined almost 64% during the past decades.

During 1970-2019 mortality has also declined significantly. Infant mortality rate and under-five mortality has declined by at least 74% to 36%, while maternal mortality ratio declined by 65%. During the

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same period life expectancy at birth has increased from 33.6 to 73.2 years.

This has produced a huge shift in age structure in the population, with more population in the working age group than in dependent age group. Dependents per 100 working population declined from over 100 in 1961 to 56 in 2019. This has created a window of economic opportunity that can be expressed as demographic dividend of Bangladesh.

As in many countries, declining infant and child mortality has helped to spark lower fertility, effectively resulting in a temporary baby boom. As this group moves into working ages, Bangladesh will potentially find itself with a higher share of workers than dependents. If working-age people can be productively employed, Bangladesh's economic growth will accelerate. The massive surge in young working population can generate huge amounts of economic activities.

It is important to note that demographic dividends cannot be an automatic process. To realize the dividends some other issues need to be taken care of, for example, skilling this extra work force. Skilled workforce and availability of adequate investment on health and education is necessary.

Bangladesh is also going through a demographic transition, and experiencing a lifetime demographic dividend as the working-age population bulges and the dependency ratio declines. This outcome can be generalized in a variety of ways. One important possibility is by increasing investment in human capital. Increase in investment in physical capital should also be emphasized. For economic benefits to materialize, there is a need for policies dealing with education, public health. We will also need policies that promote labor market flexibility and provide incentives for investment and savings.

In Bangladesh 1.7 million people are entering into the labor market annually. If we divide it into three groups, namely, unemployment, youth unemployment and under employment, then the percentages are

4.3%, 9.2% and 20.3% respectively. Youth employments have almost doubled.

The government along with a number of national and international organizations, donors and microfinance institutions have created exemplary platforms, such as: Youth Employment through Skills (UNDP-YES 2016), Skill and Training Enhancement Project (STEP 2016 and World Bank 2014), B-Skillful, Grassroots Organizations (GRO and Swiss-Contact 2016), Skills for Unemployed and Underemployed Labour (Skillful-Dhaka Ahsania Mission 2016), Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP-Asian Development Bank, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Government of Bangladesh and PKSF).

It has been projected that by the year 2050 the population of Bangladesh would reach 230 million. If this happens then Bangladesh is going to lose about 15 percent of its cultivable land every year. At present the cultivable land is not sufficient and there are extreme pressures on the land. So, how Bangladesh is going to accommodate and feed



its extra population?

The simple answer is that we need massive investment in education, building skilled labor force, health, nutrition, and infrastructure. It is also important to create favorable investment environment for the foreign investors, improve productivity and adopt planned urbanization, and most importantly connect Bangladesh with the global markets.

For this there is no alternative other than adopting investment friendly economic policies such that with the help of higher investment Bangladesh can set an example in the above mentioned sectors. If we cannot manage demographic dividend in an efficient manner then the potential prosperity might turn into a demographic disaster as well as economic stagnation.

■ Knowledge Management Desk, KKF

Relief Distribution for Covid-19 Victims

Safety Measures

Covid-19 being an extremely contagious virus, KK Foundation has taken proper precaution in every phase for the safety of the volunteers as well as the people of the target areas. We have prepared a muster roll that contains details such as names and phone numbers of all the families in the targeted areas.

Five hubs were created, each having three volunteers to run the distribution process smoothly. Our volunteers disinfected these hubs prior to the distribution by covering themselves with PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for their personal safety.

All the grocery boxes had the name and cell phone numbers of the members who received on behalf of the family.



01 Sweeper Colony, Hajaribag

On 3rd April 2020, KK Foundation distributed relief among the cleaners and sweepers' families in the Hajaribag sweeper colony. The relief was given to 436 people of 100 families. The 7 to 10 days relief bag contained rice, lentil, potato, oil, salt, suji, flat rice and soaps. The total volume distributed was 835 kg rice, 330 kg lentil, 822 kg potato, 50 litre oil, 50 kg of salt, suji and flat rice, 201 pieces of soap and 1,206 pieces of eggs.

02 Moddhya Badda, Dhaka

Fazlu Mia (not his real name) had a small tea stall near his house, adjacent to the Moddhya Badda main road. He lives in a rented tin shed room with his wife, three children and parents. His wife used to work in a garment factory as a part time worker. Before corona pandemic, the family was able to run their family hand to mouth. At least they did not have to beg. This pandemic made them really vulnerable- the wife lost her job and he could not open his shop. His earnings disappeared and he could not stand in the relief lines.

KKF along with its team identified 100 such distressed families with 407 family members and provided gift bags,

each containing 5 to 7 days food for the family. On 4th April 2020, the Foundation distributed 656 kg rice, 233 kg lentil, 351 kg potato, 52.5 litre oil, 52.5 kg of salt, suji and flat rice, 185 pieces of soap and 600 pieces eggs.

03 Bedey Pally, Munshigonj

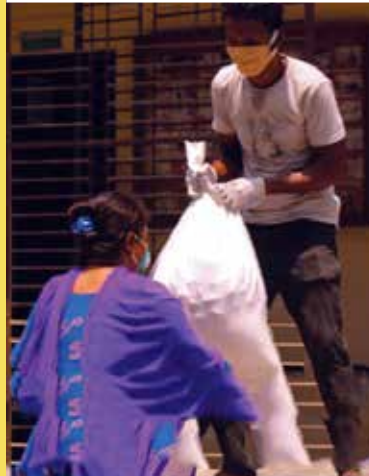
On 7th April 2020 the volunteer team of KK Foundation went to Old Bikrampur, Munshigonj for relief purposes. A Bedey community is living there for the last few decades. They basically live in boat and for livelihoods they come to the land. Corona pandemic made this community extremely vulnerable. Since they live in boats, they are mostly overlooked. Many live in remote areas as well, and it needs boat to reach them.

KK Foundation with the help of Give Bangladesh distributed 10 to 15 days relief among the 152 Bedey families. We distributed 1,237 kg rice, 608 kg lentil, 760 kg potato, 165 litre oil, 117 kg salt, 104 kg suji and 152 kg flat rice, 446 pieces of soap and 912 pieces eggs.

Safety Measures

To avoid mass crowding, KKF volunteers called 3 families at a time to receive the box; and it took about 15 minutes to distribute boxes to 3 families (3 representatives). The grocery boxes were placed in front of the hubs for the representatives to pick up the one with their names on it. During the process, the volunteers waited inside the hub for monitoring as well as avoiding any human contact. Only a selective group of volunteers were taken to the field to carry out the distributions.

Later on, the entire distribution team was sent to quarantine for the greater good.



04 Sex Workers Village

Daulatdia, the biggest brothel of the country, being under complete lock down, a total of 2,000 people including 1,600 regular sex workers were going through hardships. Therefore, KKF aimed to support 250 sex workers who were more vulnerable because of their age and other difficulties. Since they are one of the most vulnerable and untouched community of society, the Foundation provided 12 to 15 days food for these people. On 16th April 2020, KK Foundation along with Give Bangladesh and several other organisations jointly distributed 2,500 kg rice, 750 kg lentil, 1,750 kg potato, 250 litre oil, 125 kg salt, and 500 kg flat rice, 500 pieces of soap among 250 sex workers family.

05 Uttara, Lalbag and Kamrangir Char

A total of 35 lower middle class families from the above mentioned areas (mostly owner of small flower shops, tea stalls, vegetable vendors, fish vendors, and jewellery and toy shops) were selected by KKF volunteers who were passing very bad time because of the lockdown situation. Neither they could beg nor could they ask for reliefs standing in the line. On behalf of the Foundation these 35 families received 210 kg rice, 70 kg lentil, 105 kg potato, 17.5 litre oil, 17.5 kg salt, and 70 pieces of soap.

06 Physically Challenged Person's Families

Pandemic and lockdown is creating numbers of challenges in human lives. Have we ever thought: if we are suffering so much, how the physically challenged people are coping during this pandemic? KK Foundation along with Give Bangladesh and a few other organisations identified several such families in Middle Badda, Mirpur who had physically and mentally challenged member/members. A total of 119 families (having special members) from both the areas were selected. We provided 833 kg rice, 357 kg lentil, 833 kg potato, 119 litre oil, 60 kg salt, and 238 pieces of soap among these families in Dhaka City.

Plan of Action

Step 1

Shortlisted beneficiaries were provided with hygiene and health care products including disinfectant spray and soaps along with awareness campaigns on the importance of taking precautions against this virus by maintaining social distance.

Step 2

Following the awareness campaign, the beneficiaries received 10 days of grocery items. However, in Daulatdia, 15 days' worth of supplies was distributed among the sex workers and 30 days of supplies were handed in the Old Home of Kushtia.



07 Weavers Community (Tati Palli) Sirajgonj

In early April 2020, a news got the headline of almost all the leading dailies. Sumi a young girl of Sirajgonj weaver village committed suicide because of hunger. The weavers and craftsmen of Bangladesh are extremely talented and fine-skilled artisans.

These craftsmen help define the heritage and preserve the culture of Bangladesh. Sadly, the continuing global pandemic is devastating their livelihood.

The Business Standards reported on 9th June 2020 (<https://tbsnews.net/economy/trade/weavers-big-trouble-72295>) that 7 lakh weavers of Sirajgonj and Tangail were left with no income owing to the countrywide shutdown and the same situation was reported for the Batique and Jamdani weavers.

Around 4.5 lakh weavers work in both power looms and handlooms in Enayetpur, Belkuchi, Shahjampur, Ullapara, Kamarkhand, kazipur and Sadar Upazilas of Sirajganj district. Till date these communities are deprived from any kind of government support.

KK Foundation had arranged food gift packages in April 2020 containing 1,039 kg rice, 555 kg potatoes, 278 kg lentil, 57 kg salt, 146 litre oil, 306 pcs soap, 66 kg flat rice, 80 kg onion, 160 kg flour, among 113 weavers families. Among these 113 families, 33 families had mentally and physically challenged member/members in the family.

SHUTDOWN LEAVES HANDLOOM WEAVERS IN TATTERS



7 Lakh Saree Weavers

in **Sirajganj** and **Tangail** are left with no income owing to the countrywide shutdown

Around **15000 Batik Weavers** are facing uncertainty as their work remains stopped ahead of Eid



Over **1000 Jamdani Artisans** in **Rupganj** are spending from their capitals to make ends meet



NO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THEM YET



KK Foundation conducted these relief activities jointly with Give Bangladesh



08 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution for the Frontline Fighters

As coronavirus cases mount in Bangladesh, struggles to keep the front-line healthcare workers free from getting infected also become more challenging, and failure to do so would further strain the country's medical facilities. According to the Bangladesh Doctors Foundation (BDF), by April 2020 about 251 doctors had tested coronavirus positive, and more than 90 health workers had to place themselves in home quarantine.

On the other hand, the gravediggers are also facing precarious situation of their own. The pandemic is giving sleepless nights as they fear the risk of contracting Covid-19 since where the doctors and health officers are facing lack of PPE, for the gravediggers PPE is a luxury. However, they are not less important than others. Since the death toll is rising, pressure on them is increasing as well. In many cases, relatives abandoned the dead bodies and the gravediggers had to take necessary actions instead of the family.

Since, risks of getting infected by novel coronavirus are increasing day by day, their security and safety should be taken care in more effective manners. Considering this KK Foundation, on 20th April 2020 distributed 200 good quality PPE for the health workers, doctors and nurses of BIRDEM General Hospital. Dr. Jafar Ahmed Latif, Director General, BIRDEM received the PPE and on behalf of KK Foundation, Mr. Rifat Rahman and Mr. Habibullah were present in the distribution ceremony.

As the fatality rate grows with the spread of the novel corona virus across the country, grave diggers and volunteers from different religious background are under threat as well. In April 2020, KK Foundation distributed PPE among the gravediggers and volunteers involved in the burial process.



► KKF Appoints Chief Operation Officer (COO) for Social Enterprise Program

For the expansion of existing and upcoming social enterprise programs, KKF has appointed Mr. Mamun Monowar as the Chief Operation Officer (COO) in January 2020. He has a total of 23 years of experience in different renowned organizations. Mr. Monowar held leading positions and played vital roles in various organizations like Partex Group, Finlay Tea, Golden Harvest Group, Paragon Group and BRAC. Prior to joining KKF, he was the Chief Operating Officer in BRAC. He has received professional international trainings on Total Quality Management, Production Management and processed foods industries. The KK Foundation is happy to have him as a member of the Foundation family.

Workshop and Training

Certificate Ceremony on Clinical Mental Health

For capacity development of the staff, KKF takes regular initiative since its inception. The Foundation has to deal with one of the most complicated and sensitive group of people for its shelter house program- the vulnerable floating children. It believes in continuous upskilling of



employees as one of the best solution to deal with these children. Considering the fact, for the capacity development of the staff The Foundation arranges regular training for its staffs.

Three officials from KK Foundation went to LifeSpring for training on Clinical Mental Health. On behalf of the



Foundation, Ms. Rafia Sultana, Mr. Rifat Rahman Tanvir and Ms. Aklima Akter participated in this six months long training program.

The program provided a comprehensive view on a number of mental health issues like child development and caring, stress management, dealing critical situation passionately, mindfulness and so on.

On 7th March 2020 after successful completion of the training, the participants received certificates jointly from LifeSpring and Mental Health America.

FIN-B Workshop on Professional Productivity

The Financial Inclusion Network, Bangladesh (FIN-B), an initiative of the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM), organised a workshop on 'Mental Health and Professional Productivity' in collaboration with Life-spring Consultancy Ltd. and KK Foundation on 25 February 2020.



The workshop discussed the mental health issues that directly affect productivity in the work-life and on the ways of attaining a good work-life balance. InM Chairman Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad and Executive Director Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Sifat-E-Azam, Executive Director KKF and senior officials from Life Spring attended the workshop along with the participants including Executive Directors of FIN-B



member organisations, doctors, bankers, psychologists and development practitioners.



Ms. Sifat-E-Azam, Executive Director of the KK Foundation conducted a session on different activities with street children and an innovative product designed for marginalised poultry farmers.

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, InM elaborated on the scope of working together for the overall well-being of the deprived people. He argued that human welfare dimensions should not be compartmentalized as these always worked together to enhance human welfare. People's mental well-being and human and other development dimensions were interconnected; and these needed integrated development to lead a dignified life. The workshop was concluded with the speech of Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Executive Director, InM.

Events and Activities

● Talent Chef Café at Premier School Dhaka, Uttara Branch

In the premises of Premier School Dhaka, Uttara Branch, Talent Chef Café has started operation from 5th



January 2020. Children, parents, teachers and other staffs of the school were very satisfied with the food quality and services. Two children (by rotation) from the shelter house program were present with the Talent Chef Representative to serve food as a part of their training for entrepreneurship development.

● Corona Awareness Campaign in Shelter House

As Covid-19 has already spread all over the world, KKF organized three awareness sessions in the shelter



house for the children in February, March and April 2020.



Age based hands on training were arranged for the children. For the staff, separate awareness and precautionary training were organized by the Foundation.

● Children Display Art Works in National Jute Fair

Shelter home children participated in the five days long National Jute Fair 2020 on 6 March 2020. The program was organized by the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Government of Bangladesh.

Some selected art works made by shelter house children were displayed in a stall of the exhibition and it was praised by the experts. The Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Lokman Hossain Mia was present in the award giving ceremony and he praised the works of the shelter house children.



● “Mujib Shoto Borsho” and National Children Day Celebration



The 100th birthday of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was celebrated in the shelter house. On March 17, 2020, KKF organized a cultural program in its Program Office. Stories and lessons from his life were discussed with the children.

The children celebrated the grand birthday by cutting a big cake made from Talent Chef Café and presented a small cultural program for the guests.



● Shelter House Inauguration and Falgun Mela

Falgun Mela and Shelter House official Inauguration ceremony was held on 29 February 2020. Honorable Chairman, KK Foundation Mr. Mazherul Quader and Vice-Chairman Ms. Khursid Mazher inaugurated the ceremony. On this occasion, the Foundation arranged



“Falgun Mela” in the front yard of the shelter house premises (KKF Program Office) at Uttara.

There were six stalls of small art and crafts made by the shelter house children, snacks from Talent Chef, Shufola's products, books and pitha. Chief Advisor Mr.



Mahin Bin Mazher, Senior Advisor Ms. Esha Mahin, Ms. Afroza Moazzem and other respected board members and senior officials of KKF were present in the ceremony.

In the ceremony, Chief Advisor Mr. Mahin Mazher gave an encouraging speech to the children. He observed that the most terrible poverty in this world was loneliness

● Each or Equal: Ms. Esha Mahin, Senior Advisor, KK Foundation Attended a Seminar on Women's Day 2020

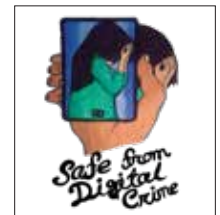
On the occasion of World Women's Day 2020, Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) organized a seminar in their auditorium. The theme of the occasion was “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights”. The Honorable State Minister of Women and Children Affairs, Ms. Fazilatun Nessa Indira M.P was the Chief Guest and the Deputy Managing Director, “Probashi Kalyan Bank” Ms. Mahtab Zabin was the Special guest of the program. The Senior Advisor, KK Foundation Ms. Esha Mahin graced the occasion as “Guest of Honor”. She presented her valuable speech on equity for all women in



and the feeling of being unloved. The children, who were living in the shelter house should not think themselves alone under any circumstances because he considered all of them as a part of his family and they all were just like their children. He and his organization were always with the children for any kind of support.



The Honorable Chairman, in his speech mentioned that all the children who were staying in shelter house were the resources of the country. The Foundation would provide them with all necessary facilities like need based vocational training along with fulfilling their basic needs so that, in future they could face the real world more confidently.



An art exhibition was also held where art work of the children were displayed. The children also presented a cultural show after the official inauguration and enjoyed the time with the senior management and also shared their views and thoughts with them.

the society, the correct life mapping for women's future endeavor and the role KK Foundation is playing in this regard.

● Celebrating International Mother Language Day

For honoring the heroic struggles and sacrifices of the martyrs for our mother tongue Bangla, the children of



shelter house walked barefoot, singing songs of patriotism on 21st February 2020. They offered flowers in the Shahid Minar. The Language Movement is indeed the most important turning point in the history of Bangladesh as its spirit led to the Independence of Bangladesh in 1971. Later on, the children shared their views on the importance of the day which was followed by an art competition.

● KKF Observed Independence Day Amid Shutdown

The KKF observed Independence Day on 26th March 2020. This year the government cancelled all programs of the day as the country is fighting to contain the transmission of Covid-19. An in-house seminar was arranged for the children of the shelter house where they were enlightened about the importance of the day.



A cultural program was arranged by the children on the occasion.

● A Different Pohela Boishakh

This year, Bangladeshis across the country celebrated Pohela Boishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year, in a different manner due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Virtual media and digital devices played a major role in the festivities, as the majority of the

population was forced to stay home. Usual programs were cancelled because of the Covid-19 outbreak.

In the shelter house, Pohela Boishakh was celebrated in a limited manner due to corona virus pandemic.



Children were served traditional food and prepared a colorful wall magazine with artworks and stories highlighting the significance of Pohela Boishakh.

● School Admission and Education Materials Distribution

For the new session, eight children were formally admitted in class one in January 2020. Both formal and non-formal education children received their books, copies, stationeries and school dresses for the new session.



● Donation from Amlaki

The KK Foundation received donation in kind from Amlaki in February 2020. They provided water filter, health and hygiene products, school stationeries and first aid kits for the shelter house children.

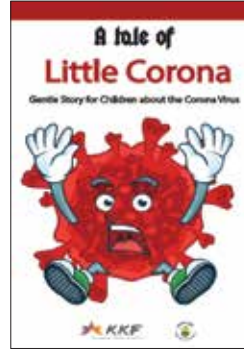


Knowledge Management Activities and Publications

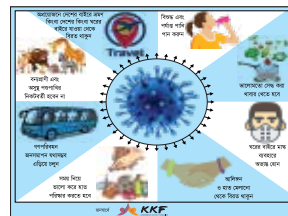
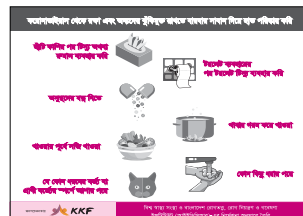
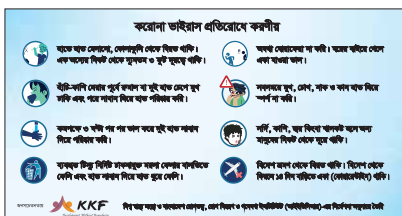
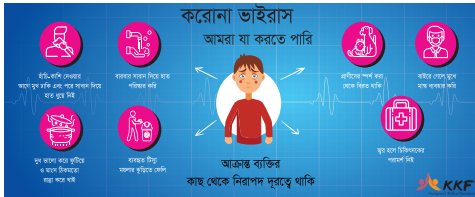
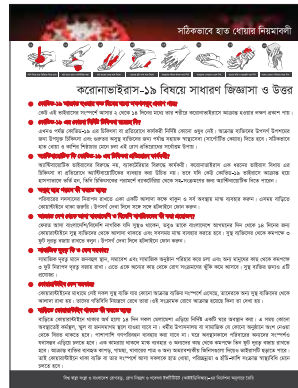
Newsletters



Other Publications (Books)



Booklet, Brochures and Flyers



Corona Awareness Program

To create awareness among the mass population, KK Foundation published small videos in the website and Facebook pages. Different professional like Nutritionist, University Professors, and Advisors of University Committees expressed their opinion and knowledge in short video clips about corona virus and the precautions.



Sohana Saba
Artist



Salma Akhter
Faculty of Social Science
University of Dhaka



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Consultant, Board of
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Prime Asia University



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Nutritionist
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Upcoming Social Development Program: Pholon

Sustainable Livelihood Project for Farmers

Across the northern region of Bangladesh, flood is a frequent occurrence in monsoon. These sudden shocks decimate crops, leaving low income farmers indebted and lowering their future income potential as access to credit disappears. This is further complicated by the following:

- Information asymmetry about best agricultural practices
- High microcredit interest as lenders charge risk premium
- Agricultural input unavailability
- Input quality issues
- Lack of proper market access
- Traditional crop production results in low and fixed profit margin

During Covid-19

- Majority of the farmers had to sell crops to vendors at low prices
- The farmers were not getting paid for their produce due to instability created through pandemic
- Few farmers were not able to sell crops due to communication difficulty
- Vendors (Bepari) who travel to the villages for buying crops were facing complexities due to the lockdown.

Considering the above situation KK Foundation in collaboration with Give Bangladesh is launching a program named Pholon under the Foundation's sustainable livelihood program that will contribute the target of SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

The program has been designed in such a way that any interested person may donate their charity, zakat, sadaqah for the purpose to make their donation more effective. The pilot project has been a successful one.

Objectives



How Zakat is Eligible?

Farmers are included in the first, second and sixth category of eight types of persons who are eligible for zakat:

- Category One- Poor
- Category Two- Needy
- Category Six- Debtors

Islam always prefers sustainability over makeshifts. That is why instead of donating clothing or money which lasts for a brief period, this can leave a long term impact so these farmers themselves may someday pay Zakat.

"Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is within themselves" (**Sura ar Raad (13:11)**).

- As our beneficiaries are trying unreservedly to improve their condition (as is clearly visible from the improvement graph in the pilot phase), so you may help them out with a hand.



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