



Empower. Elevate. Educate

Annual Report 20²²₂₃





Goranbose Gram Bikash Kendra (GGBK), founded in 1985 and registered in 1987, in Sunderbans is a not-for-profit organization that primarily collaborates with vulnerable communities in West Bengal as well as other Indian States for building a society free from illiteracy, caste, creed, poverty, slavery, and gender discrimination

GGBK aims to create meaningful opportunities for vulnerable citizens by addressing global concerns and social, environmental, and environmental issues. Their focus is on developing outstanding leaders among women, youth, children and differentially able citizens, believing in their power and supporting them to build a life of dignity and self-respect. GGBK works with various organizations as knowledge-based support systems, conducting in-depth research and studies using a mixed-methods approach. The organization facilitates strategies for System Strengthening, community interventions, policy engagement and capacity building according to needs

The Office Album



Welcome
to GGBK
Family!



Welcome
to GGBK
Family!





Directors Desk

Goranbose Gram Bikash Kendra (GGBK) celebrates a triumphant 38-year journey, overcoming countless challenges with unwavering resolve. Through the collaborative efforts of our staff, governing members, advisors, advocates, survivors, community members, partners, and well-wishers, we've triumphed over every obstacle.

Our mission revolves around creating sustainable opportunities for the vulnerable, focusing on eco-friendly practices and dignified lives. We engage in rescuing and rehabilitating trafficking survivors, eradicating gender-based exploitation, child labor, and child marriage, all while empowering the economically and socially marginalized. Our commitment extends to disaster management and climate change awareness.

In the past year, nearly **50,000 individuals** directly benefited from our interventions. Notably, we achieved substantial success in filing and distributing victim compensation for trafficking and gender crime survivors, with **12 recipients** among **54 cases**. Many survivors received both compensation and livelihood support, while **32 perpetrators** were brought to justice. Addressing approximately **40 domestic violence cases**, most found resolution through arbitration and counseling.

Collaboration lies at the heart of our achievements. This spirit has led to the establishment of a dedicated video conference room within anti-human trafficking units for testimonies. We engaged with **33 schools**, educating children about crucial social issues, and our youth groups bravely tackled local challenges. Meanwhile, our self-help groups flourished, with **228 new members** thriving through independent businesses after receiving loans.

Our focus on inclusivity shines through the Inclusive Skilling Programme, where **33 vulnerable women** have completed skill training, now ready for employment. Our members actively participate in meetings and visits, partnering to address youth development, disaster mitigation, climate justice, and skill enhancement for the vulnerable.

As proud Campaign Against Child Labour members, our commitment is to forge a **child labor-free zone by 2025**. Our alliance with government authorities and local stakeholders stands stronger than ever, a testament to the persistent dedication of our staff and collaborative government efforts. Heartfelt gratitude to our staff, members, advisors, advocates, survivors, community, local authorities, government bodies, partners, and well-wishers. Here's to a better society and a greener planet.

Nihar Ranjan Raptan
Executive Director, GGBK



Highlights 2022-2023

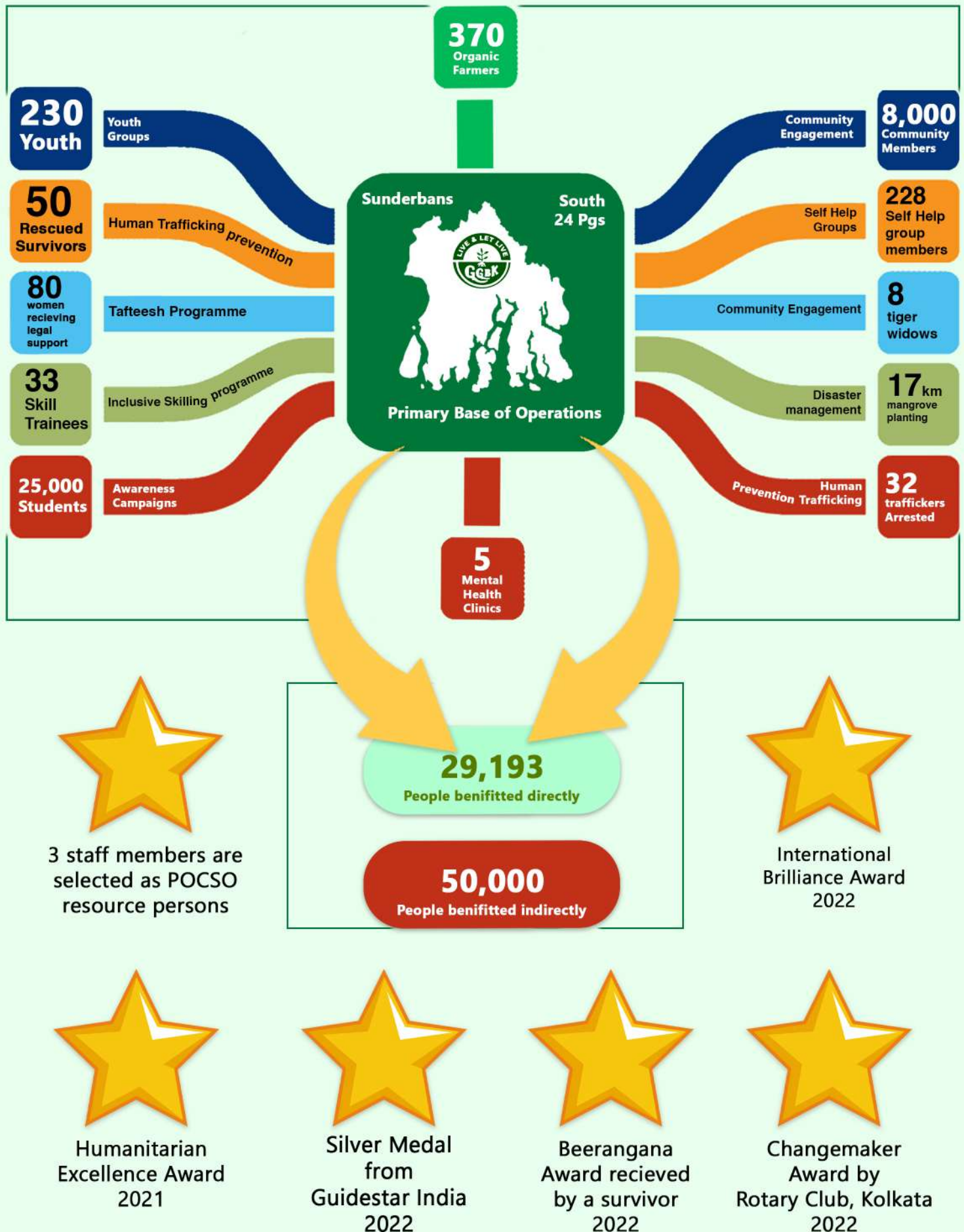


Image from top:

1. System Engagement Collaboration
2. A snapshot of a victim of labour trafficking
3. Door to door case management
4. Meetings with legal services authority

Status Report

The total no of cases mitigated by GGBK by 2022-2023:

- 44** cases related to trafficking.
- 17** cases related to child marriage
- 28** cases related to Gender based violence.

Amongst these cases there were also male survivors of sexual abuse.

GGBK is using tools like MIS to archive survivor related data. The number of watch groups for prevention of trafficking are increasing rapidly.

State and Central governments collaborate to develop compensation schemes for victims and their dependents affected by human trafficking and other gender based crimes. The program aims to improve criminal justice and welfare systems, strengthen survivor and community systems, and ensure victims receive protection, reparation, recovery, and rehabilitation.

- 6** survivors filed for victim compensation in the year 2022-2023. Amongst these cases court ordered 2 such survivors eligible for The amount. **5** survivors have received the amount owing to previous filings.
- A State appointed lawyer has been received for **9** survivors from State Legal Services authority. A Public interest Litigation has been filed at Supreme Court to challenge the judgment of Pune Court, where **2** Perpetrators have been acquitted unconditionally.
- 15** trafficking cases have been transferred to the Anti Human Trafficking Units and regular followups are being conducted.

Since finding a legal service authority in order to file Victim Compensation for trafficking survivors was becoming difficult, GGBK spread awareness through the media, resulting in the availability of State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Service Authority personnel. Apart from that after numerous discussions with District Legal Service Authority, a separate room was built dedicated to long-distance cases, which involve video conferences.

Access to Justice

Human Trafficking Prevention & Policy Interventions

Taateesh, an action research program in collaboration with Kamonohashi Project and Sanjog, aimed to study the effectiveness of law and criminal justice systems in addressing traffickers' impunity in source areas. The study found weak interstate coordination, allowing traffickers to enjoy impunity and survivors faced poverty, stigma and family violence upon returning home. The program now focuses on strengthening national laws and policies, highlighting gaps in criminal justice and welfare systems and empowering survivors and communities to claim rights and entitlements. Over the past year of intervention, our project has brought about significant improvements that have positively impacted both survivors' lives and the overall legal procedure.



Leadership from Below

Survivors' Leadership Programme



*Anti Clockwise from Top:
'Yoddha' Programme,
awareness campaigns,
celebrations*



BandhanMukti, a coalition of survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, has become a valuable resource for GGBK's program. With over 500 members, the collective champions justice and combats stigma within families and communities. It plays a pivotal role in nurturing survivors' leadership potential, identifying promising individuals, and empowering them to serve as agents of change for their rights and entitlements. BandhanMukti is a founding member of ILFAT (Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking), the national platform for human trafficking survivors.

Status Report

- ✓ Bandhanmukti Leaders are continuing to show leadership in various national forums like ILFAT.
- ✓ Survivor leaders are being invited to share their stories in various media platforms.
- ✓ They have received self-defense training from the 'Yoddha' programme.
- ✓ After receiving stigma while filing a First Information Report at the police station, trafficking survivors under the mentorship of GGBK held meetings with the Circle Inspector, Inspector in Charge, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, and Superintendent of Canning Police. These discussions resulted in making the process of filing an FIR smoother.
- ✓ They are playing integral roles in the operation and training within our Youth development programme.
- ✓ A survivor of gender based violence was awarded the 'Birangana' Award for her leadership role in her case handling.



Young Leaders

Interventions amongst the Youth

*Anti Clockwise from Top:
'Yoddha' Programme,
Training Meetings,
Village Level Interventions*



The youth group programme was started in 2019 under the banner of our '**Suraksha**' programme. Our goal was to build leaders among the vulnerable youth who would be change-makers for the community. As of now, **12** Youth Groups such as '**Girls Power**', '**Tiger**', '**Amader Suraksha**', etc. have been formed under the Canning Sub-Division, totaling 225 members. Eight of these groups are holding regular meetings and planning interventions for the upliftment of the community.

Status Report

- ✓ Youth group members are being oriented with different trainings to combat child marriage, bad touch, domestic violence, child labour, etc. They have addressed several problems that their village is facing, such as scarcity of water and general safety.
- ✓ They have participated in Yoddha, a self-defence programme organised by Canning P.S. and Canning Women P.S.
- ✓ After collaborating with the local authorities, they have successfully intervened to install more street lights to ensure the safety of the community.
- ✓ They have also held rallies to prevent mangrove deforestation, child labour, child marriage, and damaging the river ecosystem.
- ✓ Their successful intervention resulted in stopping mangrove deforestation.
- ✓ The number of members in the youth groups is growing rapidly.



Above and Below: Youth Group activities and Training

Meeting related to Village level and Block level
Child Protection Committee formation



GGBK is closely collaborating with Directorate of Child Rights and Trafficking & Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare for the protection of underage victims and prevention of child trafficking and abuse.

Status Report

- ✓ Village level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC), Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLCPC) and Gram Panchayat Level Child Protection Committees (GPLCPC) are being formed in both Canning and Basanti area.
- ✓ Among them **242** Village level Child Protection Committees and **1** Block Level Child Protection Committee have been formed.
- ✓ GGBK personell have undergone training to specialise on handling POCSO related cases.
- ✓ Different levels of intervention are being undertaken through Youth Groups for prevention of child trafficking and abuse

Protecting our Future

Interventions on Child
Trafficking and Child Abuse

According to a report by the National Human Rights Commission of India, 40,000 children are abducted each year, leaving 11,000 untraced. The sex traffickers primarily target underage girls, whose average age is less than 14. Underage boys are also trafficked and sold as bonded labour in other states. Apart from that, children in the vulnerable communities often becomes victims of violence and abuse.



Different interventions amongst the vulnerable youth

Health and Wealth

Physical Health and
Economic Empowerment

Health Camp by GGBK



Being a community focused organisation, GGBK diligently hosts an annual free health and hygiene camp, ensuring the well-being of its residents. This event serves as a vital checkup for the community's physical health, promoting overall wellness. Moreover, GGBK is a staunch advocate for a sustainable green economy. The organization's vision revolves around rejuvenating nature, committing to the restoration of our environment. Simultaneously, GGBK strives to guide residents reliant on nature towards adopting alternative and sustainable livelihoods. This holistic approach underscores GGBK's commitment to both the immediate health needs of the community and the long-term sustainability of the environment and its inhabitants.

Status Report

- ✓ Health and eye checkup camp for **100+** Community members.
- ✓ The rescued survivors underwent thorough health checkups.
- ✓ 7 survivors have received livelihood support.
- ✓ Survivors have opened different Bank accounts
 - 10** Fixed Deposit Accounts
 - 15** Public Provident Fund Accounts
 - 1** Recurring Deposit Account
- ✓ Survivor Kashmira have started an independent buisness after recieving her Victim Compensation money.
- ✓ The survivors are becoming empowered after recieving training from the inclusive skilling programme.



From Top: Bank Account Opening, Kashmira's store, Livelihood Support

The Director meeting with the participants.



These courses were designed based on the aptitude assessments of the participants. The programme's primary objective is to empower marginalised women, fostering their self-sufficiency and independence. They also underwent counselling during the course for emotional support.

Status Report

- ✓ The foundation course achieved a **100%** success rate within a semester.
- ✓ **85%** of the participants successfully completed the technical course.
- ✓ **71%** of the trainees secured placement opportunities, aligning with the programme's aim to empower marginalised women for self-sufficiency.
- ✓ Impacting participants: **20** of the successful ones established sustainable income sources.
- ✓ Among the **8** participants under **18**, **4** are effectively balancing training in the production unit with their studies, while **4** are pursuing higher education.
- ✓ The training covered a range of skills, including tailoring, basic computer knowledge, and livelihood-generation skills.

Inclusive Skilling Programme

GGBK collaborated with IHC For Her and Space2Grow to launch the Inclusive Skilling Programme, resulting in the economic empowerment of several vulnerable women. The foundation course, which is the first phase of the course, achieved exceptional success within a semester, as a vast majority of enrolled women from the community successfully completed the second phase, or the technical course. A substantial portion of the trainees also secured employment opportunities.





Our Minds Matter

Interventions on Mental Health

Human trafficking victims often experience trauma, including PTSD, Stockholm syndrome, depression, and anxiety. Mental health issues can lead to self-harm, necessitating ongoing psychological help. Survivors are often held in shelter homes after returning from the trafficking region, which may help them cope with early trauma phases but not severe psycho-somatic issues.

GGBK prioritizes mental health in rehabilitation for trafficking survivors, as they often make devastating decisions due to mental health issues. Social workers and Anwesha Workers provide mental health support to trafficked survivors.

Status Report

- ✓ More than 5 Government Mental Health clinics are now available in 24 parganas thanks to GGBK's intervention. Mental Health services are available at block level.
- ✓ Through the assistance of the GGBK staff, trafficked survivors have received mental health treatment.
- ✓ They have been subjected to counselling by Anwesha workers (creating links with the stakeholders in the government).
- ✓ The said counsellors have also given them psychiatric medications.



Psychiatric treatment of Survivors by Anwesha Workers



Heads held High

Self Help Groups

GGBK has played a central role in facilitating 14 survivor-led SHGs, fostering their interactions with relevant government authorities for further support and linkages. This initiative has been launched in significant areas including Canning, Basanti, Baruiপুর, and Diamond Harbour. Empowering survivors via training in SHG establishment, management, and business development. Providing support for tasks like bank account setup, loan administration, and financial operations. Facilitating participants' access to government schemes, ensuring access to soft loans for entrepreneurial ventures.

Status Report

- ✓ 228 Women have been linked with SHG's.
- ✓ SHGs in Basanti, Canning-I, and Canning-II have started meetings and loan disbursements, maintaining registers and engaging with local Panchayat and government officials.
- ✓ All of these SHGs are made up of vulnerable women from the Basanti and Canning local communities who are survivors.
- ✓ The 21 self-help groups affiliated under the mentorship of GGBK are running independent businesses after receiving loans.
- ✓ 30 new accounts were opened for these women.



For a Better Planet

Interventions regarding Climate Change and Green Farming



*Anti Clockwise:
GGBK's
Demonstration to
School Children*



Status Report

- ✓ On March 23, a Disaster Management mock drill and demonstration was organized by Sub Divisional Office, Canning, where GGBK was the sole resource organization from the Canning Subdivision, and the event, held in front of local school children, featured GGBK members showcasing diverse disaster response methods utilizing household items along with visual aids like maps of disaster-prone areas to enhance comprehension.
- ✓ Mangroves were planted across a 17-kilometer area.
- ✓ Local communities and watch group members in Goranbose areas actively participated in the planting process.
- ✓ 3 families commenced vermi-composting as a source of additional income. They have been able to generate revenue by selling the compost they produce.
- ✓ 3 successful vertical garden models were created. These models have been well-received and appreciated by the community.

The coastal belts of Sunderbans face recurrent challenges due to their geographical vulnerability, geo-physical settlement, and amplified susceptibility from global warming. These communities endure biannual disasters that disrupt housing and livelihoods. While the government has taken measures to shield these communities, additional support is necessary. GGBK collaborates closely with local administration and communities to develop effective coping strategies for climate change. GGBK's initiatives encompass empowering communities for climate action and disaster resilience, offering relief during emergencies and super cyclones, and aiding the transition to alternative livelihoods. By working in tandem with local stakeholders, GGBK strives to bolster these communities' capacity to withstand the adverse impacts of their environment and climate-related issues.



Organic Farming and Disaster-Rescue Training

System Engagement

GGBK's strategy revolves around aligning its mission with government objectives. The organization actively forges partnerships with law enforcement agencies, facilitating the exchange of insights. By sharing knowledge about trafficking patterns, recruitment tactics, and victim vulnerabilities, GGBK empowers law enforcement to comprehensively combat the issue.

Central to GGBK's approach is capacity building. Through workshops and seminars, GGBK equips police officers with skills to identify potential trafficking situations, conduct ethical investigations, and interact sensitively with survivors. This not only enhances law enforcement's efficiency but also fosters trust between GGBK and police units.

GGBK effectively utilizes government platforms for awareness campaigns, sensitizing the public, law enforcement, and the judiciary to trafficking indicators. Collaborative efforts with government bodies underscore a united stand against trafficking, magnifying the impact and deterring potential wrongdoers.

Guided by data-driven insights, GGBK collaborates closely with law enforcement agencies, accessing crucial trafficking statistics. This information equips GGBK to advocate for policy adjustments and legal enhancements, adapting responses to the evolving trafficking landscape.

GGBK's involvement with the judiciary is pivotal. GGBK advocates for expedited court processes, ensuring justice for survivors who have endured unimaginable hardships.

GGBK extends collaboration to victim rehabilitation and protection, amplifying the impact of shelters and support programs through government partnerships. Prioritizing survivor well-being and reintegration, the organization fosters a comprehensive approach to counter trafficking.

We the People

Community Engagement

The Director and GGBK social worker interacting with community children.



GGBK closely monitors the community engaging with them with an aim to achieve sustainable goals, and overall upliftment.

Status Report

- ✓ **8** Tiger widows recieved general ration amenities.
- ✓ **42** survivors recieved ration with support from the subdivisonal officer, Canning.
- ✓ **5** Villages are being orientated regarding the usage of organic compost.
- ✓ Regularised awareness campaigns regarding trafficking and other gender based crimes.

The Sundarbans, communities predominantly engage in fishing, crabbing, farming, and the gathering of forest resources, with fishing serving as a crucial income source. The region's susceptibility to cyclones and flooding poses a constant threat, exacerbated by the shifting climate patterns, further imperiling their livelihoods. Additionally, being home to Bengal tigers, human-tiger conflicts are a recurring concern. Despite these adversities, the resilient Sundarbans communities persevere, underscoring the importance of sustainable development and conservation initiatives.



The Director, Nihar Ranjan Raptan meeting the community members.

Voicing Awareness

Awareness Campaigns

GBBK undertook visits to numerous schools and colleges, focusing on raising awareness about gender crimes and trafficking. In addition, they employed street play performances to disseminate knowledge about various social concerns such as child marriage, child labor, trafficking, domestic violence, and school dropouts. These endeavors have proven highly advantageous for the community, fostering increased awareness and understanding of these crucial issues.

Status Report

- ✓ GGBK visited a total of 33 schools and colleges as well as door to door in the community.
- ✓ The purpose of these visits was to raise awareness about gender crimes, trafficking and environment.
- ✓ Bandhanmukti organized various rallies & street play performances.
- ✓ The street plays aimed to spread awareness about multiple social issues, including:
 - Child marriage
 - Child labor
 - Trafficking
 - Domestic violence
 - School dropouts
- ✓ These performances took place in villages.



Rallies and Awareness campaigns in schools and the neighbourhood

In The Media



38 National and International Media Coverage

Partners and Collaborators



Annual Programme



Annual Programme



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