



Minister  
Ministry of Local Government,  
Rural Development & Co-operatives  
Government of the  
People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Message**

Bangladesh has made great strides over this decade in alleviating poverty and securing the lives of all its citizens, and we need to keep the momentum moving forward. Collaboration between the Government of Bangladesh and programs such as the CARE Bangladesh SHOUHARDO Program have played a large role in bringing about this favourable environment. This is an example of government and civil society partnership, where SHOUHARDO has maintained the highest levels of integrity to deliver its program in four of the most difficult and poorest areas of the country. Most impressive is that SHOUHARDO is unique in itself in its large scale coverage, and has brought about some of the most significant impacts in a number of human livelihood areas anywhere in Bangladesh.

I am thankful to CARE Bangladesh for implementing such an impressive program and hope our partnership continues and expands such that poverty and food insecurity can be eliminated from Bangladesh once and for all.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu  
Bangladesh Chirazibi haoke.

*(Signature)*  
20/2/2010  
Syed Ashrafu Islam, MP

**Strengthening Household Abilities  
for Responding to  
Development Opportunities  
(SHOUHARDO)**

**Impacts of the SHOUHARDO Program  
Funded by United States Agency for International  
Development and Government of Bangladesh  
Implemented by CARE Bangladesh.**

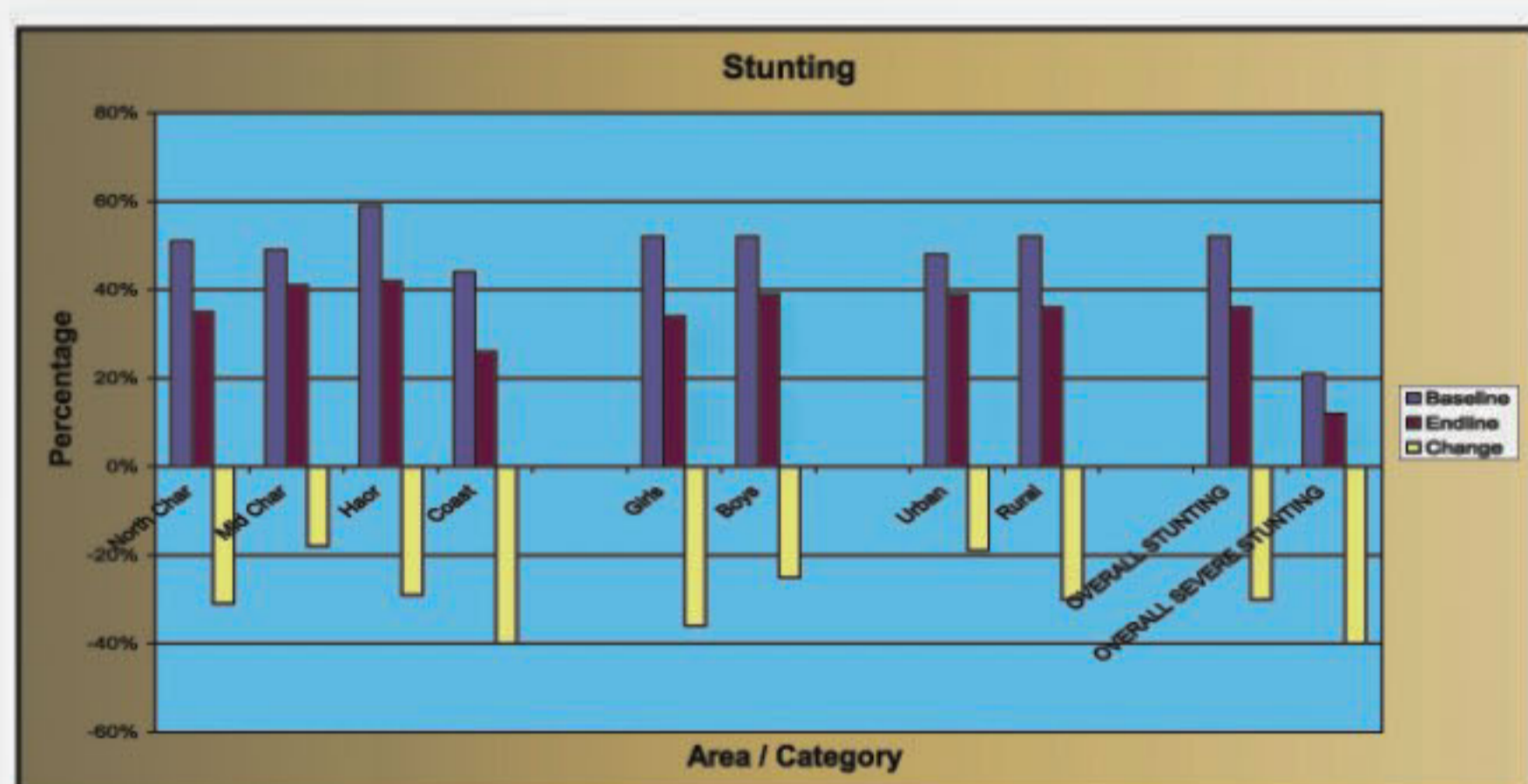
The CARE Bangladesh SHOUHARDO Program is pleased to share the final impacts of the Program as determined from its Final Evaluation conducted by the reputed US firm TANGO International in the last quarter of FY 2009. SHOUHARDO's goal is to reduce food insecurity among the poorest population in Bangladesh, in the north and mid chars, the haor belt, and the south-east coastal belt. This USD 126 million Program is jointly funded, where 90% of resources are from USAID, and the remaining resources are from the Government of Bangladesh, operating from October 2004 to May 2010.

SHOUHARDO attempts to address not only the availability, access and utilization issues leading to food insecurity, but also the underlying issues contributing to vulnerabilities such as a lack of participation, social injustice, and discrimination that prevent people from realizing their full potential in leading healthy and productive lives.

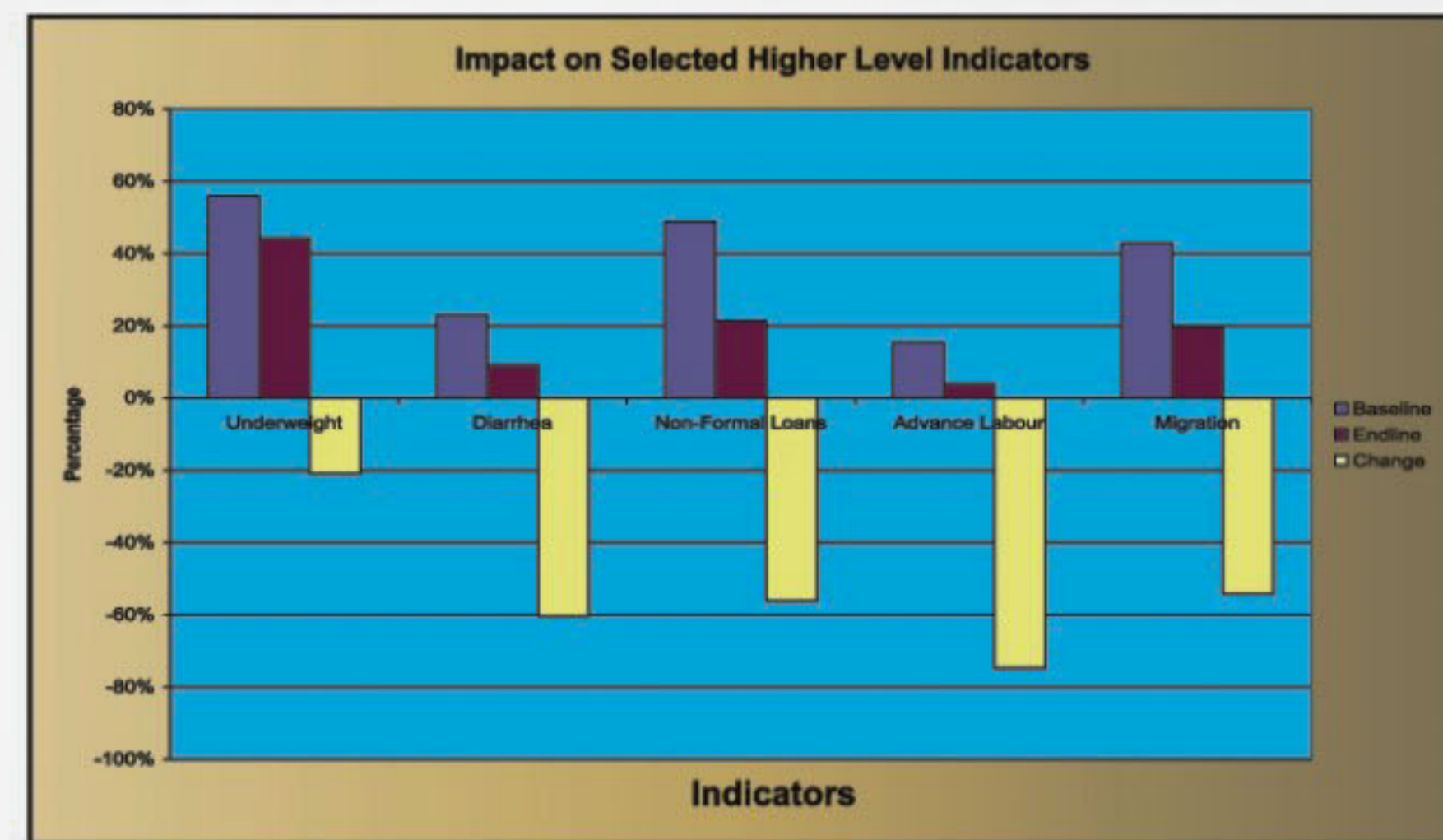
The findings from the Final Evaluation demonstrate SHOUHARDO has been extraordinarily successful in reducing the prevalence of "stunting", as well as in a number of other areas. These results are especially important as SHOUHARDO employs a model which delivers at scale, reaching over 400,000 households in 18 of the poorest and hardest to reach areas in Bangladesh.

The inclusion of more traditional interventions of health and hygiene promotion, water and sanitation, growth promotion, and increased food production along with distribution of food rations has created a synergy which has resulted in **significant and sustainable impact** (as mentioned by the Final Evaluators).

The most notable impact SHOUHARDO has achieved is that the prevalence of stunting has been reduced by a remarkable 30% - one of the most significant impacts globally when compared to other food security programs. The two charts below represent several other key impacts also brought about by the Program.



Achieving such results has only been possible through the active collaboration of the communities SHOUHARDO works with, as well as the collaboration from the Government of Bangladesh, USAID, CARE Bangladesh's 44 national partner NGOs partnering with SHOUHARDO, and technical counterparts such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Clearly these results demonstrate the Program has made important steps in strategising, and implementing a model which brings substantial and sustainable positive change to people's lives. In the spirit of sharing and learning, CARE Bangladesh is pleased to share these impressive results and has uploaded the full Final Evaluation on the CARE Bangladesh website ([www.carebd.org](http://www.carebd.org)) and SHOUHARDO Website : ([www.carebangladesh.org/shouharDO/](http://www.carebangladesh.org/shouharDO/)) CARE Bangladesh welcomes any comments you may have and ask you please direct these to the SHOUHARDO Chief of Party - Faheem Khan ([faheem@carebangladesh.org](mailto:faheem@carebangladesh.org)).



Ambassador  
US Embassy in Bangladesh

**Message**

The SHOUHARDO Program is the U.S. Government's largest food security development program worldwide. It reaches more than 400,000 households in 18 of the poorest and hardest to reach areas of Bangladesh. SHOUHARDO, funded by the United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), uses an innovative, integrated approach that works with beneficiaries to raise incomes, improve health and sanitary conditions, and prepare for natural disasters. SHOUHARDO ensures that 4.6 million people are better able to feed themselves and protect their homes and assets from the perils of flooding, cyclones and other disasters. In just five years, SHOUHARDO has achieved extraordinary results: the level of stunting among beneficiary children under five decreased by 30%. The number of underweight beneficiary children under five decreased by 21%. In addition, the average monthly income of beneficiaries increased by 128% from \$22 to \$50.

I congratulate CARE Bangladesh and the SHOUHARDO program for the contributions they are making to decreasing poverty and food insecurity in Bangladesh.

With Regards

*(Signature)*  
James F. Moriarty



Secretary  
Ministry of Local Government,  
Rural Development & Co-operatives  
Government of the  
People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Message**

It gives me great pleasure to be a part of this supplement as I have been an active part of SHOUHARDO programme since my joining as Secretary of the Local Govt. Division. From the start, I have been impressed with the energy and scale of SHOUHARDO and the fact that it has been targeting truly some of the poorest sections of our society. Being the chair of the national level program Advisory Coordination Committee, comprising of eleven Ministries and four government departments, it was gratifying to track its progress in our regular schedule meetings. This is a program not only aimed at alleviating the symptomatic causes of food insecurity, but also geared towards reaching and dealing with the underlying cause of food insecurity.

The impacts of the interventions testify to SHOUHARDO's success and I congratulate CARE Bangladesh and the SHOUHARDO program for its efficient management. I look forward to working with CARE Bangladesh in the same spirit.

*(Signature)*  
Monzur Hossain



President and CEO  
CARE USA

**Message**

CARE's more than 60 years of experience convinces us that ending extreme hunger and food insecurity around the world requires the right resources, the right strategy and a sustained commitment. SHOUHARDO has integrated these elements, employing a community-led, sustainable approach that has reached 4.6 million of the country's poorest and most vulnerable people. Together, with the Government of Bangladesh, USAID and partnering nongovernmental organizations, we have helped over 400,000 households improve and diversify their food supply. A special focus on women - who make up 48.7% of Bangladesh's population - has brought greater awareness of their rights and increased their participation in local governance. Improved access to social safety nets and natural resources, combined with better early warning technology, has minimized damage and loss of lives during floods. The SHOUHARDO program's nutrition strategy, in particular, reflects CARE's proven approach, focusing not only on availability and access to food but also maternal nutrition and child-care practices.

I applaud our partners and CARE Bangladesh for their longstanding commitment and commendable success in addressing food insecurity and other underlying causes of poverty through this program.

*(Signature)*  
Helene D. Gayle, MD, MPH



Country Director  
CARE-Bangladesh

**Message**

CARE Bangladesh has deep roots in Bangladesh for the past four decades. The cornerstone of CARE Bangladesh is to deliver its program to the most needy and marginalised sections of society, in the best manner possible upholding CARE's core values of "respect", "integrity", "commitment", and "excellence". In this spirit, I am most pleased to see the significant impacts achieved by our SHOUHARDO Program in the chars, haor and the south-east coastal belt of Bangladesh. I am especially pleased as this success demonstrates the spirit of partnership existing between the Government of Bangladesh, our donor USAID, our implementing partners, communities and CARE Bangladesh.

I extend my thanks to the SHOUHARDO team in our success.

*(Signature)*  
Nick Southern



Chief of Party  
SHOUHARDO  
CARE-Bangladesh

**Message**

The success of SHOUHARDO was only possible through the active partnership of our 44 partner NGOs; technical partnerships with the IUCN and the ADPC; and most importantly the 11 government ministries and four government departments, led by the MoLGRD&C. The sheer scale of the Program was mammoth, further complicated with an approach which attempted to deal with the full set of livelihood issues faced by a poor household and community. The journey was a difficult one, every step revealing new lessons, bringing out the best and innovative ideas to overcome challenges as they appeared. I am really pleased to see the extraordinary impacts SHOUHARDO has managed to achieve in such a short time span, testifying that the approach used by SHOUHARDO has proved to be most effective. It is my hope that other development agencies take the time to learn about SHOUHARDO as this can only help in furthering our collective cause of eradicating poverty and food insecurity from Bangladesh.

My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all our implementing partners, the Government of Bangladesh, and of course USAID without whose support and guidance none of this would have been possible.

*(Signature)*  
Faheem Khan