

ERDA Annual Report 2021



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PREFACE

Message from the Chairperson

My association with Environmental Research and development Alternatives (ERDA) during the last eleven years has been quite satisfying. Over the years, the multi-dimensional development programs and activities of ERDA have significantly developed human resources, empowered thousands of poor men and women, educated hundreds of children and created employment opportunities for many unemployed youths of its operational areas.

It is our pleasure that ERDA implementing projects on natural resource management, WASH facilities to the vulnerable communities, health awareness, education and livelihood generation support to the poor people that are contributing a lot establishing human rights in Bangladesh. During the reporting period 2019 to 2021 (in the year 2019 and 2020 did not published annual report due to COVID 19) ERDA completed the projects that has been started previously supported by different donor and projects. So, far my knowledge no new commitment achieved during the reporting year. My recommendation is to take comprehensive initiative to retain the organizational growth and supporting to the poor beneficiaries. ERDA has learned how to rise to the occasion and cope with difficult circumstances. It has overcome most of its hurdles and shortcomings skillfully with its sensible and resourceful management including staff members. I feel inspired, over the years to see how ERDA continues to serve the cause of the poor and pave the way for better living. There is however, no scope for complacency. We must work harder than before. I am very happy ERDA has successfully implemented all its projects and programs and achieved many successes in human resource development, conservation native fishes, integrated farming and water sanitation program. I attribute all the successes to the scrupulous management and our skilled and committed staff members who have sincerely worked against various difficulties and obstacles.

With their sincere cooperation, I look forward to another successful year of ERDA.



(Prof. Hamida Khanum, Phd.)
Chairperson

Forward

I am happy to present the annual activity report period 2019-2021 (in the year 2019 and 2020 didn't published annual report due to COVID 19) to our General Body (GB), Executive Committee (EC) members, donors and partners, government officials, development professionals, researchers and our target audiences. Throughout the year, Environmental Research and development Alternatives (ERDA) has successfully implemented all the programs and activities, tried its level best to achieve the desired goals and objectives of the projects. Though it was very hard time due to COVID 19. Naturally, it has to go through a path of pain and pleasure in achieving and materializing such goals and objectives. It has achieved some tangible success but there were also some failures, although unexpected. The readers will not only find this report as a reflection of the mentioned period activities of ERDA but also get some information about the changes of our target audiences, their enthusiasm, hard work and desires for better life. We always believe in people, their wisdom and we learn from them. By this way, ERDA has grown up, initiated many development activities and contributed to the national efforts of poverty alleviation, human resource development and employment generation. This report will show our performance with some data and I am sure, the readers will enjoy reading those.

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes and thanks to all my colleagues and coworkers who have worked sincerely throughout the year.



Syeda Nurun Nahar
Executive Director

Regional Fisheries and Livestock Development Component, Noakhali (RFLDC)

1. **Objectives:** To improve the livelihood of disable women members in the working area through the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach in aquaculture, native poultry farmer, vegetable gardening and the husbandry of small and large ruminants.
2. **Supported by:** RFLDC-DANIDA
3. **Duration:** The current agreement is from 2015-2020 and covers 50 FFS (Farmers Field School)
4. **Location:** ERDA implemented the project in two unions of Ragonj upazila under Lakshimpur district as implementing partner of RFLDC, Noakhali.
5. **Target group:** Resource poor who usually deprived from services specially disable people. 2000 beneficiaries received project benefit in different mode of support
6. **Major Activities and Achievement:**
 - 6.1. Learning Session on different farming system like Fish Farming, Poultry Farming, Vegetable cultivation, Food and Nutrition, balance diet Food for Adolescent, Pregnant & lactating mother
 - 6.2. Providing inputs like farming inputs seeds, lime etc. session material, refreshment.
7. **Field level action by FFS members (following learning from learning session)**
 - 7.1. Used lime in the pond for water treatment
 - 7.2. 75 earthen hatching production completed during the reporting period
 - 7.3. Using Fellow land
 - 7.4. Using organic fertilizer
 - 7.5. Using modern technology for producing fish culture & chicks rearing
8. **ERDA completed this project successfully and submitted final report to RFLDC**



HYSAWA project of Water and Sanitation Sector Programme

1. Objectives:

The project is for establishing the rights of water and sanitation of poor community in the project area.

- 1.1. To improve hygiene behavior/ practices;
- 1.2. To promote community led total sanitation (CLTS); and
- 1.3. To increase the coverage of safe water supply services.

2. Supported by: GOB-Danida:

3. **Duration:** Three Years

4. **Location:** Two Union of Ramgonj upazila under Lakshimpur district (Bhatra and Lamchar)

5. **Target group:** Ultra poor and poor community in the selected union

6. Major Activities and Achievement:

- 6.1. Base line survey
- 6.2. Advocacy (CF & UP)
- 6.3. CDF meeting
- 6.4. UP WaSan Committee meeting
- 6.5. Contribution money collection
- 6.6. CDF formation
- 6.7. UP Members meeting
- 6.8. Caretaker selection
- 6.9. Hygiene monitoring (Houshold)
- 6.10. Court yard meeting
- 6.11. Tea stall session
- 6.12. Activating Word watsan committee and conduction of regular meeting



ASPS II-The Agricultural Sector Program Support Adaptive Research Program

Objectives:

The overall objective is to improve the livelihoods of resource-poor households in the waterlogged paddy lands of northern Noakhali through the conservation of small indigenous species (SIS) in the context of rapid development of community-based aquaculture

The specific objectives of the proposed study are

- To identify measures to maintain the fish biodiversity through community-based management
- To implement pilot projects in a selection of water bodies representing different ecological systems

- To create awareness, communication among community groups and other relevant stakeholders of the importance of conservation of aquatic resources in the system
- To strengthen the capacity of community groups in the management and improve the livelihood status of the targeted farmers

Supported by: Royal Denmark Embassy

Location: Two upazila of greater Noakhali (Ramgnj and Begumgonj)

Target group: 300 poor, subsistence fishers whose livelihoods is largely dependent on the capture fisheries and indirect beneficiaries will be dogi (waterbody) culture farmer / management committee

Major Activities and Achievement:

Activities	Achievements
Staff Orientation	Project staffs oriented on project activities, how to work with community, reporting, concept of fisheries, habitat restoration, conservation techniques etc
Community Orientation	Community informed on project objectives, process of work and their involvement and importance of fisheries, habitat restoration, conservation techniques etc
Dogi site selection	8 dogi selected with different characteristics through participation of community people and considering their willingness to involve with the project activities and with the discussion of RFLDC officials
Staff coordination meeting	Conducted monthly and required coordination meeting for monitoring, improving the quality and reporting of the project
Formation of dogi management committee	For creating future leadership and executing authority of dogi activities DMC formed for each of the dogi with the major port folio like president, secretary and treasurer
Baseline survey	To document the before intervention status of wild fishes, livelihood of community and institutional position for both qualitative and quantitative baseline survey through semi structured questionnaire and PRA tools conducted
Dogi renovation	Very initially dogis has renovated like removing aquatic weeds, fencing etc
Providing research inputs	Research inputs provided as incentive to make them interested in the dogi management system (stocking cost, lease money, fish feed etc.)
Awareness program	For creating awareness on conservation of wild fishes different events like folk theatre by NSTU students, sign board, community meeting etc conducted
Training /workshop	Dogi members as well as different local institutions trained on wild fish conservation and aquaculture techniques
Research linkages	University MS Thesis has been performed within the project concept

Research Findings

- General characteristics of all the dogis are used for irri rice crop during dry season and water stay only in the associated pond/kuas and under water for 5-6 months of the rainy season
- 3 dogis have connection with the canal that have ultimate connected with the Dakatia river. 3 dogis have no connection with the external sources.
 - Poor members involved in the dogi management committee
 - Women members involved in integrated farming
 - 5 out of 6 interventional dogi functioning well but 6th one is improving the management system
 - During dry season alternative water sources is necessary for maintaining the sanctuary because farmers are using the water for irrigation purposes
 - **Water scarcity:** Climatic condition of the proposed study area has got some characteristics like 4/5 month dry seasons. During the season dogi were completely dry. Some kua (deep ditch in the dogi) has little water level which were used to dry season irri cultivation. Community People around the proposed area use to utilize the kua's water for homestead utilities. So for sanctuary development it is impartibly tough to motivate the community people. Alternative water source has been developing before intervention in the kua area.
 - **Discourage to attend in the Training and meeting schedule:** It has been observed that the community people have the habits of being late in the scheduled meeting and workshop. Every workshop and training has a time schedule and training plan. So feeling discourage to attain timely in the meeting and workshop might hamper the aim of the workshop and training session.
 - **Late stocking of fish fry:** It was said to the previous report that the fish stocking was late to the seasons. The fingerlings has got little tome for grown. So of these reasons the first year crop/production might be apparently less.
 - **Other Economical activities:** The aim and objective of the proposed project is to conserve the fisheries biodiversity through community based aquaculture. Apart form that the community people specially women member were trained or motivated to perform other income generated activities like pond side vegetable garden, Duck/Poultry rearing etc. But due to overworking load these activities has got less interest in this quarter.
 - Community willingness for contributing and later started as savings



Research Constrain

1. **Water scarcity:** Last year was very rain in the dry season and dogis were completely dry only has little water level in the some kuas (deep ditch in the dogi) which was established as sanctuary but due water scarcity farmers tried to use that water for irri cultivation. To solve this problem project provided shallow pump that also failed due to gas problem in the area. Finally some of the area of sanctuary allowed for removing water
2. **Late stocking of fish fry:** As the project started in the late August '09 and it was almost late for stocking carp species. As a result project started only in the 3 dogis last year and from the late stocking no harvest was in the last season.
3. **Late rainy season:** From the experience of first year project wa reday to start early in April-May but it was also failed due to natural constrain because this year water come in

the dogi June –July. So the project faced almost two season for stocking timely which is incentive for the farmers for maintaining wild fish diversity.

4. **Community contribution:** In the beginning of the project tried to include their contribution but they were not willing to and later on started as savings but still it is not regular
5. Limited intervention as the Begumgonj dogis under different approaches of intervention by RFLDC directly

Future work plan

- Collection of scientific data on current biodiversity and other parameters as required. Data analysis and reporting.
- Stakeholder meetings to discuss strategy for biodiversity conservation and periodic staff coordination meeting
- Capacity building of beneficiaries
- Conservation methods
- Alternative livelihoods based on *dogis* (to remove pressures) through FFS
- Press and media engagement
- Integration dike cropping and involve the people with other livelihood activities
- Establishment of sanctuary and future management system /further interventions, for sustainability
- Dissemination of results to other locations (workshops, leaflets, awareness campaigns through theatre)
- DMC initiate new round of interventions
- Final reporting, including regional stakeholder workshops
- Team coordination meetings, including RFLDC



PEDP II Innovation Grants Project under Primary and Mass Education Department

Objectives:

To improve the quality of children's health and providing health assessment and referral services through "Community Health Care Program"

Specific Objectives are:

- To increase capacity of communities, particularly of children, women and the poor, to participate in collective actions, for improve health and hygiene
- To increase access to and use of basic sanitation facilities and practice of hygienic behavior
- To imparting health based primary education in the remote and underdeveloped areas.
- To identify the health status of school going children issues.
- To create community leadership for improving the quality education system.
- To improve school health facilities & school environment.

Supported by: PEDP II Innovation Grants Project under Primary and Mass Education Department

Location: 5 primary schools in Two union of Ramgonj upazila under Lakshimpur

Target group: Students of 5 Primary schools, SMC members, Parents

Major Activities and Achievement:



1. Teachers Meeting
2. Formation of Mothers Cub
3. Parents Meeting
4. Teachers & SMC Training on Health and Hygiene
5. Cultural Program (during national day)
6. Sports Program
7. Conduction of sessions/class tests
8. Provide education material
9. Produce Message Banner/Festoon on Health and Hygiene
10. Child friendly booklet on health message

HIV/AIDS Prevention Program for Young People in Bangladesh

Objectives:

Supported by: Consortium of Padakhep Manobik Unnayan Kendra & Rural Research Center (RRC), Tangail under Save the Children USA

Duration: One year

Location: Delduare upazila of Tangail district

Target group:

Major Activities and Achievement

“HIV/AIDS Prevention Program for young people in Bangladesh” was a project of ERDA has implemented following activities from 23 June to 25 July.

Planned Activities

1. TOT for Staffs Capacity Building on HIV/AIDS by RRC
2. TOT for Organization 's other staffs on HIV/AIDS by ERDA

3. Module/schedule Developed
4. Community Selection as priority basis
5. Education Session conduction as per scheduled
6. Meeting/Workshop
7. Primary selection of IMAM, PUROHIT, Registered club/SAMITY
8. Monitoring and Evaluation
9. Financial
10. Reporting



Achievements

1. Administrative Achievements

After signing the agreement with RRC, ERDA had selected four staff's for TOT organized by RRC of the project “HIV/AIDS Prevention Program for young people in Bangladesh” through 23 June to 25 July for the first installment.

- 10 groups completed. These are as; 1. Rishipara, 2.Naya char Bazar, 3. Chowbaria (1), 4. Chowbaria (2),5.Ghonapara, 6. Baropakhia, 7. Ag-Elashin, 8. Pas-elashin, 9. Elashin Bazar, 10. Singhoragi.
- Procurement had been completed as far budgeted amount. The process had been maintained that were the request of PC to Procurement Committee, Procurement Committee collected relevant quotations and they assessed the quotations and according to their recommendations had been sent to ERDA ED for Approval. After getting approval from ERDA ED issued purchase order and had been completed the total procurement.

2. TOT on HIV/AIDS for Staffs Capacity Building by RRC

Conducted 2 day long TOT for Staffs Orientation Training on project activities to conduct the session effectively and efficiently and the project staffs received orientations on the following areas.

The training content was

- Opening, objective of training & project orientation
- Adult learning process & Training management/Organization
- Sex transmitted diseases & HIV/AIDS
- Conceptual definition as to HIV/AIDS
- HIV/AIDS, perspective of Global, Regional & Bangladesh
- Risk conduct for HIV/AIDS & doings for HIV/AIDS prevention and pay religious rituals
- Social responsibilities to HIV/AIDS Positive ones & preventive measures
- Common participation & advocacy
- Training Evaluation

3. TOT for other staff of organization by ERDA

After receiving TOT, ERDA arranged a similar TOT bearing same contents & methodology for rest selective staffs to do trained up for conduction said education sessions in the community levels.

4. Module/schedule Developed

To conduct the session a well-furnished module had been developed by RRC support that was provided to every participant attended at TOT by RRC. Apart from these, ERDA time to time included empirical knowledge irrespective of place, time needs. For this reason, ERDA has been able to meet the aims & goals of the said project.

5. Community Selection

ERDA had selected ten communities in where this organization has been working with several programs for a long time. For having a strong rapport with commoners/villagers ERDA has easily sensitized to them about the destructive phenomenon of HIV/AIDS & its preventive measures. ERDA from ten community ten groups selected covering the following criteria;

- Young generation
- Interest in and proactive
- Willingness to spend time behind it
- Involvement in social welfare activities
- Willingness to learn, to change, and to champion a cause



6. Session Conduction

The total one hundred sessions had been conducted by ERDA trained up trainers with ten groups. The strategic/ methods were followed for every session conduction;

- Lecture
- Open question
- Story telling
- Focus Group discussion (FGD)
- Chart showing
- Ideas sharing

Specific achievement of this project:

- ❖ After receiving & conducting TOT on HIV/AIDS ERDA has enhanced its organizational capacity and staff capacity too.
- ❖ In a short duration, a lot of HIV/AIDS related has been disseminated among group members
- ❖ Teen aged & young generation is disseminating messages in their respective community even in other places.
- ❖ Grass level people access to information on HIV/AIDS at present
- ❖ Some change agent like IMAM, PUROHIT, SOCIAL INSTITUTION has been identified

7. Meeting/ Workshop

Staffs Coordination and Planning Meeting

- Conducted weekly Staffs Meeting- discussed on program issues, responsibilities of staffs, how they would be followed up project activities and produced potential next work plan in each meeting.
- Conducted Monthly Coordination Meeting with staffs for discussing progress and planning on program and challenging aspects. Provide learning session on need-based issues.
- Conducted one Planning Meeting and discussed on project activities and develop action plan.

8. Primary selection of IMAM, PUROHIT, Registered club/SAMITY

The proposed agent/institution can play a pivotal role to do make difference in society. Considering this ERDA has primarily selected some imam, purohit, register club/institution to do aware the people in a broader way in communities level. Apart from these, they will perform their duties & responsibilities as gatekeepers in society in the years to come.

9. Monitoring & Evaluation

Since inception, ERDA has taken a good number of initiatives to develop a monitoring system to keep the project on tract. The main concern of the M&E system is to monitor and measure progress of projects and assist them to make adjustment when necessary. Therefore, the M&E unit is continuously trying to incorporate new ideas to strengthen M&E system of ERDA and to support particular project oriented staffs.

10. Financial Management

ERDA has preserved/maintained some relevant papers/documents to compliance with RRC agreement e.g. to submit bill/vouchers properly.

11. Reporting

Monthly Progress Reporting

ERDA staffs are to prepare weekly progress report on program and financial management on project-“HIV/AIDS Prevention Program for young people in Bangladesh” in order to submit to RRC.

Micro Finance Program

Savings and Credit Program

ERDA has collective economic activities for poor people who have limited access to the financial institutions. Communities are motivated for group savings. The savings are used for income generating activities. Where the savings are not sufficient, credit facilities are also provided.

At present ERDA running two branches

Elashin Bazar, Delduare, Tangail- the branch started from 2002

Teory, Ramgonj, Lakshimipur-the branch started from 2004

Qurbani Program 2019

Objectives: To distribute meat to the poor who don't have capacity to do Qurbani

Supported by: SWAB providing funds for last two years

Location: Bhatra, Ramgonj, Lakshimipur

Major Activities and Achievement: 60 poor families received meat in the report year



ERDA PROFILE

Genesis

Environmental Research and Development Alternatives (ERDA) is a non-government, non-profit and non-political voluntary organization, founded in 1998 by a group of experienced development professionals. It works to promote sustainable environmental management and human resource development through the creation of local level institutions which support socio-economic changes in the lives of the rural poor. It currently works in two main areas of Bangladesh in the north central province of Tangail and in the southern coastal district of Lakshmipur. It maintains a liaison office in Dhaka city.



ERDA has been registered in Bangladesh under the Joint Stock Companies Act since 2002 and with the Department of Social Welfare since 2006, and NGO Affairs Bureau since 2016

Vision

“An organized society taking its own initiatives to uplift its quality of life and to adapt to changing circumstances, while preserving the natural environment for future generations”

Mission

“To promote sustainable livelihood of poor people and an environmentally friendly ecosystem through the creation of sustainable local institutions which endeavor to bring about socio-economic improvements in the lives of the poor and ensure human rights and good governance.”

Objectives

- Build capacity of marginalized people to adapt to changing environments, increasing their ability for self reliant development, employment creation and alternative livelihood generation
- Mobilize communities to reduce environmental vulnerability in the country, especially in the context of climate change
- Assist to develop local institutions for ensuring basic human rights and access rights for poor people at the family, community, society and state levels
- Promote gender equality and improve the status of women.



Main Areas of Work at present

ERDA started out mainly oriented towards projects for the conservation of native fish and improvement of the livelihoods of fishers involved in these fisheries. In doing so, it began to involve in awareness campaigns on environmental issues, utilizing folk drama as a



means of communication. Its reputation in this respect grew and it was enlisted to conduct similar awareness campaigns through folk drama on HIV/AIDS and use of polythene bags.

More recently, ERDA has widened its Project portfolio through a series of agreements with the Danish Development Assistance (DANIDA) in the Lakshmipur region, including work with

1. Regional Fisheries and Livestock Development Component, Noakhali in improving livelihood of small farmers through the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach in aquaculture, native

poultry farmer, vegetable gardening and the husbandry of small and large ruminants. The current agreement is from 2008-2010 and covers 50 FFS

- The HYSAWA project of the Water and Sanitation Sector Programme, under which ERDA offer technical to local government in the development of hygiene campaigns, safe sanitation and installation of deep tube wells



- The Agricultural Sector Programme Support Adaptive Research Programme under which ERDA been awarded a project for maintaining biodiversity in waterlogged paddy lands being converted to aquaculture. The project is from 2010-2012 and covers 1500 farmers in 8 waterlogged areas.



- PEDP II of Ministry of Primary and Mass

Education under which ERDA offered to implement a project for increasing the capacity of communities, particularly of children, women and the poor, to participate in collective actions, for improve health and hygiene, imparting health based primary education in the remote and underdeveloped areas, identify health status of school going children, improve school health facilities & school environment and create community leadership for improving the quality education system.

- In addition ERDA maintains a small micro-finance programme using its own funds and members savings which currently covers 51 groups of mainly women members, totaling over 500 lenders.



- Every year ERDA implementing Qurbani program supported by MuslimAid UK in Bangladesh and Islamic Relief UK Worldwide.

ED distributing meat to the poor 2015

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Major Focus	Area	Source of Fund
1.	Income Generation for the disable people	Income Generation for the disable people	Ramgonj, Lakshimpur	Department of Social Welfare
2.	Conserving native fishes in the area of faster growing area like Ramgonj of Luximipur district	To protect the continuous disruption of aquatic habitat by the unplanned development of in the area of faster growing due to high earning sources from foreign countries	Ramgonj, Lakshimpur	Ministry of Science and Technology
3.	Non Formal Education	Child Education	Tangail & Luximipur	BRAC
4.	Conservation of Small Indigenous Fish	Conserve native fishes and improve livelihood of fishers.	Tangail	SUFER-DFID Bangladesh
5.	GOLDA project, CARE-Bangladesh	Awareness campaign through drama on environmental issues	Bagerhat Khulna, Jessor and Satkhira	CARE Bangladesh
6.	MACH Project	Conducted awareness drama on natural resource conservation	Sreemangal, Kaliakoir and Sherpur	MACH, USAID
7.	SEMP through CNRS, NACOM, and BCAS	Awareness creation on livelihood generation & fisheries conservation and habitat restoration.	Manikgonj, Gopalganj and Sunamgonj	IUCN supported by UNDP, Ford Foundation
8.	Conservation of open water fisheries	Information dissemination through folk song, street drama,	All over the Bangladesh	DFID and DOF-4 th Fisheries
9.	Awareness Raising on HIV/AIDS/STD	Awareness campaign through drama, rally etc.	Tangail, and Dhaka	CARE-HIV/AIDs
10.	Awareness on polythene issues	Gombhira pala (folk-song) on Polythene issues	Dhaka city and Fair	DOE, GOB

Program area

On the basis of its current experience, ERDA divides its work into three programmes, supported by an innovative awareness raising methodology. The three programs are:

1. Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation Program

Given its low-lying, deltaic characteristics, Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world in the context of rapid global climate change. It is also one of the most densely populated countries in the world, so that natural disasters have a major impact in terms of loss of human life and livelihood assets. Disasters are becoming more complex, where a range of factors in the social, cultural and natural spheres are increasing risk associated with disaster. On the other hand, Bangladesh does have significant natural resource potentials which can be used to advantage for livelihood development if properly managed. Considering the above issues ERDA's main programmatic area is resource management with an emphasis on adaptation to environmental change at both household and community level.



2. Health/ WATSAN Program

Among the five basic needs of human being, health is considered the most important. In Bangladesh both rural and urban poor people have very limited access to health services. In this context, ERDA is committed to provide health, water and sanitation services to all of its beneficiaries and the community people in its program areas. ERDA seeks to promote a range of different water and sanitation options in line with the changing environment. Important components of this Program include

Primary Health Care Services

- Provision of Sanitary Latrines. Beneficiaries who have no latrine services at their residences are being supplied rings slabs and other material for sanitary latrine produced through credit.

- HIV/AIDS- ERDA is one partner in a program aiming to create HIV & AIDS awareness within different vulnerable groups
- Rural water supply and safe drinking water is one of the most important areas for health and nutrition. Considering this fact ERDA also working for safe drinking water supply in rural areas.

3. Education Program

Education is the another most important basic needs. It is a globally admitted fact that education leaves a lasting impact on the lives of people improving upon their personal and family welfare. Under this program ERDA has aiming to implement non-formal education particularly for the disadvantage people for both adult , dropout and non-school going children. Mobilizing the communities to enroll their girls and ensuring the retention girls in schools is another target for this program.

4. Gender Program

Gender is a cross cutting issue straddling the two other programs of ERDA. The objective of the program is to develop gender consciousness and change behavior among the staff, community, and beneficiaries. The program aim is to establish rights of women to productive resources.

Awareness through Folk Theatre

All of ERDA's main activities involve creation of awareness of key issues amongst the beneficiary groups. Although it utilizes a range of tools of awareness creation (workshops, videos, posters, leaflets, etc., ERDA has a special facility in the promotion of live folk theatre. For many generations, folk theatre/drama has been an important tradition in the rural society of Bangladesh. This tradition derives from the daily life of the people and can have real influence on their emotions and behavior. Recognizing this effective means of communication ERDA has formed folk theater teams as an especially effective tool in awareness creation, at the same time helping to preserve dying forms of folk theatre.



Networking

ERDA is increasingly developing linkages and relations with many organizations/forums for mutual benefit and for more effective management and execution of its programs. ERDA has close links with the following organizations:

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Forum (BFRF)

Credit and Development Forum (CDF)

We Can Campaign

Office and training facilities

ERDA maintains a liaison office in Dhaka and 2 area offices through which projects can be implemented in its working areas in Tangail and Lakshmipur. Each of the area office has a small training centre attached.

Management and governance

ERDA gives high priority on good governance, accountability and transparency, operating according to the approved constitution of the organization; it has a three-tier organizational structure namely:

- General Body
- Executive Body and
- General Administration.



Executive Committee Members

SL	Name	Position	Profession
1.	Prof. Dr. HamidaKhanum	Chairman	Professor , D.U
2.	Mahbubur Rahman	Vice-Chairman	NGO Service
3.	Monir Hossain Chowdhury	General Secretary	NGO Service
4.	AFM Arifur Rahman	Asst. Gen. Sec.	Assistant Professor
5.	Syed Mosaddeque Hossain	Treasurer	Social Service
6.	Feroz Alam	Member	Social Service
7.	Seikh Mohsinul Hossain	Member	NGO Service

Financial strategy

ERDA maintains a standardized accounts system to ensure transparency in financial management. It follows an approved financial manual and operates a bank account under through the joint signatures of the Executive Director, General-Secretary and Director (Program) Accounts are audited in every financial year (January–December) by the government approved chartered accounting firm.

Staffing strength

ERDA is able to draw upon a cadre of professional staff with extensive experience and specialization in the areas of natural resources management, advocacy and awareness, agriculture, fisheries and livestock, health, sanitation, community development etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

ERDA has a strong monitoring & evaluation team. The development program is continually being monitored and evaluated to determine its progress and effectiveness, as well as to show where changes may be necessary.