



2023-24

ANNUAL  
REPORT

**SSDC**

SUNDARBAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE







## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	01	MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT	02
THEMATIC AREAS, MISSION AND VISION	03	EYE HEALTH CARE	04
MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH	06	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	07
WATER SANITATION HYGIENE	08	WOMEN EMPOWERMENT	09
LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION	10	CHILD PROTECTION	11
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION	12	FINANCE	13
PHOTOGRAPHS	15	OUR GRATITUDE	18

## Introduction

For the last **35 years**, Sundarban Social Development Centre (SSDC) has dedicated its efforts to assisting the underprivileged residents of South 24 Parganas district, particularly those on the Sundarbans islands. Our goal is to support the human dignity of the less fortunate and marginalized by empowering them. To fulfill this objective, SSDC has been actively addressing various vital areas including Mother and Child Health and Nutrition, Eye Health, Child Protection and Rights, Women's Empowerment, Livelihood Enhancement, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Environmental Conservation. Over the years, our initiatives have reached thousands of individuals, providing them with the necessary tools and resources to build better lives.

Through our Mother and Child Health and Nutrition programs, we have significantly reduced malnutrition rates and improved overall health outcomes for both mothers and children. By offering comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care, we ensure that mothers receive the necessary support and education to foster healthy pregnancies and childbirth experiences. Our initiatives also include regular health check-ups, nutritional supplements, and immunization drives, which play a critical role in preventing common illnesses and promoting long-term well-being.

Our Eye Health services through our 50-bedded modern eye hospital have restored sight to countless individuals, allowing them to lead more productive lives. With state-of-the-art technology and a dedicated team of experienced ophthalmologists, we offer a comprehensive range of treatments and procedures tailored to meet the unique needs of each patient. From routine eye exams and corrective lenses to advanced surgeries such as cataract removal, our commitment to excellence ensures the highest standards of care.

Child Protection and Rights have always been at the forefront of our mission. We have established safe spaces for children, ensuring they have access to education, healthcare, and a nurturing environment to grow.

Women's Empowerment remains a critical focus, and through various skill development programs, we have enabled women to gain financial independence and play active roles in their communities.

Our Livelihood Enhancement projects have introduced sustainable farming techniques and training, which have uplifted the economic status of many families.

In the face of natural disasters, our Disaster Risk Reduction efforts have equipped communities with the knowledge and resources to better prepare and respond, minimizing loss and facilitating quicker recovery.

Environmental Conservation is integral to our work, particularly in the vulnerable Sundarbans region. By promoting eco-friendly practices and raising awareness about the importance of preserving the unique biodiversity of the area, we aim to ensure a sustainable future for both the people and the environment.

SSDC's commitment to these causes continues to grow stronger, fueled by the resilience and determination of the communities we serve. Together, we strive to create a world where every individual can live with dignity, security, and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

## Message from the Management

Our Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023-24 has been released, chronicling remarkable achievements and the stories that underpin them. Celebrating our successes, we take pride in the exceptional teamwork and unwavering commitment that have propelled us forward.

A special acknowledgment is extended to our invaluable partners for their steadfast support and collaboration in spreading positivity within our community. Their guidance, insights, and encouragement have been instrumental in our journey towards greater heights and accomplishments.

Looking ahead, our focus remains unwavering on upholding our core values and delivering unparalleled value to our team members. As we embark on the journey ahead, armed with the confidence and resilience that have brought us this far, we are poised for success. Let us forge ahead!

Together, we have surmounted challenges and marked significant milestones, demonstrating that through cooperation and persistence, any goal is attainable. This report not only encapsulates the achievements of the past year but also symbolizes our shared vision and resolute determination.

Peering into the future, we are dedicated to nurturing an inclusive and empowering environment where every voice is valued, and innovation flourishes. Anticipate more innovative projects, community engagements, and avenues for personal and professional growth. Embracing the ethos of continuous learning and adaptability is key to staying ahead in an ever-evolving landscape.

Cheers to another year of collective triumphs, boundless creativity, and meaningful contributions. To all who have contributed to this shared journey—thank you for your dedication, fervor, and hard work. The horizon is bright, and together, we will continue to ascend to new summits. Onward and upward!



**Bhakta Prasad Purkait**  
General Secretary



**Gopal Chandra Pramanik**  
President

## Thematic areas, Mission and vision



**Our Mission**  
Uphold the human dignity of the poor and marginalized through the process of empowerment.



**Our Vision**  
Build up a society where love, peace and equality is discovered, lived and nurtured.

## Eye Health Care

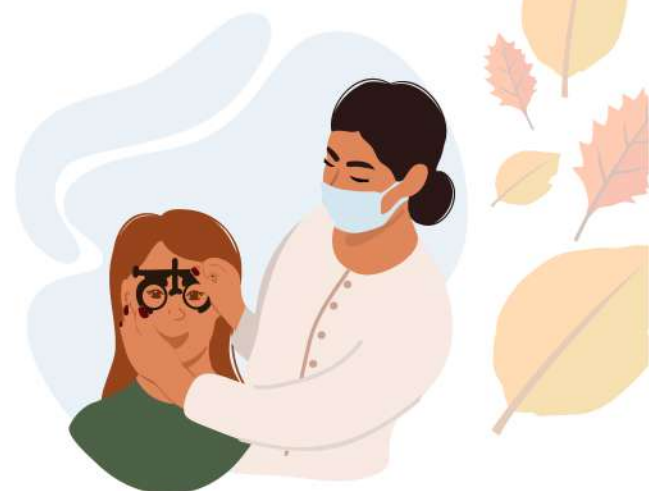
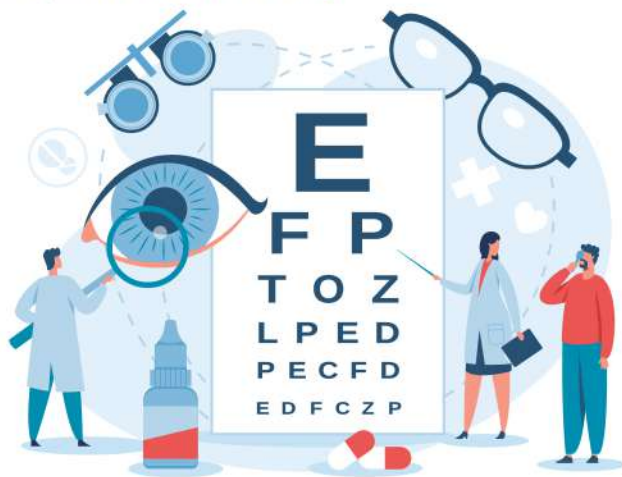


In the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, particularly in the Sundarbans region, there is a significant demand for Cataract surgeries. Unfortunately, many underprivileged individuals lack the financial means to undergo this procedure. To address this need, the **SSDC Eye Hospital**, recognized with the **National Eye Award** in 2007, the **International Eye Health Hero Award** in 2017, and **NABH SHCO** certification in 2022, offers state-of-the-art facilities. With **2 operation theaters** and a total area of **21,000 sq. ft.**, the hospital aims to enhance the quality of eye care services and cater to the rising demand. Additionally, SSDC operates a **50-bed** modern eye hospital at its headquarters and manages **19 Vision Centers** throughout the entire South 24 Parganas district to deliver primary eye care services.



Within the hospital setting, we offer high-quality services to eye patients at a **subsidized rate**, facilitated by **state-of-the-art equipment, patient-centric infrastructure, proficient medical professionals, and experienced staff**. Considering the challenges posed by the Sundarbans region, characterized by significant communication barriers, we further extend our services by providing **dedicated transportation for patients** residing in remote areas across distant islands.

We have successfully launched **19 Vision Centers** in diverse locations across the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, India. Our primary objective is to deliver essential services to underserved communities at their doorsteps, promote eye health awareness, conduct basic eye examinations, and facilitate referrals to specialized eye hospitals when necessary.



## Eye Health Care



**29% increase** in operating Cataract surgeries than the previous financial year

**70%** of the cataract surgeries are Free or subsidised

**6939 CATARACT SURGERIES**

**104255** number of patients treated through OPD, Vision Centres and Camps



**14204** number of needy patients received free spectacles

**9691** number of school students have been screened



**221** number of needy school students received power eyeglasses

**3 no.** of villages have been declared as Avoidable Blindness Free villages



## Mother and Child Health



SSDC has launched a project to address pressing issues regarding insufficient perinatal healthcare services and the prompt utilization of services by mothers and newborns in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal. The project focuses on improving antenatal screening, identifying and referring high-risk pregnancies promptly for essential medical interventions, and encouraging timely and appropriate service utilization to improve perinatal outcomes. In collaboration with local healthcare providers and community leaders, SSDC is implementing an integrated approach that includes community education, training for healthcare workers, and the establishment of mobile health clinics. These initiatives aim to reach remote areas where access to healthcare is severely

limited.

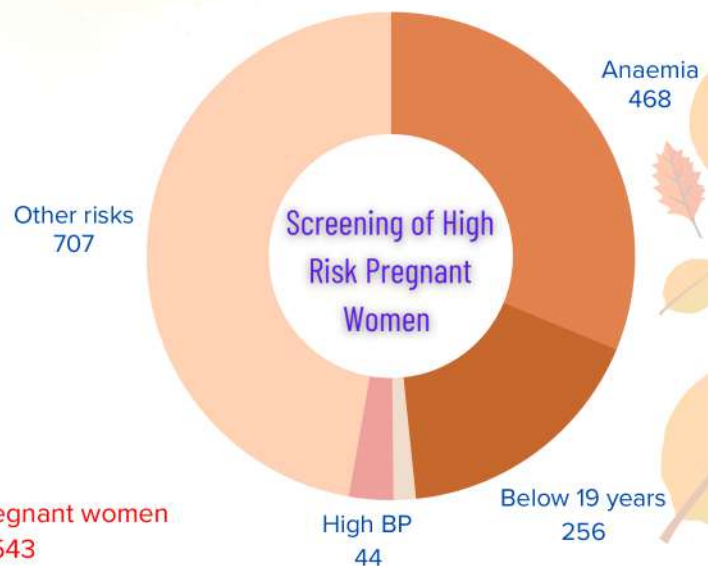
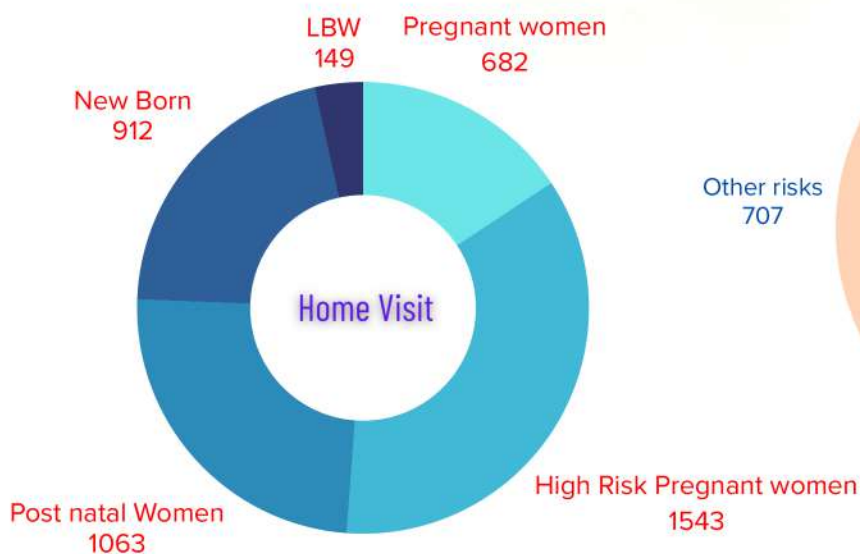
Through community education programs, the project seeks to raise awareness about the importance of regular antenatal check-ups, proper nutrition, and recognizing the signs of high-risk pregnancies. Workshops and interactive sessions are being conducted to empower mothers with knowledge and confidence to seek timely medical care.

Training healthcare workers is another crucial component of the project. By enhancing the skills and knowledge of local midwives, nurses, and doctors, SSDC ensures that they are better equipped to manage complications and provide high-quality care. This training includes the latest practices in maternal and neonatal health, emergency care, and the use of modern medical equipment.

By addressing the gaps in perinatal healthcare services and promoting prompt and appropriate utilization of these services, SSDC's project is making a significant impact on the health and well-being of mothers and newborns in the Sundarbans. The project not only aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates but also strives to create a sustainable model of healthcare that can be replicated in other underserved regions.

**2159**

Number of people participated during awareness at Sub-Centres



## Sexual and Reproductive Health



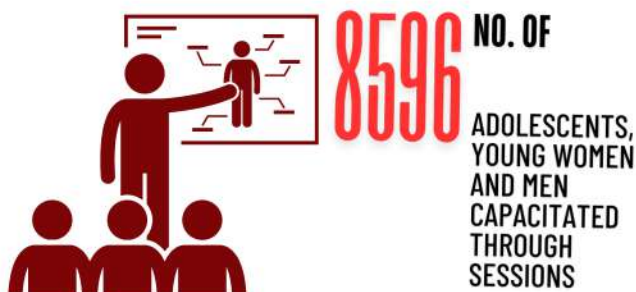
Sexual and Reproductive Health for adolescent girls is a crucial aspect of their overall well-being and development. It encompasses not only the physical aspects of health but also the emotional, mental, and social dimensions. Ensuring that adolescent girls have access to accurate information, safe and confidential healthcare services, and supportive environments is essential.

Education plays a key role in empowering girls to make informed decisions about their bodies and futures. Comprehensive sex education should be age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and inclusive, addressing topics such as consent, contraception, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and healthy relationships. By providing a solid foundation of knowledge, we can help girls navigate the complex changes of adolescence with confidence and resilience.

Access to healthcare services is another critical component. This includes regular check-ups, vaccinations, and screenings, as well as access to contraception and STI prevention and treatment. Healthcare providers should create a safe and welcoming atmosphere where girls feel comfortable seeking advice and care without fear of judgment or stigma.

Support from families, schools, and communities is also vital. Encouraging open and honest conversations about sexual and reproductive health can help break down barriers and reduce misconceptions. By fostering an environment of trust and support, we can ensure that adolescent girls feel valued and understood.

Ultimately, investing in the sexual and reproductive health of adolescent girls is an investment in their future. It enables them to pursue their goals and aspirations, leading to healthier and more empowered individuals who contribute positively to society.



## Water Sanitation Hygiene



With the aim of enhancing healthcare facilities by strengthening systems to improve Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Healthcare Facilities (HCFs), SSDC has been collaborating diligently with the Health Department of the Government of West Bengal. The goals include:

- Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by ensuring universal quality healthcare with respect and safety for both HCF personnel and patients seeking treatment (SDGs 3, 6).
- Enhancing systems to support continuous, operational, and sufficient WASH services in HCFs.
- Promoting fundamental aspects of universal healthcare such as quality, fairness, and respect for all by providing functional WASH services.

**38**

Cleaners, including 17 Female cleaners of Govt. HCFs have been thoroughly capacitated on their roles



**8**

No. of sub centres renovated



**782**

Number of people participated during awareness at HCFs



## Women Empowerment



- Kalimpong District administration initiated a weekly organic market for local farmers to sell their produce.



- Distributed ginger, turmeric bulbs, vegetable seeds, and saplings to beneficiaries for crop cultivation.

- Conducted medication and vaccine camps against Lumpy virus infection in cows.

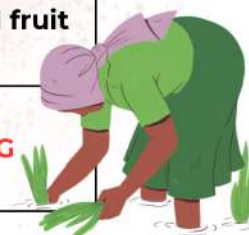


- Trained 200 women in Agro Based Entrepreneurship and marketing.

### Harvesting details



Paddy (approx.)	Pulses (Kalo dal) (approx.)	Pulses (Mashyaam) (approx.)	Large cardamom (spice)	KIWI fruit
1350 QUINTALS	1230 KG	370 KG	950 KG	28 KG



### Economic empowerment through sustainable livelihood

Name of the product	Total sold	Total income (Rs.)
Cow Ghee	1083 kg	685290
Turmeric Powder	264 kg	86000
Honey	190 kg	228000
Cow Milk	14960 litres	619530
Vegetables	Production from 5 villages	1461500
Fruits (Kiwi)	28 kg	39200
Spices(Black pepper)	11 kg	5130
Large cardamom (spices)	1230 kg	1508775
Pipul, Aswagandha, Tulsi (Medicinal Plant)	7 kg Pipul Aswagandha- 100 pots sapling	4550 943
Round chilly	508 kg	152700
Traditional foods- Gundruk, Kinema, etc.)	6 kg	4240

## Livelihood Promotion

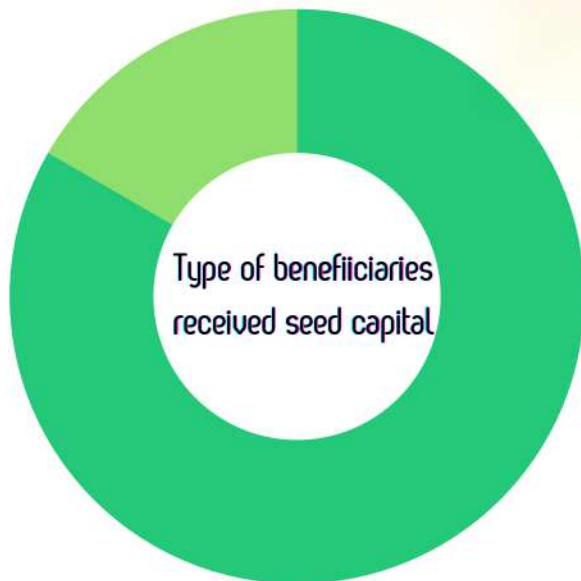


As a development organisation, SSDC seeks to promote and accompany the development of skills with which people can finance their own and their families' livelihoods. SSDC is particularly committed to families and persons with disabilities, as they in particular have very limited earning opportunities in the region. After stakeholder mapping and in consultation with the respective stakeholders, **30 beneficiaries** received seed capital of **INR 10,000** each and mentored to start small businesses. After the trainings in the above business areas, seed capital was provided and SSDC tracked the progress of each beneficiary.

Depending on the need in the area, the **beneficiaries chose their profession** and relevant training for themselves and used the seed capital to procure the necessary equipment and/or materials that will help them earn their livelihood independently and thus create a sustainable livelihood for their family. For this purpose, a seed capital of INR 10,000 was provided to each of them.



women headed families  
16.7%



Persons with Disabilities  
83.3%



## Child Protection



Child protection stands as a fundamental societal obligation essential for safeguarding the safety and welfare of all children. This vital responsibility encompasses a complex framework of laws, policies, and methodologies aimed at preventing instances of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Child protection services diligently strive to establish secure environments for children by extending assistance to families in need and taking decisive action to remove children from perilous circumstances when required. Furthermore, community outreach initiatives and educational programs play a pivotal role in cultivating a culture that prioritizes the security, worth, and care of every child. By prioritizing investments in child protection, we are not only securing the future but also nurturing forthcoming generations to thrive as healthy, content, and contributing members of society.



## Environment Protection



The mangrove forests, with their intricate root systems, serve as a crucial buffer against coastal erosion and provide a safe haven for countless species. The Sundarbans, renowned for being the largest tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world, stretch across India and Bangladesh, forming a rich tapestry of biodiversity.

Despite its beauty and importance, the Sundarbans face numerous threats, from climate change and rising sea levels to deforestation and pollution. Efforts are underway to preserve this irreplaceable environment, ensuring that future generations can continue to marvel at its wonders and benefit from its bounty.

In the heart of the mangroves and Sundarbans, one can truly appreciate the delicate balance of life and the profound connection between nature and humanity.

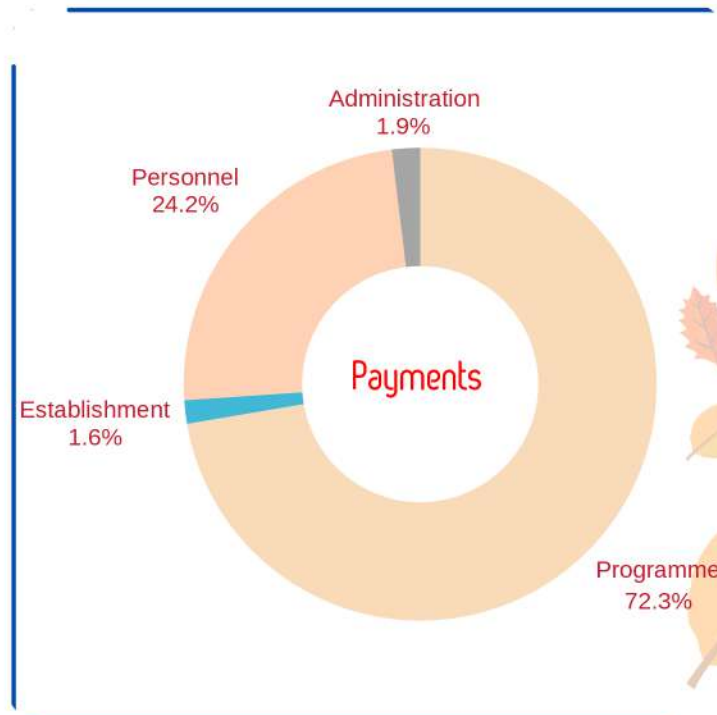
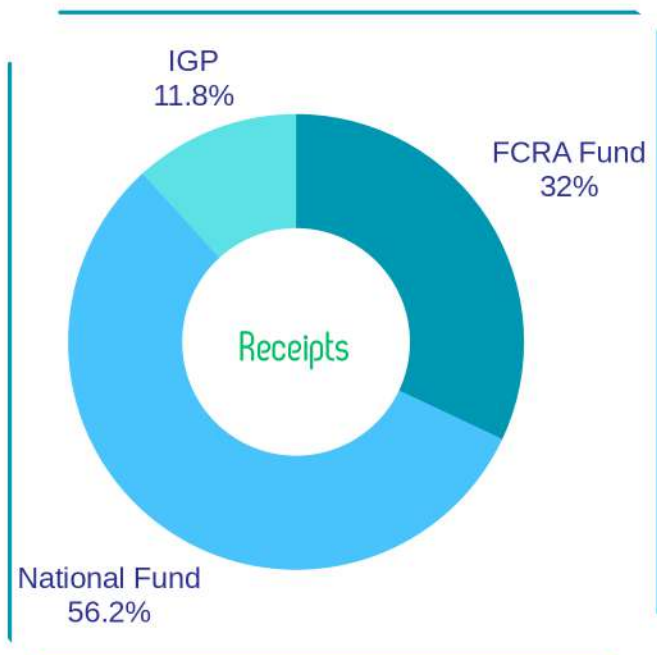
Mangroves, with their intricate roots, support diverse wildlife and protect coastlines. They breathe with the sea's rhythm, offering stability. Environmentalists and volunteers work to expand these vital habitats, emphasizing their connection to the planet's health. Educational programs raise awareness and involve local communities in conservation efforts, promoting harmony between humans and nature.



## Financial Statements

### RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT (INR)	AMOUNT (INR)	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT (INR)	AMOUNT (INR)			
Opening Balance		14197182.44	Programme Cost		79721421.19			
FCRA Fund		35174725.00	Establishment & Infrastructure Cost		1761185.00			
Grant	34909443.00		Personnel Cost		26633100.00			
Interest	265282.00		Administration Cost		2112561.77			
National Fund		61784360.76						
Grant & Donations	61570958.76							
Interest	213402.00							
Collection from IGP		12921309.76						
Sales Unit	12912516.76							
Interest	8793.00							
TOTAL		124077577.96				TOTAL		124077577.96



## Financial Statements

## ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2024

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT (INR)	AMOUNT (INR)	ASSETS	AMOUNT (INR)	AMOUNT (INR)
General Fund / Fund Balance		73097876.13	Fixed Assets		53088700.00
			Investments		0.00
			Net Current Assets		20009176.13
			Stock of Materials	5915376.20	
			Current Assets	17415110.49	
			Less - Current Liabilities	3321310.56	
<b>Total</b>		<b>73097876.13</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>73097876.13</b>

## ABRIDGED INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE AS ON 31.03.2024

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT (INR)
Expenditure on the objects of the society	96176251.13
Depreciation	7657259.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103833510.13</b>
INCOME	AMOUNT (INR)
Income from Local & IGP sources	60452243.52
Income from Foreign sources	35411784.00
Interest from Foreign sources	265282.00
Interest from Local & IGP sources	222195.00
Change in Stock	263490.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96614994.82</b>
<b><i>Excess of Expenditure over Income</i></b>	<b>7218515.31</b>

### A few Photographs



## A few Photographs



### A few Photographs



## Our Gratitude



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India and Govt. of West Bengal	Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, Govt. of West Bengal	Department of Sundarban Affairs, Govt. of West Bengal
Department of Forests, Govt. of West Bengal	The District Magistrate & all the Additional District Magistrates of South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal	The Member of Legislative Assembly (Patharpratima, Mandirbazar, Kulpi, Kakdwip, Sagar Legislative Assemblies)
The Chairman, Sundarban Development Board	The Sabhadhipati & all the Karmadhakshyas, South 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad	The Chief Medical Officer of Health, South 24 Parganas district & Diamond Harbour Health District
The Sabhapati, all the Panchayat Samities of South 24 Parganas district	The Block Development Officer, all the Block Development offices of South 24 Parganas district	The Block Medical Officer of Health, All the Block Primary Health Centres of South 24 Parganas district
The Inspector-in-Charge & Officer-in-Charge of all the Police Stations of Sundarban Police District	The Pradhan & Panchayat Members of all the Gram Panchayats of South 24 Parganas district	BMZ & SDL
CBM & CBM India Trust	Standard Chartered Bank	Ipas Development Foundation
Sightsavers India	Seva Foundation	Mission for Vision
Operation Eyesight Universal	PAZ	HelpAge India
Child Rights and You	Terre des hommes Foundation	Aangan Trust
Rotary India Literacy Mission	Practo Foundation	ChildFund Germany
Symagine Solutions Private Limited		





# SSDC

SUNDARBAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Village - Sultanpur  
P.O. - Krishnanagar  
Block - Mandirbazar  
District - South 24 Parganas  
State - West Bengal  
India - 743345



9433280774 / 9831654218



ssdc@ssdcindia.org.in



<https://www.ssdcindia.org.in>