CMDRR FORUM BULLETIN

Community Participation and Implementation is what we mean to promote

5th ISSUE: January 2012

Editorial

CMDRR Forum Bangladesh Secretariat is pleased to share with you the 5th issue of CMDRR Forum bulletin. CMDRR Forum bulletin so far addressed national and international focus issues related to DRR and climate change. The current issue tries to capture the observance of the IDDR by its members and also to share the follow up initiatives at different areas. This year Forum has celebrated the event in partnership with Government of Bangladesh. The current issue also dissemination the various activities of the Forum members including a Regional Sharing meeting held in Dhaka. We hope as previous, that this Bulletin will also draws attention to our readers/practitioners and the information will be used in the field.

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And
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Celebration of IDDR 2011 by CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh

Background and Introduction:

Bangladesh is a country which is familiar as the most disastrous country in terms of natural calamities in the world. This country has been affected by cyclones, draught, flood, flash floods, soil erosion, and hills slide etc almost in every year. Recently an adverse climate changes have been prominently affecting the lives of this region especially coastal people. Rise of sea water and consequently saline intrusion in the agricultural land destroying livelihood structure of the region. People are being in threat in terms of their surviving and residing pattern. In addition the intensity of cyclones and floods has been increased ridiculously. As one of the poorest country among the poor country in the world, Bangladesh is recurrently becoming economically dormant due to this hugely natural calamities. Its national growth rate is hampered and people of the area are becoming poor to extreme poor day by day.

The environmentalist as well as scientist has been predicting this ratio will be increased day by day. A fatal future will be facing by the people of the South East Asia. Among the countries Bangladesh will be waiting for observe a very crucial condition. In this situation Bangladesh should take necessary actions regarding reducing calamities due to upcoming disasters. In the worst situation to face and mitigating disasters need to utilize new approaches against so called community base disaster management procedures. CMDRR approach really emphasizes participation of community people in the disaster risk reduction procedures. Cordaid realized it and extended hands for familiarize and practice CMDRR concept in Bangladesh. As a result CMDRR forum came into existence in the country. Every year CMDRR forum observed the IDDR along with its 13 partner organizations. This year Forum observed this auspicious day on 13th October with concerned government departments and other national and international organization under the same umbrella.

The program outlined:

This year CMDRR Forum in collaboration with partner organizations celebrated the day regional and national level with due importance. The programs were 01. Rally 02. Seminar 02. Discussion 03. Exhibition 04. Media coverage. As a coordinating body CMDRR Forum has been making liaison and interactive communication with government and other relevant counterparts with a view to familiarize and enhance practice of CMDRR concept in Bangladesh. Consequently CMDRR Forum likes to celebrate the day centrally with government initiatives. Here elaborated briefly about the occasions duly held in Dhaka as central efforts.

The Rally:



A colorful and massage illuminating on the DRR issues were exhibited by the banners and festoons. Started from central Shahid Minar premises and end at Osmani auditorium and cheerfully took seat of chief guest by Professor Abdur Razzak, Hon'ble Minister of Food and Disaster Management with other government and non government organizations, INGO, UN bodies, Red Crescent officials and DRR practitioners of the country. Among others participants were students of the different educational institutions and physically challenged peoples from different organizations.

Take Part in Exhibition :

An exhibition related to Disaster and related issues were arranged at the premises of Osmani auditorium. This exhibition was inaugurated by the minister, Food & Disaster Management, Government of Bangladesh. Among other GO, NGO participants, CMDRR forum also participated in the exhibition. A stall was opened in cooperation with the partners. The exhibited materials are different DRR related publications, IEC and BCC materials duly published by the CMDRR forum. A significant number of viewers visited thee stall and inspired to saw the materials.

Seminar :

A seminar held at the Osmani memorial auditorium organized jointly by the Disaster Management Bureau and the Disaster Management & Relief Division of government of Bangladesh. The participants from different section of people particularly relevant government officials, NGO, INGO and UN bodies were present and took active part in the seminar.



Prof. Abdur Razzak, as a chief guest spoke on the occasion. He emphasized and pointed out the situation of Bangladesh in terms of increasing number of disaster events and future threats especially on the coastal people and its dwellers. He also suggested all to discover the coping mechanism and making the sense of living with the disasters in coming future. Climate change aspects were prominently discussed in the seminar by key discussants and all others who participated in the seminar.

Media Coverage :

The national dailies and other electronic media paid due importance on the day. The daily news papers published special feature giving emphasizes on the DRR elements /issues and disaster related write ups. Besides, different channels broadcasted news on discussions, seminars, rally and exhibitions respectively.



POST-DISASTER RESCUE

Plan to procure Tk 115cr equipment

By: CMDRR FORUM, BANGLADESH

9th Quarterly meeting and experience sharing workshop of CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh

9th quarterly meeting of CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh held was on 30th October/2011 at Pidim Human Resource and Development Centre, Jhenaigati of Sherpur district. A total number of 15 participants from partner organizations actively participated in the meeting. Mr. AB Banerjee, the Executive Director of Pidim Foundation presided over the meeting while Mr. Shafiqul Islam, Director Programs of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Adviser of the Forum kindly was graced the meeting as the Chief Guest.



The meeting was also followed by a comprehensive visit to Pidim Foundation working area and observation of its CMDRR activities. The visit was continued up to next one day. The visitors of different practitioners of different organizations observed its various groups from community to upazila level. They met with the people of Community resource centres; stakeholders network (Stake net), community people, local elected bodies etc. Visitors had opportunity to see the local hazards and people's initiative to overcome the problems altogether. Community resource centres are the CBOs led by community people which are the nucleus of all



community initiatives. As a disaster prone with some significant features from other areas it emphasize to practice CMDRR concept. Basically elephant incursion, draught, flush flood is the principle hazards of the area. The area is surrounded by the eastern hilly areas of India, Meghalaya. So, the visitors had an opportunity to gain extraordinary experiences from other parts of the country. Some of perception of the project and stakeholders picked up by the participants during visit. They shared all in the sharing session held after visit. These were as follows;

* CRC doesn't have intensive supports from local government
* Most helps/supports are getting from NGOs; like PIDIM
* Most children's are not look after their parents or take responsibility but very few are extended helping to the parents
* Elephants are mostly come at night and damaged crops and houses
* Elephants are expelled out through lightings or creating sound by beating the drums/CI sheet shed
* Provided solar panel charger lights to the CRC households as elephants avoid the lights. Pidim provide many solar light panel in different location and as a consequences elephant incursion reduced optimistically.
* Most times, local teachers and team leaders look after CRC members and provide necessary awareness & preparedness
* Around 2100+ family members have been selected and supported by PIDIM since 2001
* PIDIM is very much trusted by local government for selecting vulnerable families
* Civil Society (C.S) can pay contribution in some remarkable efforts by their own spirit
* A river bank dam constructed in the village to protect the families where PIDIM gave an amount of TK. 50,000.
* CRC team members have been trained on livelihoods, TBA and disaster preparedness measures
* CRC team members are supported cattle, goat, poultry birds by PIDIM
* Each CRC has their own CRA in the area and they have also contingency plan
* Some trained women are very skilled on TBA works and as well as family planning aspects in the villages.
* CRC has disaster funds in VDMCs
* VDMC conduct regular meeting where teachers, leaders provide supportive roles
* To reduce losses due to the flush flood Pidim has been helped vulnerable people to build high homestead.

By: CMDRR FORUM, BANGLADESH

Observation of International Day For Disaster Reduction By Partners:

1. ADD

ADD International in collaboration with the IFLS partners, other GO and Non-Government Organizations organized four events to observe the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2011 with the theme of "Making Children and Young People Partners in Disaster Risk Reduction" at Rampal, Sharonkhola and Mongla upazila in Bagerhat district.



The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was observed on 13 October, 2011 with active participation of 490 (Female 179, Male 311) PWDs with grassroots partner NGOs (member associates), journalists, local government representatives and other members of civil society.

Rally and discussion meeting were held at Mongla, Rampal & Shoronkhola Upazilas under Bagerhat District with the assistance of EU-CAFOD funded IFLS project. In the separate meetings, Mr. Kamrul Hassan, UNO; M. Saiful Islam, Upazila Vice Chairman; Mr. Boktiar Hossain, Livestock Officer; Mr. Jashim Uddin, Agriculture Officer and Azijul Haque, in-charge of Rainda Thana from Shoronkhola upazila.

Md. Bakahid Hossain, Assistant Commisinor (Land); Mr. Nur Alam Sheikh, Upazila Chairman (in-charge), Mrs. Kamrun Nahar Hai, Upazila Vice Chairman (Woman), Md. Nahiduzzaman, P.I.O Mongla Bagerhat and Francis Atul Sharkar, Development Director, Caritas. Proloy Banargi, Project Director, World Vision; Ziaur Rahaman, HRP, ADD International and other associates were present in Mongla Upazila program.

On the other hand, Mr. Hemayet Hossian, UNO, Rampal; Mollah Md. Abdur Rouf, Chairman and Mr. Abdul Jalil, Ex Upazila Chairman, Rampal; Mr. Dablu Sheikh, Chairman, Rajnogor UP and Shopon Brammon, P.I.O. Rampal participated in the rally and discussion meeting in Rampal Upazila program.

Another rally and discussion meeting were held at Dhanshagor Union Parishad with the assistance of the PWDs of Dhanshagor union by ADD International, GO

and NGO professionals, IFLS partners, Persons with Disabilities, Political leaders, Civil society members, Teachers, Businessmen and people from various professions attended in the day observations program.

As a result of the programs, the Union Parishads and a large number of stakeholders are more sensitized to regional/national and international issues on disaster. The majority of stakeholders expressed that they were committed to take steps to promote awareness of disabled people's needs and provided assistance to them. The events also created a greater awareness of the devastating consequences of natural disasters.

2. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)

The District Disaster Management Committee (DMC) of Barguna District with the help of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, European Commission, Concern Worldwide, Plan Bangladesh, SAP Bangladesh, RDF, Shushilan and DSK perform different events approaching the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day on September 13, 2011 with the slogan "Making Children and Young People Partners in Disaster Risk Reduction". In rememberance of the international day, different events were performed and arranged like drawing and eassy writing competition, conducted rallies to raise awaress among the common people through different slogans, festoons, banners, caps, t-shirts, posters, placards, and discussion meetings. This colourful rally then moved in most of the roads and areas of the district guided by Honorable MP Advocate Mr. Dherandra Nath Shamvhu, Barguna and Mr. Md. Mojibur Rahman, District Comissioner, Barguna.



After successful completion of the rally, a discussion meeting was held at Barguna District Commissioner's Conference Hall. The meeting was presidedover by Addition District Commissioner (General) Mr. Md. Ahsan Kabir and while the Chief Guest was Mr. Md. Mojibur Rahman, DC, Barguna. In the discussion meeting Mr. Zakir Hossain Miraj, President, Barguna Press Club; Mr. Prokash Chandra Biswas, District Relief & Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO), Mr. Dr. Ashfakul Islam, ADC-Barguna discussed about the importnace of the day and DRR aspects.

3. Fight for Hunger :

Fight for Hunger (FFH) organized a day long workshop Disaster Risk Reduction recently at Sandweep island. The participants were mainly UDMC members of Sarikait Union Parishad of Sandwip Uapzila. Besides, UP Chairman, members including female members, teachers, civil society and NGO representatives and volunteers and members of village development committee were actively participated.

The discussed contents were; Types of hazards, damages and how to prevent the loss due to hazard situation, role and responsibilities in regards to preparedness of UDMC, the prime victims of the disasters, Contingency plan, and different jargons regarding relating to disasters.



The UP Chairman shared his opinion regarding the contents after concluding the workshop. He said 'This workshop can give indication to the UP members about risk reduction of hazard prone people. We also aware about persons with differently able in order to reducing risk of vulnerable people and without participation of them no meaningful DRR plan would be successful. Because they are 10% of our total population.

FFH has been working with school students on disaster preparedness. In this regard, they formed student groups by the participation of learners' of class six to ten. Every group from each class consisted with 8 learners. This discussion session organizes monthly or bi monthly basis. The participants of groups disseminate the discussion information with remaining learners of the class. As a result all students have more or less idea about disaster preparedness. The learners also discussed with their family members about the all measuring steps to reduce vulnerability from disaster damages. So, ultimately, whole community people is becoming aware about disaster preparedness and performing in accordance with the knowledge they gained.

FFH organized a discussion session and rally on the eve of celebrating International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction -2011 at Sandwip Uapzila by the intensive supports of Upazila administration. A colorful rally with banner and festoon elaborating messages on disaster risk reduction led by the upazila Nirbahi Officer Mr. Mir Showkat Hossain walked the streets of the area.

After completion of the rally a discussion session was held at "Poet Abdul Hakim auditorium". The meeting was stressed to aware people on disaster risk reduction in order to reduce damages due to recurrent disasters.

Same event was held at Chowdhury Bazar of Maitbhanga union by the CLC. Local people, UP members, students and civil society members were present in the occasion.

4. INDAB

INDAB organized rally and discussion meeting in commemoration of International Day for Disaster Reduction on October 13, 2011 at Babugonj upazila head quarter. Around 250 people from the community, 100 students and 100 from different trade of life LGI leader, civil society member, NGO personnel, media personnel, teacher and religious leader' participated in the function. Both the event ornamented and prompted by different government officials. Our major focus in participation of youth from the each sect of the community and we are successful.



Our rally moved by different important road at upazila head quarter. Rally ended at upazila auditorium gate and participant sat for discussion. CMDRR upazila coordination committee chair Mr. Gloam Mostafa presided the meeting and upazila Youth Development Officer Ms. Asma Begum was chief guest.

Different speaker in the meeting opined global community experienced the threat none ever before the issue like Climate Change. Nature's behavior has been regularly irregular and erratic. The basic securities of food, water, energy, livelihood and human life highly threatened. Bangladesh has been identified as most vulnerable country by the scientists and policy makers across the world. Adverse impact already started; extreme events like severe cyclones and increased salinity in our coastal region. We must face our problem by own initiative and optimum utilization of available resources. They also add that we should invest our effort to sensitize, empower children and young people that could contribute much reducing risk to disasters.

5.RDRS Bangladesh

The day observed with lot of programmes along with the full collaboration of the District Commissioner (DC), Kurigram. At 9:30 AM, the rallies of local NGOs (ZIBIKA, CARE, SOLIDARITY, AID COMILLA, ESDO, BDSC, MOHIDEB, PODOKHEP, TDH, Red Cresent, RDRS Bangladesh), School students, CBOs (RDRS Federation) and govt. officials were gathered in the DC office premises of Kurigram. At 11:00 am, the rallies all together moved around the town of Kurigram Pourashava and again the rallies returned back to the DC office premises of Kurigram. About 1,000 school students, 500 nos of NGO's/CBO's representatives, 150 nos of RDRS Federation members/staffs and 80 govt. officials were participated in the rally. A total of all together 1,730 members were participated where around 40% were female.



The day's activities started colorful & well decorated rally with ornamental banners, festoons, and head caps. Harmonic slogans with mikes were the most aware full and attractive part for the mass campaign. Climate related disasters preparedness messages were displayed through the festoons and leaflets. After over the rally, an open discussion session was held where different NGO's representatives; CBO's leader, school teachers, delivered their aware full, meaning full messages on reduce negative affects of annual climate related disasters among the participants. At the end, the District Commissioner's representative of Kurigram district delivered his long speech about Climate related disasters mitigation measures and awareness activities.

The DC's representative requested some particulars NGO's heads (like; RDRS, ZIBIKA, SOLIDARITY, ESDO, etc.) to know their update mitigation measures in

the area. In the issue, RDRS Bangladesh representative's presented update infrastructures supports of the DRR-CCA & CCP Projects which have already been implemented in the area since 2009, like; rescue/evacuation boats-2 nos, flood shelters-40 nos, shelter linkages earthen road-24 kms, tree plantation-65 kms (65,000 trees), homestead plinth raising-1,120 nos, latrine-550 nos, tube-well-620 nos, RCC pillars-720 nos, Cow rearing-32 nos, rice bank-87 nos, etc. for mitigation measures due to reduce negative effects of annual climate related disasters in the area.. RDRS Bangladesh also added CLP project support activities in the area. The other NGOs were also expressed their mitigation supports in the area before the DC's representatives. The end of the event day, the DC's representative thanked RDRS Bangladesh and the other NGOs/agencies for their active participation in the day IDRR-2011 and invited all participants for having their snacks.

6. VARD:

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2011 (IDDR) was celebrated on 13 October, 2011 in Sunamgonj with the joint initiative of GO and NGO through rally and discussion meeting. Khandaker Oliur Rahman, ADC (General) of Sunamgonj district was present as a chief guest and Md. Yeamin Choudhury, DC of Sunamgonj district presided over the rally as well as meeting. About 200 people participated in these program. Different representations of GO and NGO (VARD, CNRS, Inter Cooperation, IUCN and CARE) attended this rally and meeting.



Participants come to a consensus that this kind of day observation through rally and discussion meeting has to be continued in a regular basis as it helps create mass awareness in disaster risk mitigation. In his speech, the president of the discussion meeting Md. Yeamin Choudhury, DC of Sunamgonj district emphasizes on working jointly to mitigate and adapt climate change situations. It is noteworthy that Md. Abul Kashem, DRRO of Sunamgonj, UNOs from different Upazilas of Sunamgonj, UP Chairman and 15 representatives from different NGOs and Institutions were present. VARD, CNRS and Inter Cooperation shared their programs in the discussion meeting.

7. YPSA

Deputy Commissioner Office (DC) of Chittagong & Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) observed International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on October 13, 2011. YPSA actively took part in the colorful rally and then attended the discussion meeting arranged by DC office. Mr. Ehsan Elahi, ADC (General), Chittagong inaugurated the rally by flying colorful balloons in the air. It was started from the Laldighi end, Chittagong and round across several important places and then gathered at Zila Porishod Auditorium, Chittagong for a discussion meeting. Mr. Abdul Malek, DRRO, Chittagong and other Government & Non-government officials also took part in that procession. People from all classes including Children and Youth spontaneously participated the rally with colorful festoons, banners for raising consciousness on disasters.



After the rally, being invited by DC office, YPSA went to Bangladesh Mohila Samity School & College. There YPSA and DC office jointly arranged a discussion meeting and performed a mock drill on rescue in emergency situation. Mr. Khaled Mamun Chowdhury, ADC- Education, Chittagong, Ms. Hosne Ara Begum, Dist. Education Officer, Chiitagong, Ms. Anowara Begum, Principal, Bangladesh Mohila Samity School & College, Mr. Faridur Rahman, Asst Director, Fire Service & Civil Defense, Mr. Osman Goni, Trainer, Fire Service & Civil Defense and Mr. Mahiuddin Hafiz, Focal Person, DRR & Emergency Mgt. unit (DEMU) of YPSA were also present at the meeting. In addition, YPSA DEMU officials Ms. Farah Amina, Mr Farouqe, Mr Shibshankar proactively took part in all activities.

Mr. Hafiz delivered the key speech. He discussed elaborately on the importance of the day and causes & impacts of earthquake and also put emphasis on what to be done by everyone during the earthquake disaster- one of the most destructive disasters that happened many times in recent years. He also drew the attention of all to be careful about the Children and person with disabilities. He advised the audience to be careful and to take adequate measures before it was much too late. He analyzed the available situation that happened around us and ventilated his opinion Chittagong poses a high risk of natural and man made disaster.

All of the speakers put emphasis on the role of the children and youths in disaster risk reduction. They opined, "Children and young people need to be empowered and supported as agents of social inclusion and safety and their actions to reduce disaster risk must be recognized.

At the concluding a skillful and experienced team of Fire Service & Civil Defense performed a mock drill on rescue in emergency situation. All of the viewers including students, guardians, teachers and staffs of Bangladesh Mohila Samity School & College enjoyed the performance of the team.

Friendship hails Rangdhanu; the first sea going hospital ship in Bangladesh.

Friendship has received Rainbow Warrior II, a Greenpeace ship to be converted into a floating hospital for the underprivileged coastal people of the country, arrived at Chittagong Port on 29th August 2011.



The ship, renamed Rongdhonu, had been engaged by Greenpeace International in its campaigns against nuclear testing, whaling and others. Greenpeace International handed over the ship to Friendship, a non-governmentorganization working for ultra-poor coastal people's healthcare, on 16 August in Singapore. Director General of Shipping Commodore Zubaer Ahmed, Mercantile Marine Department Principal Officer CaptHabiburRahman and Friendship Executive Director Runa Khan welcomed the ship at the port. The ship will be converted into a floating hospital for offering primary, secondary and emergency healthcare to the vulnerable and marginalized people who have little or no access to basic healthcare facilities, said Friendship Executive Director Runa Khan at a brief ceremony onboard the ship. It would take around a year to convert the ship into the floating hospital for providing healthcare service to some 200 people a day. The hospital would keep on moving to provide healthcare services to the people living along the entire coastal belt. There will also be satellite clinics as like the other healthcare systems in Friendship intervening areas.

However Like the other two floating hospitals of Friendship named Emirates Friendship Hospital (EFH) and Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital (LFH)Rongdhonu would also provide healthcare services like eye care, dental care, pediatric care, women healthcare, investigation services and ward service,. Moreover specialized health camps will be organized to provide secondary healthcare, including different types of surgeries for eye, dental, pediatric and women health, she added. DG Shipping Commodore Zubaer Ahmed termed the initiative a noble gesture and assured all-out support from his department. The crew members who brought the ship in Chittagong were also present during the brief ceremony. Friendship, which has been working in Bangladesh for a decade, started its journey with the LFH, the country's first floating hospital in 2001. The organization launched its second floating ship EFH- to offer medication in 2008. In this consequence it has launched its first sea going hospital Ship Rangdhanu Friendship now, which will support the hazard prone coastal belt peoples living beside Bay of Bengal

By: Ahmed ToufiqurRahman, Friendship

Haor Life of Match and Mismatch with Nature



Village Protection from flood wave by Bamboo barrier

Boatmen rowed our small boat through the Kalni River at early in the morning of late November- a shining Autumn day. The sun was pouring golden rays over water, misty river bank and on miles and miles stretched green golden haor land totally hollow as far as could be seen and feelings go. A tiny patch of raised mound Tajpur village inside deep Chetia haor was our destiny. We were going to see a rare piece of human endeavor to match with natural havoc amidst mismatch tyrant changes of flood waves- people called it "Afal".

The endeavor was a pure example and true efforts of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) and human stand to mend negative impact of climate change. Every year in recent days for last 20 years unusually severe, prolonged and repeated floods come and hit haor areas, destroy crops, bring miseries, washed villages with trees, settled structure to make hundreds of people homeless and absolute landless.

Abdul malek was met in the village, in his word lives in the haor, were passed years after years in struggles and fighting against "Afal" waves to protect lands from erosion in vain. Coconut and Betel-nut gardens at north side on 10-12 acres disappeared, two third of village graveyard disappeared, half of mosque land disappeared, 28 households from out of 70 families of the village lost homestead lands into the river. Some 80 years ago his father came to settle in the village and it was named after his father's name Haji Tajmia. Now he is an old man of 60 years and witness of many changes. In local Bengali accent he said to us "Shara bosor ja kamai tar modada bari bandhoner kamay kharcha hoya jai. Polapaner khaoner jogar kortay janda baer hoya jai". His main point was that most of earning every year drained on refilling eroded land by earth in vain.

Villagers individually and collectively appealed to many places and leaders for years after years to do anything. Every promise evaporated into air after election.

The new endeavor had started last year after awareness and motivational training on CMDRR by local NGO. Supported by POPI.

Last year community people formed VDC and a steeming committee to plan a village protection effort. It was decided to erect an earthen and bamboo maide retaining wall at the north side of the village. Community people contributed money, materials and labour in the erection of the fence. It is a 500 meter long wall of mud and bamboo which cost Tk. 40600. Cash, free labour and kind support and other work combinedly exceeded Tk.100000. The impact fall immensely on the security and protection of the village from "Afal" erosion. No body can claim the credit of such CMDRR effort except men and women of the families of Tajpur village.

Our boat was enchored at the ghat of the village about 9:30 a.m. We enjoyed greetings sound from hundred of women, men and children and became speechless for few minutes looking with astonishment a job accomplished by own planning and resources of villagers. A 500 meter long and 8 meter high bamboo wall dazzling under soft light of morning sun.

We walked slowly with Fultula Bibi, Shamsun Begum, Abdul Malek and hundred of villager to ward the dias at the centre of village.

By: POPI

Caritas Bangladesh Steps toward the Community Managed DRR





Villagers facilitated by Caritas staff conduct Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (HVCA) at Char Baitkamari, Kamarjani Union, Gaibandha

We are more or less aware that at present human race across the world faces different kinds of challenges created by various types of natural disasters with regard to survival. The global disaster situation is gradually getting aggravated and compounded due to many risk factors related to the adverse effect of climate change and gradual socio-economic degradation. Reduction of those risks is badly needed to protect people's lives, assets, livelihood, and environment and make all the development effort sustainable. In this respect Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) approach is very much effective as it is a community led continuous process. Then the question may be raised, what is CMDRR? According to International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IRR), "CMDRR is a multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction, which brings communities to the center of hazard identification and analysis, risk assessment and managing disaster when it occurs. In addition, it aims to mainstream disaster risk reduction in sectors such as health, food security and climate change adaptation. At a more practical level, CMDRR is about how communities can cope with a given hazard to reduce fatal damage to lives and livelihoods."



Use of banana raft is new to the area as a result of project intervention

Disaster is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh, which may be identified as one of the most important factors that jeopardizes intervention taken up with relentless efforts for the welfare and development of our people. It poses a threat to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Specially the target of halving poverty and hunger by 2015 appears to be unattainable together with realization of other MDGs, which is being slowed down by disasters.

Caritas Bangladesh has a long history of its involvement with the activities of post disaster emergency relief and rehabilitation since the devastated super cyclonic storm of 1970 and subsequent Independent War of our country. Initially Caritas laid emphasis on survival of the victims and return to their normal life through relief and recovery support in an aftermath situation. At the stage of its inception there were no organizational hard and fast policies to carry out the emergency activities in a systematic order. As a social arm of the Catholic Church, Caritas Bangladesh is always concerned about the dignity and respect of all humans irrespective of caste and creed and dedicates itself to render emergency services to the distressed in post disaster situations.

In the meantime so many changes have taken place in this sector organizationally, nationally and globally. A comprehensive approach in the name of Disaster Management was introduced, which included the activities at the stages of pre, during and post disaster situation. Disaster preparedness was considered to be highly effective measure than that of the post disaster activities to protect lives and assets. But rendering humanitarian services in post disaster situation is very important. In dealing with all sorts of natural calamities disaster risk reduction or disaster risk management has become a prominent tool

in respect of protecting people's lives, livelihood, land, water and biomass. Besides, the Hyogo Framework of Action exhorts the disaster prone countries to 'integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) into plans and policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction' (UNISDR 2005). In 2007 the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) states that 'the integration of DRR into sustainable development and sectoral policies and planning is recognized as priority number one by the international community.



In this situation, Caritas Bangladesh also stresses on the need of strategically mainstreaming DRR into its regular program planning for both disaster management and development so that it can be seen as a process to carry on long-term sustainable disaster management and development work. Considering all those factors, Caritas Bangladesh has begun to move forward with stepping into a process with CMDRR approach. In fact Caritas has already initiated the process of community managed approach putting special focus on the family of targeted community as a primary unit to strengthen its capacities to cope up with disastrous situation. It is hoped that the measure would help protect the community people's lives and livelihood in sustainable manner.



People of Bholaganj, Union North Bangshikunda, Sunamganj raised their tube-well above the highest flood level to keep the tube-well serviceable during flood.

The activities of Caritas Bangladesh being implemented following CMDRR approaches include :

* Community Managed Arsenic Preparedness and Mitigation Project.
* Strengthening the Community for Disaster Risk Management
* Strengthening the Community for Flood Risk Reduction in haor, (marshy land) and char (alluvial land areas).

The steps being followed for implementation of the above projects are:

* Priorities are given to the areas prone to different types of repeated natural disasters having Caritas intervention in the past to restore the people's lives and livelihoods to normalcy. In this way rapport building prior to starting activities in a vulnerable area becomes easy as the people of the areas are known to Caritas Bangladesh for the past activities from which they benefited.
* Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity Assessment (HVCA)/ Need Assessment (NA) was conducted in a community led participatory way using the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) tools.
* A plan was drawn up by the community people through facilitation of Caritas personnel after pinpointing the gaps and considering the capacity of community people, local government and Caritas.
* Steps are being taken to undertake different types of pilot schemes based on Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis/Need Assessment at family and community level. In this respect priority was given to protection and life saving of Highly Vulnerable persons in the community.
* Provisions have been kept in the project cycle of the above projects for inter personal, inter family, Caritas staff and community people/family interaction so that indigenous effective ideas for disaster risk reduction can be identified and replicated.
* The above community managed projects are at the initial stage now. So the activities are limited from family to hamlet/village/cluster level. Measures are also being taken to take effective initiative integrated with the local government and other organizations in participation of the community people.

All the stakeholders are very much optimistic that the Community Managed DRR approach followed in implementing different kinds of activities at various organizational and community levels would reduce the people's aid-dependence syndrome and enable the local communities and organizations to utilize their own potentials to manage disasters by themselves.

By: James Malakar, Caritas National Office, Dhaka

International level Coordination and Sharing Meeting on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

International Level coordination and Sharing Meeting on "Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) and Climate Change Adaptation" was organized on 19th and 20th December, 2011 at SETRA Convention Hall, Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was organized by Concern Universal, Bangladesh in coordination with 67 partners NGOs from Bangladesh, India and Nepal. This meeting was a part of "Capacity Strengthening on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation" Project which is funded by Cordaid, Netherland and implemented by Concern Universal Bangladesh. Being a global issue climate change is a common concern of the world. The effort from only one part of the world is not sufficient for its mitigation and at the same time it is essential to cope with the prevalent impact of climate change. The project was started to contribute in both mitigation and adaptation strategy for climate change and its related issues.



This meeting was focused to share the experiences, Researches, different success stories, challenges with possible solutions and further plan for the effective outputs on the related issues from different participants who are directly or indirectly involved in this issue.

Objectives: The aim of the programme was to share information on CMDRR, climate change, its impact, challenges and coping mechanisms adapted by local communities, respective governments of participants countries and Nongovernmental organizations and explore new ideas for the future activities in collaborative action with different stakeholders.

Participants: About 250 participants were participated in the program representing from different GOs, I/NGOs, CBOs, Media, academic institutions, Private sectors and many more. And among them high profile personnel were present their to make program more effective and fruitful by their representation such as Dr. Mirza Abdul Jalil, Chairman, Privatization Commission, Prime Minster' office Bangladesh, Mr. saidur Rahaman, Executive Director, Bangladesh disaster preparedness centre (BDPC), Dr Atiq Rahaman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies, Dr. Newaz Ahmed Khan, Country Representative of IUCN, Mr Hari Guragain, Senior Officer, Ministry of Environment, Nepal and Mt. Everest Summit Climber and Mr Manabaendra Mondal, Executive Director, SLARTC, West Bengal, India. The meeting was run by the chair person Ms Runa Khan, Executive Director, Friendship, Bangladesh.


Chief guest Dr. Jalil giving his invaluable Speech

Speech by the Chief Guest Dr. Mirza Abdul Jalil (Chairman, privatization commission, Prime Minister Office, Bangladesh)

Firstly, he expressed his gratitude to organizer and the entire participant and at the same time he appreciated the effort of the Concern Universal, Bangladesh for contributing in disaster sector. He addressed that the CUB find the better way for managing the disaster properly discussion with local people. He shared his experiences, policies which is taken from the government level to manage the disaster and as well as he shared the global problem on this issues because this is not only the issues of Bangladesh, India and Nepal it's the global issue. At the end he ensured that government is more serious in the issues and do the best for the people.



After finishing his speech he launched the hard and E-copies of best practices documentary which is documented by CUB from Bangladesh, India and Nepal. All together CUB documented 15 best practices on the issues of CMDRR and Climate Change.

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