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# Report

on

*Idea,  
Experience  
& Lesson's  
Sharing.*

*Date: 20-23  
April'2013*



*Organized By:*

*CMDRR Forum,  
Bangladesh*

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## 1. Introduction:

As part of the schedule program of CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh an idea, experience & lessons, sharing program was organized in the field of Friendship at its development program area in Gaibandha and Kurigram district. The three days program was started on 20 April and continued till 23 April, 2013. A number of 13 participants from Forum member organizations were participated in the sharing program. In the field visit, the visiting team found some specific activities relating DRR through Community Managed approach in the remote island chars of the river old Brahmaputra and the river Tista flowing on the district Gaibandha and Kurigram.

It was really a great initiative by friendship for the deprived people of the island chars who are always fighting disaster together, such as flood, landslide, draught, tornado, cold wave and so on. They have formed CBO for building a cooperative entrepreneurship and improvement of the livelihood considering the socio-economic aspects. Friendship is also conducting Handicraft and education program for the betterment of Char's women and children the women empowerment as well.

It was also made the team astonished that Friendship is conducting a medical, health and reproduction program for the deprived char people by a floating self-sufficient hospital. From the hospital they serve the people affected people from some common diseases of the char livelihood, like maternal and child health care, minor and medium operation, eye camping etc. Detail of the Friendship programs that were visited by the team were described in the part of brief description of the event

## 2. Brief description of total event:

The team from CMDRR Forum members was visited 7 events of Friendship in Kurigram and Gaibandha district. All the events is conducting in the chars area of Old Brahmaputra, Tista and Jamuna river. A brief of the events is mentioned bellow in bullet point:

### CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh:

*CMDRR Forum, Bangladesh is a national coordination organization of 13 national level NGOs and INGOs of Bangladesh and supported by Cordaid with an aim to institutionalize the concept of community managed disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh context.*

*Cordaid, together with local aid organizations, is helping the poorest population groups prepare for disaster situations, like early warning systems and creating evacuation plans. Cordaid starts with the assumption that the hardest hit knows best where the threats are, what they can do about them and what help they need to better protect themselves against disasters. Cordaid supports communities in prevention measures, like improving infrastructure or planting trees to help prevent flooding and prevent landslides. There are ways how local communities are increasing their own resilience.*

*In line with this, participating organizations have been progressively practising the concept of CMDRR at regional, national and international level. Meanwhile it has come to an existence as a successful organization in terms of practitioner and incorporation DRR related issues and policy advocacy on community managed disaster risk reduction.*

### Member organizations are;

*ADD, Caritas-Bangladesh, Concern Universal Bangladesh, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Fight For Hunger, FRIENDSHIP, INDAB, PGUK, Pidim Foundation, POPI, RDRS-Bangladesh, VARD and YPSA.*

A. Satellite Clinic: Purbo Bati Kamar, Char Baitkamari, Gaibandha

- Friendship Community Medicine (FCM) provides primary and family planning health support to the targeted community.
- Coverage 200-250 families
- Primary health, family planning, cleanliness and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are discussed in weekly court yard session.
- Mobile health (telemedicine) is one of the innovations of FCM through where 4 types of communicable diseases (diarrhea, ARI, scabies, anti and post natal) are treated.
- They are providing health service with 53 mobile phones.
- DRR is a cross cutting issue of this project and community people are aware on disaster preparedness.



B. Friendship Primary School: Purbo Bati Kamar, Char Baitkamari, Gaibandha

- 197 students from play to class five are studying in the school as per weekly Path Plan.
- DRR is a cross cutting issue of this project.
- Apart from government curriculum, they are taught extra curriculum like innovative writing, sense of value etc.
- Students are well disciplined

C. Joba Group: Purbo Bati Kamar, Char Baitkamari, Gaibandha

- Friendship Char Development Committee has formed on the basis of 4 groups (like joba group) representation.
- Different diseases, social problem, cleanliness and disaster risk reduction are discussed in weekly court yard session.
- Community people aware of aforesaid issues.

D. Weaving Centre: Purbo Bati Kamar, Char Baitkamari, Gaibandha

- 30 women are working in the weaving Centre after completion of vocational training.
- They are making orna (Top cover for female), gamchha (Towel), saree, shirt piece etc.
- This initiative created the employment opportunity in the area and involved them to the income generating activities (IGAs).

E. Friendship Char Development Committee (FCDC): Siraj Beg Char, Oshtomir Char, Chilmari, Kuriagram

- Friendship Char Development Committee consists of 30 members from both men and women.
- Issue base discussion such as, primary health care, social problem, cleanliness and disaster risk reduction are discussed in weekly and monthly court yard session and meeting respectively.
- Committee stated that the main hazards of the area are flood, river erosion, draught etc.
- Committee initiated a cluster village by raising oval shape plinth; they accommodated 28 poor and vulnerable families in cluster village.
- The cluster village is established on 347 decimals land contributed by the community people.
- Poor and vulnerable families repair this plinth if required.
- They have a small development plan with 3 activities focusing disaster preparedness.
- They are communicating with UP for constructing fidder road.
- They have a FCDC Centre where they organize weekly and monthly meeting.
- There is oval shape pond and primary school in this cluster village.
- They made a savings funds of amounting BDT 50,000 through which they support the community people.



F. Emirates Friendship Hospital (EFH): Baqmara Ghat, Chilmari, Kuriagram

- Emirates Friendship Hospital (EFH) is established on a ship and provides different medical services to the inhabitants of Char.
- EFH provides services on primary health care, reproductive health care, family planning and maternal and neo-natal health care, and eye, dental and pathological support to the target community.
- The ship is moving around the remote island chars to ensure health service for the people who has no opportunity of health service, where as even communication is a big factor for them to get health assistance from town/ city.

G. Friendship Centre: Modonerpara, Gaibandha

Friendship Centre is an excellent and tremendous underground eco-friendly training centre located at Modonerpara in the sub-district Phulchhari of Gaibandha district. Particularly, the roof of the centre is covered with the soil and then grass is planted on it, which saves the centre from sun heat and ensures cold atmosphere. The environment of the centre is very different from city life. It belongs to a natural environment and the visitors are fascinated with seeing its specialty. In building this centre, it is tried at best to intake the bio-diversity of the area.

**3. Lesson learned:**

- Oval shape cluster village / plinth protect the hati (base of the cluster village) from erosion during flood and monsoon.
- Mobile health (telemedicine) is one of the innovations of FCM through where 4 types of communicable diseases (diarrhea, ARI, scabis, anti and post natal) are treated.
- Oval shape pond protects its boxer from erosion during flood.
- River ambulance is helpful to the inhabitants of Char during emergency medical treatment.
- It is easy to be involved in IGA, if working opportunity is created after vocational training.
- Integrated approach plays a vital role in improving the life of Char dwellers.
- The services and activities run by the Friend Health centre especially regarding the services before or after delivery of the pregnant mothers were worth praising.
- The school was very neat and clean and also the lessons presented by the teachers were attractive. The students were much disciplined.
- The Health services of Emirate Friendship Hospital were very praising and the unity of the cluster village and their way of solving their problems were appreciable learning.





#### 4. Good practices:

- Friendship Char Development Committee (FCDC) raised a savings funds of Tk. 50,000 through which they support the community people during disaster period.
- Issue base discussion, such as, primary health care, social problem, cleanliness and disaster risk reduction are discussed in weekly and monthly court yard session and meeting respectively.
- The ownership is grown among poor and vulnerable families as they repair this plinth if required.
- They are communicating with UP for constructing fider road and to get other opportunity from the end of local government.
- They have a FCDC Centre where they organize weekly and monthly meeting.
- The initiative of weaving centre created the employment opportunity in the area and involved them to the income generating activities.
- The EFH medical treatment in the Char area increases the patients flow to the floating hospital.
- The learning method of the Friendship school, their cleanliness and discipline
- The regular health services to the people of the remote char



#### 5. Area of improvement and how:

- In spite of having Friendship Char Development Committee (FCDC) Centre, it is not decorated with different disaster information.
- Though they regularly organize monthly meeting, they do not keep it in resolution book on regular basis.
- Field level activities of the Friendship, the annual work plan of the beneficiaries and the savings account maintenance programme should be more effective and transparent.
- A CMDRR Forum activity in Friendship Field is needed to make yearly activities plan as structural way.

## 6. How to introduce idea in own field:

- Share the knowledge and experience gained from the exposure visit with project staffs of other forum members working in CMDRR for one hour in the next monthly staff meeting.
- Develop commitment to create working opportunity after vocational training to involve the trainees in IGA.
- Integrated development approach should be introduced in improving the life of Haor dwellers.
- Floating hospital with river ambulance can be established to provide different medical services to the inhabitants of Haor and coastal area.
- Mobile health (telemedicine) can be introduced for quick treatment in remote working area.



## 7. Recommendation:

- Friendship Char Development Committee (FCDC) Centre should be decorated with different disaster information particularly Community Risk Assessment (CRA), Development Plan and Contingency Plan.
- They should keep monthly meeting minute on regular basis.
- It would be better if more CMDRR related fields are incorporated in the schedule of exposure visit.
- CMDRR Forum Bangladesh should share the report of this exposure visit to all participants
- The field level staff should give priority to participate in all these programmes
- Arrangement for annual visit program to get new learning of ideas
- CMDRR Forum Bangladesh should share this exposure visit to all participants
- This type of exposure should continue every year for customize change

## 8. Conclusion:

In the consideration of the remoteness of the working area all the activities were visited is really excellent. It was a great learning to all participants how to work really for the betterment for the neglected char's people with an easy way.

In substance, from point of view the exposure visit under the idea, experience and lesson sharing activity of CMDRR Forum help all forum members to implement CMDRR project in other working area more effectively. It is, indeed, enriched knowledge and experiences as well as the make the inspiration of other CMDRR Forum members to do like that.

Supported By:

