

# CMDRR FORUM BULLETIN

Community Participation and Implementation is what we mean to promote

4th ISSUE: AUGUST 2011

## Editorial

We are pleased to publish and disseminate the 4th Issue of the CMDRR Forum Bangladesh Bulletin. CMDRR Forum Bangladesh has started consolidating its experiences and strengthens the networking through various activities. The current issue of the bulletin is a short account of some of the important accomplishments. CMDRR Forum Bangladesh has started implementing its second year activities with support and active participation from all members of the Forum. We hope that that these will continue to make our efforts of familiarizing CMDRR approach in Bangladesh.

On behalf of the CMDRR Forum Bangladesh Secretariat, we would like to thanks all contributors to this issue and hope the issue would be an interesting piece of information to all concern.

Shafiqul Islam  
Adviser, CMDRR Forum Bangladesh  
And  
Director Programmes  
Dhaka Ahsania Mission

## 3rd CMDRR Learning Cycle at Kuakata

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction Forum (CMDRR-F) based in and executed by Dhaka Ahsania Mission is a coordinating body of CMDRR practitioners amongst the CORDAID funded partners. In view of sharing /disseminating learning of practitioners Cordaid has been organizing learning cycle after end of each year. The third learning cycle meeting was inaugurated on 24th March 2011 evening at Sky Palace Hotel at Kuakata. Inaugural ceremony was welcomed all participants from different organizations by Mr. Prodig Baisnab, the Executive Director of PGUK, on behalf of the host organization. A lively prologue of participants took place in the beginning of the occasion. Subsequently facilitators proclaimed program design made reasonably for different types of participants and discussed with the participants. On behalf of Cordiad Mr. Munish Kawshik facilitated the whole session while Mr. Khilesh Chaturvedi, Deputy Director of ASK India and Manas Bhattacharyya, Team Member of the same organization assisted in conducting the inaugural session. Among others the inaugural session were also graced by Ms. Marlou Guerts and Rusty Binas.

The meeting invited three categories of participants from the CMDRR partner organizations. These were:

- Chief Executive/ Senior level officers
- Technicians (Program Staff) and

→ Community Participants, each from every category.



Scheduled six days were divided into two parts:

28th march to 30 March-exclusively for community participants and technicians who exposed CMDRR interventions under taken by the PGUK, Learning or suggestions in terms of their programmatic approaches etc.

31 March 2011 to 2nd April -exclusively for Chief Executives/ Senior management personnel and Technicians. This part given especial emphasized on advocacy, lobbying, emerging climate change issues, its impact and future directions and Cordaid's funding strategies for future etc.



## Useful Learning on CMDRR through Field visit of PGUK working area:

Participants learnt and enriched themselves by proactive participation from field trips organized by PGUK at its working areas. The enthusiasm of the working people of one of the disaster risk prone area of Bangladesh, Kuakata, showed impressive and effective tools to reduce disaster risk during cyclone which often happen there. Rescue people from trees, drowned people in water and providing subsequent first aids etc had lot of learning and new dimensions for the participants who came across the country. Participants also met together with the group members. They observed their risk plan and risk reduction efforts at community level. After field visit an interactive discussion was held with the participation of all viewers. Participants both community and technicians also shared their comments and suggestions in order to improve the tools of rescue operation or risk reduction efforts.

Afterwards the learning of both groups shared in a plenary sessions where directors or senior management staffs were present. A lively and interactive session was successively accomplished by the participation of all concerns.

## Climate Change and Climate Change Adaptation:

Later on the most crucial topic 'Climate Change and Climate change adaptation' was discussed with lively participation of all. Cordaid global advisor Rusty Binas discussed the issue with his naturalistic very attractive presentation style. Climate change and its adverse impacts globally and especially for Bangladesh context was analyzed very critically and immensely. He tried to detail out the climate change, its effects, mitigation procedure in line with DRR and Community led issues.

## Sharecropping in the Barind Tract (Mango plantation in the paddy field)

The part of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions of Bangladesh is called the Barind Tract. (Varendra Tract in English, and Varendra Bhumi in Bengali). The hard red soil of these areas is very significant in comparison to that of the other parts of the country. A typical dry climate with comparatively high temperature prevails in Barind area except for the wet season beginning from mid June to October. Rainfall in the area varies from about 1500 mm to 2000 mm. Temperature ranges from 8 degree Celsius to 44 degree Celsius. The total cultivable area being 1.44 million acres, out of which 34% is loamy, 10% Sandy, 49% is clayed and 7% others. Out of the total cultivable land, 84% are single cropped, 13% are double cropped and the rest are triple cropped.

He emphasized on the point climate mitigation and climate justice as a moral obligation. It's not for only government also for individuals. Individuals should take this responsibility as a sustained manner.

## Other Relevant issue discussed in the Meeting:

1. Cordaid Strategic Issues: Ms. Mariet Moulders, Senior Programme Officer from Cordaid shared some status of the partners and Cordaid's strategic view in terms of programmatic approaches and views and funding aspects especially for Bangladesh perspectives.
2. CMDRR Forum and its status: An elaborative and pragmatic discussion was held on the CMDRR forum. Discussion emphasized to allocate its future directions as well as accomplished tasks of the previous year in a brief. Members' organization unanimously agreed to do work in lobby and advocacy, capacity building of CMDRR partners staff, Strategic alliance building with other same or like minded organizations and Exposure of community people and staff members as well.

Besides, following agenda were also discussed in the meeting with due attention:

- Up dates on Social Protection and health network groups in Bangladesh
- Up date by Concern Universal on its capacity building project
- Present state of affairs in Cordaid : Program & Financial Status
- Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Bangladesh Annual Plan 2011 etc.

A total of 52 participants from 18 home and foreign country organizations were attended in the 6 days learning workshop. Workshop was illuminating by performing cultural shows by the local artist and indigenous people and participants from different organizations.

By: CMDRR FORUM BANGLADESH

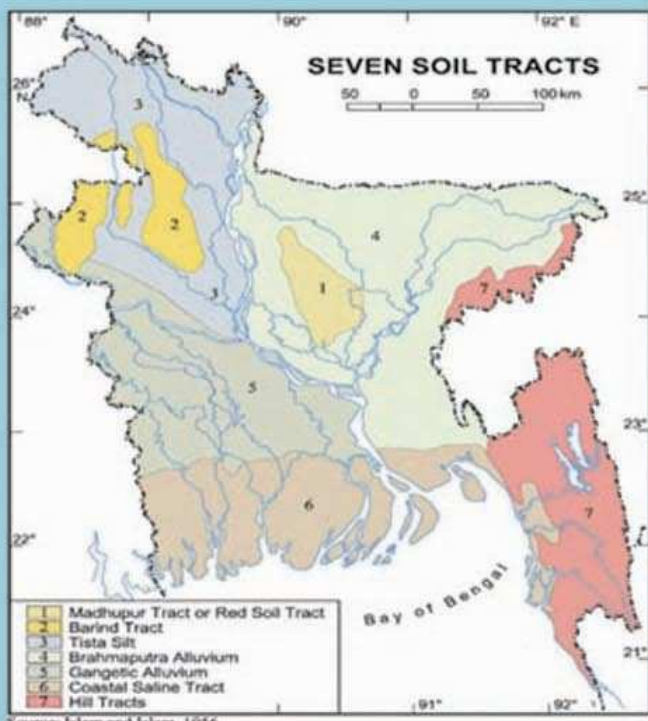
TRINOMOOL, one of the partner NGOs of Concern Universal, works in the Nachole sub-district under Chapai Nawabgonj district in the Barind Tract.

This area was well-resourced and the community and economy were amongst the best in the country before 1947.

As years passed by, this tract of land had fallen behind in all phases of development and economic activities were sluggish. Furthermore, latest developments in industrialization could not make any headway in this Region. As a result the standard of living of the people of this region dropped to be low compared to the rest of the country.

Now-a-days, the living standard of the people of this area also heavily impacted due to a population explosion, reduction in agricultural land, deforestation as well as from the changing climate. The common people don't know the science and impact of climate change, but, they are already doing adaptation, unconsciously from





Source: Islam and Islam, 1956

their experience and skills. It is basically agricultural adaptation for their immediate needs. The people of this area have experienced for a long time the reduction in rainfall and the increasing temperature. As a result their agricultural production has reduced, and they are forced to source alternative options for their livelihood. From their experience they are practicing crops diversification - specifically planting Mango trees in their paddy field. This sharecropping was started 7-8

years previously and is now getting good results as their alternative livelihood option.



Mango cultivation in the paddy field

The people's reasoning is that if their paddy, wheat, or vegetable production falls, wheat then at least they can survive from the production of Mango. Now people are increasingly interested in the mango garden and are adapting their situation due to climate change.

Different government organizations including the Fruit Research Institute, Department of Forestry and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) coupled with large other private sector nurseries are producing hybrid varieties of fruit saplings and supplying those to the farmers who aim to expand their gardens.

By: Capacity Building Project, CUB

## Sub-Districts Level Sharing Meeting:

As a partner of Concern Universal, Nazrul Smriti Sangsad (NSS) organized a sub-district level sharing meeting on "Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation" at Amtali Upzila under Barguna districts. Upzila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) attended as a Chief Guest of the meeting, this meeting was held on 03 July 2011 at Amtali Upzila conference room. Another meeting was held on 04 July 2011 at



Babugong Upzila conference room under Barisal district organized by Integrated Development Association of Bangladesh (INDAB) one of our capacity building partner organizations. At This meeting the Upzila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Babugong upzila attended as a Chief Guest. Representative from sub-district administration, disaster management department, several non-government organization, civil society organization, educational institution representative and community people also attended in that meeting.

By: Capacity Building Project, CUB





## Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD)

### Role of NGOs and INGOs in Disaster Risk Reduction and Responses

NGOs, national and international, will complement governmental efforts during disaster. NGOs play important role in the overall disaster preparedness and disaster management programmes. NGOs will perform the following duties within the ambit of own rules and regulations and organisational structure, in association with various governmental organizations:

#### Risk Reduction

- Establish a Focal Point to attend the meetings of the relevant disaster management committees both at national and local levels.
- Incorporate disaster risk reduction considerations into NGO policies, plans and programmes
- Collaborate with national committees related to disaster risk reduction
- Allocate resources and arrange training on risk reduction for its staff and the volunteers

#### Emergency Response

##### Normal Times

- NGOs will take steps for disaster preparedness at all levels and prepare plans.
- Appoint team of volunteers and workers in disaster prone areas and arrange for their training. (c) Take up educational and awareness raising programmes for the people to combat disaster.
- Arrange and participate in seminars, workshops and meetings for earning special efficiency and skill in disaster management.
- Keep contact with concerned Ministry/Department/office/Agency interested in disaster/relief work, United Nation Organizations and non-government organizations.
- Ensure road communication for stocking and receipt of relief materials and maintenance of water transports
- If possible, participate in the construction work of fortified earthen mound and flood shelter, cyclone shelter and linking them with various socio-economic and social development programmes.
- Take any other steps in connection with preparedness programme of the people to meet any emergency situation.

##### Alert Stage

- In case of cyclone, issue warning notice to all concerned.
- Ensure dissemination of warning signals to the concerned community.
- In case of cyclone, keep contact with CPP and the Control Room of Storm Warning Centre (SWC) of BMD.
- Designate one Liaison Officer for maintaining link with the EOC at the DMRD and the Control Room of DMB.
- Issue instructions to Survey Assessment Team to be on standby and take any other steps, if necessary.

##### Warning Stage

- Operate own Control Room round the clock (24 hrs)
- Disseminate warning signals to all.
- If necessary send one Liaison Officer for the EOC at the appropriate level.

- Keep the Survey and Relief Team of Headquarters on standby in readiness with required transports.
- Attend the meeting concerned disaster management committees.
- If necessary, issue instructions for sending of employees, volunteers and materials to disaster affected areas from less disaster prone areas.
- Disseminate the danger/great danger signal with proper explanation to all concerned (in case of cyclone warnings).
- In view of seriousness of situation send reserve employees and materials to advantageous places.
- Take part in evacuation programme of population with close cooperation of volunteers and local authority if directed by the appropriate authority.
- Operate Control Room full time and keep all time contact with the EOC at the appropriate level.
- Liaison with DMB, DMRD, DCs, UNOs and UP Chairman for possible cooperation.

#### Disaster Stage

- Assist in damages, losses and needs assessment in affected areas and dispatch of relief/medical teams and arrival of concerned relief and medical units to the affected areas soon after the passage of disaster.
- Assist the local authority to determine loss and damage and requirement and supply information to these organizations and own Headquarters.
- Give emergency assistance to the disaster affected people, especially in the following cases. (i) Help in rescue and evacuation work. (ii) Assist the local administration in organising shelter places. (iii) Give first aid to injured persons. (iv) Arrange complementary food according to the need of distressed people. (v) Arrange preventive and limited curative treatment. (vi) Arrange for the necessary household materials and clothing to be dispatched to the seriously affected people.
- Inform appropriate authority about loss and damage and requirement of affected people.
- Arrange for use of material, received from areas not attacked by disaster and from Headquarters in areas affected by disaster.
- Send request for requirement of relief and rehabilitation assistance to the donor agencies after informing NGO Affairs Bureau.
- Inform concerned DMCs and DMB about the response activities in order to have better coordination and avoid duplication.

#### Rehabilitation Stage

- Participate in reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes in special circumstances.
- Take steps for correct and effective evaluation of preparedness work and for correcting errors/weakness in such work.
- Provide assistance to the local authority in any possible way for relieving the distress of people.
- Extend Cooperation to the DMCs in preparation of list of disaster affected people and the requirement and probability of rehabilitation.
- Ensure implementation of government guidelines (i.e BNBC, shelter etc.) for infrastructure construction in the affected and disaster prone areas.



## Workshop on 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation'

A day long sharing workshop on 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation' was held on 4th July 2011 at Babuganj Upazilla of Barisal district where INDAB is implementing its CMDRR project with the assistance of Cordaid Netherlands. The workshop was supported by Concern Universal Bangladesh. Morsheda Begum, UNO of Babuganj Upazilla was the chief guest while Farjana Bente Wahab, upazilla vice chairman as special guest. Mr. S I Kabir, Executive Director of INDAB presided over the program as chairperson. Mr. Masud Rana of CUB was the facilitator of the workshop.

There were 50 participants including journalists, civil society members, government officials, chairman-members of union council, religious leaders, teachers and social activists attended in the workshop.

An one hour long video show on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation was presented at the opening of the program. The issues of the video were Stunami, draught, river erosion and land slide in hilly area. It was very much attractive and participants watched the video with pin drop silence. Viewing the devastation of disaster in the video show the participants were spellbound for sometimes.

risk and vulnerability of any natural and man made disaster. If we fail to do so we may the victim of this kind of situation of disaster, shown in the video.



The chief guest and special guest mentioned that the workshop was a time demanded program which will create a great impact over the society. They said that climate change is a burning issue at this moment and government is also working on this event. It's not possible only for government to achieve the goal of climate change issues alone. Only Go-NGO strong collaboration should reduced the risk and vulnerability of climate change victims.

The workshop emphasized on climate change adaptation strategy particularly by using their indigenous knowledge so that they can easily cope with the constant changing situation.

By: INDAB



After the video show an open discussion session was held. All the participants were active in that session specially Mr. Abdul Motin-Teacher of Akepur high school, Mr.Jashim Uddin-union council member, Mst. Jakia Begum-Head Teacher of Babuganj upzila girls high school, Mr.Habibur Rahman-UC Chairman of Rahmatpur union, Mr.Humayon-President of Babuganj press club and Mr.Shajahn- Member of Babuganj press club. After discussion it has been decided by the participants that this is the high time to prepare ourselves to reduce the

## Meeting with the Education Minister of Nepal



CMDRR Forum Nepal organised an effective meeting with the Education Minister of Nepal in 17 April 2011. In the meeting, CMDRR philosophy and climate change issues were discussed. The Education Minister was agreed to incorporate these issues into children education curriculum of Nepal and this is under process.

By: Capacity Building Project, CUB



## Workshop on Capacity Strengthening on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) and Climate Change Adaptation

"Climate change is the burning issue of today's world. Bangladesh, among all South Asian states, is the most vulnerable country to this climate change. Maintaining ecological balance by adapting with climate change and living life in an alternative way are the most considered and discussed subject in the world now. To face the risk, adequate and proper internal preparation for adaptation is the most important thing. On the other hand, Bangladesh also needs to employ environmental diplomacy for uprooting the risk internationally." - speakers said in a workshop organized by Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) on Capacity strengthening on community Managed disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) and climate change Adaptation in Chittagong Zilla Parishod auditorium on 12th April 2011. The workshop was supported by Concern Universal Bangladesh.

Mr. Shamsul Alam Chowdhury, Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong was the chief guest of the workshop while Brigadier General Mustfujur Rahman, Director of Chittagong Medical College & Hospital (CMCH) presided over the workshop. Ms. Khaleda Begum, Team leader of YPSA, played the role as moderator.

Besides, Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin, Deputy Director of Fire Brigade, Chittagong, Mr. Shankar Ranjon Shaha, Director, Local Govt. Chittagong, Dr. Shoroj Barua, Deputy Director, CMCH and Mr. Abdul Malek, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer were the guests of honour of the workshop.

Moreover, high officials of govt and non-govt. organizations, Teachers, Students, Doctors, Commissioners of City Corporation, Community volunteers, members of Red Crescent Society, representatives from Rover Scout, representatives from civil society and officials of Concern Universal Bangladesh & YPSA were present at the workshop.



Mr. Masud Rana, Deputy Program Manager of Concern Universal Bangladesh & Mr. Osman Goni, Training Instructor, Fire Service & Civil Defense, Chittagong offered the power point presentations on "CMDRR and Climate change adaptation". With the end of their

presentation an open discussion session took place in which various sorts of questions and the possible solutions of them were discussed precisely. In this open discussion session all participants took part spontaneously.

Working in a body to confront the disaster and importance of awareness raising & publicity were mainly focused at the open discussion session. Discussants also emphasized on settling a stable way to face the disaster. In this way, both human beings and the assets of the country would be saved. Side by side, we will have to make attempt to face those international reasons which are responsible for creating this disastrous situation. Thus, by a combined attempt the destruction of disaster can be abated and then we will be able to protect our country from environmental destruction.

In the formal speech delivery session the chief guest said, "Bangladesh is a natural disaster prone country. Our people are courageous and struggling. They have a history of surviving by fighting disasters. Climate change is the main cause of rise of natural disaster in the world. The emission of green house gas is one of the prime reasons of climate change as well as global warming and carbon dioxide is mostly responsible for these. This situation was introduced by Industrialization which started from Europe in 17th century." Finally, he emphasized on raising awareness of community people about climate change and providing them training as well as bringing them under the publicity.

Emphasizing on community based disaster risk reduction the chairperson in his ending speech said, "we can use the knowledge and experience gained from today's workshop in our family, society, working field and everyday life. Change in any sector can be brought by moral courage and will". Moreover he said, "all of us need to be conscious of natural disasters properly and have to take proper steps locally to reduce risk of disaster. Community volunteers have to remain active not only during disaster but also during pre-disaster and post-disaster period." Then he said, "everything can not be controlled under the provision of law, there are few facts, such as not to destroy natural resources, not to cut down hills, not to construct building without permission, not to emit black smoke of vehicles, not to damp toxic wastage of industries, which need civil awareness to meet. If we take care of our environment, it will not be so cruel to us".

By: DEMU, YPSA



## Case Study From POPI A war won against disaster



A newly raised village named Sunalla hati, Chatirchar, Nikli where community people has manage 70 decimal land for the land owners without any interest.

It was half first one o'clock in the night of 20th July, 2007 Sheba woke up suddenly with a sound of big bang and roar of water charging through every side of their tiny village in the vast Haor plane (very low lying land of miles and miles stretch drift on water through out the rainy season. No tree, no other standing object except tiny spots of village mound and floating vessels, sailing with boats come into vision). Sheba was terrorized with the fear of flood hazards and vulnerability of disaster for few days (as she heard from villagers). She was extremely poor woman like thousands of other extremely poor in the villages (There were nearly 10,000 households of which 75% were hardcore poor and among them 50% are extremely poor or ultra poor). Her vulnerability and helplessness was a bit different as she has no body to look after. She was 45 years old live and earned livelihood alone with hard work like fishing by hand (when water table went down in river during dry and winter times), husk paddy for others, cut paddy for others, pick thrown away paddy and cow dung for her self. Rainy season is very hard and difficult times for her because many nights she passed without managing anything to eat. It was an usual picture for almost every extremely poor families of the haors.

Sheba has no husband, no son, no daughter of her own. The terrorized night with fierce roar of surging wave of water and flow of current would any time washed away her tiny hut, only the asset that she had. Loud sounds of calls, cry of children and women continuously were increasing from different corner of villages in hundreds of voice. Whole villages woke up, high wind was blowing, small flashes of light dangling as people were running to and pro helpless amidst pitch black darkness. "Aphal is coming" (flood wave is coming) cry of thousands voice faded into roar of water, sound of land erosion and sound of rains which were pouring as if the sky fell down.

Sheba (45), Rokeya (35), Ibrahim (48), Lipa (28) and others lost their shelters washed away with flood wave with many other people.

Well to do families escaped earlier to safer shelter at main land. All the rest became stunned, found nothing to do, blamed on fate and waited for relief for long 5 days in half fed situation (The flood last 20 days).

03 years after in early April, 2010 another flood hazard approached but villagers of Puranhati and Sunalla hati of Chatirchar Haor Union this time did not afraid of the terror. They were anxious only. After the devastating flood 2007 People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI) in working area at haor and other places under took intensive Disaster Risk Reduction Program under the CMDRR Concept. Haor People organized themselves. Almost a movement like motivational and awareness campaign were held. People of Chatirchar haor villages arose. They formed working force among themselves with fair knowledge about hazards, risk and vulnerability. This time they were not as helpless as they were 03 years ago. Hundreds of hands voluntarily plunged themselves into work to save paddy at field from April, 2010 flash flood. They suffered very low loss of crops. 150 households of Puranhati and Sunalla hati villages unitedly had taken a massive work earlier. They conducted advocacy and lobby in Government and in Union Parisad (UP). Came out successful in a year to manage and procure 170 decimals of land from 07 rich owner of Chatirchar Union adjacent to their villages. The area was at river water level high and at very high risk of flood disasters. The community consists of 150 families of these two villages laid hands and actively participated in raising the mound on the land, protected the outer edge of the raised mound with plantation of korash trees and grass. They erected bamboo made retaining fences to protect earth from being drained back into the low haor land by excussive rain. It took more than a year to prepare the raised mound for settlement. During first quarter of last year 150 families settled and among them Sheba, Rokeya, Ibrahim, Lipa were there to build their house again.

Community people feel a rare type of capacity and strength of unity and awareness on CMDRR. This had reflection in managing last year flash flood havocs. They engaged in the search for livelihood security and are sending children to schools.

Midnight havoc of flood roar nightmare does not chase Sheba and other lone women now a days. Another community of 100 extremely poor vulnerable families are now in search of permanent residence for them in the haor union.

By: POPI

## A Sako Built with the Joint Utmost of VDRR Committee

Sunamgonj district, surrounded with haor, rivers, canals and marshland, is situated north-eastern part of Bangladesh. Bishwamvorpur is one Upazila of the district of Sunamgonj. The rows of the high rocks of Indian Meghalays State covered Bishwamvorpur with the shadow of motherly affection. Durgapur is one of the under privileged villages of the Badaghat South Union under this Upazila. There are 112 families living in this village and the total population of this village is 589. Most of the villagers' main occupation is day labor as well as marginal farmer. As a canal separates this village from the main road, the villagers has to suffer a lot during movement from the village. In spite of communicating with the different service providers about this matter, they do not have any solution. With the onset of statehood, VDRR



(Village Disaster Risk Reduction) Committee organize a mass meeting in the consultation of VARD-CMDRR Project Staff. The villagers are now able to understand very well through the meeting that it is very important to build a Sako (a mate-shift Narrow pathway over a canal made of bamboo) over the canal to remove the suffering during movement from the main road to the village and they have to solve this problem themselves. Hence, in order to build a Sako over the canal, the villagers form a committee and make plan. They collect money from the solvent families of the village. They build a 510 feet length and 9 feet height Sako over the canal through their self labor. Now the villagers are moving on the Sako to different places. As a result, students' attendance to the school is increased. It is possible to take sick people to the treatment center. In this way, the long lasting communication problem of the inhabitants of Durgapur village is resolved.



To solve the problem ourselves without waiting for others help is the best policy'. The inhabitants of Durgapur village have proved this saying again through this imitable/ideal example.

By: VARD

## Report on Signature Collection Campaign for Environment Protection

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Forum, Nepal has organized Signature Collection Campaign for Environment Protection on June 4th and 5th 2011 to celebrate the World Environment Day, 2011. The programme was held in Shanti Batika, Ratnapark on 4th June and premises of Nepal Academy, Kamaladi, Kathmandu on 5th June.



This programme was organized to aware the general public about the growing environmental problems and encourage them to support our conservation efforts.



Signing the banner

Further, this campaign aimed to pressurize government of Nepal for compliance and implementation of available environment policies effectively. The World Environment Day is celebrated each year on 5 June internationally since 1972 to make people aware of the worldwide environmental demolition and drag the attention and action of various political sources and human resource. This year's theme 'Forests: Nature at Your Service' underscores the intrinsic link between quality of life and the health of forests and forest ecosystems.

The program has been successfully completed with spontaneous enthusiasm and participation of the people



Foreigners signing the banner

of various backgrounds i: e, occupations, ages, religions and nationalities including high level government officials of Nepal. Hence, more than ten thousand signatures have been collected within the framework of the campaign. The

activities of the event have been covered by few media

houses including Himalayan and Avenues television. The banner containing thousands of signatures has been handed over to Environment Minister Mr. Sunil Kumar Manadhar on 13th of June in Ministry of



Environment. Memorandum Letter concerning the issues of environment, disaster and climate change has also been presented by Tillotam Poudel, President of CMDRR Forum Nepal. Further, this campaign aimed to



Sharmila Ranabhat Baskota, Secretary of CMDRR Forum, Nepal, Rama Ale, President Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resources Management (HIMAWANTI), Ramesh Timilsina, President, HRELIC Nepal (National



committee of human rights education club) and representatives of Hoste Hainse, Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN), Women and Children Development Forum (WCDF), Volunteer Aid Nepal and Gwin Youth Forum were presented during the program.

The Minister of Environment has admired the effort of CMDRR Forum and suggested to make our own model for environment management. The Minister also added about

the sensitivity of disaster caused by climate change in the Himalayan country like Nepal. He appreciated the effort of CMDRR Forum, Nepal and showed his willingness to work together in the issues of environment, disaster and climate change.



Representatives of CMDRR Forum, Nepal with Environment Minister Mr. Sunil Kumar Manandhar

### Some explicit messages written by people on the banner :

- **To the Prime Minister:** It is our soul, we and our environment is interrelated. So, it is the duty of us and also of yours to save our environment. So it's our humble request to take some action to save our environment and surroundings. Hope that you all will think properly about this matter.
- Go Green
- No Deforestation
- Gob
- Back to Nature Go Green
- Save water, it will save you later!
- Cleaner Environment- Cleaner

### Distinguished personalities of Nepal who signed the banner and supported the campaign

- Mr. Sunil Kumar Manandhar, Environment Minister
- Mr Yubaraj Karki, Minister of General Administration
- Mr. Khagendra Prasad Prasai: Minister of Federal Affairs and Constituent Assembly Member
- Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary of Ministry of Environment
- Pradeep Gyawali, Constituent Assembly Member and Former tourism minister
- Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devekota, Vice President, National Planning Commission
- Mr. Laxman Nath Upreti: Deputy General Secretary, National Human Rights Commission
- Mr. Ganesh Karki, General Secretary, Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
- Mr. Bhaire Kami, Member of Constituent Assembly
- Other parliament members and bureaucrats



## Barisal field visit with Nepali Team

Concern Universal Bangladesh organized an exposure visit for partner organizations of Nepal on 1 -8 July, 2011. These partner organizations are part of the 'Capacity Strengthening on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation' project.

That was 3rd exposure visit for its partner organizations. On that occasion the following 10 participants attended from Nepal:

- Ramesh Prasad Timalsina - President, National Committee of Human Rights Education Club (HRELIC), Nepal
- Deepak Prasad Bashyal - Programme Coordinator, Hoste Hainse, Nepal
- Mridula Sharma Dhakal - President, Women and Children Development Forum (WCDF), Nepal
- Tilottam Paudel - President, Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN)
- Sharmilla Ranabhat - Vice Treasurer, Hoste Hainse, Nepal
- Bhuvan Poudel - President, Volunteer Aid, Nepal
- Kabita Rai - Vice President, CWIN Youth Forum, Nepal
- Vidya Sagar Pandey - Member, Jagriti Child and Youth Concern, Nepal (JCYCN)
- Rama Ale Magar - President, HIMAWANTI, Nepal
- Gita Bohara - General Secretary, HIMAWANTI, Nepal



On 3 July participants went to visit at Natun Char village in Babugonj Upazilla, Barishal. They meet Natun Char CMDRR Committee on that day. INDAB one of the partner NGO's of Concern Universal Bangladesh. They found the following observations when speaking to the village people:

- Village livelihoods- men mainly fishing, women have some small eggs and poultry to sell at market
- Village has been at current location for around 20 years. But there is continual erosion so the landscape is always changing
- Community Learning Centre (CLC) is nearby - it is used for facilitating knowledge sharing and training

- Community lost everything in Sidr (2007), but after practicing CMDRR, damage was reduced by 40% in Aila (2009) compared to neighbouring village
- There are many connections between this village and the next one, opportunity for positive influence knowledge sharing
- They raise money for adaptation actions through each person contributing 10-20 taka a month
- Village woman - trainer, trained by INDAB, she trained villages in action planning, risk analysis, as well as practical actions -> preserving vegetables, protecting tube wells etc
- Previously they had heard of several of the adaptation practices, but had not seen the effectiveness of them first hand
- Key positive effect on village apart from technical ability was that the training/ engagement brought the village together, they feel strong sense of community, mutually help each other

**The committee is practicing some adaptation techniques. These are:**

- Houses on raised stilts
- Second story houses
- Raised garden/hay storage beds
- Strengthened house fitting (ropes and gaps sealed)
- Portable stove
- Burying valuables in water-proof bag
- Early warning Monitoring with radio and tv news warnings
- Hand-megaphone for alerting community
- Tie up tubers and crops
- No cyclone shelter in area, so they use schools (after getting agreement from schools authority), and some strong/rich houses instead (rich people can be 'village philanthropists')
- Planting more banana trees near waterline to provide a wind break. Can also make very simple boats out of banana skin





Afterward, they visited in Babugonj Girls Pailot High School, where INDAB has been continuing their DRR programme in Schools. Their interventions are:

- Curriculum includes CC/DRR
- Focus on all stages - pre-disaster, during, and post-disaster, gender sensitivity - eg girls/women more vulnerable due to hair and clothes
- Girls can be change agents in their community through personal connection/conversations - as they are educated, people respect them
- INDAB would like to expand the education program and are seeking grants and assistance for this.

Following this, the exposure team attended a sharing meeting in INDAB office. Mr. Tilottam President of Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYN), thanked Concern Universal Bangladesh and as well as INDAB for arranging the visit. During his speech he said, "This kind of programme will increase the intellectual exchange between the Nepal and Bangladesh. We are very happy to learn many things from Bangladeshi community. We will try to apply some from them in our country."

PGUK is another Partner NGO in Kuakata, the exposure team visited their Panjupara VLDMC (Village Level Disaster Management Committee) on 4 July. The following observations were made about the community:

- Located in highly vulnerable area very close to Bay of Bengal. (500m) for around 16 years
- PGUK has been involved for 2 years, initially running a Community Based project, now transitioning to Community Managed
- They have CMDRR committee with president, vice-president and secretary



- They demonstrated their hazards ranking sheet - which cyclones and floods as their main hazards
- Hazard assessment form
- Capacity assessment
- They lost almost everything in Sidr, then the PGUK project started to build their capacity. Previously learnt 2yrs ago at project's start how to raise houses (have done approx 16 so far), they were a lot more prepared for Aila.
- Monitoring of plan - if it goes beyond their own capacity, then it goes to UP management committee to ask for resources
- Social map of village - updated every 6 months
- So far only external relationship of PGUK is with UP in area, they have aims to expand this
- Challenges in current action plan - tube wells draw up saline water, the UP could not assist them with this
- Currently 45 volunteers total, trained by PGUK to educate the community, with access to small equipment (megaphones etc)

### Some recommendation from Exposure Team:

- Should have a committee/club for young people so that they can develop their life skills while raising awareness of CMDRR
- The community's own CMDRR committee should responsible for all responsibilities, Respective NGOs role will be only facilitating.
- To increase the effectiveness of the existing school program, classroom project activities should be introduced. Class projects could be exhibited publically to raise exposure



- How to replicate the learnings from these villages? One example - the villages can share their stories to inspire neighbouring villages to take action
- How to make the CMDRR process sustainable for the long term, after the project has finished? One example - the CMDRR committee needs to function well and have the community's support. It should make links with other local organizations to strengthen its actions, and to access resources.



### Caritas-Bangladesh (CB)

2, Outer Circular Road, Shantibagh, Dhaka  
Tel: 880-2- 8315405-9 Fax: 880-2- 8314993  
E-Mail: ed@caritasbd.org; dmd@caritasbd.org;  
ad@caritasbd.org; dd@caritasbd.org



### Concern Universal Bangladesh (CUB)

House # 08 (4th Floor), Road # 28  
Block # K, Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
Tel: 880-2-8855296 Fax: 02-9883267  
E-Mail: abdul.hamid@concern-universal.org

### Action on Disability and Development (ADD)

House # 56, Road # 11, Block- C, Banani, Dhaka 1213  
Phone: 880-2-8832037, 9862554, 8859330  
Fax: 880-2-8831228  
E-Mail: add.bangladesh@add.org.bd  
Web site: www.add.org.bd



### Pidim Foundation

29/1(new) Senpara Parbata  
Mirpur-10, Dhaka 1216  
Tel: 880-02-8018144, 9011808, 9005874  
E-mail: pdim@bangla.net  
Web: www.pidimfoundation.org

### Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD)

House # 554 (3rd -5th floor), Road # 09  
Baitul Aman Housing Society, Adabor, P.O Box  
No- 10059, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207  
Tel: 880-2-9133590, 9124410, Fax: 880-2-9125215  
E-Mail: varddkh@bdmail.net



### FRIENDSHIP

Baridhara Central Plaza (3rd Floor)  
Block - K, 87, Sohrawardi Avenue  
Baridhara, Dhaka - 1212  
Tel: 880-2-8814823-24, Fax: 880-2-8814851  
E-Mail: info@friendship-bd.org

### Integrated Development Association of Bangladesh (INDAB)

Lachine Bhaban, Alekanda Sarak, Barisal 8200  
Tel: 0431-64113, E-Mail: indab@bdcom.com



### Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

House# F 10 (P), Road #13, Block- B,  
Chandgaon R/A, Chittagong- 4212,  
Bangladesh  
Tel: 88-031- 672857, 2570915, 01711825068  
Fax: +88-031-2570255  
E-Mail: info@ypsa.org, ypsa\_arif@yahoo.com

### People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI)

5/11-A, Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207  
Tel: 880-2-9121049, 9137769, 9122119  
Fax: 880-02-8113657 E-Mail: popi@bdmail.net



### FIGHT FOR HUNGER (FFH)

P.O : Osmania, PS : Sandwip  
District : Chittagong, Bangladesh  
Tel: 01716-147779,  
E-Mail: rezaulffh@yahoo.com



### Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)

House-19, Road-12 (new)  
Dhanmondi-R/A, Dhaka 1209  
Tel: 880-2-8119521-22, 9123402, 9123420  
Fax: 880-2-8113010, 8118522  
E-Mail: dambgd@ahsaniamission.org

### Palli Gono Unnayan Kendra (PGUK)

Padrishibpur, Bakerganj, Barisal  
Tel: 01715-024633  
E-Mail: pguk04@yahoo.com



### RDRS Bangladesh

House No: 43, Road No: 10, Sector: 06  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka  
Tel: 880-2-8954384-6, Fax: +8802 8954391  
E-Mail: rdrs@bangla.net  
Website: rdrsbanglanet.net

### Supported by:



### Editor

Khan Md. Muzahid Ibne Habib  
Coordinator, CMDRR Forum BD  
Dhaka Ahsania Mission

**Contact:** Khan Md. Muzahid Ibne Habib, Coordinator, CMDRR Forum Secretariate, Dhaka Ahsania Mission  
House-19, Road-12 (new), Dhanmondi-R/A, Dhaka 1209, Tel: 880-2-8119521-22, 9123402, 9123420, Fax: 880-2-8113010, 8118522  
E-Mail: write2muzahid@yahoo.com

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