

Reflection on our
practices
and learning
from our
beneficiaries



What is in the April edition?

1. Land donations and Access to Khas land and water bodies

A new insight from FSUP-H

2. Arts, sports and media for social change and youth empowerment

A view from the *South Asian Youth Peace Convention*

3. Youth gathering in Kishoreganj

Hearing from young people about VAW issues

4. Reunion of MDP Graduates

11 Years of promoting women in the CARE workplace

5. CARE-B in the media

Land Donations and Access to Khas Land and Water bodies

A new insight from FSUP-H

FSUP-H recently conducted research into its approaches to private land donation and access to Khas land and water bodies. The research was designed and conducted by FSUP's Knowledge Management Technical Coordinator (KMTC), Shahena Parvin, and the Humanitarian Leadership Development Trainee, Richard Sloman, with key input from CARE's Program Quality Unit (PQU) and the FSUP Team Leader.

These two approaches have had a positive and inspiring impact for land

recipients and have formed key elements for our *extreme poor program* work.

Often project staff respond to unexpected opportunities with positive results for our beneficiaries, as was found recently in FSUP-H with pro-poor private land donations. To date, FSUP has facilitated 15 separate land donations from wealthy landowners that have provided 281 previously landless ultra-poor families with full legal entitlements to their own plot

of land to build a homestead. These ultra poor families have witnessed a marked improvement in their quality of life.

This was achieved through FSUP staff identifying and motivating the land donor, assisting in the legal process, supporting the VDC, raising the land and supporting the recipients. A key part of this process was explaining to the beneficiaries the full implications of making the

Right: "Now I feel at peace" says Rabia (centre), shares her joy with two other new landowners



decision to take up this opportunity.

Due to the context in the Haor region, the land donated by private landowners often lies below the water line. Through FSUP-H support, beneficiaries have been able to raise this up. The support from FSUP-H throughout the project has led to the newly raised land being referred to as an *FSUP palli*.

The study recognized the challenge of sustainability for land donations with the need for land to be adequately protected from floodwaters through indigenous adaptation methods or potential construction of flood protection walls. Additionally, establishing sanitation and water systems on the *FSUP palli*'s remains a priority.

Further issues to be considered in managing future donations are: assessing the broader political context of the village and the potentially adverse motivations of donors. In addition to these issues, the location of the *palli* land should be a suitable distance to the main village to ensure access to

employment opportunities and community linkages. Finally there should be an analysis of beneficiary selection ensuring that the extreme poor are the ones who benefit.

Documenting this process will help the project manage future donations and increase the accountability of the project to beneficiaries. There is also potential for this to be publicized to other landowners to promote further land donations. This approach may also be shared across the *extreme poor program*.

Another concurrent study related to access to Khas land and water bodies, which is a domain of change for our *extreme poor impact group*. CARE-B has previously been part of national advocacy campaigns for government to adopt and successfully implement better policy to allow the extreme poor to access these resources.

Since 2009, FSUP has successfully facilitated access to Khas land for a hundred and five ultra-poor families. In addition, eighty-six households are currently accessing water

bodies as a direct result of FSUP-H implementation.

The study also explored the barriers of access to Khas land and water bodies, which are multifaceted. This includes corruption, violence and lack of knowledge around the legal process.

Interesting case studies also documented the positive impact that access to Khas land and water bodies has had on extreme poor beneficiaries. This also documented the varying ways this was achieved and also highlighted some ongoing negative aspects of access, including potential unsustainable debt in gaining access and land grabbing by local power elites.

The study made a number of recommendations for an enhanced approach for access to Khas land, suggesting: strengthening community solidarity, raising awareness of the legal process among stakeholders, increasing resource availability for the ultra-poor, continuing to build strong relationships with officials and capacity building with government stakeholders.

This research helps us not only refine our practice but also allows for learning across the *extreme poor program*. **For more information please contact the FSUP team.**

Art, sports and media for social change and youth empowerment



ARSHI-ITSPLY with support from USAID, EC and Nancy Andrews (a private UK Donor) organized a two-day *South Asian Youth Peace Convention* during 27-28 February 2012 at Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University. It was an event highlighting where art, sports and other creative medium have been used as a vehicle for critical social change and gender justice.

The Convention had a National Creative Award on "Exploring masculinities" and a study shared on "Sports, masculinities and social change" involving participants from Bangladesh and abroad.

CARE shared our experience of non-conventional engagement in hard-to-reach Haor regions of NE Bangladesh (mostly Sunamganj) which gave us invaluable insights. This allowed CARE

to practice our strategic engagement of men and boys and girls and women.

The major outcome of the convention was the formation of a South-Asia wide social change platform called SHIRI: *Stairs for Change*. This will be comprised of participants in the creative competition as well as a nationwide pool of individuals and organizations (not typical NGOs) who have utilized art, sports, journalism and other creative medium for social change. This forum will continue its work using creative mediums in understanding barriers to peace, equality and justice. This will hopefully create a movement for sustainable youth-led social change that will foster empowerment of

girls, women and other marginalized groups.

Adolescent and youth engagement and leadership building is crucial for achieving social change, creating gender justice and empowerment. Often we end up seeing issues like empowerment of girls and women or gender equality as removed topics and try to address them in ways that do not address the root causes behind disempowerment. The Convention participants reached a consensus: that to achieve empowerment individual or even group level actions towards change are not enough.

For more information please

contact:

Imtiaz- imtiazul@bd.care.org or

Shahid- shahidullah@bd.care.org



Youth Gathering in Kishoreganj

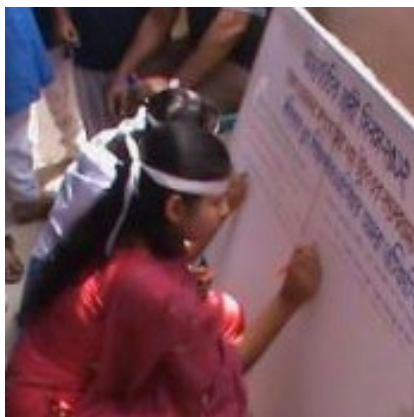
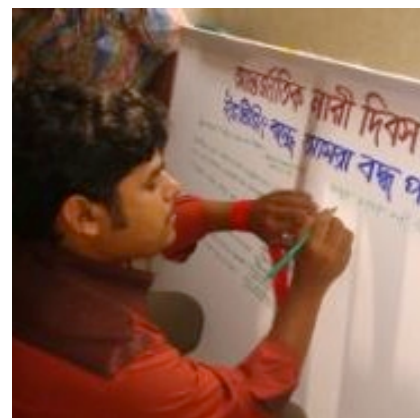
Engaging boys and girls is an important way to realize women's empowerment. Kishoreganj Field office arranged an interesting event aimed at Stopping Violence against Women last month. They wanted to do something different to the usual *International Women's Day* activities this year. As part of these efforts boys and girls wrote their views on these issues. For the first time in Kishoreganj our CARE team placed the focus on youth as future leaders of society and heard from them on VAW issues.

Here is a snapshot of what they had to say:

1. We are determined to Stop Eve Teasing

"Girls should be more aware of their rights and learn to defend them. Then only can they take proper actions against being harassed."

- Ilumi



2. We want a happy family where no difference between boys and girls exist

"Do not bring up your children to marry them off or to collect a dowry. Once educated, they can earn a living and build their own future."

- Maksuda

3. We can Stop Domestic Violence

Boys commented that they were also the victims of violence between their parents, they asked why this injustice? They also claimed most of the time violence occurred due to father's masculine behavior.

4. We can Stop Child Marriage

"I will convince my own family members from practicing child marriages and then make my community members aware of this practice the disadvantages of this practice."

- Nadia

5. We are committed to Stop Violence on Campus

"Women have played an important role in the economy of our country – In the future I will try to contribute too. I will also try to be aware of creating an apolitical, terror-free learning environment."

Reunion of MDP Graduates

Since 2000 CARE has implemented the *Management Development Program* (MDP) to foster women's empowerment in the workplace. Over 200 aspiring female professionals have benefited as a result of this program through managerial insight, jobs or promotions.

HRD& M organized this event with 49 former graduates attending to share the impact of MDP, assess the program and share success stories of MDP graduates.



CARE teams up with Ross School of Business



CARE-B SDVC project recently teamed up with the Michigan Ross School of Business to research and develop a *Dairy Inputs Micro Franchise Model*.

This was an area where Phase I of the project identified a strong need (and created a demand for) quality inputs and livestock services.

A micro franchise model is where small

businesses can be replicated with proven marketing and operational concepts. This can create jobs, develop entrepreneurs, and provide goods, services and training to the poor.

CARE is interested in exploring this space as this makes our work more sustainable in the long run. This also gives us the further opportunity to shape a new type of business,

which empowers the poor.

A business model, franchisee business plan and franchisee operations manual will be completed shortly.

This highlights one of our important linkages with academia, which will enhance our approach and hopefully allow us to implement a new model in our program.



Between 19 – 28 March senior staff at CARE-B undertook training as future users of PAMODZI. The July 1st date for going online to the new system looks to be on-track. There will be more training for staff both in CBHQ and in the field offices over the coming months. If you would have any queries regarding PAMODZI please contact Dipu: dipu@bd.care.org

CARE-B in the Media

PRODUCE:	Climate resilient agriculture practice and production by the extreme poor (mostly women), <i>Channel I</i> , 21/4/12
COVAW:	Documentary on COVAW by Rupantor and developed by Md. Jahangir, <i>Boishaki TV</i> , 7/4/12
WALMART 360:	'Walmart launches groundbreaking initiative to empower women working in factories in India, Bangladesh, China and Central America', <i>PR Newswire</i> , 5/4/12 http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/walmart-launches-groundbreaking-initiative-to-empower-women-working-in-factories-in-india-bangladesh-china-and-central-america-146316645.html

In the
upcoming
May edition

It's over to you! Interested in sharing your latest news, photos or ideas or want more information about a topic seen in *Action and Reflection*? Contact Soman: moodley@bd.care.org, Anahita: anahita@bd.care.org or Mansur: mansur@bd.care.org

