

Happy New Year
to
all staff at
CARE Bangladesh!



What is in the January edition?

1. Introduction to new Coordinator of Advocacy and Communications

Anahita Ahmed joins the CARE-B team

2. New initiative from the health team

Public-Private partnership with GoB and GSK through CARE that will train Community Health Workers

3. Learning items

Upcoming 30 Minutes sessions on key learning areas

4. CARE-B in the media



Gender, Equity and Diversity Workshop

A reflection from Nick Southern, Country Director

Last week we had an extraordinary experience.

We brought together 46 colleagues from inside CARE Bangladesh and welcomed 4 colleagues from CARE Sri Lanka, Nepal, India and Pakistan to participate in the *Gender, Equity and Diversity Workshop*. Our objective was to begin a personal journey of transformation through experiential

learning where the participants sought to explore diversity in all its forms by themselves and with others.

At the heart of this was the exploration of adult learning methodologies with an active participatory approach in everything we did, it was tiring and exciting at the same time.

No classroom presentations, all the engagements drawing on people's own experiences and knowledge and then challenging them.

The primary purpose is for us as CARE to explore diversity and change. We cannot really explore true change in society unless we really understand and experience change in ourselves and in our workplace.

Everyone really appreciated the honesty and openness shown by participants in sharing their personal experiences. This really is a strong and consistent demonstration of learning culture.

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We worked towards stated practical action and then collaborated on a joint final collective declaration of personal and professional commitment. This is not just about when we are at work but also as each of us takes up our responsibilities with our families and in the wider society.

The joint declaration made at the end of the session set many commitments, some of which included:

- Open dialogue occurring regardless of hierarchy

- Staff enjoying a work/life balance

The declaration will only be successful if we as a team practice these transformational techniques and methodologies where feasible within our teams and projects and for this message to be spread to all of our colleagues.

In the coming weeks we will share more of the outcomes and how we can build these experiences throughout CARE.



Welcoming Anahita to CARE-B

Moving ahead with our Advocacy agenda

CARE Bangladesh has recently brought on board Anahita Ahmed as the new Coordinator of Advocacy and Communications. Anahita was previously working as a lecturer for BRAC University and in the private sector.

She brings a wealth of experience to our organization and is very keen to

assist with our advocacy efforts towards decision and policy makers.

Anahita says she is excited about coming on board and “would like to pursue advocacy and communications to create change for our impact groups with a focus on being tactical, participatory and result-oriented.”

In the coming weeks the advocacy

team will be sharing a timeline based on our impact over the last 10 years at CARE-B to all field offices and international teams.

As you remember we had an Advocacy Workshop in September, with Anahita on board we will be able to move ahead with our advocacy agenda and action plan. Please welcome Anahita!

Exciting news from the Health Team



GlaxoSmithKline



The CARE-B health teams, with assistance from Jita, have put together a pilot Community Health Worker Initiative that will have CARE manage a Public-Private partnership.

The GSK-funded program will focus on training Community Health Workers (CHW) who will work as private/public practitioners in underserved and remote areas.

The concept has the support of the Government of Bangladesh and GSK. It aims to provide support and training to CHWs to address gaps in service delivery as a skilled healthcare provider, increasing use of family planning methods and improving treatment of childhood illnesses. GSK and CARE-B commissioned an assessment of CHW programs.

The assessment identified best practices and lessons learned from CHWs globally and in Bangladesh. The assessment was conducted by a team of consultants: Susan Rae Ross and Dr Rezaul Hoque.

CARE-B organized a meeting to share the findings of the report in December but also to gain and explore ideas to design interventions on engagement of CHWs.

In attendance were the Hon. Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Mr Humayan Kabir, senior Health Ministry officials, GSK representatives and the CARE team.

The proposed program is designed to serve the Sunamganj district and selected slums within Dhaka.

Further it is designed to complement existing government services.

Community mobilization will be an important element to ensure that they can advocate on their own behalf and to hold health services accountable.

By including Government from the design phase through to implementation, this will assist CARE advocating for scaling up of the model at a later stage if proven successful.

This was the lesson learnt from the recent scaling up of the CARE Community Support System (CmSS) model.

We will keep you informed of the progress of this exciting new pilot initiative.



Preparations are moving ahead for the 1 April launch of Pamodzi! Some key steps will need to be taken between now and the 'Go Live' date.

Recent progress has been made including an orientation training session for Program heads on what Pamodzi will look like and it's potential for assisting project implementation.

All field offices have received training on the new system. Final training sessions for CARE CBHQ staff will be held in March.

Whilst there will be a great deal of work over the next few months this is a great development for CARE and will have real life benefits for our beneficiaries.

We will bring you further information on the roll out and key training sessions soon.

If you have any queries please contact: dipu@bd.care.org

Successful UP Open Budget declaration through SETU

CARE SETU project had great success recently in Chowraborogacha union under Nilphamari district, Mr Asaduzzaman Noor declared the Open Budget of the union in front of around 1500 people at the ‘Participatory Open Budget Session’.

Also in attendance were the District Commissioners, Upazilla Chairmen, Upazilla Nirbahi Officers and other distinguished local guests.

This is an encouraging sign that the importance of transparent and accountable local governance is valued at higher levels of government.

Open budget meetings have many important outcomes for pro-poor and inclusive governance. This allows for better targeting of government services and social safety nets intended for the extreme poor.

The participation and voice of the

extreme poor in the decision-making process of local institutions is limited due to constraints of opportunity and capacity and social norms that support class and gender based differences.

Promoting the Open Budget model is a great way that CARE can advocate for broader implementation of this approach throughout local governments countrywide.



US Ambassador visits SHOUHARDO II in Cox's Bazar

Newly appointed US Ambassador to Bangladesh visited SHOUHARDO II in Cox's Bazar working areas on December 8.

The Ambassador visited a CARE Photo Exhibition Gallery at the Panerchara Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelter.

After that the Ambassador visited SHOUHARDO II in Jalia Palong Union, Ukhia.

He also met with CARE-trained community volunteers who work with local administrators to monitor the nutritional status of children under the age of 2 and to counsel mothers on feeding infants and young children.

He also participated in a courtyard meeting with pregnant mothers at Painnasia village.



CARE-B in the Media

RSP: “Empowering Women by Rural Sales Program”, *The News Today*, 13/12/11
http://www.newstoday.com.bd/index.php?option=details&news_id=46909&date=2011-12-13

HIV Team: “Prevalence of HIV/AIDS feared to increase”, *The Independent*, 29/12/11

PRODUCE: Crop harvesting festival observation of PRODUCE, *The Daily Kurigram Khabor*, 5/12/11

Informal Learning Sessions



26 January Awareness on Earthquakes, 12:30pm, CBHQ Lvl 13

February Coady/Microfinance, TBC

Men and Boy's Engagement, TBC



26 January Ultra Poor Families receiving Khas land

February (2nd wk) Community led initiatives

February (4th wk) Research findings of PCTFI

All Kichukhan sessions held at Sunamganj Field Office

Video of the Month

CARE Bangladesh has produced an advocacy film highlighting the experience of our work in SETU, developing a model for pro-poor and inclusive local governance in Botlaghiri Union.



To borrow a copy of the DVD please contact: mansur@bd.care.org or the SETU team

In the upcoming February 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 or Mansur: mansur@bd.care.org

