



# SHOUHARDO II NEWS

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities

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## Achieving Resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Development efforts to ensure food security in Bangladesh will not be sustainable without addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction. CARE is moving towards streamlining a holistic approach of Disaster & Climate Risk Management (DCRM) —mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery through disaster management; especially with the most vulnerable poor. The Long Range Strategic Plan (LRSP) of CARE Bangladesh also identified disaster management and risk reduction for both slow and rapid onset disasters as one of the three program niches where CARE Bangladesh is strong today and intends to remain strong in the future.

Climate variability results in more frequent and extensive disasters – with severe consequences on food security and livelihoods of agriculture-dependent populations in Bangladesh. Natural disasters regularly affect the lives of substantial numbers of people, and particularly the poorest and most vulnerable in the char, haor and coastal areas. CARE Bangladesh's strong stand taking into account, SHOUHARDO II Program considered building resilient livelihoods among most vulnerable poor under its **Strategic Objective 5 - Targeted community members and government institutions are better prepared for, mitigate and respond to disasters and adapt to climate change**, along with other four strategic objectives.

Through SHOUHARDO II, CARE Bangladesh emphasizes strengthening existing systems of Bangladesh Government (GoB) and/or institutions rather creating new ones. Adopting Standing Orders on Disasters as the key guiding document, CARE Bangladesh has been trying to achieve national priorities as set in GoB Plan of Action. SHOUHARDO II, through the DCRM activities, are contributing to achieve the Bangladesh National Disaster Management Framework objectives and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Climate vulnerability and capacity of all 1509 SHOUHARDO II communities has been analyzed using Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) tools. Based on the findings of analysis, each community has developed their Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Plan and then, some of the priority activities of CCA Plan have been taken to Community Action Plan (CAP). This way climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) issues are being mainstreamed at community level.

Promotion of community based adaptation is one of the strategic focus areas for increasing the capacity of people, particularly the most vulnerable groups, to adapt with climate change. Under Strategic Objective 5, SHOUHARDO II is implementing several activities to address poverty in more sustainable ways.



Mound protection wall



Disaster School Brigade in training session

### Message from New CoP



Dear colleagues and partners, thank you very much for the warm welcome to Bangladesh. I'm excited to take-up the position of the Chief of Party for SHOUHARDO II Program with CARE in Bangladesh. As I'm familiarizing myself with the organizational set-up in Dhaka, I have started to travel to our program sites to meet colleagues and partners.

*Starting with Save the Children in 1998, Marc Nosbach has served in different capacities in Eastern Europe, the Horn of Africa, Middle East, Asia (Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka) and the USA. Prior to join CARE, he worked as Country Director for Save the Children in Zambia from 2010. Marc has completed his post graduation in International Public Health from the University of Sydney.*

My first visit took me to Sunamganj, where I had the opportunity to join a visit by the USAID Mission Director. This first visit gave me opportunity to learn more about CARE's community mobilization approach which is essential to our program design. In my upcoming visits, I'm hoping to learn more about the disaster and climate change management activities within disaster prone areas.

This Newsletter emphasizes on the strategies that has taken in reducing disaster risk and climate change adaptation under SHOUHARDO II Program. We sincerely acknowledge for kind supports from our communities, partners and field offices in preparing the contents of this Newsletter.

Best regards,  
Marc Nosbach

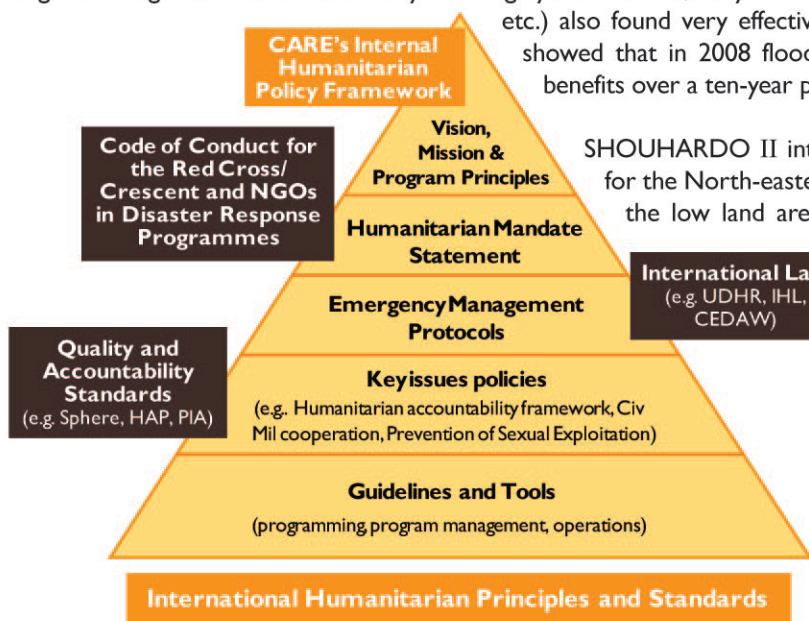


**USAID**  
আমেরিকার জনস্বাস্থ্য পক্ষ থেকে



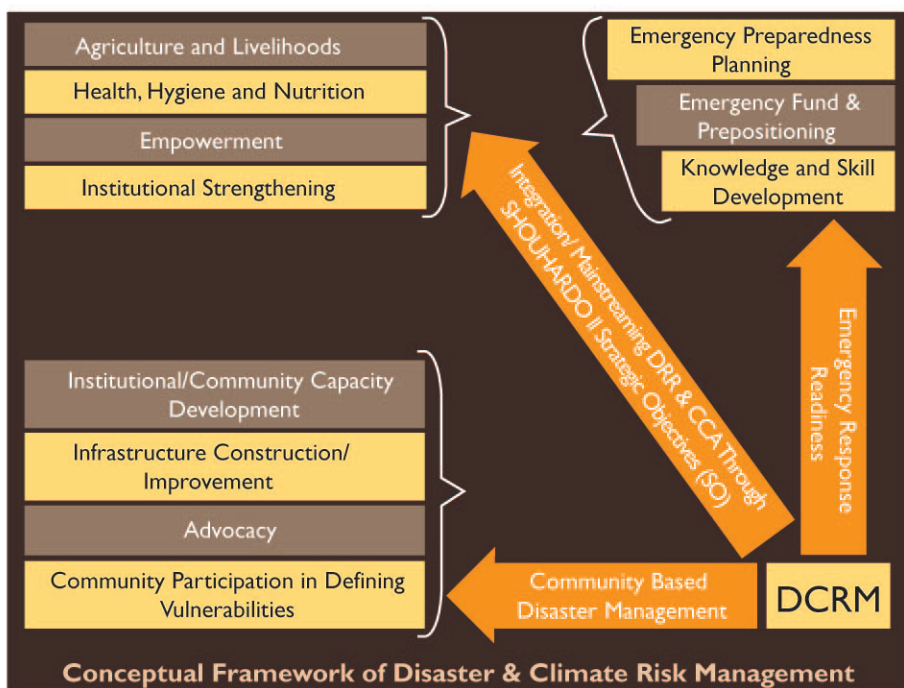


Homestead raising is one of the successful activities of previous phase which, has been adopted in this phase. Homestead raising has proved the reduction of diarrhea and skin diseases among the beneficiaries and also enhanced the impact of other SHOUHARDO II supported activities. Earlier experience shows Early Warning System (develop and scale up long-lead flood warning, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System -RIMES, early warning, search and rescue equipment, simulation, training etc.) also found very effective in reducing the damages. World Bank experiment showed that in 2008 flood, every USD 1 invested, a return of USD 40.85 in benefits over a ten-year period.



SHOUHARDO II introduced floating gardens as a targeted intervention for the North-eastern part of Bangladesh. This is the area where most of the low land areas remain under water for 6-7 months every year.

Floating gardening is a hydroponic, or soil-less, practice of crop cultivation in floodplains. Gardens use aquatic plants like water hyacinth to prepare floating platforms, on which vegetables and other crops cultivate during the monsoon season. Many poor people from these areas find this cultivation practice as an innovative alternative livelihood option to cultivate vegetables to meet their needs throughout this season. Through Organizing Resources Generation and Nutrition Support (ORGANS), SHOUHARDO II has involved 1000 households (HHs) and helped to initiate 1000 vegetable gardens.



## Did You Know

### Emergency Preparedness in CARE includes:

- Emergency Response Team in place.
- Prepositioning of NFI/Family Kits for 20,000 HHs.
- Pre-positioning Food Items/Survival Items (10% of SHOUHARDO II in-country commodity stocks).
- Contingency fund amounting USD 150,000.
- Emergency equipments (6 Water treatment plants, 10 Zodiac boats & 3 Kitchen trailers).
- Emergency radio communication system.

## USAID Mission Director's Visit to SHOUHARDO II Program

On January 21, 2013, USAID Bangladesh Mission Director Mr. Richard Greene visited USAID's SHOUHARDO II Program in Sunamganj, one of the northeast districts of Bangladesh. During his visit, the Mission Director met and interacted with Program beneficiaries under USAID's SHOUHARDO II Program and also saw different program activities. Along with some other colleagues Chief of Party, Deputy Chief of Party and Regional Coordinator, SHOUHARDO II Program Mr. Marc Nosbach, Mr. Monzu Morshed and Ms. Sajeda Begum respectively also accompanied him. Mission Director exchanged his views with Program beneficiaries. He expressed his satisfaction while observing many achievements of the Program.





# Success Story



In June 2012 the waters of the Jamuna River continued to rise and then suddenly inundated the Kulkandi pilingpar Village in Jamalpur District. The flood waters pounded the foundations of the village embankment, while the flood level continued to rise. Members of the village became increasingly worried about the situation and feared that the waters would flood the village.

As this area is frequently affected by severe monsoon floods, often with disastrous consequences, the SHOUHARDO II Program supports the respective Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) to select and train Union Disaster Volunteers (UDVs) and to prepare disaster response plans for target communities.

As a result of these preparations, disaster volunteers located within the Kulkandi pilingpar Village were able to alert village,

as well as the adjacent areas, with megaphone announcements about the critical flooding situation in June 2012. The volunteers supported the community in organizing the protection of the embankment by collecting bamboo, money,

*"It was a great achievement of our community, and the people proved that everything is possible when they were united. It has strengthened our confidence to face any challenge."*

- Motiur Rahman, Chairman, VDC

rope and bags. In collaboration, approximately 300 community members worked in shifts for three days to raise and fortify the 1.5 kilometer long embankment (by adding three feet in height and three feet in width). As a result of the community's efforts, 1,800 households of the local villages were saved from the flood.

VDC Chairman said that the approximate cost of the embankment was about BDT 1,00,000, but that their investment saved potential damage which would have amounted to 10 times (BDT 10,00,000). Ms. Alam, the Union Chairman, said that the effort was a big success for their newly elected Union Parisad.

-Sanjib Biswas Sanjoy-Technical Manager, SHOUHARDO II Program

## DCRM Linkages with CARE and Government of Bangladesh Priority



**SHOUHARDO II DCRM is helping GoB in prioritizing adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and also addressing low carbon development, mitigation & technology transfer.**

**DCRM is strengthening the capacity of the Bangladesh Disaster Management System through mainstreaming risk reduction, strengthening institutional mechanisms, expanding disaster risk reduction programming, strengthening institutional mechanisms and strengthening emergency response systems.**



**DCRM is ensuring that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation, identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning, use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels. It will reduce underlying risk factors to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.**

**SHOUHARDO II DCRM is directly contributing in CARE's disaster management LRSP component. CARE wants this Program goal to be focused on the most vulnerable people and communities prone to disasters and environmental change. SHOUHARDO II has been helping improved adaptation of communities to overcome disaster and environmental changes.**





# Key Achievements to Date

## Awareness Raising

- 50 communities have disaster early warning and response systems in place.
- Almost 13,000 people have been trained in disaster preparedness.
- 21 Disaster Brigades of secondary school students have been formed.
- National Disaster Preparedness Day observed all over the country in 15 districts through CARE regional/field offices and 20 partner organizations.



## Infrastructures

- 41 villages have built physical infrastructure to mitigate the effects of shocks.
- Completed construction of 19 large structures through Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) (flood shelter/school, mound protection and cyclone shelter maintenance).
- 42 number of drainage culverts have been constructed.
- 747 HHs homestead plinth level has been raised.
- Conducted arsenic assessment of approximate 137,000 tube-wells in 1509 villages.
- Completed construction of 2054 Water and Sanitation structures including tube-wells with platforms and latrines.

## Emergency Responses

- 158,483 MTs of food commodities distributed in Ramu and Chakaria Upazilla under Cox's Bazar District.
- 110 MT of vegetable oil distributed among 30,000 HHs.
- Provided emergency food assistance to 78,130 water-logged HHs in Satkhira affected by extreme weather.
- Distributed 20,000 blankets for 11,572 HHs with support from USAID fund during cold wave.



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