

SHOUHARDO II NEWS

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities II

A Quarterly Newsletter

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Message from CoP

Our theme this time is “governance” and we are providing an overview of the SHOUHARDO II governance related activities, which have been undertaken. The concept of governance or rather “good” governance centers around the responsibility of government entities and bodies to meet the needs of all its people, rather than a selected or preferred group of society. While SHOUHARDO II acknowledges and supports the role of local government in ensuring food and livelihood security for PEP, our interventions are aimed towards making local government activities more responsive, transparent and accountable to its constituents.

We sincerely acknowledge for generous supports from our communities, partners and field offices in preparing the contents of this newsletter.

I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter.

Best regards,
Marc Nosbach



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Village Development Committee: Unique Way to involve the Poor in Poverty Eradication

Effective poverty alleviation is impossible without good governance practices, including accountability, transparency and community participation. In SHOUHARDO II the pivotal institution for representing poor and extreme poor in the governance process is the Village Development Committee (VDC). In all villages, activities are coordinated through VDCs in an effort to ensure a sustained benefit from integrated community development efforts, rather than implementation of isolated, independent activities. Figure 1 illustrates the process through which community capacity-building initiatives are expected to contribute to SHOUHARDO II's overall goal to reduce food insecurity.

CARE Bangladesh's governance approach focuses on community based informal organizations where SHOUHARDO II has been particularly successful in establishing the VDCs, comprising of poor and extreme poor community members, five of whom are women. These have become active and sustainable problem-solving groups with support from Nation Building Departments (NBD) and Local Elected Bodies (LEB). VDCs are an umbrella for all different groups working on behalf of the poor and extreme poor in the community, including Empowerment Knowledge and Transformative Action (EKATA), agriculture, commodity distribution, and social safety nets. SHOUHARDO II considers the VDC as a fundamental 'vehicle for development' to bring about catalytic changes within target communities. It is the task of the VDC to identify the common issues faced by the community, through the Community Action Planning (CAP) process, and then to work out ways to resolve these with support of SHOUHARDO II staffs.



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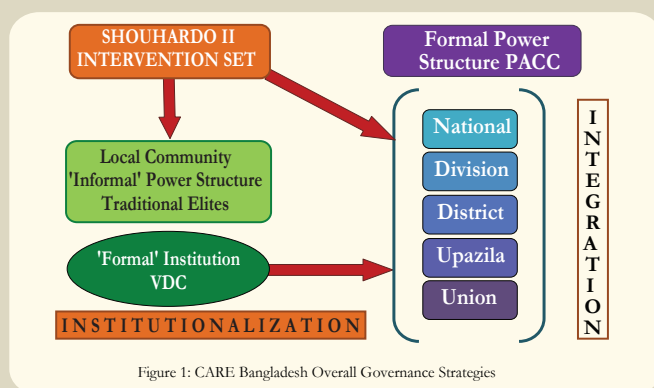


Figure 1: CARE Bangladesh Overall Governance Strategies

(Cont'd from pg-1) The Program has facilitated the VDCs to advocate to Union Parishads (UPs) for incorporating some of the major Community Action Planning priority activities into UP budget. As a result, some activities are now incorporated into the respective UP budgets. In the Sirajganj District, the Chalitadanga Union Parishad (Kazipur Upazila) has allocated BDT 3,79,000 (USD 4,858) for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 to undertake road maintenance, tube well and latrine installation.

Program Advisory and Coordination Committee (PACC)

In order to maximize CARE's partnership with the GoB, SHOUHARDO II formed Program Advisory and Coordination Committees (PACC) at each level of government (1 national level, 4 divisional level, 11 district level and 30 upazila level committee). Each PACC currently includes representatives from 14 ministries and government departments. Through regular joint meetings, progress review and field observations, PACCs at all levels have helped in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of partnership between the GoB and CARE Bangladesh. As a result of this relationship, SHOUHARDO was able influence the national PACC to issue a Government Order (April 2008) for defining the functions of the Standing Committees of the UP.

Successful Story from Field:

Through Innovative Preservation Technique Increase Profit Margin

Mr. Azizul Islam (34), a Community Agriculture Volunteer (CAV) of SHOUHARDO II Program has established a unique example of earning maximum profit by using own preservation technique for agricultural production. Azizul lives in Kotura Village of Haluaghat Upazila located within the Mymensingh District.

Besides working as a volunteer, he also involved with agricultural activities. After joining in SHOUHARDO II Program he has started using the new techniques introduced by this Program. Accordingly, he has cultivated two high yielding tomato varieties on 15 decimal of his land, which produced approximately 270 kg tomatoes. During the harvest season, supply of tomatoes in the local market is plentiful and the price of tomatoes per kilogram plummets to Tk.3 per Kg. Confronted with a potential "profit loss" due to surplus, Azizul decided to "preserve" his production for at least three months to ensure that he would get a higher market price.

Azizul started to collect ripe and semi ripe tomatoes from the field, including pedicel in bunches, rather than individual tomatoes. Tomatoes were dried in sunlight at a moderate temperature for 2-3 hours until the pedicels dried up. Then he hung those bunched tomatoes in a room by tying them up on their pedicels using thin rope at room temperature. At first Azizul eagerly observed the preservation process for 20 days and continued for 85 days.

He preserved 320 kg of tomatoes using this process. After two and half months, he sold 160 kg tomatoes at a rate of Tk.20 per Kg. In total he got 7,000 taka by selling tomatoes whereas his total investment was 1,200 taka. At the end of



Photo©Md. Monir Uddin/SARA

Azizul with his innovation

the process the quality of the tomatoes was almost same as it was during harvest time.

The news of Azizul's innovation and success has quickly spread throughout the village. Local farmers, NGO representatives, seed marketing representatives, and government official have visited his house to observe and learn about his innovative preservation process and techniques.

Reflecting on his experience Azizul promises that during the next tomatoes season he will teach the technique to at least ten other farmers by himself, but he is hopeful that others will pick-it up as well.

Round Table Dialogue on 'Access to Khasland'



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Ms. Jamie Terzi, Country Director, CARE Bangladesh is giving her introductory speech

CARE Bangladesh SHOUHARDO II and FSUP-H Program have recently organized a roundtable dialogue session on "Accessibility of Poor and Extreme Poor People to Khasland: Existing Constraints and Way Forward". Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim Hira, Honorable Minister, Ministry of land, Government of Bangladesh was present in the occasion as chief guest, while Advocate Md. Qamrul Islam, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of law, justice & parliamentary affairs, Government of Bangladesh was present as special guest in the program.

In the program, key note paper was presented by Professor Mesbah Kamal, Department of History, University of Dhaka. Country Director of CARE Bangladesh Ms. Jamie Terzi delivered her valuable introductory speech focusing on the objective and importance of khasland issue. In her speech, Ms. Terzi said that ensuring accessibility of poor people to khasland always has been considered as one of the focused working area of CARE Bangladesh.

The Chief Guest of the event the honorable land minister stated in his speech that, Bangladesh government is always eager to ensure the accessibility of the poor people to khasland. He also has given emphasized on the policy reformation to prevent land grabbers. The State Minister in his speech urged said government should strictly control the politically influential land grabbers so that poor people can have their access to khasland.

The entire session moderated by Mr. Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Editor in chief & CEO, Boishakhi Television. Mr. Marc Nosbach, Chief of Party SHOUHARDO II Program and Mr. Masud Alam Khan, Team Leader, FSUP-H Project of CARE Bangladesh, representative of national and international development organizations, journalists and other distinguished guests were present in the round table dialogue session.

- (For details please visit: www.carebangladesh.org/shouhardoII)

'Social Safety Net' Workshop at Mymensingh

A day long workshop on "Social Safety Net Interventions: Key Challenges and Way Forwards for Enhancing Food Security" was organized in 18 May 2013 by CARE Bangladesh SHOUHARDO II and FSUP-H Program at Mymensingh. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitize the relevant stake holders who are in the chain of safety net distribution and have dialogues on how Social Safety Net initiatives could contribute more in ensuring food security in Bangladesh. Mr. Rafiqul Haque, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department was present as special guest in the program. In the begining Regional Coordinator, SHOUHARDO II Program Ms. Sajeda Begum dilivended has valuable introductory speech.

In the program key note paper was presented by Professor Dr. Md. Wakilur Rahman, Assistant Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh. In his paper he explored the, safety net programs in Bangladesh, its implementation challanges and ways forwards to overcine tgesse ckhallenges. Distinguished panel discussants provided their valuable comments. Mr. Kamruzzaman Mia, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Sadar Upazila, Mymensingh said that government also facing few challenges while implementing the safety net programs. However, government is determined to overcome these challenges. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Monjur Rashid, Knowledge Management Coordinator, SHOUHARDO II Program.

- (For details please visit: www.carebangladesh.org/shouhardoII)

Ceremony for Disaster Volunteers



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One volunteer is receiving equipments from the Chief Guest

Two ceremonies for the Disaster Volunteers (DVs) were organized by the Biswambarpur and Derai Upazila in Sunamganj District in June. The events were organized by Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UzMC). The objective of these ceremonies was to introduce DVs with different GoB officials who are posted in upazila level as well as distribute the equipments among the DVs. Honorable Minister of Bangladesh Government, Mr. Suranjit Sen Gupta MP and Alhaj Motiur Rahman MP, were presented in the two different occasions as Chief Guests. Upazila Chairman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Union Parisad Chairmen along with other distinguished guests was also present in these ceremonies.

Key Achievements to Date



Total 1,557 VDC groups are working in SHOUHARDO II Program areas



In total 17,127 (approximate) VDC members are involved with SHOUHARDO II Program

VDC members have received training on Leadership & Organization Development



VDC members have received training on Role and Responsibilities and Citizen Charter



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Advisory Board : Marc Nosbach, Monzu Morshed & Zubaidur Rahman
 Editor : Monjur Rashid
 Content Develop & Coordination : Marium ul Mutahara & Mannan Mazumder
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