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1. CARE's Work in the South West, One of Our Geographical Focus Areas

Last year CARE Bangladesh re-confirmed its commitment to working in the South West of the country. Along with the Haor region, the Chars and mainland in the NW, the South West and in particular, the areas of Khulna, Bagherat and Shatkira are geographical focus areas for the country office. Currently our work comprises of humanitarian response and health projects.

EMPHASIS, a 5-year initiative aims to reduce the vulnerability of key mobile populations to HIV & AIDS along two mobility routes between Bangladesh/India and Nepal/India by delivering focused interventions at source, transit and destination points, with a specific focus on women. In Bangladesh, **EMPHASIS** is implementing targeting undocumented migrant workers of Satkhira and Jessore districts.

Safe Motherhood Promotion Project-Phase 2 (SMPP-II), a five year initiatives is being implemented in all Upazilas of Satkhira district with the funding supports from JICA and close collaborations with Ministry of Health & Family welfare (MoHFW) and Local Governments. Using the experiences and learning of **SMPP-I**, the project aims to improve Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) service quality and utilizations through promoting participatory governance and empowering community.

Simultaneously, **MYCNSI (Maternal Young Child Nutrition Security Initiative)**, a three-year initiative works closely with MoHFW, UNICEF & ICDDR in four Upazilas under Satkhira district. The project focuses on the nutritional needs of mothers, pre and post natal,

EMPHASIS staff proactively advices aspirant migrants on do and don't for a safe migration



স্বচ্ছায় পরামর্শ ও রক্ত পরীক্ষার (VCT) মাধ্যমে
নিজের রক্তে এইচআইভি অবস্থা সম্পর্কে জানতে সবাইকে উৎসাহিত করুন

through improvement of Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, extending support to the Community nutrition agenda into their community action plan, creating enabling environment for mothers and care givers through apt opinion leaders and other stake holders provisioning multisectoral nutrition interventions.

After the severe flooding and water logging in the South Western districts of Satkhira, and Jessore in August- December 2011 CARE Bangladesh has undertaken two projects to assist the affected population.

With the financial aid from ECHO, the **Water Logging Project** of CARE BD has provided 3600 households with livelihood support to

address the acute emergency needs of the devastated community. The project ensured that targeted communities had access to adequate and appropriate food to uphold their survival and prevent erosion of assets in a manner that fosters early recovery of livelihoods, reduces vulnerability. Through the **FRESH** project, CARE BD, with the support from UKAid, has also provided 2,782 households (family shelter including latrine construction) with flood resilient shelters along with sanitary latrine to recover the damages to their houses caused by the flooding and water logging. These emergency projects aim to support the community to regain their regular life and have a platform to recover their losses so that their vulnerability reduces and their dignity is defended.



Women's leadership development is an area of focus for CARE BD's South West Program

Now and in the future:

Our work in the SW will be particularly related to our program that focuses on building resilient livelihoods for people and communities prone to climate change and disasters. We already have submitted a number of projects to donors and

are hopeful for good news regarding expanding our work in the SW.

Our programming expansion in the SW is particularly focusing on promotion of inclusive governance, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, food security, technology transfer for sustainable agricultural production,

market chain development and women's leadership development to increase production.

We're expecting to launch a four-year food security project from September 2012 that will focus on integrated value chain and market based approach to improve farm productivity. The project will support adoption of sustainable value chain based farming practices in livestock, aquaculture and horticulture. It aims to bring positive outcomes in accessibility, availability

and intake of quality of nutritious food, as well as economic benefits for the poor and smallholder farmers.

It's important that all staff know that the SW is one of our focus areas and communicate this with other stakeholders. Let us know if you have any thoughts and ideas and if you are interested in some of the proposals we have submitted or are working on, please contact Selim Reza Hasan (PD director) at selim@bd.care.org.

2. CARE-B and Humanitarian Coordination



CARE Cox's Bazar Staff distributing relief in Ramu, along with Local Government Staff after the June 2012 Flood

Responding to emergencies is an essential part of CARE Bangladesh's work. Our goal as CARE is to fight poverty and injustice and we recognize that emergencies are a cause and effect of both. This is important to reflect on particularly at a time where we are in the process of responding to serious flooding around the country.

Over recent years we have responded to many emergencies in different regions of Bangladesh. Emergencies form a key part of our programming in this regard. We have a high level of capacity of staff at CARE-B and many have been part of previous national emergency response efforts.

Last year, as water logging increased in the Southwest, limited information was fed through to emergency response teams due to the lack of coordination and the slow onset nature of the water logging that did not ‘trigger’ emergency systems.

The slow onset was identified as a key issue by the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) process that CARE-B took the lead on. This was achieved in conjunction with the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), which works to improve quality of assessments in the early stages of emergencies.

Joint needs assessments are undertaken so that organizations responding to an emergency have shared view of the needs that exist in affected areas. The process takes around two weeks and initially completes a priority needs analysis.

CARE-B has been key to bringing stakeholders together to promote more effective coordination and structures for responding to emergencies in Bangladesh.

Due to CARE-B advocacy efforts to mainstream the JNA approach this has resulted in better coordination and shared analysis between 22 agencies that work on emergency response in Bangladesh, including: INGOs, Government and UN Agencies.

An ongoing advocacy issue remains and that is what the ‘triggers’ are for an emergency response and what is the point where an intervention needs to cease. This is another benefit to the JNA process, which relies on both qualitative and quantitative data.

We are working at these macro-levels with our advocacy however our programming in the Southwest is addressing some of these immediate needs in practical terms through our food security initiatives and shelter work.

We will continue to bring you more news on our work on emergencies. For more information please contact Alex: alex@bd.care.org or Wahed: wahed@bd.care.org

3. FLF – Empowering Frontline Staff- An Initiative To Promote Learning Culture At Grassroots Levels

ARE Bangladesh has been working to develop and nurture the “Front Line Staff Forum” as part of promoting learning culture across the projects. This initiative is spawned and lead by the innovative staff at Rangpur Region to enhance a culture of listening and learning from the field staff, who interacts with our impact

populations on a regular basis. This builds on the notion that empowerment of the frontline staff is essential as they facilitate empowerment process in the communities. Drawing upon the lessons learnt from Rangpur experience, the forum often helps the regional office management team to understand unique



Field Force Activation

insights into the impact that our initiatives are having or not having on the lives of our impact groups.

- The major objectives of the Frontline Forum are:
- Creating opportunities for the frontline staff to share key programmatic lessons emerging from field
- Surfacing key programmatic issues and challenges and providing inputs for programmatic decision making

- Enhancing information flow between the frontline staff working in remote locations and the regional field offices

CARE-Bangladesh expects this forum will evolve to work with the Regional/Field Office Management Team (ROMT/FOMT) in promoting a learning culture that contributes to effective implementation of strategies, plans, activities and decision making at the regional level.

For detail information on the Frontline Forum, please contact Camellia Hassan at Rangpur and Program Quality team at CBHQ

4. Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Haor

Recently CARE Bangladesh in partnership with WaterAid conducted an assessment of household vulnerabilities to climate change in the Haor region. The assessment was led by Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, a leading scientist in climate change with support from CARE's Social

Analysis and Learning Team (SALT) and FSUP project staff.

The assessment took place in two villages, one in Derai Upazila, Sunamganj district and the other in Khaliajuri Upazila, Netrokona district. The research team used specifically designed

PRA tools from CARE's *Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA)*. Methodology included vulnerability maps, seasonal calendars, trend analysis and mobility mapping to understand the impact of climate change in the Haor region on livelihoods, food security, gender relations, health and WASH. In combination with the CVCA methodology, the team carried out a household questionnaire, focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

The initial study findings were shared in a workshop with FSUP senior staff in Kishoreganj and identified changing rainfall patterns, high levels of siltation in rivers and beels, reduction in the availability of surface water for irrigation and increased cold spells. All are increasing the vulnerability of the poorest in the Haor region. Negative coping strategies were widely reported including a reduction in food intake (particularly

for women) and increasing migration of entire families to carry out hazardous work in stone quarries. Some initial recommendations included advocating for the excavation of key rivers and beels, extending and protecting villages from erosion, investing in improved IGA opportunities for women and advocating for safe rules and regulations in stone quarries with a particular focus on ending the role of children in this hazardous work.

The final report will help CARE Bangladesh to deepen its understanding of climate change vulnerabilities in the Haor region and integrate this into its current and future programming in the region.

For further information please contact; Murad Bin Aziz, SALT team; murad@bd.care.org or Selim Reza Hassan, PDU, selim@bd.care.org



CARE's SALT team facilitate vulnerability mapping in Derai Upazila, Sunamganj

5. PAMODZI- A New Approach to Measure CARE's Commitment to Women's Empowerment

Pamodzi, the new financial and grants management system, was recently implemented in July 1 2012 in Dhaka. CARE BD is the first to go LIVE with this system, which will provide staff around the world timely, accurate information on global operations.

Our Finance, Procurement and IT teams have been working around the clock, even during weekends, so that our staff can conveniently put it to proper use for our daily operations. Simultaneously, they have also been helping our business partners to acclimatize to the new process. The Pamodzi team is really excited about the opportunity this presents for CARE,

and what it will mean or the people with whom we work.

However, we should not consider PAMODZI just as a mere software. What we may not know at all that a key benefit of Pamodzi is directly related to CARE's commitment to women's empowerment. Pamodzi has been designed so that it will yield financial evidence to address one of our historical challenges- how to measure program performance, including how effectively our programs are contributing to the empowerment of women and girls, and to gender equality.



CARE CBHQ Staff at the PAMODZI launch with Saidul Haque Dipu, Head of IT



Nick Southern, CD CARE BD; Yasir Deafalla, ACD Program Support; and Zoynal Abedin, Finance Controller, waiting to go LIVE

This is a result of the desire for a better system to measure program impact is long-standing and widespread throughout CARE.

The Pamodzi team has worked closely through several Programme Working Group so that staff will be able to extract cost data in Pamodzi and associate it with impact data in the future “CI-wide Programme Information and Impact Reporting System” (PIIRS).

Pamodzi will allow CARE to determine the amount of resources we are spending as an organization on women and girls, and what the majority of resources were used for, for instance fostering equitable behavior of men/boys. We

can easily log into Pamodzi to produce a financial report on the costs that were associated with an activity, or determine how much money was spent toward reaching gender equality. If we discover that over 75% of our resources are working directly with men/boys and focused on equitable behavior of men/boys, it might make us question if we are truly programming our donor resources the best way to have a positive change in the lives of women and girls without working with them directly in most cases!

For a detailed diagram: Please check gender.care2share.wikispaces.net/file/view/Pamodzi.pdf

6. GED Workshop at Rangpur

A GED workshop was organized on 12-13 June 2012. Thirty staff from Rangpur participated in the workshop from our different projects and partner organizations. Habibur Rahman, CARE BD's GED Advisor designed the workshop based on his own training at GED ToT,

Bangkok. This was the second GED workshop conducted in Bangladesh, after the first one in January 2012.

The participants were both enthusiastic and appreciated the methodology of the workshop. They understood the AIKIDO framework for



Participants from Rangpur at ice-breaking sessions, alongside Habibur



Participants engaged in a game at the workshop



Participants in group work

dealing with difference while comfortably participating in the dialogues session to share real life experiences. They expressed that this was a new way of learning about diversity issues along with gender issues.

Participants realized that that the dialogue process is very important to ensure community participation and sustainable development.

Thus, they were also very interested in using the dialogue method at the community level.

This workshop has certainly increased CARE Rangpur staff's understanding of GED issues, alongside their confidence in addressing it issues in the fields and workplace.

7. Workshop at Kishoreganj



Participants at Kishoreganj

FSUP-H recently organized a daylong workshop on 19 July 2012 to develop the "Savings Operational Guidelines For FSUP Project".

The workshop was part of CARE Bangladesh's overall effort of streamlining basic principles and guidelines for community based savings initiative across the projects. CARE Bangladesh is collaborating with Coady Institute to develop basic strategies.

Community based savings is an important intervention for FSUP. The objectives of savings

in FSUP are: to contribute to coping strategies of households; to securing food in lean season; addressing household shocks during disaster; and reducing exploitation from loans from local loan sharks.

Masud Alam Khan, Team leader FSUP, and 17 FSUP staff members, including the partners, attended and contributed in finalizing the savings operational guidelines.

The event was facilitated by Anowarul Haq and Mehrul Islam.

In the Upcoming August 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? Anahita: anahita@bd.care.org or Mansur: mansur@bd.care.org

