

Bangladesh Housing Land and Property Rights Initiative

Progress Report

July 2012

Submitted to
Displacement Solutions

Submitted by
Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)



DISPLACEMENT
SOLUTIONS



Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Project Progress.....	5
Introductory Activities:.....	5
Finalization TOR between DS and YPSA.....	5
Receiving of Letter Of Intent (LOI)	5
Finalizing Budget with detail break up and taking approval	5
Finalizing HLP Project team member	5
NGO Bureau approval process	5
Meeting with the YPSA-EC, CMT of YPSA with HLP Project team members	5
Progress against four sub projects	6
1. Identify a school and appropriate contact person for DS' Coastal Kids Project.....	6
1st Meeting with the authority of WCA	6
2nd Meeting with WCA	7
3rd Meeting with WCA along with DS mission.....	7
Selection of School for Coastal Kids Project and collection of interest letter from School	7
Established communication between DS and WCA by YPSA	7
Comments on status of this sub project	8
2. Three Studies (and activities) and Land Availability for Climate Displaced Communities, Land Acquisition for Climate Displaced Communities and the Viability of CHT as a destination for Climate Displaced Communities.....	8
Selection of Three Competent Researchers for study and submitted CVs of three researchers.....	8
Preparation and submission of Inception Note.....	8
Regular coordination and formal meeting with Research Team	8
Staff orientation workshop on study methodology.....	9
Staff workshop on study tools and way forward.....	11
FGD on land suitability on climate victim.....	13
Started Field activities of Study	14
Khas land information collection from Govt. Offices	14
Comments on status of this sub project	14
3. Lobbying and Advocacy to raise the Political Profile of Climate Displacement and for Land Allocation to Climate Displaced Communities	14
Celebration of World Environment day 2012 jointly with United Nations Information Center-Bangladesh.....	15
Presentation the project in the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management	15
Attend in the seminar of loss & damage to Climate Change in Bangladesh	16
Attend in the seminar long term variability of the Sea Surface Temperature (SST) on 16 July'12_CPRD.....	16
Communication and NGO profile Collection.....	17
YPSA CE elected as General Secretary of SUPRO to influence policy actors and make strong network.....	17

Comments on status of this sub project	17
4. Hosting DS Representatives and International Photographer Kadir van Lohuizen	18
Hosting of DS Representative Mr. Zeke and Mr. Stephene on April' 12.....	18
Comments on status of this sub project	20
© Additional Activities performed relevant with HLP rights initiatives/climate change issue:	
.....	20
Visit YPSA HLP project in head office by NGOB Director	20
Participate in the Regional Training Workshop on Climate Change and adaptation	21
Rapid need assessment of flood victim and temporarily displaced people	22
Emergency response to Floor Victim of Cox'sbazar	23
Pre field visit to Cox'sbazar and Sathkira	23
Meeting with YPSA and DS at Bangkok	24
Disseminate DS publications to the media and policy makers (Photo story of the DS by Kadir)	25
Facebook group page on Bangladesh Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights Initiative	25
Working on next 5 years Project Proposals (specific programs on HLP rights).....	25
Challenges.....	26
Delay of NGOB approval.....	26
Flood situation in the YPSA working area and emergency responses activities.....	26
Lessons Learnt.....	26
Conclusion	26

Introduction

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the world today and the individuals and communities displaced from their homes and lands as a result of climate change are the human face of this tragedy. Displacement due to the effects of climate change will affect scores of countries and tens, perhaps hundreds, of millions of people. Due to its unique geographic position, Bangladesh is one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world and will become even more so as a result of climate change. Floods, tropical cyclones, coastal and river erosion, storm surges and droughts are likely to become more frequent and severe in the coming years. Many would say that the signs of the future changes have already begun to become apparent. A recent study (CPRD 2011) carried out in few climate hotspots suggests that the prevalence of both slow onset and sudden onset disasters have been increased which are affecting peoples life and livelihoods and forcing people to be displaced and migrated.

The scale of displacement caused by the effects of climate change will be estimated around 30 million by 2100. Thus it is important to note that the vast majority of those to be displaced should be supported with proper resettlement and rehabilitation schemes and projects while not undermining their basic rights and entitlements. One of the major concerns of resettlement of the climate displaced people will be to increase the availability of affordable, safe and well-located land that can be utilized by those climate displaced persons requiring new land resources.

The primary causes of climate displacement in Bangladesh are tidal height increases in the coastal areas (leading to tidal flooding) and riverbank erosion in the mainland areas. The key secondary causes of displacement are tropical cyclones and storm surges in the coastal regions and river flooding in the mainland. To this end, DS established collaboration with YPSA on **the Bangladesh HLP Initiative**.

Overall Objective of the Project:

To identify rights-based solutions and actions that could be undertaken to resolve the displacement of these climate-affected communities as well as to ensure and safeguard their housing, land and property rights.

Specific activities will include three studies that examine in detail the true picture of land availability in Bangladesh for climate displaced persons as well as the potential durability of future resettlement. DS also seeks to collaborate with and support YPSA to undertake intensive advocacy and lobbying, both on raising the profile of climate displacement and increasing political awareness of this issue, as well as advocating and lobbying for specific land parcels to become available for climate displaced persons, either through private or public donation or through enhanced access to existing Government land allocation programmes. Besides, YPSA will host a visit by a DS representative (Zeke Simperingham) in April 2012 and another visit by world-renowned photographer Kadir van Lohuizen in late 2012 as part of DS' 'Where Will They Go Project'.

Project Progress

Introductory Activities:

Before going to the set activities of the project, YPSA and DS have performed some activities as supplementary tasks of the project, which helped lots to execution of plan activities. The following are the introductory activities of HLP project.

Finalization TOR between DS and YPSA

In the initial stage of discussion of this proposed project, Displacement Solutions (DS) provided a draft TOR for understanding the project they looked for. Several times communication was made from the both (YPSA & DS) party to understand the responsibilities of project before execution. During the visit of DS Mission in Bangladesh hosted by YPSA, a detailed discussion were held on this TOR and eventually both parties came a consensus to sign it. Finally, TOR is officially signed by both DS & YPSA for the duration of 1 April– 31 December 2012.

Receiving of Letter Of Intent (LOI)

After successful signing of TOR, DS provided Letter of Intent as a commitment for the project. This letter of intent is essential for submission of project to the Bangladesh Govt. for approval.

Finalizing Budget with detail break up and taking approval

In the draft TOR consolidated amount of money was allocated for each of activity. During finalization of TOR it was discussed that without justified break up the budget under each sup-project/major activity, Govt. will not give the permission to implement the project. Hence a clause was incorporated to the TOR that a detail break up of budget will have be prepared by YPSA and accordingly submitted to DS for approval. As per TOR, YPSA prepared a detailed budget with break up and submitted to DS and finally DS gave approval this break up budget to go forward.

Finalizing HLP Project team member

After signing the TOR and according to the proposed staff in the budget, YPSA finalized team for HLP initiative project deploying deserving and competent professional from its existing regular staff member. There are four full time staff of this project and they are; Team Leader, Program Manager, Program Officer and Accounts Officer. Besides, Chief Executive of YPSA actively working with this project as Focal Person and maintaining regular coordination between DS and YPSA team. YPSA also deployed six Research Associates to help the researchers in the field level for the three studies.

NGO Bureau approval process

As per the Bangladesh Govt. law no foreign fund can be received and utilized without getting approval from relevant Govt. department i.e. NGO Appears Bureau (NGOAB) under Prime Minister Office. After having LOI from DS, YPSA prepared application as per prescribed format (FD-2 and FD-6) of NGOAB for submission and approval of project. Usually it takes minimum one and half month for clearance but sometimes more than that. As it was the new initiative of Bangladesh so we had to face many queries to answer. It took more than two months for approval and finally we got it.

Meeting with the YPSA-EC, CMT of YPSA with HLP Project team members

A meeting held with YPSA Executive Committee (EC), YPSA senior management staff including the project team member on 3rd June 2012 at the YPSA head office meeting room. The Objectives of the meeting were to share the project objective and major activities and to make future

plan for Bangladesh-HLP rights initiative project for smooth execution of proposed activities. Main Agenda of the meeting was;

- Discussion on objective and activities of Bangladesh HLP rights initiative project.
- Bangladesh HLP rights initiative project running status
- Future plan for Bangladesh HLP rights initiative project
- Discussion on Financial and Administrative issues of Bangladesh-HLP rights initiative project
- AOB

And decisions of the meeting were;

- YPSA has good network in the whole Bangladesh so all staff of YPSA will work keeping good contact with the nationwide partner organizations to achieve the activities of YPSA-HLP Rights Initiative project.
- Some staff as full time and some staff will give partial support to this project and Core Management Team (CMT) and EC will ensure the strategic guidance to the project
- YPSA team will meet relevant stakeholders and like-minded local NGOs of YPSA-HLP project working area for collection of data.
- All activities will be performed within the timeline and given budget.

Progress against four sub projects

I. Identify a school and appropriate contact person for DS' Coastal Kids Project

As per our knowledge, first official correspondence was made on March 19, 2012 on the Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative by Scott, Founder and Director of Displacement Solutions. The main message of that email was as *“As promised, please find attached a short description of the six sub-projects that we would propose for YPSA to implement as part of our Bangladesh HLP Initiative. Please let me know what you think of these. I hope very much we can proceed as quickly as possible and implement everything in the highest possible quality before the end of the year. **If you can prioritize sub-project I at the moment (identifying a partner school for our Coastal Kids Project), that would be great”***.

In that mail emphasize was given to identify a partner school for the Coastal Kids Project. As YPSA ethically was agree to work with DS so we started the process of partner school selection as the initial stage of offer. We collected information data from the suitable school of Chittagong and considering the all factors particularly infrastructure and internet facilities we finally decided to communicate with William Carey Academy as potential partner of Coastal Kids Project.

Ist Meeting with the authority of WCA

After having detail information of William Carey Academy (WCA), we started informal communication with the school authority by phone, email etc. By this way in one stage we (both YPSA & WCA) decided to meet formally to discuss the issue. In the late March'12 YPSA and WCA met in a formal meeting, where Mrs. Marilou Long, Chancellor of WCA, was present. In that meeting we basically discussed about the Coastal Kids Project and probable activities under this project. We provided them some documents to study to take final decision on partnership and also requested to say yes or no to work together in future.

2nd Meeting with WCA

As per meeting decision WCA gave us positive signal for working together with the Coastal Kids Projects. Then we met again on 5th April'12 to discuss more on the project activities and role of YPSA & WCA for this particular project. We came to a consensus with the criteria of project and informed them about the DS mission visit to school with the condition that if mission is satisfied then we will move forward. In that meeting we met with the class teacher of class V and Class VI and with some potential student, who was very curious with this initiative. YPSA team also visited infrastructure facility including computer lab and Skype facility of school, which was very much impressive.



Level 5th Kids of WCA

3rd Meeting with WCA along with DS mission

As per last meeting decision, when DS mission came to the Bangladesh YPSA prepared an itinerary for the mission and there was a plan to meet with WCA school authority. DS Mission met with WCA school authority on April 26, 2012 at the Chancellor room. The team talked with Chancellor of WCA, teachers and also with Children of level 4th and 5th. Then they visit the computer lab of the school and checked the internet and Skype facility of the schools. The entire visit to school was very nice and effective.



DS Mission at WCA

Selection of School for Coastal Kids Project and collection of interest letter from School

After visiting school, DS Mission expressed that they are very happy with this school particularly of infrastructure facility, authority, teachers and student. Having this positive signal we proposed to school to give us the letter of cooperation to work with Coastal Kids Project. Accordingly schools authority gave us the letter of cooperation and YPSA sent that letter immediately to the DS. At the same time they also mentioned the Mr. Zirthing Bawm as Contact/Focal Person for future frequent communication. WCA already selected 25 Children of level 5th along with one teacher to facilitate them for the Skype conversation.

Established communication between DS and WCA by YPSA

After having the letter of cooperation and name of Focal Person, DS directly wrote to the school detail more on project and also seek cooperation how can conversation be launched. In the mean time as per requirement of DS, WCA sent information about the school and their academic calendar to the DS. There was also hold Skype conversation between the Director of DS and Focal Person of WCA on different issues. Though DS offer to start the conversation from July'12 but WCA could not respond it as after final examination school normally in vacation for three months. So unfortunately it was not happened. Rather WCA proposed DS to start the conversation from 1st week of September'12 and which will continue. For considering this unavoidable situation, we express our gratitude to DS for giving scope to WCA along with YPSA to work with this project. As per commutation between WCA and YPSA, it is known that WCA will be ready to start the Skype conversation from September'12 and we hope so. We are also maintaining regular communication with school to know the update and their position. It is mentionable here that after launching the conversation we will go for other activities like

Identify appropriate project to benefit the partner school and purchase of laptop computers to facilitate the Skype discussions.

Comments on status of this sub project

Based on above mentioned updates and situation it can be said that this sub project is in on track with a limitation to hold a first Skype conversation between the student of WCA and Sorrento Primary School. Hope this limitation has already been accepted by DS considering this matter in positive manner.

2. Three Studies (and activities) and Land Availability for Climate Displaced Communities, Land Acquisition for Climate Displaced Communities and the Viability of CHT as a destination for Climate Displaced Communities

Selection of Three Competent Researchers for study and submitted CVs of three researchers

First phase of The Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative project mainly focuses on the three studies 'Land Availability for Climate Displaced Communities, Land Acquisition for Climate Displaced Communities and the Viability of CHT as a destination for Climate Displaced Communities'. As per the TOR there was requirement to select qualified Researchers for these studies and submit their profile to the DS. As per requirement YPSA has selected one lead Researcher (Mr. Shamsuddoha) and two co-researchers (Dr. Shahadat Hossain and Mr. Shahuidulla) to lead these three studies, who are the competent in this field. During the visit of DS Mission in Bangladesh in April'12, YPSA organized a telephonic conversation between the Mr. Shamsuddoha, lead researcher of three studies, and Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham & Mr. Stephane Jeannot of DS Mission. YPSA also collected CVs of three researchers and submitted to the DS as mentioned in the TOR, signed between YPSA and DS. In the mean time YPSA completed all internal procedure to recruit these researchers following series of meeting and telephonic conversation and accordingly signed a TOR between YPSA and Lead Researcher.

Preparation and submission of Inception Note

It is mentioned in the TOR that the researcher/research team will prepare an "inception note" for YPSA that includes the proposed methodology, scope of the studies and the tasks and responsibilities of each of the team members. Accordingly research team prepared this "inception note" for YPSA and after receiving this YPSA checked this 'Note' and submitted to the DS. The 'inception note' again highlighted that the studies will assess and find out appropriate land in the country to make this available to the climate displaced people and also will examine the legal and policy measures required to ensure that all climate displaced persons are afforded rights-based and viable solutions to their displacement, in particular land. As per the need of deliverables, methodology was set out and task and responsibilities of each of team members were mentioned in that 'Note'.

Regular coordination and formal meeting with Research Team

It has been mentioned in the TOR that 'YPSA will act as the coordinator of the Study and will advise and assist the researcher/team as required, including with logistical and other support'. Since the beginning of the project YPSA has been playing very effective role to coordinate all three studies and provide necessary support and guidance to the research team for smooth conduction of study with quality. YPSA has regularly been communicating with research team through email communication, over phone call & SMS and holding formal meeting. On July 16 & 17, 2012 YPSA HLP team and research team sat together to discussed in detail study tools and relevant document collection from relevant Govt. ministry and other agency. The meeting also discussed on the land suitability issues and decided that at

least five Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) will be conducted with the real climate victim people, who need to relocate immediately. We hoped in this way we can finalize the land suitability criteria as per the opinion of climate victim people and as per this criteria study on land availability will be conducted. In the meeting Research team updated that they already collected relevant literature, report, policy etc. for the study purpose and already started review on it.

Staff orientation workshop on study methodology

Introduction:

The staff orientation workshop, on the study methodology under “The Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative” was organized by YPSA at YPSA-HRDC, Chittagong on 17th June 2012 supported by Displacement Solutions (DS). This important workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman, CE, YPSA while Mr. Md. Mahabubur Rahman, Director (SDP) delivered the welcome speech. Three expert and globally recognized researchers (Mr. Shamsuddoha, CE of CPRD, Mr. Shahadat Hossain, Associate Professor-Institute of Marine Science and Fisheries, Chittagong University, and Mr. Shahid Ullah, Freelance Researcher) facilitated the workshop. Mr. Md. Shahajahan, Team Leader of HLP Project played the role as the moderator of the workshop. Discussants of the workshop talked on Climate Change & vulnerability of Bangladesh, adaptation to climate change and displacement of victims. They also focused on the conduction of a study to identify climate vulnerable area of the country and finding durable housing, land and property rights solutions for current and future climate displaced people. Moreover, methodological principles and techniques for the study received special emphasis in this workshop. There were 32 participants present from different project and units of YPSA who can contribute for the effective implementation of the HLP project in future. The workshop succeeded in providing them a clear cut idea about the climate change issues and motivating them to work on it.



Title of the event:

“Staff orientation workshop on study methodology”

Time, date and place of the Event:

Time : 10.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Date : 17.06.2012
Venue : Training room –HRDC, YPSA, Chandgaon, Chittagong.

Objective

To inform and educate all the participants about the methodologies (of social research) of the upcoming studies of HLP project and to make everybody familiar with the basic concepts of climate change issues.

Process/Methodology:

The workshop succeeded in stimulating the participants to work on climate change issues through live & informative discussion, knowledge sharing, brain storming, question-answer session, power point presentation etc.

Description of the workshop

Welcome speech, Md. Mahabubur Rahman

Proffering welcome to all, he explained the necessity of such an orientation workshop in his speech and expected that the workshop would be a guideline for further research activities in future.

Inaugural speech, Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman, CE, YPSA

Appreciating all for the generous presence of participants and facilitators, he said, “YPSA has been working on disaster management issues for a long time. At the same time, it has been also longing for working on long term program on climate change.” On behalf of YPSA, he expressed his pleasure and gratitude to DS for providing YPSA the long cherished opportunity to work on such an issue and wished its successful completion. Admitting the limitation of NGOs, he urged the government to work hand in hand on the issue. Finally, he urged all YPSA staffs to render their support from their own perspectives and ensured the close involvement of CMT (Core Management Team, YPSA) with the research works.

Discussion on Study Methodology

Mr. Shamsuddoha, Lead Researcher

He delivered a thematic speech on the burning issue of climate change and also discussed the displacement issue so understandably based on Bangladesh and the world context. He said, “Most of the underdeveloped and developing countries are mostly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Due to its unique geographic position, Bangladesh is one of the most climate vulnerable countries on earth. Bangladesh suffers from frequent natural hazards – including tropical cyclones and storm surges, river and coastal flooding, landslides and droughts.” He urged the government of Bangladesh to utilize the aids and logistic support of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change-(UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the displacement of climate change victims.



Dr. Shahadat Hossain, Co-Researcher and Associate Professor- Institute of Marine Science and fisheries, Chittagong University

Emphasized, the land as the foremost wanted thing for the displaced person to rehabilitate, he elaborately discussed about the types of suitable land for the climate victims, process of land acquisition and land availability assessment. In this connection he further discussed the way of finding out durable housing, land and property rights solutions for current and future climate displaced people.

Mr. Shahid Ullah , Co-Researcher

He discussed about the usefulness of research study and elements of research methodology specifically applicable for HLP project in details. He gave a theoretical orientation, a sound mix of all sorts of research tools inevitable for upcoming study.

Open discussion:

In this session, YPSA staffs asked questions on different issues relating to qualitative data vs. quantitative data, process of sampling, literature review, special handling of the disabled person among the displaced person etc. and the discussants answered their queries.

Concluding speech

Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman, CE, YPSA

Thanking all participants, he gave the commitment to render support from YPSA and also requested the Researchers to continue the development of research tools through another workshop at their convenient.

Outcome:

- All the participants have realized the importance of the displacement issue of climate change victims
- All the YPSA staffs will manage to work on ensuring the rights of displaced people.
- YPSA staffs are supposed to have understood well about the HLP project and its research methodology now.

Recommendation:

- YPSA partners should be involved in the different working areas of the project
- Sampling should be appropriate and accurate
- To search and identify suitable land we should use GIS and NASA based satellite images
- Research findings should be effectively utilized for success of the project
- All YPSA staffs should be involved with the HLP project (if necessary)
- Research tools should be developed according to the areas and the community
- The data of quantitative survey should be validated through the qualitative survey
- Final draft of research report should be discussed and reviewed before finalizing it
- Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and vulnerable communities or people should be taken special care
- The monitoring and evaluation should be done to ensure the accuracy of the research activities.

Conclusion:

Displacement of climate change victims and providing them due rights have globally become a burning issue. But the developed countries who are the main guilty parties of the global warming and climate change think a little about for the victims. In this context, YPSA has cherished a dream to work for the interests of the helpless vulnerable people of Bangladesh. So, it has convinced Displacement Solution (DS) to study on displacement of the victims and the study is hoped to be helpful for further implementation of a long term project. In this regard, YPSA arranged the staff orientation workshop to give its staff basic idea on research study methodologies. Through lively, instructive and participatory discussion the workshop succeeded in orienting the staffs with the issues.

Staff workshop on study tools and way forward

YPSA arranged day-long workshop on *Study Tools under Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiatives* on 30 July 2012. It was held at YPSA- HRDC, Chittagong with financial support from Displacement Solutions (DS). The workshop was organized to provide clear concept about the research tools among the staffs involved in a research study for the Displacement Solutions.

Before inviting speakers to open the day long program, Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Team Leader of HLP, YPSA and the moderator of the workshop started with an introduction on the day's objective and expected outcomes. Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Director, Social Development Program, YPSA welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of the research study. After then a brief opening introduction was

followed by personal introduction of the participants. The workshop included 17 potential officials of different projects and units of YPSA who can play effective role in the implementation of HLP project smoothly. Dr. Shahadat Hossain, Co-Researcher & Professor, Institute of Marine Science and Fisheries, Chittagong University and Md. Shahid Ullah, Co-Researcher, facilitated different sessions. While conducting the session the facilitators used different methodologies such as informative & lively discussion, knowledge sharing, brain storming, question-answer session, power point presentation etc.

At the beginning of the presentation made by Dr. Shahadat Hossain, Professor- Institute of Marine Science and Fisheries, Chittagong University, emphasized the land as the foremost wanted thing for the displaced person to rehabilitate. Then he elaborately discussed about the types of suitable land for the climate victims, process of land acquisition and land availability assessment. In this connection he further discussed the way of finding out durable housing, land and property rights solutions for current and future climate displaced people. Moreover, he discussed elaborately some selected criteria for suitable land availability assessment for climate displaced community in Bangladesh.



Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah, Co-Researcher discussed about the usefulness of some selected tools in research study in general and specifically some tools applicable for HLP project in details. He gave a theoretical orientation, a sound mix of all sorts of research tools inevitable for upcoming study. He further discussed elaborately and demonstrated the way how to collect our targeted information by using the tools of FGD, interview technique and case story from the community who have been living in Avasan/Ashrayan Prokolpo, Gucchogram or in khasland (most of Govt. rehabilitation programs only some by NGO initiative).

In the open discussion session, YPSA staffs asked questions on different issues relating to the tools presented before them. Through question-answer they tried to meet their lacking of understanding about the tools.

Outcome:

- All the participants have realized the importance of the scientific way of conducting social research
- All the team members have clearly known about the tools as they will have to use these tools during research study in field level
- It can be hoped that this practical knowledge will help the team members to collect right information successfully within the shortest possible time
- All the participants have realized the necessity of their involvement in this study

Recommendation:

- Information should be collected based on these tools. Any sort of error should not be welcomed
- Every kind of help should be sought from the concerned person if it is required
- A researcher can collect the right data by utilizing his creativity, so creativity should be utilized nurse properly.

Concluding Remarks:

At the end, Mr. Md. Shahjahan, Team Leader, HLP, YPSA thanked everybody for their active participation at the session. He also appreciated the extremely valuable and useful feedback and insights on the proposed techniques of research tools from the discussions with the workshop participants. He gave commitment on behalf of YPSA management to render all sort of necessary support. He also requested the field researchers to use the research tools effectively in the field level.

FGD on land suitability on climate victim

As per meeting decision between YPSA HLP team and Research team, five FGDs were conducted in the different place of climate victims; these are Kutubdia Island of Cox'sbazar District, Sandip Island of Chittagong District, Ramgati Upazila of Lakmipur District, Belkuchi Upazila of Sirajgonj District and tala upazila of Satkira District. The objective behind this FGD was to know land suitability based on thinking of climate victim. Through this FGD we tried to know where (land of new place) climate victim wants to move and what should be other facilities in that new place. Based on the desire of climate victim, research team finalize the criteria of suitable land, which will be reflected in the land selection for the climate displaced people. The following is the criteria of suitable land for the climate displaced people;

- **Livelihood issue (for livelihood people prioritize following profession)**
- Day labor
- Agriculture
- Rickshaw puller
- tractor driver
- Fisher man
- Handicraft
- Sewing (for female)

- **Infrastructure Facility**
- Roads need not to be flooded with tidal wave.
- Hat bazar and school need to be nearby distance.
- Health service facility has to be available
- Lands need not to be flooded
- Minimum communication to enjoy the other civic facilities as required.

- **Land physiography**
- Erosion free land is must.
- Permanent ownership of land is preferred.
- Elevated land with adequate slope.
- No water logged area.
- Lands with free of cost or with minimum payment. In case of payment, providing loan or livelihood is must.

- **Hydro meteorological hazards (new place will be free from)**
- River Erosion
- Tidal wave
- Floods
- Land slide
- Salinity



FGD at Kutubdia Island of Cox'sbazar

Started Field activities of Study

As described above research team and YPSA jointly organized two staff workshops, those will directly involved with these three studies. First one is on the study methodology and second one is on study tools. Incorporating workshop feedback, research team made necessary amendment in the study tools. As per the workshop plan, whole Bangladesh divided into the four zones (southeast, southwest, northeast and northwest) and YPSA sent four teams in that four zones for field data collection using the tools developed by workshop. At this moment (during preparing report) four teams are working in their respective field.



FGD at Sirajgonj

Khas land information collection from Govt. Offices

Among the three studies first one is very sophisticated and technical, various technology and calculation will be used for this study. As this study has mainly focused on the land availability, so it is important to know amount of *khas* land, its type, present condition etc. before identification as available land. This information is also essential for identifying the land parcels in the Chittagong division. Considering this matter YPSA HLP team has already collected information of *Khas* land of Chittagong division and at the same time trying to have maps/diagram of *khas* land (if any) from respective sub district of division, which is little bit time consuming to have accurate documents. But we deployed full effort to obtain this considering the importance and hoping to success.

Comments on status of this sub project

It is noted here that though we had deadline to submit the all deliverables by December'12 as TOR (signed between YPSA & DS) but for accelerating the task we internally chalked out a plan to complete all deliverables in advance of deadline so that in the emergency cases we can make alternative plan. So we proposed separate deadline for each of three studies in the 'inception note' keeping some time in hand but due to recent unexpected natural disaster (devastating flood in Chittagong division) and delay the approval of NGO Appeals Bureau there might be needed to change the deadline of one more month for study-one on the mentioned date in the 'inception note'. But we can give assurance that we will be able to complete all deliverables as per TOR signed between YPSA and DS. Overall progress is satisfactory.

3. Lobbying and Advocacy to raise the Political Profile of Climate Displacement and for Land Allocation to Climate Displaced Communities

It is desired that YPSA would coordinate various lobbying and advocacy activities with civil society groups in Bangladesh, including CBOs and others, with a view to raising the profile of climate displacement and generating increasing political attention to this matter. YPSA will also engage in advocacy with international NGOs based in Bangladesh and, where possible, with NGOs and international agencies overseas. YPSA will have discretion as to how best to allocate funds towards this activity which is designed, in particular, to ensure ever greater amounts of land are allocated to communities in need. To perfectly honor this desire, YPSA already started some works relevant to the climate change issue and trying to highlight the climate victim issue to different stakeholders so that a congenial platform is established for lobbying and advocacy for climate displaced people.

Celebration of World Environment day 2012 jointly with United Nations Information Center-Bangladesh

United Nations Information Center (UNIC)-Dhaka and YPSA jointly organized a seminar on Rio+ 20 to keep ahead of World Environment day on 4th June 2012 at Zilla Parishad, Chittagong. Prof. Sekander Khan, President, Economic Society, Chittagong was the Chief Guest of the seminar while it was presided over by Prof. Dr. Al Amin, Dept. of Forestry, Chittagong University. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Aminul Islam, Sr. Sustainable Development Adviser, UNDP Bangladesh and the Message of UN Secretary General was read out by Md Moniruzzaman, Knowledge Management Officer, UNIC Dhaka. Above all the Mr. Zafar Alam, Director, Department of Environment, Chittagong and Mr. Nurul Islam, Chairman, Nippon Academy, Chittagong was in the meeting as the Special Guests.



The speakers stressed on the Commitment to address the world's increasing vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk arises from a clear acknowledgment that the impact of climate change is resulting in more frequent, intense and geographically distributed hazards and that the world's increasing urbanization is concentrating economic and physical risk in densely populated cities. Mr. Md. Ali shahin, Program Manager, YPSA was the moderator of the seminar and Ms. Khaleda Bgum, Team Leader, YPSA has given the welcome speech in the seminar.

Views of the speakers are as follows;

To be disaster resilient, sustainable development and institutional framework on disaster risk mitigation and poverty reduction are necessary, speakers said at a view-exchange meeting on disaster resilience yesterday in the port city.

The action plan on climate change needs to be implemented; they said adding that people should protect the environment from natural calamities for the interest of the next generation.

Accusing the developed countries for emitting maximum amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂), they said the United States each year emits 20 tons of CO₂ while Bangladesh releases only three tons although it has become the most risky area for natural disasters.

They said the powerful countries that signed the Kyoto Protocol are not following the pact accurately and this is leaving the poor and underdeveloped countries environmentally affected.

Presentation the project in the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management

As per the system of the NGOB approval, application is usually send to relevant ministry to comments on the proposed project. When YPSA submitted 'The Bangladesh HLP Right Initiative project' for approval to the NGOB, they sent the proposal to the ministry of Food & Disaster Management and Environment & Forest. Both ministries then called YPSA to present this project before them. Without any delay YPSA welcomed this initiative of Govt. and took this discussion as opportunity for future involvement of relevant Govt. department though ministry as we had enough confidence on this submitted project.

Two member team joined in the meeting. Team Leader of HLP project presented the project before the Govt. high officials on June 20, 2012 at the conference room of DM&RD. Mr. Abdul Wajed, Additional

Secretary of Disaster Management and Relief Department, presided over the meeting, where officials from other ministry including representative of NGOB were present. The proposal very much appreciated by the participants and hope that this will be a unique document for future on climate displacement issue. At the same time they requested that as per govt. policy not to rehabilitate any new people in the urban setting. This meeting was very much fruitful from our part, which reference can be utilized at the local level during formal advocacy with local administration.

Besides, YPSA has regularly participated in the District coordination meeting of Chittagong organized and presided by Deputy Commissioner, where all UNO of District participates. YPSA briefly present the HLP initiative in the meeting and sought necessary support from the local administration through Deputy Commissioner (DC). DC assured that as this is good initiative so all types of support will be provided from the administration and at the same time he advised that to share the update information of project activities regularly with the administration.

Attend in the seminar of loss & damage to Climate Change in Bangladesh

Center for Participatory Research and Development-CPRD organized Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on **'Work Programme for Bangladesh on Loss and Damage: Issues and Context'** held on 30 June 2012 at BRAC Inn, Dhaka. Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman, CE-YPSA actively participated in that workshop as invitee. The workshop discussed diverse issues related to loss and damage in the context of climate change, with an ultimate aim to develop a 'Work Programme on Loss and Damage for Bangladesh and LDCs'. This is to mention that the Decision I/CP.16 of the Cancun Agreement of the UNFCCC decided to establish a Work Programme which will be finalized at the COP 18 of the UNFCCC in Doha, Qatar. To facilitate LDCs concern to the Work Programme, Bangladesh, with the support from CDKN, initiated a project which is now being implemented by IIED, Germanwatch, United Nations University and Munich Re. Two national institutions e.g. Center for Participatory Research and Development-CPRD and BRAC University are also involved in the implementation of local level project activities.

Mr Mesbah ul Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was present the workshop as the Chief Guest, while Mohammed Abdul Wazed, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and Ms Yolande Wright, Senior Livelihoods Adviser, DFID attended as the special guests. Dr Ainun Nishat presided over the inaugural session of the workshop.

Another seminar organized by SDNF on 4th August, at BIDS seminar room on **"Understanding Loss and Damage due to Climate Change in Bangladesh"**. YPSA representative also participated in that seminar too. As designed the seminar, the research team shall present its views on these issues. The participants are expected to reflect on them and provide guidance to the research team on them so that these may be put as far as possible in the Bangladesh context. An international consortium of consultants has been appointed (German Watch, IIED) which have requested various national level consultants to collaborate with them for understanding the global diversity of the challenges. In Bangladesh several organisations are at the moment engaged in clarifying some of the issues under the themes mentioned above. **Sustainable Development Networking Foundation (SDNF)** is among them.

Attend in the seminar long term variability of the Sea Surface Temperature (SST) on 16 July'12 CPRD

CPRD, with the support of British High Commission, implemented a study to **examine the long term variability of the Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Bay of Bengal, distribution and frequency of tropical cyclones including depressions, and their impact on the coastal fishing communities**. Under this study project they've analyzed 27 years SST data over the Bay of Bengal,

which is an ever first initiative in the country. They also examined the relationship between rise in SST trends and increasing of 'rough sea events' over the years.

To share the study findings CPRD organized a seminar on 16 July 2012 at Spectra Convention Center, Gulshan I, Dhaka. In response to the invitation Mohammad Shahjahan, Team Leader, YPSA-HLP participated in this seminar. Mr Mesbah ul Alam, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest, was present in the seminar as chief guest, while representatives from the British High Commission and European Union attended as special guests. Dr Seleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD presided over the seminar.

Communication and NGO profile Collection

Since the signing of TOR between YPSA and DS, YPSA has been communication with different like-minded organization working all over the Bangladesh including those involved as member of ACR previously. This process has been accelerated after elected of Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman as General Secretary of SUPRO, one of the registered biggest network (600 NGOs) organizations of Bangladesh. YPSA-HLP Team already collected around 40 NGOs profile from different part of Bangladesh and still continuing. From this list we have plan to make a final list of NGOs, who can be worked currently as advocacy partner and in future as Strategic Partner. In this regards a format (with information on legal issues, experience of work in climate change issue, local influence, reputation etc) is developed for final selection of NGOs. NGOs will fill up this format and send to us then we will check the all formats for relevancy and final NGOs list will be prepared.

YPSA CE elected as General Secretary of SUPRO to influence policy actors and make strong network

YPSA's chief executive Md. Arifur Rahman has been elected General Secretary of the [SUPRO](#), one of the registered biggest network (600 NGOs) organizations of Bangladesh, National Council. AGM and Election was held at the YWCA Dhaka on 20 July, 2012. He hope that he will be able to contribute to develop more dynamic and sustainable organization with the cordial support of other fellows of the SUPRO EC, NC and Secretariat staff and network members.

SUPRO critically analyses global and national level rules, regulations and policies to facilitate grassroots activism to make these work for the poor and marginalized people. As an institutional strategy, SUPRO works with the grassroots NGOs and CSOs to unite their voices aiming to sensitize and influence the national and global leaders and policy makers with a view to bringing about desired policy changes beneficial for the people in general and poor and marginalized in particular. For bringing about pro-poor policy and associated institutional reform through establishing macro-micro linkage; [SUPRO](#) engages itself in campaign, mobilization and advocacy on different issues such as good governance; economic justice; PRSP process; budget tracking and analysis; trade justice; climate change; IFI policies and debt cancellation. YPSA HLP team congratulates Mr. Arifur Rahman and anticipates effective advocacy for the climate displaced people through proper utilizing this network.

Comments on status of this sub project

Effective advocacy and lobbying for climate displaced people is depending upon the draft findings of study. However, we have started all initial process to establish linkage with like-minded people and organization, building up network, making aware of key Govt. officials & Local Govt., mobilizing people to the particular mission. So it can be said that we are on tract and hopeful that very soon formal advocacy event will be started.

4. Hosting DS Representatives and International Photographer Kadir van Lohuizen

Hosting of DS Representative Mr. Zeke and Mr. Stephene on April'12

On behalf of Displacement Solutions (DS), a team of two members Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham (as focal person of upcoming DS-YPSA project) from UK and Mr. Stephane Jeannet (as evaluator) from Switzerland (along with YPSA officials in some places) had visited different places of Bangladesh adversely affected by climate change as part of Bangladesh Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Rights initiative. During their 15 day visit, from 15 April to 29 April 2012 they talked victims of river erosion, coastal erosion, cyclone, and draught. They also talked to relevant Minister, government officials, civil society representatives and local govt. representatives. They had several meeting with YPSA and other counterpart also. YPSA provided the mission all possible cooperation and support. This mission has deepened the mutual understanding (YPSA & DS) which will guide the both parties for future action.

Objective of visit

To form the basic groundwork for a long-term project to work on climate displaced communities and to enhance understanding and collaboration between DS and YPSA through extensive visit areas inhabited by climate displaced people.

Location visited

Chandpur Sadar Upazilla, Haimchar Upazilla, Comilla Sadar, Muhuri Project of Mirsarai, Sandip Kalapania Union, Sandip Sarikat union, Sitakund Upazilla, School of Chittagong City, Cox'sbazar City.

Government officials met with

Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forest, UNO of Chandpur Sadar, ADC & District Magistrate of Comilla, UNO of Sandwip sub district, UNO of Sitakund sub district, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer of Cox'sbazar.

People met with

DS team met with the civil society & Local government representative; victim of river erosion, coastal erosion, cyclone and draught; people living in affected area and people living in relocated area.

Details of the visit:

Journey from Dhaka to Chandpur

DS team arrived for a fifteen days visit in Dhaka at 12:30pm on April, 15, 2012 and in the evening they went to Chandpur where they stayed at BIWTA guest house that night.

Chandpur/ Haimchar Upazilla

The next day on **April 16, 2012** they visited char (River Island) areas of Hainchar Upazilla and had discussions with climate affected communities who had suffered multiple displacements as a result of river erosion. DS team used the river boat and YPSA jeep for their transportation.

Chandpur Sadar sub district and Comilla

On April 17, 2012 the team visited to community affected by river erosion along the Meghna and Dakatia River. They talked to local leaders, local government representative, student, house wives on education facilities, livelihood and water and sanitation system. One of the important aspects of the visit is to interview with UNO Ms. Shahinur Shahin where she briefed about present situation of erosion, situation of effected people, government plan and initiative, and also possibility of partnership with NGO.

Comilla

On the same day the team paid a visit to Comilla and there they met climate displaced community living in a slum near the city. In the afternoon, YPSA Comilla office hosted a meeting with DS team, local civil society & Local Govt. representative.

Comilla DC office and Muhuri CDSP project

On April 18, the team had a short conversation with local Govt. official about the registration, assessment or statistics of climate displaced persons at the national level; then they went to Muhuri CDSP project and talked with people living on that CDSP site. DS team was impressed seeing the YPSA's activities running in CDSP project.

Sandwip

On April 19, DS team went to Sandwip Island and met UNO Mr. Mir shawkat Hossain and Municipal Mayor Mr. Zafar Ullah Titu. They discussed the Govt. plan, initiative and collaboration with NGO. DS team also Travelled to climate affected community on South-west part of Sandwip Island and talked with them. The community requested to strengthen and heighten the embankment and proposed a major dam north of the island.



Mission at river erosion affected area at Banglabazar in Sandwip

Sandwip

On April 20, DS team went to Kalapania Union and met Civil society representative from whom they sought suggestions on CC issues. They also talked with Union Parishad Member Haji Yousuf about the same issues.

Sitakund

On the same day they reached sitakund Upazilla to met UNO and discussed with him about the government initiative for the displaced people. They also interviewed some displaced people and asked about their requirements to cope up with the existing condition.

Meeting with Minister of Bangladesh Govt. YPSA team and WCA School:

Meeting with State Minister of Environment and Forest

On April 21, they paid a visit to Dr. Hasan Mahmud Chowdhury, Minister of Environment and Forest at his residence in the morning. The hospitality and commitment from the Minister's side pleased the team. Dr. Hasan Mahmud Chowdhury praised the initiative of studies on Climate displacement issue.



DS Mission with State Minister of Forest & Environment of BD. Govt.

Meeting between YPSA and Displacement Solution

On April 21, 2012 at YPSA head office hosted a two part meeting with DS team. In the 1st part of meeting YPSA senior staffs gave overall YPSA presentation including YPSA financial system. DS team shared the purpose of their visit. In 2nd part of the meeting DS team mainly focused on the upcoming project activities and concentrated on some important points those should be added with the final TOR for better understand between two parties (YPSA and DS)

During nationwide strike from 22 April 2012 to 24 April 2012 DS team continued their discussion with YPSA. **On April 22, 2012** they had a Skype discussion with Mr. Doha (lead researcher for three studies) and Mr. Md. Shahjahan (YPSA, Team Leader Bangladesh HLP Initiative) on role of DS, vision for studies, key objectives and the situation of climate displacement and potential solutions in Bangladesh;



Meeting between DS Mission and YPSA Senior Team

On April 23, they met Mr. Md. Shahjahan at YPSA head offices and had a detailed discussion on TOR's, key indicators and evaluation tools for collaboration between DS and YPSA and budget for project;

Cox's Bazar

On April 25, Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham, and Mr. Stephane Jeannet visited Cox's Bazar. During their visit they had a Meeting with District Relief and Rehabilitation Office, Abdul Mazid and then visited YPSA ACT Office where they talked with four survivors who had received vocational training on driving under the supervision of YPSA. Finally they met environmentally displaced community of Kutubdia Para and talked with them about multiple issues of their displacement.



DS Mission with District Relief & Rehab. Officer of Cox's bazar

On April 26, YPSA head office hosted the second meeting with DS team. At the meeting the team shared the causes, effects & scope of Displacement, human rights implicated, Government responses, key findings from the mission and recommendations for future action; finally they thanked YPSA for hosting an excellent mission.

Meeting with WCA School

On the same day DS team also travelled the Coastal Kids Project School and met with school authority along with the kids to be involved in the project and asked them their expectations and hopes from the project; finally, they visited the School's IT room to check on Skype and internet capabilities;

Conclusion: After completing each assignment DS team highly praised the support provided by YPSA team and respective field offices. They expressed that objectives of their visit were mostly fulfilled. They thanked YPSA for all sort of cooperation. Finally, DS team departed **on 29 April 2012.**

Comments on status of this sub project

Successfully hosting of DS representative, YPSA is in right tract of this sub project. YPSA is also waiting for hosting International Photographer Kadir van Lohuizen. Hopefully we will be successful in that visit too.

© Additional Activities performed relevant with HLP rights initiatives/climate change issue:

Visit YPSA HLP project in head office by NGOB Director

Mr. AKM Moazzem Hossen, Deputy Director-NGO Appears Bureau of Bangladesh visited YPSA Head Office on July 8, 2012. During this visit he checked the document of HLP project and he has been updated on the project activities. He suggested that after completion the study, report should be shared

with Local Administration along with relevant ministry so that Govt. can support future activities relevant to these studies.

Participate in the Regional Training Workshop on Climate Change and adaptation

Regional Training Workshop on Climate Change and Adaptation was organized by ARCAB and supported by PRIP Trust and BCAS at Protyashi Training Center, Chittagong from May 27 to May 29, 2012. The goal of the workshop was to develop skills in the climate change issue and adaptation. And the objective was to inform about the climate change issue & adaptation and to motivate them to work with having better understanding about the climate change issue.

Training Methodology:

The training followed both participatory and experiential training methodologies. Different tools, such as brainstorming, group work, sharing experiences, role play, discussion question-answer, quiz and stimulating game were used to create a vibrant environment to ensure participants' active participation in the process. There was ice breaking sessions, energizers and fun activities prior to discuss the sensitive sexuality issues in order to touch the attitudinal level of participants.

Participants:

- 30 Participants were presents from different NGOs.
- **From YPSA:** 1. Mohammad Shahjahan , Team Leader of YPSA-HLP Project
2. Syed Assraf Ullah, Program officer of YPSA-HLP project.
3. Towhid Murad, Associate researcher of YPSA-HLP project.

Major content of the training

Day-1:

- Weather& climate issues,
- Difference between weather and climate,
- Reasons for climate change,
- Chronological trends of climate change,
- Reasons for increasing global warming,
- Green house effect and climate related factors issues, etc.

Day-2:

- Disaster & Climate Change issues
- Relation of Climate and risk reduction
- Hazard and vulnerability
- Coping & adaptation
- National adaptation program on Action
- Bangladesh climate change strategy and action plan, etc.

Day-3:

- Baseline study
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Reporting format



Outcome of the training:

- Participants aware about the issue of climate change and the adaptation on the affected people of climate change.
- Participants are highly motivated to work on ensuring the adaptation of affected people of climate change.
- The process of adaptation for displaced people is discussed and enjoyed by participant.
- Those who had limited information on climate change issues; they understand its importance after the training.

Rapid need assessment of flood victim and temporarily displaced people

There had been heavy rain on the 25th and 26th June 2012 in Chittagong division, on 26th June 65 centimeter rainfall was recorded representing the highest rainfall of the last two decades. Around 120 people died in different places of the division. In the immediate aftermath of the torrential rains, reliefs were organized and media coverage raised awareness on the situation. A team of YPSA including Dr. Rathana peou van den Heuvel (Visiting Professor of ULAB) visited the site to rapidly assess the needs.

What is little known is that the flood situation is getting critical every single day with daily incessant rain in the areas. Over the last 3 weeks, sub district of Cox's bazaar has been flooded. In Cox's bazaar around 7 000 000 people has been affected at different scale by the current flood that spread over 72 unions. According to official source, the flood has damaged 16000 houses completely and have washed away 17000 acre crops field which was worth of 12 crore taka, submerged villages and destroyed more than 200 mud roads. The current flood is the accumulation of three phenomenons: heavy rain locally, flash flood and monsoon rains in the region that are inducing major rivers' flood (especially from the Matamuhuri and Bakkhali rivers).

Leaving Flood victims on their own

In Cox's Bazar district, three upazillas have been heavily touched namely Cox's Bazar Sador, Ramu and Chakoria with more than 120 000 people extremely affected by the flood. In those areas, hundreds of villages have been disconnected as some roads collapsed due to hill landslide or flash flood and thousands of people temporarily displaced from their home.

In Ramu officials state that over 300 families took refuge into cyclone shelters since weeks and thousand over displaced to safer location where they have families. Up to date, there are only two INGOs that intervened in those areas namely Care International and PLAN- Bangladesh (with its local partner YPSA) with distribution programs of food or cash. But as underlined by the local authority representative of Ramu that it is not enough and that the situation is getting worse.



The worst to come

Many people interviewed said that they never experiment such rains. As flood remains, they were concern on the food security of their families as lands are under water but as well of their cattle's that are vulnerable to disease and represent for the extreme poor families their main source of income. Eid coming in couple of months, one caw could represent over 1 lack at the market and sustain a family for months.

Both food security and in cash are needed in this time of emergency to cope with the on-going disaster. Rehabilitation works of roads, bridges and emergency shelters will be needed in those areas. A report from official affirmed as well that the flood contributed to the lost of over 100 000 students books only in Cox's Bazar. According to the District Relief and Rehabilitation office from Cox's Bazar sources there are some 520 educational institutions currently affected (including 118 worst affected and 412 are partially affected) in eight upazila and four municipality of the district by the recent flood. In a second phase, better assessment of the after-flood situation will be needed to scope key interventions.

Emergency response to Flood Victim of Cox'sbazar

Plan Bangladesh and YPSA distributed 10 Million Taka among 2000 flood affected families at Ramu upazila under Cox'sbazar district. ADC General of Cox'sbazar Mr. Sayed Mohammed Nurul Basir inaugurated the distribution among the 300 flood victim families from Chackmarkul union office on 8 July. Each of the beneficiary family received 5,000 taka in cash to ensure food and nutrition supports to the children. Rest of 1700 families will get the emergency cash on 9, 10 and 11 July.



ADC general of Cox'sbazar distributing cheque to the victim



YPSA president distributing cheque to the flood victim

Mr. Anowar Hossain Shikder, Deputy Country Director, Mr. Liakat Ali, Program Support Manager and Mr. Donald Lees from Plan Bangladesh, Mr. Abdul Majid, DRO, Cox'sbazar, Mr. Abul Kalam, Asst. Commissioner of Ramu, Mr. F M Hasan and Ms. Mushrat Jahan Munni, Vice Chairman of the Ramu Upazilla Parishad and Md. Arifur Rahman from YPSA, were present in the distribution ceremony.

Pre field visit to Cox'sbazar and Sathkira

Before formal approval of project by NGOB, YPSA decided to visit some places of Bangladesh in advance to interact with local stakeholders and know their views on upcoming project. Mr. Arifur Rahman and Mr. Mohammad Shahjahan visited **Cox'sbazar** on 22nd May'2012 and meet with various stakeholders like people of Govt. Administration, local Govt representative, NGOs professional, Journalist, political leader and Displaced community. The objective of this mission is to share the project idea and seek support for future. In this visit, team wanted to know the update of expansion of Cox'sbazar airport, which caused eviction of around forty thousand people residing in Kutubdia para, Samity para and najirartek.

To safe this people present Member of Parliament of Cox'sbazar of opposition party, local Ruling party leader, municipality counsellor spoke in the same public gathering and urge the Govt. not to evict these people. In the mean time Minister of Tourism visited Cox'sbazar and he also assured that they will not evict any people to expand the airport. But in reality Govt. taking all processing for expansion of airport but what will be faith of people is unknown so far. As per latest information this expansion project is already been held up for tender complexity.

Sathkira: Two team members from YPSA visited the Padmapukur Union at 28 May, 2012 under the shyamnagar Upzilla, Sathkira District. The team talked with different stakeholder including local govt. people of this union. The site is within 10 km of the Sundarban mangrove forest. Padmapukur Union is a

disaster prone area. People use the only communication way “Khole Petua” river by boat. This union was under water around two and half years after Aila on 25 May 2009. . According to old people, they face disaster in 1969, 1988 in this area.

The area is 35 square kilometer. 100% Household were damaged during Aila. Around 22,193 people mostly affected through Aila. Shrimp farming is one of the major occupations in the Union. Beside this people are involve with bamboo work, fishing , baowali , moualli etc. Some of Aila affected people are now engaged with day labouring offered by different GO's and NGO's to repair roads and embankments. However, these activities will be run for 40 days and after that their earning source is uncertain. Every year a group people among the villagers go outer district near to Gopalgonj, Narial for working as agricultural labor.

Most of the Trees become damaged during Aila affected water logging period. That's why the temperature becomes near 42 degree after the Aila which is difficult for living in treeless area. Till now local people are struggling to get access to food, pure drinking water. All the water become salinity water. Poor people received partial/ full housing support from local NGO's like DRRRA, Shushillan, Uttaran etc. Most of the roads are not accessible for persons with disabilities, elderly people, child, even pregnant women also. It is true that people have no work and no money. That why they are very much frustrated as well concerned about climate change effect. They want to move in non disaster prone area, where they can involve with Agriculture, day labour, fishing etc.

Meeting with YPSA and DS at Bangkok

In response to the invitation Mr. Scott Leckie, Director and founder of DS, Mr. Arifur Rahman, CE of YPSA, visited Bangkok, Thailand for a one to one meeting on 10th June 2012. The agenda of the meeting was as follows;

- Sharing of the Progress up to date
- Inception Note
- Project Documents signing
- Coastal Kids Project
- Future initiatives (beyond 2012)
 - Long term Project Proposals (specific programs on HLP rights)
 - Donor hunting (Individual or jointly)
 - National and International Advocacy / Forum / Conference
 - Regional initiatives (South Asian)
 - International exchange visits
 - International training / Study for the capacity development
- Other issues
 - Next visits by DS team (Zeke , Kadir or any other visitors)
 - Next visit by Scott and high level mission
 - Next visit by Evaluators
 - Publications in Bengali and Print (Kadir's Photo story book)
 - Publications of three research
 - UNFCCC COPI8
 - ACR and Musa Bhai related issues

After coming back from the Bangkok, Mr. Arif shared the meeting result with the senior staff of YPSA including HLP team members. He was very much satisfied to this meeting and hopeful that this meeting will accelerate our ongoing activities to be completed in timely and in well manner.

Disseminate DS publications to the media and policy makers (Photo story of the DS by Kadir)

Displacement Solutions published a document with the titled CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT IN BANGLADESH. PHOTOGRAPHS BY KADIR VAN LOHUIZEN, which is a well accepted and well presented publication. YPSA got few copies from DS for disseminating to the stakeholders as a campaign issue. YPSA already distributed (both soft and hard copy) this publication to the various media people, NGOs, CBOs, Local Govt. and Govt. administration even to the ministry level. Everybody received it as a very interesting and effective publication and hope that if it is translated in bangla then it can be more effective to the mass people. This document can be one of the advocacy tool for lobbying with stakeholders on behalf of climate displaced people.

Facebook group page on Bangladesh Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights Initiative

In order to fulfill the objects of the Bangladesh HLP rights initiative project, a group named “**Bangladesh Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights Initiative**” has been created on Facebook. This page will establish contact and sharing information with the HLP team and local partners in Bangladesh and beyond. Event updates and different reports on climate issue also uploading regularly to the YPSA website (www.ypsa.org). The link of this facebook group is [Bangladesh Housing, Land and Property \(HLP\) Rights Initiative](#)

The objective of this group is To find out some right based initiatives for the solution of the problems faced by the climate change affected people particularly for displaced community of Bangladesh and to collect innovative ideas from the group members including sharing of updated news and photos of the sufferers.

Attributes:

- Members can share news, photos and their ideas related to the displaced community through this group.
- Latest news and photos of climate damaged and displaced people are shared on this page and thus all members are well aware on this issue.
- The ongoing activities of this project are shared among the members through this group.
- Links of various websites related to Displacement solutions are added in this group in order to keep the members updated.
- Links of the Daily newspapers containing news of the vulnerable population due to climate change.
- Innovative ideas from any group members always welcome to supplement the ongoing project.

Working on next 5 years Project Proposals (specific programs on HLP rights)

Beside the ongoing project activities YPSA team and DS team has been working on the next five years project focusing on Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative, which supposed to be the successor project of this ongoing study focused project. In this regards both party has been talking in regular basis to come a consensus of some common points, which could be the base of the next project. However, we, the both team, have chalked out an outline of this project and shared each other. Hope very soon we will be able to make need based realistic proposal for the climate displaced people in Bangladesh.

Challenges

Delay of NGOB approval

NGO appears Bureau took more time for approval this project than normally taken because of the high level Governmental consensus on the new issues through meeting and discussion with relevant documents, which ultimately delay the formal start of project.

Flood situation in the YPSA working area and emergency responses activities

- Devastating flood and land slide situation in the greater Chittagong division, YPSA team was fully involved with the rescue, relief and rehabilitation process.
- As a host organization of Chittagong division YPSA staff including HLP team has actively involved with the post disaster activities of Govt. and other international org.

Lessons Learnt

- More sharing and discussion of an issue could bring good result at the end of the day like displacement issue, now it the very much popular topic of YPSA and its stakeholders
- Handling everything legally, logically and transparently could kill some time but it gives good base of all things

Conclusion

Over this period YPSA has been successful for school and contact person selection of Coastal Kids Project, selection of three renowned & qualified researchers, submission of inception note, developed methodology & tools of study, staff orientation on study, find out the land suitability criteria through FGD, started field activities for FGD, case study, in-depth interview & Key informant interview, literature review of relevant documents, information collection of khas land, rapport build up with Govt. Local Govt. & civil society representative, NGOs profile collection & communication, presentation of HLP initiative to the stakeholders, hosting of DS representative, staff capacity development on Climate Change issue and performing some additional activities relevant with the project. However, we have to accelerate of planned activities to achieve the objective of this project. Hope by coming month more result oriented work will be performed.

YPSA has been able to be on tract of this project with the appropriate guidance and support from the DS, Govt. counterpart, like-minded NGOs, civil society and YPSA management. It is remarkable that all staff of YPSA HLP have played the proactive role to keep it on tract. This process will be continued and together with we will be able to achieve our objective. Finally it is said that any nice activities can be possible if there is good rational and well planning.

Report prepared by

Mohammad Shahjahan
Team Leader, YPSA-HLP

Certified by

Md. Arifur Rahman
Chief Executive, YPSA