

Project Narrative Report

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Bangladesh Housing Land and Property Rights Initiative

Report Prepared for **Displacement Solutions**

Report Prepared by

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Introduction

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognizes that Small Island Developing States (SIDS), low-lying and coastal countries, Africa, and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change¹. Bangladesh is frequently cited as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change because of its disadvantageous geographic location; flat and low-lying topography; high population density; high levels of poverty; reliance of many livelihoods on climate sensitive sectors, particularly agriculture and fisheries; and inefficient institutional aspects². The Global Climate Risk Index prepared by German watch shows that Bangladesh is at top of the ranking of most affected countries by climatic extreme events over the last two decades.

In Bangladesh, climate change can affect population movement in many ways. Both sudden environmental events and gradual environment change influences population movement in different ways. Sudden onset events such as floods, cyclones and riverbank erosion may cause the affected population to leave their homes at least temporarily. These movements are usually large scale. In most cases people return to their place of origin in the long term. Slow onset process such as coastal erosion, sea-level rise, salt water intrusion, changing rainfall patterns and drought can produce irreversible results, leading to more permanent forms of migration. According to a recent report, over 35 million people will be displaced from 19 coastal districts of Bangladesh in the event of a 1-meter sea level rise this century³.

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. Natural hazards across the country are already leading to the forced displacement of millions of Bangladeshis and this number is set to multiply as the effects of climate change increase the severity and frequency of these natural hazards. Many of these individuals have lost their houses and lands to climatic hazards and have no ability nor received any support or assistance to access new homes or new lands.

To face the challenge of mass displacement (both internal and external) as a result of climate change, Bangladesh must be adequately prepared so that the vast majority of those displaced will be supported with adequate resettlement and rehabilitation schemes, whilst also ensuring that their basic human rights are respected. One of the major concerns associated with resettling climate displaced people will be to increase the availability of affordable, safe and well-located land that can be effectively utilized by climate displaced persons requiring new land resources. To ensure housing, land and property as rights of climate displaced people of Bangladesh, Displacement Solutions established collaboration with YPSA on **the Bangladesh HLP Initiative**.

¹ UNFCCC (2007): Climate Change: Impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation in developing countries, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/impacts.pdf>>, 15 May 2010.

² UNFCCC, 2011. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* [online] Available at: <http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/2627.php> [Accessed at July 9th 2011]

³ Rabbani, M. G. (2009): Climate forced migration: A massive threat to coastal people in Bangladesh, Clime Asia: Climate Action Network-South Asia newsletter, BCAS, Dhaka.

Brief on the Bangladesh HLP Initiative:

With a view to adopting a right-based approach emphasizing the human rights, in particular, housing, land and property rights for the people of Bangladesh especially for the victims who are displaced due to climate change; YPSA with the support of Displacement Solutions has been implementing an outstanding project named “Bangladesh Housing Land Properties (HLP) Rights Initiative” in Bangladesh.

The main objective of this project is 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 of project were three studies that would 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 sought to collaborate with and support to 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 would host a visit by 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’.



This report comprehensively narrated the status of project activities performed over the year. Status of all sub projects explained in detail to get an overall impression on Bangladesh Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights Initiative implemented by YPSA.

Project Narrative Report

Narrative report of four sub projects

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

As per the TOR, DS desired that YPSA would identify an appropriate school in Chittagong to act as the Bangladesh focal point school within DS' 'Coastal Kids Project'. The school should be of a high-quality, reliable and with English-speaking students between the ages of 10-12 (5th-6th grades). The school will have Skype capacity and agree to hold several Skype discussions with students in Australia, Kiribati and Tuvalu that would be coordinated by DS. But before signing the TOR, DS and YPSA had many email communication regarding the Coastal Kids Project (CKP) started from March 19, 2012.

Selection of right school was one of the major challenges for YPSA considering the criteria and perspective of Bangladesh as it is very uncommon to find out English-speaking students between the ages of 10-12 (5th-6th grades) particularly speaking over Skype. But YPSA took it very positively as a challenge, which must need to be overcome.

Based on the correspondences and TOR, YPSA started formal and informal communication with few schools considering the criteria set by DS. YPSA initially selected William Carey Academy (WCA) as potential school for CKP as per criteria. After visiting the school by DS mission on April'12 and having positive signal from them YPSA finally selected the WCA for CKP. By this time there were many formal and informal meeting and correspondence between YPSA and WCA. Some formal meeting is as follows;

1st 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. 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 for study to take final decision on partnership and also requested to say yes or no to work together in future.

2nd Meeting between YPSA and 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 would move forward. In that meeting we met with the class teacher of level V and level VI and with some potential



Level 5th Kids of WCA

student, who were very curious with this initiative. YPSA team also visited infrastructure facility including computer lab and Skype facility of school, which was very much impressive.

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 visited the computer lab of the school and checked the internet and Skype facilities of the school. 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 was very happy with this school particularly of infrastructure facility, authority, teachers and student. Having this positive signal from mission we proposed 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. Zirhang Bawm as Contact/Focal Person for future frequent communication. WCA 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 contact person, DS directly wrote to the school detail more on project and also sought cooperation how can Skype 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. Skype conversation also held 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 (academic year ending) school went to the vacation as usual for three months. So there was no scope to hold the Skype conversation but WCA proposed DS to start the conversation from 1st week of September'12 and which could be continued. Finally DS was agreed to the proposal WCA.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between YPSA and William Carey Academy

The main focus of Coastal Kids Project is to build strong bondage among the students (between the ages of 10 to 12) of Bangladesh, Australia, Kiribati and Tuvalu who are living in coastal areas for sharing knowledge and exchanging views through Skype discussions about climate change issues. To work jointly in this endeavor, a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Young Power in Social action (YPSA), a renowned NGO of Bangladesh, and William Carey Academy (WCA), a famous English medium school of Chittagong, held on September 4, 2012 at the office of the Chancellor of WCA.

Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman, Chief Executive of YPSA and Ms. Marilo Long, Chancellor of WCA signed the MoU on behalf of YPSA and WCA, respectively in presence of Mr. Mohammad Shahjahan, Team Leader of YPSA-HLP, Mr. Mahiuddin Hafiz, Program Manager of YPSA-HLP, Mr. Zirhang Bawm and Ms. Krikkit Holly of WCA.

Orientation to WCA student on “Climate change: issues and concerns”

YPSA (Young Power in Social action) and William Carey Academy (WCA) jointly organized a Power Point Presentation session to orient well about the climate change issues to the 5th level students of WCA, Chittagong under Coastal Kids Project at WCA premises in Chittagong on 4 September 2012 with the support of Displacement Solutions. All the students of level 5 assembled in this session just prior to the Skype conversation held between WCA and Sorrento School of Victoria, Australia. In this session the students asked so many questions to meet up their thirst of knowledge and the little geniuses gave some interesting recommendations and valuable suggestions too. Everybody including Ms. Marilou Long, Administrative Director of WCA, Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman, CE of YPSA, Mr. Mohammad Shahjahan, Team Leader, YPSA-HLP and senior teachers of WCA participated enthusiastically in question- answer session.

At the beginning Ms. Marilou Long, Administrative Director of WCA, Chittagong introduced the YPSA staff with some senior teachers and students of level 5. Then Mr. Mohammad Shahjahan, Team Leader of YPSA-HLP talked on the objective of the Coastal Kids project.

Mr. Mahiuddin Hafiz of YPSA conducted the whole session from 9 am to 9.45 am mentioning the objective of arranging such a session. He elaborately discussed basic concepts of Climate Change, its impact on Bangladesh in light of global context. The session was very participatory and interactive. Thus everybody enjoyed the time very effectively.

Coastal Kids projects: First time Skype conversation between two schools of Bangladesh and Australia

The first ever Skype conversation among the students of two schools between an Australian school (Sorrento Primary School, Victoria) and a Bangladeshi school (William Carey Academy, Chittagong) was held on 4 September 2012 from 9.50 am to 11.15 am. This stimulus Skype conversation was under the “Coastal Kids Project” is one of the most important sub-projects under this HLP project, to build relationship between the school students of Bangladesh and with school students in Australia who are also coastal dwellers.

YPSA as a partner of DS has been implementing the project in Bangladesh. The students of both countries enjoyed the program and got an exceptional opportunity to build up rapport through this conversation. During the session they talked about various aspects of Climate Change issues in a serious mood and also shared their personal liking and disliking in a funny way. They also offered cordial invitation and friendship proposal to one another. This instructive and insightful classroom to classroom conversation uplifted a great passion among the participants to think about the vulnerability of Coastal Kids.

From the part of Bangladesh, Mr. Arifur Rahman, CE of YPSA, Ms. Marilou Long, Administrative Director of WCA, Ms. Krikkit Holly, Class teacher of Level 5, WCA, Mr. Shahjahan, Team Leader of YPSA-HLP, Mr. Mahiuddin Hafiz, PM of YPSA-HLP, Mr. Zirthing Bawm, contact person of WCA were present in Skype Conversation. On the other hand Mr. Scott Leckie, Director & founder of DS, teachers, students and other staffs of Sorrento Primary School, Victoria were present in Australia.

At the ending part of the Skype conversation, Mr. Arifur Rahman, CE of YPSA shared various aspects of YPSA and its activities with the students of Sorrento Primary School. The entire program was coordinated by Mr. Zirthing Bawm and moderated by Ms. Krikkit Holly, Class teacher, Level-V from WCA.

First Annual Coastal Kids writing competition successfully completed and replied to pen-pal letters

Displacement Solutions announced writing contest under the Coastal Kids Project to promote further incentive for the students to dive into learning about climate change. November 1st, 2012 marked the commencement of the Coastal Kids writing Contest. Students of class five of William Carey Academy in Chittagong, Bangladesh (as a partner of YPSA) and class six from Sorrento Primary School in Victoria, Australia were invited to write a 500-word essay on the topic of “What Climate Change Means to Me, My Community, My Country and My World” as part of the First Annual Coastal Kids Writing competition. WCA students were thrilled to enter the competition.

The students worked hard to prepare quality essays. Planning and research was conducted at home while all drafting, revising, and proofreading occurred during special after school hours.



Student composing their writing

After several weeks of preparation, the students rushed to the computer lab to type their carefully drafted essays. Typing and refining the essays consumed the afternoons for the competitors. After a month of hard work, around 20 students victoriously completed their essays and submitted them to the judges to review. A panel of judge, comprising member from WCA and YPSA, was reviewed the all writings. After intensive review the all writings panelist were come to a consensus to declare the best three writings though it was very tough to choose the best three among twenty.

On 17th December’12 Mr. Mahiuddin Hafiz, Program Manager of HLP project of YPSA, announced the winners for the top three places during WCA’s elementary opening ceremony. Each winner was awarded an amazon.com gift card, as well as a framed certificate and congratulation letters. It was exciting to witness the entire group of class five rejoice with the winners. Adeb Chowdury, Agatha Talapatra and Anan Abdullah won the first place, second place and third places respectively.

The class five students also replied to pen-pal letters sent from the students at Sorrento Primary School. The classes are enjoying getting to know one another and they look forward to the next Skype conference where they will discuss what they have learned thus far about climate change. The WCA class five students have already learned a great deal about climate change and are determined to assist in reducing its negative effects on their county and world. The coming semester is sure to bring even further insights into this important topic.



Winners with the judges in the award giving ceremony

Concluding remarks of Coastal Kids sub Project

The Coastal Kids Project started with an aims to expand understanding and awareness of what climate change means to schoolchildren throughout the world. The Project was commenced with two schools – Sorrento Primary School in Sorrento, Australia and the William Carey Academy in Chittagong, Bangladesh, with plans in place to expand to additional schools and countries in the coming months and years. As a new initiative it can be said that it was wonderful experiences for all stakeholders particularly for student, who participated with this exciting project. There were some challenges to timely execution of this project such as differences of time between Bangladesh and Australia, dissimilarity of school calendar etc. Without this limitation, there might have been more Skype conversation between these two schools. Anyway, overall progress of this project was good and with this lesson learnt we can move forward with more effective way.

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

Specific activities of this sub project included three studies that would examine in detail the true picture of land availability in Bangladesh for climate displaced persons as well as the potential durability of future resettlement. As per TOR the prime deliverables of the three studies were as follows;

Study one: Land Availability for Climate Displaced Communities, this would be a 30-40 page study on land availability in Bangladesh that could ostensibly be used to resettle climate displaced communities. The study would indicate the size and location of land that could be possibly used for resettlement, as well as indicating ten key land parcels that could be sought for donation/purchase for contributing to the resolution of climate displacement.

Study Two: Land Acquisition for Climate Displaced Communities, this would also be a 30-40 page study on the process of land acquisition in Bangladesh, challenges involved in acquiring new land for the possible use by climate displaced persons and measures that could be used by civil society groups to streamline the acquisition process.

Study Three: Viability of CHT as a destination for Climate Displaced Communities, and this would be a 30-40 page study examining the potential of the Chittagong Hill Tracts acting as a major destination point for climate displaced communities in Bangladesh. The study would examine the political and historical sensitivities of the CHT and indicate areas of focus for future activities in the CHT in this regard. This study would also examine the potential environmental impacts of resettling large numbers of climate displaced persons in the CHT.

To do these studies in scientific manner and timely submission of main three reports, YPSA followed very systematic way to fulfill the requirement of TOR. The following are the major process YPSA followed to conduct these research and preparing reports.

Selection of three competent researchers for study and submitted CVs of three researchers

As per the TOR there was requirement to select qualified researchers for these studies and submit their profile to the DS. Accordingly, 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 Jeannet 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 would prepare an “inception note” for YPSA and to be submitted to DS as well. The required content of the Inception Note was proposed methodology of three studies, 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 will also 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. Based on the requirement of deliverables, methodology was set out and task and responsibilities of each of team members were also mentioned in that ‘Note’.

Study methodologies followed

As mentioned earlier for conducting these three systematic studies, three individual methodologies were followed as developed during preparation of inception note.

Study one: Land Availability for Climate Displaced Communities

The study employed appropriate tools of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), including:

- (i) Digital interpretation of satellite imagery;
- (ii) Ground truthing in selected locations of Bangladesh to analyze different land use categories and to identify suitable land parcels;
- (iii) Landsat satellite images and other sources were also analyzed.

Landsat satellite image: NASA-based Landsat satellite imagery was used to identify suitable land availability in Bangladesh. Considering the geographical aspects, a number of locations with different characteristics were selected for data collection on human, physical, financial, natural and social assets of the local community following a semi-structured interview, focus group discussion and key informant interview. Participatory workshops were organized at the local level with a wide range of stakeholder groups, including, farmers, fishers, day labourers, traders, local administrators, policy makers, extension managers, local elites, politicians, NGO representatives, media personnel and researchers to identify and rank the attributes/criteria with significant weight. Land use patterns and the locations of roads, electricity supply lines, markets, schools and health centers were taken from land use and administrative maps and then updated with Landsat satellite images, field surveys and participatory interviews with local communities.

Multicriteria Analysis: The multicriteria analysis as a spatial decision support tool focused on specifying and creating a comprehensive set of evaluation criteria that reflected all the concerns relevant to the decision problem. A scoring system of 1 to 3 was chosen, 3 being the most suitable and 1 the least suitable for climate displaced communities in Bangladesh. The decision maker's preferences with respect to the evaluation criteria were incorporated into the decision model. These were assessed in terms of the relative importance (weights) assigned to the evaluation under consideration that expressed the importance of each criteria relative to other criteria. Eventually, the criteria layers and their weights were integrated to provide an overall assessment of the alternatives. This step is known as multicriteria evaluation (MCE) and accomplished by appropriate decision rules, which are formal mathematical expressions that combine the weights and scores of each of the layers used.

GIS analysis of data: ArcGIS software (version 9.3) developed by Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc, USA was used to develop land availability modeling. The spatial extension module was used for surface interpolation in ArcGIS. The values of the collected and analyzed data were expanded to the sites where no samples were available using interpolation methods. The interpolation provided the values in such points where no measurements were available. Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection was used to transform the maps and satellite images. ENVI

software (version 4.5) developed by Research Systems Inc, USA was used for the digital interpretation of satellite images.

Ground truthing: The suitable land availability database created from the digital interpretation of satellite imagery and GIS analysis was verified through a ground survey in the selected sites using hand held GPS (Global Positioning System). The relevant secondary data collected from various sources was used for triangulation of the satellite image classification and GIS analysis.

Study Two: Land Acquisition for Climate Displaced Communities

This study applies social exploratory methodology including rapid assessment techniques (for example, key informant interviews, focus group discussion and group assessment exercises) formal workshop and in-depth case studies. Information is collected from both secondary and primary sources. The secondary sources of information include books, journals and articles on existing laws and policies on land acquisition in Bangladesh. The Study also reviews existing Government policies and processes of *khas* land distribution to landless individuals and communities. Individual and group interviews have also been conducted with the recipients of government *khas* land. Case stories have been prepared on past experiences and lessons learned in the process of land acquisition for the landless people in Bangladesh.

Different checklist/interview guidelines were targeting the following respondent groups:

- a) Local Government Officials;
- b) Government Officials;
- c) Civil Society Organisations;
- d) Climate affected and Landless Community Representatives;
- e) Journalist ; and
- f) Local Elected Bodies- Elected Members of Union Parishad (UP) and City Corporations.

A semi-structured questionnaire was used during consultation and discussion with different stakeholders. The following methods were employed in the implementation of this study:

Literature Review: Review of relevant documents related to each study theme, including Government policy, laws, manuals, guidelines, National Plans, approved project documents, Citizen Charters and other published reports.

Interviews with Stakeholders: Face-to-face interviews with Local Government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Climate affected Community Representatives were conducted wherever possible. In these interviews, a minimum number of respondents, representing each of the main risk scenarios were surveyed to ensure that the data provided a comprehensive and representative range of perspectives.

Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs): PRAs were conducted to collect information from targeted field locations and from different levels of stakeholders (including Government Officials, NGO representatives, civil society representatives and from affected communities).

Focus Group Discussion: The objectives of community consultations were to use the research findings as a basis for discussion, to draw conclusions and to discuss ways forward.

Participants included all questionnaire respondents, however, others were also invited to participate, as long as all they matched one of the respondent groups, including, local-level Government, CSOs or community representative. In the focus group discussions, a balanced representation of gender, age and socio-economic situations was ensured.

Study Three: Viability of CHT as a destination for Climate Displaced Communities

The study applies social exploratory methodology, for example, rapid assessment techniques (involving key informant interviews, focus group discussions and group assessment exercises), formal workshop and in-depth case studies. Information is collected from secondary and primary sources. The secondary sources of data include books, journals and articles on the political and historical sensitivities of the CHT.

This study used several indicators targeting the following respondent groups:

- g) Local Government Officials;
- h) Civil Society Organizations;
- i) Community Representatives;
- j) Professional groups; and
- k) Local elected bodies.

A semi-structured questionnaire was used during consultation and discussion sessions with different stakeholders. The following methods were employed in the implementation of this study:

Literature Review: Reviewing relevant documents related to each study theme, such as Government policy, laws, manuals, guidelines, the National Plan, approved project documents, Citizen Charters and published reports.

Stakeholder Interviews: Face-to-face interviews with Local Government, CSOs and community representatives whenever possible. In this regard, a minimum sample of respondents, representing each of the main risk scenarios were surveyed to ensure that the data provides a comprehensive and representative range of perspectives.

Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA): PRAs are intended to collect information from targeted field locations and different level of stakeholders (for example, participants, Government Organizations (GOs), Non Government Organization (NGO) representatives, civil society representatives and local markets).

Focus Group Discussions: The objectives of community consultations were to use the research findings as a basis for discussion, to draw conclusions and to discuss ways forward. In the focus group discussion, an appropriate balance of gender, age and socio-economic status was ensured.

Workshop: The objective of the workshop was to bring together all religious groups, ethnic groups and civil society members, including political and community leaders in the CHT, to discuss the viability of the CHT as a possible permanent destination for climate displaced communities. The workshop participants include all questionnaire respondents but others were also invited, as long as all participants match one of the respondent groups (local-level government, CSO or community representative).

Formal meeting and regular coordination 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 documents need to be collected 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, to set the exact criteria of suitable land considering the Bangladesh perspective. 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. In November 2012 Md. Shamsuddoha, lead researcher, come to Chittagong along with M Shahadat Hossain, co-researcher, to finally discuss on gathered satellite images relevant to the land availability issue and suitable land parcels already identified through field visit. As an output of this meeting we prepare the draft report of Land Study-1 with adequate maps relevant to the study.

Staff orientation workshop on study methodology

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 researchers (Mr. Shamsuddoha, CE of CPRD, Mr. Shahadat Hossain Phd, Associate Professor- Institute of Marine Science and



Fisheries, Chittagong University, and Mr. Shahid Ullah, Freelance Researcher) facilitated the workshop. Mr. Mohammad 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.

Objective of the workshop

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.

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 by 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.

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 relevant 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.

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. Mahabubur 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. Mohammad 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 to the team. He also requested the field researchers to use the research tools effectively in the field level.

FGD on land suitability criteria selection

As per the meeting decision between YPSA HLP team and Research team and recommendation of workshop on study tools, five FGDs were conducted to find out the suitable criteria for land selection considering the Bangladesh situation. These five FGDs were conducted in different place of climate hotspot of Bangladesh so that real sense can be found. These areas 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 criteria have been set up through FGD as 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.



FGD at Kutubdia Island of Cox'sbazar

- **Land physiography**
- Erosion free land is must.
- Permanent ownership of land is preferred.
- Comparative elevated land.
- No water logged area.
- Lands with free of cost or with minimum payment. In case of payment, scope of credit support.
- **Hydro meteorological hazards (new place will be free from)**
- River Erosion
- Tidal wave
- Floods
- Land slide
- Salinity

Field activities of Study

As described above research team and YPSA jointly organized two workshops with staff, who will directly involved with these three studies. First one is on the study methodology and second one is



FGD at Sirajgonj

on study tools. Incorporating workshop feedback, research team made necessary amendment in the study tools. As per the plan made in the workshop, entire Bangladesh divided into the four zones (southeast, southwest, northeast and northwest) and YPSA sent four teams in that four zones (those are most vulnerable to climate change effect) for field data collection using the tools developed by workshop. Study team visited total 11 Districts of four zones as sample for data collection. These filed study was comprises of FGD, One to One interview, Key Informant interview and Case story. After each filed study with

specific tools, study team made reports using each of tools.

In addition to the tool based data collection, field study team also conducted seven small events with the relevant stakeholders in seven places. The main objective to conduct these events is the



KII with AC land of Lakhsam

check the raw data collected from the field in different sources (as per tools) with multidisciplinary participants. The seven events conduction places were Khulna, Sathkira, Sirajgonj, Chandpur, Bramonbaria, Rangamati and Cox'sbazar. Participant of those workshops were from the NGO officials, civil society member, local govt. officials, climate victim, local level political leaders etc. These events were very much effective for the filed study team to triangulate the collected data and gather more information and recommendation on the relevant study.

Identifying the land parcels in the Chittagong as part of study-one, YPSA project team and study team worked hard to collect the information of *khas* land as potential relocation of climate displaced people. In Bangladesh purchase land is easy; one can buy land if he/she wants to pay money as per its value except CHT. But *khas* land is distributed to the land less as per law though reality is different. All *khas* land is govt. owned and govt. can allocate those lands to the land less so there was intension to identifying the *khas* land as possible relocation site to see the real scenario of those lands and future advocacy. Land information includes quantity, location, its type, present condition etc.

Validation workshop

YPSA arranged two validation workshops at Sirajganj and Sitakund sub district of Chittagong with representatives from GOs, NGOs, civil societies with the support of local NGOs for sharing the major finding of three studies on 14th February and 19th February, 2013 respectively. The validation workshop at Sirajgonj was chaired by Mr. Alauddin khan (CE of NDP) while Abhijit Roy, UNO of Katikhand sub district was present as chief guest. And the validation workshop at Sitakund sub district of Chittagong was chaired by Nazmun Nahar Chowdhury (Vice Chairman of Sitakund). Md. Alamgir Hossain (UNO of Sitakund) was present as chief guest.

The main issue of validation workshop of Sitakund, Chittagong and Sirajganj were dissemination of major study finding to participants. YPSA presented the study findings on land availability including acquisition process for climate displaced communities and viability of CHT as potential relocation place. During presentation it is discussed that study focused to identify the available land in Bangladesh that could be used for resettlement of climate displaced persons particularly focused on govt. *Khas* land in study-one, 2nd study analyzed the different process of land acquisition and land relocation and third study detailed out the political and historical aspect including land law of CHT and whether any viability, to resettle displaced people formally in CHT, exists or not as per peace treaty. These studies identified that for undertaking a resettlement scheme for climate displaced persons to the suitable *khas* land ensuring free from illegal occupancy is the main

challenge of getting *Khas* land. To meet the challenges study recommended that long term policy advocacy and campaign strategies will be required to free illegally occupied *khas* land and facilitate access of climate displaced people to those lands.

Speakers of the both workshops appreciated YPSA for this type of approach to share the study findings. They said that different disaster events happening in the Chittagong and Sirajganj, as disaster prone area, like river erosion and coastal erosion, flooding, landslides, tropical cyclones and storm surges, water logging, salt water intrusion, changing of rainfall pattern. Climate Change is accelerating the frequencies of those events, which causing people displacement. They hopeful that these reports can be utilized as entry point to advocate for resettling the climate displaced people in the suitable lands. Participants agreed that right based approach and research oriented work should be done simultaneously to obtain the real information on climate displacement issue under the climate change adaptation program by government and non-government organizations. These study findings will also create a platform to advocate and negotiate with govt. for giving the *khas* land as priority basis. Participants also expressed that it would have been better if the study had scope to identify district wise displaced people, which would help to ensure rights of those people.

Concluding remarks of this sub project

Three Studies on Land Availability for Climate Displaced Communities, Land Acquisition for Climate Displaced Communities and the Viability of CHT as a destination for Climate Displaced Communities were major sub project of Bangladesh HLP Right initiative-2012. There were some challenges during this period, which push the project activities performed in delay like delay the approval of NGO Appears Bureau, unexpected natural disaster (devastating flood and landslide in Chittagong division), bloody clash between Bangali and Pahari in the CHT, political unrest etc. However, with all limitations and obstacles, it has been possible to finalize the three studies. The successful completion of this sub project would not be possible without sincere effort of project and research team members. It is noted here that special support by Zeke for editing these three reports has accelerated to finalize the report writing process. Finally it can be said that this sub project has been successfully done.

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

According to the TOR it was 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. And to successfully carry out advocacy and lobbying, YPSA should identify local and national civil society partners in Bangladesh to increase awareness of climate displacement. To fulfill the requirement of TOR and achieve the objective of this project, YPSA established an informal network with the likeminded local level organizations working in the climate change filed in the different vulnerable areas of Bangladesh. These local level organizations were utilized during the field study of study component and to organizing advocacy meeting in the respective area. Under this sub project YPSA organized advocacy meeting at Upazila level, Advocacy workshop at District

level and two more workshop with the title of National level workshop. Three types of IEC materials (poster, folder with message and stickers) also developed and printed to accelerate this advocacy initiative. These materials utilized in all advocacy events and one to one session.

Advocacy Meeting with the NGOs and Civil society group at Upazila level

Objectives of the Meeting

1. To inform the concerned people about climate change impacts, risk and vulnerabilities of Bangladesh and also about the housing, land and property rights of climate displaced people.
2. To gather the local level knowledge, views, current situations, reflections and valuable recommendations from local NGOs and Civil Society representatives about what kind of advocacy initiative should be taken at local level to ensure housing, land and property rights of the climate displaced people.

Process/Methodologies

Advocacy workshops were held on 10 climatic disaster affected districts with the GOs, NGOs and Civil Society representatives for sharing the status and havoc of climate displaced People. These workshops were fully participatory and interactive way. Different participatory methods were applied to ensure the better and effective outcome and recommendations from the advocacy meeting. Power point presentation and open discussion session was also the integral part of each meeting.

Places of the Event

Advocacy workshops were arranged mostly climate change effected districts in Bangladesh. The selected 10 districts are Kurigram, Bogra, Shirajgonj, Khulna, Shatkhira, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Chandpur, Lakshmipur and Noakhali.

Meeting outline

- Registration
- Welcome Address
- Self Introduction
- Presentation of YPSA
- Overview of YPSA-HLP Project
- Open discussion
- Summarize the meeting
- Speech of the Special guest
- Speech of the Chief guest
- Concluding remarks

Participant profile

These advocacy workshops include participants from different cluster of society. Participants were chosen to get as much information as possible through community participation. Representatives'

from displaced communities, media professionals, NGO representatives, social workers, community leaders, researchers, teachers and government officials from relevant departments took part as participants in these workshops.

Advocacy meeting in Kurigram

YPSA started the advocacy workshop from Kurigram on 20th November 2012. The area of this district is 2,296.10 km² and surrounded by Cooch Behar district of India in the north, Gaibandha district of Bangladesh in the south, Assam state of India in the east and, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur districts of Bangladesh in the west. The major rivers are Brahmaputra, Dharla, and Tista. There were 35 participants from different stakeholders actively participated in this workshop. Speakers said that Kurigram is affected by frequent floods in almost every year. River erosion is another natural hazard for this district, caused by 3 mighty rivers, which is crossing over this district. This causes the loss of land, properties and life of the people. Due to these natural phenomenon most of the people live on the embankments and some other higher grounds. Safe drinking water sources also damaged during the natural hazards. As a result people forced to displace at different places for better settlement. It is utmost necessary to conduct the research works to identify the appropriate number of displaced families. They also emphasized on transparency during land allocation by govt. and ensuring GO and NGO collaboration at all level.



Advocacy meeting in Bogra

YPSA arranged the 2nd advocacy workshop in Bogra on 21st November 2012. The principal rivers of this district are formed by the different channels of the Brahmaputra, which river here bears the local names of the Konai, the Daokoba and the Jamuna, the last forming a portion of the eastern boundary of the district. Its bed is studded with alluvial islands, and three minor streams, the Bangali, Karatoya and Atrai. 40 peoples from different groups participated in the workshop. Speakers said that Bogra is a river erosion and flood prone area. Due to climate change effects crops production has been declining significantly over the period of time. Besides, inhabitant of Bogra facing sanitation and pure drinking water crisis. River erosion is disrupting education, primary health services and livelihood of the inhabitants. Erosion of Jamuna and frequent floods are pushing people to be homeless and landless in this district. They proposed that it will be good to rehabilitate people at some model cluster



village, where basic needs will be ensured. They gave importance to proper coordination among different NGO's and government departments at various levels. They also mentioned that awareness should be raised among the people for ensuring the rights of displaced people.

Advocacy meeting in Sirajgonj

Sirajganj was the third district for hosting the advocacy workshop by YPSA on 22nd November 2012. Sirajganj District of Rajshahi division has an area of about 2497.92 km². The main rivers are Jamuna, Baral, Ichamati, Karatoya and Phuljuri. There were 33 participants attended this event.



Speakers' said that, almost half of the Sirajgonj's populations are affected by frequent flood and severe river erosion. Due to frequent change in water flows, every year large group of people losing all the belongings' and forced to live beside the river bank. Some of the families shifted to various remote Chars of Jamuna, newly formed. *Kaol* is one of the most affected areas under this district, which remains inundated almost six months in a year. This people are leading a depressed and unhealthy life without having educational and minimum health care

facilities. Many of these people are not in a position to looking for new livelihood opportunity in other areas. Suitable rehabilitation programs are urgently required for these displaced people. Meeting suggested that, to avoid the river erosion, afforestation on the river embankment and maintaining proper flow of water in the river is very essential. Any kind of unplanned and unauthorized extraction from the river Jamuna should be stopped. They also said that, lands are very fertile at newly emerged chars, so new technologies should be provided in these areas. Basic rights support and livelihood trainings should be ensured for those families residing in these areas.

Advocacy meeting in Khulna

After the advocacy workshop had ended in the northern area of Bangladesh, YPSA started the advocacy workshop in south-western coast. The first advocacy workshop in this coastal region of Bangladesh held in Khulna on November 27, 2012. The area of Khulna district is about 4394.46 km². It is part of the largest delta in the world. In the southern part of the delta lies the Sundarban, the world's largest mangrove forest. Rupsha, Bhairab and Kapotakkh are major rivers for Khulna.

There were 38 representatives from government, NGOs, civil societies and displaced people participated in this workshop. Speakers at this event said, "Bangladesh is one of those countries



which are at the highest risk of climate change. Economic and social achievements along with the lands and habitations of the people of coastal and riverbed areas are seriously disrupted by the drastic affects of sea level rising, imbalance in world temperature and heavy rainfall which are resulted by climate change. Again, they stated that reoccurrence of natural calamities like cyclone; storm, tidal surge, tornado etc wear away lands, lives and properties almost every year. As a result these helpless destitute communities cannot afford anymore to build other habitations.” Further, the speakers emphasized on forming an executive body with the involvement of representatives from GO, NGO, Civil Society and Mass Media to work for resolving housing, land and property right based problems faced by the displaced community. Community representatives claimed for meaningful community participation in the distribution of *Khas* lands and any kinds of rehabilitation initiatives. They also suggested that construction of multistoried building for rehabilitation can be one of the options. Training for the displaced people on their rights and livelihood was also recommended.

Advocacy meeting in Satkhira

One of the most disaster prone coastal areas is Satkhira, where advocacy meeting was held on 28th November’12. Satkhira District has an area of 3858.33 square km. The main rivers are the Kopotakhi River, Morichap River, Kholpotua River, Betna River, Raimangal River, Hariabhanga River, Ichamti River, Betrabati River and Kalindi-Jamuna River. There were 38 individuals participated in this event. Speakers in the meeting said that Bangladesh is one of the most climate vulnerable and disaster prone countries in the world. They mainly focused drastic effects of climate change like sea level rising in the coastal & riverbed areas, imbalance in world temperature and heavy rainfall which result economic and social hazards and damage the lives and habitations. They also stated that frequent occurrence of cyclone, storm, tidal surge, and tornado had swept away the land and properties and many more people were becoming helpless losing their land and houses. They recommended helping those who had not been able to rebuild their inhabitants. Speakers of the meeting furthermore highlighted the necessity of a combined attempt among GO, NGO and Civil society to make out right based solution and ensure housing, land and property rights of the displaced community. The meeting was glorified by the participation of people from every stages of the society and they recommended to strengthening GO and NGO coordination and proper selection and distribution of *khas* lands among the displaced families. They also gave emphasized to stop unplanned shrimp cultivation and encourage planned urbanization.



Advocacy meeting in Shariatpur

Next advocacy workshop was held in Shariatpur on 1st December 2012. Shariatpur district is bounded on the north by Munshiganj District, Barisal District on the south, Chandpur District on

the east, Madaripur District on the west. Main rivers are Padma, Meghna, Kirtinasha, Palong, Jayanti and Dharmaganj. Area of Shariatpur district is 1181.53 square km. There were 34 participants from different stakeholders attended in this workshop. Participants worried about climatic hazards emerged in Shariatpur in recent years. Most of the people of this area are affected by river bank erosion, water clogging, salinity intrusion in cultivable lands, frequent flood



and crisis of safe water and sanitation. Frequent climatic hazards are causing distressed conditions of Shariatpur. Where displaced people representatives were asked, whether they want to live within their own locality or shift to other suitable places in the country. They preferred their own locality. Some recommendations came from this meeting are; crop diversification, incorporation of climate change issues in the education curriculum, ensure proper flow of water in the rivers can reduce the losses of land and livelihood.

Advocacy meeting in Rajbari

YPSA organized advocacy meeting in Rajbari district on 2nd December 2012. Rajbari is a district in central Bangladesh. The important river port Paturia and Daulatdia is situated at Goalanda in this district. It is also a transit for Khulna division. 41 individuals actively participated in the meeting. Speakers said that Rajbari district is one of the worst climate affected area of Bangladesh located on the bank of Padma River. The water level of the river Padma continued to rise due to onrush of flood water from the upstream. Unplanned urbanization and building of dams made Rajbari floodplain area. Devastated flood took away lands, houses, crops and lives every year from this part. During monsoon more than half a million people are severely affected by the overflowing and river erosion of these rivers. They discussed about the miseries of affected people who were leading a lifelong of sorrows and sufferings. They stated that the riverbed sedimentation caused by silt from Indian rivers was the main reasons behind the reoccurrence of flood. They recommended the introduction of salinity tolerant hybrid seeds and alternative sustainable housing technique in order to mitigate the effects of natural calamities. They also urged to launch an integrated effort to success the whole project.



Advocacy meeting in Chandpur

YPSA organized 8th Advocacy workshop in Chandpur district on 4th December 2012. This district has a total area of 1,704.06 square kilometers. Chandpur is a conflux of two major rivers, the Padma River (the main branch of the Ganges River) and the Meghna River, which converge near Chandpur town. Several significant tributaries of the Meghna River flow through Chandpur district. These include the Dakatia River, Dhanagoda River, Matlab River and Udhamdi River. The speakers said at the workshop that Bangladesh is one of the vulnerable countries of the world for climate change. As a result of overall climate change in recent times like sea-level rise, temperature imbalance and excessive rainfall hampering people's economic and social achievements including housing and land. Property and belongings of the people are being destroyed again and again by cyclone, storm, tornado and tidal waves in this area. Many of them have lost their homesteads due to frequent natural disasters caused by climate change. After losing everything due to river erosion a lot of people in the Chandpur district are now living in an extremely miserable condition. Many places remain submerged always. Support should be given to those who don't have the ability to cope with climate change and build houses. Right based initiatives should be taken to ensure displaced people's rights. Birth control, appropriation use of allocated funds, tree plantation, establishment of model villages, employment creation and coordination among GO and NGOs' were also got preference.



Advocacy meeting in Lakshmipur

YPSA arranged advocacy meeting in Lakshmipur on 5th December 2012. Lakshmipur with an area of 1455.96 km² is a district of Bangladesh. It is bordered by Chandpur District to the north, Bhola and Noakhali districts to the south, Noakhali District to the east, and Barisal and Bhola districts to the west. There were 35 participants participated in this event. The speakers said at the meeting that river erosion caused by the Meghna is the biggest problem of Lakshmipur. Kamalnagar & Ramgati under this district are the two worst-hit places here. Losing everything due to river



erosion, people are now living on embankment. There is neither healthcare facility nor any education. People have been losing their property and belongings again and again by cyclone, storm, tornado and tidal waves. Many places of the Lakshmipur district are water logged area. People already been dislocated need support from govt. to ensure lives and livelihood. Like other areas they proposed a local coordination committee comprising of multi-stakeholders for

rehabilitation plan and ensuring transparency of govt. allocated fund. This committee will also work as watch dog and ensure proper execution of development initiatives.

Advocacy meeting in Noakhali

The last advocacy meeting with NGOs and civil society was held in Noakhali on 6th December 2012. The district has an area of 3600.99km². It is a coastal District, the Meghna estuary and the Bay of Bengal to the south. There were 38 individuals participated in this event. Speakers said that few of



the biggest rehabilitation projects for displaced peoples are located in this area; they were not successful to that extent. Extreme poverty leads to displacement. Deforestation, land grabbing, became the major concern along with high rate of internal migration from the erosion prone area. Coordinated effort regardless of political identity and mass participation are required to solve this problem in this area. Meeting suggested to proper distribution of *khas* lands and starting of social forestry program. And to develop the capacity of the displaced families so that they can seek alternative livelihood options.

Recommendations

There were some specific recommendations from all advocacy meeting organized in the different above mentioned places. For better understanding we summarize all recommendations in following manner avoiding duplication.

- A comprehensive study to identify the number and condition of the displaced people is an immediate requirement.
- Develop some model cluster village, which can be replicated across the region.
- Ensuring the transparency during any development initiative for climate affected people is one of the prime concerns of the target people and stakeholders.
- Advocacy and lobbying with the policy makers on some policy changes and to incorporate climate victim as first criteria of *Khas* land distribution.
- Fair selection and allocation of *khas* lands to the displaced people as priority
- Stop land grabbing by the political figures and powerful local elites with the help of local administration and engagement of mass people
- Participation of the displaced people in the planning process is must.
- Meaningful participation of local civil society members in the land allocation committee.

- Provide training on technical trade and any other alternative livelihood options will be beneficial
- Introduce diversified and friendly crop species to these people and educate them.
- Initiate awareness campaigns / programs on the effects of climate change and other aspects of displacement.
- A coordination committee can be introduced to ensure proper connection, communication and execution of any kind of project and programs for the displaced people, by GO NGO and civil society.

District level Advocacy Workshop with GO, NGO & Civil Society

Objectives of the District level advocacy

- To inform the concerned people about climate change affect in Bangladesh and also about the housing, land and property rights of climate displaced people.
- To know factual but accessible information and recommendation from the representatives of local NGOs, civil society and government administration for the implementation of existing government facilities, plans and policies to make sure of housing, land and property rights for the climate displaced communities.
- To get opinion on how the existing government facilities, programs and benefits can properly be ensured for the climate displaced people.

Date, place and methodology of the advocacy workshop

The district level advocacy workshop were arranged in Sirajganj, Jessore Feni, Chittagong and Comilla district on 24th November, 2012 , 26th November , 8th December, 13th December and 23rd December respectively. These district level workshops were completely participatory and interactive way with the GOs, NGOs, and civil society representatives. Different participatory methods were applied to ensure the better and effective outcome and recommendations from the advocacy meeting. Power point presentation and open discussion session was also the integral part of each meeting.

Participants of the workshops

YPSA arranged five District level advocacy workshops under Bangladesh HLP rights initiative, which is designed for climate displaced people. Participants of those workshops were from different stakeholders like GOs, NGOs, civil society group, media personnel, who played a major role to success the meeting providing their valuable comments and suggestion for ensuring rights of climate displaced people.

Summary Discussion of Workshops

According to the speeches of the speakers of the District level workshop in Sirajgonj held on 24 November 2012, ground water level in the Sirajganj district is change down in dry season and up in the monsoon. Rainfall pattern is ever changing and it produces abnormal flooding. Such flooding in addition to increased flow of river water from the mighty Jamuna River increases the intensity of riverbank erosion. Riverbank erosion put enormous stress to the people, who reside along with riverbanks as they lost their homestead, agricultural lands and overall agricultural production. The cumulative effects of such losses are income erosion that forces people to displace from their origin and poor (most often marginal) expenditure in food consumption, education, health care sectors. People of Sirajganj become poor in economic conditions that force them to maintain a poor livelihood status and effects of riverbank erosion makes the status more vulnerable.



Speakers of workshop in Jessore, held on 26th November 2012, said that this coastal district is one of the vigorously affected areas in Bangladesh due to climate change. The rivers Kopotakkho and Betra are dying due to river depth are decreasing every year for shortage of water and as a result livelihood of the communities dependent on rivers become poor. Agriculture is facing negative impact of such an unexpected death of our rivers. As a result people who are mainly dependent on the cultivation are now at stake.

Speakers of workshop arranged in Feni on 8th December 2012 identified that river erosion and water logging is the main problem of the people of Feni. Among other Upzillas under the District of Feni, Sonagaji and Fulgaji Upzillas are the most natural disaster affected areas. People of these two



places have lost their belongings and are living beside the river without the slightest protection. They can't afford to build new houses and so that Government should take initiative to rehabilitate this displaced community as early as possible. They again stated that people of these areas can't cultivate their lands as their lands always remain plunged into the water. Moreover they emphasized mainly on a political influence free project for the ensuring the housing, land and property rights of the displaced group of Feni.

Workshop at Chittagong held on 13th December 2012. Speakers said that Chittagong is one of the brutally affected areas in Bangladesh due to climate change. Most of the areas of Chittagong are

suffered from water logging which affects the regular lives of thousands of people here. The drainage system is at the worst condition. Unplanned cut down of hills are causing of manmade hazard. On the other hand many people of different part of Bangladesh also regularly come to many places of Chittagong particularly in the city, which creating situation more worsening. Many migrated people reside on the slope of hills as temporary settlement and often falling to death due to land slide in rainy season. The coastal areas are often flooded due to improper embankment. But any effective step for the prevention is yet to be initiated. Besides, the government *Gucchogram* project is too little to handle the problems of all displaced groups. If NGOs initiate same kind of project, many families can be facilitated under it.”

District level workshop in Comilla held on 23rd December, 2012. Speakers said that Comilla is facing severe water logging from last few years. This people are passing miserable life in the water logged area. Government took initiative to rehabilitate these landless people. Now a day government officials and departments are more concerned to give lands to landless families. They also



mentioned about the corruption in the allotment process. “Government officials have a tendency to allot the *khas* lands to powerful and rich group”. Chief Guest of workshop said that we already have a *Gucchogram* at Salehpur but one settlement site is not enough for all the displaced people of this locality. Being aware of this the Government is looking forward to establish couple of more *gucchogams* facilitated with proper living. We are also preparing for providing proper livelihood to the displaced

ones. Our Government is trying its best and now it’s is good to see that we’re being supported by the NGO’s. He also said, “Under the Tafshil ‘Kha’ all khas lands are being enlisted but not all of these are available to be allotted. Government may have some development plans. Besides, there includes a lot legal procedures which will require various types of formalities which slows down the allotment.” He also mentioned the importance of departmental cooperation among the Government. He sought cooperation from all so that the Government can ensure a fair distribution of khas land among those who were really landless. “A coordinated effort can help us to meet the challenges.” He declared.

Speakers from the entire district said that to resolve the homeless of climate displaced people; Bangladesh govt. initiated two rehabilitation project, *Ashrayon* project and *Gucchogram* project for them. There is a management committee for the *Gucchogram* where UNO is the chairman of the committee, AC land is the member secretary and officers from different government departments and public representatives are the members of it. Upazilla Project Implementation Officer is responsible for implementing the project. Further, Agriculture officer and Health officer have to visit the project twice a week. Without these, the families at the *Gucchogram* project are given VGD, VGF, disabled and old age benefits. But the reality is that government has limitation and so it is not possible to provide support to all.

Recommendation of District level workshops

- Prepare a list of Climate displaced people by the district administration to incorporate them within the existing facilities.
- Create employment opportunity e.g. petty business, cattle rearing, hatchery etc.
- Provide free education for their children.
- Local level leaders should come forward to implement the YPSA initiative successfully.
- Proper dredging of the canals and rivers is necessary to increase the capacity of the rivers.
- Proper monitoring of land allocation should be done so that no one can influence this either politically or personally.
- Major portion of *khas* lands are enjoyed by politically powerful land grabbers. So distribute these lands among landless people after acquiring from these land grabbers.
- More *Gucchogram* should be established to ensure settlement of all displaced people.
- Government facilities that are promised in those *Gucchograms* should be ensured.
- Ensure the proper water flow in the river and stop encroachments.
- Coordinated efforts by the NGOs' are required.
- Organize coordination meetings at the Union parishad/ grassroots level to ensure proper execution of development initiatives.
- Ensure participation and engagement of target people in the process.
- Regular maintenance of drainage system to reduce water logging in the city area.
- Provide loan at a very low interest rate and build shelter for them.
- Outer dam can be build at the coastal areas. Number of cyclone shelters is needed to be increased and renovations of risky, expired shelters are necessary.
- Identify the needs and problems of the erosion affected people and the set the plan to rehabilitate them.
- Develop an area such a way that people can look for employment opportunities.
- Ensure basic facilities and recreation opportunities in the rehabilitation projects.
- Introduce modern technologies for crop cultivation for newly emerged islands (Char).
- Develop positive attitude of the political leaders towards policy implementation.
- Create cluster villages / model villages and rehabilitate displaced people there.
- Identify *Khas* lands locally and take necessary steps to rehabilitate displaced people.

National Level Advocacy Workshop with GO, NGO & Civil Society

Objectives of the Advocacy Meeting

- To aware the different stakeholders for climate change impact, risk and vulnerability options in Bangladesh

- To share the regional climate change risk assumption, mitigation and adaptation with the participants of local NGO, civil society and governments and also about the housing, land and property rights of climate displaced people.
- To receive the suggestions and recommendation from participants of the workshop for the future work plan of better settlement for the climate displaced people
- To disseminate the information acquired through research studies.

Date, Place and methodology of the national level workshop

The national level advocacy workshops were held on Chittagong and Khulna on 30th December'2012 and 26th February, 2013 respectively. There are 117 and 46 participants were actively involved in the national level workshop at Chittagong and Khulna in that order. These district level workshops were completely participatory and interactive way with the GOs, NGOs, and civil society representatives. Different participatory methods were applied to ensure the better and effective outcome and recommendations from the advocacy meeting. Power point presentation and open discussion session was also the integral part of each meeting.

Participants of discussion session of the workshops

The national level workshop at Chittagong chaired by Md. Saidur Rahman (ADC-Education and Development), Md. Abdul Mannan (DC-Chittagong) was present as chief guest. Other notable guest speakers were Md. Jafar Alam (Deputy Director of Department of Environment in Chittagong), Prof. Al-Amin (Dept of Forestry in CU) Suria Akter Sweety (Assistant Commissioner-DC Office), Ex Prof. Muhammed Sikander Khan (Chittagong University), Mohammed Gias Uddin (Counselor of Chittagong City Corporation), Adv. Rehana Begum Ranu (Counselor of Chittagong City Corporation), Md. Abu Jaher (Coordinator-ADAP), Jesmin Sultana Paru (ED of ELLMA), Md. Absar Uddin (ED of Perfect Trust), Chowdhury Sharifur Rahman (District Representative of BRAC) and Ajoy Mitro Shongku (Divisional Coordinator of Proshika) participated among others during the discussion session.

National level workshop at Khulna was presided by Mr. Dev Proshad Sarkar, Executive Director of LoCOS and chaired by Mr. Abdul Halim, ADC (General of Khulna district). Professor Anawrul Kadir, Advocate Firoz Ahmed and ward commissioner of Khulna City Corporation Mr. Ali Akber Tipo was present this meeting as a special guests. The other honorable speakers of the workshop were Mohammed Zakaria (ED of GOUF), Abdur Rahman (ED of RDC), Md. Abu Jafar Siddique (ED of CRESCENT), Mahdab Chandra Mitra (ED of SoDESH), Binoy Kr Mollik (ED of Right Jessore), Tuser Kanti Roy (Assistant Professor-Khulna University of Engineering and Technology), Uma Sanker (Chairman of Kamarkhali), Hasan Mehedi (CE of HWF), Mahfuzur Rahman (Coordinator-BELA), Shamim Arefin (ED of AOSED), Mr. Sekh Abdul Razaak (Daily Prothom Alo) and Kabirul Islam (Representative of Displaced People)

Summary discussion of the Workshop

Speakers of the workshop held in Chittagong said that this is commercial capital of Bangladesh. Located at the bank of Bay of Bengal, this eastern coast has to bear many cycle warnings than any other part of the country. Everyday this commercially important city attracts thousands of people for a better and secure life. Most of the areas of Chittagong are suffered from water logging which

increasing enormously in every year during monsoon. The drainage system is at the worst condition. The coastal areas are often flooded due to improper embankment. The most important rivers Karnaphuli, Matamuhuri, Sangu, Bakkhali, Ichamati are flowing beside the Chittagong region. So, coastal erosion is the common problem for Chittagong communities. Drinking water crisis and sanitation problem become higher in the remote area of Chittagong. Saline water intrusion is also creating negative impact on agriculture and fish farming. But any effective step for the prevention, mitigation and adaptation of climatic disasters are yet to be initiated. Besides, the government *guchogram* project is not enough as required.



Speakers of the Khulna advocacy workshop said that Khulna is one of the important sea port area of Bangladesh and world largest mangrove ecosystem Sundarban makes this region most prideful. This South-western part of Bangladesh is one of the disaster prone zones of the globe owing to its geographical location as well as natural reasons. Due to climate change the frequency and intensity of disasters in the coastal area are increasing, threaten lives and livelihood. A large number of people are become ultra poor due to disaster and climate change effect. Speakers also said that Climate change had left an adverse impact on the Khulna coastal belt where storms, cyclones, tidal surges, droughts, river erosion and water-logging are now common. They referred to several storms that have already battered the area recently, like Sidr on November 15, 2007 and Aila on May 25, 2009. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) could reduce vulnerability in coastal people.

The speakers of both workshops also said that if we implement sustainable activity for the natural resource dependent coastal people, especially for the women, disabled community and low income group then the socio-economic condition will be strong and such adaptation capacity will be enhancing. Alternative livelihood option can improve food security in the coastal belt. To enhance adaptation capacity and awareness campaign could build disaster resilience community and alternative livelihood and better settlement of climate displaced peoples. As a result these helpless destitute communities cannot afford anymore to build other habitations.” Further, the speakers emphasized on forming an executive body with the involvement of representatives from GO, NGO, Civil Societies and Mass Media to work for



resolving housing, land and property right based problems faced by the displaced community. Everyone agreed on that steps should be taken to ensure rights of the displaced people. Also simultaneous activities to ensure life and living of these people are also mandatory. Empowerment of the local people and joint initiative with the local government will ensure the proper execution YPSA-HLP project activities. In the two national level workshops, the participants agreed that right based approach should be taken to identify and to address HLP rights issues of climate victims and landless people. They also gave emphasis on coordination among government, non government organizations and civil society.

Outcome of the workshops

- Participants of the workshop was clearly understood the objectives and activities of the HLP project an contributed to the workshop as well
- The discussion was fully participatory based and they have given their concept and suggestion which will be very much effective for future initiative of better settlement of displaced people
- It has been possible to be properly and adequately notified about the matters like - where to work in the future in order to save the rights of the displaced people.

Recommendations

- Climate Change Trust fund and resilience fund should be distributed properly and experienced organization should also be selected for effective climate change adaptation work
- Communication and Coordination between the government, affected communities and civil society should be increased on climate displacement issues
- The Standing Order on Disasters (SoD) may be extended to include management of disasters such as riverbank and coastal erosion, drought, salinity intrusion, etc
- Issues concerning climate variability and change need to be spearheaded and coordinated both nationally and internationally by one designated institution rather than more than one institution.
- Climate displacement issue should be incorporated in all govt. climate change related policy and planning document
- Different research work for condition and sustainable livelihood of displaced peoples should be necessary. The review of the previous research is essential to identify any mishaps and reasons behind those occurrences.
- Climate displacement monitoring mechanism should be initiated by the Govt.
- Appropriate list for displaced population should be transparent by the local administration.
- Local government administration should be involved in the project of climate displacement

- Alternative livelihood opportunity should be ensured for rehabilitate the homeless and landless people from the coastal areas
- Proper monitoring of land allocation should be done so that no one can influence this either politically or personally.

IEC materials developed under the project of Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative

Sticker

This is a small visible display material, which can be pasted easily on anything. The objective of development of this material is to ensure mass visibility and introduce project's name and theme to target audience. It can also useful for triggering peoples' thoughts on the most two important issues like land and home, which urgently needed for climate displaced people. The main advantage of sticker is to easy handling, easy distributing and pasting in small visible place as well as creates concentration on specific message. People also get some idea looking at the picture. During the HLP project 2012 YPSA printed 40,000 stickers, which is displaying and sharing in various way like pasting in govt. and non-govt. offices, vehicle, any visible places and share with participant of different advocacy meeting/ workshop.



Posters

HLP poster is a large printed material using to disseminate information to the target audience. It covers mass people through displaying several messages. It contains pictures which attracts attention of the people and drive them to seek more information about the program. It also ensures visibility of the donor and implementing agencies and their commitment and approach towards climate displaced person. During the project period of HLP 2012, YPSA developed and printed 10,000 posters, which has been displaying in various public places and distribution among the GO, NGOs and advocacy meeting participants.



Folder

HLP folder is a more elaborate material to give it to any close group event participants and stakeholders. It is used with the other documents as a decoration material, which also contains many more documents in its inner box. It is easy to get brief information about the project from this folder such as objective of the program, HLP rights and messages on HLP initiative. It also contains more illustrated pictures relevant to this project. In HLP 2012 project, YPSA developed and printed 3500 folders, which has been disseminating those through different advocacy meeting/ workshop and one to one meeting with relevant stakeholders.

Concluding remarks of this sub project

It was desired in the TOR that YPSA will develop a lobbying and advocacy strategy with its local and national partners with a view to raising the profile of climate displacement and generating increasing political attention to this matter. With some limitations like political unrest and disaster event, YPSA with the support of its development partners made this sub project successful and have been able to raising the profile of climate displacement among the different stakeholders of Bangladesh. These advocacy meeting/ workshop were very much effective to popularise the issue of climate displacement. To success these advocacy YPSA utilized the IEC materials developed for the advocacy of HLP Rights initiative. By this way hopefully we will be able to generating increasing political attention to this matter. These advocacy activities should be continued until and unless climate displaced peoples' rights are ensured.

4. Hosting DS Representatives and International Photographer Kadir van Lohuizen

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

A team of two members from Displacement Solution, Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham (as Focal Person of Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative) 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 days 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

Displacement Solution team visited different climate change affected areas like Chandpur Sadar, Haimchar Upazilla of Chandpur District, Comilla Sadar Upazila of Comilla District, Muhuri Project of

Mirsarai upazila, Sandip Kalapania Union, Sandip Sarikat Union, Sitakund Upazilla of Chittagong District, William Carey Academy of Chittagong City and Cox's Bazar sadar Upazila of Cox's Bazar District.

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** Displacement Solutions team visited different union and Char (River Island) areas of Haimchar Upazilla, under Chandpur District. They observed the river erosion effected places and worst situation of the displaced communities. They also observed the education facilities and water and sanitation scenario in those places. During their visit they asked the climate victims about their present livelihood and their experience with climatic disaster. 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. In that meeting they discussed about river erosion, others climatic disaster of the District and migrated people residing in the slum of Comilla city. They also curious to know the role of GO and NGOs to work with climate displaced people.

Comilla DC office and Muhuri CDSP project

On April 18, the team had a short conversation with Dr. Harun Ur Rashid, ADC-Education & Development and Executive Magistrate Md. Rejaur Rahman about the registration, assessment or

statistics of climate displaced persons at the national level and also *Khas* land issue. ADC of Comilla assured that DS would be given necessary support for taking any initiative on climate change issue as it is one of the prior issues to the government. 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

Sandwip Upazila, as an island, is one of the climate change vulnerable area of Bangladesh due to frequent coastal erosion, sea level rise and cyclonic storms. So, no. of climate displaced peoples are enormously higher among other regions of Bangladesh. **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. They asked Mayor about the initiative taken by the Municipal Council; support provided by government, situation of displaced people, demand of vulnerable people and what are the barriers of meeting the demand.



Mission at river erosion affected area at Banglabazar in Sandwip

DS team also travelled to Sarikat Union located in the South-west part of Sandwip Island. In this Union many displaced people are living on embankment, where they found a big breach in the embankment. People said that the bank was breached few days ago by overflow of water during high tide of an unusual storm. They said more than 100 houses washed away by that flood. They also talked to Md. Younus Mia, member of Sarikat Union Parisad and wanted to know the local initiative, government support to face this frequent disaster due to climate change. The community requested to strengthen and heighten the embankment and proposed a major dam in the island.

Sandwip

On April 20, DS team went to Kalapania Union, another erosion prone area, and met Civil society representative from whom they sought suggestions on CC issues. They were informed about the havoc of climatic displaced peoples and possible suggestions to alternative livelihoods and shelters. Team also talked with Union Parishad Member Haji Yousuf about the same issues.



Mission with Mayor of Sandwip

Sitakund

On the same day they reached Sitakund Upazilla to met UNO, Mr. Md. Alamgir Hossain, 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. They also visited radio Sagor Giri, community radio initiated by YPSA, and Mr. Ezekie gave an interview to the radio.

Meeting with the 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. DS mission was very pleased to meet with the minister as it helps them to understand the approach, plan, preparation, and capacity of government in policy making level on climate change issues. 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 Mission of Displacement Solutions

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



Meeting between DS Mission and YPSA Senior Team

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. Mohammad 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;

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; Incorporation

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 appreciated 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 returned back **on 29 April 2012.**

DS visit to Bangladesh in January 2013

Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham (Focal person of Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative) from UK visited Bangladesh for meeting with a range of senior Government officials and representatives including Sree Nani Gopal Mondol, Member of Parliament, Khulna-1, Dr. S M Munjurul Hannan Khan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest and Mr. Mohammad Abdul Wazed, Director General, Disaster Management Department during his 4th visit in Bangladesh. The visit was held from 17th January'13 to 20th January'13 in Dhaka.

Objectives of the visit

- To engage in high-level lobbying and advocacy with representatives from the central Government of Bangladesh, seeking to find durable and rights-based solutions to climate displacement across the country;
- To raise awareness among key stakeholders of the *Climate Displacement in Bangladesh: The Need for Urgent Housing, Land and Property Rights Solutions* publication, as well as other DS & YPSA publications on climate displacement;
- To meet with national-level stakeholders, including civil society, UN and international agencies to advocate on taking effective action to resolve climate displacement and to promote the activities and recommendations of DS and YPSA;

Details of the Visit

Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham from Displacement Solutions arrived at Dhaka on 17th January, 2013 at afternoon and directly came to YPSA Dhaka office. After resting for a moment he sat with YPSA team for a short meeting at YPSA Dhaka office. Chief Executive of YPSA Mr. Arifur Rahman and Team Leader of YPSA HLP project Mr. Shahjahan was also the participant of that meeting. Meeting discussed and reviewed all the activities completed under the Bangladesh Housing, Land and Properties (HLP) right initiative. And later on he had been shown pictorial display of HLP initiative so far implemented in Bangladesh including future road map.

On the same day he met with YPSA team and two researchers Mr. Shamsuddoha and Mr. Sahidullah, who were played key role for conducting three studies. In this meeting participants discussed about the process, methodology and outcome and challenges of the research work and areas need to be improved of reports. The meeting had scope to detail out the entire process of study and challenges faced. How methodology was followed also shared in the meeting. The meeting ended followed by dinner at YPSA office.



On the next day, 18th January, 2013 Mr. Zeke met with Sree Nani Gopal Mondol, Member of Parliament, Khulna-1 at Parliament hostel, Dhaka. At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Zeke described his motto to come here and what DS doing in Bangladesh with its partner YPSA. He asked Mr. Mondol about the govt. role on climate change issue and also better settlement of displacement communities. He also interested to know displacement issue in his constituency as a climate vulnerable area. Mr. Mondol was very much positive to listen DS and happy to know that DS and YPSA working for climate displaced people of Bangladesh through Bangladesh HLP initiative. He appreciated this initiative for climate displaced peoples and gave some suggestions to resolve



this matter. He recommended that displacement problem varies place to place, so for his constituency he proposed to develop model resettlement of displaced people. He was very enthusiastic to give a special public notice to parliament for fruitful discussion in the next meeting.

Mr. Zeke again sat in a meeting at YPSA Dhaka Office on 18th January with YPSA team members for new activities, which were committed by DS for 2013 and finalize the content of TORs through mutual discussion. After that YPSA and DS discussed on the next five years project proposal from 2013 to 2017. The meeting was very effective as different suggestions and mutual agreement on came out through friendly discussion.

Mr. Zeke again sat in a meeting at YPSA Dhaka Office on 18th January with YPSA team members for new activities, which were committed by DS for 2013 and finalize the content of TORs through mutual

In the evening a diner meeting was organized with Dr. S M Munjurul Hannan, Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forest and Focal Point of climate negotiation team of this ministry. In this meeting, main discussion issue were climate change and displacement people's livelihood and their resettlement, role and responsibilities of Ministry of Environment and Forest on climate

change impact and adaption of displacement communities. Dr. Hannan said that Ministry of Environment and Forest is playing a coordinating role of climate change issue as a responsible



ministry of Bangladesh govt. He also agreed with issue of climate induced displacement and said that govt. has plan to rehabilitate them in many ways by different ministry though there are suitable land scarcity as per his opinion. He acknowledged the necessity of displacement monitoring and also discussed about govt. capacity particularly financial. When discussed about *khas* land issue, he also agreed that this is very complicated issue of Bangladesh, which need mass awareness for political commitment.

According to the schedule, Mr. Zeke visited Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) on 19th January, 2013 at JATRI Office of Dhaka. He discussed with Mr. Jamil Ahmed, the Chief Executive of JATRI, about the media role of climate displacement issue. Mr. Jamil detail out the role and responsibilities of media and also discussed its effectiveness in the policy level. He particularly emphasized that media (print and electronic) is a very effective advocacy tools to attract the policy makers, different relevant govt. officials and raising awareness among mass people.



There was also a very nice and effective lunch meeting with Mr. Mohammad Abdul Wazed, Director General of Disaster Management Department. The major issues of the meeting were climate change vulnerability and remedy of displaced peoples in the affected areas; role of



Disaster Management Department to rescue them in safe home and land. Mr. Wazed also very positive to the discussion and shared his entire experiences and role of his department. He provided some suggestion to incorporate climate induced displaced people with existing govt. facilities. He also assured that he will do his best for the betterment of climate induced displaced people through incorporating them in priority list and to accelerate this process NGOs and civil society group need to create mass awareness and raise voice on behalf of them.

On 19th January 2013, Mr. Zeke met with Mr. M Aminul Islam, Senior Advisor-Sustainable Development, UNDP and Mr. Md. Ashekur Rahman, Urban Analyst, UNDP at Dinner to advocate UN and international agencies on taking effective action to resolve climate displacement issue and

to know their future planning to work with climate displacement communities in Bangladesh. UN team cleared their position on this issue and congratulated DS to choose Bangladesh working in the field of people displacement. They also provided some suggestion for future successful



working in this issue. Mr. Zeke was also happy to know UN initiative on Climate displacement agenda.

Mr. Zeke left Dhaka for Bangkok along with Mr. Arifur Rahman and Mr. Mohammad Shahjahan on 20th January'13. During feedback on entire visit, Mr. Zeke thanked YPSA to organize very nice schedule utilizing time effectively and successfully arranged all scheduled meeting. He expressed that under the Bangladesh HLP initiative YPSA and DS will carry out

research identifying government factors responsible for the resolution of climate displacement in the country, provide growing legal assistance to local organizations to better support climate affected communities and a range of additional measures with our civil society partners and the Government of Bangladesh to find urgent housing, land and property rights solutions for the current and future millions of climate displaced people across Bangladesh.

Concluding remarks of this sub project

Hosting of successful visit of DS representative International Photographer Kadir van Lohuizen was expected by the DS as per TOR. And as per clause of TOR it was mentioned that total two visits need to be hosted by the YPSA i.e. one visit by a DS representative (Zeke Simperingham) in April 2012 and another visit by world-renowned photographer Kadir van Lohuizen in late 2012. During this project period, YPSA successfully hosted two visits, one visit by Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham and Mr. Stephane Jeannet on April 2012 and another visits by Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham on January 2013. But due to some unavoidable reason from the part of visitor, YPSA had no scope to hosting International Photographer Kadir van Lohuizen. But YPSA always ready to host Mr. Kadir in Bangladesh. Over all it can be said that YPSA succeed in this sub project.

Major Additional Activities performed relevant with HLP rights initiatives:

Meeting between YPSA and DS at London

A meeting was held between YPSA and DS in London on Monday 19 November and Tuesday 20 November, 2012. Mr. Md, Arifur Rahman, Chief Executive of YPSA, and Mr Ezekiel Simperingham, Focal Person of Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative, took part in the meeting. The meeting had many discussion points and some specific decision as mentioned bellow.

Main discussion points

- Advocacy initiative taken so far by YPSA
- Progress of three land studies report
- Coastal Kids Project
- Kadir's Visit (plus Journalist from New York Times)

- Challenges Experienced to Date by the HLP project
- Future Activities
 - Fact Finding Mission (DS visit to Dhaka in January'13)
 - Bangkok Workshop on Relocation and Resettlement (January'13)
 - Examined in detail the joint DS & YPSA 5 year proposal

Some Specific decisions

- YPSA to send a soft and hard copy of the IEC materials to Zeke and Scott.
- DS to advise on funding for projects beginning in January, then YPSA can prepare the documents (specific activities and budget) for NGO Bureau approval and the letter of intent/commitment.
- DS to confirm available dates for January visit to Dhaka as soon as they are known and DS to advise on separate budget for the January visit.
- DS to invite 1-2 representatives from YPSA to attend in the Bangkok workshop
- Next 5 years updated proposal will be drafted and emailed to DS & YPSA for comments within the next week by Zeke

It should be mentioned here that all the decision had take in the meeting already been met by each of partly.

Participate in the Bangkok Workshop on Relocation and Resettlement

A workshop was organized by Displacement Solutions in Bangkok, Thailand on 22nd January 2013. The objective of the workshop was to discuss in detail on the draft paper on "CLIMATE CHANGE, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT: AN OVERVIEW WITH A SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL PROFILE OF EXPOSURE AND VULNERABILITY IN BANGLADESH" prepared by Professor Anthony Oliver Smith from the University of Florida. Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman, CE of YPSA, and Mr. Mohammad Shahjahan, Team Leader of HLP project, participated from YPSA, Bangladesh. Mr. Scott Leckie, Director and founder of DS, Mr. Ezekiel Simperingham, legal consultant for Displacement Solutions, Ms. Pajaree Suwannakarn, Protection Information Associate of UNHCR, also participated as participants.

After introduction each other Mr. Anthony Oliver Smith shared the main points of the draft paper in details, simultaneously discussion also held on many points. The workshop also created opportunity to discuss the Bangladesh issue particularly of HLP initiative in Bangladesh. That was very interactive workshop we ever participated. In addition to that workshop, YPSA and DS also had a meeting on ongoing project, coming HLP-2013 project and next five years proposal of DS-YPSA. That was also very effective and result oriented meeting and based on the meeting DS and YPSA already been able to finalize the HLP 2013 project.

Working on next 5 years Project Proposals

Beside the ongoing project activities YPSA team and DS team had intensively worked on the next five years proposal with the title of Bangladesh HLP Rights Initiative, which supposed to be the successor project of this ongoing study focused project. In this regards DS and YPSA has been communicating each other through email, Skype and meeting to prepare need based appropriate

proposal for the climate displaced people of Bangladesh. Finally we, the both team, have been able to finalize the proposal to sell it out. Hope very soon we will get green signal from the donor agency for funding the next five years project 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.

Political Unrest in the Bangladesh

Political situation of Bangladesh cannot be forecasted. Within the short notice any kind political program is announced even harmful for mass people like *hartal* (strike). During the visit of DS Mission on April 2012, they had to face this problem too. Recently frequent *hartal* is being declared political clash has been common. In last one month more than 120 people died due to political conflict. This situation is disrupting ongoing development interventions by different organizations. There is possibility for general election at end of this year and Govt. & opposition still have a big gap regarding the process of holding election so, there is chance to declare harder political program by the opposition including *hartal*.

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
- Attractive IEC materials can be effective for good advocacy.

Conclusion

This report mainly focused on the four sub projects as per TOR that are Identify a school and appropriate contact person for DS' Coastal Kids Project, 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, Lobbying and Advocacy to raise the Political Profile of Climate Displacement and for Land

Allocation to Climate Displaced Communities, Hosting DS Representatives and International Photographer Kadir van Lohuizen.

Over this period YPSA has been successful for school and contact person selection of Coastal Kids Project including launching of Skype conversation, conduct three studies and submission of final three reports to the DS, different advocacy meeting and workshop in climate vulnerable area including development of IEC materials using for advocacy and successful hosting of DS mission in Bangladesh for two times. There were some limitations during execution of entire project and YPSA tried to meet those through utilizing its long experiences in the development filed. This project also created informal network among the different likeminded organization working with the climate change issue.

YPSA has been successful in 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 their 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. Conclusion can be drawn with a quote recently expressed in a seminar by Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman, convener of Bangladesh Climate Change Negotiation Team, while speaking as the chief guest. He said that "at present, no reliable data is available about the climate-displaced people in the country. In absence of data about the climate refugees, we can't place the issue in global negotiations."

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