

Addressing the Rights and Needs of Climate Forced Displaced people in the South-Eastern Coast of Bangladesh

Interim Project Narrative Report

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Submitted by
YPSA (Young Power in Social Action)

a) Summary

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, YPSA has been implementing the project of 'Bangladesh Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights Initiative' climate displaced people since 2012 with the support of Displacement Solutions including community based relocation of 9 families of Sandwip Island in the Sitakund upazila of Chittagong district under the One House, One Family at a time pilot project.

At present, YPSA has been implementing the project titled "Addressing the Rights and Needs of Climate Induced Displaced Peoples of South-Eastern Coast of Bangladesh" with the support of New Venture Fund through CJRF since December 2019. The main focus of the project is to fulfill rights of vulnerable climate forced displaced household and also giving special importance to address their basic needs those are living in the temporary settings. The project also works with the different stakeholders such as community leaders, local elected government representative, local level government administration/service providers, local media, NGOs, CSOs as part of advocacy to acknowledge the facts of climate forced displacement and playing a positive role in favor of displaced people.

In this reporting year-1 of YPSA-CJRF project, YPSA has been able to build the capacity of community teams, which increases their leadership skills and motivated them to voluntarism and mobilizing people. With these skills community teams organized different community engagement events by mobilizing community people and doing campaign with different stakeholders including local level Government administration for claiming their rights and fulfill their needs. Women group participated in the courtyard session and they are becoming resilient to the changing situation by taking alternative income generation, and practicing health hygiene. They have been united and raising voice for their rights and having access to the government exiting services. In the different community engagement events, women participation was very significant. By the project intervention, drinking water and sanitation facilities significantly improved for displaced people living in the temporary setting having access to safe drinking water and sanitary latrine. The main challenge of this reporting period is the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which compel us to move slow and do the activities within the limitation. Though indoor events with large gathering was prohibited including the limitation of work with the local government offices due to COVID-19 but YPSA took alternative plan to do the field level activities with the involvement of community team maintaining health safety and social distancing.

b) Major Activities performed

- **Court Court Yard meeting for climate displaced people:** YPSA has conducted 50 courtyard meetings according to the work plan. After the lockdown period ended in Bangladesh from March to June, YPSA has conducted the court yard meeting with limited participants and maintaining the physical distance and following health rules like wearing mask and other safety precautions. Over the time, following important changes have observed among the participants: a) Increased awareness on rights of climate displaced people what are they missing in their uncertain life; b) Increased hygiene practice of family members; c) Consistent growth of alternative income of women after having skills training and input support from the project such as goat rearing, tailoring business; d) Improved the mind set for the future initiative for starting different climate resilience income generating activities in local context.



Courtyard meeting

- **Community Team Formation:** YPSA formed 10 community teams with the participation of local people in the project areas where 50% participants are women. The major criteria to be a member of the community team is, they must be a climate forced displaced person, have a willingness to do voluntary work and for mobilizing community people for claiming their rights in the project areas. Each community team consists of 10 members (both male and female).



Moments of Community team Formation

- **Capacity Building Training for Community Team Members:** YPSA provided 5 capacity building training for the 10 community team members in the working areas. The main focus of this training was voluntarism and the role of volunteerism in social development; leadership development; problem identification and solving; advocacy process for claiming the rights of climate displaced people and dealing with the situation of the COVID-19 epidemic and self-protection. Community teams now working to mobilize the displaced people for raising awareness, facilitate elementary services for vulnerable households, holding campaign such as rally, human chain, and letter writing to the relevant authorities for claiming their rights. Over the time, following important changes have observed among the community team members: a) Increased leadership skills of the community team members; b) Increased voluntarism among the



Capacity Building Training for community team members

team members; c) Community team members now experienced with advocacy with different stakeholders and community people for community development; d) Hygiene practice and social distancing behavior increased among the team members to protect themselves from COVID-19; e) Community team members now sensitizing the community people for maintaining social distancing, wearing masks and hygienic behavior for protecting the villages from COVID-19 epidemic.

- **Community Engagement Events by Community Team members:** With the support of YPSA, Community team organized 8 community engagement events in the working areas. Community events include human chain and community dialogue event for demanding sustainable embankment, rehabilitation of climate displaced people, and distribution of *khas land* (government owned land) to displaced people and giving priority to climate displaced people in Government rehabilitation program like *Ashrayan* and *Guchogram* program in these upazilas. During the human chain and community dialogue events, people demonstrated different festoons and posters for demanding “We do not need relief, required sustainable embankment”, “please save us from loss our home and land”, “We want to live safely, not to be displaced” and so on during the human chain events. These events were published and broadcasted in print and electronic media.



Human Chain by community team members

- **Capacity building of 10 displaced households on alternative livelihood:** For building capacity on alternative livelihood of climate induced displaced people in the working areas, YPSA team conducted need assessment survey for the training requirement among the displaced people. After that, listed displaced people has segregated as per their vulnerabilities, i.e. highly vulnerable, moderate vulnerable and low vulnerable. Community team was involved to identify the highly vulnerable families. The criteria for selection of beneficiaries for the training are – a) family monthly income below 5000 Taka; b) living beside the embankment or road side; c) household family members are more than 6 persons; d) housing structure are polythene shed; e) earning members are females; and f) main occupation of the family are day labour, fishermen, rickshaws/van puller/ CNG drivers etc. Based on these criteria and consultation with the community team, YPSA finalized most vulnerable displaced family list. Through the needs assessment survey it is found that the major alternative livelihood training options are tailoring (sewing machine) training considering the location and scope of displaced communities. Total 10 women selected for the tailoring training and the trainings were provided by the local trained women.



Skill Development Training

- **Capital support for small business/IGA to 10 displaced households:** After completion of training on sewing (tailoring), 10 females provided a sewing machine each as the capital support for income generating activities. Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kutubdia and Banskhali inaugurated the sewing machine distribution to the trained women. These women now earning money from preparing dress according to the demand of customer and their income supporting their families for solve the economic crisis. YPSA team is regularly monitoring these women IGA activities.



Capital support distribution to beneficiaries

- **Consultation workshop with different stakeholders at the union and upazila level:** YPSA organized 2 upazila level and 2 union level advocacy meetings with upazila administration and union council elected bodies and different stakeholders as a campaign for ensuring the need based services for the displaced people and giving priority to displaced people in the existing rehabilitation program and sharing the plan of action for planned relocation of climate displaced people in the safe places in respective areas. Participants of these meetings realized the fact of displaced people and given commitment to come forward to solve the problems of displaced people. They also appreciated the YPSA activities particularly of capacity building of community team for claiming their rights, mass awareness raising among the women, skill development training, need based support and relocation program for displaced people.



Consultation meeting at the upazila level

One to One meeting with relevant stakeholders:

According to the workplan, there are 6 one to one meetings held with relevant key stakeholders which are closely involved with Government policy makers in national level. These meetings discussed the present scenario of climate displaced people, need of specific policy framework to address the rights of displaced people, contemporary conditions of Government rehabilitation program and project intervention to solve the climate displacement problem in all over the country.



One to One meeting

- **Safe drinking water supply to Climate Displaced People:** Drinking water crisis becomes the major problem of displaced people living in the temporary settings, particularly during the winter and summer season. Based on the feasibility study and consultation with the Upazila Public Health Department and community team, YPSA installed 3 deep tubewells (1000-1250 feet depth) in working areas. Afterward, people are very happy to take safe drinking water from deep tubewells and opined that they will not suffer any water borne disease in future.



● *Collecting drinking water*

- **Provide sanitation support to displaced people:** YPSA with the support of community team provided 10 families hygienic latrine in the working areas. Targeted 10 families are very happy after having hygiene latrine. Beneficiaries stated that they were habituated in open latrine use and suffered different diseases. Now their disease outbreak has become low over the 2.5 months after installation of sanitary latrine.



- **Selection of displaced households for planned relocation:** YPSA selected 2 climate displaced families of Banskali upazila for planned relocation with the following rigorous selection process. YPSA team first selected Chanua union of Banskali upazila for relocating the 2 families because of vulnerability and mass numbers of displaced families living nearby embankment of the union. After that, YPSA arranged discussion with community team members for beneficiary selection for relocation in their desired places followed by in-depth interview of selected households. YPSA discussed with local government representatives, community team and civil society representatives for the final selection of the 2 climate displaced families in Chanua union of Banskali upazila. After selection of final beneficiaries, capacity building training for the selected families started immediately and they are receiving tailoring training, driving training and net repairing training.



The family selected for relocation purpose

c) Progress towards outcomes and objectives

No	Outcome	Achievement
01	Climate forced displaced people have increased capacity to claim their rights and secure their livelihoods	<p>According to the workplan of 1st year, YPSA completed 50 courtyard meeting, formation of 10 community team and conducted 5 capacity building for 100 community teams; 8 Community engagement events by climate displaced people; skill development training (Tailoring) for 10 climate displaced families and 4 members of the 2 relocating households such as tailoring, driving, net preparing for their alternative livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>With this kind of support by YPSA, climate forced displaced people of the working areas are now able to claim their rights by organizing themselves through different campaign programs such as human chain, community dialogue, submitting memorandum letter etc. Besides, skills training for alternative livelihood of displaced families have been effective and income of trained displaced household increased.</p>
2	Relevant stakeholders are playing a positive role in securing rights based solutions to climate forced displacement.	<p>According to the workplan of 1st year, YPSA arranged 4 Consultation workshops with different stakeholders at the union and upazila level. Relevant stakeholders in the local level now understand the rights of displaced people and they are playing their positive role toward the rights and needs of displaced people. For example, Local Government Authority comes forward to provide the necessary certificates as landless to climate displaced people, relevant Government office gives commitment to provide <i>khas land</i> to land less and incorporate them to the Government rehabilitation program in the working areas.</p>
3	Decision-makers are taking initiative toward an appropriate policy framework for holistically addressing climate forced displacement.	<p>According to the work plan, YPSA conducted 6 one to one meetings with national level policy makers for taking initiative toward an appropriate policy framework on addressing rights of climate displaced people. Decision makers took this issue very positively and gave commitment to do from their side for the rights of displaced people.</p>
4	Climate forced displaced people are leading a better life and have increased adaptive capacity due to new support received for critical needs	<p>According to work plan of 1st year, YPSA provided 10 swing machines to trained women as input/capital support, installed 3 deep tubewells and 10 hygienic latrines for the climate displaced people. Trained climate displaced households now earning by operating their own swing machine and supporting their families as well. Besides, sanitation and drinking water crisis now ended for the climate displaced people of the working areas having hygienic latrines and deep tubewell facilities.</p>
5	Climate forced displaced people have shelter, water, and related facilities in a safer location	<p>According to the work plan, YPSA selected 2 families for relocating in the working area through rigorous selection process. Community team and local Union Parishad representatives supported YPSA for the selection of appropriate displaced households. Due to COVID-19 epidemic, most of the time of 2020 after March was under lockdown and had government restrictions in Bangladesh even in working at the government offices. Hence movement was restricted; government offices were irregular to services particularly legal procedure of land. So relocation of the displaced families was not possible in this period. These undone activities will be shifted to year-2 during budget revision.</p>

d) Risk Management

Risk Issue	Risk Mitigation
Identifying a few climate forced displaced households (CIDHs) for relocation from the large number of people	YPSA team faced so many difficulties for finding out the right families, according to the selection criteria. There are huge number of displaced households but has only scope to select a few households. Moreover, there was local political influence in the family selection. But YPSA team managed all the influences through the advocacy meeting with community team, local government representatives and other stakeholders for finalizing climate displaced families for relocating in the nearby area of their living places.
Land acquisition	Appropriate and legal Land selection for purchase and registration for relocating the climate displaced families become the major risk for YPSA. During the field visit, community team found some lands, but the owners have no legal documents of their land. Some of the land found from the sellers, but during the investigation proposed land found as the Government <i>khas</i> land, which illegally captured by the some influential people. As per Government rule, agriculture land should prohibited for any development activities. So, community team and YPSA very much careful in purchasing non-productive land. After intensive discussion with community team and local people, YPSA primarily selected appropriate land after verification of the documents of proposed land by the legal expert.
Availability of safe water	There are different locations where ground water condition and layer are not good. There was demand from community for safe drinking water but due underground water layer it was difficult to choose the locations. YPSA and community team discussed with Officials of Upazila Public Health Engineering Department about the drinking water crisis and ground water level in the working areas. They suggested some of the locations, where installation of deep tubewell is safe and durable. Accordingly YPSA facilitate community team to install 3 deep tubewells (1000-1250 feet deep) for solving the drinking water crisis for at least 150 families during the summer and winter season of Kutubdia and Banskhali upazila.
Delaying approval of fund by NGO bureau	YPSA obtained the NGO bureau approval during the time of First week of March 2020 although project started from December 2019. YPSA project team got loan from YPSA Overhead account for continue the project activities before the NGO bureau approval for starting the project
COVID-19 Pandemic	All the months of 2020, after March'20, was under lockdown or had government restriction to movement as well as organizing any indoor events with large people gathering due to COVID-19 Pandemic. During this time government offices also partially opened for working. As a result YPSA could not complete all the activities as per plan particularly those have relation with large indoor gathering and attachment with government offices. However, with this limitation YPSA took some local level initiative to conduct other activities maintaining health safety and social distancing.

e) Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- YPSA has given priority to the formation of the community team and increase the participation of community team members for social mobilization of climate displaced people in the working areas. Good relationship with the community team followed by the capacity development could be successful to drive them to the relocation process including selection of households as well as mobilizing other people for successful local level campaign.
- If community team provided good motivation and orientation on a particular issue like COVID-19 it is found that community team motivating other community people for maintaining hygiene,

wearing masks and social distancing to protect the people from the Corona Virus.

- Relocation of climate displaced people should be initiated in the locations where sufficient livelihood and income generating activities are available and have access to other facilities such as education, health and growth center.
- Effective advocacy with key officials of relevant stakeholders in upazila level can ensure the basic needs as well as the rights of the displaced community.
- Religion, ethnicities, and professions of the displaced people are needed to be considered before relocation processes. In this way, social, cultural and religious harmony is expected to be preserved.
- Regular communication with other grantee partners and CJRF and with CJRF itself is necessary to add value to the program and for future program planning. Due to COVID-19 epidemic, numbers of virtual meeting with CJRF and partners has held and important suggestions and ideas have also found that have utilized during implementing the field level activities.

Certification

All YPSA (Young Power in Social Action) activities conducted with the grant funds were and are consistent with charitable purposes as set forth in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and YPSA (Young Power in Social Action) complied with all provisions and restrictions contained in this Agreement, including, for example and without limitation, those provisions relating to lobbying and political activity.

Annex –I: Significant Change Table

Key actor groups	Key Changes	What contribution to this change (project activity/or other)	How do this changes support climate justice, adaptation, and /or resilience	Why is this change important?
Community Team Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Leadership skills Increased. -Voluntarism mentality increased. -Capacity on social mobilization increased -They are now capable on how to claim their rights and campaign with different stakeholders -Hygiene practice and social distancing behavior increased among the team members and motivating other people to protect from COVID-19 	<p>- YPSA has formed 10 community teams following the criteria. After that YPSA provided five capacity building training to these community team members. The main focus of these trainings were voluntarism and the role of voluntarism in social development; leadership development; problem identification and solving; social mobilization, advocacy for claiming the rights of climate displaced people and dealing with the situation of COVID-19 epidemic and self-protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community team members organized human chain and community dialogue for sustainable construction of coastal embankment and rehabilitation of climate displaced people in Banskhali and Kutubdia. Community team members actively involved for repair and reconstruction activities of damaged embankment in Kutubdia and Banskhali upazila for protecting themselves from flood and crop loss. -Through successful campaigns, homeless and flood affected displaced people received cash support from Banskhali upazila administration. -With the support of Community team, 10 climate displaced families received skill development training, 10 families received sanitary latrine; 150 families taking drinking water from newly installed 3 deep tubewells installation and 2 families are selected for the relocation in disaster free area of Banskhali upazila. 	<p>Climate forced displaced people have already lost their home and land and are living in vulnerable situations; they are living without basic needs and rights. This type of change and initiative is required for calming the rights and living with dignity, reducing severity, to get priority during the emergency period and to be included in the mainstream development processes in local level.</p>
Women Groups of courtyard meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness on rights of climate displaced people increased. - Hygiene practice of family members increased. - Consistent growth of alternative income of women after having skills training and input support from the project such as 	<p>YPSA has conducted 50 courtyard meetings. The major topics of the courtyard meeting were dynamics of natural disasters; context of climate displacement; rights of climate displaced persons as human rights, promotion of health safety behavior of all categories of people, scope of alternative livelihood,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resilient to the changing situation by taking alternative income generation, and practicing health hygiene - United and raising voice for climate justice and access to the government exiting services 	<p>These changes are the most important for coping with the changing situation such as alternative livelihood, better health, claiming the rights from relevant authorities and overall for empowerment of women</p>

	<p>goat rearing, tailoring business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The practice of wearing masks, social distancing and health safety behavior increased among the women and their families for risk free life from COVID 19 epidemic. 	<p>information dissemination about the <i>khas land</i> distribution process, information on Government social security schemes and different rehabilitation programs, benefit of unity and campaign through community engagement for their rights and self-protection during the COVID-19 epidemic.</p>		
<p>Local level Government Officials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upazila administration now more concerned on the problem of climate displaced people - Relevant department of local level government gives priority to climate displaced people for any relief and rehabilitation program. - Climate displaced people now included in Government different social security schemes. -During the lockdown situation of the COVID-19, upazila administration has given top priority for cash support and food distribution to the coastal erosion prone areas where climate displaced people live. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YPSA team conducted several formal and informal advocacy meetings; one to one meeting with local level government officials' for taking appropriate steps to solve the problems of climate displaced people and also give priority for relief and rehabilitation programs. -Besides, YPSA facilitated a community team of displaced people to organize campaign programs for their rights such as human chain, community dialogue events and submission of memorandum to respective officials of Government administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 homeless people of Banskhali upazila found cash support from Banskhali upazila parishad during the month of February who lost their home during the flood of last year. Besides, 12 homeless people found houses in this year under the program of “ Homeless people who have some land” -Two displaced households got houses in the Government <i>Ashrayan</i> (Shelter) program built for homeless people in the Banskhali upazila. -Banskhali upazila administration recently providing housing to 12 poor liberation war fighter of the country where 8 persons are living in the disaster affected coastal area of the upazila. -Upazila administration repairing and constructing the sustainable embankment in the respective areas while some part of the embankment damaged during the cyclone <i>Amphan</i> 	<p>To ensure needs and rights based support to displaced people by the local level government officials. There are different types of services available in the grassroots but most distressed people remain out of service due to lack of information, political biases and nepotism. Moreover, sometimes there are gaps between the policies and implementation at the grassroots level but by taking this advocacy and campaign initiatives these gaps can be minimized.</p>