

LGD Secretary Chairs the NPACC

# 2012

## Annual Program Progress Report (October 2011 to September 2012)

**SHOUHARDO II Program**  
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**USAID**  
আমেরিকার জনগণের পক্ষ থেকে



## Acronyms

BCC	Behavior Change and Communication
CAP	Community Action Plan
CAV	Community Agriculture Volunteer
CHD	Comprehensive Homestead Development
CHTDF	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Fund
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
COG	Core Occupational Groups
CSISA	Cereal Systems Initiative in South Asia
CVASU	Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University
DAE	Department of Agriculture Extension
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
EKATA	Empowering through Knowledge and Transformative Action
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
EVAW	Ending violence against women
FDP	Food Distribution Point
FFW	Food For Work
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HH	Household
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LEB	Local Elected Body
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
MCHN	Mother Child Health Nutrition
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Metric Ton
MYAP	Multi Year Assistance Program
NBD	Nation Building Departments
NDPD	National Disaster Preparedness Day
NGO	Non Government Organization
NNPC	Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee (EVAW in Bangla)
ORGANS	Organizing Resources Generation and Nutritional Support
PACC	Program Advisory and Coordination Committee
PEP	Poor and Extreme Poor
PLW	Pregnant and lactating Woman
PNGO	Partner Non-Governmental Organization
SO	Strategic Objective
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
VAW	Violence Against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
WTP	Water Treatment Plant

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## 1. Introduction: Annual Food Aid Program Results

The SHOUHARDO II Program builds on the successful predecessor SHOUHARDO and has a project period of June 2010 to May 2015. The Program operates in the North Char, the Mid Char, the Haor belt, and in the Cox's Bazar coastal area, reaching 11 districts, 30 upazilas, and 172 unions. SHOUHARDO II is funded by USAID and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), with a funding of approximately USD 130 million, making this one of the world's largest non-emergency food security development programs, and a significant contributor to Bangladesh's poverty alleviation initiative.

The goal of SHOUHARDO II is to "transform the lives of 370,000 Poor and Extreme Poor (PEP) households in 11 of the poorest and most marginalised districts in Bangladesh by reducing their vulnerability to food insecurity." To achieve this, the Program focuses on five Strategic Objectives (SO):

- SO 1: "Availability of" and "access to" nutritious foods enhanced and protected for 370,000 PEP households
- SO 2: Improved health, hygiene and nutrition status of 281,000 children under 2 years of age
- SO 3: PEP women and adolescent girls empowered in their families, communities, and Union Parishad
- SO 4: Local elected bodies and government service providers responsiveness and accountability to the PEP increased
- SO 5: Targeted community members and government institutions are better prepared or mitigate, and respond to disasters and adapt to climate change

This section details the progress over this reporting period;

### a. SO1 - "Availability of" and "access to" nutritious foods enhanced and protected

This strategic objective is focused on developing the capacities of targeted households (HHs) to be able to expand their agricultural production, and to enhance their purchasing capacity and their accessibility to markets enabling them to procure nutritious food. The Program facilitated participants to choose their suitable occupation out of the four COGs (Agriculture, CHD, Fisheries and on/off farm IGA) to diversify food and income sources, and thereby improve their livelihood. The table below summarizes the number of beneficiaries reached.

**Table 1 – Planned Versus Achieved Number of Beneficiaries Reached in FY 2012**

Region	Agriculture		CHD		Fisheries		IGA		Total	
	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved	Plan	Achieved
Coastal	971	1270	2,212	3551	432	360	1781	991	5,396	6172
Haor	9491	16821	15690	31712	1942	4512	19291	36623	46414	89668
Mid Char	8536	4986	13318	12102	1368	1334	16363	10321	39585	28743
North Char	4474	12625	5940	26409	631	3380	8560	28029	19605	70439
FY12 Total	23472	35698	37160	73774	4373	9586	45995	75964	111000	195022
LOA Target	78242	78242	123865	123865	14576	14576	153317	153317	370000	370000

Table 1 shows the number of beneficiaries reached this FY has been far more than what was initially planned. The Program took this year as an opportunity to reach more beneficiaries as it felt confident that it had the management capacity to take on

increased number of beneficiaries ahead of its original plan. This is certainly a strength as it affords these beneficiaries to receive and benefit from the Program for a longer period of “soft” support.

We see that SHOUHARDO II has made good progress and these are summarised below;

- 65% farmers and others have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of the Program against a target of 44%
- 189,801 new PEP HHs are now accessing at least one agri-input, finances, and services against a target of 111,000.
- Mean HH income per capita has been raised to BDT 888 against a target of BDT 816.
- 74,577 new PEP IGAs have been established or improved against a target of 45,995.
- 653 SHOUHARDO II communities now have safety nets in place against a target of 452.

Some of the key activities related to SO1 implemented this reporting period are

### **a.1 Capacity Building of CAVs:**

CAVs are the primary capacity builders of the beneficiaries in agriculture related activities. The Program conducted a five day training to CAVs on key techniques and technologies on cereal crops, vegetables, fish, poultry, livestock and IGA. Linkage with relevant government departments resulted in better support for the CAVs to conduct courtyard sessions and demonstrations to improve knowledge and skills of beneficiaries.

### **a.2 Capacity Building and Technology Dissemination:**

As a part of capacity building, the Program facilitated the following major technologies in the farmers' demonstration field:

- Introduction of a new cropping pattern (T.Aman rice-Mustard-Boro rice) that allows year round production.
- Testing new flood tolerant (BRRI 51 & 52), short duration (BRRI 56 & BINA 7), and cold tolerant rice (BRRI 55).
- Testing performance of a new wheat variety (BARI Gom26)
- Maize cultivation intercropping with coriander.
- Vegetable cultivation as dike crop in the rice field.
- Demo on better use of vertical and horizontal space of homestead by multi storey cropping, poultry, livestock etc.
- Papaya and banana production with other vegetables.
- Fruit fly control in vegetable production by using sex pheromone hormone traps.
- Onion cultivation as relay crop in eggplant field for controlling nematode.



GoB Agri officials providing suggestion to program beneficiaries. Photo: Raihan/CARE

- Fish cultivation in pond using a combination of suitable fish varieties that lives/feeds from three layers (deep, mid and surface layers) of the pond water.

### **a. 3 Technical Partnership:**

To strengthen technical support for the participants, the Program worked with the following technical partners:

- **CSISA (Cereal System Initiative for South Asia):**

The MoU was signed with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for providing support to the overlapping farmers of the Haor and Char regions of the SHOUHARDO II Program through the USAID funded CSISA project. CSISA trained farmers and provided seed for rice, mustard and wheat cultivation. The farmers tested different varieties of crops and learned crop management techniques including soil conserving technology by using "Power Tiller Operated Seeder". CSISA also trained and provided inputs to a number of farmers for testing a drought tolerant variety of maize. The farmers benefited from the support of CSISA by reducing the cost of cultivation and harvesting a better yield.

- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):**

IUCN is providing technical support in implementing floating gardens under the project named ORGANS to create alternative livelihood for the PEP of 100 villages of the deep haor and char areas. To date 350 participants of 35 villages have started preparing floating gardens. Secondary adoption is taking off where over 60 floating gardens have been established as a result of observation of the primary beneficiaries under the ORGANS project.



Growing vegetables on floating garden

- **Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU):**

SHOUHARDO II has signed an MoU with CVASU where their interns will provide technical support to CAVs and COG participants in livestock management. During this period the interns organized vaccination of livestock and poultry in collaboration with the government Livestock Department.

- **Cornell University:**

The Lime Project of Cornell University has started piloting in the north char region to test the benefits of using lime in acidic soil for home gardening.

#### a.4 Private and public sector engagement for IGA activities:

The Program provided capacity building support to participants involved in “on-farm” and “off-farm” IGA activities including production and marketing of selected high value crops, and production of handicrafts and bamboo products. During this period participants were trained on high value crops including jute, turmeric, pumpkin, and ginger. Participants were linked and provided training on different handicrafts through local and regional private sector actors. The Program also linked participants with the Department of Women Affairs and Youth Development and BRAC.



#### a.5 Savings Groups:

Besides training and linking participants with different GO, NGO and private sector service providers, SHOUHARDO II also provided support to participants, especially women, to form and manage their own savings. Each savings group were facilitated to develop their own “by-laws” related to savings, loans, and interest rates. During the reporting period, over 380 savings groups have been formed, with a majority female membership.

#### a.6 Community Led Initiatives:

In addition to training, the Program facilitated capacity building through community led initiatives to strengthen community unity through

- **Compost Preparation:** Seeing the benefits of compost, the VDCs took extensive initiatives in compost preparation within their communities, an important initiative to help farmers improve soil condition and their crop production.
- **Vaccination of poultry and livestock:** VDCs arranged vaccination programs in collaboration with the government Livestock Department, where poultry and livestock were vaccinated to prevent anthrax, PPR, and Ranikhet. Without the VDCs engagement, this would not have been possible as the livestock department does not have adequate staff to conduct such a drive by themselves. The VDCs organized farmers to bring their cattle to a common place that made vaccination easy for the staff of the livestock department.
- **Tree plantation:** To diversify food sources, and ensure better environment and space utilization of homesteads, the Program promoted better fruit tree management and facilitated communities to plant fruit trees such as mango, guava, papaya, banana and lemon.



## **b. SO2 - Improved Health, Hygiene and Nutrition Status**

### **b.1 Capacity Building: of Community Health Volunteers (CHV):**

CHVs play a major role to achieve this objective. The Program engaged a reputed training organization “Population Service and Training Centre (PSTC)” to further enhance the capacity of the CHVs. During this reporting period CHVs were trained on reproductive health, food and nutrition, personal hygiene, growth monitoring, Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF), immunization, referral linkage with GO, and NGO service centres.

### **b.2 Courtyard Sessions and Individual Counselling:**

CHVs conducted monthly courtyard sessions for pregnant and lactating mothers where topics including care of pregnant women, maternal and child nutrition, planning of child delivery, PNC and newborn care, exclusive breast feeding, sanitation and personal hygiene practices were covered. The CHVs also made home visits and counselled pregnant women and lactating mothers.



Village level HHN session facilitated by CHV

### **b.3 Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP):**

CHVs conducted monthly GMP sessions in addition to courtyard sessions. During this reporting period special emphasis was given to motivate the non program beneficiary Pregnant Women (PW) and Lactating Mothers (LM) to come to the GMP sessions. The GMP sessions for children less than one year of age, and for pregnant women, were mostly organized at the government EPI centres/satellite clinics. The GMP sessions at the EPI centres helped to ensure both growth monitoring and completion of all vaccination within one year of age of the child, as planned by the government. The GMP sessions for the children between 1 and 2 years of age were organized before or after the EPI day at a suitable place suggested by the community. The GMP sessions raised awareness of the PW and LMs on growth trends and better health and hygiene management practices.



GMP session facilitated by CHV



#### **b.4 Referral Linkage Workshop and Meetings:**

To strengthen quality health services for community people, referral linkage workshops were conducted at District and Upazila levels with the GoB and other health service providers. The Program also facilitated half yearly coordination meetings between the VDCs and Union health and family planning staff. During the meetings the VDCs were able to raise their concerns and suggestions to improve services that helped ensure better services for the PEP.



Coordination meeting with union level service provider

#### **b.5 National Day Observation:**

SHOUHARDO II observed the Global Hand Washing Day, two rounds of National Immunization Day (NID), National Nutrition Week, World Health Day, Safe Motherhood Day, and World Breast Feeding Week at District, Upazila, Union and Village levels. In these campaigns the VDCs, CHVs and staff supported the government in organizing awareness campaigns, vaccination, and distribution of Vitamin-A capsules and Albendazole. In summary

- 18% of pregnant women and lactating mothers were targeted to ensure they would take iron supplements, against which 25% PLW are now taking iron supplements.
- In this short time, the Program has already managed to change the attitudes of mothers to appreciate the importance of washing hands at 5 critical times, where 25% (against a target of 14%) mothers now understand the necessity of washing hands.
- 46% of people in the target areas now have access to safe sanitation facilities.
- 68% now have access to safe water.

A total of 100,280 PLW were reached in this reporting period, which is much higher than the targeted 46,182 for the FY. This appears to be the case as initially the instructions were to count each PLW once only. However, this has now changed where each PLW needs to be counted each year.

#### **c. SO3 - PEP Women and Adolescent Girls Empowered**

Women and adolescent girls empowerment remains a central tenet of SHOUHARDO II. The previous phase of this program clearly demonstrated that a woman with a “voice and decision making” plays a major role in the overall upliftment of the household, as well as the community, considering she is the primary caretaker of the children, and can largely determine the types of food grown and bought, as well as family members adoption of safe health and hygiene practices.

- 6% PEP women are already involved in community level decision making, against a target of 2.5%.
- 27% PEP women are accessing local institutions against a target of 21%.
- 638 PEP women have gained membership in Union Parishad Committees against a target of 387.

- 765 abused PEP women and adolescent girls have taken support from medical, legal, and other support services.
- 154 ERAW committees have been established / reactivated.

EKATA groups are an important component to help empower women where each group consists of 25 women and 10 adolescent girls. SHOUHARDO II has established 513 EKATA groups to date. The main objective of EKATA is to facilitate women members to identify their major problems, and develop action plans and actions to resolve these. EKATA groups have multiple benefits including helping to increase women's mobility, decision making at family and community levels, developing action plans to stop early marriage, dowry, eve teasing, and VAW, and to improve women's basic literacy and numeracy. VDCs and supportive male members are an important support to these EKATA groups.



EKATA members attending regular sessions in Ullapara

The ECCD centres are an important initiative for development of children. By this time 366 ECCDs have been formed. Classes are conducted for two groups of children; one group of 30 children of 4-5 years of age and the other group of 30 children is of 5-6 years of age. The curriculum for the younger group is mainly to develop their psycho ability and socialization skills. The curriculum for the elder children (5-6 years) is designed mainly to provide literacy and numeracy skills to better prepare them for enrolment into primary school. To ensure better management of the ECCD centres, management committees have been formed consisting of parents, VDC, UP members and the Head Master of a nearby government Primary School. 93 communities have raised their own fund to provide school dresses to their children.



Children learning in ECCD, Shonatola, Bogra

A summary of other progress in this reporting period are

- Gender analysis has been completed in all 1,509 villages. Based on the findings of the gender analysis, specific activities have been incorporated in the CAP.
- Selected EKATA members joined the "People's Organization Convention-2011" organized by an NGO consortium including Action Aid, BRAC, DAM, IRD, SPED and CARE to promote women empowerment.
- A leaflet on Prevention to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) has been prepared and shared with participants.
- Interactive discussions with religious leaders have been completed. Covering the dignity of women in Islam, and the ill effects of violence against women.

- ERAW forums in each Union have been formed consisting of female UP members, religious leaders, and youth leaders. The objective of the ERAW committee is to stand firm against physical, mental, economical and sexual harassment of women and girls. The committees have been oriented to work with the UP level NNPC to eradicate VAW.
- Flip charts on “men and boys engagement” to reduce VAW have been developed and used in sessions for engaging men and boys for women and girls empowerment.
- The International Women’s Day has been observed in all regions with the participation of EKATA, VDC, UP and government officials from different departments.

#### **d. SO4 - Local Elected Bodies and Government Service Providers Responsiveness and Accountability Increased:**

Sustainable improvement of food security is impossible without good governance practices including accountability, transparency and responsive institutions and participation of community people. Following CARE Bangladesh’s governance approach the Program has been particularly successful in establishing the VDCs comprising of a minimum 11 community members, 50% of whom are women. The Program has been facilitating VDCs to become active problem-solving groups with the support of UP and NBDs responsible for providing different services to community people. The Program also worked on building capacity of government institutions and individuals, whose sense of duty and responsibility, are important to ensure that the SHOUHARDO II communities continue to receive support after the exit of the Program.

The following major achievements have been made during this reporting period:

- Three national level PACC meetings were held at the Bangladesh Secretariat during this reporting period. The Secretary, LGD, chaired the meetings where the PACC expressed their satisfaction over the progress of SHOUHARDO II to date. Under the guidance of the central PACC, Divisional, District, and Upazila level Coordination committees were formed and held 132 meetings across the regions.
- A two day long training on “Ensuring Food security for the PEP” was conducted for UP level NBD staff including staff from the departments of agriculture, health, social welfare, and family planning. Government officers of different departments facilitated the training as resource persons. The major topics of the training were basic concepts of food security, participatory planning, gender, and effective coordination with the UP.
- A three day long training was conducted for 3-4 key members of each VDC on “Leadership and Organizational Development”. The major topics of the training were basic concepts of food security, networking, organizational development, conflict resolution, leadership, and gender.



- A two day training was conducted for VDC members on the “Roles and Responsibilities of LEBs, NBDs, and the Citizen Charter, including safety net.
- A three day residential training was conducted for UP chairmen, members, and secretaries on “Ensuring Food security for the PEP”. Government officers of different departments facilitated the training as resource persons. Major topics included basic concept of food security, UP standing committee, local resource mobilization, and gender.
- Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) meetings were held to strengthen the “open budgeting” process, formation of standing and important special committees, and social safety net facilities for the PEP. These meetings created space for VDCs to negotiate different services for their communities.
- By this time VDCs were successful in facilitating 45 UPs in preparing participatory and declaring open budget, where 32 UPs increased their allocation for the PEP. The VDCs were also able to facilitate enrolment of 322 PEPs of whom 200 are women in different standing and special committees of 49 UPs. The VDCs were able to negotiate with UPs to ensure GoB safety net facilities for PEPs.
- To strengthen the communities as active problem solvers, the Program supported all 1,509 VDCs to review the progress and develop the CAPs for the following year in consultation with the community. The VDCs took lead role in this process and respective UP members were involved in most of the CAP revision process. As a result communities were able to strengthen their relationship with the UP.
- Module and guidelines were developed on leadership and organizational development for the VDCs, developing competency of the UP members on "Ensuring Food Security for the PEP", Developing competency of government service providers at UP level on "Ensuring Food Security for the PEP", Guidelines for staff on VDC formation and CAP preparation and Handbook for VDC on its formation and roles and responsibilities.



Annual CAP review session  
Photo: Warech/PNGO NDP

### **e. SO5 - Community Members and Government Institutions are Better Prepared for, Mitigate, and Respond to Disasters and Adapt to Climate Change**

The Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation is a strong component of SHOUHARDO II. During this reporting period, both CARE and PNGO staff were trained on Implementation of Disaster and Climate Risk Management (DCRM) strategy and Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) in all four regions. Field level trainings with Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC), Union Disaster Volunteer (UDV) group and Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UzDMC) are now being conducted by these trained staff. After selection and subsequent training of Disaster Volunteers (DVs), quarterly learning and sharing

meetings are being held on a regular basis. Over this reporting period, the Program has achieved

- 41 SHOUHARDO II villages have built physical infrastructure to mitigate the effects of shocks.
- 50 SHOUHARDO II communities now have disaster early warning and response systems in place.
- Almost 13,000 people have been trained in disaster preparedness through the Program.
- 194 PEP beneficiaries now participate in the decision making of UDMCs.

### **e.1 Disaster Preparedness:**

A Flip Chart for promoting indigenous knowledge on disaster has been designed and will be soon provided to front line staff to use in court yard sessions, physical demonstrations and other community gatherings. A total 21 Disaster Brigades have been formed where secondary school students have been trained on various disaster issues. CARE Bangladesh, as a part of its organizational readiness, continued regular maintenance of WTPs and other emergency equipments that are essential during disasters.

### **e.2 Technical Partnership and Collaboration with other MYAPs:**

An MoU has been signed with RIMES for expanding the 7-10 day Flood Early Warning System (EWS) to other areas; refine the 30 day Flood EWS; and to develop the flash flood EWS. CARE's SHOUHARDO II and Save the Children's MYAP Nobo Jibon will complement each other with the information generated under partnership with RIMES on flood and cyclone early warning systems.

### **e.3 Emergency Response:**

Flooding and water-logging in different places of Satkhira, Jessore and Khulna triggered an emergency response. The Program distributed commodities to 30,000 HHs totalling 110 MT of Vegetable oil. The Program also supported the emergency response in south-eastern part of Bangladesh in Ramu and Chakaria Upazila under the Cox's Bazar District. A total of 158.483 MTs of food commodities was distributed from in country stock.



Food being carried on horse cart to Distribution Point

### f. Commodity Management:

In this FY a total of 10,139.412 MTs (8,816.880 MTs wheat, 440.844 MTs Peas and 881.688 MTs vegetable oil) was distributed to 100,280 PLW. As referenced in the approved 2012 PREP, SHOUHARDO II had planned for IY3 total distribution commodity of 10,550 MT (Table 4, Page 14), against which 10,139.5 MT has been utilised (i.e. 96% utilisation to plan).

A significant challenge this reporting period was the GoB's requirement for the Fit for Human Consumption Certification (FFHC). USAID Bangladesh, with the help of its MYAP partners, successfully negotiated with the GoB for alternative arrangements for the Title II commodities. The US Charge d 'Affair, along with senior USAID and GoB officials visited the Chittagong port to observe the monetization commodity discharge.



Charge d 'affairs, US Embassy handing over Title II wheat to DG of Food/GoB

An important collaboration between CARE and Save the Children was demonstrated when SC agreed to take in and distribute SHOUHARDO II commodities which otherwise was at risk of expiring. With the concurrence of USAID, under this arrangement, SHOUHARDO II transferred 500 MT of Refined Vegetable Oil (BUBD January 2013) with the understanding that SC will in turn reimburse SHOUHARDO II 125 MT VO (with a BUBD of October 2013), in line with adjusted projection of FY 2013.

8,480 MTs (7,590 MT SWW, 630 MT Veg. Oil and 260 MT Yellow Split Peas) direct distribution commodity has been approved in FY 12. The full quantity of SWW bulk w/bags and YSP has been received during July 2012-September 2012. 500 MT Veg. Oil has been received out of 630 MT and the remaining 130 MT Veg. Oil is scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh in November 2012.

FY 2011 monetization commodity of 10,470 MTs SWW has been monetized through the GoB and the proceeds deposited in the Program account in October 2011. BDT 270,933,381 (equivalent to USD 3,686,393) has been generated with a cost recovery of 83% of the C&F value. The monetization quantity of 37,000 MT SWW approved from FY 2012 resources has arrived in country. The monetization is now currently underway.

### g. Construction and maintenance of small infrastructure:

509 CFW schemes were constructed this reporting period creating 133,576 person-days employment (41% women and 59% men). 2,054 WATSAN structures were constructed including tube-wells and platforms, and household and community latrines. Under the program element "Assistance and Recovery", a total of 42 small and medium size structures were constructed including drainage culverts, CRC/ECCD construction, and school maintenance/renovation. The Program also completed construction of 19 larger structures through LGED including flood shelter cum school, market improvement, mound protection and cyclone shelter maintenance.

## **h. Knowledge Management and Advocacy (KM&A):**

A two day orientation was held in the different regions of SHOUHARDO II to unroll the KM&A activities including sharing program achievements, advocacy issues, documentation and dissemination of good practices. The KM&A unit has now started producing and disseminating the SHOUHARDO II Newsletter, where two issues have been produced this reporting period.

Notable cross visits this year included a 20 member team of the UNDP/CHTDF consisting of women members, UP members, traditional leaders and PNGO staff visited Sirajganj area to learn about the SHOUHARDO II approaches with focus on community led development, local governance and women empowerment. PACC members also made regular visits to program sites that helped the GoB officials to learn about the program and provide support as needed. The US Ambassador also visited SHOUHARDO II this reporting period.

A group of 17 students, under the country's first American-Bangladeshi Youth Leadership Exchange Program, visited Sirjganj region. This exchange program created a unique cross-cultural learning opportunity, and also learning about the critical issues of climate change and adaptation in Bangladesh. The student exchange Program was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Youth Programs and the American based organization, World Savvy.

## **i. Environmental Management:**

Environmental review and assessment activities under each SO with potential environmental impacts are screened by villages following the SHOUHARDO II Environmental Compliance Management Guidelines. During this FY environmental assessment was done for selecting approximately 500 different types of schemes on earthen work, sanitation and safe water supply. The relevant IEE mitigation measures were reviewed and addressed during the implementation of the schemes.

Environmental Assessment and Mitigation Measures of Deferral of Threshold Decision on Food Storage was followed up this year. Necessary maintenance and repairing works like roof maintenance, floor repairing, plastering and painting walls, increasing ventilation facilities, firefighting instruments, truck movement road and shed preparing was done in all 17 warehouses. Fumigations was also completed done in all 17 warehouses following PERSUAP guidelines.

## 2. Success Stories

### Tales of Dreams Come True:

Tapurchar village of of Kurigram district is one of the most vulnerable and isolated villages of the district. Nasir Uddin of Tapurchar village had a very hard time to arrange food for his five member family. His wife had had no opportunity to earn. So food and health problems were their regular problems.



One year ago, Nasir Uddin's family was selected as a CHD recipient of the Program. Later he took part in a three day training and received input supports. Nasir shared what he learned with his wife. He expressed his desire to the VDC to receive geese instead of chickens or goats as input. Accordingly Nasir received 4 geese, vegetable seeds, fencing materials and tree saplings as input support from the Program. Nasir worked with his wife to take care of the geese and home gardening. Within one and half month the geese started to lay eggs and in total the geese laid 38 eggs. Nasir and his wife hatched all 38 eggs instead of selling and got 35 ducklings. They earned Tk. 3,000 by selling 13 ducklings and Tk. 4,000 by selling vegetables produced in their homestead. After six months Nasir sold more geese and vegetables and saved Tk.23,580. Nasir and his wife now plan to expand the duck production. Nasir feels proud to tell his story about how the SHOUHARDO II CHD Program has helped him to start from zero savings, and brought food and smile in his family.

### Moli : Out of Fears and Helplessness:

Fourteen year old Moli lives with her poor parents in the village of Shalikha of Bogra District. Her father, Dholu Sarkar, is a poor rickshaw van puller. It was Dholu's dream that his daughter would go to school and brighten the family name. Moli studies in class VII and is also an EKATA group member. Things were going well for the family until a problem was getting bigger day by day, as two stalkers (eave teasers) had been teasing Moli on the way to



school. At the beginning she did not have the courage to protest as she was too young and came from a poor family. One day, when Moli was returning from school, eave teasers showed vulgar gestures and harassed her. Moli being helpless and puzzled ran from the spot and after few minutes she took shelter on her mother's lap. She was shivering, but was too embarrassed to share the fact with her mother. Lastly Moli thought and planned to share the incidence with the EKATA Volunteer. After knowing the incidence from Moli, the Volunteer shared the same with the EKATA and VDC members, and the PNGO staff. Then EKATA and the VDC members then met with the UP member and demanded proper justice. As a result, the UP member



called shalish/arbitration meeting on the following day. UP members, local elites and PNGO staff were present in the arbitration. After listening to both the parties, the UP members accused the eave teasers and asked them to beg apology and refrain from teasing Moli in future, otherwise serious legal actions would be taken against them. As a result the eve teasers begged apology to Moli in presence of all and promised not to tease Moli anymore. The UP member praised the EKATA and VDC members for taking such a bold step in favour of the victim, a young girl of a poor family. Moli now feels happy to go to school again.

### 3. Lessons Learned

Following are several major lessons learned over this reporting period.

- Participation of GoB officials and elected representatives in the Program activities contributed a lot in achieving the program objectives. The PACC forum makes the GoB officials more responsive to the program beneficiaries and ensures the smooth implementation of program activities.
- Open budgeting of Union Parishad makes the UP bodies more transparent to the community and makes a smooth development bridge among them.
- Technical partners like CSISA and IUCN helped the community farmers running towards diversified technology in farming.
- GMP session and door to door counselling made the women more aware in routine check up i.e. ANC, PNC, and vaccination and also taking care of their child health.
- Community led initiative built community solidarity, ownership and self confidence among them that ultimately united them towards common interest of the community.
- Good facilitation inspire community becoming creative and shouldering own development which brings great success in the community.