



# Action & Reflection

## CARE BD Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2013

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Action & Reflection  
comes in new format!

### MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Welcome to Action and Reflection for February 2013 - I am very excited about this edition as it is the first time you are receiving the newsletter in both Bangla and English!

The exciting news for us at CARE this month is that CARE was ranked seventh among 100 non-government organizations, according to the Top 100 NGOs list of the Global Journal.

CARE also ranked seventh in 2012, the year the Global Journal introduced the list of top 100 NGOs.

According to The Global Journal, "in the world of emergency relief and international development, there are a handful of organizations that have transcended their inter-war or postwar roots and built a global reputation for effectiveness despite a broadening mandate. Without doubt, CARE International fits within this category. [it] has also been a sectoral leader in its commitment to international standards of accountability and institutional learning..[and] is likely to become an increasingly vocal presence in high-level international debates around strategies to address enduring challenges like maternal health, hunger, gender equality and climate change mitigation and adaptation."

Notably, CARE was also globally ranked second among NGOs involved in humanitarian relief work.

In Bangladesh, CARE has been working since before the birth of the nation in 1949.

We are proud that our partner, Dhaka Ahsania Mission also made the list, being the only other Bangladeshi organization to appear apart from BRAC.

I am also pleased to share with you that we are now building a group of facilitators who can take the GED training to staff and also start to think about how the methods used in this training can be applied to the work we do with communities. A GED ToF was held in January. We will be doing a number of these trainings during the year. Read A&R to hear about how some of the participants felt about the training.

We continue to work to improve Action and Reflection so please do get your thoughts to Suchismita. We are also currently working on establishing Country office Communication guidelines that will apply to all projects and you will be hearing about this shortly. This will result in clearer guidance and assistance in how to improve your communication according to CARE policy and programming. We are also working on standard information package and resources about CARE Bangladesh for external audiences.

These are just a few highlights of a busy year so far.



## WELCOMING OUR NEW ACTION & REFLECTION EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

We are delighted to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce you to our new Editorial Committee for Action & Reflection.

A&R Editorial Committee consists of three members: Our very own Murad bhai from Social Analysis & Learning Team (SALT), Muntasar bhai from Program Support and Mizanur bhai from Social Economic Transformation of the Ultra Poor II (SETU II) project.

### Story from the Field

## NO MORE: COMMUNITY STOPS VIOLENCE

Chanchala Rani Sutradhor, 33 years old, is a Program beneficiary of the Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) II in Bangladesh. Chanchala lives in the Baushi Village of Derai Upazilla (Sub - district) within the Sunamganj District.

A year back, Chanchala got involved with the SHOUHARDO II Program and was selected to be part of the Comprehensive Homestead Development (CHD) activities. Prior to her engagement within the program, Chanchala and her husband worked as day labors and were maintaining a small home plot of 40 decimal (approx.17424 sft). Being enrolled in the SHOUHARDO II Program allows Chanchala to learn some additional environmental management techniques and receive some key homestead development inputs (saplings, seeds of different fruits & vegetables, plus three ducks).

As Chanchala was starting to improve her homestead, one of her four kids became severely ill and required urgent treatments. Taking an emergency loan of 5000 BDT (USD 60) required her to sell  $\frac{1}{4}$  of her small plot. Not being satisfied with the arrangement and trying to take opportunity of her difficult situation, Jonardhon Sutradhor (the buyer of her land) and his two brothers took over the remaining part of her plot by planting trees. When Chanchala

protested to them about this illegal land grabbing, she was severely beaten until she was unconscious and required hospital treatment. Jonardhon threatened her with kicking her family out from the entire homestead.

As the SHOUHARDO II Village Development Committee (VDC) came to know about the incidence the VDC members communicated with the union level Violence Prevention Committee (NNPC). In response to the events, the VDC and Union Parisad (UP) members organized a *salish* (local arbitration). Subsequently VDC, UP members and villagers agreed that Jonardhon will have to return the illegally taken land and bear all expenses related to the treatment of her injuries.

All the villagers promised that this kind of incidence would never happen again in their village in the future. The incident is a milestone of community strength against violence and land grabbing.

VDC Chairman, Pranesh Baisnab notes "This incident was a test of our strength as a community. Helping to this kind of violence and stopping illegal land grabbing from poor people is a key challenge for us."

(1) Household Income and Expenditure (HIES) Survey 2010; and Population & Housing Census 2011, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

Chanchala Rani, who protested against illegal land grabbing.  
Photo: Anowar Hossain Chowdhury



In Bangladesh, out of 142.3 million of total population, 25 million (17.6%) people are living under lower (extreme) poverty line. Among these extreme poor only 6.6 million people (4.6% of total population) have ownership of land (1). An average 41% of children below 5 years suffer from malnutrition. Extreme poor households are vulnerable to illegal land grabbing. In many circumstances these incidents are not reported, as affected households don't have access to powerbrokers that can mediate within these situations.

Learning

**KEY PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF GAAP RESEARCH ON SDVC**

Gender, Agriculture, and Asset Project (GAAP) led by IFPRI and ILRI\* presented its preliminary research findings on **Strengthening the Dairy Value Chain (SDVC)** project to evaluate the impact of SDVC on gender inequality, asset ownership and control of dairy farmers in north-west Bangladesh.

GAAP's Women Empowerment (WE) intervention began in early January 2012 to design and implement an impacts assessment of the interventions of the SDVC around gender integration into the dairy value chain and reducing women barriers within the dairy value chain.

SDVC/GAAP-WE intervention used both quantitative and qualitative methods including a baseline survey in 2008 and an end-line to be completed by April 2013. According to the data, research shows that women's household monthly income is less than half of men's income. Research also reveals that the person who sells the milk usually manages the income earned from it, yet the continued question is, can women access the market to sell milk?

Due to SDVC intervention, now 12.4% women have individual cow ownership. Women who own cattle can take decisions on expenditure more easily than before. It has been found that cattle and dairy management have significantly increased workload for both men and women. Men are found to appreciate their wives with household activities. However, recent findings indicate that children lack proper care as mothers stay busy with household activities and dairy management. This stresses the traditional notion of child-rearing as a sole responsibility of the mothers, and thus, an important finding to be considered in project activity planning.

GAAP research identifies four major barriers women face: i) workload, ii) lack of control over asset and income management, iii) limited access to institutions/institutional support; and iv) lack of mobility.

As a result of the SDVC program intervention, women's capacity to asset holdings notably improved, but yet men remain the controllers of these assets. Also women's increasing involvement in the SDVC program is contributing towards their workload and longer working hours. Preliminary conclusion of the research suggests to look into ways of addressing the social norms and barriers that restrict and discourage women's engagement in development and also continue extending support to women milk collectors, the livestock health workers, including women farmers.

\*IFPRI: International Food Policy Research Institute  
ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute



GAAP Research Results: Daily time used by Men and Women



**QUIZ TIME!**

1. What does CARE stand for?
2. In which year CARE started working in Bangladesh?
3. Where did CARE rank in the 2013 top 100 global NGOs by Global Journal?

Find the answers in another page!

**STAFF IN FOCUS**

**Nirvana Mujataba with other participants in Nepal.**



Nirvana Mujataba, Manager - Relationship Facility, Private Sector Engagement attended a course organized by CREA on "Feminist Leadership, Movement Building and Rights Institute - South Asia" from January 28 - Feb 2nd, 2013. This course had a diversified group of 27 participants from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Vietnam and Pakistan. The course included topics related to female leadership, patriarchal structure of the society and movement building on the South Asian context.

Nirvana quoted: "Being in the PSE team and working with various stakeholders in building relationships and sharing diversified experiences - the course has helped me better understand the lives of the women in South Asian context as well as ways different organization address them. The experience from this course will help me educate companies into mainstreaming gender and women empowerment issues in inclusive business partnership, dialogues and discussions. Additionally, it will help me assist the PSE staffs (especially program staff) in understanding the issues related to women empowerment and applying it to answer questions, sharing resources, inclusion and consideration in work plans etc."

**GENDER TRAINING OF FACILITATORS (ToF)**

With 18 participants from different projects of CARE Bangladesh a four-days-long ToF was conducted on January 13-15, 2013. Habibur Rahman, CARE's former Gender Advisor was the key facilitator of the training with Sajeda Yasmin and Jamie Terzi as co-facilitators.

The primary objective of the ToF was to build a sound understanding on the "AKIDO Model" which is designed to create awareness about "where we are", develop dialogue skills to "meet others" and "take actions" to see "what we can do together". The AKIDO model is the combination of three key aspects: head, heart and hand.

The ToF also looked at the importance of confidence in facilitating sensitive diversity discussions and answering difficult questions regarding Gender Equity and Diversity.

Participants actively participated and enjoyed the concepts covered in the training. Some of the comments made by participants are:

"This is an excellent training"

"To be a good facilitator, one needs to develop a convincing voice and facilitation skills"

"Real change comes from process".

**QUIZ ANSWERS!!**

1. In 1945 the Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe (CARE) was officially launched. Today CARE stands for "Cooperative of Assistance and Relief Everywhere".
2. In 1949.
3. Seventh.

## PARTNER IN FOCUS

Dhaka Ahsania  
Mission

Dhaka Ahsania Mission ranked 76th in the list of 2013 top 100 global NGOs by the Global Journal. Except for BRAC, Dhaka Ahsania Mission is the only Bangladeshi development organisation to make the list.

Founded in 1958, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has since established itself as one of the largest NGOs in Bangladesh, implementing a range of diverse programs in the areas of health, education, agriculture, technology, human rights and climate change and disaster management focused on improving the quality of life and social inclusion of the urban poor. A key feature of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission approach is its network of 'Community Learning Centers,' which seek to instill a participatory dynamic and partnership with those benefiting from the organization's initiatives, and have also been used as a platform to deliver piggy-backed 'one stop service' points in target communities.

CARE Bangladesh and DAM are partners in total four projects. Very recently, CARE B and DAM began working together in the new SEED- Agriculture project where DAM is in the lead.

CARE Bangladesh was mentioned 31 times in the media during the month of Dec 2012-Jan 2013

Source: CARE BD This Week

## TRAINING OF THE MONTH

## Staff Safety and Security

CARE Academy course on "Staff Safety and Security" is mandatory for all CARE staff and to be completed by February 14, 2013. You are requested to finish it as soon as possible, if you haven't yet. You can complete it online via CARE Academy website. Or, contact HRD to access the course through CD-ROM.

## VISITORS IN FEBRUARY 2013

**Damien Junca** of CARE France has come to work with CARE Bangladesh for six weeks to support the Emergency Team to develop the first phases of LIFE project. The LIFE project targets to reach the population affected by the 2012 floods in the South-east of Bangladesh. "This is my first time in Bangladesh and the team has been very welcoming. I'm also very impressed by the various projects led by CARE in the country".

**Thomas Haunschmind** and **Michael Wolfgang Dieterich** of CARE Austria came to film a documentary on SEEMA project. The protagonist of the film is a seventeen years old female garment worker. The filming was conducted in Dhaka to cover project activities and Shirobiro village of Durgapur Upazila, Netrokona to film the protagonist's story.

To know more about the documentary, please contact Kalpana Di of SEEMA project.

Visitors to CARE Bangladesh in February 2013:

**Maria Theresa Enriques:** Deputy Regional Director, ARMU, CARE USA

**Faruk Jiwa:** Senior Regional Technical Advisor, CARE USA

**Christopher Joseph Williams:** Regional Security Manager, ARMU, CARE USA

**Brian Bergmen, Brett Smith and Geoffrey Kistruck:** Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, USA

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEB-MARCH, 2013?

**FEBRUARY 04-05, 2013:** Quarterly Review and Learning Workshop of EMPHASIS project was held in RRF, Jessore.

**FEBRUARY 11- 12 & 14, 2013:** CARE B held Pamodzi Refresher Workshop for Program Support and Pamodzi Clinic for Program Initiative Heads.

**FEBRUARY 13, 2013:** SHOUHARDO II Mid-Term Review meeting was held.

**FEBRUARY 14, 2013:** CARE Bangladesh organized a Human Chain as part of the OBR global movement to protest Violence Against Women.

**FEBRUARY 27, 2013:** Thematic Workshop on Social Accountability took place in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

**FEBRUARY 23-28, 2013:** GWEEI project organized a week long Training of Trainers (ToT) for partner NGO staff in Dhaka.

**MARCH 07, 2013:** SEEMA project will celebrate International Women's Day with garments workers in its project area Mirpur. Contact Suchismita for more information.

**MARCH 08, 2013:** International Women's Day and CARE B HQ Staff Day. You are invited to join all on that day. Contact Mansur for more information.

**MARCH 24-26, 2013:** Working Children Project will celebrate the Graduation Ceremony of Pre-school Learners. For more information, please contact Reza bhai of Education.

**MARCH 2013:** Regine Skarubowiz, Emergency Program Coordinator, CARE UK will be visiting CARE Bangladesh in the first weeks of March.

**MARCH 2013:** Navaraja Gyawali, Regional Director, ARMU will be visiting CARE Bangladesh in the first weeks of March.

## In the Upcoming Edition

It's over to you! Interested in sharing your latest news, photos or ideas or want more information about a topic seen in *Action and Reflection*?

Contact Suchismita: [sroy@bd.care.org](mailto:sroy@bd.care.org) or Anahita: [anahita@bd.care.org](mailto:anahita@bd.care.org) or Mansur: [mansur@bd.care.org](mailto:mansur@bd.care.org)