

Trusts of Caritas:

Caritas has three Trusts. These are described below:

1. Caritas Development Institute (CDI):

CDI is the Training and Research Center of Caritas Bangladesh. CDI was established in 1983 and as a Trust it started its journey from January 2010.

CDI aims to capacitate CDI partners (Caritas and NGOs' staff, church and ethnic leaders, social leaders and people's organizations) in order to manage their programs, projects and activities efficiently and effectively by extending training, evaluation and research services.

Besides running a three-month long Diploma course on Social Analysis and Development, CDI provides mainly short term training courses to social workers and leaders on social analysis and development issues. In-depth study and evaluation of projects are also conducted by CDI. Research of an applied nature is an integrated component. In addition, CDI publishes its half-yearly periodicals "*Unnayan Samikkhan*" focusing on contemporary development issues. CDI library contains a good number of books, documents/journals, video/documentary films and Caritas publications. CDI's website is <http://www.caritascdi.org>.

2. Mirpur Agricultural Workshop and Training School (MAWTS)

MAWTS is a self-financed and a unique Trust of Caritas for Training and Production which started its journey in 1973 with the technical and financial assistance of Caritas Switzerland.

The main objectives of MAWTS are: to bring out skilled workforce by providing technical education and training; to arrange marketing of goods produced by MAWTS to different clients at home and abroad; to create an industrial environment within the institute to provide on-the-job practical training; and to carry out Research and Development (R&D) work for its own production work and for other organizations.

The best product of MAWTS is its training. It offers Diploma in Engineering Course for four years, Long-Term Mechanical Course (LTMC) for three years and Instructor Training Course (ITC) for one year. Besides, MAWTS also offers job market oriented skill development short courses. MAWTS has a well-equipped Production Unit to produce a variety of goods on customers' demand. For more details please visit its website: <http://www.mawts.org>.

3. CORR-The Jute Works (CJWs)

CJW is an organization of women handicraft producers that was established in 1973 to rehabilitate the war-widowed and war-affected poor rural women of Bangladesh. The aim was to provide these women with work at home. The goal was not only to rehabilitate them, rather to extend them in sustainable development with their family. CJW was providing the means of income generation for these groups of women through producing handicraft items made out of locally available raw material jute and other such as grass, leaf, cane, bamboo, and clay. It became a Trust in 1981.

The main objectives of the CJW are:

- To organize rural destitute women and provide them with skill education for producing handicrafts as a supplementary source of income for their socio-economic development;
- To promote thrift, self-help and democratic practices among the handicraft producer groups in the management of their affairs and to make them self-reliant by group action;
- To initiate welfare activities for poor people, such as housing, educational, recreational and health care facilities for better living conditions; and

The CJW is a pioneer of the Fair Trade movement and has become Self Reliant from the very beginning. It produces bag, basket, candle, card, handmade paper, home decor, musical instrument, etc. It is an export oriented Trust. Details could be found out from its website: <http://www.cjwbd.com>.

Projects of Caritas:

Caritas is implementing over 70 on-going projects. Of the total Caritas projects 13 projects are being implemented under priority one, 20 projects under priority two, 14 projects under priority three and 21 projects under priority four.

Priority- 1: Human Resource Development through Education, Formation and Capacity Building

Caritas provides both technical and general education through 13 projects which are described below:

❖ **Technical Education:**

Each year Caritas provides technical education to more than 4,000 students through three technical projects.

Main objectives of technical education are:

- To make the school dropout learners skilled in different marketable trades;
- To create employment/self-employment opportunity for the school dropout unemployed indigenous youth including women offering technical skills training; and
- To enhance the marketable employment potentials among the poor school dropout young boys, girls and the women.

Caritas Technical projects are as follows-

- **Regional Technical Schools (RTS):** The RTS are located at: Bakerganj *upazila* of Barisal district under Barisal Region, Shahmirpur village of Karnaphully (Patiya) *upazila* of Chittagong district under Chittagong Region, Kamlapur, Birulia village of Savar *upazila* of Dhaka district under Dhaka Region, West Shibrampur of Dinajpur Sadar *upazila* of Dinajpur district under Dinajpur Region, Akonpara village of Haluaghat *upazila* of Mymensingh district under Mymensingh Region, Baniarchar village of Muksudpur *upazila* of Gopalganj district under Khulna Region, Bonpara village of Boraigram *upazila* in Natore district under Rajshahi Region and Ishobpur village of Sreemangal *upazila* of Moulvibazar district under Sylhet Region.

The main courses conducted from the RTS are : 1) Auto-mechanic course for one year; 2) Electrical course for one year; 3) Welding course for one year; and 4) Tailoring course for six months.

- **Mobile Technical Schools (MTS) for the Underprivileged Youth and Women:** There are 26 *upazila* based mobile technical schools running under this project providing similar courses conducted by the RTS. Besides, the MTS also provides training on demand-oriented trades such as Hand and Machine Embroidery; Animal Husbandry; Block-Boutique; Wooden Crafts; Bamboo Handicrafts; etc.
- **Bandarban Technical Training Centre (BTTC):** BTTC started in 1974 and it is located at Ujanipara village of Sadar *upazila* in Bandarban Hill district under Chittagong Region. BTTC provides three main training courses: Carpentry, Electrical and Tailoring.

❖ **General Education**

Caritas provides primary education to over 70,000 students yearly by implementing ten education projects.

Main objectives of general education are:

- To assist the hardest to reach children enjoy their right to quality basic education at pre-and primary level and equal opportunities for inclusion in mainstream education at secondary level;
- To provide financial and other support for poor, orphan and indigenous students in the form of monthly grant to meet the expenses of tuition fees, food, lodging and education materials including books;
- To mould youngsters' character motivating them to uphold ethical values and become non communal citizens; and
- To render overall formation to youth through training, seminar and workshop.

Caritas general education projects are as follows-

- **Underprivileged Children Preparatory Education Program (UCPEP):** UCPEP provides basic education for the children of underprivileged communities in Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna Region.
- **Basic Education for the Disadvantaged Children (BEDC):** The project aims to ensure quality education for the disadvantaged children of Satkhira, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Dinajpur Regions. Under this project the community people and School Managing Committee members take active part in running schools by donating land, contributing cash and taking part in construction work as well as planning, arranging different kinds of programs and monitoring.
- **Education Support for the Children of *Rishi* Community (ESCRC), Khulna:** This project was initiated in 2011 to create an opportunity of study for the destitute children of *Rishi* (Sudras outcaste) community of Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jessore and Khulna district under Khulna Regional Office with an aim to establish a socio-economically developed society. With the monetary support provided by the project a number of *Rishi* community children got an opportunity to continue secondary education.
- **Formation of Youth and Teachers Program (FYTP):** FYTP initiated its activities in 1992 with an aim to develop teachers and administrators' professional skills enabling them to produce skilled manpower with human qualities. This project renders its services to all over the country by providing Capacity Building Training for teachers, monetary support and education materials for students, organizing seminars/workshops, etc.
- **Education Support Program to the Children of Dinajpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet:** The project started in January 2005. The third phase of the project began in January 2011. It covers 51 *upazila* of 16 districts under Dinajpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet Regional Offices. Through this project a good number of poor pupils from indigenous families receive stipend money and weak students receive special coaching support. It also provides examination fee for the candidates of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination.
- **Education Program for the Indigenous Children of Chittagong Hill Tracts (EPIC-CHT):** The project started in 2005. The project operates 165 schools in 165 villages under 39 unions of 12 *upazila* in Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati district under Caritas Chittagong Regional Office. Under this project the children receive basic education.

- **Literacy and Health Care Program for Children of Slums in Dhaka:** This Program has been in operation for the past 40 years. It is located at Notre Dame College, Motijheel, Dhaka covering five big slums of the adjacent area. It provides services such as primary education, feeding program, training in tailoring and medical services. It has increased school going habit among the destitute and slum dwelling disadvantaged children. Medical services keep their family members in good health.
- **Aloghar (Lighthouse):** This project came into existence on November 27, 2011 by operating 1,005 education centers in 1005 villages, 374 unions, 104 *upazila* of 27 districts under Caritas Chittagong, Dinajpur, Khulna, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet Regional Offices. Main objective of this project is to increase and enhance empowerment, literacy, self-reliance and better social integration of disadvantaged and hardest to reach children. Aloghar mainly focuses on basic inclusive primary education through non-formal environment for the poverty-stricken children who live in the most inaccessible areas including the indigenous communities and those with special needs. The project actions are designed to supplement Government efforts to achieve development goal. This project covers about 76% hard-to-reach, out of school, never enrolled and dropped out children living in the remote areas who got admission in Education Centre (EC) and enjoy pleasurable education imparted by the locally recruited teachers.
- **Youth Formation Activities:** With the objective to render overall formation to youth through training, seminar, workshop, etc, this project started in 1992. The main concern of youth formation program is to help youngsters to grow up and form their character in accordance with the demands of the time through seminar, training, workshop, etc.

Priority - 2: Establishment of Social Justice and Human Rights through Capacity Building of the Poor, of the Women and of the Ethnic Communities

Caritas is implementing over 20 projects to address the above priority.

- **Integrated Community Development Projects (ICDPs):** Under this priority there are nine **ICDPs** with more or less similar objectives which are described below:

Main objectives of the ICDPs are:

- To strengthen collaboration between and among self managed Social Organization of the indigenous peoples to protect their social, economic and cultural life;
- To capacitate the indigenous peoples of the project area to defend their land rights and other human rights;
- To empower indigenous community through education and training, health services, land retention, preserving culture and heritage, legal support and capital formation;
- To strengthen the existing Social Organizations of the Indigenous through animation, collaboration and solidarity building between and among local Indigenous organizations;
- To enhance mutual respect and social harmony for creating sound atmosphere of living condition for project partners (both Bengali and indigenous people).

ICDP-Mymensingh is to cover 16 *upazila* of six districts under Mymensingh Region; **ICDP-Dinajpur** is to cover 14 *upazila* of six districts under Dinajpur Region; nine *upazila* in three districts are to be covered by **ICDP-Sylhet and Moulvibazar**; **ICDP-Barisal** is to cover two *upazila* in Patuakhali and Barguna districts under Barisal Region; **ICDP-Khulna** is to cover three *upazila* of Satkhira district under Khulna Region; **ICDP-Gazipur** is to cover three *upazila* of

Gazipur district under Dhaka Region; **ICDP-Rajshahi** is to cover two *upazila* of Naogaon district under Rajshahi Region; **ICDP-Chittagong Hill Tracts** is to cover six *upazila* of Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari districts and **ICDP-Khagrachhari** is to cover two *upazila* of Khagrachhari district under Chittagong Region.

Besides the above ICDPs there are 12 projects being implemented under this priority. These projects are:

- **Support Services to Credit Union Movement of Indigenous Communities for Capacity Building Project:** The project started in July 2010 covering 249 villages of 58 unions in 15 *upazila* of six districts under Rajshahi Region with the objective to make the indigenous community people aware to participate in the credit union movement. Credit unions are playing a vital role for greater unity among the indigenous community. Number of leaders among the Indigenous community is increasing through the credit union movement. Credit unions are becoming platforms for establishing their rights and enhancing their socio-economic situation.
- **Protection and Establishing Rights on Land of Adivasi (Indigenous) in Mymensingh (PERLAM):** The second phase of the project started in January 2009 in 205 villages of 30 unions in eight *upazila* of Mymensingh, Netrokona, Jamalpur and Tangail districts under Mymensingh Region. This project facilitates training for partners to increase their capacity and skills to deal with rights issues, on-farm and off-farm activities. It also provides financial supports for releasing mortgaged land for undertaking micro enterprises and demonstration farms as well as agricultural inputs support for purchasing seeds.
- **Progoti: Initiatives towards Establishing the Rights of the Extreme Poor:** The project began in October 2011 covering 41 villages of eight unions in Birganj, Bochaganj and Kaharole *upazila* of Dinajpur district to achieve the following main objectives:
 - To assist the extreme poor households to fulfill basic needs by the end of the project period; and
 - To provide support and services to targeted extreme poor households to raise income by 20%.This project provides support and services to the targeted extreme poor households to raise income by 20% by organizing training on homestead gardening, production of vegetables, livestock rearing, etc.
- **Shakti: A Project on Improved Food Security for the Extreme Poor:** *Shakti* started in March 2012 in Patnitola *upazila* of Naogaon district under Caritas Rajshahi region with the objectives to increase the income of extreme/vulnerable households through promotion of agro-fishery, livestock and alternative livelihoods practices; to increase production and diversify foods in the target villages thereby improving overall nutrition level; and to undertake advocacy initiatives for equitable allocation and distribution of government safety-net supports. The project is to distribute need based quality inputs such as seeds, saplings and provide support for livestock rearing through developing capacity of the extreme poor people.
- **Prochesta: A Project for Improving the Health and Social Condition of the Vulnerable Semi-urban Poor Youths:** The project began in January 2010 in eight semi-urban slums of Savar *upazila* under Dhaka Region. One of the major objectives of the project is to assist groups of primary stakeholders and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for reducing the spread of drug users among the general population and deliver assistance to addicts and vulnerable people.

Other activities include: Training on awareness raising, Seminar/workshop on Advocacy, Lobbying and Networking, education material and tuition fees for students.

- **Improvement of Livelihood and Health Program (ILHP):** The project started in July 2009 in 21 villages of eight unions in eight *upazila* under eight Regional Offices with the main objective to assist the poor households to meet their food needs. The main components of the project are: 1) livelihood support 2) health and hygiene support.
- **Jibon (LIFE-Livelihood Improvement through Formation and Education):** The project started in January 2013 in Paba *upazila* under Rajshahi Region. Objective of the project is to increase participation of community people to protect vulnerable street children. The project is to arrange seminar/workshop on moral values for the parents and children, provide teaching materials and arrange counseling session for psycho-social care of street children, support for vocational training, etc.
- **Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children through Awareness Raising and Capacity Building:** The aim of the project is to protect women and children from exploitative conditions of trafficking through capacity building and strengthening local networks. This project organizes workshops and discussion sessions, celebrates International Human Rights Day focusing on anti-trafficking.
- **Egiye Jai (moving forward):** The project started in January 2013. It covers eight low-lying inland villages of Rajihar union of Barisal district. The main objectives of the project are to improve gender equality and food security through increasing the quantity, improving the quality of year-round homestead production, promoting equitable control of household income and increasing women's participation in marketing homestead products, and improving household dietary consumption patterns of households in the project area. The project has a plan to cover 2500 families in three years.
- **Women Empowerment through Livelihood and Rights Promotion (WELRP) Project:** The project started from the 1st September 2012 with the main objective to increase sustainable livelihood opportunities for the poor and disadvantaged women of the project areas through undertaking gender-responsive interventions. The project with its four key components such as Awareness and sensitization; Land restoration and development; Women micro-enterprise development; and Advocacy and networking are being implemented at 32 villages of eight unions in three *upazila* of Dinajpur and Joypurhat districts under Dinajpur Region.
- **Justice and Peace Program (JPP):** JPP, formerly known as Human Rights Education Program (HREP), started in January 2002. The three-year fourth phase of the project started in July 2011. Main objectives of this project are: to promote peace and reconciliation in the situation of conflicts and violence; to arrange human rights education for the leaders of different faiths; and to assist the poor victims of injustice with legal support. The JPP is jointly administered with the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace.

- **Ensuring Sustainable Livelihood of the Extreme Poor of Chittagong Hill Tracts:** The project started in September 2011. The project covers 481 villages of 19 unions in five *upazila* of Bandarban district under Chittagong Region. The project provides skill development training, support for man days, distributes cash crop and vegetable seeds, long term and short term fruit saplings, timber tree sapling. It also conducts vocational training for the youngsters and distributes sewing machine among the graduate students.
- **Caritas Micro Finance Program (CMFP):** In 1982, Caritas Bangladesh started Micro Credit Program under seven Regional Offices for economic empowerment of the program partners at the rural village of Bangladesh. Caritas Bangladesh got registered with the Microcredit Regulatory Authority having Registration No. 00032-00286-00184 dated 16 March, 2008 to continue the Micro Credit Program. As on June 30, 2012, about Tk. 886 million savings have been made by more than 330,566 members through 16,376 groups under this project. It also disburses loan for Tk. 2,502 million yearly. The CMFP is run through a total of 228 Field Offices with 1,275 staff members.

Priority - 3: Health and Care

There are 11 projects implemented under the priority 3 as described below:

- **Leprosy and Tuberculosis (TB) Control Centres** - The Leprosy Control Centre was initiated by the PIME Fathers in Dhanjuri, Dinajpur in 1927 with the main objective to find out the leprosy patients and give free treatment. Leprosy and TB Control Project, Khulna was part of Dhanjuri Leprosy Control Centre that started working in the field of Tuberculosis (TB) when Government initiated the National TB Program in Khulna. In July, 2004 Khulna Leprosy Control Center emerged as a separate project. These Centres provide a number of services including - hospital and clinic services as well as other services like physical check up, different pathological investigations, supply of MCR (microcellular rubber) sandals, ulcer treatments, and awareness program in 2,114 villages of 13 *upazlia* under Dinajpur district and 31 Wards of Khulna City Corporation.
- **Under Fives and Maternity Clinic (UFMC)** - The Holy Cross Missionary Sisters established the Fatima Health Centre in 1936 in Bakerganj *upazila* of Barisal and handed it over to Caritas Bangladesh in 1979. From January 2012 the project has been running with its income. It provides services such as outdoor based medical, gynaecology and obstructive services, field based medical services, Ambulance services, pathological tests including ECG, Ultra sonogram, Pharmacy, etc in order to achieve the objective to transform charity-driven Under Five and Maternity Clinic Project to community owned self-reliant health service.
- **Reproductive and Child Health Development Project (RCHDP)** - RCHDP was initiated under Community Health & Natural Family Planning (CH-NFP) in 2002 to achieve the main objective to increase psycho-social life skills among adolescents and youths in the area of reproductive health and to replicate these skills in the working areas of different Caritas Regions. This project is operational in eight districts under eight Regional Offices. It organizes discussion meeting and workshop to impart education on adolescent reproductive health (RH) and family life skills.
- **Safe Motherhood Project (SMP)** - The project began in January 2008 covering 25 districts under eight Regional offices with the main objective to decrease the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity. The project arranges Village Midwifery Training (VMs), Rural Midwifery (RM) training and Female Rural Health Practitioners (FRHP)

training. Besides, the project conducts basic training on Conducting Safe and Clean Deliveries and facilitates for ante-natal and postnatal check up on mothers and babies.

- **Livelihood supports for people living with HIV and AIDS and their families** - Caritas HIV/AIDS Prevention Project started in 2003 and ended in June 30, 2012. After phasing out of Caritas HIV/AIDS Prevention Project this one-year small project started in January 2013 with the main objective to raise adaptive capacity of PLHA (People Living with HIV/AIDS) and coping situation at their level and being implemented in Dhaka and Rajshahi. This project conducts various activities such as need assessment and training on livelihood activities for PLHA, distribution of seed money for income generating activities (IGA), home visit, counseling and referral and monitoring.
- **Sanghoti (Integration)-A Project for Promoting Health, Economic and Psycho-social Condition of Vulnerable Poor People of Khulna City):** The project came into existence in January 2013. The project is to render services to the poor and vulnerable people of six Wards of Khulna City under Khulna Region to improve health, hygiene, social security and social safety net services.
- **Bangladesh Rehabilitation and Assistance Centre for Addicts (BARACA)** - BARACA was established in 1988 and is the first drug treatment and rehabilitation center in Bangladesh. The main objective of BARACA is to bring about a lasting and wholesome recovery through shaping/overhauling/reshaping the addict's personality to lead a normal life in the society. BARACA accomplishes various activities such as treatments and rehabilitation; awareness programs; drop-in-center (male & female); day care shelter for street children; Income generating projects; HIV/AIDS, STI, Hepatitis B & C prevention programs; networking among the drug treatment & rehabilitation centers; and VCT (Voluntary Counseling & Testing).
- **Development Initiative for People with Disability (DIPD)** - The project started in January 2010 in 11 districts under eight Regional Offices to achieve the main objective to sensitize community people of the working area on disability issues and to empower self-help groups to avail local resources and services for people with disabilities. This project also extends support for persons with disabilities by providing assistive devices, treatment, nutritious supplements, technical training, income generating activities, physiotherapy, activities of daily living, education and counseling.
- **Assistive Devices and Limbs Center (ADLC)** - Caritas Bangladesh has been implementing this project since 1986 covering all districts under Rajshahi Regional Office with the objective to produce customized artificial limbs, assistive devices and appliances for the people with disabilities by providing them above knee or below knee prosthesis, limbs, wheelchair, tricycle, walker, auxiliary crutch, etc.
- **Assistance to Charitable Dispensaries/Clinics (ACD)** - The project was initiated by Caritas in July, 1988 to achieve the objective to distribute medicines and basic medical equipment to rural-based dispensaries/clinics for dispensing and using as curative measures for the rural poor. It provides support such as medicine either free of cost or at subsidized prices for the poor patients of 61 *upazila* in 33 districts of the country through 78 dispensaries/clinics.

- **Projatna: A Project for Attention and Special Care for the Elderly** - The project started in March, 2010 covering four *upazila* of four districts under Barisal, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Dhaka Regional Office. It organizes awareness seminar, medical treatment supports, observation of World Elderly Day and collects welfare fund for development of elderly, especially for the most needy. The main objective of this project is to organize elderly people and assist them to develop attitude of mutual concern for each other.

Priority - 4: Ensure Ecological Sustainability and Sustainable Livelihood through the Use and Preservation of Natural Resources and Capacity Building in Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation

To address the above priority Caritas is implementing over 20 projects many of which are described below:

❖ **Natural Resources Management Projects:**

There are two projects with the objective to increase technical skill and capacity, increase productivity, conserve natural resource and increase income of the program participants. **Natural Resources Management Project (NRMP)** covers 182 villages under 69 unions of 34 *upazila* in 17 districts under eight Caritas Regional Offices. **Ecosystem Based Natural Resources Management (ENRM) Project** is operational in four *upazila* under Khagrachhari, Satkhira, Sherpur and Naogaon districts under Caritas Chittagong, Khulna, Mymensingh and Rajshahi Regional Offices.

❖ **Climate Change Adaptation Projects:**

In all eight projects are in operation to achieve the following main objectives:

- To increase adaptive capacity and coping mechanism;
 - To increase food security and income of target families through promotion of sustainable agriculture; and
 - To improve soil management through the adoption of environmental friendly and sustainable crop production, agro-fishery in the valleys and alternative livelihoods practices.
- **Enhancing Coping and Adaptation Capacity of the Coastal Community to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change:** The project is operational in Shyamnagar *upazila* of Satkhira district under Khulna Region. Main components of the project are - awareness raising, support activities for safe drinking water and irrigation, demonstration of integrated coastal agriculture, aquaculture and livestock, etc.
 - **Enhancement of Adaptive Capacity of Drought Vulnerable Community in Northwest Region of Bangladesh:** It covers four villages of Parbotipur union of Gomostapur *upazila* under Chapai Nawabganj district of Rajshahi Region. Main components of the projects are - support for fish culture, rain water harvesting for drinking water, promotion of organic farming and support for alternative income generating activities.
 - **Enhancement of Adaptive Capacity of the Climate Vulnerable Community through Strengthening Indigenous Knowledge and Technologies:** The project is being implemented in six *upazila* of three districts under Caritas Khulna, Dinajpur and Mymensingh Region. The project extends supports for installation of rainwater reservoirs, excavation and re-excavation of ponds and maintenance for availability of drinking and irrigation water, develop Farmers' Field School for sharing of indigenous knowledge, etc.

- **Community Led Initiatives to Enhance Resilience and Biodiversity in the Vulnerable Ecosystems in Bangladesh:** This project is operational in eight *upazila* of seven districts under Barisal, Chittagong, Khulna, Mymensingh and Rajshahi region. Major components of the activities are- improvement of staff capacity through Participatory Learning Workshop, exposure visit and trainings, support to promote saline and drought tolerant agricultural and aquaculture.
 - **Building Resilience to Climate Change through Strengthening Adaptive Small Scale Farming System in Rainfed Areas in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (SAFBIN):** The project covers 30 villages of three unions of three *upazila* of Natore, Naogaon and Rajshahi districts under Caritas Rajshahi Region. Major components of the project are - on farm research, trials of different crops and creation of good model on farm.
 - **Food Security Project (FSP):** The project covers five *upazila* of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati districts under Caritas Chittagong Region. Main components of the project are - establishment of long-term and short-term fruit garden; cultivation of rice, vegetable, cash crop; vaccination of livestock and poultry and skill development training.
 - **Improvement of Livelihood through Sustainable Agriculture (ILSA):** The project covers 23 villages of five unions in three *upazila* of Naogaon district under Rajshahi Region. Crop diversification and cultivation, vegetable cultivation, vegetable pool, pond re-excavation, improve stove, women's corner, agriculture fair are the main components of the project.
 - **Water Resources Management (WRM):** The project started in March 2013 and is operational in Rampal and Mongla *upazila* of Bagerhat district under Khulna region. Its main components are - pond re-excavation, rain water harvesting, water purification, advocacy and lobbying for access to safe water.
 - ❖ **Disaster Management Projects:**
Caritas is implementing both Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction projects under Disaster Management.
 - **Emergency Response:** Caritas provides emergency supports to disaster-affected people of any part of the country. Caritas emergency supports include relief, rehabilitation and recovery components. The emergency response program is to assist the disaster-affected communities with immediate food and non-food items, crop recovery supports, reconstruction works as well as employment creation through cash for works; installation of water and sanitation facilities; low cost houses re-construction and construction; professional support (e.g. distribution of boat and fishing nets, rickshaws, vans, cows, sewing machines), etc.
- As part of Disaster Management Caritas implements two construction projects namely **Construction of Cyclone Shelters** (Caritas has built 242 Cyclone Shelters). Through its project **Construction of Low Cost Houses (LCH)** Caritas has provided so far 377,687 shelters to equal member of families.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) projects are being implemented to achieve the following main objectives:

- To consolidate disaster preparedness and strengthen response capacities of individuals, vulnerable families, village communities, institutions and local authorities
- To strengthen disaster preparedness and capacities of individuals, vulnerable families, village communities, institutions and local authorities for reducing the loss of lives, livelihoods and assets in disaster;
- To develop different designs of low cost houses for disaster affected poor families;
- To improve access to safe water and sanitation through water quality testing regularly, installing water options maintaining basic standards and using government facilities for treatment of arsenic patients;
- To protect the lives, livelihood and domestic wealth of the vulnerable community from coastal hazards.

The DRR projects include:

- **Strengthening the Community for Disaster Risk Management (SCDRM)** to cover seven *upazila* of Gopalganj, Munshiganj, Sirajganj, Chatmohar, Bagerhat, Cox's Bazar and Mymensingh districts.
- **Family and Village level Disaster Risk Reduction Project (FVDRR)** covers 20 *upazila* of 14 districts under Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Mymensingh and Sylhet Regional Offices.
- **Amrao Pari (We too Can)** covers 18 villages of Kolapara *upazila* in Patuakhali district under Barisal Region and 12 villages of Shyamnagar *upazila* in Satkhira district under Khulna Region.
- **Family and Community Level Flood Risk Reduction Project (FCFRR)** covers nine villages of two wards of Sreepur North union under Tahirpur *upazila* of Sunamganj district under Caritas Sylhet Region.
- **Strengthening the Community for Flood Risk Reduction (SCFRR)** is operational in Dharmapasha *upazila* under Sunamganj district and Gaibandha *Sadar upazila* under Gaibandha district.
- **Community Managed Arsenic Preparedness and Mitigation Program** covers 398 villages of 23 unions under three *upazila* of three districts under Khulna, Mymensingh and Dhaka Region.
- **Scaling up Community Preparedness for Cyclones and Tidal Surges in Southern Bangladesh** project is the first DIPECHO project for Caritas Bangladesh that had just started from March 2013. This project is to cover four unions of two *upazila* in Satkhira and Khulna districts under Khulna Region. Main components of the project are - advocacy and lobbying, activation of Disaster Management Committee, preparation of DRR action plan as well as implement and monitor at ward and union level, capacity building of DRR taskforce, etc.
- **Capacity Building in Disaster Management:** The overall goal of the project is to reduce the negative effects of disaster by building the capacity of responders such as the staff members of Caritas Bangladesh, local NGOs and local government authorities. It implements Training of Trainers (ToT), Regional Training courses and refreshers ToT.

❖ **Special Projects:**

Caritas Bangladesh has three special projects as mentioned below:

- **Caritas Employee's Solidarity Fund:** The main objective of this project is to express concern for and extend support to the poor and impoverished and assist less auspicious brethren with own voluntary monthly contributions of Caritas staff members. Each employee of all Caritas offices contributes an amount from his/her salary to support the poor and most distressed who apply for help for treatment, education, house repairing, etc.

- ***Teg-O-Sheba Abhijan (TOSA)***: The program started in 1980. This is one of the educational and only fund raising campaign program of Caritas Bangladesh. A theme is selected following lenten message of the Holy Father for lenten period for campaign. Based on the theme various materials i.e. magazine, poster, sticker, 30-day life style calendar, envelope, leaflet, etc., are printed and sent to all Catholic parishes; Caritas regions, projects, working areas; educational institutions, clubs, NGOs, religious and formation houses for awareness raising on the theme and collecting funds. The funds collected through the campaign are used for supporting various small projects.

- **Discretionary Fund Grants**: Caritas Directors' Discretionary Fund has been instituted to deal with small but urgent issues, for which normal procedures to obtain Executive Board's permission cannot be followed. The fund is utilized for purposes that are of short duration, such as seminars, training, individual cases that deserve charity, as well as minor proposals for experimentation and innovation.