



Project Inception: Empowering the vulnerable in four slums by building resilience to everyday and disaster risks

Caritas Bangladesh jointly with Habitat for Humanity International-Bangladesh organized the inception meeting of the project titled: Empowering the vulnerable in four slums by building resilience to everyday and disaster risks today at the Auditorium of Mirpur Agriculture Workshop and Training School (MAWTS), Mirpur, Dhaka with participation of 74 people. The objective of the meeting was to share the project information with stakeholders and collect valuable feedback, suggestions and recommendations for better implementation. The project funded by the JTI foundation through Caritas Switzerland aims to increase the resilience of dwellers in four slums in Dhaka and Khulna city to face disasters, climate change and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Mr. Abu Syed Mohammad Hashim, Additional Secretary, Department of Disaster Management was present as the Chief Guest of the meeting presided over by Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh. Dr. Tariq Bin Yousuf, Superintendent Engineer, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management Cycle, Dhaka North City Corporation and project Director, Urban Resilient Project, World Bank and Engr. Uttam Kumar Roy, Commercial Manager, Dhaka WASA were present as Special Guests. Mr. John



A Armstrong, National Director of Habitat for Humanity International-Bangladesh delivered welcome speech. The Chief Guest appreciated the project interventions. He said, "Education and health facilities need to improve for the people living in slums." Among others Begum Meherunnesa Haque, Councillor of Ward No. 2, 3 and 5, and Ms. Rashida Akhter Jharna, Councillor of Ward No. 6, 7 and 8 also spoke on this occasion.

Speakers and participants emphasized on the following issues for more effective implementation of the project:

- Proper coordination among the Government Bodies and INGOs/NGOs who are working in the same area to reduce institutional gaps
- Effective monitoring including follow-up on other projects implemented before in the same area
- Ensure clean and safe water through legal supply of Dhaka WASA, well planned tree plantation, proper waste management
- Involve volunteers
- Follow a common slum working guideline
- Capacity building/empower the technicians, construction workers dwelling in these slums.

Mr Francis Atul Sarker concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks.

