



## **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 on 23 February 2017 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 is funded by the JTI Foundation through Caritas Switzerland which 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, Ms Amrita Rejina Rozario, Country Representative of Caritas Switzerland 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 be improved 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:

- Establishment of proper coordination among the Government Bodies and NGOs who are working in the same area to reduce institutional gaps;
  - Ensure effective monitoring including follow-up of other projects implemented before in the same areas;
  - Ensure clean and safe water supply through Dhaka WASA legally, well planned tree plantation, proper waste management, etc;
- 
- Involve volunteers from the locality;
  - Follow a common slum working guidelines;
  - Capacity building/empowering the technicians, construction workers dwelling in these slums.

## **Caritas Family Day 2017**

### **Theme: Family is the gift of the Creator**



Caritas Central Office observed Family Day 2017 with the theme "Family is the gift of the Creator." The staff of Caritas Central Office, Caritas Development Institute and Community Health & Natural Family Planning project participated in the Family Day on 10 February 2017 at Notre Dame College Campus, Dhaka. A total of 336 (staff and their family members) person attended the program. The day-long program included various events such as reflection and sharing on the theme, sports, prize distribution and cultural program. Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh (CB) thanked the family members of CB staff for their enormous support to serve Caritas indirectly. Most Rev. Shorot Francis Gomes, Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka Archdiocese and Member of General Body of Caritas Bangladesh said, "We must appreciate the exclusive gift of the God with intensive love, care and respect for each other in family."



Rev. Fr. Liton Hubert Gomes, CSC, Spiritual Adviser (Chaplain) of Caritas Central Office and Mr. Ranjon F. Rozario, Assistant Executive Director (Programs) also spoke on the occasion. Mr. Sebastian Rozario, Assistant Executive Director (Finance and Admin) closed the program with an enormous vote of thanks to all colleagues, spouses, children assigned committee members and others involved to make this great event success. He also thanked to the Authority of Notre Dame College for granting the venue.



## **ICDP-Rakhaine organized a Campaign for resolving Land Problem of Rakhaine**



Integrated Community Development Project for Rakhaine (ICDP-Rakhaine) of Caritas Barisal organized a three-day Campaign on 17-19 March on Establishing Indigenous People's Rights to land properties and resources with the collaboration of other land related organizations, journalists, human rights activists at National level.

Two discussion sessions were held on this occasion on 17 March 2017 at Taltoli ICDP office auditorium, under Barguna district and other one was held on 19 March 2017 at the Conference hall of Upazila Nirbahi Officer,

Kalapara under Patuakhali district. Mr. Motaleb Talukdar, Chairman, *Upazila Parishad*, Kalapara, ABM Sadikur Rahman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kalapara *Upazila* and Bipul Chandra Howlader, Mayor of Kalapara municipality were present as Special Guests. Mr. Francis Bepari, Regional Director, Caritas Barisal Region, presided over the discussion session.

A 13-member team led by prominent human rights activist and President of Oikya NAP Mr. Pankaj Bhattacharya visited two *Rakhaine* villages in Taltoli and Kalapara *upazila*. The other members of fact-finding mission were Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University; Numan Ahmed Khan, Executive Director of IED; Mangal Kumar Chakma, Information and Publicity Secretary of PCJSS; Rajib Noor, reporter of the daily Samakal; Pavel Partha, Researcher and Bio-diversity activist; Tanvir Ahmed, reporter of the daily Bhorer Kagoj; Emran Hossain Emon, reporter of the daily New Age; Sona Rani Chakma, vice president of Parbatya Chattagram Mahila Samiti; Rowshan Masuda, human rights defender; Dipayon Khisa, information and publicity secretary of BIPF; Lata Ahmed, film maker, and others. They urged the government to take immediate action to protect the *Rakhaines* of Barguna and Patuakhali districts. The team also met Mr. A K M Shamimul Huq Siddique, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali district and discussed on the wellbeing of the *Rakhaine* community. The DC assured that he would have special care of the land and other issues of the *Rakhaine* community.

## Mymensingh Catholic Diocesan Education Workshop-2017 Held



A three-day long Diocesan Education Workshop-2017 was jointly organized by Caritas Mymensingh Region and Mymensingh Catholic Diocesan (MCD) Education Commission on 23-25 February, 2017 at John Paul Conference Hall, Bishop's House, Mymensingh. A total of 92 participants (Woman 30) participated in the workshop. The participants were Parish Priests, Head Teachers of high schools, junior high schools, primary

schools under MCD and Aloghar, Principal/Professor of colleges, students of universities and members of School Managing Committee. Most Rev. Ponon Paul Kubi, CSC, Bishop of Mymensingh inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest.

The objectives of the workshop were: to develop a long-term realistic plan of the diocesan education programs for sustainable development; to identify existing gaps, challenges and problems in term of approaches, methodologies and conditions; and to develop strategy for coordination of internal and external resources.

Mr. A K A M Monirul Hassan, District Assistant Education Officer, National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE) presented the key note paper on Govt. Education Policy and Rules Regulation/Future Plan. Dr. Bro. Harold Bijoy Rodrigues, CSC, Secretary of Bangladesh Catholic Education Board (BCEB) shared on Government Education Policy and Catholic Education System: Challenges, Opportunities and Future Direction. Sr. Shikha L. Gomes, CSC, Principal, Holy Cross College shared on Challenges faced and Experiences gained being a Female Administrator and Fr. Bijon Kubi shared on Challenges, Opportunities for Future Direction for Diocesan Education System (DES).

## Seminar on Canon Law held

A seminar on Canon Law was held on January 25, 2017 at Caritas Central Office where a total of 40 participants from Caritas Central, Trust, Region and Project Offices were present. The seminar was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Theotonius P. Rebeiro, Vice President of Caritas Bangladesh.

In his sharing Rev. Fr. Theotonius P. Rebeiro highlighted on Canon Law, its functions, Interpretation, a general orientation including short history, structure and overview of the Canon Law, 10 principles of Canon Law, etc. He discussed the topics relating to Caritas and its staff. The participants were very enthusiastic to have ideas on the Canon Law that inspired them and made them express their interest to learn/know more about it.





## Advocacy Workshop on Improving WASH in community Clinic Held



An advocacy workshop on Water and Sanitation for Health: Improving water, sanitation and hygiene in community health care facilities was held on March 14, 2017 at the Conference Room of Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Pirganj under Thakurgaon district. The workshop was jointly organized by Caritas Bangladesh, Caritas Switzerland, and Tdh on behalf of Swiss Water and Sanitation Consortium II, which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. A total of 26 participants attended the event. Mr. A.B.M Eftekharul Islam Khondokar, UNO, Pirganj chaired the program and Dr. Mohammad Yousuf, Line Director, Community Clinic Project and Community

Based Health Care Project was present as Chief Guest. Among others Mr. Pankaj Kumar Shaha, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Thakurgaon, was also present as Special Guest.

The aim of the workshop was to share the functionality and management of WASH facilities and services in community health clinics as well as to sensitize the health service providing agencies and local authority about the importance and relevance of WASH services in community health facilities. Final recommendations and commitments of the workshop:

- WASH issues will be incorporated in the next Operational Plan of the Government of Bangladesh as well as training module of health staff.
- Community Based Health Clinic Authority will issue a letter to DPHE authority for ensuring regular monitoring and supervision of WASH services and management at health care facilities.
- Effective coordination between DPHE and Health Center will be ensured for bilateral cooperation.

## Aloghar Participated in International Conference on Inclusive Education

A four-member team comprising of Mr. Shishir Anjelo Rozario, Mr. Shankar Kumar Dash, Mr. Dulen Areng and Ms. Margret Sumer took part in the fourth International Conference on Inclusive Education organized at Krishibid Institutions Bangladesh, Dhaka from January 12 to 14, 2017. The conference was organized by Asian Center for Inclusive Education (ACIE) with the theme Inclusive Education Is Good: But How to Do It? Scholars, academia, practitioners, students, government agencies from home and abroad participated in the conference. Mr. Shishir Anjelo Rozario shared a presentation on Aloghar Project.



## Inauguration of Stable Dike Project at Kalapara



Stable Dike Project was inaugurated in the village of Nachnapara, Tiakhali union, Kalapara *upazila* under Patuakhali district on March 29, 2017. Caritas Barisal Region constructed the stable dike with the technical assistance of two experts from the Netherlands and the Horticulture Department of Patuakhali Science and Technology University utilizing Tk.124,10,013/- funded by Cordaid the Netherlands.

Mr. Abdul Motaleb Talukder, Upazila Chairman, Kalapara and Mr. Francis Bepari, Regional Director, Caritas Barisal Region jointly inaugurated the dike. The 1,740 feet long sustainable dike is constructed with Jute mat (soil saver), mud filled jute sack, bamboo, RCC

palasiding, planting of binna grass and bamboo fencing to protect the grass and dike. Inside the colony area, pipes are installed for easy water pass, two walking roads are constructed for inter communication and one automatic sluice gate inside the dike area. The dike has been constructed in a very scientific way following the result of research conducted by the Patuakhali Science and Technology University. Two hundred families of Bangabondhu Colony of Nachnapara village have got relief from waterlog caused by tidal surge.

## Final Workshop on Resource Mobilization Held

The final workshop on Resource Mobilization of Caritas Bangladesh was held at Caritas Central Office, Dhaka, on 25 January 2017, where 41 senior and mid-level staff of Caritas Central, Region, Trust and Project Offices participated. The workshop was inaugurated by the Executive Director, Mr Francis Atul Sarker with a call on mobilizing internal and local resources, targeting enhancement by 50% of local contribution against current 35-40% by 2020. He also shared the following objectives of the workshop:

- To share the outcomes of the Regional Workshops on Resource Mobilization; and
- To develop strategies for implementation of resource mobilization strategy, prepare action plan and income budget for the FY 2017-18 through mobilized resources.

The Executive Director emphasized on immediate formulation of Resource Mobilization Unit and Committee at Central and Regional level for the faster implementation of the Policy.





## Token of Love of Students

The students' cabinet of St. Paul's High School Mongla distributed warm cloths, pen and chocolate among 98 students of Pakkhali Education Center which is situated in a remote coastal area near the Sundarbans of Mongla *upazila* (sub-district) under Bagerhat district on 8 February 2017. Education Management Committee (EMC) members, some guardians and Aloghar staff attended the program. Through this program, students of both the schools realized that they are not only for themselves but they have to do some good works for each other.



## CB arranged Training on Humanitarian Aid Using the CI Tool Kits



Caritas Bangladesh organized a training course on Basic Principles and Standards on Humanitarian Aid and the Implementation of Humanitarian Aid Using the CI Tool Kits from March 27 to 30, 2017 at Community Health and Natural Family Planning (CHNFP) Training Center at Mirpur, Dhaka under the PEACH Project. A total of 24 senior and mid level staff members participated in the training. The objective of training was to strengthen Caritas staff members' knowledge on Basic Principles and Standards of Humanitarian response activities using the CI Emergency Tool Kits.

## Fair Trade Thanksgiving and Packing Opening Ceremony-2017

On January 12 CORR-The Jute Works (CJW) started its export activity for the year 2017 through the 'Fair Trade Thanksgiving and Packing Opening Ceremony'. Most Rev. Gervas Rozario, STD, DD, President of Caritas Bangladesh and Bishop of Rajshahi Diocese was present as the Chief Guest of the ceremony presided over by Mr. Francis Atul Sarker, Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh and the Chairperson of CJW Board of Trustees. Monsignor Luca Marabese, Charge d' Affairs of the Apostolic Nunciature in Bangladesh and The Life Trustee Sister Mary Lillian SMRA were present as Special Guests.



## CB's participation in the International Prayer and Awareness Day against Trafficking

As a member of COATNET (Christian Organizations against Human Trafficking NETWORK), Caritas Bangladesh through its different offices across the country organized International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking on 8 February 2017 as part of global awareness against human trafficking. The prayer session included the following events:

- Recitation of Prayer and lightening candles;
- Short video presentation on 'Kids they are, not slaves';
- Sharing of statistical information about trafficking; and
- Reflection by the concerned Central/Regional/Trust Directors on trafficking.

The pictures below highlight the events:



## Installation of Safe Water Option under SCDRF Project

Caritas Mymensingh Region installed 13 safe water options/tube-wells in 13 villages of Jhinaigati upazila during the period from December 2016 to February 2017 with Tk. 12,41,060 under the SCDRF project funded by Caritas Spain. The students of Aloghar school are seen collecting safe water from a tube-well installed at Choto Gazni village.





## Inauguration of Panchakoralia Secondary Girl's School Cyclone Shelter



Panchakoralia Secondary Girl's School Cyclone Shelter was inaugurated in the village of Panchakoralia, Panchakoralia union, Taltoli upazila under Barguna district on March 23, 2017. Caritas Barisal Region spent a total of Tk. 21,309,574/- for the construction of the building with the funding support of Cordaid, the Netherlands. Most Rev. Lawrence Subrata Hawlader CSC, Bishop of Barisal Catholic Diocese inaugurated the shelter as the Chief Guest.

The two storied shelter has four rooms in the first floor. It has rainwater harvesting tank with the capacity of preserving 20 thousand liters of water, twelve latrines, one arsenic free deep tube-well and electric power supply with fan and bulb. The newly constructed cyclone shelter having 3,737 square feet area can accommodate about 3,400 people. The ramp facility creates an opportunity for the handicapped and elderly people to have easy access to the building.

## Evaluation of Integrated Community Development Project-Gazipur

A two-member team led by Professor Mesbah Kamal, Eminent Human Rights Activist, Professor of History Department, Dhaka University and Chairperson of Research and Development Collective (RDC) conducted the final evaluation of ICDP-Gazipur from 09-12 December, 2016. The project has a major focus on establishing and promoting Cooperative Credit Unions (30 CCUs) for socio-economic emancipation of the target community (Garo, Bormon, Coach, Hajong, etc).



Over all, the evaluation ended with a positive impression on ICDP-Gazipur's contribution in

socio-economic improvement of the *adivasi* and minority groups in Gazipur. ICDP, starting from 2008 made considerable changes in every sphere of lives such as education, health, agriculture, employment, as well as unity to liaison, bargain, advocate at various levels to establish their rights and entitlements of minority groups residing in Gazipur area.

The evaluation report cited that the transformation of social pattern needs long time. Caritas facilitated CCUs in Gazipur which have just started producing returns. It is the beginning and needs to go a long way. The CCUs require further management, technical and liaison support for few more years from any quarter. In the long run, these CCUs may bring immense socio-economic impact and sustainability of the targeted minority groups.

## Caritas Bangladesh prayed: 'Peace for Syria'

Caritas Internationalis has been campaigning for an end to the war in Syria through "Syria: Peace is Possible" Campaign. As part of this movement Caritas Bangladesh through all its Offices across the country initiated a local action by creating Human Banner in demand of Peace for Syria on 15 March 2017. The activities of Caritas Bangladesh were shared through the social media and website to be a part of this connection letting know the whole world at this concern.

Human Banners created by different Offices:



## Most Rev. Lawrence S. Howlader, CSC visited Caritas activities



Most Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC, Bishop of Barisal Catholic Diocese accompanied by Rev. Fr. Michael Milon Dewri, Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Mintu Samuel Bairagi, Rev. Fr. Palash Clarence Halder, Rev. Fr. Peter Gomes, Rev. Fr. Titu David Gomes, Rev. Fr. Lipon Rozario, Rev. Fr. Utpal Ritchil, Rev. Fr. Tapan Rozario, Sister Shely LHC and Sr. Milon LHC visited Caritas activities in Monpura upazila of Bholá district under Caritas Barisal Region from 5 to 8 March 2017. Mr Francis Bepari, Regional Director of Caritas Barisal Region also accompanied the team. During the program they

visited Rev. Fr. R.W. Team colony, areas affected by river erosion, MUKTE-II project activities, Hazirhat Girl's High School, Andirpar Maddhamic Biddalaya and Monpura Degree College; had discussion with Post ROANU affected people, and observed the Mock Drill on Disaster Risk Reduction.



## Mr. John Montu Palma retires after 27 years of service



Mr. John Montu Palma, Regional Director of Caritas Sylhet Region, retired after 27 years of service in Caritas Bangladesh.

Mr. John Montu Palma served Caritas Bangladesh in different capacities. He started his job as a Qualified Secretary in Caritas Bangladesh on 8 January, 1989. He was promoted as Program Officer (Evaluation) under Caritas Central Office on 1 July, 1994. Thereafter, he served Caritas in different capacities including Coordinator (Evaluation) and Project Coordinator (DMD) for more than 18 years. After that his service was placed as Administrator of Caritas Sylhet Region on 1 January, 2013. Finally, he was promoted as Regional Director of Caritas Sylhet Region on 1 June, 2013 and held the same position

until his retirement on 31 December, 2016.

We express our sincere thanks and deep gratitude for his devoted service rendered to Caritas Bangladesh. We wish him good health and peaceful life in the future.

## New Acting Regional Director of Caritas Sylhet Region

Mr. Joachim Gomes (49) has been appointed as the Acting Regional Director of Caritas Sylhet Region effective from 1 January 2017.

He first joined as Junior Accountant at Caritas Mymensingh Region on 1 January 1993. He was transferred to Caritas Central Office as an Accountant on 15 February, 1999. Since then he served Caritas in different capacities including Senior Accounts Officer, Manager (Accounts) at Caritas Central Office and Manager (Programs) at Caritas Dhaka Region for more than 17 years. His service was placed as Assistant Regional Head on 16 October, 2016 under Caritas Sylhet Region and worked in that position until his recent appointment as the Acting Regional Director Caritas Sylhet Region. Mr. Joachim Gomes completed MBA (HRM) from ASA University of Bangladesh.



We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Joachim Gomes for his new appointment and wish him every success and good health

## HRD Highlights

Duration: January – March 2017

**New Appointment:** During the reporting period the following staff members have been appointed:

Sl. No.	Name	Position	Effective From
1	Mr. James Malakar	Coordinator for developing/up gradation of Disaster Management Manual of Caritas Bangladesh	01/03/2017
2	Mr. Subhash Chandra Saha	Program Manager (PM) for Fondation Caritas Luxembourg	02/04/2017
3	Mr. Angshu Mankin	Driver, Caritas Central Office	01/03/2017

**Transfer/ Promotion/ Placement:**

The following four staff members were transferred/ placed:

Sl. No.	Name	Previous Position	Present Position	Effective From
1	Mr. Alexander Tripura	Program Officer (DIP), Caritas Central Office	Program Officer (SWCD), Caritas Central Office	01/01/2017
2	Mossamat Rokeya Begum	Internal Auditor, Caritas Central Office	Accounts Officer, Caritas Central Office	15/01/2017
3	Mr. Borun Doffo	Driver, Caritas Central Office	Assistant Caretaker, Caritas Central Office	01/03/2017
4	Mr. Shekhor Purification	Field Officer (DIP), Caritas Central Office	Admin. Assistant, Caritas Central Office	01/03/2017

**Resignation:**

Mr. Md. Dewan Shafaet Ahmed, Program Officer (DM) of Caritas Central Office resigned during the above mentioned period.

**Retirement:**

1. Mr. Raton Gomes, Caretaker, Caritas Central Office has retired from the service of Caritas from 4 February 2017 at the age of 60 years.
2. Mr. Apurbo Roy, Dispatcher-cum-Store Keeper, Caritas Central Office has retired from the service of Caritas from 31 March 2017 at the age of 60 years.

**Our Visitors: January to March 2017**

A total of 19 visitors/partners visited projects of Caritas Bangladesh for monitoring and evaluation. They were:

**January:** Mr. Paul Pun of Caritas Macau; Ms. Ethel Grabher and Mr. Jan Gruss of Caritas Switzerland; Ms. Maribel Vilán Palacios of Caritas Spain.

**February:** Mr. Sauvik Sen Gupta, Mr. Saurav Behera, Mr. Ravi Kant Srivastava and Ms. Poonam Sondhi of CRS; Ms. Fanny Delgutte and Ms. Emmanuelle Marie-Madeleine of Secours Catholique/Caritas France; Mr. Dinesh Perera and Mr. Nathan Koblintz of Porticus Asia; Ms. Corine Van Reeuwijk of Caritas Luxembourg and Ms. Eleanor Trinchera of Caritas Australia.



**March:** Dr. Olivier Moles of CRAterre, France; Dr. Efre Milanese for Caritas Luxembourg; Mrs. Ursula Meissner of Germany (for Andheri Hilfe); Ms Anna Barbara Haselbach and Ms Alexandra Wey of Caritas Switzerland. A team comprising Professors and a student from the Notre Dame University, USA also paid a visit to Caritas Central Office in March, 2017.

**Congratulations to**

**His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D' Rozario, CSC**  
Archbishop of Dhaka, the first ever  
Cardinal from Bangladesh.



**Most Rev. Moses M. Costa, CSC,**  
First Archbishop of Metropolitan See  
of Chittagong.



**Most Rev. Shorof Francis Gomes**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka  
Archdiocese.

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2 Outer Circular Road, Shantibagh, Dhaka-1217  
GPO Box-994, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh  
Phone : +88 02 8315405-9, Fax: +88 02 8314993  
E-mail: info@caritasbd.org, [f Caritasbangladesh2016](https://www.facebook.com/Caritasbangladesh2016)  
Website: www.caritasbd.org

**Contributors:**

*Apurbo Mrong, Shishir Anjelo Rozario, Anita Margaret Rozario, Shiba Mary D' Rozario Milton S Ratna, James Sukumar Mondol, Myentthein Promila, Paritosh Chakraborty, Goutam Kumar Saha, Yasmin Akhter Mukta, Md. Abdur Rab.*

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28/C-1, Toyenbee Circular Road,  
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.  
Phone: 9553303, 9550412