



CHARS LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME(CLP)

Background

Poverty alleviation constituted the basic theme of all Five Year Development Plans of Bangladesh since its independence and considerable efforts have been made to alleviate poverty. But the incidence of poverty remains high in Bangladesh. Analysis of national data show that the incidence of poverty are not evenly distributed across the region. High concentration exists in specific areas , such as along the major rivers (*char lands*) . Such poverty persists because of increasing inequality between regions as well as people. It has been found that the districts of riverine chars are amongst the poorest in Bangladesh. Chars areas are characterized by a set of specific features that set them apart from other parts of Bangladesh and that justify different approach.

In physical terms, chars are nearly accreted from the river/sea and are consequently low lying .This makes char dwellers vulnerable to flood and erosions. The soils are relatively high salinity with relatively low contents of organic materials , which causes low fertility compared to mainland. Individual and household mobility is high and displacement is common in chars areas. A fragile physical environment, limited assets, reduced income opportunities ,remoteness and absence of mainland institutions and services together make char dwellers' livelihoods particularly vulnerable to extreme poverty and destitutions.

An estimated 6.5 millions people live in 28 char upazilas of five districts and 2 millions people living in the chars are extremely poor. This situation of Brahmaputra chars sub-regions focused govt. attention for better integration of the regions into Bangladesh wider socio-economic development. Keeping this in view, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division initiated the Chars Livelihood Programme(CLP) with the financial assistance of UK Department for International Development (DFID) . According to PCP out-line the project would be completed in two phases – 1st phase during July 2003 to June 2007 and the 2nd Phase during July 2007 to June 2011.

The total revised project cost has been estimated at 66,749.83(lakh taka), of which 65,845.89 lakhs is Project Aid(PA) funded by DFID and 903.94 lakhs by GoB.

Location

Char Livelihood Program(CLP) is implementing in the Northern part of the country covering 150 char Unions in 28 Upazilas under five districts namely- Kurigram, Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Bogra and Sirajganj along the river Brahmaputra.

OBJECTIVES:

The broad and long-term objectives of the project is to up-lift socio-economic and living standard of the population living within the char areas of five northern districts along the river Brahmaputra.

The specific objectives are:

- (i) To halve extreme poverty of the population living within the char areas of five northern districts of Bangladesh along the river Brahmaputra by 2015.
- (ii) To improve livelihood security for poor and vulnerable women, men and children living within the char areas of five northern districts of Bangladesh along the river Brahmaputra.

Programme Approach

The programme is summarized by the following three interlink 'outputs' :

1.Output-1(to reduce vulnerability of char dwellers through targeted provision of infrastructure and services) :

This component will ensure that the chars Union Parishads and Upazilas are better able to respond to local needs and demands, will deliver improved services and infrastructure through public/private partnership at both local and chars-wide level. A key focus will be capacity building for union parishads and upazilas, establishing a responsive and accountable planning cycle , improving public /private partnerships and providing fund for local service delivery and infrastructure improvement. Principles of partnership between GO and NGO providers will be a key aspect of improving these services in the chars context.

2.Output-2(Poor char dwellers able to effectively sustain their livelihoods and engage in the local and national economy) :

This will addresses a range of issues including improving agriculture production through support to poor and vulnerable households, and development of business development services and financial services for the poor .The livelihood strengthening aspect of this programme will be achieved through contracting suitably qualified organizations, particularly NGOs .The enterprise development aspects will be implemented through contracting micro-finance institutions.

3.Output-3(Poor chars dwellers effectively influence local and national policy and service provision as citizens)

Two strategies will be employed under this output : 1) developing bottom-up planning , decision-making and accountability mechanisms to ensure that chars dwellers' demands and needs are articulated at union parishad, upazila ,chars-wide and national levels; and 2) undertaking research, monitoring, and information dissemination to support an evidence-based policy influencing process at the national level.

Supporting Components :

A. Local Level :

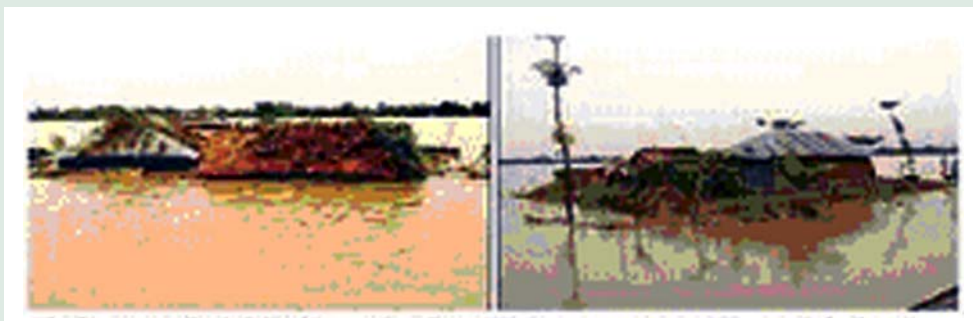
1. Strengthening capacity of Local Governance Institutions.
2. Citizen-based planning process for strengthening local govt. planning capability and linking local voice to the development.
3. UP Role and Responsibilities in Citizen-based Planning
4. Provision of Union Parishad Fund.
5. Building Social Mobilization Capacity.
6. Funding Mechanism.
7. Capacity Building for Union Revenue Mobilization.

B. Char-Wide:

1. Transport
2. Communications
3. Water, Sanitation and Shelter
4. Disaster Management
5. Health
6. Education
7. Enterprise development
 - a)Capacity Building of Business Development Service(BDS) providers(developing market)
 - b)Research in Product ,Technology development;
 - c) Direct provision of support(vocational skill training, Awareness campaign, Enterprise innovation, Micro-insurance ,Business Linkage etc.)
8. Local Economic Development Policy and Enabling environment Reform.
9. Citizen Forum
10. Citizen-based Planning Process: the local voice responsive link.
11. Influencing Policy at the National Level

Some of the activities

1. Infrastructure and services: The infrastructure component of the CLP aims to reach 100 000 of the poorest households on both the mainland and island chars; providing them with a safe place to live, a clean water-supply and sanitary latrines



CLP has also taken a scheme named Infrastructure Employment Programme (IEP) to combat Monga, a seasonal poverty seen in some particular pockets of CLP area (Kurigram and Gaibandha)



2. Livelihood support: Interventions aimed at the poorest island char dwellers, based around the provision of income generating assets.

- ❖ Beef cattle
- ❖ Dairy cattle
- ❖ Goat or sheep
- ❖ Rickshaw or rickshaw van
- ❖ Sewing machine
- ❖ Other (any other income)



There are plans for some of these veterinary services to be delivered through 'voucher systems'; so developing relationships between CLP beneficiaries, commercial suppliers and service providers on the chars.

3. Social Development : For the 50,000 poorest households living on island chars the CLP is increasing their knowledge, skills and capacity to cooperate with others by this programme.

- a. Training
- b. Motivation
- c. Awareness
- d. Social mobilization.
- e. Related necessary education.
- f. Health care.



Enterprise Development Activities: CLP's Market Development Fund (MDF) seeks to accelerate economic development and improve income in the chars and river-basin areas of the CLP's 150 programme unions. It does this through funding projects which introduce improved technology, increased productive skills and also form new linkages with commercial service providers and buyers.

Difficulties and Threats: Chars are hard to reach; illiteracy; repulsive mindset of the char dwellers; river



erosion; flood prone etc are the common difficulties and threats of the programme.

Garments Training: CLP Launched a Special Programme for the youth people's of char areas 1500 people will trained on knitting and woven of Garments under this programme. The place of training is Bogra TTC and Lalmonirhat TTC . This two training centre will trained 120 youth (men-women) in two batch i.e. morning and evening shift. For reduce the poverty elevation this programme will target 360 peoples will be trained with in 2007-2008. 341 youth were trained by this programme. They are able to do their job in any Garments factory. It is really good news for them that most of quality trainees are qualified for abroad job.



Good-Governance:

31 batch of training for capacity building of UP functionaries has been completed and 62 Chairmen, 744 members and 62 Secretaries has received the training in RDA Bogra. RDA Bogra will train rest of UP members for capacity building under the Expanded Governance training programme of CLP.

Primary Education: CLP initiated a Non Formal Primary education programme for the Char children. This project will be establish 150 Non formal school in char areas. This programme is implemented by 06 IMO. For that purpose a institution will be appointed for the technical support. The name of institution is Friend in village development Bangladesh (FIVDB). However 150 institution are continue at this moments for spread out the light of education overall chars innocent children.



Primary Health Care: For example CLP wants to serve the chars people for their primary health & family planning. This programme is done only 3 Upazila areas & implemented by 3 IMOs for their technical support. CLP appointed a institution which name is Engender

Health which supervise the programme properly. CLP also appointed Friendship & Sarker Pasha for health programme of Gaibandha & Jamalpur. Their activities to be continues that area.

River Erosion:

Sufferings of erosion effected people are enormous should start implementation of the planned programme to the victims of erosion in the programme area. CLP has been supporting the erosion victim with Tk 3000/- per family and 4100 families received the grant up till now.

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Annexure

Sl. No.	Activities	Total achievement up to June 2007	Total Target 2007-2008	Cumulative Progress Year to 30 th June 08	Total achievement up to 29 th February 2008 (a+c)
1	Infrastructure Activities				
	a. Plinth raising	32,700	23,000	11654	44,354
	b. community plinth raising	0	0	328	328
	c Slab latrine	23,700	20,000	6,474	30,174
	d. Tube-well (s)	748	400	345	1,093
	e. Tube-well (pl)	517	1,500	1,259	1,776
	f. Roads (km) (earthen)	189.5	N/A	175	364.5
	g. Culvert	9	N/A	9	18
	h. U-drain	10	N/A	10	20
	g. School/Madr	11	N/A	10	21
1.1	Cash For Work				
	# of person/days	1,241,000	3,000,000	2,634,500	3,875,500
2	Livelihood Activities				
2.1	Asset Transfer¹				
	ATP personnel trained	N/A	144	190	190
	Households assisted	11,420	19,000	14,936	26,356
	a. # Cows	14,002	19,000	16,283	30,285
	b. # Goats/sheep	8,000	10,000	2,863	10,863
	c. # Poultry	11,841	12,000	321	12,162
	d. # Stipend	11,420	30,420	21,534	27,857
	e. Others	605	200	23	628
2.2	Agriculture				
	Homestead assisted gardens (includes:)	24,352	19,000	16,471	40,823

Sl. No.	Activities	Total achievement up to June 2007	Total Target 2007-2008	Cumulative Progress Year to 30 th June 08	Total achievement up to 29 th February 2008 (a+c)
	# Trees planted	58,071	187,935	7,791	65,862
	# bamboo plants	14,957	23,950	0	14,957
	# Compost pits	10,047	19,000	8,931	18,978
	HH receiving seeds	33,939	18,500	18,588	52,527
	Pit crops: pits & hh	172,348 (28,725 hh)	150,360 (19,000 hh)	92,131 (16,187 hh)	264,479 (44,912 hh)
	# Nurseries of fruits & vegetable	67	0	0	67
	Training in homestead gardening	31,549	49,420	32,882	64,431
	Training in composting (hh)	10,016	30,420	20,057	30,073
	Irrigation pumps	968	0	0	968

2.3 Fisheries					
	# farmers trained	3,265	No activities programmed in 2007-2008		3,265
	# dead rivers stocked	82			82
	Fry distributed	1,298,185			1,289,185
2.4 Livestock					
	Vaccination: # cattle with 4 jabs	73,302	30,000	39,830	113,132
	Deworming (# cattle 2 doses/yr)	76,238	31,000	20,821	97,059
	# Beneficiary training (Poultry, AI & livestock) person-days	43,054	117,480	50,228	93,282
	# Paravets trained	644	0	0	644
	AI technicians trained	0	60	0	0
	# Cattle AI	790	7,200	237	1,027
	Fodder plots	0	26,540	8,120	8,120

	established				
3.	Social Development²				
	NGO App'ment.	19	0	0	19
	Group	793	760 ³	682	1,475
	Group members	17,999	19,000	15,032	33,031
	Person/sessions	582,583	1,251,824	575,201	1,157,784
	Workshop (personnel) - Local Government Training				
	UP chairmen	247	70	16	263
	UP Members	480	840	192	672
	UP Secretaries	247	70	16	263
	UNO	45	N/A	0	45
	UE	41	N/A	0	41
	PIO	28	N/A	0	28

4.	Enterprise Development (Households & Enterprises)				
	Market Dev fund ("enterprises")	3,940	16,500	22,666	26,606
	VSLA members)	5,157	10,000	12,132	17,289
	MFIs	0	1,800	2,320	2,320
	Commercial paravets	0	300	327	327
	Youth Training for Garment Industry				
	# women	0	180	116	116
	# men	0	180	117	117
	Total	0	360	233	233