

## **Project No. 17**

### **Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) - *Rishi and Rakhine***

#### **Principle :**

Disadvantaged communities of *Rishi* (Sudras outcaste) in three *Upazilas* of Satkhira District and *Rakhine* (indigenous people) in two *Upazilas* of Patuakhali and Borguna Districts are aware and empowered; and live in good condition with sound health, social status and rights.

#### **Objectives of the Project :**

- To organize partner group members (PGMs) develop social awareness, solidarity bonds and capacities for collective action;
- To assist PGMs increase income and economic opportunities;
- To improve health and hygienic conditions;
- To ensure quality basic education for children under community management;
- To help PGMs to retain their lands and recover mortgaged or forcefully occupied lands; and
- To help project's new staff improve project management and specific technical capabilities.

#### **Background :**

The project started in February 2007 and the third year of three-year project is going on. The project period for three years will come to its end on 31 January, 2010.

#### **Staff Strength :**

Regular : Total-58 (Male-40, Female-18)

Volunteer : Total-14 (male-6, Female-8)

#### **Donor:**

European Commission and Secours Catholique (Caritas France)

#### **Expenditure:**

Foreign Partner's Contribution: 20,066,793

#### **Beneficiaries :**

Direct : Total : 4,348 (Male – 1,306 Female – 3,042)

Indirect : 11,440 people of direct beneficiary families.

## Target and Achievements:

The following main achievements were made during the reporting period :

Sl. No.	Items/Activities (Number)	Achievement as on June, 2008	Performance in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achiev.	
6.	No. of Partner Group	190	70	71	101	261
	Female	129	1	* 54	*	183
	Male	61	69	* 17	25	78
7.	Group members	3,105	995	1,243	125	4,348
	Female	2,095	*	947	*	3,042
	Male	1,010	1,040	296	28	1,306
8.	Accumulated Savings	630,887	984,400	932,180	95	1,563,067
	Women's Savings	432,200	492,200	643,736	131	1,075,936
	Men's Savings	198,687	492,200	288,444	59	487,131
9.	Legal support for court cases	13	80	134	167	147
	Amount provided	91,000	280,000	777,000	278	868,000
10.	Education Centre	8				8
	Students enrolled	474	600	514	86	514
	Rakhaine students enrolled	62	100	62	62	62
11.	<b>Health Services</b>					
	Patients treated (times)	7,234		14,656		21,890
	Patients received medicine (times)	5,109		12,532		17,642
	Installed Deep/shallow /Tube-wells	39	10	25	250	64
	Constructed Rain-Water Harvesting Tanks (RWHT)	4	0	0		4
	Constructed Pond sand filter (PSF)	0	2	1	50	1
	Installed sanitary latrine	170	75	83	111	253
	Conducted safe delivery	53	-	200		253
12.	Graduated students of Mobile Trade Training	83	96	156	163	186
	Students enrolled for Mobile Trade Training	93	96	210	218	303
13.	Social Gathering	17	10	10	100	27
14.	Annual Rally	9	5	6	120	15
15.	<b>Credit Supports for :-</b>					
	Land retention (person)	18	109	95	87	113
	Amount of loan for land retention and dev. (LRD)	340,000	740,000	1,789,000	242	2,129,000
	No. of students for self-employment	16	90	38	42	54
	Amount of loan for graduate students	170,000	900,000	380,000	42	550,000
	Income Generating Activities (IGAs) (general)	558	800	1,409	176	1,967
	Amount of loan for IGAs	1,647,000		4,701,000		6,348,000

Target of male-female partner group members and partner groups was set as per project proposal but on the basis of feasibility (for the cause of less availability of male) more female groups were formed for achieving project's total target of the action.

The project started from February, 2007 and we presented progress of activities for five months in the last Annual Report. The dreadful cyclone Sidr struck the areas on 15th November, 2007 while project activities were going on in full swing. The project staff had to rush to the areas with life saving materials to rescue Sidr affected people. So the project activities came to standstill for more than three and half months. The partner group members experienced another blow of cyclone Aila during this reporting period too.

**Impacts:**

- Partner group members (PGMs) are becoming conscious of different socio-economic issues.
- Solidarity and fellow feeling between the poor Bangali and Rakhaine/Rishi community is developing.
- Consciousness of many PGMs of basic legal awareness, leadership, advocacy, net-working and gender etc. is visible in different actions. Many of them play active role in the community and linkage with local govt.
- Acceptance of Rishi people among non-Rishi people is developing and relationship between Rishi and non-Rishi children is developing.
- Solidarity and cohesion among the PGMs is increasing while conflicts over silly matters with neighbours are decreasing. PGMs move courageously to mitigate domestic and community violent acts. PGMs are becoming skilled in leadership, accounts maintenance, etc. and are gaining power to play active role in the mainstream of the society.
- PGMs are developing savings habit.
- Partner group members availed credit support and retained their mortgaged land. They are trying to ensure food security through cultivating the recovered lands.
- Graduated students of Mobile Trade Schools are skilled and taking initiative to get employment or to be self-employed. 54 graduates have already started earning by way of self-employment.
- Being aware of the importance of education, Rishi people are sending their children to schools. Four hundred Five hundred fourteen children are receiving education from six child education centers. Sixty-two Rakhaine children are learning Rakhaine alphabets/language.
- Targeted people are in better health after receiving medical and health services from two medical doctors and five trained nurses. Moreover, they are aware of pure drinking water and sanitation. Pregnant women are free from anxiety of safe deliveries. Health status of the people, especially the women and children, is becoming better. Women are becoming aware of pre and post natal care. Mother and child death rate is reducing.
- Non-Rishi people of the areas, who used to neglect the Rishi people, are now coming to fetch water from the deep/shallow tube-wells installed at Rishi inhabited villages.

**Conclusion:**

Gradual development in the lives of Rishi, Rakhaine and ultra poor people is observed. People also are much more inclined to participate in actions actively. They are very happy that Caritas stands beside them for mitigating their suffering and fight for them against social bad elements. The destruction of the dreadful cyclone Sidr and then Aila stopped the development activities of the project for a certain period of time. The people have more courage to face any type of disaster as long as they are alive. Turn over of staff members still exists and creates a problem for smooth implementation of activities and achieving the desired results. Caritas has enhanced the salary of community development animators, nurses, *upazila* assistant accountants and caretaker-cum-cooks.