

Project No. 59

SHELTER FOR THE POOREST WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROJECT (SPWCP)

Principle:

Every family must have a shelter to have their privacy respected and dignity enhanced.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the projects are:

- To provide safe shelters of living for the poorest women headed families;
- To provide a new house for each of the poorest people who had no house or who were not able to rebuild their existing thatched houses by using their own means;
- To establish the permanent address of the poorest women headed families with ownership.

Background:

Shelter for the Poorest Women and Children project started in 2004. The reporting period i.e. July 2008-June 2009 is the 2nd year of the 2nd phase (July 2009-June 2010).

Staff strength: Total-31 (Male-19, Female-12). These staff members are also responsible for many other projects under Disaster Management Sector.

Donor:

Caritas Korea

Expenditure: Foreign Partner's Contribution : Tk.10,442,952

Achievements:

During the reporting period the achievements against the targets were as under:

Sl. No.	Items/Activities	Achievement as on June, 2008	Target for 2008-09	Achievement for 2007-08	% of Achievement	Cumulative as on June, 2008
1.	Total constructed Shelters/Houses	1,361	200	213	107	1,574
2.	Total Latrine sets distributed	1,361	200	213	107	1,574

The above Table shows that during the reporting period, in total 213 low cost shelters was constructed against the target of 200. Besides, 213 water sealed latrines were also installed along with each of the shelters under this project.

Impacts:

- **Security and Safety:** Security of the poorest women headed families has increased as they have a safe place to live in with privacy. Their marriageable girls have more security and dignity in society.
- **Good Health and Education:** A good living place is helpful to its members keeping them free from various diseases and it saves medical expenses. Besides, the school going children of the poorest women headed families have got an opportunity for studies, which will inspire them to study more.
- **New Hope and Development:** The poorest women headed family members who have got permanent new shelters with ownership are very much encouraged to carry on development initiatives. They need not bear house repairing cost or rental charges. They can now invest their savings to promote income generating activities for economic development.
- **Stability and Dignity:** Being owners of strong and good shelters, the poorest women headed families will not migrate to other places. So social dignity of the women headed families has increased.

Conclusion:

A two-roomed permanent shelter with a veranda is really an ideal place to live in for a very poor woman headed family. This type of house ensures the security and privacy of all members particularly those who are girls and women. Moreover, the domestic animals can be kept there with safety. Caritas personnel designed and constructed the shelters keeping in mind their culture and custom. The destitute families previously dwelt in dilapidated houses having porous roofs and fences made of bamboo, paddy-straw, reed, etc. They suffered terribly during the rainy and winter seasons. They never dreamt of having this sort of permanent and strong shelter. That is why the marginalized people are happy with the housing facility provided under the SPWCP through the generous financial assistance of Caritas Korea.

Putila's New House Makes the Family Happy!

"Oh! It is no more a dream, it is now a reality" said Putila. "I do not have anxiety for my teen-aged daughter and other children. Putila (35) is a poor woman of village Balujuri under Boxiganj *upazila* (sub district) in Jamalpur district. The village is very adjacent to the boarder with India. She lives there with her husband and four children. Putila is from indigenous Garo community. She is the 2nd daughter of her parents. Her father was a day laborer who is old now. They have no land except homestead which also belongs to the Govt. Previously they lived in a small hut. When Putila was sixteen years old, she was married to a neighboring young man named Sudhir. He lives in Putila's house as a system followed by *Garo* (an ethnic community) culture. After marriage it was really very difficult for an eight-member family to live in a small hut. Putila gave birth to two daughters and two sons. Now Putila's elder daughter is 16 years of age. The girl did not have privacy in the small hut. Putila's husband was a day laborer. But now due to ill health he cannot earn. So the family completely depends on Putila whose income is too low to support her children and husband. Being affected with grief



sometimes she wept alone. Putila's elder daughter is a dropout from school.

Due to lack of a safe house she had always worry over the safety of her marriageable girl and other children. It is a matter of satisfaction that Putila got a shelter from Caritas under its Shelter for the Poorest Women & Children Project in March 2009. Despite having numerous problems now she is very happy. Putila said, "God is really kind and loves us". Putila once again expresses gratitude and thanks to the funding agency for creation of an opportunity to get a house allowing her family members to live a better life. Her children with smiling faces also show their appreciative gesture as they possess a tin-roofed house instead of the dilapidated hut.