

FOREWORD



Caritas Bangladesh holds half-yearly staff meeting to discuss and learn together from its major achievements, difficulties and new experiences. would like to share herebelow some of the achievements from the minutes of the last two half-yearly meetings held from July 2008 to June 2009 for the benefit of our valuable readers of this Annual Report:

- Organized Annual Learning and Planning Workshop of DEEDS, GDP, Disaster Management and Caritas Micro Finance Program. Organized a Training Course on Organization Development for all Caritas Directors which was facilitated by Development Alternatives from India. Twenty staff members of Accounts Section attended

Tally Accounting Software Training supported by CRS, USA and Misereor, Germany. Director, Disaster Management and Development; Regional Directors of Rajshahi and Mymensingh attended a six-week long Disaster Management Training at ADPC, Bangkok. This was funded by Caritas Germany. Completed Assessment of Grade V Officers and ILSHP staff members. Introduced Annual Performance Appraisal System.

- Developed and distributed educational materials based on the Lenten Theme "Prayer and Self-Restraint for Tolerance and Peace" and published *Adivasi Janopoder Kotha* (Tale from *Adivasi* Villages).
- Undertook a Socio-Economic Base Line Survey on *Rishi* Community of Satkhira under ICDP of Khulna. Evaluated Emergency Responses to the Flood Affected Families in Sirajganj, Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Activities for Cyclone Sidr affected people in Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna, HIV/AIDS Prevention Project and Caritas Development Institute.
- Formulated Caritas Integrated Plan for Rural Poverty Alleviation, Human Resources Development and Employment Creation for five years beginning from July 2009 for an amount of US \$ 90 million. Formulated Project Proposals titled *Disha* (former ILSHP), ICDP-Gazipur, ICDP - Khagrachhari, a project proposal on *Prochesta* (Initiative for Livelihood Development for People Living in Suburbs), *Projatna* (a project proposal on Attention and Special Care for Elderly).
- Coordinated 120 visitors including the visit of Dr. Oliver Muller, International Director of Caritas Germany, who visited Caritas for the first time.
- Support extended to Episcopal Commission for Catholic Education (ECCE) for the establishment of Archbishop T.A. Ganguly Teachers' Training College (TAG-TTC).
- Planning and Monitoring Unit (PMU) has been renamed as PME (Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation). During the reporting period monitoring reports for 13 projects were prepared.

Achievements mentioned above give some ideas what we have achieved during the reporting year. However, you will find a full picture of achievement and related data and information of our projects and programs in this Annual Report. Caritas Bangladesh's Annual Report for the FY 2008-09 reveals that a total of 7,962 staff members implemented 63 projects to reach 2.68 million brothers and sisters in Bangladesh with Caritas services. People who received Caritas Bangladesh's services were from 152 *upazilas* under 45 districts. During the reporting year Caritas Bangladesh has spent US \$ 21 million for all of its projects and programs. In addition, over US \$ 25 million was used under Caritas Bangladesh's Micro Finance Program which benefitted 176,369 members of the groups formed under its social mobilisation and empowerment programs.

Global financial crisis has affected the development projects of Caritas Bangladesh: budget was reduced for nine projects, two projects were closed down and start of three new projects have been postponed for an indefinite period. The other main problems that affected our projects negatively were: turnover of skilled staff and unfavourable weather due to formation of several cyclonic storms including Cyclone Aila in the Bay of Bengal.

We would like to take the opportunity to extend our deep appreciation to the honourable members of the Caritas General Body and the Executive Board, donors and partners both from home and abroad, NGO Affairs Bureau, Govt. Administration at district and *upzila* level, and other stakeholders for their continued financial support and guidance for carrying out our planned activities. We would also like to thanks to my all staff members whose untiring and restless efforts have made it possible to achieve the goal affixed for the period reported.

We are placing this report before you as yet another tool for interaction. We earnestly request you to read and study this report and give us the benefit of your comments and observations as we seek better ways to serve God and His dearly beloved poor.

Dr Benedict Alo D'Rozario
Executive Director