



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



বাণী
সচিব
স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও
সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়



কেয়ার বাংলাদেশ বিগত ৫০ বৎসর ধরে উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে বিভিন্ন মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগের সাথে দারিদ্র বিমোচন ও সুশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠায় সুনামের সাথে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে।

আমি বিশ্বাস করি স্থানীয় সরকারের জনগণের অংশগ্রহণ, সুশাসন, জবাবদিহিতা নিশ্চিতকরণ স্থায়ী উন্নয়নের পূর্বশর্ত। কেয়ার বাংলাদেশের সৌহার্দ্য কর্মসূচী জাতীয় স্থানীয় সরকার ইনস্টিটিউটের মাধ্যমে দেশের চর, হাওড় ও উপকূলীয় অঞ্চলের ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ ও পৌরসভার নির্বাচিত প্রতিনিধিসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারী কর্মকর্তা / কর্মচারীদের প্রশিক্ষণের উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করেছে জেনে আমি আনন্দিত। আমি এই উদ্যোগকে স্বাগত জানাই। স্থানীয় সরকারে সুশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠায় এ উদ্যোগ যথাযোগ্য অবদান রাখবে বলে আমি মনে করি।

আমি বিশ্বাস করি কেয়ার বাংলাদেশ তার যুগোপযোগী কর্মসূচীর মাধ্যমে ভবিষ্যতেও দারিদ্র বিমোচন ও সুশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠায় সরকারের সাথে যৌথভাবে তাদের কার্যক্রম অব্যাহত রাখবে।

(Signature)
সফর রাজ হোসেন



Message
from the
(Additional Secretary)
Director General,
NILG



National Institute of Local Government (NILG), the national level training and research institute under the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives is mandated to impart training to the local government elected and official functionaries for capacity building. Capacity building of the elected and official functionaries of local government including service providers is important for sustainable development of the community at the local level.

CARE Bangladesh has developed a program titled 'Strengthening Household Abilities to Respond to Development Opportunities' (SHOUHARDO) to reduce the chronic and transitory food insecurity of vulnerable households in the deep Chars, Haors and Coastal areas of Bangladesh. One of the components of this program is to enhance the capacity of the concerned local government functionaries and service providers through training. The NILG has been entrusted to implement the training program of SHOUHARDO in collaboration with Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra and Bangladesh Rural Development Training Institute (BRDTI), Sylhet. The NILG has taken necessary steps to start implementing the training program.

I believe and hope that the training program of SHOUHARDO will be successfully implemented and the continuing relationship between NILG and CARE Bangladesh will be strengthened in the days to come. I personally, and on behalf of NILG thank CARE Bangladesh for this program and wish its successful completion.

Thanking you all.

(Signature)

Md. Arfan Ali

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF LOCAL ELECTED BODIES, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND POURASHAVA REPRESENTATIVES

COLLABORATION BETWEEN SHOUHARDO – CARE BANGLADESH AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NILG)

CARE Bangladesh has a vision of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security. Since long CARE has been implementing development programs jointly with the government of the then East Pakistan and now Bangladesh, for making sustainable change in the livelihoods of the poor and the vulnerable people.

Through this development partnership approach CARE, in collaboration with the GoB and funded by the USAID, has undertaken a five year food security program titled "SHOUHARDO" (Strengthening Households to Respond to Development Opportunities) starting from October 2004 to September 2009.

The overall GOAL of the program is to 'sustainably reduce chronic and transitory food insecurity of 400,000 households (HHs) in 18 districts of Bangladesh by 2009'. To achieve this goal, four major Strategic Objectives have been set. These are:

- SO1: Improved availability/economic access to food through strengthening livelihoods, entitlements and enhancing accountability of service providers.
- SO2: Sustainable improvement in the health and nutrition of project participants.
- SO3: Enhanced empowerment of 400,000 women and girls from targeted vulnerable HHs.
- SO4: Targeted communities and institutions are better able to prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

The Program operates in four major regions of Bangladesh namely: Kishorganj, Rangpur, Tangail and Chittagong. The program operates in 2348 of the most remote villages and slums of these regions. One of the major components of this

program is to build the capacities of the concerned local government elected representatives and service providers.

The National Institute of Local Government (NILG) is a national level training and research institute under the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. Its mandate is to impart training for capacity building of the local government elected representatives and official functionaries.

Under this collaboration between NILG and CARE Bangladesh SHOUHARDO program, eleven thousand five hundred fifty (11,550) participants of 492 Unions, 18 Pourashavas and 1 City Corporation will be trained and will effectively contribute in the areas of sustainability, good governance, transparency and accountability of the local government. This will further lead to entitlements and empowerment of the poor people, particularly the vulnerable women

and will impact on their lives by reducing poverty and food insecurity.

This initiative will involve a total cost of over US\$ One Million and will be implemented through NILG in collaboration with the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD, Comilla). Relevant to mention, BARD will be responsible for Chittagong region, Rural Development Academy (RDA, Bogra) for Rangpur and Bogra and Bangladesh Rural Development Training Institute (BRDTI, Sylhet) for Kishoreganj and NILG Dhaka for Tangail region. On behalf of the ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, the Director General of NILG has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing, coordinating, supervising and monitoring the entire training program.

Snapshot of the Training Program

Total Districts	Eighteen(18)
Upazilas	One hundred(100)
Union Parishads	Four hundred and ninety two(492)
Total Pourashavas	Seventeen(17)
City Corporation	One(01)
Training Institutes Involved in Training Program	BARD, RDA, BRDTI, NILG(Dhaka)
Total Participants for Training	Eleven thousand five hundred fifty (11,550)
Total Regions	Rangpur, Tangail, Chittagong and Kishorganj
About Participants	1) Union Parishad and Pourashava representatives 2) Service providers from Agriculture, Health & family welfare, Public health engineering, Livestock, Social welfare, BRDB, Education and women affairs departments from Union and Upazila levels.



Message
from the
Senior Food Aid Manager
Food Security and
Disaster Management
USAID, Bangladesh



Strengthening Household Abilities to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) is a major food security and social development program of USAID/Bangladesh. Taking local NGOs and the Government of Bangladesh as integral partners, CARE is managing this program to reach over 400,000 households in some of the most remote and marginalized parts of Bangladesh. Capacity strengthening of the communities, local elected bodies, service providers, and pourashava

representatives are critical components of the SHOUHARDO program. Training of the stakeholders is vital for achieving this key-capacity-strengthening component of the program.

Training on rights, entitlements, family laws, etc. sensitizes the local government representatives to work for the poor and the extremely poor population.

I highly appreciate the National Institute of Local Government and CARE Bangladesh jointly collaborating in these training programs. I know this will be a very productive and fruitful undertaking for alleviating poverty in much of the char, hoar and coastal areas where SHOUHARDO operates. I applaud both NILG and CARE for making this happen.

(Signature)
Golam Kabir



Message
from the
Country Director



Capacity strengthening of local government elected bodies is a crucial issue for the development of Bangladesh. Promoting commitment and accountability of these officials promotes good governance and empowerment of the poor and marginalized, especially women. CARE believes that working closely with the government at grassroots, regional and national levels is an effective strategy for sustainable impact on poor peoples' lives. However, the voices of the poor and marginalized are not always heard by institutions and policy makers. In effort to empower and transform the lives of marginalized people, CARE Bangladesh works to bring them into closer contact with local government bodies and institutions.

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) program is one such initiative, which works with 400,000 poor and vulnerable households in 18 districts of char, haor and coastal regions. This USAID-funded project uses an integrated program approach combining health, education, food-security, access to services and common property resources, and disaster preparedness components. Building the capacity of locally elected representatives and services providers is also a major component of the program.

I think the collaboration of CARE Bangladesh and the National Institute for Local Government (NILG) on training of locally elected bodies, service providers and pourasabhas will help poor communities to be heard at the policymaking level. In addition, it will help locally elected bodies be more effective in delivering services to grassroots people. I support this training program and wish it complete success.

(Signature)
Steve Wallace



Message
from the
Program Coordinator,
SHOUHARDO



I am very pleased to be a witness and a part of this specific collaboration between the National Institute of Local Government (NILG) and CARE Bangladesh's SHOUHARDO Program. SHOUHARDO is funded by USAID, which began in October 2004, and will continue to operate till September 2009. This is an ambitious program, truly dedicated to reaching some of the poorest and marginalized groups in Bangladesh. The goal is 'To sustainably reduce chronic and transitory food insecurity of 400,000 vulnerable households in 18 districts of the country'. To reach this goal, the Program has four major strategic objectives:

1. improving availability/economic access to food;
2. improving health and nutrition;
3. empowering women and girls; and
4. improving disaster preparedness and response.

Being true to its commitment of reaching the poorest, SHOUHARDO operates in remote 'char', 'haor' and 'coastal' areas, secondary urban centers, one City Corporation (Chittagong) in the regions of Rangpur (North Chars), Tangail (Mid Chars), Kishoregonj (Haor) and Chittagong (Coastal).

SHOUHARDO is under no illusion that for the program to be successful, we must have the active support of different ministries and departments of the Government of Bangladesh. This collaboration between NILG and SHOUHARDO is one such concrete example of an active partnership aimed at alleviating the suffering of the poor. Through this alliance, NILG will undertake the large task of building the capacity of over 11,550 locally elected and government representatives in both the rural and urban areas where SHOUHARDO operates. This is a critical component of the Program to ensure these representatives are adequately trained and aware of development issues and their respective roles in this area. This will then lead to them becoming more able custodians of the people they represent.

I thank NILG for taking on this important task and look forward to a brighter future for the poor of Bangladesh.

(Signature)
Faheem Y Khan