

HOMES & COMMUNITIES SCALING JOURNEY

HOMES & COMMUNITY

Homes and Communities (H&C) works for supporting the vulnerable communities and refugees in Bangladesh. The initiative envisions for better capitalizing on the expertise, experience, resources and partnerships to increase the organizations capacity to deliver quality holistic, low-cost, innovative, and timely and community driven programs at scale to contribute towards GOB SDG Goal for 2030. H&C have prioritized 3 scaling strands during the pilot phase: developing an inventory of innovation ideas, conducting scaling feasibility, and building on strengths with all strands underpinned by integrating Shelter/NFI and Disaster Risk Reduction. The focus of H&C's first and second year is on establishing strategic partnerships, localization and local leadership, human resources, and building a common vision and establishing an enabling environment for H&C across all stakeholders with focal points who act as enablers at district and regional levels. The main goal of this project is that refugee and vulnerable communities in Bangladesh live in safe and dignified homes and communities through strengthened community engagement (Community Based Approaches and Build Back Safer using Local materials and Techniques), supported by local actors, local leadership, academicians, and government. To achieve this goal, the project developed a strategic objective of influencing the Government, LHAs and Market actors to adopt safe and dignified Homes & Community approaches for scaling.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the aim of providing safe and dignified homes and communities to the vulnerable people in Bangladesh, the Homes & Communities project is working on the three scaling strands: Community Based Approach; Build Back Safer with local techniques and materials and Operation & Maintenance of Multi-purpose Disaster Shelters. To achieve the scaling vision, multiple pilot projects are being implemented applying the Community Based Approach (CBA) with other CRS funded projects: MUKTEE and SHAKKHAMATA in Manpura, Bhola district and Bandarban district. To understand the socio-economic and cultural effect on housing and to obtain sustainable technique for maintenance and management of Multi-Purpose Disaster Shelter (MPDS) of Bangladesh, researches carried out in partnership with the Department of Architecture and the Department of Civil Engineering, BUET. Based on the research report, the H&C team developed BBS manual on which 120 masons and carpenters got trained by the SHAKKHAMATA project

The Community Based Approach is being piloted in four communities of Manpura and Bandarban to understand the changes in people's self-recovery potential through improving the four key domains: empowerment, leadership, inclusion and accountability. This report first defined the self-recovery for CBA through several key indicators. Several field observation and focused group discussion was conducted to understand the influence of CBA in terms of changes in communities' ownership, pro-activeness, social unity, resource mobilization, negotiation capacity and their readiness to recover from any disaster. It has been seen that the communities are actively playing the leadership role and participating in the Group Cash Transfer activities although there were a few dispute among the core team of Cluster 21, Manpura. The behavioral changes are not at the same level in all four communities but positive changes are seen among all the four core groups.

To understand the horizontal scaling of BBS training, a knowledge, attitude and practice survey was conducted on the 5 trained masons and carpenters who were involved in the first phase of low cost house construction by SHAKKHAMATA project. It has been seen that the trainees were not involved in any other construction process other than their own house provided by the SHAKKHAMATA project. Although they couldn't adapt all the technical aspects of the BBS training, some feathers and techniques were seen implemented in their newly constructed houses. The masons and carpenters are looking forward to work in other constructions where they will get the opportunities to apply the BBS techniques but few of them expressed that the community people might not want to adapt all the aspects as it will add more cost to their house construction process which will be out of their affordability. To understand the scaling influence, regular observation needs to be done to measure the direct and indirect influence of BBS techniques.

In addition to the scaling strands, the Homes & Communities working in different sub-grants such as JUTIN piloting where the H&C collaborated with International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) and Shelter Sector for piloting jute and resin-based shelter material (JUTIN) invented by Dr. Mubarak Ahmed Khan to compare the durability, health and safety, comfort, privacy, and cost-effectiveness of a JUTIN-house, bamboo-based house, and corrugated iron house. The H&C also organized Humanitarian Shelter Coordination training partnering with the IFRC, USAID-BHA and Global Shelter Cluster.



COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH

BACKGROUND

Community based refers to an approach in which communities have an active role and participate in highlighting and addressing the issues that matter to them. In a community based approach, communities undertake a leadership role and are an active partner in the decision making, utilizing their insights, knowledge, skills and capacity. In this way it often enables a more efficient and effective use of external assistance, as the communities priorities are reflected in the process, and long-term ownership is enhanced by strengthening the resource mobilization and community negotiation power. Through this process greater community cohesion can be achieved, and organizational capacity of the community improved, helping communities realize their potential and be more resilient to future shocks and events[1]. This will eventually strengthen the disaster self-recovery potential of the community which is the aim of CBA.

Community Based Approach (CBA) is building upon the strengths of CB and CRS on DRR and Shelter and Settlement with a focus to on Recovery phase. The CBA will contribute to Self-recovery and strengthen community engagement and sustainability. Initially, CBA is being piloted in SOKKHOMOTA and MUKTE project area. At SOKKHOMOTA CBA will pilot in two para one is Bagan Para (Mro community), Ward-2, Tankabati Union and another is Headman Para (Marma Community), Ward- 4, Suwalak Union of Bandarban Sadar, Bandarban and in Mukti project area- Cluster- 10, Ward-1 and Cluster- 21, Ward- 3 of Dakshin Sakuchia Union of Monpura, Bhola. The locations for piloting were selected based on seven criterion including level of vulnerability to different disasters, use of local materials in housing materials, ethnicity, exposure to urbanization etc.

KEY DOMAINS

Keeping the focus on improving the self-recovery potential among the community people, the CBA envisions to scale-up the idea of Homes & Community by improving:



Empowerment

Enabling the community to leverage institutional resources, have better resource mobilization and strengthen their social cohesion



Leadership

Enabling the community to be an active partner in leadership and decision-making, within a common agreed set of principles that include transparency and accountability



Inclusion

Equitable access by all members of a community, regardless of their social group, to information, resources and decision-making opportunities



Accountability

Being transparent and responsive to the community, seeking their opinions and contributions through a formal system

[1] Community Based Approach Guidelines For Disaster Resilient Homes And Communities In Bangladesh, Caritas Bangladesh

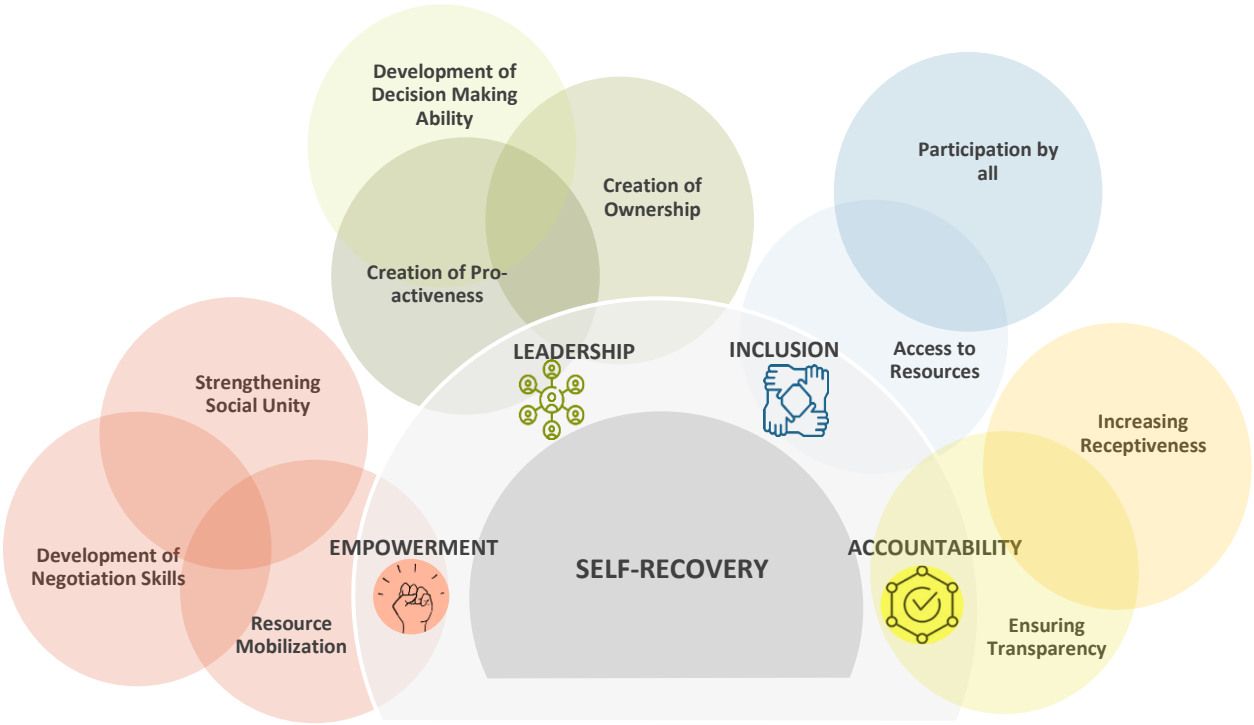
WHAT IS SELF-RECOVERY?

The notion of self-recovery in its exact form is yet to be defined rigidly. Self-recovery can be an indicative of larger approach of multiple aspects of humanitarian intervention. The term self-recovery developed from the hypothesis that the majority of disaster-affected people have to arrange, or rebuild, their own post-disaster housing, without any significant support from the formal humanitarian system (Newby, 2018). In the humanitarian shelter & settlement practice 'Supporting shelter self-recovery' has become a frequently used term in humanitarian practice. It is used to refer to material, financial and/or technical assistance provided during the relief and/or recovery phase to enable affected households to repair, build or rebuild their own shelters themselves – either alone or with the assistance of local industry (Programme). Self-recovery, is an approach that supports families through the process of rebuilding their homes and communities themselves. This will lead to more sustainable outcomes in the face of accelerating environmental change by integrating local traditional knowledge with technical knowledge from the humanitarian sector, communities can build back safer and healthier homes improving their resilience to climate related shocks (Oxford Brookes University & Care Philippines).

> *"The best way to support self-recovery remains poorly understood. Despite some notable successes, the sector still struggles to know how best to assist self-recovery in a way that keeps the agency of disaster-affected people at its centre"*
>
> *(Schofield & Flinn, 2018)*

Self-recovery, therefore can be measured by various aspects throughout the process of rebuilding, based on the nature of projects. There can be a wide range of socio-economic, environmental, technical and institutional factors that contributes measuring the self-recovery potentials. For the purpose of measuring the level of self-recovery potential develops, CBA works on the key domains: Leadership, Empowerment, Inclusion and Accountability. In order to measure the impacts on these four domains, CBA looks through the lenses of the following indicators:

Domains	Indicators
Empowerment	**Negotiation Skills:** the community people learns to leverage government and other institutional resources
	Resource Mobilization: the community people are aware of their available resources and ready to secure additional resources to make optimal use
	Social Unity: the community are working together for the development of their own, have a plan to support each other during any crisis
Leadership	**Pro-activeness:** the communities are tending to act on anticipating problems, intervene to solve those on their own
	Ownership: the community people knows their roles and responsibilities, acts on those and owns their actions to their community
	Decision Making Ability: the community people makes informed choice for the betterment of their community
Inclusion	**Access to Resources:** all the people regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, any disability etc. have equal access to all the available community resources
	Association: all the people regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, any disability etc. participates in the community decision making process
Accountability	**Receptiveness:** the community people are open to receive any new changes and responsive to the each other about their problems
	Transparency: the community people are operating activities in an open all informed environment



PROJECT INNITIAL STRATEGIES

CBA Guideline development: Community Based Approach came into play as one of the three scaling strands of the Homes and Community strategy in Bangladesh. In 2020 Caritas Bangladesh and CRS jointly developed a CBA guideline which aims to build on the documented learning implemented in Cox's Bazar in 2017 from a pilot project led by Caritas Bangladesh and CRS community, replicating and testing methods in three different contexts in Bangladesh. The document brings together the knowledge and experiences of Caritas Bangladesh and CRS, in describing the programmatic steps and activities necessary to support communities self-recover through a community-based approach. In 2021 Caritas started piloting CBA under two existing project MUKTEE and SHAKKHAMATA in two locations with distinct context following the step by step procedures of the CBA guideline.

At first, the context and definition of key terminologies, main principles and strategies were developed in the guideline. The staff of MUKTEE, SHAKKHAMATA and ERP were oriented on the process and introduced with the fundamental aspects of the piloting.



CBA pilot training in Cox's Bazar

Pilot area selection was done in consultation with the two existing projects and considering a number of factor which was selected to identify the similar and different outcomes from the two piloting. Two cluster/para in each location were selected aligned with the existing projects. The criteria varies for each location and selected based on locational attributes but both contains some common principles.

CBA rollout and core team formulation was initiated after selecting pilot areas. The H&C team facilitated the CBA introduction process into the communities. The community members selected their core team member from within themselves considering several factors.

KEY PRINCIPLES OF PILOT AREA SELECTION

- Use of local materials as shelter materials by the inhabitants
- Vulnerable to Hazards
- One para/cluster is close to the town/road/local market, another remote/periphery urban areas
- Not saturated with other ongoing activities/funding support

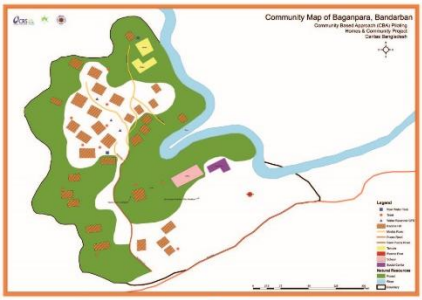
CBA PARA SELECTION PROCESS

BACKGROUND

Community Based Approach (CBA) is an approach in which communities have an active role & participate in: highlighting and addressing the issues that matter to them. Before the process start on the field level, depending on impact, vulnerability, willingness, potential funding resource, restriction, security and access condition, it is a major assignment to select the communities.

In Monpura there is MUKTEE is working in 9 wards where they are divided into 88 clusters. 2 clusters were being chosen on the basis of criterias.

In Bandarban area among the 12 ethnic community, two were being chosen. Marma community is high in number in Bandarban and Mro is a small community. Two paras of those two communities were later being selected.





CRITERIA

To select a para, need to fixate on some criteria. The criteria will differ context based. Depend on the context though different set of criteria were fixed but while working on the field some criteria overpowered one another. The criteria sets are being described below –

Monpura:

- Each para or cluster is 50-100 HH
- Both paras are vulnerable to hazards. One along the river bank with risk to erosion.
- One para near to the town/road and another one in a remote location.
- The paras/clusters not saturated with other ongoing activities/funding support.
- Close from office so that staff can manage them easily.
- People from different walk of society are living in the community.

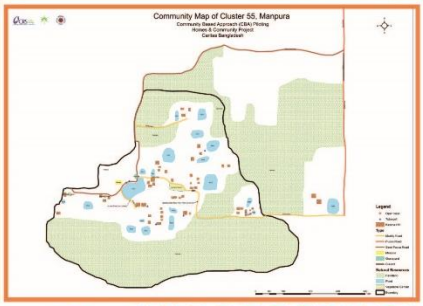
Bandarban:

- Each para or cluster is 50-100 HH
- Both paras are vulnerable to hazards, such as, flash flood, landslide or other hazards.
- One para near to the town/road and another one in a remote location.
- Most houses are using local materials as house materials.
- Paras highly influenced by the Karbari/ Head man.
- Different ethnic community or mixed community living in the same paras.
- Optional – masons or carpenter living in each para.

PROCESS





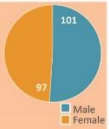


Baganpara

Tankabati, Ward no: 02, Bandarban Sadar

From Bandarban Central 23.3km

HH number 30



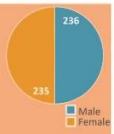
- Baganpara is quiet a remote area
- Most of the houses of the para follow the traditional pattern & construction materials are also local ones like bamboo, wood etc.
- Karbari work as the head of the para
- Only the primary school is situated near the para & the para is highly vulnerable.

Headmanpara

Sualak, Ward no: 04, Bandarban Sadar

From Bandarban Central 11km

HH number 116



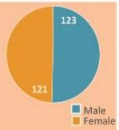
- Bandarban is near this para so it is comparatively developed than Baganpara.
- The House pattern is also mixed. Pucca houses can be easily seen in the area.
- Headman work as the Para leader.
- Schools are in close proximity and people from the para travel to Bandarban town in daily basis to attend offices and schools.

Cluster 21

Dakkhin Sakuchia, Ward no: 03, Bandarban Sadar

From Manpura central 13.3km

HH number 57



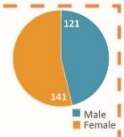
- The area is in vulnerable condition due to various hazards and economical condition and the internal road system is totally damaged.
- Cluster 21 is in close proximity with Bazar area.
- The area has a mixed culture ambience where people from all walks of occupation lives together.

Cluster 55

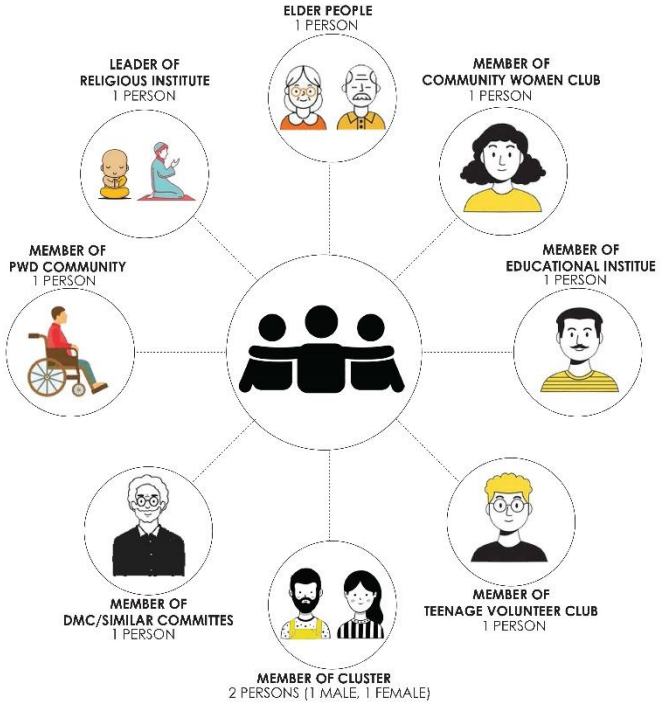
Dakkhin Sakuchia, Ward no: 06, Bandarban Sadar

From Manpura Central 14.3km

HH number 58



- Cluster 55 is in close proximity with river area and is highly vunlerable to hazards especially being plunged into tidal water.
- The WASH and house conditions are extremely poor in this area which is the dire need for them.
- No on-going projects are also running in the cluster to solve these issues.



Core team formulation criteria

PROJECT APPROACH

Community Based Approach

Introduction

Community consultation meeting, program launching in the community, core team ToR development

Preparation Phase

Definition of objectives, setting indicators, Stakeholder consultation, pilot area selection, conduction of CBA training for MUKTEE, SHAKKHAMATA and ERP staff

Organization and Coordination

Community consultation meeting, program launching in the community, core team ToR development

Assessment and Mapping

Core team formulation, community mapping, HH level data collection aligning MUKTEE and SHAKKHAMATA database

Planning and Design

RRAP development, FGD with core team, community action plan development

Group Cash Transfer

Introducing GCT in the community, developing GCT tools, agreement with core team, assessment of cash transfer pathways, market assessment, budget preparation using tools, preparation of action plan

Implementation

Materials purchase by core team, GCT action plan implementation, construction monitoring by core team

Improvement of Community Self-Recovery Potential



UNDERSTANDING THE INFLUENCE

To understand the impact of the piloting and its influence, learnings were captured through field observation, collecting opinions from the community people conducting FGDs (Annex A) in different phases of the piloting.

Along the way of implementing CBA in the community, one Focused Group Discussion (FGD) in each location was conducted before the Group Cash Transfer. The participants for the FGD were invited voluntarily from both the core team members and community people. Total 19 female persons, 19 male and 1 person with disability responded in four FGDs. The goal of these FGDs were to gauge the existing strategies and procedures, capture the evidence of influence, best practices and learnings from the community people. In addition to the FGD, several field visit were conducted to participate in the core team meetings, discuss with the community people, core team, and capture the impacts, learnings and challenges on the ground. The field visit plans, FGD questionnaire were designed to bring out the aspects crucial to address the H&C learning questions and learning plan.

Ownership and Pro-Activeness

Regarding their *knowledge on CBA and its impact on their daily lives*, all four groups from Cluster 21 and Cluster 55 responded that through this process they came to know peoples in their own community which developed a social cohesion among themselves while the participants in Baganpara thinks CBA is a process of social welfare. The Community Organizer in Cluster 55 supports them anytime they need and they showed their gratitude for the support. To see everyone working together for the greater good, they feel gratefulness and appreciation for everyone. While the participants in Headman Para marked that due to the nature of CBA process, they are getting to sit together and express their opinions. This way they are feeling included with the agency and the development activities.



Regarding their awareness on the criteria for developing the core team and core team's roles and responsibilities, both groups in Manpura and Headman Para in Bandarban said the core team is supposed to look after the betterment of their community, raise awareness and work together whereas the people from Baganpara additionally thinks that core team also ought to make informed decision on behalf of the community. They selected the core team members considering different expertise for different response activities during disaster. For example, they choose the community leader and people with potential leadership who agrees to contribute their time and commitment as well as have the mentality to work without any monetary benefit in return, widows and underprivileged so that they can be empowered. They also considered a person with disability (pwd) because he will know what problems another pwd will face during any disaster and he can therefore respond accordingly. The community people responded as a member of their community they think they ought to cooperate with the core team, respond timely and inform the core team about their problems.

Resource Mobilization

> *"We did not know that the roads, trees, water streams that everyone of us uses can be community resources until we involved in the CBA process and learned through mapping our community"*
>
> -FGD Participants in Baganpara, Bandarban



The communities also identified their own resources such as community tube well, mosques, ponds, farmlands and nearest cyclone shelters. *In terms of resource mobilization*, the community people from Cluster 21 saves a certain amount of crops (Approximately 0.5 ton to 1 ton) which they sell and save money for using during emergency time. Also they use these crops to make dry foods which is very useful during the disaster period. The community people also thinks the trees and greeneries around their community are also a resource. Both the communities are aware that they can make the best use of these resources during the disaster. For example, they use trees and greeneries as fuel during flood and seek shelter in the community mosques.

While asking about *whether they identified any new resources through the CBA process*, some of them responded that during community mapping they realized that the big trees surrounding their homes are very useful resource which they are keep using to tie down their houses during cyclone. In addition, people in Baganpara stated that they became aware of their community resources through involving in the CBA process and mapping their community infrastructures and resources.

Social Unity and Negotiation with Stakeholders

While visiting in the cluster 55, the members of the core team described the state of one beneficiary – Nazma, who is living in a poor condition on others land. The core team member mentioned that they considered Nazma to get the direct benefit from CBA instead of themselves as they can at least have a home to live in which she doesn't. They requested the Project Implementation Team (PIT) to extend support for Nazma and they will also help her in buying materials and construction of Nazma's house.



Figure 2: CBA beneficiary, Nazma

This motion from the core team not only indicates developing a sense of responsibility among the core team but also depicts that they are able to negotiate to solve their problems and strengthen the unity among themselves.

On the other hand, the scenario of cluster 21 is quite different in terms of social cohesion. Their journey to self-recovery through CBA revealed inconsistency and lack of unity among the core team members. All the core team members showed lack of interest regarding the negotiation with the land owners who were supposed to contribute a small piece of their land for the construction of two roads in their community. Only a few core team members whose homes are alongside the proposed roads were concerned and went to pursue the land owners but couldn't manage to convince them.

Initially at the Planning and Design phase of CBA, the core team with the opinion of community people developed their Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) where they prioritized the major hazards, risks and problems that needs to be solved in order to increase their self-recovery potentials and make their community resilient to disasters. Among the priority list, they considered two roads construction in their community for Group Cash Transfer which are in very poor condition and causes inaccessibility to their homes and other services during any disaster or emergency period. Later, due to the indifference among the core team, they excluded the roads construction from their RRAP and focused on other priority works including construction of tube wells, toilets and repairmen of houses.

While asking about what caused the deviation among the core team, a few of them responded as due to focusing on their daily works, not all the core team members remain present at all the meetings and as a consequences their involvement in the activities became irregular.

Key Factors that Increase Community's Readiness to Recover



Figure 1: Focus Group Discussion in Cluster 21, Manpura

While discussing about the *common disasters and community risk and how they came to be aware of their risks*, the respondents from Cluster 21 at Manpura and Headman Para at Bandarban said the sense of risk developed instinctively as they are experiencing the similar kind of disasters. The respondents from Baganpara mentioned the contribution from different NGOs in various times. They said they've learned a lot of things about disasters and risks from the different NGOs worked in their community in different times. On the other hand, the respondents from Cluster 55 said they realized about their risks mostly through developing the RRAP and community maps for the CBA process. Both the communities ranked the disasters based on the severity and impact on their community.

In terms of *coping with disasters on their own*, a few respondents from Cluster 55 mentioned about personal savings. Some of them are trying to make investment with their savings so that during emergency time they can cope up on their own. The respondents from both communities in Manpura also mentioned that they planned for the emergency period regarding transporting their goods to a safe place, identified key persons such as smiths, drivers etc. for transporting them to the shelter center. However, the people in Baganpara thinks they will cope with any disaster by helping and supporting each other during crisis times. During the FGD, they also mentioned that they now feel the community unity strengthened and they learned to do things together which is a key factor that helped them to improve their coping mechanism.

CHALLENGES

Piloting CBA along with two other projects creates few challenges to properly convey the concept of CBA to the community. Maintaining proper coordination with other projects is challenging at sometimes as both of those are simultaneously implemented in the same communities. It also creates confusion among the community people to understand what activities are done for which approach. Lack of coherence among the core team members in Cluster 21 makes it challenging to smoothly follow all the process of GCT and implement the activities in their community.

LESSON LEARNT FROM THE GROUND

During the discussion about the community resource mobilization, the respondents discussed that although the resources in their community helps them to cope with various disasters, these resources are sometimes also creates their risks like overflown of ponds during monsoon, uprooting of trees over houses and maintenance of these resources during emergency period etc.



BUILD BACK SAFER - LOCAL MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

BACKGROUND



Bandarban Ethnic Community House Pattern Visit

With the aim of working towards providing safe and dignified shelter support to the vulnerable people, Homes & Communities one of the three priority scaling strands are: developing an inventory of innovation ideas, conducting scaling feasibility, and building on strengths with all strands underpinned by integrating Shelter/NFI and Disaster Risk Reduction. The Build Back Safer techniques with local resources and materials is one of the three scaling approaches which focuses on promoting localization by including indigenous knowledge, practices, cultures, resources and materials into the disaster tolerant housing construction. With this vision, Caritas Bangladesh and CRS partnered with the Department of Architecture, BUET to conduct research in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area, tried to understand different community's socio-economic and cultural characteristics, different housing patterns and practices to include designing disaster resilient housing construction guide (BUET DoA Report on BBS).

As part of innovation or good practices for scaling up, the nine ethnic communities of Bandarban district were chosen for the research. CHT has the highest number of people living in severe poverty and experiences a recurrence of manmade and natural shocks and stressors. A guide on Build Back Safer - Local Materials and Techniques will be an innovation that will promote to build back safer practices using local materials and techniques for resilient Homes that is context specific to the ethnic communities factoring their culture, traditional practices[2]. Considering this, a pilot has designed for ethnic specific disaster resilient house design with Build Back Safer key messages and piloted in SOKKHOMOTA targeting later to be replicated and scale up in other areas.

CONTEXTUALIZATION

The BUET DoA research report brought out different technical and socio-economic aspects of each of the nine ethnic communities. Based on the research findings, the H&C team developed Build Back Safer Manual for each contains disaster resilient housing construction techniques for each and every communities focusing their own resources and knowledge. Later, the team provided technical support to SHAKKHAMATA project in organizing a three days training for local masons and carpenters who were trained on the BBS manual and engaged in SHAKKHAMATA supported



Interview with the Trained Mason/Carpenters

[2] Homes and Communities: Influence Check-Ins

housing repairing activities in January 2022. Till date, 40 houses were repaired in Bandarban district where 5 trained mason/carpenters worked. The Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey was conducted initially in July 2022 on those 5 mason/carpenters which will be carried out gradually with the further construction process of SHAKKHAMATA project.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the KAP study was to observe and understand the level of BBS training impact on the trainees and their respective communities. Bring out their previous and current knowledge, attitude and practices and changes in their socio-economic characteristics keeping the focus on the H&C scaling vision.

UNDERSTANDING THE INFLUENCE

To observe and discuss with the 5 mason/carpenters, a simple guiding questionnaire was developed (Annex B) in three main thematic areas: knowledge, attitude and practice. The questionnaire emphasized on their opinions on monetary feasibility of the BBS techniques as well.

Changes in Knowledge

The masons/carpenters came to know about the training from the Community Organizers (COs) of their respective communities. They don't have proper institutional education so they expected to obtain technical knowledge on different construction part which will help them in their professions. All the 5 masons/carpenters told that they learned how better build bracing, joints and connections, foundations and place RCC pillars in a house. Before the training they didn't use bracing and used bamboo as a pillar.



Newly constructed tethering and bracing by the trained Mason/Carpenters

As all five mason/carpenters could remember a few technical things, they also learned properly about their functionality in terms of disaster risk reduction. One person learned how to do tethering as it's the low cost solution to make the roof durable, use RCC pillar to withstand earthquake while others learned to construct the roof in 30 degree angle to balance the air pressure and using bracing/joint to protect the wall.

Changes in Attitude

While discussing with the mason and carpenters, most of them gave a neutral impression regarding the training. Although they acknowledged that they are using some aspects of the training like using bracing, ceiling, RCC pillar etc. which they didn't use previously. They also placed one small window in their house which will keep proper air flow which is not traditional in Bandarban ethnic communities. Constructing window is also draw attention to their neighbors in the communities as they discussed the use of it with them. The respondents look forward to help their community people in constructing/repairing houses with their newly acquired learnings.

Changes in Practice

While discussing about their intention to spread the knowledge from the training to their fellow mason/carpenters, one mentioned that he casually taught 2 people how to make joints and windows and their uses. Due to the rainy season, they haven't worked outside yet but they said they will try to practice the learnings in building other houses. However, most of them showed skepticism about whether the people would like to use RCC columns and other techniques as it will add more cost in the construction process.




Newly constructed house and joints by the trained Mason/Carpenters

LESSON LEARNED AND WAY FORWARDS

- As the mason/carpenters were mostly unfamiliar with the different construction techniques, a one-time training hasn't made significant impact in changing their knowledge, attitude and practices
- Although the BBS techniques are effective in protecting their houses from disasters, it is quite expensive for the local communities to follow the techniques as all of them works as farmers or daily labors.
- After receiving the training, the masons/carpenters only worked in building their own houses supported by the SHAKKHAMATA project. According to them, they don't work during the monsoon period. Therefore, it couldn't be possible to understand the actual changes in their work. A consistent observation could be made for a period of time (1-2 years over 6 months interval) to measure the horizontal scaling through their practice.

Contribution in Humanitarian

Shelter Cluster

Human Story: Influence of Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Bangladesh



Kamola Rani Paul playing the coordinator role during emergency response in Scenario Exercise

Ms. Kamola Rani Paul, one of the participant of Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Training is an employee of Solidarity Bangladesh. She has been working with the organization since 2007. Currently she holds the position of Head of Program and Disaster Focal Point in Solidarity's Kurigram Office. In these past 14 years of her work with Solidarity, she worked for health, nutrition, WASH, gender, child protection, livelihood development and disaster response. Currently she is working in flood response programs. According to her, ensuring proper and effective coordination with partners and different stakeholders is a must in any development projects and it is a crucial to play her current roles as she is the focal for emergency response. As she is working as disaster focus, she ought to know all the aspects of disaster and emergency response including communicating and coordinating with the government and other NGOs working in the vicinity during emergency time. She came to the training with the expectation of knowing about the other clusters working in her area and how she can make effective coordination with other sectors and cluster member organizations.

"I got the refresher orientation on Humanitarian Principles through this training which every humanitarian worker should know and follow for effective project implementation"

The Homes & Community team of Caritas Bangladesh with the technical support of CRS, IFRC and USAID-BHA through Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) organized humanitarian shelter coordination training on 12 – 14 June, 2022. The training was organized under the project ""Strengthen and enhance local leadership capacity for District/Divisional/National Level coordination on shelter and Settlement response". The pilot training aimed at improving humanitarian shelter and settlements planning and implementation processes and increase emergency and transitional coordination and response

capacity among the shelter actors of national and local level organizations[3]. With this vision, the training capacitated 16 participants from various national and international NGOs working in the humanitarian sector of Bangladesh.

According to Ms. Paul, during any emergency everything has to be done very quickly. In that aspect, the readiness of emergency response team is the key for which she must have the information on which cluster organization is working in what sector and where to communicate first. She also said that having a thorough understanding of emergency appeal, cluster activation and deactivation is also important for her and her team.

Besides, through this training she also got a refresher orientation on Join Need Assessment, Humanitarian Principles etc. She thinks these are very important things to comply in order to work in the humanitarian sector. Although solidarity doesn't work vastly on shelter support but they are working on shelter repairing and reconstruction in the disaster affected areas which is another reason for her to join the training. This training will be helpful for her in terms of establishing good coordination. She hopes that her newly earned knowledge of different cluster activities and inter-cluster coordination groups will be useful to her particularly in the upcoming monsoon season as she works in the flood prone areas of Bangladesh.

[3] 20220621 HSCT training Report

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