



National  
Resilience  
Programme

# Project Completion Report Piloting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

**National Resilience Programme (NRP): DDM Part  
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief**

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## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AD	Assistive Device
CBID	Community-Based Inclusive Development
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDD	Centre for Disability in Development
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CRA	Community Risk Assessment
CRP	Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DD	Deputy Director
DDM	Department of Disaster Management
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DiDRM	Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Management
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DPO	Disabled Persons Organisation
DRCG	Disaster Response Coordination Group
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRO	Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Officer
EGPP	Employment Generation for the Poorest of the Poor
FPP	Flood Preparedness Programme
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IGA	Income Generating Activity
INGO	International Non-governmental Organisation
IT	Information Technology
KPKS	Kurigram Protibondhi Kallyan Samity
NDPD	National Disaster Preparedness Day
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NRP	National Resilience Programme
OPD	Organisation of Persons with Disabilities
PIO	Project Implementation Officer
RRAP	Risk Reduction Action Plan
SHG	Self-help Group
SOD	Standing Order on Disaster
SWO	Social Welfare Officer
ToT	Training of Trainers
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
ULO	Upazila Livestock Officer
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
UzDMC	Upazila Disaster Management Committee
WDMC	Ward Disaster Management Committee

## Executive Summary

Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), with support from the National Resilience Programme (NRP), has been implementing the project “Piloting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction” in Ramna and Thanahat unions of Chilmari upazila and Jatrapur and Belgacha unions under Kurigram Sadar upazila of Kurigram district. Kurigram was selected for piloting the project because of the high frequency of flooding in the district and high incidence of poverty among its population. The project came to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The broad objective of the project is piloting disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DiDRR) for building resilience of the most vulnerable groups to disaster and climate change. The specific objectives of the project include: (a) capacity building of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), persons with disabilities, and government agencies to address disaster risk and enhance institutional frameworks; (b) develop and promote disability-inclusive activities to enhance resilience; (c) early warning infrastructure and last mile services targeting specific needs of persons with disabilities; and (d) effective knowledge management and undertaking of targeted measures to reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to disasters.

The project undertook more than 30 activities to achieve the above objectives. These activities include: consultation meetings, courtyard meetings, orientation and training, observance of special days, formation of self-help groups (SHGs), assistance to form Ward Disaster Management Committees (WDMCs) and Disaster Response Coordination Groups (DRCGs), installation of ramps, reasonable accommodation, development of linkages between SHGs and government agencies, early warning dissemination, technical support to conduct community risk assessment (CRA) and prepare risk reduction action plan (RRAP), building of flood-resistant house, and providing livelihood and rehabilitation support to persons with disabilities, etc.

The project faced a number of challenges. Allocation of resources for persons with disabilities was not sufficient. COVID-19 situation created difficulties for project implementation and some activities had to be delayed or dropped. Floods of 2020 created additional problems for project implementation and some scheduled activities had to be postponed. Despite these challenges, inclusion of persons with disabilities in SHGs, disaster management committees (DMCs), Flood Preparedness Programme, livelihood programme, and early warning dissemination, etc. was successful. Persons with disabilities are being empowered as a result of their participation in various programmes. The main recommendations of the implementing team include the following:

- The project should be continued for 3-4 years for achieving the expected results and sustainability considering the most vulnerable group.
- Government and non-government service providers need to work with SHGs and OPDs to provide meaningful support to persons with disabilities.
- Training on disability inclusion should be given to service providing authorities.
- Service providing centres and educational institutions should ensure accessibility of persons with disabilities.

- Early warning messages should be developed and disseminated considering persons with disabilities.
- All types of shelter centres/places need to have accessibility features for persons with disabilities.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Context**

Since January 2020, the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), with the support of the National Resilience Programme (NRP), has been implementing the project “Piloting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction” (CDD-NRP project) in Chilmari and Kurigram Sadar upazilas (sub-districts) of Kurigram district. The project has ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This is the Completion Report of the project.

### **1.2. Background**

Kurigram is one of the most flood prone districts of Bangladesh. It is also exposed to other hazards like river bank erosion. The population of this district is highly dependent on agriculture, which is immensely vulnerable to hydro-meteorological hazards and climate change. Most of the inhabitants are farmers whose livelihood largely depends on agricultural production. Floods destroy their agricultural land, standing crops and seed beds.

While different segments of the population may face similar risks of exposure to disasters, their actual vulnerability depends on their socio-economic conditions, civic and social empowerment and access to relief and mitigation resources. Persons with disabilities, women, children and older persons are disproportionately affected by disasters. Among them, persons with disabilities are the most at-risk group. They have very little participation in disaster management actions such as risk and capacity assessment, identification, early warning, search, rescue, evacuation, shelters, emergency response, water and sanitation, healthcare and rehabilitation. They have limited access to information and capacity building opportunities to prepare themselves to cope with and adapt to disaster and climate change impacts.

Specific information on persons with disabilities, which is essential for planning and implementation of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) actions, is not available. The life-saving Early Warning Signs do not always reach persons with disabilities. Also, the signs are not disseminated in a manner that is easily comprehensible to the diverse range of persons with disabilities (visual, speech and hearing, intellectual and other neuro developmental disabilities). In addition, during CCA and DRR actions, the intersectionality within disability, including gender and age, is not adequately considered.

There is very limited participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations in different processes to ensure that their needs and views are considered in the management of disaster risks. Thus, it is necessary for concerned stakeholders to have improved understanding of the risks and impacts of hazards and climate change faced by persons with disabilities. It is also necessary to strengthen the capacity of persons with disabilities to participate effectively in the DRR process, including the early warning system.

Against the above backdrop, the National Resilience Programme (DDM Part) commissioned CDD to implement the project “Piloting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction” in two sub-districts of Kurigram district in Northern Bangladesh.

### 1.3. Working Areas and Population Coverage

The working areas of the project include Ramna and Thanahat unions in Chilmari upazila, and Jatrapur and Belgacha unions under Kurigram Sadar upazila. The population of this area is shown in the table below:

Sl. no.	Union	Male	Female	Total	Persons with disabilities
1	Ramna	13,684	15,045	28,729	1,168
2	Thanahat	18,857	19,620	38,477	1,049
3	Jatrapur	10,323	10,671	20,994	451
4	Belgacha	12,950	13,091	25,996	539
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55,814</b>	<b>58,427</b>	<b>114,196</b>	<b>3,207</b>

### 1.4. Objectives of project

The broad objective of the project is piloting disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and risk management, including disability inclusion aspects in adaptive social protection programme with Employment Generation for the Poorest of the Poor (EGPP) and Flood Preparedness Programme (FPP) for building resilience of the most vulnerable groups to disasters and climate change. The project has the following four specific objectives:

- 1) Capacity building of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), persons with disabilities, and government agencies to address disaster risk and enhance institutional frameworks.
- 2) Develop and promote disability-inclusive activities to enhance resilience.
- 3) Early warning infrastructure and last mile services targeting the specific needs of persons with disabilities to better manage and reduce their vulnerability to climate change induced risks.
- 4) Effective knowledge management and undertaking of targeted measures to reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to disasters.

## 2. Key Approaches

### 2.1. Implementation Modality

In implementing the pilot project, CDD adopted the approach known as Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID). CBID programmes include health, education, livelihood, social and empowerment activities, working closely with local partners, local governments and representative groups of persons with disabilities to bring about change. CBID particularly promotes the participation and voice of people with disabilities in decision-making processes at the local level.

CBID uses ‘bottom-up’ and ‘person-centred’ approaches at the community level, utilising participatory processes to include everyone. CBID supports the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and incorporates learnings from the Sendai Framework for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction. The Dhaka Declaration 2015+ also stresses the importance of ensuring people centred approach to disability and disaster management.

The project followed the twin track approach to disability inclusive development. This approach recognises that development programmes need to be accessible to persons with disabilities, but that for a proportion of them, there are also disability specific needs which have to be met to enable access to mainstream development processes. To achieve full inclusion and maximum participation of persons with disabilities, both disability inclusiveness initiatives and disability specific initiatives are required. Thus, the project, in addition to forming self-help groups (SHGs) and building their capacities, provided persons with disabilities with rehabilitation services such as assistive devices, therapy and referral.

The methodology used for implementing the project included the following key elements:

1. **Review of baseline situation:** CDD reviewed the disaster risk management (DRM) policies, guidelines and tools in terms of disability-inclusive disaster risk management (DiDRM). The project also contributed to baseline data collection of Employment Generation for the Poorest of the Poor and Flood Preparedness Programme so as to cover disability issues. Simultaneously, the knowledge, attitude and practices of relevant stakeholders regarding DiDRM at the national and local levels were also reviewed. The outcome of this exercise reflected the strengths and gaps of policies and practices which helped to appropriately formulate the implementation strategy of the project.
2. **Sensitisation and mobilisation:** With a view to ensuring the active participation of the relevant stakeholders and community members, including persons with disabilities, in preparing and implementing DiDRM activities, the project built consensus among the stakeholders and community regarding the need to effectively implement DiDRM.
3. **Preparation of DiDRM Plan:** The project took the initiative to review the existing guidelines and tools of Community Risk Assessment for incorporating issues relating to DiDRM. CRA was conducted accordingly based on updated CRA guidelines and tools for preparing the local level DiDRM plan.
4. **Enhancing capacity of relevant stakeholders:** The project took steps to enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders such as members of Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) and representatives of the community, including persons with disabilities, to implement the planned activities of DiDRM. In this regard, existing DRM training module/manual and training materials were reviewed and updated with issues relating to DiDRM. The project provided Training of Trainers on DiDRR to FPP volunteers, who were responsible for training other volunteers. This was needed to build the capacity of FPP volunteers in the area of disability-inclusive disaster management. FPP volunteers got inputs on how to include disability issues in the contingency plan of Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC) and Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and they received technical support for developing CRA and Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP).



5. **Demonstration of implementation plan:** Through practical demonstration of the planned activities of DiDRM, the project enhanced the clarity of relevant stakeholders and community regarding the planning and implementation process and procedure of the DiDRM initiative.
6. **Introducing disability-inclusive flood warning dissemination:** The project reviewed the existing flood warning dissemination process and procedure for identifying the scope for upgrading the existing flood warning dissemination system to make it disability friendly.
7. **Strengthening response, recovery and rehabilitation system in terms of DiDRR:** The project reviewed the existing guidelines and tools of disaster emergency response, recovery and post-disaster rehabilitation. Based on review findings, the guidelines and tools were updated considering the issues related to DiDRM. The capacity of the relevant emergency responders and volunteers was enhanced based on the updated guidelines and tools.
8. **Knowledge management:** The learning acquired from project implementation will be shared through a learning sharing workshop.
9. **Awareness raising and policy advocacy:** The project designed and conducted outreach campaigns on DiDRM for raising awareness. Discussion sessions, courtyard meetings and other events were conducted at the community level. Project advocacy was conducted with a view to mainstreaming the learnings from the project.
10. **Development of IEC materials:** The project developed IEC materials for effective use of the stakeholders of the community.

CDD assigned a nine-member team for managing project implementation at the field level. This team consists of 1 Project Manager, 2 Field Coordinators, 4 Community Facilitators, 1 Programme Assistant (Admin & Finance), and 1 Technical Assistant (Therapy Services). All of them are based in Kurigram. Advisory support from Dhaka is provided by a DRR Advisor and an Inclusion Officer. Overall guidance is given by a six-member team from the CDD Head Office consisting of the Executive Director, Director, Deputy Director, Coordinator (DRR & CCA), M&E and Documentation Officer, and Associate Coordinator (Accounts) of CDD.

## 2.2. Engagement of Stakeholders

At the start of the project, the CDD team in Kurigram visited the project area for transact walk, demarcation of ward areas, and identification of persons with disabilities. The team held several meetings with community members for selecting the working area of the project and identifying persons with disabilities. Through these meetings, the project formed two self-help groups and motivated an existing OPD, Kurigram Protibondhi Kallyan Samity, to work with the project.

The project team organised several meetings with members of the administration such as the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kurigram district, the District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO), Upazila



Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Project Implementation Officer (PIO), Deputy Director of the Department of Social Welfare, District Women Affairs Officer, District Youth Officer, District Livestock Officer, Upazila Chairman and Union Parishad Chairman, etc. In addition, the team also held meetings with representatives of the civil society and local elites. In these meetings, the team informed about the project's objectives, activities and working areas, and sought the active participation and support of the stakeholders for the smooth implementation of the project.

### **2.3. Implementation Timelines (Original and Amendments)**

The original timeline of the project was from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020. The timeline was later extended to cover from 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Thus, the amended timeline of the project is from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## **3. Agreed Deliverables/Activities as per Contract Document**

According to the 1<sup>st</sup> contract document, the following are the deliverables of the project:

1. Inception report and detailed work plan.
2. Report on finalised work plan and beneficiary selection criteria.
3. Report on piloting and implementation of planned activities as a model.
4. Detailed report on preparation of 20 beneficiaries' profile.
5. Completion of knowledge sharing and report on the key achievements and lessons learnt.
6. Completion of the Final Report.

According to the 2<sup>nd</sup> contract document, the following are the deliverables of the project:

1. Action Plan of Program and Training including progress report and detailed work plan.
2. Planning and re-inception and training and DRR pilot project implementation progress report and finalized work plan.
3. Report on implementing the DRR pilot interventions/activities, IEC materials, policy/technical brief module, and 50 beneficiaries' profile as a model.
4. Completion of workshop and submission of the final report.

## **4. Accomplishments, Lessons Learned and Challenges**

### **4.1. Accomplishments**

The table below shows the achievement of the planned project activities during the period January 2020-August 2021.

Code	Objective/Activity	Target	Achieved	Comment
<b>1</b>	<b>Capacity building for DPOs, persons with disabilities, and government agencies to address disaster risk and enhance institutional frameworks</b>			
1.1	Project inception meeting	1	3	Inception meetings held in 3 areas of Kurigram
1.2	Mapping of persons with disabilities in one union of Chilmari upazila of Kurigram district	1	1	Mapping conducted in Ramna union of Chilmari upazila
1.3	Formation of self-help groups and organisation of DPO	3	3	Two self-help groups formed and one DPO motivated
1.4	Ten-day Leadership and Advocacy training for selected members of self-help groups and DPO (20 persons)	1	1	
1.5	Monthly meeting of 2 self-help groups and DPO	38	38	
1.6	Assist union parishad to form Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC), including persons with disabilities	36	36	
1.7	Activation/reactivation of Disaster Response Coordination Group (DRCG) at upazila, union and ward levels according to SOD 2019	38	38	
1.8	Five-day Training of Trainers for DPOs and selected persons with disabilities on Disability and Disaster Risk Management in Dhaka (1 batch of 15 participants)	1	-	Not done due to COVID-19 pandemic situation.
1.9	Development of one-day training module on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction for FPP volunteers.	1	1	
1.10	Three-day TOT on one-day training module on DiDRR for representatives of FPP volunteers (40 persons in 2 batches)	2	2	
1.11	Three-day training on Search and Rescue for first responders at the local level (2 batches of 30 participants each)	2	2	
1.13	Mock drill on DiDRR (1 drill in Chilmari)/Billboard in the community (considering COVID-19 situation)	1	-	Not done due to COVID-19 pandemic situation.
1.14	Observance of days related to disability and disaster at field level (3 days in 2 upazilas)	3	3	
1.15	Awareness raising of the community on DiDRR through courtyard meeting and development of knowledge product flyer for awareness raising of the community on DiDRR (early warning messages)		115	115 courtyard meetings held; knowledge product developed in May-June 2021.
1.16	Conduct need based training for selected persons with disabilities on climate/disaster resilient livelihood (for 10 persons)	10	10	

Code	Objective/Activity	Target	Achieved	Comment
<b>2</b>	<b>Develop and promote disability-inclusive activities to enhance resilience</b>			
2.1	Technical support for making CRA and RRAP disability inclusive (non-budgeted activity)	3	3	
2.2	Regular bi-monthly meetings ensuring representation of persons with disabilities in WDMCs	7	5	Target not met due to COVID-19 pandemic situation.
2.3	One-day orientation on roles and responsibilities of different disaster management committees as per SOD-2019 (UzDMC, UDMC and WDMC)	3	3	
2.4	Provide rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities (assistive devices, therapy and referral)	206	206	Assessment: 138; AD support: 23; Therapy: 129; Referral: 54; Eye camp: 1; Participants: 15; DPO advocacy: 2; Artificial leg and wheelchair: 1.
2.5	Influencing safety net programmes for better consideration of persons with disabilities who are most at risk of disaster (non-budgeted activity)		482	
2.6	Support for accessible infrastructure followed by accessibility assessment:			
	a. Flood resilient accessible model house with water and sanitation facilities (one in each upazila)	1	1	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2021
	b. Make one community clinic accessible	1	2	One community clinic was made accessible by advocacy; another was done through budget support.
2.7	Support disability-inclusive disaster/climate resilient livelihood for 10 persons with disabilities	10	10	Done in October 2020
2.8	Establish linkage between government service providers and farmers with disabilities (non-budgeted activity)			Developed linkage with DC, DRRO, PIO, UNO, SWO, UWAO, DLO, ULO, Agriculture office, Health, DPHE, WDB
<b>3</b>	<b>Early warning infrastructure and last mile services targeting the specific needs of persons with disabilities to better manage and reduce their vulnerability to climate change induced risks</b>			
3.1	Develop knowledge product on SOD (Flyer/Bulletin/Festoon)	1	2	

Code	Objective/Activity	Target	Achieved	Comment
3.2	Support for inclusive early warning dissemination		2	Flag hoisting, miking, household visit, audio visual clip
3.3	Provide primary level search and rescue materials to WDMC	9	9	Raincoat, life jacket, stretcher, torchlight, first aid box, hand-held mike
<b>4</b>	<b>Effective knowledge management and undertaking of targeted measures to reduce the vulnerability of persons with disabilities to disasters</b>			
4.1	Development and publication of IEC materials for school children and community people (flash card and leaflet)	7	7	Leaflet, audio visual clip, case study, SOD flyer, 3 training modules developed
4.2	Documentation of good practices (develop ward/union disability identification map/video documentation/publication/printing)		Video on model house will be added	union disability identification map developed 1 <sup>st</sup> draft
4.4	Holding knowledge sharing workshop on DiDRR at district level in Kurigram	1		Joint activity with NRP and partners will be held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2021
4.5	Dissemination of good practices and learning through national and local level events, social media, print and electronic media			NRP will arrange it.
4.6	Final Project Report	1	1	

Since its inception in January 2020 until August 2021, the CDD-NRP project undertook the following activities:

### 1) Meetings with members of the community

At the start of the project, the CDD team in Kurigram visited the project area for transect walk, demarcation of ward areas, and identification of persons with disabilities. The team held several community consultations for selecting the working area of the project and identifying persons with disabilities. Through these meetings the project formed two self-help groups and motivated an existing organisation of persons with disabilities to work with the project. The meetings also solicited the opinions of community members regarding the project. Most of them welcomed the initiative and agreed to work with the project.

### 2) Meetings with members of the civil administration, elected bodies and civil society

The project team organised several meetings with members of the administration such as the DC of Kurigram district, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Project Implementation Officer, Deputy Director of Department of Social Welfare, District Women Affairs Officer, District Youth Officer, District Livestock Officer, Upazila Chairman, and Union Parishad Chairman, etc. In addition, the team also held meetings with representatives of civil society and local elites. In these

meetings, the team informed about the project's objectives, activities and working areas, and sought the active participation and support of the stakeholders for the smooth implementation of the project.

### **3) Assistance to form WDMCs and DRCGs**

The project team assisted in the formation of WDMCs and DRCGs in Ramna and Thanahat unions under Chilmari upazila and Jatrapur and Belgacha unions under Kurigram Sadar upazila. The team met with the respective UP chairmen and discussed the formation of WDMCs and DRCGs in all the wards under the four unions as per Standing Order on Disaster (SOD) 2019 of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The UP chairmen issued letters to their respective UP members asking them to form these bodies, which would include persons with disabilities. As a result, 36 WDMCs and an equal number of DRCGs were formed in 36 wards under the 4 unions of Chilmari and Sadar upazilas.

### **4) Inception meetings at district and upazila levels**

The three implementing partners of the NRP project – CDD, CARE Bangladesh and ESDO – jointly organised project inception meetings at the district and upazila levels. The first inception meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the District Commissioner's hall room in Kurigram. The inception meeting was presided over by the DC of Kurigram, Ms Sultana Parvin, while the Deputy Secretary of DDM and Project Director of the project, Mr AKM Maruf Hassan, presided over the inception workshop. The event was attended by a total of 129 persons (94 males and 35 females), including the UNO, DRRO, members of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), representative of UNDP, persons with disabilities, project staff members and others. The CDD team made a short presentation on "Development and Piloting of DRR Activities for Persons with Disabilities" and the participants gave their views on how best to implement the project.

The second inception meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the Chilmari Upazila Parishad hall room. It was presided over by the Upazila Chairman, Mr Sawkat Ali Sarker, while the UNO of Chilmari, Mr AWM Raihan Shah, was the chief guest. A total of 80 persons (64 males and 16 females) participated in the event, including the PIO, members of Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UzDMC), persons with disabilities, project staff and others. CDD gave a presentation on "Development and Piloting of DRR Activities for Persons with Disabilities", which was followed by a discussion on project implementation.

The third inception meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Kurigram Sadar Upazila Parishad hall room. The UNO of Kurigram Sadar upazila, Ms Nilufa Yesmeen, was the chief guest in the inception workshop, which was facilitated by the Field Coordinator of CDD, Mr Shaha Alam. A total of 74 persons (57 males and 17 females) were present in the event. They included the Social Welfare Officer, Livestock Officer, PIO, members of UzDMC, persons with disabilities, project staff members and others. CDD gave a presentation on "Development and Piloting of DRR Activities for Persons with Disabilities", which was followed by a discussion on project implementation.

## **5) Training on child safeguarding**

CDD organised a training session on Child Safeguarding for new project staff of AFAD and CDD at the AFAD Training Centre, Khalilganj, Kurigram, on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Ms Taslima Akter Keya, Senior Project Manager, CDD, facilitated the training and discussed child safeguarding issues and other policies of the organisation. Thirteen participants (5 males and 8 females) took part in the training session.

## **6) Installation of ramps in project office and community clinic**

For ensuring accessibility for all, a ramp was installed in front of the project office in Khalilganj, Kurigram, and ensured accessible water and sanitation facilities that wheelchair users could easily and comfortably use. The ramp was installed by the house owner at his own cost. An expert from the CDD head office visited the project office, took measurements and offered suggestions regarding construction of the ramp. He also suggested installing a similar ramp at the Chilmari field office.

Ghone Shampur Community Clinic is situated in front of Jatrapur Union Parishad, Kurigram Sadar. The clinic was located at a higher level than the ground, which made it very difficult for persons with disabilities, pregnant women and elderly people to reach it and receive health care services. To improve accessibility, the project decided to install a ramp in front of the clinic in collaboration with Jatrapur Union Parishad. The ramp was constructed at a cost of Taka 35,000, of which the project paid Taka 20,000 and the union parishad Taka 15,000.

## **7) Monthly progress review meetings of project staff**

In 2020, nine non-budgetary monthly staff meetings were held in the Kurigram project office. All staff members attended these meetings, in which the following issues were discussed:

- Progress review of last month's activities
- Planning for next month
- Challenges and learning sharing
- District/upazila level inception workshop
- Organising different training programmes
- Determining selection criteria of training participants and beneficiaries of income generating activities
- Courtyard meetings
- Distribution of assistive devices
- COVID-19 and flood
- Official discipline
- Day observance
- Emergency response
- Meetings of self-help groups and DPO
- Orientation for Disaster Management Committees
- Flood 2020

- IGA support distribution
- Homestead gardening
- Audit and visit
- Disability mapping
- Model house
- Any other business

## **8) Observance of National Disaster Preparedness Day**

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020, CDD observed the National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD) in Kurigram district and Chilmari upazila. Both the programmes were organised jointly with the Kurigram District administration and Chilmari Upazila administration. Details are given below.

### **a. Kurigram district**

A rally was held under the leadership of the DC, Ms Sultana Parvin. It started from the DC's office at 10.00 am and moved in the surrounding areas until 10.25 am. Participants in the rally included the ADC General, DRRO, personnel of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, other government officials, representatives of different NGOs, journalists from the electronic and print media, students, and members of civil society and DPO. Before starting the rally, the DC delivered a brief speech in which she said the programme schedule had been kept short because of the COVID-19 situation. She also mentioned that the main reason for Kurigram being the poorest district in Bangladesh is its vulnerability to different disasters, especially floods, which affect it every year. She appreciated the work the NGOs were doing with others to mitigate the risks of disasters and hoped that the contribution of NGOs would be continued in the future.

After the rally, a mock drill was held in front of the Khalilganj School and College in Kurigram. The Fire Service and Civil Defence demonstrated response, rescue and rehabilitation support for different types of disasters such as fire, flood and earthquake. Scouts, students, teachers, NGO representatives, journalists and interested public watched the mock rally.

### **b. Chilmari upazila**

A rally started at 10.30 am from the Upazila Complex and moved to the Upazila Health Complex, where members of the UzDMC, government officials, NGO/INGO representatives, 30 persons with disabilities and their caretakers from Thanahat and Ramna unions, and local elites were present. In all, 220 persons participated in the rally (105 males and 115 females, of whom 17 were males with disabilities and 13 females with disabilities).

After the rally, a discussion session was held at the Upazila Complex. In the discussion session, representatives of CARE Bangladesh, CDD and Friendship, and Assistant Education Officer, Officer-in-Charge of Chilmari, Upazila Vice Chairman (male), PIO and UNO spoke. The representative from CARE said that ward-wise volunteer groups would be formed and they would provide voluntary service before, during and after disasters like flood occur. The Project Manager of CDD-NRP project talked about disaster preparedness.



## **9) Mapping of persons with disabilities in Ramna union of Chilmari upazila**

In March 2020, the project started mapping of persons with disabilities in the Ramna union of Chilmari upazila. The main objective of the exercise was to identify and prepare a database of persons with disabilities in the union. The specific objectives of disability mapping were:

- To design DRR and humanitarian programme.
- To provide specific support to persons with disabilities during search, rescue and evacuation.
- To use the data for other development programme/project/scheme design, implementation and monitoring of the Ramna union.

Disability mapping was done through a household survey in the Ramna union. Before conducting the survey, the project team informed the community members and local key informants, e.g., UP chairman and members, school teachers, and civil society leaders, etc., about the data collection process and purposes of disability mapping. They were also told that CDD would recruit data collectors who would visit each household of the union and gather information about the functional limitations of all the household members.

The project recruited 18 enumerators from Chilmari upazila for conducting the survey. Seven project staff members were also included in the data collection teams. A three-day long orientation was organised for them during 11-13 March 2020 in the CDD field office in Chilmari. Mr Deb Dulal Saha, Coordinator, CDD, and Mr Palash Sarker, IT Expert, CDD, conducted the orientation. The topics covered in the orientation included the following: theoretical aspects of disability, types of disabilities, rights of persons with disabilities, data collection tools, and how to use Kobo software in smart phones, etc.

CDD used two tools, namely (a) Washington Group Short Set Questionnaire, and (b) UNICEF Child Functioning-1 Questionnaire, for conducting the survey and mapping exercise. The Washington Group questionnaire was used for collecting data from persons aged 5 years and above, while the UNICEF questionnaire was used for gathering information on children aged 2-4 years. Both the questionnaires were translated into Bengali before being administered.

The CDD study team processed and analysed the collected data and, based on the analyses, prepared a report titled “Report on Mapping of Persons with Functional Limitation in Ramna Union of Chilmari Sub-district of Kurigram District.”

## **10) Publication of leaflet on COVID-19**

To raise awareness of people on the COVID-19 situation, the project published 3,000 leaflets containing written messages and pictures on the pandemic. These leaflets were distributed among community members, self-help groups, DPO, local NGOs, government offices, press and reporters, tea stalls, local markets, local government institutions, UDMCs and WDMCs. On 22 June 2020, the leaflets were distributed among participants of NGO coordination meeting in the Deputy Commissioner’s office. The local Member of Parliament, Mr Alhaj Ponir Uddin Ahmed, also attended the meeting. The Deputy

Commissioner, Mr Mohammad Rezaul Karim, appreciated the leaflet and considered it an effective messaging tool because of the pictures it contained.

### **11) Response to floods in Kurigram**

The project responded to the floods that occurred in Kurigram in 2020. The project staff, SHG members and other stakeholders provided information on the flood-affected persons and their needs to government and non-government service providers to get support to reduce the sufferings of the people and develop linkages with service providers. Government officials/agencies involved in mitigation efforts included UP Chairman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Project Implementation Officer, Social Welfare Officer, Department of Public Health and Engineering, Upazila Health Complex, and Community Clinic, etc. Non-governmental organisations included CDD, CARE, MJSKS, Friendship, BRAC, RDRS, AFAD, KPKS, Thanahat Nari Unnayan Somobay Samity, WFP, etc.

CDD provided emergency support to 253 families under Inclusive Emergency Response Project to the most at-risk people in Chilmari upazila. Among them, 180 were in Ramna union and 73 in Thanahat union. Each family was provided Taka 3,000 as grant through bKash account. People eligible for support included persons with disabilities, widows, abandoned women, the elderly poor, and families with low income and many members. The male-female ratio of recipients was equal and half of the beneficiaries were persons with disabilities. Most of the SHG members received support from the project.

Before starting the emergency response, the project staff met with respective upazila administration and union parishads and received their consent for collecting data on flood-affected households. Data was collected with the help of Kobo software from 485 households, of which 253 (52%) were provided support. The list of beneficiaries was endorsed by the respective UP chairmen.

### **12) Development of linkage between self-help groups and Upazila Parishad and Department of Public Health Engineering**

The members of SHGs in Ramna and Thanahat unions and members of Ramna WDMC, along with the CDD Chilmari team, communicated with DPHE and Upazila Health Complex for installation of tube wells and latrines on Ramna Beparipara and Malek Mor embankments. In this regard, the leaders of SHG submitted written applications to DPHE and UHC to get the services. As a result of the advocacy with DPHE, 31 tube wells and 12 latrines were installed on the embankments for flood-affected people of Ramna and Thanahat unions. Accessibility features were ensured for 5 of the tube wells in Ramna. In addition, DPHE Chief Engineer, Mr Uttam Kumar Singh, gave 10,000 packets (42 boxes) of water purifying powder for distribution among the flood-affected people in Ramna and Thanahat unions. On the other hand, the Upazila Health and Family Welfare Officer, Dr Aminul Islam, provided 2,000 packets of oral saline for distribution in the community.

The DPO, Kurigram Protibondhi Kallyan Songstha (KPKS), developed linkage with the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and obtained an artificial limb for Md Rakib Hossain Johnny, a resident of Bisheshor ward in Belgacha union. Son of a rickshaw puller, Jhonny is 15 years old and studies in class 9. He had met with an accident and lost his right leg. He communicated with KPKS, which got in

touch with CDD staff for help. CDD suggested to link up with BRAC, Handicap International and CRP. KPKS communicated and advocated with BRAC and CRP. Finally, Johnny received an artificial limb from CRP's head office in Savar in August 2020 free of cost.

### **13) Monthly meeting of self-help groups**

Every month on a specific day each SHG held its monthly meeting according to its constitution. The president of the group and other members presided over the meetings by rotation so as to develop alternative leadership. CDD-NRP project staff facilitated or guided the groups to conduct the meetings properly. The agenda of the meetings included the following:

- Review and sharing of last month's meeting minutes
- Awareness raising on COVID-19
- Beneficiary selection for IGA, and different training sessions and meetings
- Repairing and cleaning of houses after flood
- Homestead gardening
- Expenses of monthly meetings
- Preparation of flood preparedness plan
- Day observance
- Signboard making
- Constitution of the organisation
- Application to government offices for winter clothes and other services
- Disability mapping
- Model house
- Flood
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Protection Act 2013
- Group solidarity
- Group action plan
- Any other business

### **14) Making accessibility features and reasonable accommodation**

In 2020, the project area was flooded 5 times. The flood-affected people, especially persons with disabilities, older people and pregnant women, were suffering for the absence of pure drinking water, latrine facilities and accessibility to boat ghats (river landing stairs). To mitigate their sufferings, the project made usable and accessible 5 tube wells in Ramna, 2 tube wells in Jatrapur, 3 toilets in Chilmari and 2 toilets in Jatrapur. Being motivated by the work of the project, the community members also installed 35 tube wells and 15 toilets. The project also installed 2 wooden ramps in Ramna and 1 in Jatrapur boat ghat. The respective UP chairmen and members, and UDMC and WDMC members are taking care of the ramps.

### **15) Facilitation of training for FPP Volunteers organised by CARE**

CARE Bangladesh organised a one-day training for volunteers of the Flood Preparedness Programme under the NRP project. The CDD team facilitated discussion on disability issues in the training. The volunteers were informed about types of disability, responsibilities of FPP volunteers towards persons with disabilities during disasters, and leadership and participation of persons with disabilities in flood preparedness.

### **16) Training of Trainers on DiDRR for representatives of FPP Volunteers**

The project developed a training of trainers (ToT) module on DiDRR for representatives of FPP volunteers. The disaster expert, Mr Moloy Chaki, facilitated two batches of training in August 2020. A total of 40 volunteers received the ToT. The training sessions were held in Jatrapur union, Kurigram, and Ramna and Thanahat unions, Chilmari. Ms Anika Rahman Lipy, Assistant Director Training, CDD, facilitated discussion on disability issues via Skype. Before the training, the project obtained the list of participants from CARE-NRP team. The DRRO of Kurigram, Mr Abdul Hye Sarker, visited the training venue and addressed the training participants. He recommended that refresher training should also be provided from time to time. The ToT on DiDRR informed the FPP volunteers about persons with disabilities, disaster risk and vulnerability of persons with disabilities, inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster management, duties and responsibilities of volunteers, risk assessment and planning, early warning, search, rescue and evacuation, loss assessment and reconstruction. The ToT has developed a group of skilled volunteers who will be able to contribute to disaster risk reduction of the community, especially persons with disabilities, during flood or any kind of disaster.

### **17) Training on Search and Rescue for First Responders**

The project organised two batches of three-day training on “Search and Rescue for First Responders”. The training programmes were held in Kurigram and Chilmari during 23-25 August 2020 and 26-28 August 2020 respectively. The UNO of Chilmari, Mr AWM Raihan Shah, was the chief guest and inaugurated the training. The PIO, chief engineer of DPHE, UP chairman, and representatives of UNDP were also present. The entire training was facilitated by DiDRR specialist Mr Md Moinul Islam, Coordinator, CDD. Ms Anika Rahman Lipy, Assistant Director (Training), CDD, facilitated disability issues via Skype. Mr Ifterkhar Shorful facilitated the session on sign language also through Skype. In all, 58 persons (29 males and 29 females) participated. Of them, 11 were persons with disabilities (7 males and 4 females). The participants included FPP volunteers and members of WDMC, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, and Bangladesh Scouts. The following topics were discussed in the training sessions:

- Disability concept and types of disabilities; Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Protection Act 2013
- Disaster risk and vulnerability of persons with disabilities
- Inclusion of persons with disabilities in DRR
- National and international law, policy and framework of DRR
- Early warning signs for persons with disabilities
- Safe search, rescue and taking different types of persons with disabilities to safe places
- Sign language and communicating with persons with hearing impairments during disasters

- Pre and post-test of training

### **18) Need-based training on flood/climate resilient livelihood for persons with disabilities**

The project organised a training programme on flood/climate resilient livelihood for SHG members of Ramna and Thanahat unions. The training was held during 14-16 September 2020 in AFAD Training Centre in Khalilganj, Kurigram. Ten persons with disabilities (5 males and 5 females) participated in the training. The District Livestock Officer, Deputy Director Agriculture, and Upazila Livestock Officers of Kurigram Sadar and Chilmari facilitated the training as resource persons. Mr Moni Krishna Roy, Field Coordinator, CDD-NRP project, also facilitated the training. On the first day, DD Agriculture and Project Manager inaugurated the training and explained its goals and objectives.

The participants were selected following discussions with the SHGs and DPO. Three participants were selected from Ramna SHG and three from Thanahat SHG. The DPO helped in selecting 3 participants from Jatrapur and 2 from Belgacha unions. The selection criteria included the following:

- a. Family of persons with disabilities
- b. The family should be very poor
- c. The maximum landownership is 10 decimals
- d. Beneficiary should have interest in and capacity of implementing an income generating activity

The main training topics included the following:

1. Objective of beef fattening
2. Beef fattening and cow rearing duration period
3. Beef fattening steps
  - a. Cattle selection and purchase
  - b. De-worming
  - c. Cattle disease management and vaccination
  - d. Fodder management
  - e. Cattle shed management
  - f. Artificial breeding of cow
  - g. Calf rearing and caring
  - h. Cattle selling
  - i. Income and expenditure analysis
  - j. Preparation of vermin compost
  - k. Preparation of individual business plan
4. Homestead gardening as an alternative income source.

The training participants were able to develop linkage with government service providers from the livestock and agricultural departments. They were encouraged to implement IGA at the homestead level. By engaging in IGA the participants would be able to increase their income and assets, develop their livelihood status, meet nutritional demand and ensure food security.

### **19) Climate resilient livelihood support for persons with disabilities**

After providing training on climate resilient livelihood to 10 persons with disabilities, the project arranged support for them to purchase the required assets. The beneficiaries and their families, purchase committee members and CDD staffs were present during the purchase of assets.

### **20) Rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities**

The project's Technical Assistant (Therapy Service) assessed 126 persons with disabilities by using an assessment format in Jatrapur and Belgacha unions of Kurigram Sadar upazila and Ramna and Thanahat unions under Chilmari upazila. Based on the assessment, the project provided assistive devices to 20 persons and therapy to 95 persons and referred 44 persons to different hospitals for treatment. The project also organised an eye camp with the help of Marium Eye Hospital.

The assistive devices provided to 20 persons with disabilities included 4 wheelchairs, 3 tricycles, 5 special sitting chairs, 1 standing frame, 3 pairs of auxiliary crutches and 4 white canes. In Chilmari, the devices were distributed by the UNO of Chilmari, Mr AWM Raihan Shah, in a simple function, which was also attended by the engineer of DPHE, PIO, and representatives from UNDP-NRP team. In Jatrapur, the UP Chairman of Sadar upazila, Mr Ayub Ali Sarker, DRR Specialist, Mr Moloy Chaki, and Project Manager of CARE-NRP were present during the device distribution. In Belgacha union, Mr Rokonul Islam, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Kurigram, distributed the devices.

### **21) Early warning dissemination**

During the floods of 2020, the project areas were badly affected by monsoon flood. The water level of Brahmaputra, Teesta and Dudhkumar rivers increased due to upstream water and seasonal rainfall resulting in inundation of the riverbank areas. Ramna, Thanahat and Jatrapur unions were particularly affected. SHG members, DPO, WDMCs and UDMCs took active part in reducing the effects of flood and sufferings of the flood-affected people. During the floods, the SHGs, WDMCs and government bodies disseminated early warning messages. Twenty-four red, yellow and green flags were provided to the WDMC members, who responded according to the Flood Preparedness Plan. They hoisted the flags, visited households, and helped to take people, especially persons with disabilities, to safe places like homes of relatives and embankments, etc. Early warning messages were disseminated through loudspeakers in mosques and hand-held microphones, enabling flood-affected people to take shelter in the homes of relatives and neighbours, on embankments and in flood shelters and safe places.

### **22) Orientation programme on roles and responsibilities of disaster management committees**

The project organised orientation programmes on the roles and responsibilities of different disaster management committees according to the Standing Order on Disaster 2019. The orientations were held separately for members of UDMC, WDMC and UzDMC. These are briefly described below.

#### **a. Orientation for UDMC members**

The first orientation programme was organised for one batch of UDMC members on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in the AFAD Training Centre in Khalilganj, Kurigram. Sixteen UDMC members from four unions of Kurigram Sadar and Chilmari upazilas participated (15 males and 1 female). In addition, 5 project staff members (3 males and 2 females) were present in the event. The topics discussed in the orientation included the following:

- Disability identification and inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction
- How members of UDMC have to deal with disasters
- Preliminary introduction to Standing Order on Disaster 2019
- Roles and responsibilities of UDMC members as per Standing Order on Disaster 2019
- Training learning review and evaluation

#### **b. Orientation for WDMC members**

The second orientation programme was organised for 2 batches of WDMC members on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Orientation for the 1<sup>st</sup> batch was held in Thanahat Union Parishad, Chilmari, in which 9 WDMC members participated (6 males and 3 females). One of the participants was a man with disabilities. In addition, 3 project staff members (2 males and 1 female) attended. Orientation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch was conducted in the AFAD Training Centre, Kurigram, for WDMC members of Jatrapur and Belgacha unions, Kurigram Sadar. A total of 18 members participated (11 males and 7 females). Two of the participants were persons with disabilities (1 male and 1 female). Four project personnel (2 males and 2 females) were also present. The topics discussed in the orientation for both batches included the following:

- Disability identification and inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction
- How members of WDMC have to deal with disasters
- Preliminary introduction to Standing Order on Disaster 2019
- Roles and responsibilities of WDMC members as per Standing Order on Disaster 2019
- Training learning review and evaluation

#### **c. Orientation for UzDMC members**

The third orientation programme was organised for UzDMC members on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in the AFAD Training Centre in Khalilganj, Kurigram. Fifteen members participated in the orientation programme, 8 from Kurigram Sadar and 7 from Chilmari. Of them, 11 were males and 4 females. In addition, 5 project staff, 1 DPO leader and the DRRO of Kurigram and his colleague attended the programme. Thus, the total number of participants was 23 (19 males and 4 females). The orientation was facilitated by the DRRO, Mr Md Abdul Hye Sarker. The topics discussed in the orientation included the following:

- Disability identification and inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction
- How members of UzDMC have to deal with disasters
- Preliminary introduction to Standing Order on Disaster 2019



- Roles and responsibilities of UzDMC members as per Standing Order on Disaster 2019
- Training learning review and evaluation

### **23) Observance of International Day for Disaster Reduction 2020**

The project, along with members of the district and upazila administration observed the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) 2020 on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020. At the district level, a meeting was held in the conference room of the DC's Office in Kurigram. The participants watched a teleconference of the Prime Minister. After that a discussion on the significance of the day ensued. The DC of Kurigram, Mr Mohammad Rezaul Karim, presided over the meeting and moderated the discussion. The programme was organised by the DRRO's office and attended by the DC, DRRO, other government officials, representatives of NGOs and INGOs, reporters and DPO members. A total of 33 persons attended (31 males and 2 females). Among them, there was one person with disabilities.

In the meeting, the DC wanted to know what the NGOs did during the floods of 2020 especially for persons with disabilities. The project team present in the meeting described the activities they had undertaken to mitigate the sufferings of flood-affected people, particularly persons with disabilities. These activities included the following:

- Installed 3 wooden ramps in boat ghats (one each in Ramna, Chilmari and Jatrapur unions)
- Made tube wells and latrines accessible
- Rescued flood-affected older people and persons with disabilities
- Disseminated inclusive early warning messages
- Distributed oral saline and water purifying powder

The DC and other participants appreciated these initiatives of the project.

At the upazila level, a discussion meeting was held in the Upazila Parishad hall room in Chilmari. The UNO presided over the meeting which was attended by the Upazila Chairman, Upazila Vice Chairman, NGO representatives, members of Fire Service department, UzDMC members, school/college teachers, and community members. In total, 85 persons attended the meeting (35 males and 50 females). Due to the COVID-19 situation, rallies and open field mass gathering meetings were not held.

By observing IDDR, many people became aware of various types of disaster. They learned about what needed to be done to be protected from disasters. The activity was undertaken in collaboration with government agencies and participants got to know about the work of the government and CDD in the areas of disaster preparedness and DRR.

### **24) Leadership and advocacy training for members of SHGs and DPO**

From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the project provided a ten-day training on leadership and advocacy to selected members of SHGs and DPO. The broad objective of the training was to build the capacity of persons with disabilities and DPO to address disaster risks and enhance resilience. The specific objectives were as follows:

1. To know the definition of disability and types of disabilities.
2. To have a clear concept of leadership and organisation of persons with disabilities.
3. To understand the concept of laws and policies of persons with disabilities.
4. To know ways of inclusion of persons with disabilities in government and non-government services.
5. To know the process of obtaining government services.
6. To know the techniques of sustainable group operation.
7. To gather knowledge on effective communication and advocacy.
8. To participate in local level disaster management process.

The training participants included 8 members of Ramna Self-help Group (5 males and 3 females), 7 members of Thanahat Self-help Group (4 males and 3 females), and 5 members of the DPO Kurigram Protibondhi Kallyan Songstha (2 males and 3 females), making a total of 20 participants (11 males and 9 females).

In designing the training programme, participatory approach and tools of participatory methodology were followed. Training content was selected based on review of relevant literature such as training module/manual, IEC materials and project documents, and suggestions from relevant project personnel of CDD and NRP. For conducting the courses, the following tools of participatory training methodology were used:

- Brain storming
- Lecture-discussion
- Open forum discussion
- Demonstration
- Peer discussion
- Innovative games
- Case analysis
- Story telling
- Experience sharing

The training programme was inaugurated on the first day of training by Mr Nazmul Bari, Director, CDD. Mr Broja Gopal Saha, Deputy Director, CDD, was also present. Ms Anika Rahman Lipy, Assistant Director (Training), CDD, was the main facilitator, while Mr Shafikul Islam was the course coordinator. In the closing session of the training, the Director General of DDM and the Executive Director of CDD, Mr A.H.M. Noman Khan, were also present.

The training programme built the capacity of SHG and DPO leaders to operate their organisations smoothly and democratically. It developed their negotiation skills, raised their awareness on disability rights, and enhanced their confidence to advocate and bargain with government and non-government service providers.

## **25) Advocacy work for making community clinic accessible**

Kharkharia Community Clinic in Ramna union was not accessible for persons with disabilities who, therefore, could not enter the clinic and get health care services. To rectify the situation, members of the Ramna SHG and WDMC did advocacy work along with the union parishad to make the clinic accessible. As a result, the UP chairman took the initiative to make the required changes to the clinic with resources from the UP budget. CDD staff members assisted the SHG and WDMC members by giving them advice on where to go and how to advocate with the authorities.

## **26) Budgetary support for making community clinic accessible**

Ghone Shampur Community Clinic is situated in front of Jatrapur Union Parishad, Kurigram Sadar. The clinic was located at a higher level than the ground, which made it very difficult for persons with disabilities, pregnant women and elderly people to reach it and receive health care services. To improve accessibility, the project decided to install a ramp in front of the clinic in collaboration with Jatrapur Union Parishad. The ramp was constructed at a cost of Taka 35,000, of which the project paid Taka 20,000 and the union parishad Taka 15,000. It helped persons with disabilities, older people and pregnant women to access services at the clinic thereby reducing their health risk.

## **27) Technical support to conduct CRA and develop RRAP**

CARE-FPP organised Community Risk Assessment and preparation of Risk Reduction Action Plan in Jatrapur and Ramna unions. The respective UP chairmen and members, UDMC members, WDMC representatives, social elites, religious elites, representatives of persons with disabilities, SHG members and women representatives took part in this programme. The CDD-NRP project staff actively participated and assisted them to complete this exercise.

## **28) Observance of International Disability Day and National Disability Day**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, SHG members observed the 29<sup>th</sup> International Disability Day and the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Disability Day by holding group discussion meetings. They decided in the meeting that they would submit an application to the UNO for distribution of blankets to persons with disabilities who were suffering from the severe cold wave. Following on the decision, the SHG leaders, Md Ashadul Islam (Cashier) and Nasima Begum, gave a letter to the UNO with a list of names of persons of disabilities who needed the blankets.

## **29) Project visit by UNDP team**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, a team from UNDP Bangladesh visited Ramna union to see the field activities and meet with the upazila administration and discuss project activities. They held an exit meeting with CDD, CARE, ESDO-NRP team in the CARE hub office, Kurigram. The visitors were informed about the field activities of the project and they, in turn, provided guidance on the way forward. The UNDP team included Md Arif Abdullah Khan, Programme Specialist, Shah Zahidur Rahman, Shelter Specialist and Project Manager, and Apurba Swatee Mahboob, Capacity Building and Advocacy Specialist.

### **30) Courtyard meetings for awareness raising**

To raise awareness of community members about issues such as COVID-19, heavy cold wave and initiatives, and early marriage, the project held courtyard meetings in different places of Ramna and Thanahat unions under Chilmari upazila. In Ramna union, 11 courtyard meetings were organised in 9 wards where 112 persons attended (17 males and 105 females), among whom there were 2 persons with disabilities (1 male and 1 female). In Thanahat union, the project held 9 courtyard meetings in 9 wards in which 152 persons participated (54 males and 98 females). Among them were 14 persons with disabilities (6 males and 8 females). The project also conducted awareness sessions on COVID-19 and the cold wave in Belgacha and Jatrapur unions of Kurigram Sadar upazila. A total of 20 such sessions were held of which 8 were in Belgacha and 12 in Jatrapur. Among the participants were 40 men with disabilities.

The following issues were discussed in the courtyard meetings:

- Awareness of the second wave of COVID-19 and heavy cold wave and initiatives for protection
- Persons with disabilities
- Violence against women and its prevention
- Awareness of early marriage, its demerits and what family and community should do against it
- Homestead vegetable cultivation in winter season

### **31) Bi-monthly meetings of WDMC**

WDMCs are newly-formed grassroots level organisations, which are still in the process of being developed and are not yet fully functional. The project has been assisting them to hold bi-monthly meetings. The meetings are conducted without any budget. There are 36 WDMCs in the 4 unions covered by the project. WDMC meetings started in July 2020 and 93 meetings were held until December 2020. Owing to COVID-19 and heavy flooding in 2020, the meetings of all WDMCs could not be held regularly. The main issues discussed in the WDMC meetings included the following:

- Roles and responsibilities of committee members
- Disaster and protective measures
- Disability and disability inclusion in different services
- Protective measures for persons with disabilities during disaster
- Awareness about COVID-19
- Cold wave
- Preparation of special budget for persons with disabilities in the next UP budget

### **32) COVID-19 Awareness Programme**

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic started spreading in the country. Lives and livelihoods were faced with challenges. The Government of Bangladesh took many actions to manage the disastrous situation. These included shutdowns, lockdowns, maintaining social and physical distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, awareness campaign, compensation for jobless and poor people, etc. To strengthen the government's efforts, many NGOs joined the COVID-19 awareness raising campaign and assisted in

implementing the government decisions. The CDD-NRP project also participated in the awareness raising programme and engaged with its stakeholders. The main activities undertaken by the project in this regard are briefly described below.

- a. **Working from home:** The project staff worked from home. They communicated with the stakeholders (e.g., SHG beneficiaries, WDMC members, UDMC members, DPO, government officials, etc.) over telephone and email. Sometimes they visited sites on foot.
- b. **Publication and distribution of leaflets on COVID-19 pandemic:** The project published 3,000 leaflets on the pandemic and distributed them among community members, SHG members, DPO, local NGOs, government offices, representatives of the media and journalists, tea stalls, local market places, local government institutions, UDMCs, and WDMCs, etc. Some of these organisations such as DPO, SHGs, WDMC and UDMCs helped the project management in the distribution process. Later, 4,000 more leaflets were distributed among community members.
- c. **Mask distribution:** The second wave of the pandemic started in March 2021. Infection and death rates soared. The project responded by intensifying its awareness initiatives in the project locations. SHG members, DPO, WDMCs, UDMCs and the project staff actively participated in this exercise. They distributed face masks among community members. The WDMCs distributed 700 masks from their own resources and 3,000 from the project. Government officials supported and appreciated these efforts. The UNO of Chilmari, Mr Mahbubur Rahman, gave the project 500 masks for distribution.
- d. **Miking:** To make the community aware of COVID-19, the project used hand mikes, rental mikes and loudspeakers of mosques to disseminate important messages at various locations like market places. It is estimated that at the minimum 16,000 persons received the messages communicated through loudspeakers.
- e. **COVID-19 Audio Visual Clip:** The project developed an audio visual clip on COVID-19 awareness. The clip was shared in the social media such as Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp. It is estimated that the video was shared more than a thousand times in these media. The clip was also shown on cable network of SCN channel, Kurigram. Mr Aminul Islam Bulbul, Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate, directly helped the project in this regard. According to the SCN channel authorities, 100,000 televisions are connected to the network and it can be assumed that 100,000 families have watched the clip. If the average family is considered to consist of 4 members, 400,000 persons were reached.
- f. **COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign:** The project directly took part in the National Mass Vaccination Campaign on COVID-19 that started on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021. It supported the programme by helping in registration, motivation, maintaining discipline, and providing special services to persons with disabilities and older people. SHG leaders, WDMC members, UDMC members, DPO members, FPP volunteers and the project staff actively participated in the national programme. The SHG leaders encouraged people in the villages and persons with disabilities to go to the vaccine centres to get vaccinated. DPO members and FPP volunteers encouraged community members to

take the vaccine, maintain discipline in the vaccination centres and helped with the registration process. Some of them were involved in registration during off-peak hours in villages and households. To encourage the people to get vaccines, the UDMC and WDMC members chose to be vaccinated first with the support of the UP chairman.

### **33) Flood Resistant Accessible Model House**

The project started work on constructing a flood-resistant accessible model house with water and sanitation facilities. This is a joint activity of CDD-DiDRR and ESDO-SSNP. ESDO provided support for earth filling for the model house. The project along with SHG leaders organised a community meeting for discussion on household selection, community contribution and plinth raising. The following decisions were taken in the meeting:

- Household member, Vondal Chandra Das, would raise two-thirds of the plinth
- ESDO would fill up the remaining one-third by earth filling
- Community members would contribute to make a link road
- The union parishad would contribute to the activity
- CDD would construct an accessible house and install accessible tube well and accessible toilet

The meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at Horinerbondh, Ramna union. The UP chairman of Ramna, ESDO team, CARE team, local elite persons, SHG members, community members and the CDD-NRP team attended the meeting. As part of the selection process, discussion was held with the SHG and names of 8 persons with disabilities were collected based on some criteria. Then, CDD and ESDO jointly visited the 8 households and finally selected one household to construct the model house as a joint venture activity. This decision was shared with representatives of the local administration such as PIO, UNO, Upazila chairman, Upazila vice-chairman, and DRRO. On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the UNO of Chilmari visited the model house and appreciated the initiative.

### **34) Other activities**

#### **a. Assistance to organise survey orientation for volunteers**

CDD-NRP team assisted UNDP to organise an orientation/workshop on Survey Activity of Disaster Affected Beneficiary Selection in Digital System, which was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at TDH Training Centre in Chilmari, Kurigram. The orientation was conducted in connection with a forthcoming pilot project under NRP (DDM Part) that UNDP Bangladesh will implement in Austomirchar, Chilmari, Kurigram. Five volunteers from BUET and Begum Rokeya University and ten local volunteers participated in the programme. Mr AWM Raihan Shah, UNO Chilmari, Mr Abdul Hye Sarker, DRRO Kurigram, Mr Md Kohinur Rahman, PIO Chilmari, and Ms Tahmina Tamanna, Programme Associate of UNDP were present in the workshop.

## **b. Assistance to organise orientation for IOM-UNDP**

The CDD-NRP team helped to organise an orientation programme for IOM-UNDP. The programme was held in the TDH Training Centre, Chilmari, Kurigram, on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Ten volunteers participated in the orientation. Mr AWM Raihan Shah, UNO Chilmari, and Ms Asma Begum Chowdhury, Upazila Vice Chairman, also attended the programme. Ms Victoria Nyawara and Ms Amrin Sultana from IOM facilitated the orientation.

## **4.2. Case Stories**

### **1) Dissemination of Early Warning**

During the floods of 2020, the project areas were badly affected by monsoon flood. The water level of Brahmaputra, Teesta and Dudhkumar rivers increased due to upstream water and seasonal rainfall resulting in inundation of the riverbank areas. Ramna, Thanahat and Jatrapur unions were particularly affected. SHG members, DPO, WDMCs and UDMCs took active part in reducing the effects of flood and sufferings of the flood-affected people. During the floods, the SHGs, WDMCs and government bodies disseminated early warning messages. Twenty-four red, yellow and green flags were provided to the WDMC members, who responded according to the Flood Preparedness Plan. They hoisted the flags, visited households, and helped to take people, especially persons with disabilities, to safe places like homes of relatives and embankments, etc. Early warning messages were disseminated through loudspeakers in mosques and hand-held microphones, enabling flood-affected people to take shelter in the homes of relatives and neighbours, on embankments and in flood shelters and safe places.

### **2) Advocacy to make Community Clinic accessible**

Kharkharia Community Clinic in Ramna union was not accessible for persons with disabilities who, therefore, could not enter the clinic and get health care services. To rectify the situation, members of the Ramna SHG and WDMC did advocacy work along with the union parishad to make the clinic accessible. As a result, the UP chairman took the initiative to make the required changes to the clinic with resources from the UP budget. CDD staff members assisted the SHG and WDMC members by giving them advice on where to go and how to advocate with the authorities.

### **3) CDD and Jatrapur UP made Community Clinic accessible**

Ghone Shampur Community Clinic is situated in front of Jatrapur Union Parishad, Kurigram Sadar. The clinic was located at a higher level than the ground, which made it very difficult for persons with disabilities, pregnant women and elderly people to reach it and receive health care services. To improve accessibility, the project decided to install a ramp in front of the clinic in collaboration with Jatrapur Union Parishad. The ramp was constructed at a cost of Taka 35,000, of which the project paid Taka 20,000 and the union parishad Taka 15,000. It helped persons with disabilities, older people and pregnant women to access services at the clinic thereby reducing their health risk.



#### **4) Advocacy by SHG and WDMC members**

The members of SHGs in Ramna and Thanahat unions and members of Ramna WDMC, along with the CDD Chilmari team, communicated with DPHE and Upazila Health Complex for installation of tube wells and latrines on Ramna Bearipara and Malek Mor embankments. In this regard, the leaders of SHG submitted written applications to DPHE and UHC to get the services. As a result of the advocacy with DPHE, 31 tube wells and 12 latrines were installed on the embankments for flood-affected people of Ramna and Thanahat unions. Accessibility features were ensured for 5 of the tube wells in Ramna. In addition, DPHE Chief Engineer, Mr Uttam Kumar Singh, gave 10,000 packets (42 boxes) of water purifying powder for distribution among the flood-affected people in Ramna and Thanahat unions. On the other hand, the Upazila Health and Family Welfare Officer, Dr Aminul Islam, provided 2,000 packets of oral saline for distribution in the community.

#### **5) Initiative of DPO to obtain assistive devices**

The DPO, Kurigram Protibondhi Kallyan Songstha (KPKS), developed linkage with the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and obtained an artificial limb for Md Rakib Hossain Johnny, a resident of Bisheshor ward in Belgacha union. Son of a rickshaw puller, Johnny is 15 years old and studies in class 9. He had met with an accident and lost his right leg. He communicated with KPKS, which got in touch with CDD staff for help. CDD suggested to link up with BRAC, Handicap International and CRP. KPKS communicated and advocated with BRAC and CRP. Finally, Johnny received an artificial limb from CRP's head office in Savar in August 2020 free of cost.

On advice of the CDD-NRP project, KPKS did advocacy with the Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF), Kurigram, for a wheelchair for Mr Mamun, a person with disability. The project helped the DPO in the advocacy process. As a result of the advocacy, KPKS obtained a wheelchair which enhanced its advocacy capacity and helped to increase the mobility of the person with disability.

#### **6) Rehabilitation of a child with club foot**

A two months old child, Refat, from Ramna union, Chilmari upazila, was born with club foot. The project suggested to his guardian that proper treatment can rectify the problem and make the child's foot normal. The Community Facilitator and Therapy Assistant of the project took the initiative and sent the child to the Central Hospital, Kurigram, for primary treatment. The child was then referred to the Prime Medical College and Hospital in Rangpur, where he was operated upon. The operation rectified the problem of club foot and the child's foot became normal. The total treatment was done free of cost.

#### **7) Construction of flood resilient model house**

The project started work on constructing a flood-resistant accessible model house with water and sanitation facilities. This is a joint activity of CDD-DiDRR and ESDO-SSNP. ESDO provided support for earth filling for the model house. The project along with SHG leaders organised a community meeting for discussion on household selection, community contribution and plinth raising. The meeting was attended by the UP chairman of Ramna, ESDO team, CARE team, local elite persons, SHG members, community members

and the CDD-NRP team. It was decided in the meeting that a household member would raise two-thirds of the plinth, ESDO would fill up the remaining one-third by earth filling, community members would contribute to make a link road, the union parishad would contribute to the activity, while CDD would construct an accessible house and install accessible tube well and accessible toilet. As part of the selection process, discussion was held with the SHG and names of 8 persons with disabilities were collected based on some criteria. Then, CDD and ESDO jointly visited the 8 households and finally selected one household to construct the model house as a joint venture activity. This decision was shared with representatives of the local administration such as PIO, UNO, Upazila chairman, Upazila vice-chairman, and DRRO. On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the UNO of Chilmari visited the model house and appreciated the initiative.

### 4.3. Lessons Learned

The following are the main learnings from the CDD-NRP project:

- 1) Inclusion of persons with disabilities in SHGs, WDMCs, UDMCs, FPP, EGPP, safety-net programmes, early warning dissemination, CRR and RRAP, and emergency programme was successful.
- 2) Persons with disabilities can access services if they know where the services are available. The project provided training to SHGs and DPO and established linkages between them and government service providers. During the floods of 2020, when the flood-affected people were facing serious water and sanitation problems, the SHG and DPO leaders were able to distribute oral saline and water purifying powder obtained from the upazila health complex and DPHE respectively.
- 3) Involving DPOs in various activities makes them stronger. The DPO in Kurigram provided lists of persons with disabilities to the project thereby enabling it to involve them in its activities. The DPO was actively involved in mask distribution, early warning dissemination, and advocacy with government bodies such as the Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation for providing assistive devices like wheelchair to persons with disabilities needing them. It advocated with CRP to obtain an artificial limb for a youth who had lost his leg in an accident. The project strengthened the capacity of the DPO by providing training to five of its leaders.
- 4) Persons with disabilities are being empowered as a result of their participation in various programmes.
- 5) Some activities can be done without budget if there is good relationship with stakeholders and they are willing to help. For example, the UP chairman in Ramna union took the initiative to improve access of persons with disabilities to the Kharkharia Community Clinic with resources from the UP budget. This was the result of advocacy done by the Ramna SHG and WDMC with the union parishad to make the clinic accessible for persons with disabilities.
- 6) Perception of local stakeholders about the pilot is very good but support is needed for it to be expanded.
- 7) Reasonable accommodation is useful and functioning. For example, the ramps established at the boat ghats in Ramna and Jatrapur unions helped persons with disabilities and others to access water

transport. These ramps are functioning and being taken care of by the respective UPs and members of UDMC and WDMC.

- 8) Assistive devices provided to persons with disabilities enhanced their mobility.
- 9) IGA support helped persons with disabilities to be resilient.

#### **4.4. Challenges**

The main challenges faced by the project include the following:

- 1) Allocation of resources for persons with disabilities was not sufficient. For example, the requirement for assistive devices was far greater than what the project could provide.
- 2) The infrastructure of most service providers is not accessible for persons with disabilities. For example, most of them do not have ramps and some of them are located upstairs. As a result, persons with disabilities have great difficulty in entering the offices and getting the required services.
- 3) Sometimes service providing authorities neglect persons with disabilities, treat them rudely and do not provide them services.
- 4) Due to lack of resources, 25% quota for persons with disabilities in emergency support is not achieved. If a person gets one type of allowance from a government provider, he/she is not entitled to another type of allowance. For example, if a person with disabilities gets disability allowance, he/she is not given old age allowance.
- 5) COVID-19 situation created difficulties for project implementation and some activities had to be delayed or dropped. For example, two scheduled training programmes were dropped. Also, a mock drill and exposure visits for members of SHGs, DPO and DMCs were dropped.
- 6) Floods of 2020 created additional problems for project implementation and some scheduled activities had to be postponed.

### **5. Exit Strategy for Sustainability and Institutionalisation Plan**

The CDD-NRP project has formed two SHGs and provided them with capacity development training. They have developed linkages with the local DPO, Kurigram Protibondhi Kallyan Samity. The project has also provided training to this DPO. The project has also facilitated the establishment of linkages between them and other stakeholders such as local government institutions, service providers and community members. It is expected that the SHGs and DPOs will continue their activities after the project comes to an end. The project has also activated 36 WDMCs and 38 DRCGs, and provided orientation to members of UDMCs, WDMCs and UzDMCs on disability issues. These committees will continue their activities after the project ends. CDD has also launched a new project on disability issues in Kurigram.

## **6. Recommendations and Conclusion**

### **6.1. Recommendations**

The CDD-NRP team would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1) The project should be continued for 3-4 years for achieving the expected results and sustainability considering the most vulnerable group.
- 2) Government and non-government service providers need to work with SHGs and DPOs to provide meaningful support to persons with disabilities.
- 3) Training on disability inclusion should be provided to service providing authorities.
- 4) Service providing centres and educational institutions should ensure accessibility of persons with disabilities.
- 5) Early warning messages should be developed and disseminated considering persons with disabilities.
- 6) All types of shelter centres/places need to have accessibility features for persons with disabilities.
- 7) Policy should be reviewed so that persons with disabilities get emergency support during disasters even if they are enlisted with any other safety-net support programme.
- 8) Refresher training on DiDRR should be provided from time to time to FPP volunteers and DMC members.
- 9) UDMC, WDMC and FPP volunteers should be well equipped for disaster management.
- 10) Persons with disabilities should be included in regular livelihood programmes.
- 11) Boat ghats, docks and jetties should be managed in a disability friendly manner.
- 12) Disability inclusion should be ensured at all stages and according to SOD-2019.
- 13) The volume of safety-net support packages should be increased for persons with disabilities.
- 14) Seat allocation and preservation should be ensured for persons with disabilities on all types of public transport.

### **6.2. Conclusion**

The CDD-NRP project piloted disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction for building resilience of persons with disabilities to disaster and climate change. To achieve its objectives, the project carried out more than 30 activities. It built the capacity of self-help groups, DPO, members of disaster management committees

and other stakeholders to address disaster risk and enhance institutional frameworks. The project also developed and promoted disability-inclusive activities to enhance resilience and disseminated early warning and IEC messages to reduce vulnerability of persons with disabilities to disasters. Despite the challenges posed by insufficient fund allocation, COVID-19 pandemic situation, and recurring floods of 2020, inclusion of persons with disabilities in SHGs, DMCs, Flood Preparedness Programme, livelihood programme, and early warning dissemination, etc., was successful.

## **Annexes (Assessments, Modules, Training Reports, Participant Lists, Communications Materials, etc.)**

### **Budget and Financial Progress**

### **Assessments, Modules, Training Reports, Participant Lists, Communications Materials, etc.**

1. List of persons with disabilities (KoBo Data)
2. Module on ToT on DiDRR
3. Leadership and Advocacy Training Module
4. Report on Training of Trainers
5. Report on Leadership and Advocacy Training
6. Participants List of Leadership and Advocacy Training
7. Participants List of Inception Meeting
8. Participants List of Volunteer Orientation
9. Participants List of Day Observance
10. Participants List of WDMC Orientation
11. Participants List of UDMC Orientation
12. Participants List of UzDMC Orientation
13. Participants List of Climate/Disaster Resilient Livelihood Training
14. List of Beneficiaries who received Devices
15. List of Beneficiaries who received Devices.
16. Leaflet on COVID-19 Awareness
17. Audio-visual Clip on COVID-19 Awareness
18. Flyer on SOD-2019
19. Festoon on SOD-2019
20. Disability Identification Map
21. Profiles of 50 Beneficiaries.