

National Collaboration Workshop Report on VFL-2019 implementation



Organized by :

Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP)

Report of National Collaboration Workshop

IMPLEMENTING *VIEWS FROM FRONTLINE* (VFL) 2019

Help Build Resilient Communities in our country!

Let the communities' voices be heard globally!

Introduction

Views from Frontline (VFL) remains one of the largest global programmes which reviews and strengthens disaster risk reduction at the local level. GNDR launched this global monitoring initiative in [2009](#), involving over 500 organisations across 69 countries to lead a participatory local monitoring process measuring the progress of the Hyogo Framework for Action in strengthening community resilience. VFL has been instrumental in initiating dialogues at the local level, raising awareness and deepening understanding of risks and resilience, but also monitor the extent to which local actors are included in resilience planning processes. It will establish a local baseline and local monitoring process to measure progress towards achieving an inclusive, 'people-centered' approach to resilience-building, as promoted within the SFDRR and associated frameworks. VFL 2019 will help to reduce the regional vulnerability and to increase the local disaster resistant system.

For the purpose, GNDR under the VFL programme, engaged the Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP) to analysis and trends help the communities to develop their action plans towards building resilience. To meet the objectives PDAP conducted the survey in March 2019 in 04 districts (Borguna, Satkhira, Chittagonj, Gaibandha) covers 15 community areas of rural and urban context.

After passing some steps of the project our four partner organizations have prepared some Action Plans through community based workshop by involving local stakeholders. From the workshop, our partner organizations find out many findings and conclusion on disasters. Out of 15 conclusions from findings we have selected four community level conclusions and four national level common conclusions for implementing Action Plan. In September 2020 our partner organizations implemented action plans according to according to their priority conclusions.

Community based action plan implementation :

In Chattogram district

Conclusion 1

- Most of the community people will be able to increase their knowledge and improve capacity strengthen through communicating with the localCSOs.

- Drug addiction issue should be highlighted. besides, the respondents feel that emerging threats are more related to the disaster such as loss of life, loss of

Impact :

- As a result of the Meeting, proposals were made to reform the disaster management committee and a decision was taken to form a ward disaster management committee. The members of the committee also get an idea of what needs to be done in their time.
- Civil Society of the area including Mahalla Committee and School Committee will hold monthly meetings and action plans with the Department of Drug Control, Chittagong.
- Motijharna Mahalla Committee, Disaster Ward Committee and School Committee will implement awareness program for those who are at the foot of the hill for 3 months for Land slide Disaster.
- The people of the area have been made aware of the cyclone through the Rally and have received information on various types of Cyclone preparedness and awareness

In Barguna district :

Conclusion:

- The threat of cyclones is perceived to be reduced for the next generation and there would be rise in threats related to the development aspects which could reduce the coping capacities of the communities
- Most of the community people will be able to increase their knowledge through communicating with the local CSOs and local government

Impact:

- written application so that the DC can share the issue with the local MP.
- Sharing with relevant stakeholders
- 100 People will access safe drinking water

Impact:

- Women have been aware about how to mitigate risk for women during in disaster.
- Better Hygiene Practice during emergency.

Based on the survey finding and community demand JAGO NARI has setup a rainwater harvesting water tank to access drinking water for 100 people. Though Jayalvanga is located at near to Bay of Bangle but drinking water is more desire thing in this area due to high cost of setup Deep tubewell. People have not ability to setup deep tubewell. This area inundated by

saline water for 6 months so coastal people have suffered for safe drinking water. JAGO NARI has setup Rainwater Harvesting water tank to provide access rain water for drinking in 20 families. This system will help community to access drinking water from rain for 4/5 months. This project was supported by GNDR under VFL 2020 project.

In Shatkhira district:

All the four selected communities are geographically vulnerable to disasters - in terms of both frequency and intensity, mainly due to its direct linkage with the Bay of Bengal and surrounded by the Rivers.

Conclusions:

- Most of the community people will be able to increase their knowledge through communicating with the local Civil society organization in the community
- The local government institutes rarely include the most vulnerable communities, when they prepare policies, plans and actions to address the risk/threats
- Most of the respondents feel that Cyclone is main threat, while most of the local government community people and Civil society of the community feel that flood and lack of access of water are also threat in the community. So awareness raising, dig deep into the river and build construction of the dam with the cooperation of local government is important.

Impact :

- Four community awareness-building sessions held among four communities to discuss the issue of floods & water logging. Poster demonstrations, Videos on flood from PDAP,s displayed in a session which created awareness among participants.
- Primary orientation is completed. However, the process is required to be continued for successful completion of the plan. Follow-up, monitoring, providing technical support is running under the project.
- 10 Rainwater harvesting tank distributed among 10 households. Community people are using it.
- Awareness build-up on salinity issues along with its ways of solution. 10 menstrual hygiene kits distributed among 10 women to demonstrate and campaign for proper menstrual hygiene practice.

In Gaibandha district

Conclusions:

- The threat of flood famine and earth quake are perceived to be reduced for the next generation and there would be rise in threats related to the development aspects which could reduce the coping capacities of the communities
- Livestock loss and loss of assets issue should be highlighted as well as Psychological intervention for children, disable people, While, first aid course, Promote gender sensitive and evacuation drills for further action.
- Child Marriage and Drug addiction are the big threat for the youth in the community

Impact :

- Dam at David Company para has been repaired with the help of local government
- 6 Tube wells at Munshipara and 12 tube wells at Sathaliya have been repaired
- Building awareness among the community people on Disaster Reduction, tree plantation, early marriage, drug abuse, cleanliness etc.
- Road has been repaired at Sathaliya with the help of local government
- Distributed tree plants to the Sathaliya Community with the help of Fazle Rabbi Foundation and Research Centre

National collaboration workshop

On 15 October 2020 at 11 a.m. a "National Collaboration Workshop on Implementation of Views from the front Line" held at CIRDAP auditorium, organized by Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP). More than 51 from different organizations, Government officials and CBO leaders attended at the workshop.

Ms. Ipsita Sircar, on behalf of GNDR Bangkok secretariat given welcome speech. She Global Network of Civil Society organization for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), mentioned that "GNDR (Global Network of Disaster Reduction) has been working in 127 countries. Implementation of VFL 2019 is running in 50 countries. PDAP is the coordinating organization to implement the VFL-19 in Bangladesh. GNDR is now thinking about way forward. How we can proceed to do it? We should discuss on it."

Ms. Quazi Baby National Focal person (NFP) of GNDR in Bangladesh presented a power point presentation on “At a glance implementation of VFL-2019”. She described the background of VFL and how PDAP has completed the Action Plan in 15 communities of 4 districts. The name of the districts are – Barguna, Satkhira, Chattagram and Gaibandha. She also mentioned about the short description (vision) of GNDR, goal and outcome of VFL-2019 and conclusions came up from the community level and national level.

Goal of Views from the Frontline: Strengthen the inclusion and systematic collaboration between governments, at-risk people and civil society in the design and implementation of DRR and resilience policies and practices

Outcomes of VFL:

- Increased access to actionable, timely and disaggregated local data
- Increased capacities of local actions to engage in resilience actions
- Increased used of local data in resilience building processes
- Increased engagement between different actions in resilience building processes

Quazi Baby also mentioned that our partner organizations have completed their Action plan implementation as per their priority conclusion. Out of 15 findings and conclusions, we have selected common four conclusions from community level and common four conclusions from national level.

Community level conclusions	National level conclusions
<p>The threat of cyclone is perceived to be reduced for the next generation and there would be rise in threats related to the development aspects which could reduce the coping capacities of the communities.</p> <p>*The local government institutes rarely include the most vulnerable communities, when they prepare policies, plans and actions to address risk/threats. Although 75% local government respondents feel that their involvement in the monitoring is very limited.</p> <p>*The threat of flood , Cyclone are perceived to be reduced for the next generation and there would be rise in threats related to the development aspects which could reduce the coping capacities</p>	<p>As per the findings of Power Bi Dash board, we come to the following conclusion at the National level:</p> <p>*There is lack of considering eco system based approach for reducing disaster risks</p> <p>*Although most of the respondents feel that Cyclone is main threat, while most of the local government community people and Civil society of the community feel that flood and lack of access of water are also threat in the community. So awareness raising, dig deep into the river and build construction of the dam with the cooperation of local government is important.</p>

<p>of the communities.</p> <p>*Although child marriage and drug addiction are a big threat for the youth, however community respondents feel that the emerging threat for next generation will be involved in corruption</p> <p>*The impact on women due to disasters have increased</p>	<p>*While the structures, policies and mechanisms are in place for the communities to avail, however accessibility is an issue.</p> <p>*The perception could be attributed to the factor that prioritized to be preventing inclusion which is lack of information.</p>
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Md. Rafiq from Songshoptaq, Chattagram explained their activities by showing some pictures. Songshoptiq is working in four communities with the collaboration of Sopnil Bright Foundation. The name of their communities are – Premasia, Motijharna, Beribadh and Talbaria. Mr. Rafiq mentioned that they provided training and awareness raising in the ward level with government official. The local people of rural areas have to suffer a lot for drinking water. Songshoptaq and Sopnil Bright Foundation have organized to supply fresh drinking water. The main challenge of these areas are – 1) Lack of skilled manpower, 2) Committee people do not take care the disaster situation and 3) Need hand mike to aware the community people.

In Gaibandha district

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Ms. Munni Akter from Udayon Swabolombi Songtha (USS) explained about their Action Plan implementation in three communities in Gaibandha. As per the conclusions of Gaibandha Udayon Swabolombi Songtha (USS), they have installed 12 Tube well and repaired 5 Tubewell in Shathalia, Munshipara and Devid Company para communities. Munni also said that they have worked on waste management and area cleanliness with the local school committee and involved 3000 household for assisting to build Dam. Besides, USS set up Tubewell in higher level platform, repaired broken road and distributed seedlings to 100 families.

In Shatkhira district:

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Mr Muniruzzaman from Voice of South Bangladesh (VoSB), Satkhira presented about their Action Plan implementation in 4 communities. Name of their communities are – Kulia, Gabura, Townshreepur and Nakirpur. The main problem of Gabura community is lack of drinking water and Dam. He explained that VoSB provided 10 water tank for collecting rain water, so that the community people would get fresh water in future. In Kulia community, Dam has been broken, but local government did not repair yet. The salinity water is the main problem. Here it is needed to set up big water pump which is very expensive. Government should look after to

solve this problem. Besides, VoSB provided training on how to protect during disaster (such as flood, cyclone, tidal surge, drought, land slide etc.) and provide awareness raising on harmful of child marriage, drug addiction, fire etc.

In Barguna district :

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Mr. Duke Ivn from Jago Nari, Barguna presented about their action plan implementation. He said that Joyelvanga community is situated beside the river. When cyclone occurs, the whole community goes to 4-5 feet under the water. Many houses are broken. If Government build cyclone shelter or housing beside the Dam by investing lot of money, it will not be sustainable. Because cyclone will hit all houses and it will be destroyed. In the silt up (char) land areas, toilets are also destroyed by the tidal surge. So, it is very important to build Dam by the local government authority. Besides, Jago Nari provided leadership training and distributed sanitary pad for the women and young girls in Padma, BMDC and Charcolony communities.

Discussant's view :

Mr. Kazi Amdadul Haq, Senior Director, Strategic planning and Head of Friendship Climate Action said, "if we want to create a platform then it is important to develop local level collaboration with different stakeholders. It is also needed to involve local Union Parishad for planning on disaster reduction. Besides, it is important to involve local youth group in this regard."

Mr. Mihir Biswas, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) said, it is very important to develop existing policy and implement it properly. It is also important to build embankment together and push to the local authority to implement it.

Mr. Maqsd Hashem, Senior Planner of Urban Development Directorate (UDD, Ministry of Housing and Public Works) mentioned that every year 4-5 times flood or disaster happens in Gaibandha, Barguna and Satkhira district. People have to suffer mainly by cyclone and flood in these areas which involved their livelihood. He mentioned that social mapping is important which areas of safe drinking water. The community people should contact with Government Water Board authority.

Mr. Iqbal Hossain, City Liaison Coordinator, National Urban Poverty Reduction Programme (with city corporation), UNDP, said, "We are working in Urban areas with 20 cities in Bangladesh. Due to geographical reason, we have to live with disaster. If we know about pre-disaster situation, then we can save our resources. So it is important to take action on disaster mapping."

Participants speech :

Ms. Rebaka SunYat, Executive Director of Coalition for the Urban Poor said, it is important to provide capacity building for the disaster affected people and also it is necessary to work as per community demand. We can deal the disaster problem by two way. At first can be done emergency work. Later can be done with the help of donor. A meeting should arrange with CUP for not to evict the slum people, necessary to raise the skill of the youth group, arrange training on fire service, to create a fund, to contact with DCC official persons, councilors.

Mr. Mostaq Ahmed, Capacity Building Coordinator, Action for Disable Development (ADD) mentioned that they are working on disaster issue with disable people in Potuakhali district. But it is important to work with government in Ward level, Union level, Upazila level and District level. So that the community people will get support from government and non government organization.

Mr. Md. Ali, Executive Director, Sopnil Bright Foundation said, near about 5000 people are living in Beribandth Community of Chattagram district. There are many problems in this area. No school for the children, no electricity, no walking road. It is a remote area and Government should work in this area.

Grassroots woman leaders Aysha (Rupnagar Akota cluster) said, "30 years ago, we were living beside the Meghna river. Due to river erosion, we came to Dhaka city. Since 30 years we were living with 550 families in Mirpur area. But last year Government has evicted us. Now we are living beside the canal of WASA in a inhumanic environment. We badly need house to stay. When heavy rains or cyclone occurs then our walking road become flooded and we are unable to move. We would like to request the policy maker and planner for making affordable housing for us."

Grassroots leader Fatema (Korail Bosti) from NDBUS said, "We are living in slum area. We are always in a threat by natural and man made disaster. We are always afraid when our slum will be evicted. Due to unplanned settlement, water logging happens. These issues need to be raised and it should include in the policy. Those are politically involved influential persons should get punishment for their criminal activities.

Ms. Rafeza (Hazaribag slum) from BOSOC said, "we are slum dwellers and have to face many disasters. We always loose our resources when we are evicted. Children and aged people have to suffer a lot. Government representative should to look into these matter, we should get get humanic support. It is very important to give training to the Union council members, Ward commissioner and local stakeholders, because they should know how the slum dwellers and coastal dwellers are living and running their livelihood. We become looser when slum area is burnt. We lose economically, socially. We inform local councilor, fire service department.

Young leader Mohammad Joy: We work on water logging, fire etc. We are 20 youth work together to rescue the fire victims, inform the fire service department and try to provide relief to the disaster affected people. When fire burns, that moment nobody comes forward, we start to collect the water first, and then people come to pour the water on fire. Everybody should keep the phone numbers of Fire Service.

Special guest Dr. Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Chairperson of National Alliance for Humanitarian Actors in Bangladesh (NAHAB) said, "We will work at district level and we will think about grassroots level. Disaster work is a responsibility. Development is not one time matter. There should be rehabilitation process for flood and water logging affected people."

Special guest Akhteruzzaman, UN Habitat coordinator in Bangladesh said, now there is no programme from UN Habitat in Bangladesh. We are now working with Urban Development Directorate (UDD). But UDD does not follow disaster issue properly.

Ms. Tasmima Hossain, special guest, Editor, The Daily Ittefaq, appreciated the activities of PDAP. She said, "We have to be united to work on disaster. The people cast their vote with some hope but they can not get back their expectation from their local elected leader. If government develop Dam or embankment, there should be a policy for regular maintenance. We have an online youth group and we will broadcast this issue through online."

Honorable Guest of Honour Mr Harun Ur Rashid Mollah, Director (Admin), Disaster Management Department said, "There are 34 types disaster in 60 district of Bangladesh. From neighboring countries we received lot of siltation (poli). In July and August most of the people get water in the rural areas. But people of Satkhira do not get fresh water. They have to bring water from 5 Kilometer away. If rivers are regularly excavated, then salinity of water will be reduced. Out of 57 rivers 54 rivers are attached with India and 3 rivers are attached with Myanmar. In 2017 there are 150000 people given guard for the safety of embankment time to time. If Water Board build the embankments in time, then many people were able to survive. Within last 11 years, many people died due to five time severe flood and cyclone. Water Board have done 8 types mapping in 2018 for next 50 years. Now there are some rules by the government that, Engineer and contractor should be accountable and transparent to the government. So, they have to build the houses transparently and strongly. All houses should be built inside of the Dam or embankment with strong construction. Although local Union Council chairman is building the Dam, but if it is not doing well then they should be punished. Government has taken action to facilitate and protect people from disaster."

He also added to protect disaster, people cooperation is needed. If there will be good relation between GO and NGO, then we will be able to work together.

Mr. Fazle Rabbi, M.P. Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, spoke as chief guest (on zoom). He said, River erosion, flood, tidal surge, drought are the main disaster in rural areas. We should be careful on these issues. It is not possible that government will manage everything. GO, NGO should work together. He also mentioned that "If there is no where flood, but Gaibandha is flooded. If shelter is made outside of Dam, then people will not be able to stay there. If Go and NGO work together, the result will be much better. During flood period, there is no food available, so, dry food is supplied from government side. There are lot of siltation areas in our country. It is necessary to develop those land through a development committee (or Char development board committee). Then the people of those areas will also be developed. Government also can get relief to disburse. The char (Silt up land) of Gaibandha is very good for crop production. There will be made some structure out side the Dam. A project has been taken for Bramhaputra and Korotia river. Water Development Board and Army agreed in a contract. A lot of damage will be done if the river crossing can not stopped. We are alert. But government is not able to do all alone. Government and NGO should work together.

At last, he said "Government is facing the Corona pandemic. But Government provided food to the poor people. So that nobody remains hungry at Corona time. During flood for marooned people can not cook, government supplied dry food for them."

At the end Chairperson, Ms. Mahjabeen Masood, Rotarian and Vice Chairperson of PDAP said, "it is very important to work together in local level, specially on disaster issues. Fire service, Rajuk, Mayor, area representatives have to meet in combine with Government officials. The workshop closed with thanks by the Chair of the event.

Recommendations :

1. After any disaster, it can be overcome if Government & non-Government Organization work together.
2. Need to work jointly with local people and national government representatives to reduce disaster risk.
3. Provide support for long time through training and awareness raising.
4. It is important to give priority on water and food security for the vulnerable people.
5. Government can do the Dam repairing, road repairing, river digging, school establishing, shelter making works.
6. Need to give concentration on social disaster, such as – Domestic violence, child marriage, drug addiction etc.

7. The GO and NGOs can stand beside the affected people to rehabilitate them.
8. There should be set up a plan with Government people, NGOs' people, local community leaders, women leaders in combined. It can be made a local committee with the mentioned people. The committee will decide after disaster, what & how to be done the works.

Note : Before National collaboration workshop, four partner organizations provided 15 community stories and 15 individual stories to show the result of their action plan.