




Case Studies: CDI2WASH Program

**Community Development Department
Bangladesh Red Crescent Societies**

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Concept & Overall Supervision:

M.A Halim, Director, CDI, BDRCS

Editorial Advisor:

Md. Keramot Ali, Program Coordinator, BDRCS

Biplob Kanti Mondal, Project Manager-WASH, IFRC Bangladesh

Tanoy Dewan, Sr. Officer-WASH, IFRC Bangladesh

Script:

Md. Ashik Sarder, Project Officer, IFRC Bangladesh

Md. Talha Tasnim, Intern, IFRC Bangladesh

Md. Hasnat Bashir Arnob, Intern, IFRC Bangladesh

Forward

The goal six of SDG has bestowed highest importance to ensure universal access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities for all by 2030. But, many people of developing countries around the world are struggling to have access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities as well as inclusive WASH services. In Bangladesh, the supply of clean and uncontaminated water has fallen far short of demand due to inadequate flows of major rivers in recent years, destroying major water sources, polluting water bodies, intruding salinity and increasing arsenic. Beside this, the recent climate change and disaster risk has made both water and sanitation vulnerable including the damage to WASH infrastructure from flooding, loss of water sources due to declining rainfall, changes of water quality and damage and destroying sanitation technologies during disaster period.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has been implementing different programs and interventions centring the WaSH, change climate and gender-diversity issues. As a part of its developmental approach; Bangladesh Red Crescent Society have implemented “Community Development Initiative (CDI2) WASH Program” in collaboration with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through Australian Red Cross targeting 23,000 beneficiaries including school students in Rangpur and Gopalganj with special focus on gender, disability, DRR and environmental aspects in program delivery from. CDI2WASH Program is funded by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia through CSWASH Fund. The program focused on improving WASH condition of 4 communities and 29 schools applying approaches sanitation marketing, CLTS, PHAST, CHAST. The targeted communities under the project have been benefited and the school based programs under the intervention has ensured the WASH services to change the hygiene habits of the students, teachers and parents. The community people and students have been closely involved in the program considering the sustainability approach to retain the learnings and achievement of the program for future. It is highly expected that the community people and students & teachers of the educational institutions will retain the success of the CDI2WASH program”. While implementing the project and making the community people and students benefitted, some of the stakeholders and change agents were closely made involved in the project. Different change agents like Community Disaster Response Team, UP WASH Committee, Community Development Committee, Commercial Service Provider, School Managing Committee, CHAST Teachers, Community Organizer etc were directly involved and contributed a lot to bring the outcome of the project. During the implementation of the project from 2014 to 2018, some of success of beneficous and change agents have been ideal that can be refereed as best practices of CDI2WASH program. In this regard, BDRCS has initiated to rationally document and publish these best success stories of beneficiaries and change agents of the project.

The “**Case Studies: CDI2WASH Program**” depicts the benefits and lessons learnt by the beneficiaries and change agents in CDI2WASH program during the last 4 years. The document has contained the success of the project and accumulated learning have been documented in the publication. It upholds the achievement of the process and will remain as the supportive document help while taking any types of WASH development interventions by any stakeholders.

Acronym

BDRCS	Bangladesh Red Crescent Societies
BDT	Bangladesh Taka
CDI	Community Development Initiative
CDRT	Community Disaster Response Team
CHAST	Child Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
CIC	Community Information Centre
CPC	Community Program Committee
CSP	Commercial Service Provider
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
HP	Hygiene Promoter
iDE	International Development Enterprise
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
PHAST	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
PWD	People with Disabilities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMC	School Managing Committee
UP	Union Parishad
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

List of Case Studies

CDRT has helped reducing flood losses	6
Community has acquired knowledge and technique for good practice.....	7
Masud’s spirit of change	8
Safe drinking water has reduced health hazards.....	9
Volunteerism for community welfare has been promoted and popularized.....	10
Jahangir’s livelihood has turned into certainty.....	11
Regaining financial prosperity	12
Improved performance and growth of sanitation business	13
Renewing business as social capital.....	14
A girl become free from ignorance	15
CHAST session has taught more than text curriculum.....	16
A dreamer owed a supportive platform	17
CHAST learnings been visible to solve social problem.....	19
Positive impact in school is visible	20
CHAST session: fragrance of change	21
Championing hygiene—from schools to community	22
UP WASH has worked as motivating mediator.....	23
SMC vows to continue own efforts.....	24
A journey from despair to delight.....	25
Reducing health impacts by adapting arsenic removal filter.....	26
CDI2WASH project support has been social capital for Shantona.....	27
Inclusive WASH committees-many impacts	28
Change for bringing change	29
The change makers-bringing new hope.....	30

1. Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT)

CDRT has helped reducing flood losses

“All of the water and sanitation technologies were installed considering the flood context of this area under the CDI2WASH program. So, no tube well and latrines was dysfunctional even in the flood period. For this, the community people had got the opportunity to drink safe water and use improved hygienic latrine during the flood period of 2017”. This is modest portrayal of a volunteer young woman of Nagirdigor, Rangpur which is a flood-prone area of CDI2WASH venture. Subarna Yasmin (26), the Leader, Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) has been engaged in the volunteering activities since 2012 under CDI program commencement. With having graduation from Rangpur Government College, she had also experience in teaching for ‘Non-Formal Education Development Programme’.

This experience led her to be as teacher of VIP Shahdat Hossain School, Nagirdigor. In class room, Suborna always encourages her students to maintain good hygiene behaviour and sanitation practices. As she was affiliated with CDI project since its piloting, received the opportunity to gather a lot of trainings and experiences while working in the volunteerism for CDRT and participating in many events. Thus, conducting Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and making the community people aware about disasters is the regular task for her as team leader of CDRT that includes a total 25 members along with 14 females.



Suborna Yasmin (27), leader, Community Disaster Response Team, Nagirdigor, Rangpur.

In Nagirdigor, yearly flood hampers the normal life and distresses the properties, roads, crops and sources of water & sanitation points. But, the flood of 2017 was unanticipated, damaging and long-lasting than any other year of recent time. The effect of flood water stayed for more than a week in 402 households in project community of project area. To minimize the losses of flood, the CDRT team worked a lot by disseminating messages of risks & threats during floods; helping in building bridge during flood for people’s communication; visiting the affected households and monitoring community scenario; advising people to drink safe water & to use improved larine; providing soap, sandal, bleaching powder, oral saline & water purification tablet; advising the community people to eliminate snake hazard by spreading carbolic acid or cut outs of lifebuoy soap around the home and managing & cleaning the garbage produced during flood.

The effort of CDRT has brought meaningful results; as no one of the community was affected by water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, jaundice & typhoid and no people was bite by snake. This has been possible for relentless efforts by the CDRT leader Suborna and her team members. “It has been possible for us to advise the people for maintaining good hygiene and sanitation practices during the flood period as different training were provided to us. We learned the approach of covering community beneficiaries, hazard mapping, site selection of WatSan technologies considering disaster risk, participatory health maintenance, hand washing & hygiene maintenance during mensuration in critical time and way of recovering in normal life after flood through advanced training provided under CDI2WASH program. We, the CRDT members have applied these learnings and empirical knowledge during the flood of this year” -according to Suborna’s words.

Community has acquired knowledge and technique for good practice

Abu Sayed Al Mahmood (35) can differentiate between the previous and present time centring the hygiene practice, status of waster & sanitation, awareness and community development approach among the inhabitant of Padmapukur community of 17 no. Imadpur Union, Mithapukur Upazila of Rangpur. He can interpret between the early and present period of initiating the CDI2WASH program. When the CDI2WASH program started in this area then Abu Sayed was selected as the team leader of CDRT the hygienic situation of this flood prone area was not satisfactory and the community people did not have consistency on combined efforts to tackle the natural disasters. But the hygiene scenario of this area has changed and people of the communities of this area had received the experiences to work together during the disaster period. People's active participation have increased during disaster period as Abu Sayed and his team members have visited each household during flood period.

"I received trainings hazard mapping, surveying techniques, disaster adaptation as well as coping techniques, site selection and instalment techniques for tube wells or latrines and preparing compost pit for waste management. The trainings on emergency flood response provided by BDRCS that significantly improved my service delivery skills during flood. We, the CDRT team members visited to assess the losses of people, to see how they are coping up during this challenging time and tried to assist them. We have monitored of hygiene and sanitation practices, the situation of latrines and nature



Abu Sayed Al Mahmood (35), Leader, Community Disaster Response Team, Padmapukur, Mithapukur, Rangpur.

of diseases. In that flood period; dissemination of messages regarding treating polluted water before drinking, using lifebuoy soap and carbolic acid to avoid snake attack and advising the people for taking care of children were also done by the CDRT team led by me. we have also visited during post-flood period to observe the community scenario and provide further advices. We always try to disseminate different information visiting the community house and the community people also come in Community Information Centre established by BDRCS under this project." -portrayed by Abu Sayed.

Abu Sayed usually attends in various rural meetings, parent's forum meeting and trails for solving feud. While attending these types of meetings he always emphasis on the importance of education, good hygiene and sanitation practices, eradicating early marriage and other false beliefs from community. In every month, he arranges a meeting where monitoring and checking on hygiene practice of community people are done through forming distinct groups. He also added that BDRCS monitoring and support should be continued to solve new challenges and to strengthen our capacity to face these challenges. In this relation, he acknowledged to CDI2WASH program as this has kept contribution to change the overall scenario of the community area. Mirjapur Das para in 17 no. Imadpur union is another adjacent fisherman village. Before initiating the CDI2 program it's overall scenario was slightly better Abu Sayed's Beramokim mouza. But with the program activities and relentless efforts of CDRT team this community has also been equalized in good practices of water, sanitation & hygiene and acquired enough knowledge & techniques for tackling the disasters like flood.

Masud's spirit of change

"I can now dream for a better future, together with my community. The qualities BRCS has raised in me about good WASH practices, give me feeling of being like a torchbearer." Masud Rana is a WASH champion in the Paddmapukur village, Bangladesh. Two years ago, many people in his village had no knowledge about sanitation and hygiene issues, and suffered chronic diseases like diarrhoea, typhoid, stomach pain, and dysentery. Fortunately, Masud's family had already adopted high levels of cleanliness and hygiene with a sanitary latrine, a deep tube well (pulling less iron-mixed water) and an 'Iron Removal Filter' however, "other villagers were not enjoying these facilities as they lacked information or money," said Masud.

When the Community Development Initiative (CDI)2 WASH project was developed by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), funded by CS-WASH, Masud joined the Community Disaster Response Team and received training in hygiene and sanitation transformation. Through CDI2WASH program the majority of villagers are now washing their hands after defecation, before and after taking meals, before preparing food and after cleaning baby's stool. Members of the community have



**Masud, Member, Community Disaster Response Team,
Padmapukur, Mithapukur, Rangpur.**

recognizing the importance of a healthy and hygienic society and many have built fully funded sanitary latrines and deep tube-wells. Masud wants to continue helping others in his community improve their hygiene. "Previously, our village had a negative reputation due to the bad odour and lack of hygiene from open defecation, but the changes over the last two years are significant. Every house is neat and clean, people have soap, slippers and buckets full of water in their latrines, and everybody tries to follow hygiene rules in their everyday life," said Masud.

Safe drinking water has reduced health hazards

Energetic humble Swapna Bala (27) is a CDRT member of Baladanga village of Patgati union, of Tungipara Upazila of Gopalganj district. She inherits the passion of her mother towards the community, who is an active member of the village court, BRAC WASH programme and Health and Nutrition for mother and children Programme and hosts adolescent club sessions as well as a village midwife. In her words, it's not long since people didn't the know proper manners of hand washing or the significance of using improved latrines at every household regarding the sustainability to a healthier life. But as conveying hygiene messages to people have changed and become sensible to all these than ever before."

She also discussed the scarcity of drinkable water sources in Baladanga. Like most parts of the country people here are habituated drinking underground waters. But tragedy is that the underground water layers are highly contaminated with iron and arsenic causing severe gastric and dysentery and other intestinal diseases. Hence though the tube well water tastes good people often used to drink river water. They used fitkiri or alum stone to distil the river water then they simply used cloths as strainer and drink this water. Although such measures temporarily solved the gastric problem but it was heavily polluted and the tragic part is they used to suffer from life threatening diarrhoea and cholera. On the top of that the river water often becomes saline in the region during rainy season and high tide. Thus, the suffering knows no bounds. Nonetheless rain water harvesting was very rare practice. Hence though some families practiced rain water harvesting, they didn't know how to properly reserve it. And in many cases the reserved water used to get infected by bacteria's and insects.



Swapna Bala (27), CDRT member, Baladanga, Tungipara, Gopalganj.

"The initiatives of The CDI2WASH program have literally prolonged the lifespan of the community. Rain water collection points, Subsidized SONO filter delivery has ensured safe drinkable water to the kids and pregnant women's thus our community is 100% open defecation, and diarrhoea free diarrhoea free" described Swapna Bala while asked about the present situation of the community. Among the total 370 household of the community more than 300 households have bought subsidized SONO filters. Swapna mentioning the efficiency of SONO filter removing iron and arsenic from the tube well water admitted that the SONO filter can also remove salinity to some extent making moderately saline water drinkable. Nonetheless, rain water harvesting has also facelifted the people in such regards and during a rainy-day crowd breaks on the rain water collection points as people now accessing and knowing proper measures to harvest rain water. In her opinion people now knows drinking unsafe and polluted water is hazardous to health, thus becoming more conscious towards health they avoid drinking such from sources.

However, such a massive change didn't happen overnight. Swapna and her CDRT members relentlessly worked day and night going doors to doors conveying the benefits of using SONO filter and the potentials in using rain water. They arranged PHAST sessions which helped to educate the community adults about good WASH and menstrual hygiene practices. Swapna along with her CDRT members regularly monitors the quality and maintenance of the latrines, tube wells and SONO filters distributed through the CDI2WASH project. Apart from these they also convey the learnings from the different

trainings they received from BDRCS to become more resilient to disasters. They teach community people about the primary treatment during fire burn, drowning, snakebites and preliminary measures during disasters. Hence through such measures people are living a healthy happy, safe and resilient life in their community.

Volunteerism for community welfare has been promoted and popularized

“Previously, we were merely conscious about our health and hygiene as we were not accustomed to wash hands in the proper manner in general or in the critical times. We were habituated to wash hands after cooking to lose the oil and spices but not before to lose the germs consequently disburasing it while cooking and serving foods. Moreover, washing kids after they defecate, we used to clean the hands on the soil to lose the faeces.” This was the bad hygienic situation of Tebaria community of Gopalganj Sadar Upazila in the words of Mst. Ratna Begum (29), housewife of a rickshaw puller and mother of three kids including one being handicap. Thus, she is no regular housewife since she started helping her husband financially through part time tailor business, takes care of her family and being an active member of CDRT team and the village community. Being affiliated with the CDRT team from the beginning of the CDI2WASH project she has also observed the massive transformation of WASH related practices in the community.



Mst. Ratna Begum (29), Member, Community Disaster Response Team, Tebaria, Gopalganj.

Earlier to the project, her joint family of 11 members only had one latrine without water seal used to odour badly around the toilet area. It was poorly fenced thus offered minimal privacy and latrine hygiene maintenance was never an option. Thus, diarrhoeal diseases were quite a common phenomenon in her family and in the community also. Consequently, due to practicing bad hygiene and sanitation habits, if one day she gets diarrhoea then two days later one of her kids used to get affected by diarrhoea as well and her mother in law developed chronic diarrhoea. But now they have two improved latrines in their household. She also mentioned the community people is taking special care of disable people after the project started being implemented. Therefore, Imran Hossain who is a PWD and one of her neighbours arranged attached latrine to his room for the ease of access. Nonetheless, she has received various training on PHAST sessions, disaster risk reduction and health issues as well. “I think everything we have learned was new to us which made us more health and hygiene conscious and prepared ready during disaster time than ever before” she added while describing the experience during her trainings.

Hence; she has conducted PHAST session, promoted SONO filter using, and gone house to house to monitor the quality maintenance of latrines and toilets provided under project. During the PHAST sessions, they took interactive assemblies with flipcharts which presents the health impacts of bad hygiene practices practically to help the people to overcome their ignorance. She is also responsible for distribution of 10 SONO filters among the beneficiaries. At first, people were ignorant of using SONO filters and would just clean water to remove iron than drink it. But, she always reminded them that it will only remove iron but not arsenic. Further, she has also offered SONO filtered water to her neighbours though which they realized that due to drinking filtered water they are instantly getting relieved from gastric. Hence, they appreciated the potentiality of SONO filter which resulted in purchasing subsidized new SONO filters. Consequently, Ratna Begum has also contributed regarding beneficiary selection and suitable location selection for tubewell in the community.

Telling the success story of CDRT Ratna Begum added. “Firstly, we announced the event through making from the nearby mosque and gathered people. Hence, we pour water on the fire and take the situation under control. CDRT team has also become a symbol of volunteerism in the community. As a result, now seeing the CDRT team work other young members of the community also comes forward. Now, during different meetings arranged in the CIC female members participate and share their opinions which is always considered she recapped. Hence, she considers CIC as one of the hub of social development of her community as well. By thus, the volunteerism has been promoted and popularized in this community”.

2. Commercial Service Provider (CSP)

Jahangir’s livelihood has turned into certainty

“The year was 1996 when I become affiliated with the masonry works under a head mason in Bogra. My manager received some working order of preparing sanitary products from Government of Bangladesh and non-governmental development organization BRAC under their sanitation promotional activities and engaged me in these tasks. By thus, my elementary experiences gathering on preparing masonry products started. I was living there since 2003 for my livelihood, then had come to my own village and worked distinctly in various places. But, I used to keep a dream to have own business, individual workshop and pleasing working style”. This is the description of the professional life of a man namely Md. Jahangir Alam (40), a Commercial Service Provider (CSP) of 31 no. Ward, Nagirdigor, Rangpur City Corporation who later started his personal business and currently, recognized as one of the known figures for providing sanitary materials & products in surrounding areas. He has own mechanism of preparing masonry equipment & sanitary products, familiarity in market, a targeted customers and acquaintance on creating demand among the community & schools around the area. But, his situation was completely different from three years ago.

“Till 2014, I used to earn 8000-9000 BDT per month that was not enough to bear my family and for imbursement of loan that I took from a local cooperative association. But suddenly, fortune come to my life when I knew that BDRCS had started a project in this area where small producer like us can be part of this venture. In this connection, I become introduced with the International Development Enterprise (iDE) and the organization selected me as a potential CSP. Later, iDE provided me 8 trainings with practical visit on acquiring the



Md. Jahangir Alam (40), Commercial Service Provider, Nazirdigor, Rangapur.

technique of standard construction of sanitary latrine parts, making user-friendly & diverse types of latrines, instalment of improved latrine considering the measurement of water table & disaster risk, creating demand at community level & schools through campaigns, offering doorstep service, social networking and monetary management for business. Then I was affiliated with the project activity for producing and supplying diverse types of sanitation products & materials. This package of learning different techniques changed my business patterns and profits totally. Along with supporting the project’s demand, I also produced a lot of products to sell in the other communities and educational institutions. Now, I prepare ring-slabs, lid, chari-chula, ventilators, poles for houses, flower tub, usual & disable-friendly pan slabs and stairs by using raw materials like cement, rod, sand and rubbles. I

prepare the sanitary materials and products considering the aspects of disable & elder people and hardcore poor as well as flood context of this area. Now, my business capital sums around 300,000 BDT from 40,000 BDT. Beside this, I can accommodate three employees in my workshop as well as paying them 1,000 BDT per day. My monthly income reached around 25,000-30,000 BDT per month. Because of the initiative & advertisement of iDE, a decent network of me with the communities and different schools have been established.”-depicted by delighted Jahangir.

This “rapid change as example of Jahangir” has been possible only for the efforts of iDE under the CDI2WASH initiative for sanitation marketing approach. For effective business venture, linkage was also created with renewed national companies like RFL that similarly helped him to purchase SaTo pan in a cheaper rate for materials and latrine production. Before three years ago, he had to depend on the order of preparing products during specific season a year because of less demand, his inability to produce as per order, lack of skill on demand creation and inadequate capital. But, now a day he must be busy preparing and delivering the products whole the year. At this moment, he has only a total 100,000 BDT loan form local cooperative. Some local organizations and cooperatives are continuously offering him to take loan as he become attributed as a potential entrepreneur where it was almost impossible for him to receive any financial support from any stakeholders. Now, Jahangir, as entrepreneur with relied livelihood is busy in everyday in selling and keen to apply the accumulated knowledge & expertise learned from the sanitation marketing approach under CDI2WASH program.

Regaining financial prosperity

Mijanur Molla (55) first got introduced with sanitary marketing in 1999 during a visit to Kushtia and immediately felt interest for such business. For two months, he patiently observed the sanitary merchandise production. Then after returning from Kushtia to his own village at Tebaria of Paikkandi union of Gopalganj. he first prepared a dais to produce ring slabs for pit latrines. It cost him 1300 BDT which he paid in instalment. In a sense, he started his business from with no capital at all. In the first production line he produced 20 rings that earned him the necessary money to repay his debts. Apart from his sanitary business he then also was doing agriculture in parallel was supporting his family’s food supply.



Mijanur Molla (55), Commercial Service Provider, Tebaria, Gopalganj Sadar.

At that time, he had an 8,000-9,000 BDT monthly savings as he was the only sanitation merchandise seller in his community and employed 2 workers under him. Hence, his business was gradually prospering but in 2009 he gave 150,000 BDT to a known associate

mortgaging his own agricultural land but the person never repaid the debt. So, he was neck broken in financial records and he lost his cultivable land thus saying bye to his agricultural income source. Since then he was struggling to get back in the tracks but nothing seems to help him. Hence, in 2014 when the CDI2WASH project was introduced in the Tebaria community he was selected one of the potential sanitation merchandise seller to serve as CSP.

Thus, different training from IDE has helped him to improve quality of his products. Previously, he didn’t know the proper ratios of mixing mortars, sand and cement as well as setup of wired coils to reinforce the structure thus every so often he either put excessive sand or mortars than the standard

ratios which made his product fragile. Through IDE trainings got practical exposure, financial management skill developed, notebook and calculator received.

Now, he knows the standard ratio of mortar, sand, cement which is 4:2:1 and follows it accordingly. In the average days he prepares 6-7 rings. He sells these rings in-between 200-400 BDT which are of different in size, earning him a benefit of 50-100 BDT in each ring sell. He also sells different types of clumps, pillars, stairs, ventilators, chari etc. Before the programme he could sell his productions only in the months of summer and winter but as the programme is undergoing in the community, now in every season his sell continues as usual. On top of that people are concern then before as a result those who didn't receive latrines through the project comes to him for improved latrine parts.

As he is providing quality products in the community for the last three years he has also gained popularity as a CSP in the neighbouring villages as well. This has resulted in a good amount of monthly income increase for him as his market area has expanded. He also received Union Parishad contracts of sanitary merchandises for their projects. His monthly income is twenty thousand at present. Currently, he has a family of 6 members including 2 sons and 1 daughter, his wife and mother which is solely supported by this business. He doesn't employ any assistants at present. He doesn't have any loan. Beside all this, whenever he has time he also does mason works as well. While selling he also disseminates hygiene massages.

Improved performance and growth of sanitation business

49-year-old Nurul started his sanitation business in the Baladanga Dariarkul community of Gopalganj District, Bangladesh back in 1999. Being the head of a large family of 10, Nurul initially found it difficult to survive and took a part-time job at the local mausoleum a few years later and then started running a grocery shop alongside his eldest son to supplement his income. In 2015 he enlisted as a Commercial Service Provider for the Community Development Initiative (CDI)2WASH Program, implemented by the Bangladesh Red Crescent, and received extensive training and development in market analysis and business planning as well as in sanitation design, installation techniques, quality construction and water table measurement.

With his new-found knowledge and focus on service delivery, Nurul could turn his struggling business around and double his annual profit last year. He expanded his business to include new services and now provides communities with information on latrine maintenance and hygiene management and water table measuring and provides transport support for customers. Improved product quality and production technology has allowed the safe transportation of latrine materials which has in turn increased Nurul's customer base significantly. He provides demonstrations in the community and notes that 'A lot of customers from other villages come to buy the same quality product that they saw in the project community where I installed and demonstrated them.' Through accessing a small-scale loan, Nurul is planning to start another latrine production centre which will cover more villages, including those that are not easily accessible due to poor road conditions.



**Nurul (49), Commercial Service Provider,
Baladanga, Dariarkul Gopalganj.**

Renewing business as social capital

Though Suruj Jamal (40) had some previous basic orientations and trainings on preparing the sanitary products and materials received from some national organizations but that were not enough for him to lead business for making sufficient profits and live affluently. Suruj started his business in the yard of his house with only 7,000 BDT capital in 2007. In earlier, he started preparing *Bandhu Chula* but in most of the time he had to be dependent seasonal order for producing and providing to a special segment of customers in a specific period of the year. This scenario was frequent as he had less familiarity and business network in his area.

As the part of CDI2WASH program, he was selected as the potential CSP for preparing and delivering the sanitation materials and products to the community people, union parishads, schools and adjacent areas. Several special trainings with exposure field visits were provided to him to enhance the producing quality of sanitary products and technique of campaign to advertise the products for selling the products whole the year, to manage a variety of product sells, to relate to the new customers, to acquire the scope of advertising new enterprise and to make social capital for enhancing business capital as the part of promoting sanitation marketing under CDI2WASH program. By getting these special subscriptions, he become a trained and committed Community Service Provider of Imadpur union of Mithapukur Upazila of Rangpur district to provide sanitary products in the communities. After getting the support form iDE Suruj renewed him as a popular sanitation entrepreneur as well as with his hard-work and determined efforts. Beside this, his business is now being treated as the social capital for promoting sanitation materials and equipment in the adjacent areas.



Suruj Jamal (40), Commercial Service Provider, Imadpur union, Mithapukur upazila, Rangpur.

“Now, I prepare a variety of products such ring slabs, sanitary pans, stairs, polls, chari, bondhu chula, flower tub etc. But, now I put emphasize on preparing the sanitation materials and products as the demand of these are increasing day by day. I have provided the products in communities, schools and Union Parishads since the CDI2WASH project initiated. A decent network of me with the different companies, organizations and UP has been created through the promotional activities and campaigns under its sanitation marketing approach. In recent time, I have been invited in some workshop, training and seminars by some companies for being a part of their venture as well as providing the materials and products for them. Now, I am the key CSP for 17 no Imadpur Union Parishad for providing the sanitation materials for them. The UP offers me a specific requisition for providing some of the certain portion of sanitary products within a year. For making my tasks easy and fully supplied, three employees are working on daily payment under me. I can prepare around 35-40 rings along with the assistance of these three employees. Every ring is sold at 150 BDT and I sell each latrine at 400 BDT. For installing a latrine, 3 or 4 slabs are essential. I sell each slab at 150 BDT. Beside this, I get the order of providing installation and carrying service of sanitation products. The capital of my business is 80,000 BDT and I earn 25,000 BDT per month. I earn about 50,000 BDT within last 12 months only by selling the pit latrine. After receiving the training and being involved with the CDI2WASH project I have acquired the ability to prepare a variety types of sanitary products considering the community people, elder person, people with disability and for the students also. Beside this, I usually sell the *Bandhu Chula*. The venture of CDI2WASH showed me the path of doing business in proper way and accumulating assets. This helped me to making enable to purchase a cow

and a decimal of land by costing 23,000 BDT & 35,000 BDT as showing the business technique and networking capacity. In the land, I enlarged my house area. Now, the market prize of the land is 75,000 BDT. I have been able to stand my business in reasonable position from a small position. Now, my business capital reversed as social capital. These all happened for the initiatives of CDI2WASH program”, graciously described by Suruj.

3. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)

A girl become free from ignorance

Before 2 years ago; it was common for the school girls to have sufferings for wrong beliefs, superstitions, insufficient discussion & lack of knowledge about menstruation and lack of materials & inadequate hygiene management facilities in schools in menstrual period. Arisha Akter (14), a brilliant student has such experiences among the many of school girls of Nagirdigor High School, Rangpur. Though she always stands first in class, but at a certain time frustration used to grasp her while the critical period came. She had even unpleasant experiences to leave school as menstruation started during class period, because there was no facility for menstruation hygiene management even separate toilet block for female students. So, she started missing classes in school that hampered her education and dropped into deep frustration.



Arisha Akter (14), Student, Nagirdigor High School, Rangpur.

The following upset description shows how much ignorant was Arisha about MHM in that time. “Previously, I was habitual to use cloths as sanitary pads during critical period as well as wet clothes for sometimes and take traditional medication such as different leaf & oil and turmeric powder that had no effect on abdominal pain or infections during this time. As a result, I used to frequently suffer infections that caused very suffering situation. There was no respective individual and convenient situation in home and school to know and talk about the MHM. Besides these sufferings, some social barriers made restricted me to eat all types of food. I was habituated with these experiences months after months”.

But now, the situation is completely different and Arisha is practising proper hygiene and advising her family members, neighbours, friends & other students to have hygienic menstruation practice during the critical period. She has access to separate toilet and MHM box during menstruation period. This has been possible for the initiative of CDI2WASH program. Under this venture, MHM has been embedded as the mainstream issue in this school as well as it has been tried to ensure MHM facilities for all women and girls in Nagirdigor community. For this, separate latrine blocks and MHM box have been installed considering the suitability of girls and disable students. The assigned teacher has been disseminating information in a special class for the students in a friendly manner in every Thursday since last two years to make the students aware about water, sanitation, hygiene and menstrual management under CHAST program. Arisha has learnt a lot from this class and practised well.

“Nowadays, I do not have any constraint to go school in menstrual period. I have no shy to talk and advise other girls about menstruation to find solutions. The CHAST teachings helped to identify difference between good and bad practices about hygiene and menstruation. In recent time, other classmates and I have shared various WASH and MHM issues among the community people also. Now I know the good practices like marking calendars to track menstruation cycle, using sanitary pads and changing pads every three hours during period, talking proper medicine, disposing & burying in proper place, advising to prepare homemade sanitary napkins by cotton cloths and cottons those have financial ability to buy sanitary pads, properly washing and drying used cloths in the sun before reusing and dissimilating the learnings among youngers and elder girls. Now, I am coming school with full confident with full energy & confidence and continuing my study with no stiffness. Before, two years ago, I was ignorant about MHM. But, the hardware, software support of CDI2WASH program like the installing the separate toilet & MHM box and disseminating the learnings through CHAST session pushed me in a place to know for myself and to disseminate the learnings about MHM to others”.

CHAST session has taught more than text curriculum

“The students were habitual in open defecation, not drinking safe water, not using improved latrine and not aware about the practice of hand washing. So, most of the students were frequent sufferers from several types of diseases. Both the parents at home and teachers at school were not sufficient aware to let us provide knowledge about the menstrual hygiene management. Beside this, there was lack of toilet for daily using and special section of toilet during the menstrual period. But, the present of our school is far better as our CHAST teacher “Hena Begum” has been teaching and disseminating different information about good practices, drinking safe water, using hygienic latrine, ensuring the cleanness of our school arena and confirming the proper waste management. We have learned from CHAST session about hygienic practices than the text book. This has been possible for the initiative of CDI2WASH program in our school”. This is the description of Shefa Aktar (15), a class nine student of class of Paddmapukur High School, Mithapukur Upazila of Rangpur.



Shefa Aktar (15), Student, Paddmapukur High School, Mithapukur Upazila, Rangpur.

Shefa has learnt a lot of things from the CHAST session where the students were taught about different hygienic practices and WASH issues through F diagram in a specific day of week. As a result, a tremendous change has been seen among the girls of Paddmapukur High School. False beliefs regarding menstruation and other WASH practices have been removed from the students of this school and areas also. Now, Shefa changed her life by practicing such washing hands in five critical times, brushing teeth every day in right time, using sanitary pad during menstruation and drying clothes before sun for reusing. Now, she feels confident to discuss about different hygienic and health related issues with the family members and neighbours as well as disseminates knowledge for good practices.

“I along with me the other students from different educational institutions like ‘Faridpur Nawapara primary school’ have been fortunate to learn the teachings of CHAST session. Earlier, they were

ignorant and missing classes regularly due to chronic sickness. but the situation is complexly different as they apply the techniques of good practices. We have selected books in pour education curriculum but it provides us a very few clear ideas about waster, sanitation, hygienic practices and menstruation management. But, the students learned a lot of unknown issues and gather knowledge about these from CHAST season that has provided more learnings than the text book”-according to Shefa.

4. Community Development Committee (CDC)

A dreamer owed a supportive platform

A man always had dreams to contribute in the improvement of the living standard as well as to help in reducing poverty and ignorance of his community people. For this; from the very childhood of his life, he has been relentlessly trying to support his beloved community people by providing his own supports, making linkage of the people with different development organizations & government agencies and vowed to the proper authorities for his community entitlements. While taking efforts for doing something for this community people; in many cases, he has been successful to achieve purposes to help the community people and sometimes, he become failed because of lack of supportive platform or sufficient initiatives. But he had relentlessly tried to apply reach to the government and non-government stakeholders for vowing his community entitlements. For a certain instant, when the man heard that CDI2WASH program will be initiated then he communicated with BDRCS authority so that the program to be commenced in his area. Then, the CDI2WASH program started in his community area he could make him related with this supportive platform. By thus, he contributed to improve hygiene, health & environment, to raise dignity of people, to make the community people financially able and to reduce damage of disasters in his community. It is an encouraging story of Ariful Kabir Batul (40), Nagirdigor, Rangpur. Professionally, he is an agriculture-based business man, serving the responsibility of Community Development Committee of CDI2WASH program as President and involved in local politics.

“Before 4 years ago people were unaware of drinking safe water, practicing good hygiene and improved sanitation habits. Open defecation was a common phenomenon, living environment of the community was dirty and health risk were very high due to water borne diseases. Village roads were so worse in condition that during rainy season people were unable to visit neighbouring villages. Beside all of this, every year the community area gets affected by flood in the monsoon season and the people were worst sufferers. Having heard that a project to be launched then I personally went to the BDRCS, Rangpur Unit and requested the Unit Secretary to launch the project in our community.”- this is the description of Nagirdigor before initiation of CDI2WASH program.



Ariful Kabir Batul (40), President, Community Development Committee, Nagirdigor, Rangpur.

As the part of CDI2WASH program, Batul and his team helped UDRT to conduct social survey and baseline survey. Under his supervision CDC team also helped BDRCS to identify households that mostly need improved sanitary latrine support. At the beginning, BDRCS installed 1 tube well for every forty households and in this regard, Batul and his team had helped to select appropriate location for installing the tube wells. Beside these, he along with his members helped to arrange meeting of CDRT, mother and children's Club at Community Information Centre. In these meetings, the demands of the communities were raised and tried to incorporate with the program activities.

"We have formed 'Red Step Cooperative Association' in 2014 by our initiative. Under this venture, funds were collected following the cooperative approach for community development and the current balance of this fund reach to 127,000 BDT. From this core fund, loan was provided with only 5% interest to the hardcore poor of the area for trying to do something for them. We have donated 10 goats to 10 elderly female members of the community in the presence of the Union Parishad Chairman so that they can make own prosperous by nurturing this. Beside this, more than 100 elderly women of the community received help from UP as the result for the communication support of CDC. The poor students have been supported financially for their enrolments and examinations in different educational institutions. A special financial portion is always allocated under for the 'Kul Khani' of the hardcore poor of this area. In the last year flood; when one of the bridges in the community got destroyed by flood in this year then we have assisted the CDRT members for immediate construction of this conventional bridge. Beside these, we have regularly monitored the hygiene situation of the household latrines and tube wells during the flood period as well as advised them to take special measurements for reducing the losses and threats of this disaster. All these experiences have helped me to rethink for doing more for the community people of this areas. For this, we will must continue the initiatives of "Red Step Cooperative Association" even the period of project phasing out. I hope, one day, this association will be a role model for community development"-Batul described these with high aspiration.

Now, the common scenario of Nagirdigor is in changing mode. The people of this are not only aware of practicing hygiene, drinking safe water and using improved latrine but also, they are gathering regularly in the "Community Service Centre" that has been established under the CDI2WASH program. In this centre; they usually share their present situation, joy, sorrows, demand, dream and future. Batul always plays a key role hearing these from the community people and tries to do his level best for them. Such Batul has correspondingly convinced "JIM MCSL a non-governmental organization" for providing water options for the community people of 31 no. Ward and he became successful. The organization provided 100 tube wells to the community people for ensuring safe drinking water for the people. He has always afforded the flood-resilient seeds to the farmers of this area commutating with a agro-company. When the CIC was established in this area under the CDI2WASH program there was no convenient road to come at the centre. Here, he communicated with the Thana Engineer for repairing the 2 kilometres muddy road. Now, the road has been metalled road, resulting people have easy access to other areas by using the road. Batul is happy for the activities of CDI2WASH as have provided him a strong platform to make him engaged with the approach of community development. He hopes that one day all the people of this area will be educated, self-sufficient and prosperous.

5. CHAST Teachers

CHAST learnings been visible to solve social problem

“While completing BSc. degree, I got an opportunity to participate in a campaign organized by BDRCS. In this event, I become encouraged to donate blood by overseeing the good initiatives of this organization. From that time, I kept intention in my mind to be engaged in the volunteer tasks of BDRCS. In 1999, I started job in Paddmapukur High School as teacher. After joining in this school, I experienced that as flood-prone area the infrastructures like roads and bridges were always in diluted position. So, we the teachers that come from comparatively far from our own houses had to fall into great misery. But when I observed the low literature rate, dirty environment, open defecation here & there, frequent outbreak of water-borne diseases, early marriage and non-disposed faecal in open places & water bodies of this area made me intended to leave the job”. This is the depiction of Parven Akter (41) of the surroundings area of Paddmapukur High School in Faridpur village of Mithapukur Upazila, Rangpur. But, now the scenario of the adjacent Paddmapukur High School has been changed from by the initiative of CDI2WASH program.

Parven Akter was appointed as the CHAST teacher under the program. After being appointed as CHAST teacher she received several trainings in Rangpur and Gopalganj including an exchange visit in Gopalganj on water, sanitation & sanitation practice, menstrual hygiene management and social development. After getting the trainings, she started to improve the MHM situation, good hygiene and sanitation practices as well as create women leadership and eradicating superstition among the students in this school.



Parven Akter (41), CHAST teacher, Paddmapukur High School, Mithapukur, Rangpur.

In every Thursday, she takes CHAST class and changes have been seen among the students of this school. She has been able to make conscious 241 students including 124 females to identify difference between good and bad practices. Now, the total 241 students of Paddmapukur High School know the five critical times to wash hands properly, menstrual hyenine practice and adverse impact of open defecation. Now, the students are disseminating their learnings among their family and neighbours. The follow up of these activities are frequently done in the parent’s forum meetings that are also organized in this school.

As the CHAST her efforts did not confine not only in class room but also it spread in practical life as Parven Akter has stooped a child marriage of a student of this school. She told the story of Selina Akter, the daughter of Yasin Ali of Faridpur village. “The girl was a brilliant student and wanted to continue her study. But suddenly, Yasin Ali decided to get her daughter married. When her classmates come to me and told me the whole story All the wedding preparation was already completed. Nonetheless, I went to talk with her parents and tried to convince them not to get her daughter married. But they were not convinced then I informed the Upazila Administration in this regard. Then the Upazila Administration restricted the marriage. Now the girl is studying in HSC in a college of Rangpur city and doing well. When I provide the learnings to the students of class six become enough for next five years till they complete the SSC examination. By thus, every year an enlightened batch of students are deriving from the CHAST teachings”—according to Parven Akter.

Positive impression in school is visible

“Previously, I wasn’t conscious about hygiene or comfortable of talking menstrual hygiene practices myself, thus we can’t blame the students for being ignorant about healthier habits. Nonetheless, the CDI2WASH program has come to us and created the necessary realization to lead a hygienic and upgraded life.” This is the candid recognition of Provati Mondal (30), CHAST teacher of Baladanga M.S. Musa High School of Pathgati Union of Tungipara Upazila of Gopalganj. She is assigned as a CHAST teacher in 2014 and relentlessly trying to improve the everyday WASH related habits among the students since that time. She also mentioned that “students are highly interested and intent about the CHAST sessions which has helped to improve their health and now a holistic change in such regards can be seen among the students.”

According to her, “students were not conscious and they used to practice open defecation, didn’t cut their nails regularly or practice washing hands in the critical times or before taking meals. A local problem of this community is the scarcity of safe drinkable water sources. Most of the tubewell are highly contaminated with arsenic and iron whereas the river and ground water is highly polluted or intruded with saline. For these reasons, the community people of this area usually suffer from chronic gastric, diarrhoeal and abdominal diseases. They remain sick for a certain duration in every month and the students miss academic days which were hampering their academic activities. Such sufferings used to amplify among girls due to their menstruation as there were lack of proper knowledge of the good practices. Neither the teachers, the students and their parents were comfortable around talking about menstruation. Thus, the girls in their adolescence periods didn’t know what to do and often remain absent from school. On an average, the students used to miss 5-10 days every month”.



Provati Mondal (30), CHAST Teacher, Baladanga M.S. Musa High School, Pathgati Union, Tungipara Upazila, Gopalganj.

After being recruited as the CHAST under the CDI2WASH program in this school she started arranging meetings using flip charts, drawing, and group works. She taught them to identify bad practices regarding WASH and promoted good practices among them. She also advised girls to drink lots of water, eat nutritious fruits, not to carry heavy weight and use hygienic cloths or sanitary pads during menstruation. Different trainings during CDI2WASH project have motivated her to spontaneously talking about MHM and convey her learnings among the girls who desperately required such learnings to lead a healthy life. Consequently, now the students can deeply realize the prospects of living a hygienic life. They wash hands with soap when necessary, brush teeth, cuts nail regularly and avoid open defecation. Through the attempts of the School Managing Committee, SONO filter has been established in every class room. This has ensured safe drinking water during school days. The project has also provided separate school latrine blocks for boys and girls. This has ensured the privacy of girls at school and complement of MHM box in those blocks aided girls during their menstruation. All these initiatives have kept positive impact in the health and education of the students.

“Now, students rarely suffer from any abdominal diseases due to drinking unsafe water thus don’t remain absent, as a result school attendance have tremendously improved, specially the girl’s as they don’t skip schools during menstruation.”-satisfactorily described by Provati Mondal.

CHAST session: fragrance of change

Putul Rani Sarker is the teacher of Hazi Khorshed Soptopalli High School, Tebaria, Gopalganj. She is a passionate woman with a kind heart. In 2015, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society started their Children Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST) workshops there. Each week one session having at best 30 students of the school are taken by her back then. Obviously before giving a start, she and one of the students of her school were given training on CHAST sessions at Gopalgong Sadar.

In every session, an external teacher along with both work out the training manual. All the sessions have full participation of the students. While asked about training's impact Putul Rani explained, "Although personally me and my

family follow hygiene behaviour regularly, students were not the conscious I must say. We did it because that was our family tradition. But after receiving CHAST training I came to know about the importance of following them and negative effects of ignoring good behaviours. Through the school level CHAST session, students are learning good



Putul Rani Sarker, CHAST Teacher, Hazi Khorshed Soptopalli High School, Tebaria, Gopalganj.

WASH behaviour at an early age and they are practicing at household and schools. They are also disseminating HP's messages to other students and their neighbour. So, chances of getting affected by water and air borne diseases has reduced to a great extent. Besides, students' attendance has increased significantly after the CHAST sessions."

She also added that sessions on Menstrual Hygiene Management under CHAST made the girls more vibrant on that issue. They now talk about it with others, ask teachers for help during period like need of sanitary pads or a bit rest. Even students are cleaning their school voluntarily every month. They also ask for toilet soaps if finished. Changes like these made our heart full of joy", Putul said with complacency. For further interventions, she suggested that a good storage of sanitary pads is very necessary. Besides, it would be great to give students knowledge on first aid treatment.

6. CHAST Champion

Championing hygiene—from schools to community

Mousumi is an indigenous student in year 9 in Rangpur District, Bangladesh. Before the introduction of the Children’s Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST) sessions, Mousumi had little concern about her own, or others, hygiene. CHAST is a key tool used within a broader school based approach implemented by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) under the Community Development Initiative (CDI)2WASH funded through CS-WASH. The program encourages children to actively participate in open discussions and to share their experiences and ideas on good hygiene practices with their peers. Since participating in CHAST, Mousumi has significantly changed her perception on WASH behaviours: she now promotes critical times for washing hands and brushing teeth, has set up a specified place in her home for waste, and has learnt how to hygienically manage menstruation. “Our teachers taught us all of this with the easiest and funniest way possible. Now I don’t feel shy to talk about menstruation, and I look forward to applying all the teachings I have learnt,” said Mousumi.



Mousumi (15), CHAST Champion, Rangpur.

Based on assessment results, Mousumi is now recognised as the CHAST Champion for her school and within her community; all families now know of Mousumi. “I felt proud, not because I could answer all the (exam) questions but for becoming the icon who others will get inspired to learn and apply good WASH behaviours in their life” said Mousumi. Her family and neighbours commonly ask her to teach them about improving their hygiene. “Although people know, it’s not easy to turn them into habits but they try hard, and I with my other CHAST mates remind them of the importance of living a hygienic life” said Mousumi. Mousumi, who aspires to be a doctor, has a dream of continuing to help people improve their hygiene. She noted that “since the CHAST program started the occurrence of diarrhoea, hepatitis, typhoid and other water borne diseases has reduced significantly in this area.” She does however hold concerns about the ignorance of Menstrual Hygiene Management among villagers. She plans to help build better understanding and recognition of this in the future.

Also, can be accessed through: <http://www.cswashfund.org/our-work/postcards-from-the-field/championing-hygiene-%E2%80%93schools-community>

7. UP WASH Committee

8.

UP WASH has worked as motivating mediator

“Though the Nagirdigor is adjacent area of Rangpur but it is very backward in terms of having less educational rate and initiatives taken for the developmental activities. The area is highly vulnerable and in every year the community gets experiences of flood that destroy. The consciousness rate is very low among the people of this area. Earlier, people of this area were not aware about the hygiene practice, safe drinking water, improved sanitation and health practice. But the initiatives and activities of the CDI2WASH project changed the situation. We have seen very few; latrines in the area and its catchment. People also didn’t wash hand after toilet and before eating let alone washing fruits and vegetables before eating. From the beginning, they were also suffering from the scarcity of safe drinking water source and in the monsoon their sufferings use to multiply as those one or two water sources used to get flooded. This used to result in massive outbreaks of water borne diseases.”-according to Aktaruzzaman Vutto (39) who has been serving as the chairman of 31 Ward, Nagirdigor, Rangpur City Corporation, Rangpur. He is one of the stakeholders that has contributed in implementing the CDI2WASH program initiatives successfully. In this regard, he has been serving the responsibility of President of UP WASH.



Md. Aktaruzzaman Vutto (39), President, UP WASH Committee, Nagirdigor, Rangpur.

With having the experiences of being involved in the activities of CDI2WASH program as the change agent ‘Aktaruzzaman Vutto’ can differentiate the previous and present socio-economic situation of his area. He observed that the social and economic changes through the improvement of livelihood, capacity of installing WASH technologies by own endeavour, changes for practicing hygiene and volunteerism of the inhabitants of the people of this area. These all have been possible only for the presence and direct contribution of the CDI2WASH project. Following the activities and initiatives of the CDI2WASH program the UDP of BRAC, Muslim Aid and World Vision Bangladesh started development initiatives in this area. Under the CDI2WASH program initiative PHAST training was provided to Mr. Vutto and he was also lucky to observe the exchange visit in Gopalganj.

“Flood messages were provided to the villagers resulting a few of the villagers were affected by water-borne diseases during the flood and they were also made aware of the harmful effects of flood. No water or sanitation technologies were damaged or inundated during the flood. The members of UP-WASH committee monitored door to door while installing the technologies in the project area. Proper monitoring has been ensured after the instalment of the technologies. Before installing the technologies through the social ranking. I helped to ensure the full sanitation coverage in Nagirdigor. When the social ranking was done for the instalment of sanitation technologies in the areas. We motivated 100 families motivated for installing improved latrines. 150 families were provided hygienic sanitary latrines. After the installation, about 200 more families installed latrines by their own initiatives. The endeavour of UP WASH did not halt here. Before, few months ago I helped 50 families to have latrines. Now, there is no family in the area that practise open defecation. It has now been free from open defecation. here, I tried to contribute a lit bit and learnt a lot that will be helpful for me to be involved with these types of activities in future period. The improvement of livelihood of the people

in this area started and the overall changes of community people is being visible”-according to Aktaruzzaman Vutto.

9. School Managing Committee (SMC)

SMC vows to continue own efforts

“This is a privately established school in this area. So, from the very beginning of its establishment this educational institution faced monetary crisis. Educational activities of the school were started in a temporary building. From that time, the parents of this school did not have the sufficient capacity to pay different fees. For different cause, the school tumbled into financial and could not fulfil the basic requirement for the students and teachers. Because of due to poor financial capacity, there was no latrine in the school. So, the students used to go the nearest latrine of primary school. Though two latrines were constructed in 2004 at the school premise but these had lack of modern facilities. There were no separate toilet blocks for male and female student or teachers. Beside this, the teachers and students used to go the same latrine, students often felt shy to go to those latrines, specially the female students. Hence most of the time students went their home for latrine in a certain time of a day and did not come back. As a result, they usually used to miss the rest period of the school day”. This early situation of an educational institution has been described by Md. Naoshad Ali, Head Teacher, Paddmapukur High School, 17 no Imadpur Union, Mithapukur Upazila, Rangpur. He is also the Vice-president of School Managing Committee of Paddmapukur High School.

Md. Naoshad Ali has relentlessly tried to improve the hygiene situation of his school. In this regard, he contacted with some national and international organizations to for getting assistance but did not receive expected results. So, the sufferings of both students and teachers continued. But when the



Md. Naoshad Ali (48), Head Teacher and Vice-president of SMC, Paddmapukur High School, Mithapukur, Rangpur.

CDI2WASH program started its activities in this area then situation becoming changing. Both, hardware and software supports were provided under the program. A tube well and latrines with separate block for male & female were installed in the school premises. The students and teachers started drinking water under from the tube well as well as using the latrines also. Under the software program, CHAST teacher Parvin Akter always took classes to make the students aware to drink safe water, use improved sanitation and ensure hygienic practices. Now, the students properly know about the critical time of washing hand, avoid open defecation, can identify difference between good & bad practices. Girls can easily access maintain the hygienic practices during the menstruation period and people with disability have specialized latrines.

“Now, I personally advise my family members, relatives and neighbours even outside of the community area to follow good hygiene and sanitation practices. Beside this, when I attend different meetings in upazila and district level then I convey the success of us to other institutions as well as practise these. Currently, students of the school clean the toilet blocks on a weekly basis and student leaders along with their classmates always monitors the latrine blocks to see if all the facility is properly functioning. Hence, the School Management Committee is also planning to employ a sweeper for the toilet cleaning. Beside this, SMC will continue its endeavour to support any other assistance in relation with the program activities such as repairing and maintaining the water and sanitation options

for future time. The CDI2WASH initiative helped our school in a great extent as increasing improving the hygiene behaviour of students and educational improvement in class attendance & academic results. From our side, we will try within our limited capacity so that the continuation of the efforts is ensured for CDI2WASH program sustainability”- Md. Naoshad Ali showed his aspiration by describing this.

10. Beneficiaries

A journey from despair to delight

Shefali Rani, a mother of two living in Paddmapurkur village Bangladesh, used to spend much of her time caring for family members suffering from water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, typhoid and dysentery. Poor awareness of good hygiene, coupled with open defecation was the main causes of the spread of these diseases. “The diseases and treatment costs kept us in tremendous pressure to survive” explained Shefali. The situation changed when the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society started the CDI2WASH project, funded through CS-WASH. This project included participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation sessions and household follow up visits, subsidized installation of 140 latrines for ultra-poor households and 35 tube wells. Together, these interventions have enabled good personal hygiene practices to be adopted by all 420 families within the community.

After being involved in these community information workshops, Shefali’s family were motivated to stop open defecation and build a sanitary latrine. They also learnt handwashing and teeth-brushing techniques, and valuable tips on decreasing iron from drinking water. The result was a happy and healthy family “it wasn’t easy turning knowledge into habits,” said Shefali, “we have regular conversations among family members and neighbours to ensure that everyone continues these good hygiene practices. Now we have time to focus on increasing our household income and my children can attend school every day.”



Shefali Rani, Paddmapukur, Mithapukur, Rangpur.

After joining different activities under the CDI2WASH initiative, Shefali has also become an active member of the Imadpur Union Parishad WASH committee. Her work includes educating and encouraging other community members to practice good hygiene habits and monitoring results. “It is an empowering role,” said Shefali, noting that her status within the community had also increased. “It brings me closer to the community, and it is good to see that most of the people living here have changed their old habits” said Shefali.

Also can be accessed through: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/bangladesh/turning-knowledge-into-habits-in-rural-bangladesh-73838/>

Reducing health impacts by adapting arsenic removal filter

Hosne Ara is a housewife and mother of two living in the Tebaria village, Bangladesh. Her community commonly faces difficulties when trying to access safe drinking water as the ground water and tube-wells are contaminated with arsenic and iron. As a result, villagers have suffered diarrhoea and vomiting. Long-term consumption of arsenic causes skin and liver diseases, nervous system complications and digestive difficulties. Last year, under the Community Development Initiative 2 WASH project, funded through CS-WASH, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) promoted a local technology the 'SONO filter' which reduces the rate of arsenic and excessive iron from water to an acceptable level. The SONO filtration system is suitable for rural use as it does not require any energy input, is reliable, and can be produced and maintained at a very low cost with locally available materials. As part of the CDI2WASH commitment to safe water, households were informed about the health issues associated with the local water and given opportunities to test the water before and after filtration. As a result, 500 partially subsidized filters were distributed among beneficiaries and have been implemented into their households.



Hosne Ara (35), Beneficiary, Tebaria, Paikkandi, Gopalganj.

BDRCS trained the Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) to raise awareness, conduct arsenic and iron testing and assist locals in the installation and ongoing maintenance of the technology. "The CDRT are doing admirable work in promoting safe water to the community. As most of the families do not know how to install the filter they have assisted them and are teaching them how to maintain it. I am grateful to them for helping me" said Hosne Ara.

Hosne Ara's uncle, who has also benefited from the new technology, added, "Earlier, we always felt pain in our stomach. But within a few days of using the purifier, we feel the changes in our bodies. Now I understand those diseases are associated with drinking water that's contaminated with excessive arsenic and iron." Hosne Ara's family enjoys better health, and are more productive than before. Her husband can work extra hours and her children never miss school. Hosne Ara explained "For me it's very satisfying and I am advocating with my neighbours to get an arsenic filter, so that they too can enjoy better health.

Also, can be accessed through: <http://www.cswashfund.org/our-work/postcards-from-the-field/championing-hygiene-%E2%80%93schools-community>

CDI2WASH project support has been social capital for Shantona

Shantona Begum (35) is a house-wife of Nazirdigor community under Rangpur City Corporation. She has two sons and currently she is going to have another baby. Her husband did agriculture for living who currently is out of work. But still Shantona is a woman with confidence. While asked, she explained, "It is Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) who has built such confidence in me. I don't have to think of money or pregnancy care now. I love to have BDRCS always by my side."

It was 2014 when BDRCS started working at Najirdogor. She was among the 502 families who was under their CDI2WASH project. It was funded by Australian Red Cross with the support of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. From the beginning she was with them and now she is a member of Community Development Committee (CDC) and Mothers' Club. She attends CDC monthly meeting regularly and discuss about the progress of WASH interventions and plays role in planning, implementation and monitoring activities. She also joins Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) sessions regularly. All of her participation back then from 2014 to now made a significant change in her life.



Shantona (35), Nagirdigor, Rangpur.

From her voice, "My family was facing hard times regarding financial matters and till now we are facing it. But earlier we didn't know about anything regarding health issues so there was added problem with diseases to fight with. Now we have knowledge and habits on leading a hygienic lifestyle which reduced our burdens to a great extent. Moreover, I am getting money from the Mothers' Club Fund raised for helping mothers in need by the villagers with the support of BDRCS. Besides, the social capital created due to my active participation in different activities of BDRCS gives me much relief regarding pregnancy care tension. That is why I am feeling less distressed now."

Shantona has played a major role for her family and society members to change their WASH behaviors. She convinced them to wash their hands after finishing defecation, before and after taking meals, before preparing food and after cleaning baby's stool. She also motivated them to brush their teeth before going to bed at night and after having breakfast at morning. "With constant reminder and reasoning they now understand the importance of living a hygienic lifestyle. It's the moment when people get convinced about a thing they start believing it and practice in their life. I think it is an achievement," Shantona said with a shining smile. Najirdigor is no more a community which lack fraternity, nutrition and sanitation. Shantona thanked BDRCS for all the changes which have come into existence.

Inclusive WASH committees-many impacts

Golap lives in Najirdigar community in Bangladesh. He contracted Polio as an infant, which unfortunately left his legs paralysed and his family struggled to cope with his disability and their social and financial status within the community. Like many in their community, Gopal's family also suffered ill health as a result of poor sanitation and hygiene. "My family had a long history of chronic diarrheal diseases and we had to spend a lot for treatment. But as the Bangladesh Red Crescent started their project, we came to know different knowledge on good WASH behaviours. By practising hand washing, using improved toilet as well as drinking safe water, my family do not face water and faecal borne diseases anymore."



Golap (30), Nazirdigor, Rangpur.

Through the Civil Society WASH project, Golap is working hard to bring about changes in his community - as a proud WASH committee member. As one of 16 members (including 8 males and 8 females) he has received training, attends workshops and meetings, monitors activity implementation, gives his feedback on addressing issues for people living with disabilities, and encourages and motivates others to maintain good WASH practices. Through his active role as an important change agent in his community, Golap feels himself an empowered person now, and faces less social and financial challenges than before. Golap's family, along with 501 other families in Najirdigar, are now enjoying relatively good health. Chronic diarrheal diseases have reduced dramatically and according to Golap the "community has changed beyond its imagination. We are improving ourselves and I believe we are creating a better environment, both for us and for our future generations."

Change for bringing change

Shiuli is a house wife of Baladanga village under Tungipara thana, Gopalganj district. She is a proactive woman both in family and society who can identify the good things first and grab them for the betterment of others. Her family is one of the 402 families in her village all of whom fall under Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's Community Development Initiative II Project. From the beginning of their intervention here she attends every meeting held in different places. She went Rangpur district once and Gopalganj Sadar several times for trainings and workshops.

According to her, "I have learnt a lot of things from all these participations. I came to know how germs can harm us though water, air, open food and our unhygienic habits both in or outside home. I tried to convince my family first about the impacts and then my neighbours. But it required a lot of effort and patience to make them convince practicing the hygienic rules in their life.

From all the negotiations, I perceived that it is me who have to change the mindset first to bring aspired changes. Then as BDRCS started giving people sanitary latrines to make the village environment more clean and fresh, I thought I can built mine. Then one more family can have it free. So here I am, built mine and enjoying far more better health than before." But BDRCS made the terrace platform for her tube well and she willingly bought Sano filter (a locally manufactured water refiner) form them. Even she gave one of her rooms to keep those Sano filters there still further relocation. Shiuli explained, "As men and women both work in the crop field here, cleanliness is very necessary to maintain a disease-free life. Besides, every house has chicken or little children who loiter everywhere. They can easily bear germs form places and for children, they may get affected. These too made me serious about taking steps to build my latrine and create a culture of good WASH behaviour in my family." Now Shiuli's family is enjoying exceptionally better health and she is happy seeing such good changes.



Shiuli, Baladanga, Tungipara, Gopalganj.

11. Community Organizer

The change makers- bringing new hope

Jannati is a community organizer for the Community Development Initiative (CDI)2WASH, which is being implemented by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), funded through CS-WASH. She is working with families in the Paddmapukur, Rangur District; her role includes promoting and monitoring sanitation, hygiene behaviours and water quality, as well as facilitating the Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT), Community Development Committee (CDC) and WASH committee meetings. Through the CDI2WASH program women have played a vital role in bringing about good WASH behaviours to their families, and through seeing those changes; now male household members are respecting their advice and cooperating with them.

Jannati has been trained by BDRCS to facilitate the different participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation sessions. This has included topics on Women's Empowerment and MHM. She was also trained to facilitate CHAST sessions held for children and parents at the 8 schools in her community. "These trainings and my experiences working with community people has changed my perception of life.

People here were living in sheer ignorance on issues like social coherence, leadership, health and hygiene, women empowerment and good WASH behaviours. But the trainings I have received, and sessions I have taught have brought the right changes among us," said Jannati.



Jannati, Community Organizer, CDIWASH program, Paddmapukur, Rangpur.

What was once seen as an unstoppable bad habit of open defecation has now been removed and Jannati is confident that the Paddmapukur community will have a better future with dignity and equality. "This community soothes me more than anything now. The change has not come with a blink of an eye. As those long hours of convincing and negotiations as well as walking door to door during rainy days or winter freezing winds bore fruit, I can feel dark and light more evidently than ever," said Jannati. While women are happier as they enjoy a neat and clean environment and a healthy family and home, they are also increasingly being respected for their ideas and advice. Through her role Jannati feels empowered, and believes this program has allowed other women in her community to also become empowered. Jannati believes that the community sessions and meetings have built social cohesion and increased the visibility of the women in the community. As has participation in the CDRT, CDC and WASH committees - where the gender representation is balanced.

Also, can be accessed through: <http://www.cswashfund.org/our-work/postcards-from-the-field/change-makers-bringing-new-hope>