

At glance of CAMPUS Project

Background of working area:-

Domar Upazilla is one of the remotest Upazilla of Nilphamari district. It has an area of 251 sq km and population of 249429, 82% are Muslim 18% are Hindu and there are some ethnic national Sandal origin. There are 34254 landless and marginal farmers which amounts to 70% of total farmers and, 12712 are landless household which is 26% of total farmers. Maximum farmers are bonded laborers . The Upazilla consists of 10 Union Parishads, 47 mouzas and 47 villages.the Average literacy of Domar Upazilla is 48.3% (Female 45.2% and male 51.4%).

Domar is one of Northern most upazillas of Bangladesh and borders with India. This area is known as “Monga”(hunger season) prone area. Monga is a seasonal famine like situation which happens during the month of late September to November, as there is a lack of employment around the area during that time of the year. This area is hit most severely as there is no alternative employment within the area. Even though this is monga prone area, government provides less support to this area than other affected areas, even within the district.

A striking feature of the area is that the people still hold reminiscence of the past feudal structure society. The poor people who live in other rich peoples’ land still call themselves [as well as others call them] as “Proja” [*tenant*] of the rich people in whose land they live. This also binds them to a culture of “bonded labour”. They have to work for these people as they have been given a piece of land for free [though sometimes some pay a nominal rent, which is rear]. This also gives the land lord the chance to pay then what ever daily wage they want and generally this is less than the going market rate. If they do not take this then they will be thrown out of their land.

Women and Livelihood: Women traditionally in this area do not work in the field, though we have seen women of extreme poor families work in the fields. Their work is mainly restricted to the homestead doing household chores like looking after the children, cooking, cleaning also rearing hens, chickens and sometimes cows- for rich households, growing vegetables around the house etc. Even though these economic activities are contributing to the household income to some extent, however small, these are not recognized as of much value. Furthermore, women’s movement is also restricted within the village contributing to the overall disempowerment process of women. In a very few cases, women especially of the followers of the “*Sanatan*” religion goes to nearby towns to pay their respects to their gods during the various religious festivals. We have also found very few women in the local bazaar and hat that goes to buy daily necessities. Women have to maintain their family during the monga period when men migrate to other places within the country to earn leaving behind little amount of food or money to maintain the family. They have to borrow or beg for food or sometimes if some work is available in rich farmers’ (Land owners’) house they do that.

Men and Livelihood: As described earlier men mostly depend on agriculture for livelihood. The local agriculture economy is mostly dominated by rice and jute production. So the employment opportunity also depends on the rice and jute production cycle. Poor people specially wage laborers are severely affected by this pattern as sometimes there is no work available in the area. Especially during the monga period of October-November they suffer the most and migrate to other areas of the country where there is work, especially to the urban areas. People also produce potato, tomato, chilly, mugdal (Lentil) and maize

seasonally, which is very limited. Women and children also work in the crop field during harvesting period. As men are the bread earner/main providers of the households, all the household members suffer most specially women and children during the munga period as men are given preference over all other. There is no suitable employment opportunity for the persons with disabilities and they become most vulnerable during the munga period. Mostly during munga they have to borrow from the money lenders and they charge a very high rate of interest (20% per month). Once they take loan from them they get into an indebtedness cycle that is very hard to break through. They also sell their manual labor in advance with very low wage. They borrow money from the rich neighbour/land owner with a commitment to pay the money through manual labor in next harvesting season. It may be mentioned here that the wage rate at which the advance labour is sold is far below the regular wage rate that he would have received during the harvesting period. Thus the poor people's are exploiting from long ago which is one of the significant reasons of the poverty.

Access to Productive Resources: Poor peoples' access to productive resources [i.e. land] is very less. Of all Bangladesh the land ownership pattern in this area is heavily skewed towards the rich. The rich/influential person owns most of the land in the area, well above the ceiling set by the government of 60 Bigha. Deducting from the discussion held with the poor people of the area, it is assumed that there might be a certain portion of khas land and water bodies which is under the control of the rich/influential people. It also came of the discussions that poor people have no or very limited access to the local Assistant Commissioner of land at the Upazilla level. Assistant Commissioner is part of the the Upazilla revenue office and it is lacking of senior staff for last couple of years. This office is run by only three office assistant or clerk. This is seriously affecting peoples, especially poor peoples' access to receive proper services.

Education:

There are inadequate numbers of Primary school and the quality of the education is also not good. As a people are living in extreme poverty the parents prefer to engage their children in house hold in agricultural work rather than sending to school. Most of the girl children have to engage with household work. Besides this their parents cannot afford private teacher at home and every year only about 70% children can pass and rest of the children dropout from school.

Health:

There is a health center in this area but that open irregularly. As a result health facilities are inadequate; People have to go to Upazilla health complex, Boragari by Rickshaw, Van it takes to hours to go. Especially Pregnant women aged an critical patients suffer to lot. There is also a health worker who sometimes goes to door to door and provides immunization of children, family planning materials etc. Ketkibari village women complain against the govt health worker that without briefing her, they do not get proper family planning facilities and mostly the go to local medicine selling shop to get treatment. They also pay a fee as the doctor practice privately. There are health service is not sufficiency such as Doctor, Nurse, Medicine in Upazilla health complex.

Domestic Violence:

Domestic Violence against women has been internalized. People do not recognize that wife abuse is wrong. Based on minor reason the husband physically tortured the wives as a regular phenomenon of the area.

Partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB)

USS has been implementing AAB funded project “**Community Development and Monga Mitigation for the Poor through Upgrading Social Capital (CAMPUS)**” in Bhodaburi, Ketkibari, Gomnati and Bamunia Union of Domar Upazilla under Nilphamari district since 2007. Project area is located in remote border side, where people are fighting extreme poverty. Realizing the area context USS and AAB launch a program with a specific goal of socio-economic development and controlling livelihood security through accessing public resources, empowerment of extreme poor and marginalized people where justice and democratic governance issues are being addressed in a comprehensive and integrated manner. People living in poverty in remote areas especially the **women** of working area are the direct programme participants. This partnership is running with a link of 455 sponsored children.

Definition of Local Right Programme (LRP) and target group:

This area is none as Monga prone area. Monga is a seasonal famine like situation which happen during the month of let October to November and March to April As there is a lake of employment around the area during that time of the year. There is no alternative employment opportunity in this area. The poor people who live in the other rich people land still call themselves Proja of the rich people in whose land the live. This also binds them to a cultural of bonded lobar. They have to work for these people as they have been given piece of land for free. This also gives land lord the chance to pay daily to pay than that ever daily wage they want and generally this is less then going market rate. If they do not take this then they will be thorn out of their land.

We have initially chosen of two union of Domar Upazilla as a development area. These are Ketkibari and Vogdaburi Union. Letter we will expanded in Gomnati & bamunia Union.. As described earlier none of the organization working in the area is concerned about the extreme poor as all of them are implementing microfinance program and also govt has not given due important to this area, even though the people of this area are as vulnerable as other areas where the govt and other program has invested lot of resource. As we have commitment to work in most vulnerable places where others do not work. We have chosen to work in this area. We will work the extreme people, who are land less, living in other peoples' land as 'subject' compelled to work in a state of pseudo bonded lobar because of the feudal mindset, excluded people specially women and disable people and day lobular.

Project Name:

Community development And Monga mitigation for the Poor through Upgrading Social capital (CAMPUS).

Project Goal:

Improved the livelihood condition of poor people and person with disability (PWD)

Project Objective:

- Increased poor people's access to public resources & services.
- Women become empowered and increased income of poor and person with disability(PWD) creating alternative livelihood option along with agriculture.
- Quality education has promoted in govt. primary school and sponsored children have passed in public examination.

Major Activity of CAMPUS project:-

1. Enhancing poor people's capacity on accessing public resources & services, challenging unequal/unjust/discriminatory law, policy, practice, principles & power structure through facilitating Reflect circles and Loko kendra.
2. Providing support to enhance capacity of women leaders and movement to SVAW.
3. Enhancing capacity of poor people's & SMC to establish right to education with quality through peoples mobilization and alternative model.
4. Providing technical and information support to accessing public resources, challenging unequal/unjust/discriminatory law, policy, practice, principles & power structure.
5. Provide technical and linking support for sustainable livelihood through circles initiatives.
6. Facilitating to organize & build capacity of socially excluded peoples for establishing their rights with dignity.
7. Facilitating to enhancing poor people's participation in to local government institutions through participatory planning and budgeting process.
8. Build awareness on climate change and justice issue

Program coverage

District: Nilphamari, Upazila/Sub-district: Domar

Total union: 4 (Bhugdaburi, Ketkibari, Gomnati & Bamunia)

Total Reflect circle 85, Loko Kendra 09, Community Journalist group 01, Landless Committee 02, Actvista (youth group) 01. Child Space 19. Loko Kendra fouram /SVAW 01, Social Audit team 01.

Household coverage: 2400, population coverage: 8277.

Human Rights Based Initiative of People Agencies.

Year	Major people action	Leading Circle/Loko kendra	Involve Circle
2008 (Started)	Base line survey & preparatory work	10 Circle	20 circles
2009	1.Movement for accessing to Health & Family planning service	Agrohi Circle , Nayahut para	All Circle of Ketkebari Union.
	2. Access to Khas (Public) land	All circle of Vogdaburi & Ketkebari	20 Circle of Vogdaburi & Ketkebari
	3.Estabilish Dhan Bank	20 Circle	20 Circle of Vogdaburi & Ketkebari
	4.Campagin for Stop early marriage	Basunia para Circle	Garialpara & pramanik para circle
	5. Strengthening school management committee (SMC)	Uzzal circle , Babupara	Togor Circle , Kamatpara
	6.. Increased student enrollment in primary schools.	6 Circle	6 Circlr of Ketkebari & Vogdaburi
	7. Campaign to Stop violence against woman	6 Circle	6 Circlr of Ketkebari & Vogdaburi
2010	1.Movement for Fair wages of agriculture women labors (demanding equal of Man & women)	Togor Circle , Kamatepara	whole Circle of ketkebari union
	2.Access to Khas land	Lal golap. Hospital para Agrohi Circle , Koloni para	Lal golap. Hospital para Agrohi Circle , Koloni para
	3. Social audit on Education sector.	Somaj Unnyan Loko kendra - Vogdaburi	Manobik. Protasha, Narri mukti Loko kendra
	4.Campagin for Stopping early marriage	Protasha Loko kendra ,	Somaj Unnyan loko kendra
	5. Strengthening and make accountable SMC	10 circlr of Ketkebari & vogdaburi Union	10 circlr of Ketkebari & vogdaburi Union
	6. Movement for fair distribution of student stipend at primary schools.	Santo Circle Dangapara	Joba Circle , Chokidar para
	7. Movement for Bridge construction at local level for smooth communication between 2 villages.	Santo Circle Dangapara	Joba Circle , Chokidar para
	8.Movement for PWD cards/certificate.	PWD group , Ketkebari & Vogdaburi	UHO / Social services department.
2011	1.Status update for Khas land (Distributed)	Somaj unnyan loko kendra	all Circles of Vogdaburi & ketkebari union
	2. Access to Khas land	Lal golap. Hospital para Agrohi Circle , Koloni para	
	3.Social audit on Health facilities at up level .	Somaj Unnyan Loko kendra - Vogdaburi	Manobik. Protasha, Narri mukti Loko kendra
	4.Campagin for Stop early marriage	Protasha Loko kendra ,	Somaj Unnyan loko kendra
	5. Strengthening SMC	12 circlr of Ketkebari & vogdaburi Union	
	6. Campaign for UP strengthening up standing Committee at Vogdaburi union	Protasha Loko kendra ,	Somaj Unnyan loko kendra
	7. Campaign for increase allocation of 100 days work.	Jummapara Circle , Botolganj	all Circle of LRP-35
	8.Movement for PWD cards	PWD group , Ketkebari &	UHO / Social services

		Vogdaburi	department.
2012	1.Movement for Khas land (possession)	Somaj Unnyan loko kendra ,	Landless group , Vogdaburi
	2.Movement to protect corporal punishment in primary schools.	Agrohi Circle , Nayarhut	Whole circle of Ketkebari union .
	3.Campaign for Increase the allocation of 100 days work (government social safety net program)	Jummapara Circle , Botolganj	Whole Circle of LRP-35
	4.Follow up of programme social audit on Medicare issue	Audit team	Audit team
	5. Movement for PWD cards/certificates.	PWD group , Ketkebari & Vogdaburi	UHO / Social services department.
	6. Campaign for UP level development plan through participatory budget preparation process.	Whole Circle of Ketkebari & Vogdaburi union.	all Circles of ketkebari & Vogdaburi union.
2013	1.Movement for Khas land (possession)	Somaj Unnyan loko kendra ,	Landless group , Vogdaburi
	2. Campaign for data base well being ranking for social safety net program	Jumma para Circle , Botol ganj	all Circles of ketkebari & Vogdaburi union.
	3. Campaign for Law reform of early marriage	Manobik Unnayan Loko kendra - Ketkebari	all Circles of ketkebari & Vogdaburi union.
	4.Campaign for interest free loan	Padda circle, Namazi para	all Circles of ketkebari & Vogdaburi union.
	5.Movement for peoples demand which is incorporate as next parliament election manifesto .	Loko kendra forum	all Circles of ketkebari & Vogdaburi union.
	6.Circle member participated as SMC election	18 Circle, Ketkebari, Vogdaburi ,Gomnati & Bamunia union .	All circle
	Movement for Rural electricity	Agrohi Circle , Nayahut para	Nari mukti Loko Kendra.

Key change area:-

- 99 Landless families received permanent settlement on Khas/public land (11.17 acre) as part access to services and resources movement.
- Alternative livelihood options have been created for 1249 women and they have come out from the vicious cycle based informal loan system.
- Poor people have established 34 RICE Banks in 34 villages with a storage capacity range from 1 ton to 4 tons to mitigate Monga (hunger in lean period). These rice banks have been covering 782 poor households.
- Now 1074 poor households have food security for round the year through diverse income generating activities.
- Program participants are accessing different government allowances under social safety net program, Health service, Education services, Land management, Right to education, etc
- 123 persons with disability have been included in the Government Social Welfare Department and 19 are receiving disabled allowance, 15 are receiving education allowance and 20 received training on tailoring from social welfare department.

- Movement on SVAW has been strengthened from Reflect circle that has reduced the number of violence incidences, stopped early marriage in working areas. One (Bhugdaburi) union has declared as early marriage free.
- Last year 13 marginalised women elected as member in 10 school management committees and selected 3 marginalised women as member in 3 community cline management committees.
- Prepared 5 years development plan of 2 union parishad through participatory process, mainly led by 5 Loko Kendra.
- Total 85 Reflect circles with an average membership of 26 formed 9 Loko Kendras, established as effective peoples' organizations. Out of reflect circle two organization has formed by the landless and marginal land owners that's, 1. Land Right Committee, working on Khas land management issue especially access to allotted khas land grabbed by locally influenced persons. And 2. Land Rights Committee, working on access to own land grabbed by forest department.
- Land rights committee has built relation with national level actors, NGOs and CSOs; like ALRD, TIB, BLAST, Nijera Kori, Media, etc through AAB and getting support in local level rights movement.
- Landless families are going to obtain access to and control over their grabbed land; government land office decided to ensure eviction of grabber gradually form allotted khas land and get back to 91 landless families in Bhugdaburi union.
- Established a community clinic in Bamunia union through advocacy and campaign led by reflect circle.
- Community became self reliance to mitigate natural disaster that cold wave, through providing interest free loan form circle fund for poor to make quilt.
- Sponsored children are having access to extra curriculum activities through child space that have increased their physical and mental development.

Udayankur Seba Sangstha (USS)
LRP-35
CAMPUS
Chilahati, Domar, Nilphamari
Programme Planning of 2014

Objectives	Actions/Activity HRBA Components		HRBA Components				Target (Activity target & # of people reached)		contribution to SP
	Actions	Sub-activity	Empowerment	Solidarity	Campaigns	Right based alternatives			
1. To increase access to resources and public services for strengthening livelihood of people in	1.1 Access to public services	1.1.1 Capacity development of program participants on rights through group discussion.	√			X	10	250	RJDG
		1.1.2 Strengthening People organization - Lokokendra - leadership development, office set up	√			X	4	100	RJDG
		1.1.3 Providing technical support to prepare Participatory Union & Upazilla Budget giving emphasis on holding tax.	√			X	3	3000	RJDG

living poverty		1.1.4 Building awareness on TJ at community level			√	X	1	500	RJGD	
		1.1.5 Lobby meeting with Social welfare Department for various types of allowances and facilities for PWDs.			√	X	1	25	RJDG	
	1.2 Access to public Resources (Land)	1.2.1 Providing support to process the application of khas land.	√				X	50	100	LR
		1.2.2 Solidarity support to people led movement and linking with national level actors		√			X	5	--	LR
		1.2.3 Quarterly meeting with khas land Mgt committee.			√		X	4	80	LR
		1.2.4 Round Table Discussion on Land Rights Issue (Khas land Policy & Grass roots reality to strengthen national level advocacy)			√		X	1	60	LR
		1.2.5 Video documentation on land rights (10-15 minutes)			√		X	1	1000	LR
	1.2.6 Bi-monthly dialogue with CSOs on land rights issue			√		X	3	60	LR	
2. To increasing income and stop violence against women for empowerment	2.1 enhance and strengthen alternative Livelihood option for women & PWD	2.1.1 Providing capital support to Reflect Circles, PWD group	√			Dhan Bank	18	540	FRSL	
		2.1.2 IGA training for PWDs & women	√			X	4	80	FRSL	
		2.1.3 Promote sustainable agriculture practice through Group Farming	√			X	5	150	FRSL	
		2.1.4 Networking with KKM		√		X	1	--	FRSL	
		2.1.5 Linkage with UYDO, DDoSW to access training support.		√		X	2	30	FRSL	
		2.1.6 Linkage with UZ Agriculture office & KKM to access information on sustainable agriculture practice		√		X	5	150	FRSL	
		2.1.7 Lobby & Advocacy on Interest free loan for the people living in poverty (UZ level)			√	X	4	20	FRSL	
		2.1.8 Campaign on right to food with support from AAB			√	X	1	150	FRSL	
		2.1.9 Campaign for the recognition of women farmers (Support from AAB)			√	X	5	150	FRSL	
	2.2 Increase women participation in social institution	2.2.1 Women leadership development training & mentoring	√				X	2	50	WRGE
2.2.2 Convention of Lokokendra to develop wider constituency of women participation		√				X	2	1000	WRGE	
2.3 Stop violence against women	2.3.1 Group discussion on violence issues	√				X	20	600	WRGE	
	2.3.2 Building awareness on legal issue through group discussion	√				X	5	150	WRGE	
	2.3.3 Local level Campaign to stop early Marriage & Dowry through awareness building			√		X	3	1200	WRGE	
3. Promote children's access to ' quality primary education	3.1 Organize and mobilize local community, schools and education administration for promoting children's right to education	3.1.1 Conduct education rights situation mapping	√			X	8	1600	Education	
		3.1.2.Documentation of study findings	√			X	1	1600	Education	
		3.1.3 Organize a public sharing on the study findings	√			X	2	500	Education	
		3.1.4 Workshop with SMC & PTA on PRS	√			X	2	60	Education	
		3.1.5 Follow up meeting on social audit findings with committee			√	X	2	30	Education	

		3.1.6 Formation of student council in schools and engage them in tracking child rights situation in schools	√			X	6	102	Education
	4.1 Support children with supplementary education materials and activities	4.1.1 Operating Child Space	√			X	19	1114	Child dev. & protection
		4.1.2 Education material support to the Sponsorship children	√			X	19	1114	Child dev. & protection

Mode of engagement of LRP with SPs

Priority Name	Component /issues	Mode of engagement			
		Strategic role	Active role	Limited role	No role
FRSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to food • Sustainable agriculture • Off farm livelihood 	X	√	X	X
LR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access & control land • water commons • accountable land management 	√	X	X	X
RJDG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Justice & Budget Democracy (PPB) • Accountable public service and anti privatization • Workers rights/Fair wage 	X	√	X	X
WRGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women empowerment (participation in decision making, Unpaid care work) • SVAW & control over body • Safe City 	X	√	X	X
DRCJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of facilitators, LRP and local institutes on ER, DRR & CJ • Awareness raising and sensitization local institute on ER, DRR and CCA • Action research and alternative development on ER and resilience and advocacy on local financing 	X	X	√	X
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Rights Respecting School (PRS) in primary schools • Financing education • Constitutional recognition of education as a fundamental rights 	X	√	X	X
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacitating and mobilizing youth as social change agent • Youth have greater Control over their wellbeing 	X	X	√	X

JEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive and barrier free environment for the persons with disabilities through mainstreaming disability issue. • Constitutional recognition and promotion of indigenous people rights (including Universal Periodic Review monitoring). • Social dignity and barrier free environment for the Dalit. 		√	X	X
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Jamal para reflect circle community clinic establishment

Domar Upazila is the poorest upazila of northern part of Bangladesh, Most of the people live in abject poverty. Due to so many problems, the people living in poverty have organized themselves and formed a reflect circle in their community. They meet as a reflect circle twice in a week and they discuss the root cause of poverty and realize the reason why they are poor. They also discuss the problem in their families & at community level. From their discussions they priorities problems according to their impact, then they take initiative to find a solution (Action point) .

Previously They found out that lack of health facilities in their community was a major problem due to lack of health service providing institute. The reflect circle then engaged responsible authorities to establish



a community clinic in their community .After communicating with Upaziula Health & Family planning officer they collected the policy to establish a community clinic and they disused the policy at reflect circle level.

All terms & condition were mitigated, except, they had a barrier on land where to build the community clinic (Eight decimal) which was required to build the clinic on. All the Reflect circle members are landless so they were not able to donate it. After that, the Circle member tired to find a donor who would donate the land for establishment of the community clinic. Through a research, they discovered that In year 2000, Community people & Union praised jointly took an initiative to establish a community clinic but they failed and they believed that it was not possible for them too. They thought they were hopeless.

Reflect circle members communicated with them and they organized a community meeting on 10th October 2012 with community people after the meeting, they formed a committee which they called **Community clinic committee**. This committee started searching for a donor and they found one In mid-October 2012 (Mr. Sarat Chandra Ray) who agreed to donate land. During this period, they met the all the criteria regarding this issue. On 6th November 2012, the committee applied to the ministry of Health & Family welfare department, Dhaka and the ministry approved it and they sent an approval letter on 22nd November 2012 under the Memo #1043. As per approval letter they took an initiative to register the land & others activities.

All the registration expenses where met by the Reflect Circle members and they applied to Upazila Health & Family welfare Officer for the construction of the community clinic . This community clinic is under construction and it will start operating within March 2014. Community people are pleased to have taken the initiative to establish a Community clinic which when in full operation, it will provide health & Family planning service to 2000 families.



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