

Facilitating Institutionalization of Horizontal Learning Program in Bangladesh

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Introductions:

CDD, as the consortium partner of WaterAid Bangladesh organized two Upazilla Workshops under the project titled "Institutionalization of Horizontal Learning Program in Bangladesh". The project is implemented by National Institute of Local Government (NILG) & funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency under the leadership of Local Government Division (LGD).

Objectives of the workshops were:

- i) To draw out the good practices from the LGIs
- ii) Orientation on Institutionalization of Horizontal Learning Program in Bangladesh
- iii) Prepare an action plan that would be endorsed by the Upazilla Administration

Process: Before workshop at Upazilla orientation at each 16 Union level was facilitated by Rakhi Barua of CDD. 6 UP Orientation workshops was completed at Kaharole Upazilla and 10 UP Orientation workshop at Dinajpur Sador Upazilla from 7th November to 12th November.

At each UP workshop CDD explained background of HLP programme and discussed about good practices with examples. We requested each UP to identify their own good practices before participating in the Upazilla workshop.



Facilitators of the Upazilla Workshop: Rakhi Barua and Mohammad Monjurul Karim jointly facilitated both Upzilla Workshop on behalf of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD). Rakhi Barua did the HLP presentation too.



Mahfuz-ur-Rahman on behalf of Water Aid Bangladesh facilitated particular section of the upazilla workshop.

On behalf of National Institute of Local Government **Mr. Imranur Rahman** also contributed significantly in the workshop by delivering his opinion regarding philosophy and principals of HLP programme.

AKM Hasan-ur –Jaman, Secretary, Chehelgazi Union Parishad facilitated session on setting indicators for the identified good practices at Dinajpur Sadar Upzilla.

Lists of Good Practices finally identified by the LGI functionaries and endorsed by the UNO



Dinajpur Sadar Upazilla workshop in 16th November:

We have identified & selected final 5 good practices. Final selection was made based on the highest number of voting by the 10 Chairmen, 10 male Members, 10 women members and 10 secretaries from Dinajpur Sadar Upazilla.

Identified good practices were endorsed & acknowledged by Mr. SHM Magfurul Hasan Abbasi on behalf of Upazilla Administration.

Below are the lists of good practices

SL	Good Learnings	Indicators (smart)
1	Disability Friendly Infrastructures and Therapy Centre - by 3 No. Fazilpur Union Parishad	Accessible for all; own budget of UP; Sustainable; replicable; citizen engagement.
2	UP Budget Allocation for Disability	Replicable ; benefitted for 2000

Kaharole Upzilla, Dinaipur on 17th of November

We have identified & selected final 4 good practices. Final selection was made based on the highest number of voting by the 6 Chairmen, 10 male Members, 8 women members and 6 secretaries from Dinaipur Sadar Upazilla.

Identified good practices were endorsed & acknowledged by Mr. Monirul Hasan, Chief Administrative Officer on behalf of Upazilla Administration.

SL	Good Learnings	Indicators (smart)
1	Utensils (cooking pot, jug, plate, glass) distributed among one thousand Indigenous Santal families- (3 No. Mukundopur Union Parishad	Citizen engazement, diversity, replicable, own funding of UP,
2	Education of Students with Disabilities are supported by providing Auto-Rickshaw- 2 No. Rosulpur UP.	Replicable, UP funding,
3	Support to build semi pakka house for Persons with Disabilities – 4 No. Targaon UP	Disaster friendly, own funding of UP, replicable,
4	Distribution of Environment Friendly Bondhu Chula – 6 No. Ramchandrapur UP	Environment friendly, citizen engazemnet, user friendly,



Learnings:

1. Prior UP orientation ensured presence of LG functionaries from Union Parishad in the Upazilla Workshop and their pro-active participation.
2. Involvement of efficient LG officials as the HLP facilitators worked tremendously. For example: one of the session in the Upzilla workshop was facilitated by Secretary, Chehelgazi Union Parishad Mr. AKM Hasun Nur Zaman. He attended a day long training on HLP at NILG in 2016 delivered by Mr. Shantanu Lahiri.
3. It was equally important to involve the local administration in the process to smooth operation of the workshop.
4. It seems the LG functionaries get motivated to design unique and innovative works in future since it is being recognised and awarded. Continuation of similar workshops are desired.



Challenges

1. CDD organized the first HLP Upazilla workshop in November 2020 in this phase under this project among all partner and consortium members during this pandemic at this level. Therefore, even the lead organization and supporting agencies have not real experience in terms of providing administrative and technical support towards such mode of operation of the workshop. To an extent it hindered the process of successful organization, however, it turned into positive learning for future work for remaining workshops and process.
2. It was a bottom up approach to find out the good practice from the Union Parishad level but organizing the workshop was rather top down approach which was bit challenging.
3. Selecting appropriate guest of the workshop was bit challenging considering the involvement of both local government and local administration.
4. There was a budgetary constrain in terms of involving expert support from our organization as well as in UP level workshop.

Way forward

From the learning of the two workshops, we feel confident for any future workshop at this level to conduct if given an opportunity. We are eager to utilise the learnings and challenges into strength to make it more interactive and fruitful in future.



Conclusion: As a member, CDD had promoted exchange of knowledge, learning and good practices on disability inclusion among other LGIs and development partners associated with HLP platform. The culmination of all of these efforts of CDD came in the year 2015 with the issuance of two significant circulars on Disability inclusion by the MoLGRD&C for Union Councils and Municipalities mentioned as ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ এর প্রতিবন্ধী মানুষের জন্য করণীয় and প্রতিবন্ধী ব্যক্তিগণের বিষয়ে পৌর পরিষদের করণীয়.



We hope in this institutionalization phase of HLP too CDD will be able to demonstrate significant contribution in this process.