Quarterly Progress Report

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Community-based Development Initiatives (CDI) programme

Introduction:

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) is working for more vulnerable people and helps them in whatever way possible to reduce their vulnerability against future disasters, both natural and socio-economic. Community-based Development Initiatives (CDI) programme is a focal community development programme of BDRCS, which is being implemented at 22 rural villages in six districts of Bangladesh. The CDI is truly a community-based socio-economic development program implemented with full involvement of community people at all levels of project cycle.
CDI program 2nd phase has been implementing in four communities under two districts namely Gopalgong, Rangpur as well as follow up program CDI 1st phase is going on eight communities under Magura, Kushtia, Natore and Nilphamari Units focused on reducing socio-economic vulnerabilities of the targeted communities to bring a positive transformation and sustainable development of the most vulnerable people with the support of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

**Background:**

Food insecurity, poor health and hygiene, increased marginalization and landlessness of rural population, rising trend of unskilled labour, insecure job market for the economically active population and rural-urban migration constitute potential threats to the well being and livelihood situations of the vulnerable people of the country. With low income, majority of the people grow up and maintain their livelihood in abject poverty and can hardly meet the basic needs of life e.g. food, clothing, housing, healthcare and education.

The socio-economic situation of CDI programme working area are backward, poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, absence of major population from social decision making process and resource constraints. Due to its geographic nature the area is sporadically lashed with torrential cyclone, drought, and flood. Economy however remains vulnerable to the violent and unpredictable climate. This unpredictability can often be devastating, frequently destroying a whole year’s crop, destroying their livelihoods & shelter and in many cases taking their lives.

**Goal of CDI Programme:**

The overall goal of the CDI program is to increase the community resilience to disasters and improve the basic living condition of over 17,700 people in 12 impoverished communities of Bangladesh by 2013.

**General Objective:** Socio-economic vulnerability of the targeted households is reduced and their resilience to future disasters is improved.

**Specific Objectives**

1. Basic health, education and economic status of the targeted vulnerable communities are improved.

2. Social ill practices or evils such as dowry, child marriage, domestic violence, etc. are eliminated from the targeted communities through effective awareness campaign on gender equality, women’s rights, human rights and other social issues.

3. The capacity of BDRCS units and community based organizations is developed and timely/quality responses/services provided. Communities’ awareness on DRR and preparedness for future disasters is increased.

4. Dissemination of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement reached to the community/grass root level and communities’ understanding and practice of humanitarian values and principles are increased.
Quarterly Progress Report:

This Quarterly Report is prepared to inform and record about what’s happening in CDI programme. Report consists in a brief summary about current issues, updates on program, an overview of special events, and a recap of CDI activities.

This report describes the key results that have been achieved within the period 01 April to 30 June, 2013.

The CDI program 2nd phase has been being implemented since July 2012 at four communities in two districts namely Gopalgonj and Rangpur as well as follow-up activities has been being implemented at eight communities in four phased-out districts namely Magura, Kushtia, Natore and Nilphamari to bring a positive transformation and sustainable development for the most vulnerable people.

CDI program started a holistic and integrated approach to address the basic needs of the targeted communities, the program became a bit ambitious and over 13 sectors had to be covered in order to meet the basic needs of the targeted people. Sectors covered by the CDI program were: water and sanitation, shelter, livelihood and income generation, education, health, farm and food security, employment creation, women empowerment, promotion of environment friendly-sustainable technologies, information and communications, capacity building of BDRCS, Disaster Risk Reduction and awareness for people in danger. All the activities are mainly categorized in four sectors. The four sectors are 1) Livelihoods & skill training, 2) Watsan & Shelter, 3) Health and Education and 4) DRR & Development.

No. of Beneficiaries:

The CDI program target beneficiaries 17,700 people (3,813 households) at 12 communities in six districts of Bangladesh.

Progress of CDI program 2nd phase from April to June 2013:

CDI program has successfully completed various activities under four sectors within this quarter. The major activities / highlights are given below:

Major activities or highlights in Rangpur and Gopalgonj:

- On this quarter 1192 participants from 1192 Households received training on Homestead Gardening for establishing homestead garden in their homestead at community level in Gopalgonj and Rangpur.
- In total 1497 households received Homestead gardening training since beginning.
- On this quarter fruits bearing saplings have been distributed among 1561 Households for establishing homestead garden in their homestead. Each household received four fruit bearing saplings of Lichi, Mango, Guava and Lemon based on availability of land in their homestead.
- In total 610 Beneficiaries selected for IGA grant support to increase their income generation.
 Quarterly Progress Report | April to June’2013, CDI Programme in Bangladesh

- Two month duration Tailoring training is provided to 10 women in Gopalganj and 10 women in Rangpur and two month duration Handicraft training is provided to 40 unemployed women; 20 women in Gopalganj and 20 women in Rangpur.
- Four Community Nurseries are set up at four CDI communities in Gopalganj and Rangpur. This quarter total 40,000 BDT was given for sowing seeds, fertilizers and grow up nursery, each nursery received 10,000 BDT.
- Training on Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness - PASSA was provided 20 Community Volunteers from 16th June to 20th June 2013 at Natore.
- 379 poor students are given incentives for their education in Gopalganj and Rangpur
- Six schools are given sports and education materials in Gopalganj and Rangpur
- 20 Community Volunteers are provided Compost Pit training in Gopalganj and Rangpur
- 36 Community Program Committees (CPCs) monthly meeting held in 12 communities.
- 36 Community Disaster Response Team (CDRTs) monthly meeting held in 12 communities.
- 18 Unit Disaster Response Team (UDRTs) monthly meeting held in 6 districts.

**CDI activities in Gopalganj and Rangpur:**

**Homestead Gardening training:**
Nutrition deficiency is a common problem among most of the people in Bangladesh, especially among those living in the villages. Due to poverty, illiteracy and lack of knowledge about food and nutrition, many farmers suffer from malnutrition, which especially affects newly married, pregnant, or lactating women. Most of the households in the CDI villages occupy some land surrounding their home, where they can easily establish a homestead gardening to supplement their nutritional requirements. These gardens are mainly managed by family labour and need low capital inputs and simple technology.

Under livelihood sector, Homestead Gardening training is being provided among all households in CDI working area. In this quarter 1192 households are provided training on homestead gardening in four communities of Gopalganj and Rangpur. Upazila Agriculture Officers were facilitators in conducting Homestead Gardening trainings. Households got knowledge from training on use of...
homestead land properly, cultivates homestead unused land for vegetable and fruits, use of organic fertilizer, family nutrition, cooking vegetable etc.

**Fruits bearing Saplings Distribution:**
As per CDI plan of action, Fruits bearing saplings and seeds are distributed among 1561 households for establishing an effective homestead garden in all households in CDI program area. Each household received four fruit bearing saplings of Lichi, Mango, Guava and Lemon based on availability of land in their homestead.

Malnutrition is a serious public health problem in Bangladesh. Micronutrient malnutrition affects more than 20 million children and women (at least 50% of this population) in Bangladesh. The diets of more than 85% of women and children in Bangladesh are inadequate in essential micronutrients such as vitamin A, largely because adequate amounts of foods containing these micronutrients are not available, or the household purchasing power for these foods is inadequate. Under the CDI programme, homestead gardening are being developed, which will increase availability and consumption of vitamin A–rich foods. The livelihoods sector encourages improvements in existing gardening practices, such as promotion of year-round gardening and increased varieties of fruits and vegetables. Adequate production and consumption of carotene-rich fruits and vegetables, especially green leafy vegetables, play an important role. Vegetables seeds are selected for homestead gardening with high nutritive value and be easy to grow.

The community workers and volunteers who are trained in various aspects of the CDI program are found to deliver services most effectively at the household levels in the CDI program area. However, the most important feature is the enthusiasm and eagerness of the local villagers, particularly the women are involved in household level homestead gardening.
Seed Distribution for Homestead gardening:

Women in rural areas manage homestead gardening, from sowing to harvesting and storing of seed. CDI program involved women in this activity to create new employment opportunities for unemployed women. In addition, women are generally the nutrition gatekeepers, i.e., the principal decision makers in procuring and preparing food for their children and family.

Malnutrition is a serious public health problem in Bangladesh. Vegetables and fruits are often the only reliable source of micronutrients in the family diet for poor households. The production of vegetables provides the household with direct access to important nutrients that may not be readily available or within their economic reach. Therefore, homestead gardening is a means to improve household food security.

In order to explore homestead gardening in CDI project area, CDI program distributed seeds among 1561 households for establishing low-cost vegetable gardens. Eight kinds of seeds distributed among 1561 family for Homestead gardening in Gopalganj and Rangpur Units to produce vegetable round the year. Each packet contains eight kinds of seeds (Karala, Gourd, Sweet Gourd, Cucumber, Red Amaranth, Gima Kalmi and Lady finger).

Establish Community Nursery:

CDI program started to establish four community nurseries at four communities in Gopalganj and Rangpur. In this quarter each nursery 10,000 BDT was given as 2nd installment for sowing seeds, fertilizers and irrigation. Community Nursery is a motivation to promote plantation and homestead garden for utilizing unused land at home and community. It is a mechanism to increase community product, access to quality agro seed, justice prices of means of agriculture etc. Skill development on agriculture issues for increasing income strength and creation multiple option for livelihood.

The community nursery grows indigenous plants, seeds, fruit bearing saplings and trees for planting in Community and for public sale. CDI program encourages the planting of indigenous plants and planting in community houses and homestead gardens by:

- Producing plants through Community Nursery for use in community.
- Providing plants at wholesale price rates to residents and schools.
- Providing planting knowledge to residents.
Basic Training for Adult Education Teachers:

Four days Basic training for Adult Literacy Teachers was organized at Natore from 20 April to 23 April 2013. Total 20 teachers from two districts participated in the training program. The training was organized with collaboration of Government Non-formal Education Bureau, Natore. This training was most important for the newly recruited adult literacy teachers. Adult literacy teachers were given instruction about adults and out-of-school youths in reading, writing Bangla, and math—skills to equip them to solve problems, and further their education. They will teach these subjects to learners 12 years of age and older who demonstrate the need to increase their skills in one or more of these subjects and to achieve national goal illiteracy free Bangladesh. Participants are taught in training classes about variety of learning styles and usually include large-group, small-group, and one-on-one instruction. Participants are taught how they will start their class, how they will teach, monitoring, evaluation etc. An assessment will be performed by the teacher before starting the adult literacy class. Teachers are required to formally evaluate learners periodically to determine their progress and potential for advancement to the next level. However, they informally evaluate their progress continuously.

Adult Literacy Class:

At present CDI programme is running 17 non-formal adult literacy (NFL) classes in two districts. Out of 17 NFL centre, Ten in Rangpur and seven in Gopalgonj. Three male NFL centre and fourteen female NFL centre attendance is good. 510 adults are taking lessons in these NFL centers. They are learning about reading and writing skills. Vast majority of them now can write their names in Bangla. They are also being trained on counting skills, addition and simple subtraction. In addition to that various social issues on health and hygiene are being discussed in the NFL classes. All the male centers are at night.

Male students have better performance in counting numbers and addition than the female students. Female students are performing better in learning information on social behavior, health and hygiene messages in the classes. The male students are more rigid in accepting messages on social transformation, but they are accepting the message after due explanation of the message. Generally speaking, female NFL centers are easier to manage than the male centers.
At present we have no adolescent NFL centre. Rangpur Unit will start one adolescent NFL centre from July and Gopalganj Unit will start one adolescent NFL centre from July. At this rate of progress, by the end of December 2013, we shall be able to complete non formal education of 1561 family.

**Material support to schools:**

In Gopalganj and Rangpur districts school education materials and sports materials have been distributed to the 6 schools in order to reduce drop out and encouraging the students to attend the schools regularly. Most of the schools on CDI community do not have sports materials and proper education materials. Children lose their attention in class and school and gradually they leave school. Education is the only gateway to enter the highway of Development. We hope that by the end of the CDI program our communities in two districts will learn enough from schools to enter the highway of development.

**Poor student Incentives:**

379 Poor students are given incentives @ 100 taka per month/student from January 2013. The objective is to increase enrollment and retention, delay marriage, reduce fertility, and increase employment. The cost of schooling is a significant factor that excludes the poor from education in Bangladesh. Expense is almost always cited as one of the main factors that prevent children from attending school – not just the cost of tuition, stationery, and books but also the opportunity cost of lost income. Mr. HN Ashikur Rahaman, MP, Mrs. Rehana Ashikur Rahaman, Board Member, BDRCS and Vice-Chairman, Rangpur RC Unit and Mr. Farid Ahmed, DC, Rangpur were present during distribution of poor student incentives in Rangpur.

**Training on Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness - PASSA:**

Training on Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness - PASSA was organized by CDI program of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) from 16th June to 20th June 2013 at Natore. 20 participants from CDI program participated in the training. Mr. Keramot Ali, Field Coordinator, CDI Program and Mr. Tariqul Islam, ULO, Kushtia facilitated the five days duration training program.
In opening ceremony of the training program held at TMSS Training centre, Natore. Highlights and output of trainings are discussed in the opening session. In closing ceremony of the training program held at TMSS training room while Mr. Nazmul Azam Khan, Director, CDI Program, BDRC and Mr. Shohel Sarker Babu, Secretary, Natore Unit were present in closing session. Mr. Nazmul Azam Khan highlighted about the impact of PASSA activities and safe shelter.

The objectives of the five days training are to increase participants’ understanding of PASSA concept and strengthen their facilitation skills as well as to review the PASSA tool kit used in Bangladesh with the intention of suggesting improvements/ challenges to the contents, tools and methodological approach.

The expected outcome is skilled and competent PASSA facilitators who are able to facilitate participatory community based activities on PASSA.

Observed outcome of the training are that the trainers increased participants’ understanding of the training objectives, program deliverables, the people to be involved, the capacity needed and criteria to be used in selecting community peoples who will be implemented PASSA activities in the communities. Through engaging with concepts participants developed their confidence and skills to facilitate participatory community discussion that will guide community groups through eight activities that enable the community progressively to do the following:

- develop awareness of shelter safety issues in their community
- identify hazards and vulnerabilities that create risk related to shelter
- identify and analyze causes of shelter vulnerability
- identify and priorities potential strategies to improve shelter safety
- make a plan to put those shelter safety strategies into place
- monitor and evaluate progress.

**Latrine Assessment:**

Latrine construction is an important work for ensuring 100% sanitation. CDI program completed assessment of household latrine and find out need of the communities. Community worker and community Volunteers were done the assessment by structured format. Household latrine assessment is done of 1561 households in all four communities in Rangpur and Gopalgonj districts. Total 1197
household had no hygienic latrine out of 1561 household. Community wise requirement of household latrine as per assessment is given bellow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Support</th>
<th>Rangpur (Total)</th>
<th>Gopalgonj (Total)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C1</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Household</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully unhygienic latrine (Superstructure + Ring slab)</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Super Structure only</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Pan Slab only</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Compost Pit Training:**

20 Community Volunteers are provided training on Compost Pits in Gopalgonj and Rangpur. Five Community Volunteers from each CDI community. The trainings are conducted by Upazila Agriculture Officers. It was mostly practical training and participants learnt about construction of Compost Pits. The participants will facilitate community people to construct Compost Pits and ensure waste management and hygienic environment. They will also help community people to construct Compost Pits.

The objective of encouraging Compost Pit preparation is to make better use of homestead wastes, debris and dung as compost on fields, with the impact of maintaining or increasing soil fertility and productivity, and to enhance the water retention-capacity of soils in drought-prone areas.

Raw cow dung, urine soaked litter, kitchen wastes, vegetables waste, house sweeping, etc. should be collected every day and poured into one component until full. After filling one chamber, it should be covered by plastering it with mud mixed with dung and the materials should be allowed to decompose. The successive chamber will be filled in the same way.

**RCRC day 2013 Observation:**

8 May 2013 Red Cross Red Crescent day was observed at Unit levels and 12 Community level under CDI Program. It was observed nicely with many events through participation of community people.
UEC, DPC, CPC, UDRT, CDRT volunteers and community people actively participated on this event at all 6 units and 12 Community level. Activities performed on this event were as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Name of Events</th>
<th>Community-1</th>
<th>Community-2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Gopalgonj | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Art competition for students  
- Essay competition  
- Flag hosting | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Football play | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Football play |
| Rangpur | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Art competition for students  
- Essay competition  
- Flag hosting | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Football play | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Football play |
| Nilphamari | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Flag hosting | - Rally  
- Discussion session | - Rally  
- Discussion session |
| Natore  | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Flag hosting | - Rally  
- Discussion session | - Rally  
- Discussion session |
| Kushtia | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Flag hosting | - Rally  
- Discussion session | - Rally  
- Discussion |
| Magura  | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Flag hosting | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Football play | - Rally  
- Discussion session  
- Football play |

Through observing the RCRC day, it is possible to increase the knowledge of RCRC principles and values as well as practice of non-discrimination and social harmony among all people in targeted communities.

The color full Rally are organized at Units level and community level. Unit Executive Committee members, Unit disaster response team, community disaster response team volunteers, community peoples and staffs of BDRCS participated on rally. Approximately more than 200 peoples participated of the Rally at Units and Community level. The Rally moved to different roads in the respective district at Unit level as well as whole village covered by rally at community level and also brings many color full festoon, paper cap,
sound system, banner and decoration. The participants raise loudly slogan on day themes of RCRC movement. Others events also are nicely organized of RCRC day. Such as: Discussion session, Art competition for students, Essay competition, Flag hosting, Food distribution among patients of hospital and sports.

CDI Program Follow up Activities in Magura, Kushtia, Natore and Nilphamari:

The follow up activities of CDI program is going on at eight communities in Magura, Kushtia, Natore and Nilphamari districts for sustaining program impacts and positive changes in vulnerable communities. District wise follow up activities are given bellow:

Progress of Follow up activities in April to June’13

Major activities or highlights in four follow up districts Magura, Kushtia, Natore and Nilphamari:

- 68 courtyard sessions on Women Empowerment and Leadership were organised at CDI communities in Nilphamari, Natore, Kushtia and Magura districts. 1270 participants attended in these sessions.
- 62 courtyard sessions on MCH were organised at CDI communities in Nilphamari, Natore, Kushtia and Magura districts. 874 participants attended in these sessions.
- 12 poor pregnant mothers received cash support @ tk. 2000/- each from MCH revolving fund as a part of nutritional support and safe delivery.
- 65 courtyard sessions on CBHFA were organised at CDI communities in Nilphamari, Natore, Kushtia and Magura districts. 984 participants attended in these sessions.
- 56 courtyard sessions on PHAST were organised at CDI communities in Nilphamari, Natore, Kushtia and Magura districts. 712 participants attended in the sessions.
- 66 courtyard sessions on DRR were organised at CDI communities in Nilphamari, Natore, Kushtia and Magura districts. 758 participants attended in the sessions.
- Income Generating Activities (IGA) monitoring is going on among 1334 families in four districts.
- Income monitoring is going on tailoring trained 52 beneficiaries, 16 trained community activists on machine mechanics, 16 trained community activists on veterinary in four districts.

District wise progress:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S L #</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Progress this Quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Livelihood &amp; Skill Development</td>
<td>Magura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Women empowerment session</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Income Generating Activities (IGA) income monitoring:

CDI program has established innovative development model that helped poor households to improve livelihood through different Income Generation Activities (IGA). IGA income monitoring is very important for sustainability of IGA project. During reporting period 1334 HHs’ IGA were monitored. Monitoring findings showed good progress of beneficiaries’ economic development. Some IGAs produced better results. Some IGAs are sustainable having diversified their activities and generating considerable income. IGA training skills is being successfully used by IGA beneficiaries. From the profit of IGA, Beneficiaries started to deposit some amount of money at their bank accounts as savings in order to face future disaster or any other necessity. All beneficiaries who received IGA grants are happy as they are earning money and using for their welfare in all respects.
Courtyard Session on Women Empowerment:

In reporting period, 68 courtyard meeting held at community level in Nilphamari, Natore, Kushtia and Magura on Women Empowerment and Leadership. More than 1462 Women, Girls and male participants attended in courtyard sessions. Community Workers conducted the awareness sessions and discussed among participants on the following issues:

1. Bad effect of early marriage.
2. Bad effect of dowry
3. Gender equality
5. Women harassment in family.

Blood Centre Services:

Natore Red Crescent Blood Centre is re activated with the support of CDI program. It has been providing services to the distressed people in Natore district. It is creating awareness among the general population about safe blood transfusion. Natore Red Crescent Blood Centre is government registered and it collected blood from Red Crescent youth as voluntary donation and then distributed those to the poor people. Among the recipients, major people were poor and distress.

From April to June 2013 total 208 bags of blood were collected and 204 bags were distributed among needy and poor patients. During blood collection, following tests were properly done:

i) Hepatitis-B
ii) Hepatitis-C
iii) HIV/AIDS
iv) Syphilis.

Besides blood collection and distribution, blood centre staffs are engaging blood grouping among school and college students. In total 426 persons’ blood grouping are done during this quarter. Awareness campaign is also conducted in favor of voluntary blood donation. The blood centre is trying to make it sustainable.

Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA):

Main objective of CBHFA is access to the emergency first aid services provided by community volunteer in rural community. From April to June’13, a total of 65 CBHFA sessions are conducted in the four follow up districts. These are 16 sessions at Nilphamari, 16 sessions at Magura, 16 sessions
at Kushtia and 17 sessions at Natore. Through these sessions, 1276 persons received health awareness. Total 48 trained volunteers provided first aid services to 208 people. Providing CBHFA services through community volunteers have been very effective in reducing health related problems and any complications after injury or for any other causes.

**MCH courtyard meeting:**

24 trained volunteers on MCH conducted courtyard meetings on MCH issues at 8 communities of CDI program area. MCH knowledge and services reached at door steps through providing health counseling and courtyard meetings. During reporting time total 62 MCH sessions are conducted in 4 follow up districts of CDI Program. These are 15 sessions at Nilphamari, 16 sessions at Magura, 15 sessions at Kushtia and 16 sessions at Natore. 12 poor pregnant mothers received MCH cash support for safe delivery.

**CPC Meeting:**

During the reporting period 12 CPCs in six districts held total 36 monthly meetings on CDI program activities. Monthly meetings of community program committee (CPC) are effective for smoothly implementing CDI Program activities at community level. Each CPC is organizing and facilitating monthly meeting at their respective community regularly as well as discussing various important issues in the meeting. Each and every member spontaneously participated in this meeting as well as CPC meeting contributed effective participation of community people for CDI program implementation at community level.

**Unit Disaster Response Training (UDRT) monthly meeting:**

During the reporting period six UDRTs in six districts held monthly meeting on various issues & UDRT activities. Total 18 meetings were organized in 6 districts in this quarter. In the meeting, UDRTs members re-viewed their progress and prepared their plan for next month. As a result UDRT volunteers are actively participating in voluntary services especially for emergency response at unit level. They are also communicating with communities. They also organized in formal coaching for their skill developments.
Community Information Centre (CIC):
Eight Community information centres in follow up districts are running with well functioning. Community library and TV were running with good performance. Community people are reading books and gradually increasing numbers of readers. Community people are learning through watching TV about life oriented information. CICs are enhancing access to information for rural population as well as generate awareness on various social issues and problems, social dialogue and community consultations through community information centre.

CDI Coordination Meeting:
A Coordination Meeting was held on 21st June 2013 at TMSS training centre, Natore. The coordination meeting was held together with all concerned Unit Secretary, Officers from NHQ and IFRC and Unit level staffs of CDI Program. The following agenda were discussed in the meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No.</th>
<th>Discussion Issue:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Unit wise CDI program report, Challenges, Lesson learn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CDI Phase out strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Reporting and Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Activity Review and Planning (Six months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Administrative and Logistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Monthly Matrix for July</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monitoring:
Monitoring is an important part for implementing the program and keeps the program activities in right direction. Program monitoring is one of the major factors to implement the program with quality and in time. As a part of program monitoring Mr. Nazmul Azam Khan, Director, CDI program, BDRCS, Unit Secretaries and Unit Executive Members visited CDI program activities in CDI Program area under Gopalganj, Rangpur, Kushtia, Magura, Nilphamari and Natore Units regularly. During their visit, progress of CDI program are discussed with concern staffs & volunteers and provided important guidance on CDI program activities for implementing in time. After monitoring visit, feed backs are discussed with different level as required.
Mr. Nazmul Azam Khan, Director, CDI program, BDRCS, also visited all four follow up districts to orient about rules and responsibilities of CPC and extension of CDI monitoring up to December 2013. During his visit, he discussed with Unit Committee, DPC and CPC members about sustainability of CDI program and creates Community Development Fund for running CDI program at community level after phased out.

Visitor:
Ms Ghotai Ghazialam, AMEE Regional Manager, American Red Cross and Mr. Sajit Menon, PRU Coordinator, IFRC-Bangladesh Delegation visited CDI Program in Nilphamari Unit on June 2013. They visited Jolipara community, UDRT and Units Executive Committee. During their visit Mr. Assaduzzaman Noor, MP visited CDI programme and held meeting with Ms Ghotai, Mr. Sajit and Unit Executive Committee. All of them highly satisfied to see the socio-economical development of the poor people.

Mr. HN Ashikur Rahaman, MP and Mr. Farid Ahmed, DC, Rangpur visited CDI Program activities under Rangpur Unit on June 2013.

Challenges:
Some challenges are faced at community level. These are follows below:

- Community people and CPC members are giving pressure to construct CIC at Community.
- Community people were less interested to participate in awareness raising program without any tangible benefits. They want to receive asset from CDI program of BDRCS.
- Delay of Starting WATSAN activity.
- Political unrest, especially Hortal, Stike and unavoidable situation delayed normal activities.
- Some community donated land for CIC, so community people were asking to construct CIC.
Recommendations/suggestions:

In accordance with learning if it is possible to enhance the following areas, there are some recommendations for smoothly running Program activities at community level as well as these are matter can be considering for program in future. These are following below:

- To organize effective training for capacity building of staffs in especially M&E issues.
- We should start for tender announcement of CIC as soon as possible.
- Most essential some documents should print of CDI Program Such as: Guideline of courtyard meeting, Guideline of Phase out strategy, Leaflet, as well as IEC materials.

Conclusion:

CDI program has completed successfully all the activities as scheduled within this quarter and interventions have been started to achieve program goal through reducing socio-economic vulnerability of the targeted households. Community people realized that CDI program support is very helpful for their development. In fact, finally it is assured that CDI program is being implemented at the community level as per plan of action. On the other hand this program will contribute to make concrete bridge among other stakeholder for sustainable development.