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Assistance to Local communities on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh

INCEPTION REPORT



APRIL
2008



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Part I

Project Progress

1.0 Climate Change & Disaster in Bangladesh: An issue that needs immediate attention

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster prone countries of the world. Geographical location and affects of carbon emission from developed countries put Bangladesh into a more vulnerable situation towards natural hazards.

In the year of 2007, Bangladesh suffered 2 major floods and a super cyclone – Sidr. It was found in many studies that the disasters are very much linked with the continuous change of climate and man made hazards that are product of developed countries’ ‘Development Activities’. However, effects of these so called developments are suffered by the poor, especially by the Bangladeshi poor.

It has been observed in recent years that continuous climate change events are playing roles in increasing poverty, food insecurity, diseases, and death tolls and affecting many other development issues. It has been said by the experts like Climate Change Cell of DoE & UNDP, that “global warming will continue for many decades, resulting in dangerous consequences for poor countries like Bangladesh, depending on respective vulnerability contexts. Impacts of climate variability, change and extreme events will lead to severe stress on overall development, environment and human well-being, for decades ahead”¹

Therefore, it is important for Bangladesh to understand the facts and causes of climate change and answer “why” and “how” questions to minimize the future losses and generate adaptation options for livelihoods for Bangladesh to survive. In response to this urgency, “the Danish government launched ‘Climate and Development Action Programme’ in 2005 in order to ensure that climate change concerns will be incorporated into Danish development assistance where relevant, which obviously also includes the country development program in Bangladesh”²

The project, **Assistance to local Community on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh**, is an effort of Danish government through Embassy of Denmark and ActionAid Bangladesh to understand the future problems of the communities and also to generate adaptation options and suggest alternative livelihood options for the communities in order to have security in food and livelihoods. The project, in the process of generating adaptation options, will bank on the existing coping practices of the communities and with that, expert’s knowledge will be ‘blended in’.

¹ *Changing the way we develop: Dealing with Disasters and Climate Change in Bangladesh – a publication by Climate Change Cell funded by DFID, UNDP and is under Department of Environment.*

² *Draft Project Document of Assistance to local Community on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh; 2008- 2009*

2.0 Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction: an effort by Embassy of Denmark, GoB, ActionAid Bangladesh & partners

The project activities began in January 2008 with signing of a contract between Danish government & ActionAid Bangladesh. It should be mentioned here that ActionAid Bangladesh works through local partners and has 35 Development Areas (DA) in Bangladesh. As per policy of AAB to implement the project, the first step was to select the partners of the project areas. Here that the project districts were pre defined to meet the Objective 1³ of the project. The pilot districts for intervention are

1. Sirajganj for Flood & river erosion
2. Naogaon for Drought
3. Patuakhali for Sea level raise, Cyclone and salinity

2.1 Right Person for the right job at the right time

Partner Selection

Considering organizational capacity, previous experiences in CCA-DRR field, knowledge and understand of the locality, and also considering their existing organizational policies, AAB selected 3 local partners to for the intervention of the project activities

1. Manob Mukti Sangastha (MMS) for Sirajganj. It should be noted that AAB has previously worked with MMS and found them excellent in such types of intervention.
2. DABI Moulik Unnion Sangastah for Naogaon. It is a new area and new partner for AAB
3. SPEEDTrust for Patuakhali. It should be noted here that, SPEEDTrust is a DA Partner of AAB in Patuakhali District. The partnership is for a period 10 years in order to build capacity of the organisation in development sectors.

Recruitment

After selection of partners, AAB and Partners recruited field based staff in the following positions

- a. Project Coordinator – 1
- b. Project Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction – 2
- c. Project officer, Livelihoods - 1
- d. Project Officer, Advocacy – 1
- e. Project Officer, Research – 1
- f. Project Officer, Accounts & Finance – 1

The position of Project Officer - Research for Patuakhali region is yet to fill. Moreover, at AAB level, due to shortage of expertise in the CCA field, the position of Project Manager & Programme Officer - Advocacy are still vacant and are expected to fill by 15 June 2008. Currently, Theme Leader of Risk Reduction Theme is acting as the Project Manager.

³ To pilot selected climate change adaptation options in integrated manner in three districts, prone to flood, sea level raise and drought in Bangladesh for lesson learning.

2.2 Intervention Area Selection: A Critical Task for the Project

This is a project with the objective of finding an efficient and expandable adaptation options by communities (communities will conduct PVA and identify their own vulnerability and adaptation options) and sharing it at national and international level. Therefore, selecting villages from 3 districts and piloting the project objectives was critical as incorrect selection can mislead the entire intervention and affect in project outcomes. Considering the facts, CCA-DRR team considered the following factors while selecting the villages:

General Selection Criteria:

- Vulnerability towards disasters
- Scale / frequency of disasters
- Poverty (the poorest are the most vulnerable towards disaster and the village with high poverty were given preference during selection)
- Existing coping mechanism
- Minority
- Violence against Women & Children
- Economic Condition
- Religious issues
- Early Warning System
- Livelihood Diversity
- Communication Situation
- Education status
- Existing AAB working area (DA area) – villages that were covered by AAB's existing projects were left out during selection unless there was any special cases.

Considering the above criteria, 5 Upazilas of 3 Districts (2 upazila from each district except Patuakhali) has been selected. These are

- a. Shajadpur & Belkuchi Upazilas of Sirajganj District
- b. Poursha & Sapahara Upazilas of Naogaon District
- c. Kalapara Upazila of Patuakhali District. Bara baishdia Union of Galachipa Upazila was being visited during the selection, however considering the communication restrain and local administrative issues (Barabaishdia Union is administrated by Golachipa Upazila Parishad, however, the people casts their vote in kalapara Upazila Parishad), it was decided by the project staffs of both the AAB and partner that it is more convenient to select just Kalapara as the project area as all the issues can be observed in this one upazila.

During the village selection, the CCA-DRR team spoke to different UP Chairman, conducted formal and informal FGD, observed the current situation in light of the above criteria. It should be noted that before finalizing the villages, the CCA-DRR team sat with the Theme Leader and other members of Risk Reduction Theme of AAB to share their views, observation results and provided justifications on their recommendation.

Table1: Village selection at a glance

Name of district	Name of Upazilla	Name of Union	Selected villages	Special criteria for village selection			
Sirajganj	Shahjadpur	Kojjuri	Char kojuri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain & low land; • Monsoon flood (flash in nature), • River Erosion; • Relatively established Agriculture; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority depends on wage labor; • Migrated people from the adjacent village; • Seasonal Migration in flood period; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Warning Initiative taken by other Development agency for flood. 	
			Bhat deghulia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly formed char (not more than 6 yrs) & Sandy soil; • Land owner lives outside the village; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handloom Labor; • Established Agriculture practice in the adjacent village; • Monsoon flood & River erosion; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total unemployment during flood period; • drinking water scarcity during flood due to submerging tubewells; • hard to reach area 	
	Belkuchi	Rajapur	Charkonabari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Char forming for last 20 yrs and unfertilized soil; • Flood almost every year, • River Erosion (decreased after the establishment of dam under Jamuna Multi purpose Bridge building), 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tornado (Kalboishakhi), • Heat wave; • Main Occupation Handloom labor; • No employment opportunity during flood period; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of CLP; • Relatively established agriculture to the nearby village; • Opportunity to see the effect of flood on handloom owners. 	
			Baghbaora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively established char; • Monsoon flood, • Tornado (Kalboishakhi), 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat wave • Agriculture relatively settled; • Labor Migration; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • majority engaged in handloom labor; • Women work in thread wheel at home. 	
	Naogaon	Porsha	Ganguria	Baharul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No irrigation coverage and no Boro cultivation, • Landless majority, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agricultural and non agricultural wage labour • Ethnic diversity (Santal and Bengali-Muslim community). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seasonal migration, • scarcity of drinking water,
				Poshchi m deulia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial Boro cultivation with irrigation facilities, • landless majority, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agricultural wage labor and share cropper, • seasonal migration, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnic diversity (Santal and Bengali-Muslim community).
Shapahar		Tilna	Haripur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No irrigation coverage and no Boro cultivation • Vast cultivation of watermelon using irrigation from pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coexistence of both landless and landowner • Majority are agricultural wage labor, share cropper or small farmer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of ethnic community (Santal) who own agricultural land 	

			Babupara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boro cultivation with irrigation facilities • Cultivation of Aman/Aush even in drought due to irrigation coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coexistence of both landless and landowner • Landless are basically agricultural wage labor, share cropper or small farmer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast cultivation of watermelon using irrigation from pond • Presence of ethnic community (Santal) who own agricultural land
Potuakhali	Kolapara	Latachapali	Gora Amkhola Para	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclone • Salinity (extreme) • Cyclone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rakhain Community's migration due to reduced livelihood options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture options, now days getting reduced due to man made causes
			Khajura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea level rise • Salinity • Cyclone • Fish port • Bio diversity (part of Sundarban) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of social forestry • Agricultural practice inside the dam • Large fisher community living outside the dam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour migration from outside • Presence of early warning system • No development activity
	Kolapara	Lalua	Chari para	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe riverbank erosion • Salinity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclone • Fishing and agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrated community
			Pasur Bunia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salinity • Cyclone • river erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious exploitation of the poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has a non workable sluice gate in the village that is causing the problem of salinity for the area

2.3 Foundation Training: Strengthening the basics before going into action

The project arranged a Foundation Training for all the project staffs including AAB Programme Officers from 11th May to 15th May 2008. The objectives of the training were as follows:

- To orient the project staffs about the Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction issue
- To understand the linkage between poverty, disaster & climate change
- To understand the Climate Change Impacts on Bangladesh and how gender issues are addressed within the issue
- To bridge the linkage between CCA & DRR,
- To understand different adaptation and mitigation process and why and how NAPA is important
- The approaches and procedures of the proposed intervention of the project including briefing of the project activities
- Prepare a work plan for next 3 months intervention considering intervention areas.
- To incorporate Rights and Rights Based Approach (RBA) in climate change agenda (linking food security with Climate Change)
- To implement the Reflect approach and its implications within the project though Gonogobeshona

3.0 Overall Management of the Project

The project is at its inception phase and it is important to setup a methodology or a monitoring system to ensure transparency and accountability and commitment of project staff as well as staffs of the partners' side. However, this report will only focus on the activities that are already been conducted to began the project.

3.1 Finance & Admin

As per project activities, there are good numbers of issues related to procurement that needs a specialized capacity, well defined & transparent financial system. Therefore, during the selection of project partner, partners' finance and admin policy, procurement policy assessment has been checked by programme & finance team of AAB.

So far, from the start of the project, some procurement activates has been done by both the partners and AAB (a report is attached herewith). From the Admin perspective, all the programs and other issues are running under the administration rules of the implementation partners. The procurement policy of the project suggests that the focal person from AAB and 2 persons from the community (beneficiary) will be present during procurement. These 2 persons will be present from the very beginning of the procurement and will also monitor installation activities, where appropriate.

3.2 Programme

Due to late start of the project activities, the project is a bit behind of schedule. However, for smooth intervention of programme activities, CCA-DDR project staffs are taking some measures. These are

- **Inception Meeting:**

The project felt the need of conducting inception meeting at the district level as a part of sharing the project objectives with the District Commissioner, Upazila Nirbahi officer (UNO), UP Chairmen, Media representatives, and other GO and NGO officials. The reason of this coordination meeting is to inform the activities and objectives of the project and how the participants are involved in it; to build their participation and ownership. Participation and ownership will enhance their interest in the project thus coordination at that level will be easier and less time consuming. So, though the project is behind of its schedule, through properly and timely coordination, the project is expecting to reduce the time gap.

- **Community Based Baseline Survey:**

The objective of baseline survey is to collect detailed information of a specific / pre selected area and thereafter, analyze the information into statistical format. These statistical data are then used by projects to decide future intervention. This project also decided to conduct a baseline survey with the intention of knowing the people of the villages. Previously, it was planned that the project would conduct a tradition baseline survey using a questionnaire methodology. However, later AAB team discussed with experts and finally decided to use PVA tools for baseline survey through which,

vulnerability, wealth ranking, poverty, population, livelihood etc will be shown visually. It should be noted that this would be first attempt in development sector to conduct complete baseline survey using PVA and it will be a participatory process including all the primary and secondary stakeholders. Using traditional methodology would take the project about a month to conduct the baseline survey whereas, using the PVA tools, the baseline can be done within maximum of 2 weeks.

Please note that baseline will be done by the community where AAB and the partners will facilitate the process. The approach will help in empowering the community by including them during identification of the hazards and needs. The approach will also promote a 'bottom up approach' as well as 'ensure supply of service by generating continuous demand'. The PVA process will help Gonogobeshona by providing a guideline to identify their future needs and generate future project activities.

3.3 Reporting: Mirror of accountability and transparency

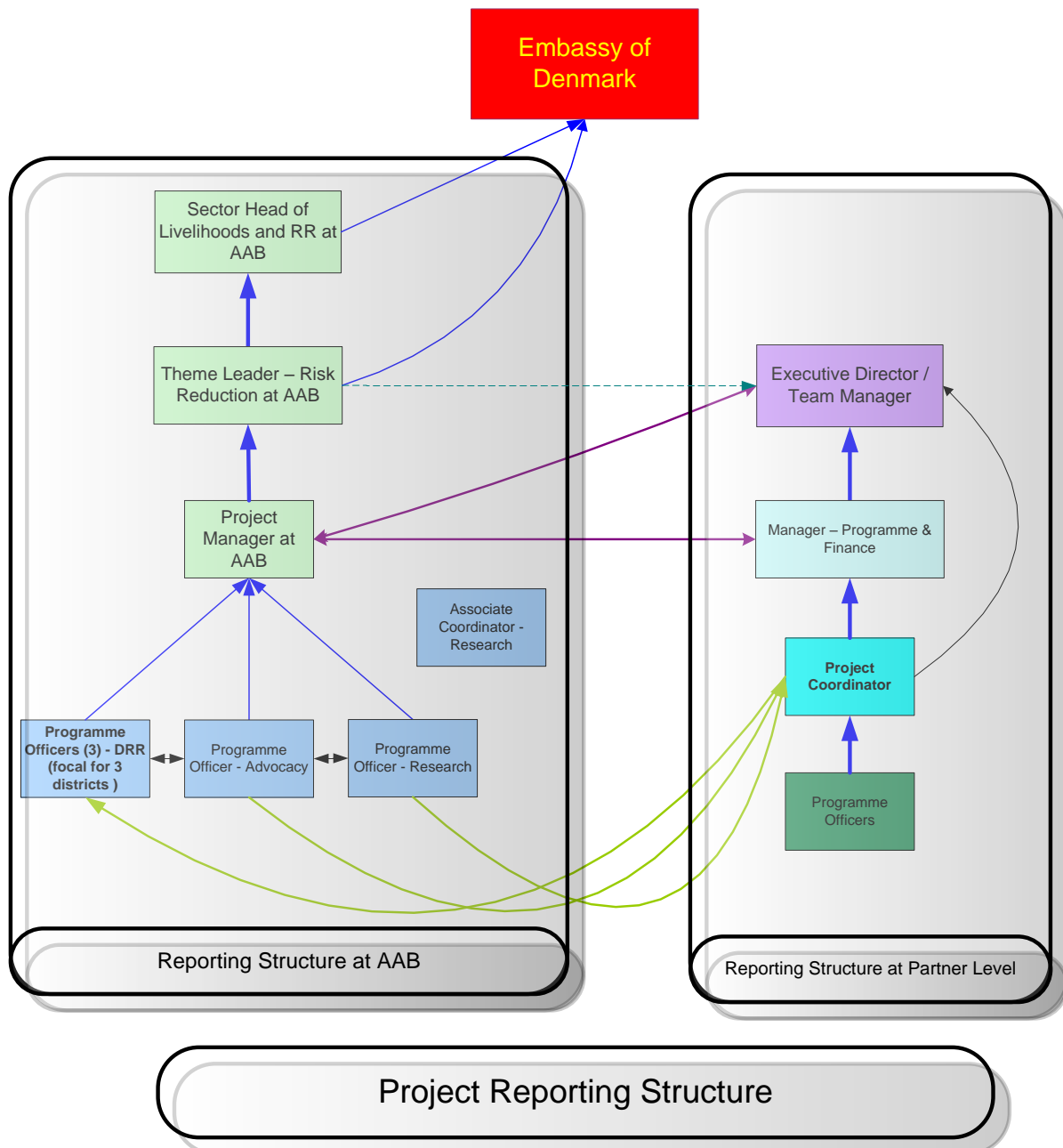
Reporting is a mechanism that creates accountability and transparency in project activities that are done by the based staffs. A good reporting and communication mechanism/ structure can also create responsibility and commitment among the staffs. Therefore, AAB has set up a reporting system / mechanism for the project to run smoothly and also to monitor the activities according to the project plan and budget line.

Before setting up the system, the project staffs were being provided with the Project Organogram by Theme Leader of the Risk Reduction Theme, The reporting structure of the total project is shown at the next page.

3.4 Reporting Time Line:

As per project requirements, the partners were being asked to submit a quarterly activity plan and break it down to monthly basis. The monthly activity plan again, will be scaled down in weeks and days. The document should be submitted to concerned program officer of AAB who will finalize it in consultation with other project officers and the Project Manager. Each work plan must be submitted to the concerned Program Officer of AAB at the last week of each month. The work plan will be followed by an Activity plan or Progress report and should be produced the first week of each month. Thereafter, maintaining a 'self scoring system' (a tentative scoring system is attached in annex) an activity report will be generated along with expenditure. The process will help AAB to monitor the project implementation in light of meeting the dead line and timely intervention of activities. The process will also allow AAB to monitor the fund flow according to the activities.

In another discussion with the Sector Head and other Members of sector, a timeline has been finalized for quarterly report and half yearly report to the Royal Embassy of Denmark. The tentative date of submitting the half yearly report of the project is 15th of July 2008.



Reporting and Communication Organogram of the CCA-DRR Project

3.5 Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation

This project is ‘for the people’ and will be implemented ‘by the people’. Therefore, the project activities are designed and will be designed (activities that will be recommended and designed on the findings of GBT) such a way where community participation is a must especially in

- **Procurement:** the partners will facilitate the procurement for the community people (i.e. purchasing materials for homestead raising), however the process will include at least 2 development partners (beneficiary) from the community to ensure the quality & quantity of materials.

- **Conducting PVA:** it was also learned from previous experiences that Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) can not be conducted by the project staffs; it should be conducted by the community and will be a continuous process. Therefore, the process would be conducted, monitored and owned by the community people. The process would also include LG, UP Members and members of civil society while using some of the tools (cross checking the list of vulnerability list) to ensure proper Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E).

Part II

Future Plan

4.0 What's next? What to do?

An obvious question for any project is ‘What is next?’ or ‘‘What should we do?’’, or even, ‘How to do?’. The answer for this particular project is simple. ‘We stick with the action plan of intervention for next 3 months (June to August 2008)’. By the end of these 3 months, the project would have recommendations from the community through REFLECT Circle / Gonogobesona for further intervention. However, the project should also critically analyze the risks factors such as

- A poorly conducted baseline can disrupt the entire project and its output
- Selection of Gonogobeson Members is critical
- Disaster events such as Sirajganj District gets flooded almost every year and it starts at the end of June or at the beginning of July and cyclone usually hits Patuakhali District during the period of April-May to October-November.

4.1 Revision of activities & Project Document

AAB team is currently reviewing the project documents for breaking down the activities and allocating budget accordingly. However, it should be mentioned here that this project has activities based on the outcome of REFLECT Circle / Gonogobesona, and these cannot be pre set by the project. Therefore, budgeting for these activities is also not possible. Therefore, it is recommended that a justifiable and flexible amount should be kept as ‘Unallocated Budget’ for every district and should also keep options of changing the project document as required to make it a ‘Live Document’ of the project.

4.2 Activity Plan

According to project proposal, the project should have started on January 1, 2008 where as it started in March 1, 2008. 5 months has been gone so far of the project. As mentioned earlier, the project started in 1st March 2008. The reasons for late inception of the project are

- Late approval of NGOAB of fund transfer
- late signing of the contract with partners
- Recruitment of Project staffs including project manager
- Remoteness of the project intervention areas

According to the proposal and considering the late start of project activities, the project is still at its inception phase. However, the project is depended on a number of variables (depended activities / interlinked activities) and especially, on disaster timing. For example, flood hits Sirajganj district usually from July to September. Therefore, some of the activities, such as Early Warning Dissemination should be done before that time. Considering the facts and for the project to monitor itself and by the donor, an activity plan has been attached herewith in the annex.

Here, Output and key activity wise status, action taken, future implementation plan, and possible limitations / constrains are being discussed

Table 2: Output and Activity wise status, constraints and Remarks:

Output (According to Project Proposal)	Key activities	Action	Limitations/ Constraints	Remarks
Output 1.1: Sustainable, cost effective and expandable flood EW dissemination system in flood pilot areas.	Feasibility study, training for project partners-TA from BDPC and CEGIS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacted with BDPC and CEGIS and they agreed to work together; • Developing of ToR ongoing; • Expected to start the work within the June, 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the present Bangladesh Govt. declared not to start any project before getting NGOAB clearance, so it was not possible to start the activity earlier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Team is trying to catch up the time and will start the activity before up coming flood • The success of the activity depends on BDPC and CEGIS. • Support from IWM may be needed.
	Developing flood EW messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After BDPC & CEGIS starting the work. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDPC and CEGIS will jointly make a Sustainable, cost effective and expandable EW system.
	Establishing dissemination system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After BDPC & CEGIS starting the work. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dissemination system must be cost effective, expandable and understandable to community.
	Training on EW dissemination,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected to be done after contract signing with BDPC and CEGIS (June 2008). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the next flood is expected to coming soon at Sirajganj, the activity may be hampered for delay start. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer will be trained by BDPC after they develop EW messages for community
	Establishing volunteer's team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Team at Sirajganj established (the total number of volunteers is 20 of which male 12 and female 8; 5 volunteers from each of the selected villages of Sirajganj) • By 2nd Week of June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer teams at patuakhali district (for rescuing & first aid) are yet to form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The volunteers will be from community and will not be AAB or Partner staff.

Output (According to Project Proposal)	Key activities	Action	Limitations/ Constraints	Remarks
	First aid and rescue for volunteer team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to be done by June 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	Training of volunteers on Hazards, risk & vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2008 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 day training will be given to the volunteers before rescuing and first aid training.
	Conducting lesson learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to be done by October 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAB will supervise the activity and BDPC & CEGIS is responsible for that.
Output 1.2: Increased resilience of livelihood and adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable HHs	Increasing homestead plinth above the current and likely flood level (thus protecting homestead based livelihoods, reduction of displacement and reduction of asset loss.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to start from October 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Though it is described in the project proposal (PP) to start the work from April 2008, it I was not possible as late clearance from the NGOAB. As per PP a total number of 405 homestead plinths will be raised, but as it is totally a community driven and participatory project the number might varied. Recent Price Hike may affect on total number. The option may be changed as per need of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Implementing options will be revealed from the Gonogobeshona so the options may be changed. For addressing drought situation and high barind tract, Naogaon is not suitable for plinth raising. If the option changed in terms of number and other possibilities then it will be informed to DANIDA and if they agreed then the budget may be allocated for the changed options.
	Distribution of livestock (only to the landless and FHHs), to diversify their livelihoods			
	Establishing seed banks and seedbeds (at community or HH level) at each of the raised homesteads			
	Installing locally flood safe HH water and sanitation facilities			
	Providing financial and technical input to the most vulnerable HH for building flood resistant houses, cowshed and fodder-shed (where homestead is not possible to raise).			

Output (According to Project Proposal)	Key activities	Action	Limitations/ Constraints	Remarks
	Providing skills and finance to cage fishing, house building, para-vet through community to community contact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to start from August 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The finance support has limitations due to price hike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of beneficiary may be shortened due to price hike or high cost material.
	Providing essential health care, river ambulance and rescue boats – one in each union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to start from the April of next year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific budget allocation for the activity. 	
	Publishing IEC materials illustrating information on CC and adaptation for adults, PWDs and children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of IEC materials is going on. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The materials will be developed understandable to the target group.
	Conduct feasibility study and training for partners on livestock and crop Insurance (AIDMI support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to start from October and end by December 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new activity in terms of Bangladesh. if we can't do the project with AIDMI, the project will have to search another organization from BD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity if done successfully will help to reduce the vulnerability of poor people of the country.
Output 2.1: Integrated planning capacity improved among CSO, UP and Upazila based line departments to include CCA and DRR concerns.	Developing of Training Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to start from July and end by September 2008. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experts on this field from GO and NGO will be hired for developing the materials.
	3 days long training in each of the Upazila on CC once a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to complete it by November. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local stakeholders are expected to be familiar with the climate change issues.
	Producing policy briefs from the findings of Gonogobeshona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to start from February and end by April 2009. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy briefs must include the needs of the community.
Output 3.1: Important studies for poor people's adaptation with CCA	Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of likely national scale flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2008 to March 2009. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The studies will be conducted through renowned organization/persons of

Output (According to Project Proposal)	Key activities	Action	Limitations/ Constraints	Remarks
if expanded to national scales are conducted for lesson learning and sharing with national and international actors.	proofing options			Bangladesh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ian of DANIDA may be asked for study of the EIA.
	National scale cost-benefit analysis of the provision of flood early warning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August – December 2009. 		
	Identification of expandable (national level and affordable) and sustainable approach (es) for EW for local communities. (Parameters of flood danger level and warning messages for key livelihood groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January – September 2009. 		
	Impact assessment of the piloted CCA options on people's livelihood resilience six months after the big flood following project phase out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October – December 2009. 		
Output 3.2: Individuals from vulnerable community have gained research skills and are engaged in research on flood RR and CCA for local CAPs, advocacy and providing feedback to the implementation of the piloting (output 2)	Establishing union GBT (2male and 2 female) in 6 unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team will be formed after conducting a participatory baseline survey within June 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GBT is the heart of this project, so a well defined and participatory GB guideline will be developed.
	Providing training for GBT members and designing longitudinal adaptation monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2008 June – December 2008. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing yearly gathering and sharing meeting exposure visit of the GBT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After establishing the GBT. July – September 2008. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community people will have the opportunity to explore the experience and knowledge.

Output (According to Project Proposal)	Key activities	Action	Limitations/ Constraints	Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing periodic articles Newsletter on GB findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be produced quarterly 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each newsletter is expected to be addressed by different issue of climate change.
	Formation of Lokokendra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per budget and PP three Lokokendra will be formed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to geographical location and distance among the villages, 3 LKs are not sufficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LKs may be designed as per project need. Before the project phase out, the POs will be asked to make a strategy to carry on the LKs even after the project period.
Output 4.1: Lessons from the project are systematically shared with relevant line ministry's CC focal points, FFWC, CPP, DANIDA and Climate Change Cell	Producing policy briefs from the findings of Gonogobeshona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2008 – December 2009 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community voice and need will be addressed here.
	Organize seminars at district and national level for advocacy and long term follow-up through appropriate advocacy process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2008 – December 2009 		
Output 4.2: Learning from the project is shared in the COP 15	Learning from the project is shared in the COP 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By December 2009. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total project will be evaluated by this time.

Notes

- The present Government of Bangladesh declared not to start any project prior to get approval from the NGO Affairs Bureau, so the project initially started two months late in March after getting the clearance for NGOAB
- It has been indicated in project proposal that 'Early Warning System' is only for Sirajganj and therefore, training should be provided only for the volunteers of the district. However, first aid and rescue training should be provided to the volunteer of Sirajganj by BDRCS, especially for Patuakhali district.

- After the Sidr 2007, it has been predicted by the environmental specialist that more cyclones will hit Bangladesh in near future; frequently & with high intensity. Therefore, early warning in coastal region (Patuakhali) should receive especial attention. Moreover, Japan International Cooperation Agency has agreed to be in the advisory committee and it will give project an opportunity to use and disseminate the information for early warning of cyclone.
- The activities should have flexibility / options of changing as per requirement of community, which will be determined on the basis of Gonogobeshona findings. The project is 'Community Based' and the nature of activity should reflect that communities have a role to play with in the project.
- It has been indicated in the proposal that a total number of 710 HH will be covered within the budget line. However, it seems bit unclear regarding the allocation of HHs among the districts. Although it has been mentioned in the project proposal that 305 HH (Sirajganj) and 100 HH (at coastal) would be raised. However, it has not been clearly defined about the rest.
- The total number of the development partners beneficiaries) as well as the options described in the project proposal may be changed as per need of the community
- The quantity of project activities may be affected because of continuous price hiking. Some of the activities may be reduced to ensure the quality of the work.
- There are some national & international organizations who are working in the field of CCA - DRR. The project might need to include them in advisory committee as per needs.
- The implementations of project activities are subjected to many issues such as political and social conditions of the country, sudden disasters etc.
- From field visit and previous work experiences, it has been found that Naogaon is mainly a drought prone area though seasonal flashflood occurs once in every 4 / 5 years. Therefore, activities of flood prone areas would probably be inappropriate as adaptation options.

4.3 Activities that have implications on budget allocation:

During the project implementation, the project faced few challenges that are related to budget. Some of the issues can be solved using money from 6% unallocated budget; however, it needs confirmation from the Embassy of Denmark. There are also some other issues on which, no money allocation has been done within the budget. The issues are very important in terms of accurate output of activities and sufficient money should be allocated for these activities as soon as possible. Please note that the issue of price hiking, identification of appropriate adaptation options and other unforeseen issues may have large influence in the budget line. Therefore, **the project proposes to submit a revised budget with the Interim Report (half yearly) by the 22nd of July 2008**. Here, some of the key issues are pointed out at the following table that needs immediate decision of the Royal Embassy of Denmark

Table 3: Other Activities, Budget Allocation, Constraints and Remarks:

Issue	Reason	Action Taken	Limitations/Constraints	Remarks
Inception Meeting	The project felt a need to share the project objectives and activities with District level GO officials, DC, Media, UP Chairman and Members (including women Members) and representatives of civil society at district level	3 Inception Meeting at District level has been conducted During the time, District Commissioners (DC) of respective districts were present at the meeting	The event was not mentioned in the activity plan and thus, no budget was allocated for these events.	The fund can be adjusted from the 6% unallocated budget. However, it is subjected to the approval of the Embassy of Denmark
Foundation Training	Climate Change Adaptation is relatively a new area of development activities and it is not easy to relate Climate Change with Disaster incidents. Therefore, the project felt an urgency of providing a basic training for all the project staffs (AAB + Partner) for better intervention of activities.	A Foundation Training has been organized from 11 th May to 15 th May at CCDB Hope Center for all project staffs of the Project	No Budget allocation	The fund can be adjusted from the 6% unallocated budget. However, it is subjected to the approval of the Embassy of Denmark
Staff Recruitment and Cost	According to project proposal, there was a provision of recruiting 2 program officer and 1 Advocacy officer for the project. Moreover, this is an Action Research Project, the project activities are largely related to research activities and therefore, there was a need of an extra hand in the field of research	3 programme officers to look after 3 districts (1 for each district) have been recruited, where the provision was for only 2 1 Programme Officer - Research has been recruited as per project needs	There is no budget allocation for recruiting 2 additional Programme Officers	The fund can be adjusted from the 6% unallocated budget. However, it is subjected to the approval of the Embassy of Denmark

Issue	Reason	Action Taken	Limitations/Constraints	Remarks
Computer & UPS	<p>2 additional computers are required because of recruitment of 2 additional Programme Officers.</p> <p>1 UPS (2000 VA) can support 3 computers during the power failure. Therefore, 3 UPS are required for a total of 8 computers</p>		No budget allocation in the budget for additional procurement	<p>The procurement should be done in very short period of time.</p> <p>The total cost for additional computers and UPS is BDT 1,25,000.00 (Tk. 80,000 + 45,000)</p>
Process Documentation	AAB decided to conduct a baseline survey using Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) methodology. AAB also planned to document the total process as conducting baseline using PVA has never been done before and it will be a learning event for the project and for future intervention.		No Budget allocation in the budget for process documentation	It is very important to do 'process documentation' of the baseline as the process will be presented at COP 15 as well as will be incorporated with other projects of ActionAid
cow shed & fodder Shed	Under output 1.2 activity f on page 12, providing financial & technical input to most v. household for building cowshed and fodder shed (where homestead is not possible to raise)		The project doesn't know yet whom to provide HH and / cowshed and fodder shed. The issue is depended on outcome of Gonogobeshona. Moreover, it is not clear whether the project can allocate money from building flood resistant house for these purpose	Preparing fodder shed for the community may not be possible because of recent increase of material's price, labour cost, transportation etc. Therefore, the activity might need to be dropped, or the Embassy of Denmark needs to reconsider the budget allocation if the project wants to implement it
River Ambulance & Rescue Boat	Out put 1.2 specifies providing river ambulance and rescuing boat to community (Activity b, page 12)		No budget allocation has been done for these activities. It has been identified that 4 boats are required for 4 villages and 1,500,000.00 BD TK is needed for the boats	The budget can be revised and re adjusted with permission of Embassy of Denmark. However, there is not enough money left in the 'Unallocated budget' to implement these activities.

4.4 Clarification of allocation of money from 6% Unallocated Budget

There are some activities that needed extra allocation of budget. However, after the meeting with the Embassy of Denmark, AAB is now come up with the possible placement of these activities within the budget line which needs approval of the Embassy of Denmark. The following table shows the tentative plan of allocation of money from 6% unallocated Budget

Approximated Expenses will be charges in the 6% Unallocated Budget			
Total 6% Unallocated Budget			4,278,050
Sl. No.	Head of Expenditure	Nos.	Taka (Appr.)
1	Additional Program Officer Research	1	798,903
2	Additional Program Officer	1	767,647
3	Inception Meeting	1	70,000
4	Foundation Training	1	450,000
5	Computers for additional staffs	2	80,000
6	Digital Camera	1	40,000
7	UPS	3	54,000
8	Speaker	5	5,000
9	Process Documents		700,000
	Total		2,965,551
Surplus of 6% Unallocated Budget			1,312,499

5.0 Lesson Learned & Challenges

This is one of the very few projects that are ‘for the community and by the community’. So far, most of the development projects that were implemented in Bangladesh had activities that are pre fixed and non participatory, and therefore, ‘turning the pyramid upside down’ to make the project really community participatory would be the real challenge, which is also the beauty of this project. Beside that, ensuring participation of LG, line ministries and other related institutes / NGOs would be difficult.

Naogaon is one of the areas where the project faced challenges because it is a new area for AAB. In the proposal, Naogan was selected for seasonal flood and drought area. While conducting the area selection for the project, it was found that the most vulnerable area of Naogaon is drought prone. Therefore, to work on adaptation on drought is a big challenge for both AAB and partners. Another finding from the drought area was that no short term ‘warning system’ can be discriminated for drought. As for Patuakhali, the learning was different. Unplanned embankment establishment created many problems such as river bed raise that has environmental ramification and social impacts over the district, especially in Kalapara.

As mentioned earlier, Sirajganj is vulnerable to flood and it might hit before getting any recommendation from GB team. Therefore, some flood proofing interventions may have to conduct at the end of this year (before or after the flood) after conducting EIA & SIA of the locality.

Finally, it is observed and recommended that the project should consider all the environmental factors before implementing the activities. And also keep the Climate Change Adoption and Disaster Risk Reduction understanding at every time that ‘Disaster Risk Reduction is based on what we have learned so far, from our previous experiences; however, Climate Change Adaptation is to look into the future and work on predictions based on of possible changes’.

Annex

Annex 1: Programme of Foundation Training

Reporting Saturday, 10 May 2008

Pre-Meeting Session	:	Ice Breaking Session		
Topic		Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Reporting at Training Centre		All Participant	By 17:00	
Induction and ice breaking for participant,		Wahida Bashar Ahmed, Head, RRT	18:00 – 19:30	Role/norm setting for training and group formation for reporting

DAY-1 Sunday, 11 May 2008

INAUGURAL SESSION	:	ORIENTATION ON FOUNDATION TRAINING 09:00 – 10:00		
Facilitator	:	Wahida Bashar Ahmed, Head, Risk Reduction Them, ActionAid Bangladesh		
09:00 – 09:15	:	Welcome address- AFM Shahidur Rahman, Head, Livelihood Promotion and Risk Reduction Sector		
09:15 – 09:45	:	Introduction on ActionAid – mission, vision, values, activity, process of activity and ActionAid stands on climate change – AFM Shahidur Rahman		
09:45 – 10:30	:	Tea Break		

Technical Session I	:	Poverty, Disaster and Rights		
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Topic		Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Poverty-disaster linkage: new challenges and dimensions towards the present policy regime and emergence of paradigm shift in policy and orientation (mindset) in the light of climate change agenda and issues.		AFM Shahidur Rahman	10:30 – 11:30	To understand linkage of poverty and disaster and present policy regime
Concept of rights and right based approach in climate change agenda (Food security and Climate Change linkage)		AFM Shahidur Rahman	11:30 – 13:00	To under stand the right base approach
Lunch & Prayer Break			13:00 – 14:00	

Technical Session II	:	Project Briefing		
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Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Project briefing: Blending the concept and problems into project.	Khurshid Alam, Consultant	14:00 – 17:30	To understand the project objectives and activities

DAY-2 Monday, 12 May 2008			
Technical Session III		Introduction to Climate Change	
Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Review of Day-1	All Participants	09:00 – 09:30	
Concept of climate Change and chronology of climate change concept. Brief discussion on various conventions and treaties	Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, ED, Centre for Global Change (CGC)	09:30 – 11:00	To understand the Climate Change issue
Tea Break		11:00 – 11:15	
Climate change impacts on Bangladesh: Biophysical and social context – (in the context of vulnerability, food security, water and sanitation as well as overall livelihood)	Ahsan Uddin Ahmed	11:30 – 13:00	To relate climate change with different physical and social elements
Lunch & Prayer Break		13:00 – 14: 00	

Technical Session IV		Addressing Climate Change	
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Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Climate change and gender	Sharmin Neelormi, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University	14:00 – 15:15	To understand the linkage of climate change and gender
Tea Break		15:15 – 15:30	
Relation between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Response to climate change impacts in Bangladesh: mitigation, coping mechanisms and adaptation - NAPA	Abu M Kamal Uddin, Project Manager, Climate Change Cell, Department of Environment	15:30 – 17:30	To understand the linkage of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

DAY-3 Tuesday 13 May 2008

Technical Session V	:	Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA)
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Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Review of Day 2	All Participants	9:00 – 9:30	To know the process of participatory vulnerability assessment
PVA	Rezaul Karim Training Specialist, DIPECHO Project, ActionAid Bangladesh	9:30 – 10:30	
Tea Break		10:30 – 10:45	
PVA	Rezaul Karim	10:45 – 13:00	

Lunch & Prayer Break		13:00 – 14: 00	
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Technical Session VI	:	Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (PVA)
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Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
PVA	Rezaul Karim	14:00 – 15:15	
Tea Break		15:15 – 15:30	
PVA	Rezaul Karim	15:30 – 17:30	

DAY-4 Wednesday 14 May 2008

Technical Session VII	:	Reflect
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Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Review of Day 3	All Participants	9:00 – 9:30	
Reflect	Zakir Hossain Sarker Associate Coordinator, RDU, ActionAid Bangladesh	9:30 – 10:30	
Tea Break		10:30 – 10:45	
Reflect	Zakir Hossain Sarker	10:45 – 13:00	

Lunch & Prayer Break		13:00 – 14: 00	
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Technical Session VIII		Process Development
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Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Process development for formation of Gonogobeshona Team and Lokokendro	Group Work	14:00 – 15:15	
Tea Break		15:15 – 15:30	
Process development for GBT research	Group Work	15:30 – 17:30	

Special Dinner	All Participants and Guests	19:00 – 21: 30	
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DAY-5	Thursday 15 May 2008
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Technical Session IX		Detail Activity Planning
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Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Review of Day 4	All Participants	9:00 – 9:30	
Financial Management of CCA_DRR Project	Ehsanul Habib, Associate Coordinator, Finance & Admin ActionAid Bangladesh	9:30 – 10:30	
Tea Break		10:30 – 10:45	
Detail Activity Planning	Group Work	10:45 – 13:00	

Lunch & Prayer Break		13:00 – 14: 00	
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Technical Session X		Budget Detailing
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Topic	Resource Persons	Time	Objective
Budget Detailing	Group Work	14:00 – 15:30	
Tea Break		15:30 – 15:45	
Budget Presentation and discussion	PC and all participant	15:45 – 17:00	
Closing Remarks and Thanks Giving	Wahida Basar Ahmed	17:00 – 17:30	

Annex 2: Activity Plan

Please see the attached .xls file for the detailed activity plan

Annex 3: Tentative Self Scoring Format for Performance management

Date	Activities & Dead line	Status	Process of activities & Reasoning	Score 1 (low) to 10 (high)	Justification of Score