

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021 | ISSUE NO. 3



LGD & UNDP's climate resilient housing for urban poor in Gopalganj

The Local Government Division (LGD) and UNDP Bangladesh have initiated a climate-resilient housing project for 336 urban low-income families in Gopalganj Paurashava.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, MP, formally inaugurated the scheme at a ceremony on Tuesday by laying its foundation stone.

The housing scheme is being built in a 3.19 acre of land donated by the paurashava involving BDT 30.33 crore under the Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities Project (LIUPCP) – a joint project implemented by the LGD, Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the UK Government and UNDP Bangladesh.

It will offer facilities including agricultural land, playground, courtyard, pond, kitchen market, walkway, rainwater harvesting, fire safety, efficient solar energy sources and power substation.

"The Government has been working tirelessly to ensure improved lives for a cross-section of people. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set a target in Mujib Borsho that not a single person will remain without address or home. We are working to ensure an address for everyone so that no one is left behind," Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, MP said while inaugurating the scheme.

Chaired by Kazi Liaquat Ali, Mayor, Gopalganj Paurashava, Dipak Chakraborty, Additional Secretary, LGD, Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh, John Warburton, Team Leader, Extreme Poverty, Resilience and Climate Change, & Senior Environment Adviser, FCDO Bangladesh, Ashekur Rahman, Assistant Resident

Representative, UNDP Bangladesh, Md Abdul Mannan, former National Project Director, LIUPC project, Md Iqbal Hossain, Additional District Magistrate, Gopalganj, Mahbub Ali Khan, social worker and founder of Jugoshikha Girls High School also addressed.

The housing condition for the urban poor communities in Bangladesh is highly challenging and is mostly unsanitary, poorly serviced and densely populated. They are also often located in environmentally hazardous areas, which play a devastating role in the lives of the urban poor routinely, with a greater prevalence of ill health and exposure to climate vulnerabilities.

Despite having a rich historical background and political prominence, Gopalganj Municipality lacks basic facilities ordinarily present at a first-class municipality, such as well-planned housing for the dwellers, systematic drainage networks, roads, sanitary system, and recreational facilities.

Against this backdrop, LIUPC project has come up with affordable and climate-resilient housing for the extreme poor living in urban slums in Gopalganj.

"This housing will offer more than just a shelter. It will facilitate not only long-term tenure security but also provide them with a sustainable and improved living standard which considers climatic resilience," said Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh.

"The design of the housing has incorporated tropical and climate resilient architecture, economy, environment, local context, and sustainability as well as aspects making it friendly for children, people with special needs

and elderly people," said Dipak Chakraborty, Additional Secretary, LGD.

John Warburton, Team Leader, Extreme Poverty, Resilience and Climate Change, & Senior Environment Adviser, FCDO Bangladesh, thanked the LGD, UNDP and Gopalganj Paurashava and said that the FCDO has been providing technical support for climate resilient housing for the urban poor through this project. This climate resilient housing will provide long term tenure security and sustainability for the poor community, he added.

Kazi Liaquat Ali, Mayor, Gopalganj Paurashava, said that participation from the Community and Paurashava ensured inclusiveness during each design phase.

This newly formed diverse community will lead and run the housing complex by themselves following the establishment of a community organization, which will decide on a monthly fee to manage operation and maintenance work and expenditures. Homeowners will bear the cost of utility services.

The tenure security of the selected beneficiaries will be for 99 years, and the ownership will be in a joint modality between the household head and his/her spouse. However, the home is not rentable, saleable and transferable.

The beneficiary of these housing units will be identified through a rigorous selection process following approved guidelines that consider the household income, the number of dependents, length of stay, climate distressed/ displaced population, landlessness, homelessness, and disability. ■

Results Dashboard



31,059 self-employment through grants



GBP £ **4.94** million savings amount by the community



2.80 million beneficiaries of **737,302** households mobilized



26,516 pregnant & lactating mothers, children & adolescent girls received nutrition grants



184,567 beneficiaries with disability



15,994 beneficiaries received skills training



1.71 million people using climate-resilient infrastructures



Message from the NPD & PM



On behalf of the LIUPCP family, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for Honorable Mayors and member secretaries of the City Corporations and municipalities, donor partner FCDO, stakeholders and national networks, all the frontline LIUPCP staffs, federation, cluster and CDC leaders for their outstanding contribution towards creating climate-resilience, urban poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement efforts throughout 2021. ■

Yugesh Pradhanang
Project Manager

Md Masum Patwary
National Project Director

Training for MSNCC members



Chattagram City Corporation Mayor M Rezaul Karim Chowdhury has recently distributed business grants of the LIUPC project among 450 urban poor beneficiaries. Md Shahidul Alam, Chief Executive Officer of the city corporation chaired the event. The grant, under LIUPCP's socio-economic fund, is aimed at spurring small and medium businesses by poor women to improve their livelihoods. ■

A small grant that spurs economic freedom for the urban poor



When Amena Rahman Pia was supposed to attend school at the age of 11, her parent's poverty made her prey to child marriage and dwell with a husband of an unhappy marriage.

Her life at Greenland-D slum in Khulna did not last long as she was divorced and sent back to her parent's place with a son. Bad luck continued to attack her as her father abandoned them for his second marriage. Life became a heavy burden as her son's education was halted.

To meet the family's basic needs, Amena took the steering and started selling clothes while her mother went to work as a maid and managed to survive with whatever they got.

"At that time, I came across a cooperative group called Greenland -D CDC and decided to join as a primary group member in 2018. I was also selected for a business startup grant of BDT 10,000 and training from LIUPC project in 2020, which changed my destiny for good," Amena said, adding, "I used to sell clothes from home, but the grant helped me to start a small shop."

Later, she took another loan to expand her business and kick off an online page to promote the business online. "I am now doing well to run the family's expenses and continue my son's education. He is now in Class X at Boyra Police Lines School and will soon complete his secondary school," she said with a tone of accomplishment.

Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities Project (LIUPCP) distributed around 5,600 such business grants among the urban poor women in Khulna City Corporation since 2018. ■

Climate-resilient infrastructure in Khulna changing poverty dynamics

People of Chhoto Boyra and Anis Nagar under Ward 16 of Khulna City Corporation had gone through a very rough time for a canal that runs through the area, often overflowing during the monsoon and causing a flash flood. Snakes and leeches would roam freely, causing a substantial public health hazard. Moreover, the muddy road never allowed them to dwell without the hassle, and they stopped attending schools.

Sufia Begum, member of Belly primary group of Anis Namagr CDC said, "Our houses were underwater quite often during the monsoon halting movement for all of us. Our life was not at all easy as we were isolated."

To improve their living condition and reduce climate vulnerability of the area, a 298-metres RCC road was constructed from the LIUPC project under its Climate Resilient Municipal Infrastructure Fund in 2019, considering the highest water level during monsoon.

A total of 1500 families were benefitted in many ways, with fifteen of those having members with different types of disability. The road has helped nearly 300 children to attend schools.



Before construction



After construction

Minoti Ghosh, a resident of the area, said, "We were suffering for around 20 years for this poor road condition. Now, the problems are over after constructing this beautiful road."

Sufia Begum said, "We had to carry materials and goods by ourselves on the head. The ambulance could not come, and it was tough to take someone to a hospital. Now the connectivity has much increased."

In addition to the road, a box culvert and retaining wall have been constructed with a total cost of BDT 76.32 lakh from the LIUPC project of the Local Government Division, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and UNDP Bangladesh. ■



Business Grants distributed to 450 beneficiaries in Chattogram

Chattogram City Corporation Mayor M Rezaul Karim Chowdhury has recently distributed business grants of the LIUPC project among 450 urban poor beneficiaries. Md Shahidul Alam, Chief Executive Officer of the city corporation chaired the event. The grant, under LIUPC's socio-economic fund, is aimed at spurring small and medium businesses by poor women to improve their livelihoods. ■

UK PM's Special Envoy for Girls' Education Helen Grant at LIUWCP intervention at Korail



Helen Grant MP, the UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Girls' Education, has visited a community in Korail settlement in Dhaka to observe interventions by the LIUWCP project. The Special Envoy interacted with young women-leaders who are tackling challenges around early and forced marriage in their communities through education grants, and appreciated the capacity and confidence developed by the girls through a community-led empowerment strategy. After the visit, she wrote on her twitter account: "Sadly over half of all girls under 25 in #Bangladesh are married before their 18th birthday. Today I heard from inspiring young leaders who are working to tackle child marriage in their communities, supported by UNDP, Bangladesh and #UKaid." ■

Orange the World: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW



Cities vow to preventing Violence Against Women & Girls

The Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities Project (LIUWCP) has celebrated the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence this year echoing with the UNiTE campaign theme "Orange the World: End Violence Against Women Now!"

A series of programmes and events were organised in different city corporations and municipalities across Bangladesh.

Through mass awareness and campaign, LIUWCP's VAWG intervention promotes transforming the deeply rooted injustice, inequality, and discriminatory practices for women and girls in the urban poor settlements.

This year's celebration focused on preventing VAWG in public and private spaces, amplify the success stories demonstrating that VAWG is preventable, engage all actors to scale up; and promote the economic empowerment for the most marginalized women and girls at urban poor settlements.

Different kinds of tools were used for inspiring mass peoples such as small trade fair for women, dialogue and discussion session with stakeholders, and demonstration of self-defense actions by adolescent girls, drama, rally, drawing competition and posting message on the social media.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. ■

International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 "Your Right, Your Role: Say No To Corruption"



Corruption is a global problem and is one of the key barriers to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The LIUWCP adopts a zero-tolerance position on corruption, and therefore undertakes various capacity building and awareness raising initiatives, along with its other preventive, detective, and response mechanisms, to encourage meaningful engagement of all its stakeholders.

On 9 December 2021, the project marked the International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 with the global theme "Your Right, Your Role: Say No To Corruption" through various programmes to raise awareness of the importance of tackling corruption, and to draw attention to the negative impact of corruption in the LIUWCP Project and beyond. Honourable Mayors, and Member Secretaries, Ward Councilors, programme staff, community leaders, and beneficiaries, of 19 City Corporations and Paurashava participated in the events that included discussion meetings, processions, forming human chain, oath taking, mass signature campaign, displaying banners and festoons, and quiz competition etc.

In addition, the project provided a day-long training on anti-corruption to over 1500 participants including staff members, community leaders, purchase committee members, social audit committee members and local government staff in 17 City Corporations and Paurashavas. The training helped to enhance the capacity of the participants to handle fraud and corruption issues and raise awareness amongst the stakeholders on the importance of accountability and transparency. ■