

Post-Flood Rehabilitation Program

Interim Report

Executive Summary:

In order to extend support to flood affected people at Chandpur District, BUET88 Club in association with SpaandanB, USA has undertaken a post-flood rehabilitation program. Initially 50 most vulnerable families have been chosen from 10 villages for the followings assistances:

1. Complete houses for the homeless
2. Repair works of damaged houses
3. Cows for rearing

Initial project cost was Tk. 273,000 considering an average cost of Tk. 4,000 for each household. The program was divided into two phases. The phase-I program formally commenced on 9 September 2004 in presence of the BUET88 EC members, SpaandanB representatives and local dignitaries and completed on 02 October 2004. As per original plan 35 houses from 7 villages had been facilitated. Besides these 35 families, more 14 households had to be accommodated as the most deserving and close neighborhood. Total expenditures for the phase-I is Tk. 264,300. The budgetary allocation for phase-I has increased mainly due to two reasons, the increased 14 households and the cost of complete house which cost Tk.6500 to 7000.

This post-flood rehabilitation program could draw tremendous attention of the society due to the wide media coverage. On the other hand, demand for such assistance has been increased. As a result, budget has exceeded. For phase-II, Tk. 107,500.00 would be required for 25 households from 5 villages from Shahrasti Upazilla. If we complete the program it would a model for future and would create an instance for other sponsors for such program.

So, necessary fund should be managed for the successful completion of the program.

Background:

The nation has experienced the recent devastating flood that has damaged the houses of thousands of people, crops of millions of farmers, fishes from thousands of hatcheries, infrastructures such as roads, bridges, culverts etc. to the tune of billions of Taka. The government has distributed emergency food and medical aids to meet the instant crisis along with other voluntary organisations and individuals. The development partners have just assessed the need for the post flood rehabilitation assistance and yet to assure any specific amount of assistance. Meanwhile, thousands of homeless households who have taken shelter at others places need home. But the government's focus would be mainly on the rehabilitation of the public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, culverts, school, colleges etc.

Keeping the above in mind BUET88 Club in association with SpaandanB, USA has undertaken a post-flood rehabilitation program for Chandpur District being the most affected area.

Project Description:

Initially 50 most vulnerable families have been chosen from 10 villages for the followings assistances:

4. Complete houses for the homeless
5. Repair works of damaged houses
6. Cows for rearing

The list of 50 households were finalised based on a physical assessment by a joint team of the stakeholders. A vulnerability assessment form has been developed to do so (Annex-A). List was finalised involving the local social personalities and the public representatives. Initial project cost was Tk. 273,000 considering an average cost of Tk. 4,000 for each household. Out of the total amount Tk. 235,000 was earmarked for SpaandanB's contribution and remaining Tk. 38,000 was considered as the contribution from the beneficiaries and BUET88 club (Annex-B). A project implementation schedule has developed to complete the project within a specific time frame (Annex-C). Following chronological schedule describes the project cycle in brief:

Event #	Date	Description
1	26 July 04	In a meeting of BUET88 EC, Hossain proposed to help the flood affected people. It was decided to seek opinion of members.
2	9 Aug 04	Mokaddem proposed to approach SpaandanB. Accordingly Hossain visited the affected area and developed a proposal
3	20 Aug 04	Sultana asked some queries on the proposal, Hossain replied accordingly.
4	24 Aug 04	SpaandanB agreed to sponsor the program
5	26-27 Aug 04	Hossain along with BUET88 Club Manager visited the project

		area and prepared a preliminary list of the households
6	3 Sept 04	Hossain visited the project area and conducted a series of meetings with the stakeholders to appraise them about the project.
7	6 Sept 04	A team comprises of Hossain, Pappu, BUET88 Club Manager and Dolon visited one of the villages to review the selection. They have also inspected the local market price of the project input items.
8	9 Sept 04	A team comprises of Rafez, Shah Alam, Asad, Dolon, Club Manager and Hossain formally inaugurated the rehabilitation program. had meeting with the stakeholders and the local dignatories.
9	23 Sept 04	Hossain visited the project area , had meeting with the stakeholders to review the progress of the project.
10	1 Oct 04	Hossain and Dolon visited the Project area and observed that phase-I tasks have almost completed.

Project Implementation:

As described above an implementation committee constituted to monitor the implementation of the project has always been appraised about the progress of the projects. The committee met on regular interval and reviewed the progress of the program. On behalf of the implementation committee a supervisory team regularly visited the project area to monitor and ensure the proper implementation of the projects. Project implementation strategy has been changed considering the practical situation of the area. In the original proposal, it was decided that the BUET88 Club with the help of one full time supervisor would have done the works. It was also presumed that SpaandanB local representative would have monitored the works on full time basis. Later on, it was known that SpaandanB representative could not have spared his full time on the project. Then BUET88 EC decided to outsource the works to single contractor provided the materials would be selected and procured by the BUET88. In that case, one supervisor on behalf of the BUET88 Club would coordinate and monitor the works. While work started it was felt difficult, as the respective villagers would have liked to involve them to the process. So, ultimately contracts have been awarded to 5 individuals of five region, 1 for 3 villages (Ahmedpur, Mohammadpur, Kakairtala) and the remaining 4 for 4 villages (Pachai, Anatoli, Sripur, Tongirpar). One local coordinator was nominated by BUET88 to coordinate and oversee the progress and quality of works.

Project Output and Expenditure:

As per original plan 35 houses from 7 villages had been facilitated. Besides these 35 families more 14 households had to be accommodated as the most deserving and close neighborhood. Out of these 49 households 10 were provided complete houses, 25 houses repaired and 14 were provided cows (list enclosed at Annex-D). Total expenditures for the phase-I is Tk. 264,300. The budgetary allocation for phase-I has increased mainly due

to two reasons, the increased 14 households and the cost of complete house which cost Tk.6500 to 7000 (expenditure statement enclosed at Annex-E).

Project Impact:

This post-flood rehabilitation program has got tremendous response and impact from the local communities. Before this program there were traditional relief program such as cash, food, CI sheet etc. This is the first time the affected households have found some fixed assets for their future dwelling and survival. The responses were particularly due to the media coverage. All the local dailies of Chandpur covered the news with photographs. BTV and ATN have covered in their news bulletin. The Bangladesh Observer has covered with photograph (Paper Cuttings enclosed). This wide coverage has indeed created another problem for us. Affected people from both the Upazilla who could not be included are pursuing to get the assistance. The program has been appreciated from all corners of the society. Those who have received the assistance are fully satisfied.

Future Implementation of Phase-II :

25 households from 5 villages from Shahrasti Upazilla have catered for phase-II. This would require an approximate amount of Tk. 107,500.00 considering all for repair works and cows; and that there would be no complete houses. Necessary initiatives have already been taken. Full implementation could be started subject to availability of the remaining fund.

Recommendations:

BUET88-SpaandanB Post-flood rehabilitation Program has become an instance for such type of activities. It is expected that other sponsors and donors would definitely follow such program as it guarantees the sponsors to create a permanent asset for the households. The program that we have undertaken should be completed to make it a fully successful one. We don't want to keep any dissatisfaction by abandoning it at halfway through. It is therefore, recommended that the phase-II should be completed. Potential sponsors should be explored. SpaandanB may be requested to provide fund for phase-II.