



July - September 2016

## Participants highly value training on emergency preparedness and response



Participants pose for a photo after the training

### LWD Cambodia

By Leak Ratna

Participants from six NGOs working on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Cambodia highly valued the 3-day training course on emergency preparedness and response plan, conducted on September 5-7, in Phnom Penh.

The training, which was facilitated by Finn Church Aid and Life with Dignity (LWD), was part of the capacity building project of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, being implemented by ACT Cambodia Forum. The training aimed to familiarize the participants with the necessary guidance on how to develop an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for their own organization.

In addition, the participants had better understanding of their needs, which could be linked to possible de-

ployment of volunteers as part of the deployment phase of the EU Aid Volunteers.

There were 11 people attending the training. They were from AK, Banteay Srei, PACT, SOFDEC, SACRED and ICCO. All of them are partners of ACT Cambodia Forum.

LWD Empowerment Program Officer Mr. Lon Prasith, one of the participants, said that the training was very important for LWD staff and other participants who worked on disaster sector. "After this training, I am able to design an emergency preparedness and response plan," he said, adding that Sphere Standard, Cash Transfer, Security Plan and Risk Analysis were also useful topics for the participants to learn from the training.

Another participant Nong Srey Pov, Community Organizer for Banteay Srei, said that she attended the train-

ing because the topic was related to her job. "When we are capable to design a good EPRP, our organization will be able to respond to the disaster strike timely and effectively," she said.

Through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, from 2016 to 2020, altogether 4,000 EU citizens will get the opportunity to do humanitarian work. The initiative will also provide capacity building for 4,400 people from non-EU, disaster-affected countries, and 10,000 online volunteering opportunities.

ACT Cambodia Forum members:

Christian Aid (UK), Christian World Service (), Dan Church Aid (Denmark), Diakonia (Sweden), Finn Church Aid (Finland), Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Finland), HEKS (Switzerland), ICCO (the Netherlands), Life With Dignity (Cambodia), World Renew (Canada).

# Cluster approach is a way to build resilient community

## RDRS

### Bangladesh

RDRS Bangladesh has been implementing the project Community Climate Change Project (CCCP) in Chilmari and Ulipur upazila of Kuri-gram district. The area is one of most vulnerable areas considering climatic vulnerability. Nauerchar is one of the villages under Chilmari Upazila. Most people of this village are disadvantaged and vulnerable to natural hazards and common phenomenon. This village is particularly vulnerable as twomighty rivers Brahmaputra and Dharola causes extensive flooding and erosion every year. The disasters cause many casualties, health hazards and substantial damage to houses, agricultural crops, livestock and other assets almost every year.

Considering the past highest flood level, the project has raised plinths of 54 House Holds (HHs) in this village. As per the activity implementation guideline of the project, households were selected on the basis of cluster through a series of consultation made at the Community Climate Adaptation Group level.



This earth work created employment opportunity for the poor people and provided them with daily work during the lean period. Deliberate efforts were made to engage more women. These plinth raising created employment opportunity and contributed in food availability of poor family within the villages for about 20 days and protected them from selling advance labour, distress sale of assets and migration during the lean period. Raised plinth contributed to saving lives, household assets, cattle, poultry and shelter for others during floods, and also enabled them to produce vegetables for family nutrition support and earning from sale of surplus production.

Some people prepared seedlings on the plinth during flood.

The CCCP project had provided a series of support on raised plinth i.e. promotion of organic manure, backyard livestock rearing, pumpkin cultivation on sandbars, flood-tolerant rice varieties like BRRI dhan-51 & 52, promotion of environment-friendly cooking stoves and use of solar energy, ensuring safe drinking water through tube-well installation and promotion of hygienic sanitary latrine installation etc. The experience of the plinth raising was really good for the beneficiaries during the 2015 and 2016 flood. The community people, who were provided supports, could save themselves from

the sufferings caused by the flood. They did not have to seek shelters elsewhere. They stayed in their own houses with their families and livestock. Nothing except some of their farmlands was damaged by the flood. They also could give shelter to the neighbors who did not have their homestead plinths raised.

The 2015 and 2016 flood has made the Nauerchar dwellers realize that they indeed are capable of taking measures aimed at adapting and mitigating in climatic hazards.

The community people think that the Cluster based Approach strengthening adaptation capacity which will be contributed to build resilient community. ■

# Mani Murmu recovered from the plight of high floods



Food Items distributed by LWSIT

### LWSIT

Smt. Mani Murmu – a Tribal (indigenous) woman age 69 years of old was from Simlabari village in Kokrajhar district of Assam turn into hopelessness while the flood water entered to her house and destroyed all her household belongings, educational materials of her three grand-children and weakened the structure of her mud house. While the high height of water from river Sankosh entered into her village, Mani compelled to leave her house and took shelter along with her old age husband and three grand-children in the village school for several days till the water receded.

Simlabari village is one of the remote villages which have been situated in the bank of river Sankosh which is flowing along neighbouring country Bhutan. The flash flood caused in the month of July had ruined several villages in Kokrajhar district and caused havoc damages to the standing crops, shelter, livelihood, educational materials and household assets of the concerned families. But the plight of Mani Murmu was terrible. With this age, she had to take care of three children since her son passed away a decade

ago, while her daughter-in-law left home leaving three of her children with grand-parents. This has added woe to Mani and she had to work hard to ensure the livelihood for her family. On an average, she earns only Rs 50 – Rs 100 per day (less than 2 USD), by which she had to manage the family needs. But, at the aftermath of flood, there was no job for her as the areas was inundated with flood water. She had very difficult time to sustain her family.

Under such circumstances, the



Mani Murmu at house in Simlabari village

succour provided by LWSIT was of immense help by which she could ensure food for 2 weeks. The food items such as Rice, Pulses (Dal), Soy Chunk, Edible Oil and Salt was assisted by LWSIT to her. Mani was also looks gloomy while her living room was surrounded by flood water and her thatched house was about to collapse. Under this circumstance, in order to cover up the houses from further rain and sun, one piece of high quality HDPE Tarpaulin Sheet was assisted by LWSIT which was of great help and protect her house from further damage.

The education of her grand-children was hindered due to loss of books, notebooks, etc. LWSIT has planned to support the education materials for continuing the study. Now, Mani and her grand-children are very happy for all the support extended by LWSIT. Mani has opined that, 'I was helpless, you Lutheran came here to rescue us from the plight of flood and provide food at right time by which we could survive. My house could survive because of you. My grand-children are now happy and now they will continue their study. I'm indebted to you in my life.'

## Training on Mainstreaming Gender and Scaling Out in Climate Change Adaptation Programming



### CDRM&CDS Indonesia

CDRM&CDS Indonesia organized AZEECON's customized training on "Mainstreaming Gender and Scaling Out in Climate Change Adaptation Programming" in Medan, Indonesia from 19 to 26 July 2016.

The 8-day training was attended by AZEECON's country members, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, except Nepal. The training started with program updating and sharing of good practices and key challenges of the CCA programs of the AZEECON members and followed by 2 training modules on mainstreaming gender in CCA and policy advocacy for CCA scaling out. The 2 modules combined classroom discussion and field practicum which then followed by mini-write-shop to discuss and finalize the communication material that compiled all the experience and lessons from the CCA program of AZEECON. At

the end of the 8-day course, the participants underwent an action planning exercise to identify their key actions to mainstream gender and policy advocacy in their current CCA programs. At the end of the training the participants have:

1. Identified the significant experiences, good practices and challenges in the current CCA programming of AZEECON member organizations;
2. Explained the basic concepts on climate change including its causes, effects, and the gendered impacts of climate change;
3. Used select tools for participatory assessments of gender differentiated impacts and needs to be considered in climate change programming;
4. Learned about actual cases and experiences of mainstreaming of gender in CCA programming;
5. Articulated the basic principles of policy advocacy and

social learning as approaches to scaling-out CCA work at the community level; and

6. Developed action plan to design and support resilience building programs of the communities they work with or related programs of their organization.

The lead resource persons for the training were Mr. Wilson John D. Barbon and Jerome Montemayor supported by Mrs. Giulia Erika Soria from IIRR Philippines and local (Indonesian) co-facilitators: Mrs. Elok (from ICRAF Indonesia), Mrs. Natasya Muliandari Harahap (NTFP Indonesia).

The training has enhanced the knowledge and skills of the participating country programs in mainstreaming gender considerations in climate change adaptation programming as well as in scaling out climate change adaptation work through policy advocacy. ■

# Life becomes prosperous



Daw Yi Cho feeding food happily to her piglets behind her house

## LWF Myanmar

My name is Ma Yi Cho (42). I have four children namely Aye Min Ko (26), Hpoo Pwint Wai (23), Ye Thu (21) and Chit Hpoo Wai (14). My husband U Thet Naing (48) is working as a laborer at local fishing ship. I am living at Ohn Pin Village, Dedaye Township, Delta. I am a member of Women Empowerment Group in our village Ohn Pin. I took Leader role last year, electing in rotate system yearly.

Before LWF came to our village, I have nothing special to do apart from staying at home with my children. The whole family have to rely on my husband's salary. My husband mostly goes to the sea for fishing. It takes him about eight months per time. As the owner gave us salary after three months, we have faced many difficulties for daily food and my children's education. On the other hand, his salary is not enough for every expenses. As soon as my husband come back

from the sea, almost all money had gone for repaying the debt.

In 2014, LWF Myanmar provided 2,100,000 MMK for our Women Empowerment Group as the capital fund. We run saving and loan with this money. I lent 170,000 MMK for buying a piglet and constructing a small house for piglet. At the first time, my husband didn't agree to participate to the Women Empowerment Group because of frequently requirement of travelling to other areas for the training or meeting. He just want me to stay at home.

Actually, I am so eager to join any group to do something. So, I participated in the women group without my husband know. I have to keep my piglet at other's house secretly. When the piglet is grown, my husband discovered what I am doing. I have to explain him using many ways. Fortunately, my pig delivered 10 piglets at four months. I sold 6 piglets after 45 days and keep 4 at

home. I earn 300,000 MMK from it. Later on, my husband come to understand on me and allow to join Women Empowerment Group freely. I am not going to sell the rest piglets, intending to keep for more generations.

If I stay at home and rely on my husband's salary, nothing would be happened. But now, I was improved in general knowledge, vocational skills and income generation because of trainings and meetings I had attended that organized by LWF. I can support to my children's education and daily expenses now. We do not need to rely mainly on my husband's salary. Our family situation also better and better.

I am now so happy because my husband also agree with me totally. In the future, I have make a plan to sell my pig and buy a motorbike for my husband so that he no longer need to go to the sea. He can stay with us happily. Thank you so much LWF for your supporting.

# Group vegetable farming stems flight of youth



## LWF Nepal

Hundreds of youths from Far Western Development Region of Nepal migrate to India and Gulf countries for seasonal employment, leaving productive land back home barren. But four youths of the Tharu community in Ramshikharjhala VDC-6 in Kailali have proved that vegetable farming can reverse the trend.

The youths were forced to migrate for their livelihood as the produce from their land was not sufficient. But instead of going to India for work, they wanted to do something in their own village but had no idea how to go about it. Meanwhile, Expanding Poverty Reduction through Food Security Initiatives (EPRI) project brought them to-

gether. As part of the project, Lutheran World Federation (LWF Nepal) Nepal conducted training in off-season and commercial vegetable farming in Ramshikharjhala, Mohanyal and Sadepani VDCs of Kailali district. During the training, Satya Narayan, Sumit, Prabin and Hari Shankar Chaudhari decided on joint vegetable farming.

As they did not have sufficient land for commercial farming, they decided to lease one bigha (about 6,773 square meters) land few years back. They leased it for NPR 75,000 (approx. Euro 600) per year. They also took a loan of NPR 600,000 (approx. Euro 4,800). Satya Narayan, says, "The training built our confidence to take risk."

The group paid back NPR 400,000 (approx. Euro 3,200) loan within 3 years. Previously, their farming was limited to the kitchen garden as they did not have necessary capital and technical knowledge. Now they grow off-season vegetables like tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, potato and chili throughout the year.

As others in the village are not involved in off-season vegetable farming, most of the villagers come to their farm to buy vegetables. They have been selling their products in cash. Local greengrocers have also started buying vegetables from them. Kahgeshwar Subedi, says, "Previously, we had to travel far to purchase vegetables. Their farm has saved our time and money."

## About AZEECON

AZEECON is an informal, member-led regional network of field programs and Associate Programs of Lutheran World Federation/Dept of World Service active in promoting disaster risk reduction in seven countries.

AZEECON's primary role is primarily capacity-building - facilitating practical, peer-to-peer learning in the broad field of LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development) responding to mem-

bers' needs and priorities. AZEECON offers a convenient and cost-effective platform for member organisations and staff to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and interact regionally.

Over the past 5 years, over 500 staff have participated in the range of capacity-building activities conducted in topics such as Trafficking, Food Security, Climate Change, HAP, SPHERE Standards, Youth, Advocacy, RBA etc.

## Country Members



ASIAN ZONE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION NETWORK

