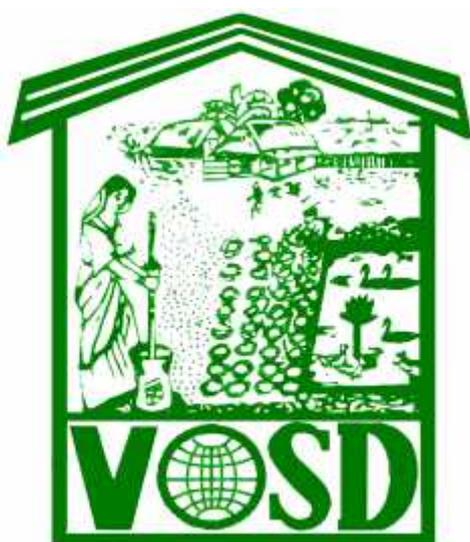


Report On Boat Builders' Training Under

Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project
(ECRRP)
(Capture Fisheries sub-component)

LoA. No. 003/2010-UTF/BGD/040/BGD-World Bank Procurement Package 1S2.-2



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Report on Boat Builders' Training (April 13, - June 30, 2011)

Project Background

Voluntary Organization for Social Development (VOSD) is a national level NGO. It came into existence as service providing non-govt. organization in 1987. VOSD originated basically with an aim to promote the socio-economic upliftment of the poor and vulnerable people, especially the poor and landless people, vulnerable women, children, disabled, small and marginal farmers, fishing communities. The organization is now engaged in economically empowerment process aiming at the socio-economic development of the ultra-poor, poor, landless, working class, small and marginal farmers and fishers.

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country that is affected almost every year by some kind of natural disaster. On November 15, 2007 several districts of Bangladesh have experienced unprecedented and unexpected cyclone Sidr that severely hit coastal belts like Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barisal, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola etc. Cyclone Sidr has destroyed human lives, livestock, standing crops, dwelling houses, fisheries both aquaculture and capture fisheries. Besides, Sidr caused the loss of many fishing boats and fishing nets. The many poor artisanal fishers were exclusively dependent on these fishing boats and gears for their livelihoods. The huge losses caused by Cyclone Sidr in the fisheries sector (capture fishery and coastal aquaculture) are most evident in the coastal areas and more specifically with fish farmers as well as artisanal fishers. Finding no other alternative means for sustaining their livelihoods these people are leading very miserable lives. Fishers in the coastal zone are often marginalized and landless, with little or no education, poor access to health services, and living in substandard houses with basic amenities. Fisheries have been severely damaged by the cyclone, and a large number of fishermen who were eking out a marginal existence have now lost all their fishing gears and houses. About 45 percent of the fishers living in the coastal areas reside in the cyclone affected districts. The total number of artisanal fishing vessel is uncertain, but the Department of Fisheries estimates that there should have been 10,000 boats in the area when the cyclone hit. Nearly 2,800 boats were reported lost. The most affected categories of vessels are non-motorized fishing boats, and the smaller range of motorized boats. Based on these observations it can be concluded that the small-scale and poorer fishers have been most severely impacted by the Cyclone Sidr. The current free access to open water fisheries has lead to significant unplanned development. Although the provision of fisheries equipment (e.g. improved boats, nets and safety equipment) is a clear immediate need for those who depend on the capture fishery production as a primary source of livelihood a longer-term view is needed to maintain the sustainability of this resource into perpetuity.

The World Bank has provided financial support to Bangladesh Government with the objective of long term restoration and rehabilitation needs of the cyclone affected fishers involved in capture fishing. VOSD has signed an agreement with FAO to implement the project "Distribution of Capture Fisheries Inputs and Facilitation of Training of Beneficiaries under ECRRP (Capture Fisheries Sub-component)" in 6 upazilas of patuakhali, Barguna and Bagerhat districts among the capture fisheries victims of Cyclone Sidr through providing capture fisheries inputs to ensure their livelihood rehabilitation as well as to increase open water fish production in the coastal region. After signing agreement, the organization has taken initiatives to implement the project with the objective to rapidly rebuild the livelihoods, dignity, and food security of the worst affected poor fishermen through restoring fishing activities in severely Cyclone Sidr affected coastal areas.

Introduction

The Project “Distribution of Capture Fisheries Inputs and Facilitation of Training of Beneficiaries under ECRRP (Capture Fisheries Sub-component)” is a one-year program funded by the World Bank, implemented by FAO and GoB with the assistance of VOSD. The project covers the period Mid December 2010 to Mid December 2011.

The overall goal of the project is to facilitate the smooth implementation of the ECRRP (Capture Fisheries Sub-component) to rapidly rebuild the livelihoods, dignity, and food security of the worst-affected poor fishermen through restoring fishing activities in 6 upazilas of 3 severely affected districts in Barisal and Khulna areas. The ECRRP has three major objectives:

- i. Restoring the capture fishery production capacity in the cyclone affected coastal areas.
- ii. Restoration of livelihoods of coastal fishermen by providing capture fishery inputs to them.
- iii. Ensure the steady economic recovery and growth of the capture fishery sector in the coastal region.

Target Beneficiaries

The intervention will directly assist 1000 worst-affected small and marginal fishermen during year-1 of the project. The target fishermen beneficiaries will be categorized as 750 in the non-mechanized fishing boats category and 250 in the mechanized fishing boats category. It is mentioned that 250 non-mechanized boats will be constructed assisting some 750 fishermen and 50 mechanized boats will be constructed assisting some 250 fishermen in this boat type category.



Fig: 01 A section of target beneficiaries involved with ECRRP.

Table 01: Capture Fisheries Beneficiary Distribution (Year-1)

| Division | District | Upazila | Category | |
|----------|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | Non-Mechanized Fishing Boats (Units) | Mechanized Fishing Boats (Units) |
| Khulna | Bagerhat | Sharankhola | 70 | 10 |
| | | Morrelganj | 120 | 10 |
| Barisal | Barguna | Patherghata | 05 | 10 |
| | Patuakhali | Galachipa | 15 | 10 |
| | | Kalapara | 15 | 10 |
| | | Mirjaganj | 25 | 0 |
| Total | 03 | 06 | 250 | 50 |

Eligibility of Beneficiaries (Capture Fisheries)

- Belonging to marginal households with confirmed past experience in capture fishery (demonstration of practical fishing skills/net mending skills and demonstrated practical experience of the sea estuaries.)
- Communities located in remote and the least accessible areas along estuaries and sea coasts, having lost their fishing boats during Cyclone Sidr.
- Having lost most or all of their livelihood assets during the cyclone.
- Not having received any external support, such as fishing assets from other sources/project or remittances from outside the district.
- Agreeing to a group cost recovery schemes for project inputs and capital items (boats/nets) and, if and when selected as project beneficiaries.
- The fisher groups before Sidr have fished on smaller vessels (20-25ft) have been engaged in river, estuary or coastal fisheries.
- Female headed households, with members who are fishers, should be given priority.
- In case of non-mechanized boat single family of fishers with 3 members may be chosen.
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Boat Builders’ Training.

VOSD Field staff facilitated a training program for Boat Builders in Patuakhali.



Fig: 02 Traditional non mechanized fishing boats with nets in the costal area.

Selection of Boat Builders

Boat building is an age old practice in Bangladesh. From time immemorial many types of fishing boats are being built by the local boat builders. But there is no drawing design of these boats. Boat builders build the boat according to the choice of owner. As a result quality, durability and seaworthiness remain a question. To address these issues FAO engaged one international Master Boat Builder who recently together with a team of national consultants visited the coastal areas of the south-western districts. They submitted a road map to undertake the training program for local boat builders. They suggested that five (5) skilled and fifteen (15) local boat builders to be given practical training for a duration of about 45 days to build improved wooden boats of 20 feet (non-mechanized) and 30 feet (mechanized). Under these circumstances VOSD field staff with the assistance of FAO as well as DoF field Officials selected 5 skilled and 15 trainee boat builders from different areas of coastal region as per following criteria.

Eligibility Criteria for skilled Boat Builders:

- They must have a minimum of 10 years of professional and supervisory experience or experience as head master boat builder.
- Must be willing to assist the international Master Boat Builder in the hands-on training and must be willing to assist in communicating the instructions of the international Master Boat Builder to the boat building trainees in local language.
- They shall agree to serve as master trainer and impart the same module to eventual new batches of boat building trainees to be selected by FAO.
- The age should be between 50 and 55 years, but this may be relaxed in case of exceptionally good candidate considering the objectives of the training course.
- Must possess good health and not suffering from any chronic disease.
- Must agree to accept a non-stop residential training for a duration of 45 days and must agree not to leave the residential training before end of the training course.

Eligibility Criteria for Trainee Boat Builders:

- Should have knowledge to read and write at least Bengali.
- The trainee Boat Builders should have at least 5 years professional experience in building artisanal fishing boats in the south-west coastal region.
- Willing to work as a boat builder after the training.
- The Age should not exceed 45 years, but in case of exceptionally experienced trainees the age may be relaxed.
- All of them must possess good health and not suffer from chronic diseases.
- Must agree to accept a non-stop residential training for duration of 45 days and must agree not to leave the residential training before end of the training course.



Fig: 03 Selected skilled and Trainee boat builders in boat shed.

Table 03: List of Selected Boat Builders.

| Category | SL. No | Name with Father's Name | Address | Age (Years) | Education (Read up to) | Experience (Years) | Physical Fitness | Willing to accept 45 days' residential Course |
|------------------------------|--------|---|------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Mater Boat Builders | 01 | Jalal Khan Kanchan Ali Khan | Kalapara | 43 | Five | 25 | Good | Yes |
| | 02 | Mamun Mistry Fazlu Mistry | Betagi | 27 | Nine | 07 | Good | Yes |
| | 03 | Harunur Rashid Abdul wahed Mistry | Barguna | 38 | Two | 18 | Good | Yes |
| | 04 | Bimal Mistry Upen Mistry | Galachipa | 45 | Six | 20 | Good | Yes |
| | 05 | Md. Kabir (1) Late Ali Ahamed | Patharghata | 51 | Eight | 25 | Good | Yes |
| Trainee Boat Builders | 06 | Anwar Howlader Late Safij Uddin | Sharnkhola | 48 | Five | 15 | Good | Yes |
| | 07 | Babul Howlader Anwar Howlader | Galachipa | 25 | Seven | 18 | Good | Yes |
| | 08 | Sentu Mistry Late Lehaj Chowdhury | Betagi | 35 | Two | 16 | Good | Yes |
| | 09 | Mahe Alam Mistry Late Moslem Uddin | Sharankhola | 50 | Five | 30 | Good | Yes |
| | 10 | Kamal Hossain Wahed Sarder | Galachipa | 33 | Four | 19 | Good | Yes |
| | 11 | Anwar Peda Abdul Peda | Dashmina | 36 | One | 10 | Good | Yes |
| | 12 | Shamol Mistry Uoen Mistry | Galachipa | 42 | Six | 21 | Good | Yes |
| | 13 | Kabir (2) Late Solaiman | Tajum Uddin | 35 | Five | 02 | Good | Yes |
| | 14 | Monindra Chowdhury Monohar Chowdhury | Kalapara | 40 | Three | 18 | Good | Yes |
| | 15 | Md. Samsuddin Abdul Malek | Daulatkhan | 30 | Two | 02 | Good | Yes |
| | 16 | Sukumar Howlader Late Ali Ahmed | Patharghata | 35 | Four | 08 | Good | Yes |
| | 17 | Ripan Karim Munshi | Barguna | 26 | Nine | 12 | Good | Yes |
| | 18 | Kabir Hossain (3) Late Mokbul Hossain | Sharankhola | 30 | Five | 11 | Good | Yes |
| | 19 | Md. Monirul Hoque (Manik) Md. Jobed Ali | Barguna Sadar | 35 | Seven | 15 | Good | Yes |
| | 20 | Safizol Melkar Late Kobbob Melkar | Mehendiganj | 36 | Seven | 15 | Good | Yes |

Training of Boat Builders

FAO organized a 45 days' training program for the selected Boat Builders in Patuakhali. The training was inaugurated on April 13, 2011 in a Boatshed constructed earlier as per FAO approved drawing at Charpara located by the side of the Khalishakhali river in Patuakhali town. The participants in the inaugural session were among others Dr. Giasuddin Khan, Capture Fisheries Training Specialist, Mr. Killan, International Naval Architect, Mr. Md. Alam Hossain, Aquaculture Specialist, Mr. Abul Bashar, Naval Architect District Fisheries Officer Patuakhli, Mr. Md. Mahabbat Ali, Team Leader, Mr. SM Kabir, Social Worker and land owner, Mr. Palash Kumar Saha, District Coordinator and Local NGO SDA representative. VOSD is facilitat the whole training program. The participant speakers presented a fruitful discussion in the training session on training objective, training schedule, training output etc. In the inaugural session all the training participants were informed that they would be provided with residential accommodation, food, tool box and an agreed honorarium to compensate for their normal income.



Fig: 04 Dr. Giasuddin Kha, Fisheries Training Specialist, Mr. Killan, International Naval Architect, Mr. Abul Bashar, Naval Architect, and others.



Fig: 05 Mr. Killan, International Naval Architect is showing the trainee boat builders timber measurement.



Fig: 06 Boat building equipments.



Fig: 07 Boat builders are shown in boat making.

Training Closing

The training for the Boat Builders was closed on 26 May, 2011. But as it was decided to make one more 20 feet wooden boat, duration of training was extended upto 30 June and the training was successfully performed.

On the day of training, International Naval Architect, Aquaculture Specialist, Naval Architect, and NGO representative were present and provided important suggestions to the trainee boat builders. Later tool boxes were handed over among the participant trainees.



Fig: 08 Mr. Killan, International Naval Architect is speaking in the training closing session.



Fig: 09 Mr. Abul Bashir Naval Architect is delivering speech.



Fig: 10 A skilled trainee is speaking in the closing session.



Fig: 11 A trainee boat builders is receiving tool box.

Conclusion

In conclusion we can say that the training of the Boat Builders was successfully completed. We cordially appreciate and recognize the sincere efforts of the staffs and other related persons who provided us assistance for better implementation of the project. We are grateful to the FAO and GoB authority for their active cooperation in conducting the training for the boat builders.