



SALOK

Quarterly Development Newsletter of GUK

1st Issue, January-March, 2013



- **Campaign in Demanding Climate Justice Fair Price of Agro-Products and Sustainable Livelihood**
- District Administration Visited Life and Livelihood of Poor Char People
- **It's Time to Make Firm Promise: We Must Stop Domestic Violence**
- GUK with Development Endeavours for **28** Years
- **United Effort Needed in Protecting Human Right**
- **United Voice of Youth In Protesting Sexual Harassment at Gaibandha**



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Editorial:

We would like to express our pleasant feelings in welcoming you to our 1st issue of SOLOK- a bi-monthly development newsletter of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK). By this issue of the newsletter we intend to have the opportunity to share our learning, best practices, significant achievements and outstanding examples from our programs and projects as well. We expect that it would be enjoyable for the development practitioners and readers. Previously we published our newsletter as Unnayan Probaho and later in course of time we renamed it as GUK News for long time. Now we are going to publish it again as SOLOK that means rural light. It is a local language that rural people frequently use. As we are working with rural disadvantaged people for their socio-economic light, we have chosen the name for our bimonthly newsletter.

This issue addresses our involvements in the light of progressive manner highlighting employment opportunity creation through skill development, capacity building in different technical sectors, outstanding role of youth in protesting sexual harassment, continuous advancement towards development of GUK, inspiration and uplifting of persons with disabilities (PWDs) through extracurricular activities, right to information and its effectiveness, uncovering publication event impelling united effort in protecting human right, accompany with one billion rising, a global campaign to take action to stop violence against women, exchange visit of organizational delegation, observation of National and International Day, barrier free access to Children with Disability (CWDs), effort to address the impact of climate change, disaster preparedness and its management, humanitarian accountability partnership, campaign in demanding climate change, fair price of agro-products and sustainable livelihood, series of educational achievements and practices, livelihoods supports, research and innovation, visitors to GUK during last several months.

Above all, we like to express our cordial acknowledgement and thanks to all our donors and resource sharing partners for extending their continuous cooperation for the betterment of poor and disadvantaged people. We like to convey our gratefulness to all colleagues and staff of different projects and programmes for their efforts in bringing out this newsletter.

Thank you so much for being with us.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding further development of newsletter, please feel free to push your mail to guk.gaibandha@gmail.com, or to documentation.guk@gmail.com, we would be happy in receiving your constructive response.

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It's Time to Make Firm Promise: We Must Stop Domestic Violence

International Women Day was observed on March 8, 2013 aimed at stopping domestic violence through making firm promise together by Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Gaibandha District Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote and District Samajik Uddokta Dal. This memorable day of women liberation and equity of men and women from patriarchic exploitation and persecution is passing 102 years of its relentless journey.



Like every year this significant day observed by Gana Unnayan Kendra with solemn atmosphere taking different programs like inspirational cultural function, enlightening candle, making promise of breaking silence followed by a colorful rally. An inspiring cultural function started at the platform of Gaibandha Municipal Shaheed Minar on March 7, 2013 at 9 pm on the occasion of International Women Day. Mr. AKM Nahidul Islam, district Police Super, Gaibandha opened the silence breaking promise program through lighting candle at 12:01 AM. Afterwards, a colorful rally started from independence square in the morning of March 8, 2013 and moved through different roads and ended at Zila Parisad Hall.



Then a discussion meeting was held on the significance of the Women Day in auditorium where Dr. Kazi Anwarul Haque delivered his speech as a chief guest. Among other speakers who delivered their speeches respectively M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK, Abu Bakkar Siddique, district Secretary of Awami League, Jahurul Quaium, Vice Principal, Abu Zafar Sabu, district Press Club

Secretary, Golam Maruf Mona, Waziur Rahaman Rafel, Selina Parven Runu etc. Representative from Gaibandha District Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote



and District Samajik Uddokta Dal, teachers & students, NGOs, Upazila and district administration with many others different professions of society participated in observing the remarkable day spontaneously.

District Administration Visited Life and Livelihood of Poor Char People

An exceptional visit schedule undertaken by District and Sadar Upazila administration where Dr. Anwarul Haque, DC, Gaibandha planned and directed to fact-finding visit to oversee the life and livelihood of Kunderpara chars poor people at Kamarjani Union of Gaibandha Sadar on March 25, 2013 supported by Gana Unnayan Kendra.



High officials of District and Sadar Upazila administration jointly stayed there and observed keenly the livelihood patterns of poor char dwellers and their way of developing livelihood resilience. Afterwards, a sharing meeting presided over by DC held in Kunderpara Academy ground where the poor river island char people raised their different problems simultaneously and officials also delivered their speech relating the demands of poor people. The meeting also addressed among by others respectively Abu Bakkar Siddique, ADC, Maminur Rashid, Sadar UNO. Abu Jafar Sabu, Gaibandha Press Club Secretary, M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive, GUK, Abul Mansur, Upazila engineer, Abu Sufian, Assistant Commissioner and

Executive Magistrate, Makfurul Hassan Abbasi, Saker Sahiduzzaman, Sakmal Hossain, Kamarjani UP Chairman, Hamida Begum,



Shahina Begum and Nazma khatun of Mollar Char. A large number of Char men and women and school students participated in the opinion sharing meeting. At last, a pleasant cultural function was rendered by Baul (spiritual song) artist groups from Balashi ghat, Gaibandha.

Women Fair: Focusing Prospect and Development of Women

Upholding the prospectus and development of women, 2 daylong Women Fair held at Al Wahedi High School field of Malbari under Gaibandha Sadar Upazila for jointly organized by Al- Wahedi High School and Samajik Uddokta Dal, Malbari.



T I M Najmul Huda, local UP Chairman presided over the fair which was opened by a distinguished education scholar of Gaibandha Ms. Firoza Begum. Apart from this, other speakers were respectively the representatives of Al-Wahedi High School



Samajik Uddokta Dal, GUK and Steps towards Development. The same pattern of fair also organized at Boali Union of Gaibandha Sadar focusing women's possibility and development.

Workshop on Community Based Climate Change Adaptation and DRR

In order to find out the way to avail government resources especially for vulnerable community people, GUK organized workshop on community based climate adaptation and DRR with the objectives to share the good practices of community led resilience building and exiting gaps of local risk governance to sensitize the local government line departments and policy maker as well as to mobilize local level civil society,



NGOs, journalists, networks and community people to avail local level recourses. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Habibur Rahman, honourable DC of Kurigram while Mr. Abdul Khaleq Shek and Ms. Tajmin Nahar, Upazila Chahaiman in charge and Vice Chahaiman of Rowmari, Mr. Abdul Hannan, UNO of Rowmari, M Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK also present. Under REE-CALL-Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning Project, the opening session of the workshop started with the welcoming speech of Chief Executive of GUK. Honourable DC convened all the participants to be sensitized and responsive towards the service delivery for the poor community people. A detailed presentation on the progress of the project rendered to the participants.

Regional Meeting of Human Right Forum at Gaibandha

Human Right Regional Meeting of Rangpur and Rajshahi division held on March 30, 2013 at Library Room of Gana Unnayan Sangtha (GUK) at Nashratpur, Gaibandha where human rights activists of Gaibandha, Nogaon and Joypurhat districts attended. Rhymester Abu Jafor Sabu, Convener of Gaibandha District Human Right

Forum and District Press Club Secretary presided over the meeting where M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK delivered welcoming speech at the outset.



The meeting also addressed among by others Aftab Hossain, PM of GUK and Member Secretary of Gaibandha District Human Right Forum, Advocate Anis Mostafa Toton, Minu Rani Mohonta, and Kazi Abdul Khalek. Issue based reports were presented by Shamim Al Sammay, Mahafuj Faruque, Dr. Amal Chandra Barman and Dipak Kumar Paul. Billal Khashru, PM of Ain o Salish Kendra facilitated the function. Review was also made on the district wise published report of Human Right Situation Report of 2012. Guiding discussion was also made on district wise Human Right Situation Report in next year. GUK organized the meeting by the support of by Ain o Salish Kendra.

Press Conference on the Demands to Ensure Rights of Disabled Persons

GUK organized Press Conference on March 21, 2013 aimed at enhancing access of disabled persons to different services of service delivery organizations to ensure rights of disabled persons supported by Manuser Jonny Foundation (MJF) and CDD. In fact, there are very few initiatives of implementation of disabled welfare interventions though the subject of getting right for the disabled persons mentioned in the paper of government and non-government organizations. Consequently, a remarkable part of total population of the country being disabled couldn't able to participate actively in the development process of the society and country. Aftab Hossain, PM of GUK raised the progress of implemented programmes of Gaibandha Sadar and Fulchari Upazila through a written speech in Conference. At this time, journalists, reporter, press men of Gaibandha and representatives of GUK and disabled group were present there.

on Sunday at Gaibandha Union Parisad compound of Malibari Union under Gaibandha



Sadar Upazila. Different professional persons of society and teachers and learners of different educational institutes participate and organize colorful rally parading main roads of the district at the beginning of the opening day. Discussion meeting and extempore speech competition of the students held on this occasion. Publicity stalls also opened at union Parisad ground

Employment Opportunity Created for Extreme Poor Families

Month-long skill development training completion of 14th batch on Garments and Shoe making at GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology Training Center, Nashratpur, Gaibandha under Reducing Extreme Poor by Skills Development on Garments Project supported by Stimulating Household Improvements Resulting in Economic Empowerment (shiree) and DFID successfully accomplished on January 31, 2103. 90 youths who are jobless from extreme poor families of 10 Unions under Sader Upazila of Gaibandha district attended in this training course. Training completion and certificate distribution ceremony was presided over by M Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK while the Chief Guest was Dr. Quazi Anowarul Haque and Mr. Mamunur Rashid, UNO of Sader Upazila and Mr. Abu Jafor Sabu, General Secretary of Gaibandha Press Club were present as Special Guests. Mr. Wajed Mia, Administrative Officer of



A A Yarn Cotton Mills Ltd with many others respected people of Gaibandha district were also present in this event.

Organization is being extending respective training supports to create employment opportunity for 1160 youths who are generally jobless from extreme poor families to get involve with Oven Garments and Apex Adelchi Footwear Ltd as machine operator. Through the project Reducing Extreme Poor by Skills Development on Garments, GUK organized internship opportunity at different Garments Factory and Apex Ltd, in and around Dhaka city for next two months. At the first stage, they are trained on different garments technology including stitching and sewing, box plate, button plate and plain stitching of shoe and gluing etc. At the second stage, during internship skills and learning have been increased in respective areas by practical operation. Till date, 858 youths have successfully completed both stages of the initiatives and working in different established Garments and Apex Adelchi Ltd.

United Voice of Youth In Protesting Sexual Harassment at Gaibandha

Two daylong campaign and fair of youth students in protest against sexual harassment start formally on Sunday at Gaibandha Union Parishad compound of Malibari Union under Gaibandha Sadar Upazila. Different professional persons of society and teachers and learners of different educational institutes participate and organize colorful rally parading main roads of the district at the beginning of the opening day. Discussion meeting and extempore speech competition of the students held on this occasion. Publicity stalls also opened at union Parishad ground. Then a subject based discussion held under the president ship of Sajjadur Rahaman Saju, the convener of Union Social Entrepreneur group in which the speakers were respectively TIM Najmul Huda Badal, AbuZafarSabu, Gaibandha district press club secretary and M. Abdus Salam the Chief Executive of Gana Unnayan Kendra. Apart from this, the other discussants were teachers, students and guardians as Abdul Mannan, Naya Mia, Sunti Rani Pal, Lipi Akhtar, Mejbaul Hassan. In this, the students kachuar khamar, Mursiderbazar,



Khidirsarif Al Oahidia of Malibari Union, Nandan Shangha of kabiler Bazar and students of Birprotik Taramon Bibi Anandolok Biddyaloy. The 2nd day of this program concluded with art competition, experience sharing, discussion meeting, video show and cultural function. 2 daylong programs were also organized by Malibari student volunteers and Union social entrepreneur group supported by GUK, Steps towards Development and Gaibandha Development Network.

GUK with Development Endeavours for 28 Years

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), a non-government development organization working in the northern part of Bangladesh has passed 28 years with successful implementation of series of development endeavours and stepped forward in 29 years celebrating the anniversary of its establishment on January 01, 2013. Emerged in 1985 with the commitment to do betterment of poor people, GUK has established as people's welfare organization carrying out development endeavours including women empowerment, livelihood development, education development of children and disabled and disaster preparedness and management areas. Organization started New Year 2013 articulating its commitment again on the



day towards undertaking tangible interventions for the people. To celebrate the day, organization enjoyed with cake, memorial discussion, paying way one day salary from the staff members to the cold affected people. At the evening hour, a cultural function also held to celebrate the day at GUK Head Office, Nashratpur, Gaibandha. Mr. M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive and Founder of the organization and Ms. Shamima Mahmuda Yeasmin, member of General Committee (GC) inaugurated the occasion by cutting the cake. At this time, members of Executive Committee (EC), General Committee (GC), different staff members participated in this event. Besides this, district office of GUK at Rangpur, Nilphamari and Kurigram also celebrated the establishment separately.

Annual Sports for Person with Disabilities (PWDs)

Annual Sports of Person with Disabilities (PWDs) 2012 celebrated at the ground of Islamia High School, Gaibandha where about 7 hundred PWDs from 7 upazilas of Gaibandha district participated. The event was organized by Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) with the financial supports of Center for Disability in Development (CDD), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Lillian Fonds. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Kazi Anwarul Haque, honourable Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha district while Mr. Mamunur Rashid,



Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Gaibandha Sader, M Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK and Mr. Abu Jafor Sabu, General Secretary of Gaibandha Press Club complemented. There were 63 types of sports successfully organized for 700 PWDs. At the end of the sports, Mr. Sahidur Rahman, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department of Gaibandha district distributed the prizes among the winners.

Right to Information Workshop at Gaibandha

Gana Unnayan kendra and its wings Pally Tathaya o Projukti Charcha Kendra (HUB) and DNet jointly organized workshop for officers to provide information to the people yesterday on Thursday supported by Manusher Jonney Foundation and Fair Price International. Responsible officers joined this workshop for providing information of government and non-government development organization. Aftab Hossain, Programme Manager opened the workshop. Gobindalal Das and Abu Zafar Sabu, President and Genral Secretary of Gaibandha Press Club and Mamunur Rasid, UNO of sader were present as guests. Atika Binte Baki, Deputy Director of D-Net performed as a facilitator. The participators in the open discussion were respectively Amal Kumar Das, BRAC representative, Mostafizur Rahaman, Chief of Save the Genesis and Anannya Shaha, Program Associate of DNet. Representatives of 25 organizations joined the workshop.

Human Right Situation Report Gaibandha 2012 Released United Effort Needed in Protecting Human Right

Uncovering ceremony of the Publication on Human Right Situation in Gaibandha-2012 fruitfully held at District Silpakawla Academy on February 20, 2013 demanding protest against human right where Advocate Sultana Kamal, Ex-Advisor of Caretaker Government of Bangladesh and Chief Executive of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and a distinguished human right activist told that any incident of terrorism cannot be considered as violation of human right rather getting real justice is a subject matter of human right. She emphasized upon heavy-duty united effort needed in protecting human right. The event was presided over by Mr. Abu Zafar Sabu, Convener of Gaibandha District Human Right Forum and recognized Journalist and a Rhymestr while the Chief Guest was Advocate Sultana Kamal, the Ex-Advisor and Executive Director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK). Special Guests were respectively Dr. Kazi Anwarul Haque, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Gaibandha district, Sanaiya Fahim Ansari, Deputy Director of ASK and M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of Ganana Unnayan Kendra (GUK). The event was addressed among by others like K M Rezaul Haque, Farhad Abdullah Harun Bablu, Mozammel Haque Mondol, Mirja Hassan, Saiful Alam Saka, Kazi Abdul Khalek, Minu Rani Mohanta, Hasina Joarder and Dr. Amal Chandra Barman. People from different professions including political leaders, human right and development activists, teachers, journalists and women leaders attended in this event coherently.



Human right review report contains district's law and order situation, domestic violence, education, health, agriculture, social safety, legal management, legal aid and human rights of ethnic people of this district. The incidents of killing and domestic violence happened comparably more mentioned in 2012 than previous year. In the year 2012, 63 murders and 316 domestic violence occurred in this district along with numbers of raping incidents occurred that is more than 2011. Apart from this, procrastinations of court cases, reluctance of providing legal aid of police, terrorism, forcible grabbing tendency increased

comparably. The people of this district are deprived due to crisis of physicians and medicines and mismanagement of government hospitals. In the same way, the students are also being deprived on account of coaching commerce, private tuition trend and unwillingness of quality teaching of teachers in the classes. The specific recommendations are raised in the published report to develop human right situation. The Human Right Situation Report Gaibandha 2012 is formally published for the first time at Gaibandha by the joint collaboration of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and Gana Unnyana Kendra (GUK). The event announced that this report will be published at the end of each year in a regular basis.

ONE BILLION RISING WITH ENTHUSIASM

Dedicated Promise to Stop Violence against Women

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) accompanied with global campaign on February 14, 2013 VDAY's 15th anniversary in solidarity with the International Movement to end violence against women. ONE BILLION RISING is GLOBAL call to action for walkout, dance and rise up and demand to end violence against women. It was an celebration to dance in the streets, raising perspective voices leaving offices, homes and daily routines to join in a POWERFUL act of REFUSAL to let the violence continue. In this respect, GUK organized Human Chain to Stop Violence against Women where hundreds of people participated with commitment and enthusiasm. With the slogan "silence about violence: no more, no more" people from all walks of life stood steady through the chain at DB road of Gaibandha main town. Representatives of GUK and different professionals including teachers, students, businessmen, cultural and social activists, local elected bodies, civil society accompanied through this movement. The chain demonstrated the needs to challenge patriarchal mindset, myths and misconceptions especially to challenge violence against women.



M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK delivered speech in the chain and emphasized to make solidarity with the day being observed throughout the world and invited all people to be united against gender violence. Besides, Anjum Nahed choudhury, Director of GUK, Farhad Abdullah Harun Bablu, Vice President, Gaibandha

district Awami League, Asadul Haque, Head Teacher, Jahurul Quaium, Vice Principal, Rikto Proshad, Sirin Akter Liza, Golam Maruf Mona, Sajeda Parvin Runu and Nausher Alom also expressed their solidarity with this movement and took part in the speech delivery.

International Mother Language Day Observed

Like every year, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) observed International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2013 with due respect and integrity. A morning ferry with the members of GUK families started at GUK Branch office at V-aid road and moved through the main roads of Gaibandha town. The moving people tendered flowers in Saheed Minar of Gaibandha municipality along with presenting renowned song Amar Vier Rokte Rangano with many others country songs.



Besides, International Mother Language Day also observed as well as followed together in Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts.

Kurigram-Sirajgonj Nou Jatra

Campaign in Demanding Climate Justice, Fair Price of Agro-Products and Sustainable Livelihood

Gradually Bangladesh is becoming more victims of climate change effects. Various type of disaster are common phenomenon of this area, but now a days disaster schedule, pattern, pause time and volume have changed negatively. Unusual drought, flash and late floods with many others natural uncertainty and unpredictability are



causing lot of losses for marginal, small farmers almost in every year. They lose everything. They sow plants and crops that grabbed by the flood. Again and again they become the cruel victims of natural calamities. Though they produce something with their hardship, they get very unjust price of their products. In this way producers become vulnerable day by day emptying their alternative options to survive as well. Under



Raising Peoples Voice for Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme & Climate Justice Project GUK is working as lead organization among 13 members in CSRL-Chars Campaign Group. Demanding climate justice, fair price of agro-products and sustainable development of char people, GUK organized an inventive Campaign Programme, NOU JATRA, 200KM journey by boat from Kurigram-Gaibandha-Sirajganj in mid-November 2012. According to some renowned climate scientist's opinion, 16% of the southern part of Bangladesh might be inundated by sea water within 2050 and more than 9 million people will be displaced would be unable to find out any way to survive. In this respect, GUK's own inventive



utilize recycling materials like empty plastic bottle. 2400 empty plastic bottle united together stalked into 4 layers covered by a wooden sheet with 1 feet soil where placed green garden, a hut and a toilet for future bottle boat home movable has moved away from Kurigram to Sirajganj to demonstrate the alternative idea of floating house for the riverine people. By a handsome inaugural ceremony of NOU JATRA started in the morning of November 14' 2012 on a stage made by 6 boats where Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram Mr. Habibur Rahman, Police Super of Kurigram Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, respective Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kurigram Sader and President of Press

movement consists of dissemination of leaflets on climate change; climate focused folk songs and drama presentation, several interaction and interviews with local people at different Bandar and ghat, art competition on disaster for school children etc. Point wise respective representatives and elected bodies of UP, UPZ and District Administration level were present and took part in the discussion on climate change..

"The campaign issues are my issue, char dweller's issue. Because for years, we are suffering from uncertainty of different type of disasters, farmers are deprived from fair price; GO-NGO services are very poor in remote areas. So come, this is the time to unite by raising our voice to address the issues."

- Upazila Chairman
Kazipara Upazila, Sirajgonj district

Advocate Sultana Kamal visits Kobi Sufia Kamal Anondalok School

Advocate Sultana Kamal, Ex-Advisor of Caretaker Government of Bangladesh and Chief Executive of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) has visited Kobi Sufia Kamal Anondalok School established by GUK on last February 20, 2013.



She praised lot on the achievement of the school. She demanded rapid justice against those people who are involved with present burning conspiracy within the country and against all antihuman criminals. At the end, she invites all students to become inspired on the spirit of freedom fight.

Special Crest Achievement

Kobi Sufia Kamal Anondalok School established at Boali union of Gaibdnaha Sader Upazila achieved honorary crest on the occasion of National Victory Day, December 16, 2013. Students of this school displayed excellence of physical curricular and gym activities at Sah Abdul Hamid Statdium ground, Gaibandha and won the second prize.

Training for NFPE Teachers

Under the Project Quality Primary Education for Children from Extreme Poor Households in Bangladesh by the financial supports of

Organizers in last two month of 2013. Later similar training have been offered to 30 teachers of NFPE. Mr. Samsul Huda, Program Officer of NETZ-Bangladesh facilitated the training Programme.

Ekushey Boi Mela

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) participated in Ekushey Boi Mela at Gaibandha district establishing a Book Stall under Education Programme. The stall demonstrated 230 kinds of development books and also demonstrated playing materials of different schools of GUK for the entertainment of the kids at the fair. Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Police Super of Gaibandha district praised as well during visiting the stall.

DISTRIBUTION BY PROJECTS

Gaibandha Food Security Project for Ultra Poor Women-FSUP

Some assets become destroyed due to flood and extreme cold in 2012 that provided by GUK through Gaibandha Food Security Project for Ultra Poor Women. In order to recover of their loss, the project newly selected 1313 beneficiaries for further assets distribution. by this initiative, at the end of last year, GUK distributed goat among 754 beneficiaries. This year in February, 2013 the rest 559 beneficiaries received goat supports to recover their losses. Notable, the project is being implemented in Gaibandha district by the financial supports of European Union, ICCO, Light for the World and The Leprosy Mission International.

Pathway from Poverty (PFP-shiree)

Organization extended continuous supports to address poverty under Pathway from Poverty Project supported by shiree. The project distributed 60 sheep among 20 households, 160 chicks to 30 households in last two months. Besides, the project also distributed fertilizers and compost pit to 372 households and agriculture related equipment to 49 families.

Char livelihoods Programme-CLP

Organization extended supports under Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP) to the beneficiaries. During last two months the project distributed cows to 474 HHs, anti-worming supports to 499 cows. The project also distributed stipend supports of monthly 650 taka for each to 490 HHs through its livelihoods development unit. Under primary health care and family planning, the project offered

EHPSL Project

To develop the life and livelihood of 498 group members of 6 Unions under Sundarganj Upazila of Gaibandha district, GUK provided Tk. 53 lac and 46 thousand under EHPSL Project

treatment supports to 7259 patients. Besides, the project extended homestead raising supports to 201 HHs under infrastructure development and emergency financial supports to 2 HHs for unexpected burning of their houses.

FRIENDs Cash for Work

Under the project Food Security Response Initiatives and Efforts for Floods in North Western Districts (FRIENDs) supported by Oxfam-GB, GUK provided unconditional grants to 67 beneficiaries who are old aged, disabled, no earning members and widow headed families.



Besides, organization extended cash for work supports to 3371 beneficiaries of Arendabari, Fazlupur, Uria, Gojaria and Fulchari Unions under Fulchari Upazila of Gaibandha district. Notable that cash flowing have been made direct to the mobile account of the beneficiaries through b-kash.

Chief Executive, Director and Coordinator Attended Training and Workshop in Abroad

During last two months Chief Executive, Director and Coordinator (Field Operation) of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) visited several countries on behalf of the organization.

M Abdus Salam, Chief Executive respectively attended in the workshop at Nairobi of Kenia on Market Linkage and at Kathmundu of Nepal on PPA supported by Christian Aid Bangladesh.

Anjum Naheed Chowdhury, Director of GUK attended in Sub-regional Annual Conference on "Climate Change Issue and Priorities in South Asia: Assessment and ideas for future engagement held at Sri Lanka. Besides, she attended the workshop on Gender and Sustainable Mountain Development in a Changing World in Thimphu, Vutan.

Mohirul Islam Tushar, Coordinator of GUK visited the participatory activities for the development of life and livelihood at Bihar of India supported by World Bank and Bihar Government.

VISITORS AT GUK

Oxfam-Novib

Ms. Farah Karimi, Executive Director and Ms. Marianne, Board Member of Oxfam Novib along with Ms. Asuntha Charles, Associate Country Director of Oxfam Novib-Bangladesh and Mr. Jafor, Institutional Funding Officer of Oxfam-Novib visited GUK's Programme in November 03, 2012.



PRIDE project territory of GUK to observe the NFPE courses, overall progresses especially livelihoods improvements of women and community based preparedness and adaptation mechanism.

CLP-DFID and BRAC

Mr. Graham Gas, Livelihood Adviser, Mr. Biswajit, Program Manager of DFID, Dr. Morsheda Begum, Program Manager and Monwar Hossain, Program Officer of BRAC, visited Barokandi village of Gozaria union of Fulchari Upazila of



Gaibandha in January 2013 to observe the progresses especially under health, agriculture and livelihoods development activities of CLP.

Christian Aid

Mr. Anugrah, Program Performance Advisors, Mr. Richard Ewbank, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Mr. Ashraf, Program Officer of



Christian Aid have visited Ujaldanga and Nischintapur village of Fazlupur union under Fulchari Upazila of Gaibandha district in February 12, 2013 to oversee the program performance with special emphasizes to PVCA and resilient livelihood aspects of RIVER Project supported by Christian Aid Bangladesh.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Based on the learning, limitations, best practice and innovation of different development projects, GUK has been implementing research and innovative programs. These learning are being incorporated in evolving effective planning within the organization and also being replicated by others in country and abroad. These programs includes

■ Institute of Developing Economics (IDE)

The programme has been undertaken to assess the feasibility and flexibility of microcredit intervention depending on the recipient's culture and geographical context.

■ Char Livelihood Research Project

The programme has been included to assess the feasibility and flexibility of livelihood development intervention especially for asset transfer in kinds and cash based on recipient's culture and geographical context.

■ Ghat Assessment

The exclusive programme has been undertaken to assess ghat related services and facilities and recommend means of improvement that will lead to higher economic transactions as well as improve safety and satisfaction of the ghat users especially the char dwellers.

■ IDF Japan & Kopernik

This is an exclusive initiative of GUK designed for the riverine and char students of Gaibandha district through which 500 students (male and female) will get solar light facilities (lamp) to continue their studies. Students of secondary

schools will get priority and the supports will be extended stage by stage to different secondary schools located at different chars and riverine areas of Gaibandha district.



Barrier Free Access

The project accomplished accessibility work for 20 schools with subsequent meeting with SMC and teachers. To make easy access ramps were constructed accordingly in those schools following minimum standard along with enlarging the entrance especially for the wheelchair users. In addition, the adaptation and construction works are being accomplished which includes toilet adaptation, black board extended in an appropriate level to reach by children of different heights, contrast border coloring for the children with low vision, classroom platforms adapted for wheelchair access, leveling of playground, improved lighting and accessible water and sanitation facilities.



Moreover, the project accomplished accessibility work for 3 schools covering ramp in 2 and railing in 1 by the supports of related UPs where GUK provided technical supports. Children with disabilities (CWDs), non-disabled peers, parents and teachers are enjoying inclusive education environment.

Strategic Workshop on Climate Change Way Forward for Agriculture, Fishery and Livestock Sector

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) organized a strategic workshop to address the impact of climate change finding out the alternative way for agriculture, fishery and livestock on February 06, 2013 at GUK training center under Resilience Improvement of Vulnerable Extreme Riparian (RIVER) Project supported by Christian Aid where representatives from district level government agriculture, fishery and livestock department, char people, journalist, GUK and civil society participated. The workshop was presided over by Mr. Gobinda Lal Das, President of Gaibandha Press Club and also addressed among by others Mir Abdur Razzak, DD, District Agricultural Extension Department, Mr. Abul Hasem, District Livestock Officer, Gaibandha, Mr. ASM Rashedul Haq, Fishery Officer, Abu Jafor Sabu, General Secretary of Gaibandha Press Club, Mr. Jalal Uddin and Abdus Sabur Sarker, Chairmen of Fazlupur and Fulchari Union Parishad, GUK representatives Rehana Begum, Kamrul Hasan Jilani and Protima Chakrabarty. The workshop



emphasized to address the effects of climate change that degrading the life and livelihoods of the people especially who are living in river basin and char areas. On the other hand, they are also deprived from the basic services from government and non-government service provision. Finally based on in-depth discussion of the participants a strategic papers have been developed to reduce the loss and sufferings caused by the impact of climate change.

Workshop on Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP)

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) organized Workshop on Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) on February 23, 2013 at the central training venue of GUK by the cordial assistance of Christian Aid Bangladesh. The workshop addressed the commitment towards fairness, transparency, accountability by ensuring an efficient and effective complaint management system and in promoting a culture of continuous improvement.

At the outset M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK started the session by giving thanks to all and informed that organization is going to uphold the partnership with humanitarian accountability incorporating into the Human Resource Policy reflecting its essence in all affairs. Harun-or-Rashid, facilitator and focal person of HAP also extendis thanks to all the participants and exposes the objective of the workshop. He uttered need of open opinion for incorporating as well as strengthening humanitarian accountability partnership approach in all interventions within the organization. In the course, detailed discussion have been made about the basic elements of Accountability Frame Work including information sharing, easy accessibility of information, complaint of response in all spheres of program intervention. The workshop also emphasized upon right based and people centered approach for Human Development Advocacy (HDA) as integral part of HAP. Afterwards, group works, brain storming and subsequent presentation have been placed to accumulate every one's opinion and response. In this respect, 3 Unions being piloted under this project in order to reach the targeted goal and the discussion of the workshop came to an end fruitfully.