



SOLOK

Second Volume, April-June 2013

Quarterly Newsletter of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)



Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)

Nashratpur, Gaibandha-5700

Editorial

We would like to convey our pleasant incitement to our 2nd issue of SOLOK- a quarterly development newsletter of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK). Like earlier the issue of the newsletter we intend to have the opportunity to share our learning, best practices, significant achievements and outstanding examples of last three months from our programs and projects. We hope this development based publication would provide ample thoughts to the development workers, project participants, donors and civil society representatives about the ongoing activities. Organization is committed to spread-out the achievements on socio-economic development perspective through implementing integrated programmes to wake up the rural disadvantaged poor, extreme poor and disaster affected. We hope the publication would be enjoyable for the development practitioners and readers.

We like to present through this volume some specific highlighted subjects for you. Among these cash for work for flood affected poor people in 2012 including inception, inauguration, cash distribution, extremist religionist conspiracy against women empowerment, opinion sharing memorandum sending to improve human rights situation, info and technology news including adolescent girls and women involved as info lady within the community, series of trainings on information and technology and its utilization, involving GO, NGO and LGIs representatives with information and technology, foundation of GUKIET are notable item of this newsletter. On the other hand, inclusive education training for primary level teachers, opinion sharing workshop on ghat assessment project under research, day observance, election observer training for 10th Parliamentary election, project updates are included in this newsletter. Besides, visitors at GUK, exchange visit are also included as regular news cover.

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.

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

Thank you so much for being with us.

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Supports for Post Flood Affected Families Cash for Work (CFW) Programme Inception

A daylong workshop with the staff of the Cash for Work Project was organized on April 8, 2013 at in the training Center of GUK head office, Gaibandha. This project will be implemented in the northern part of Bangladesh including Gaibandha, Kurigram district and Jamalpur districts for the improvement of the livelihood of people affected during last flood in 2012 under which a total of 12 crores (120 million) taka will be spent. This workshop was cordially opened by Dr. Kazi Anwarul Haque, DC of Gaibandha as the Chief Guest. All district staff(s) of the project participated in the workshop. This program will be implemented through DeSARI consortium by the financial supports of ECCO while the members of the consortium includes Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Muslim Aid and Dustha Kallayan Sangtha, who will implement the program at the field level together with the technical collaboration of Christian Aid, Muslim Aid, and Dun Church Aid.

Opening

The opening ceremony of Cash for Work (CFW) Programme was held on April 26, 2013 for the flood affected people of 6 Unions under Gaibandha district Sadar and Sundarganj Upazila in 2012 to develop the livelihood status of the affected people. Dr. Kazi Anwarul Haque, DC of Gaibandha district opened the programme at Sidhai village, a river island Char of Mollar Char Union under Sadar Upazila by building cluster village where M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK, Hafizur Rahman, Assistant Commissioner (land) of Sadar Upazila and Saiduzzaman, Chairman Mollar Char UP were present. GUK is implementing the programme directly together with technical cooperation of Christian Aid by the financial supports of European Commission for Humanitarian Organization (ECHO). Flood affected 3720 hard core poor people on behalf of their families will get Tk 181 daily each as a daily wage covering 36 days under this project. The earth works like road repairing and building, homestead raising, cluster village building, flood shelter centers repairing and earth covering of educational institutes and religious praying places will be implemented through this cash for work project at Mollar Char, Kamarjani and Gidari of Gaibandha Sadar Upazila and Tarapur, Hariapur and Belka union of Sundarganj Upazila. The total expenditure of this project will be Tk



Cash Distribution

Cash was distributed among the beneficiaries of post flood affected families of Gidari Union, Gaibandha Sadar and Mollar Char Union of Gaibandha District on 12 May, 2013 under Cash for Work Programme implemented by GUK. The amount of TK. 5.2 million (5,18,000) was distributed separately to 393 beneficiaries at Gidari Union and 291 persons at Mollar Char Union respectively by the presence of Abdur Rashid Sarker, Chairman of Gaibandha Sadar Upazila Parishad and concerned UP members of Mollar Char Union.

GUK representatives Mahirul Islam Tusar and Rehena Begum and Satyajit Roy, representative of Christian Aid were present during distribution of Cash. The CWF Programme is being implemented in 6 Unions of Gaibandha Sadar and Sundarganj Upazila by GUK supported by Christian Aid. There are thirty-six (36) schemes will be implemented including repair and maintenance of link roads, educational institutes, religious institutions and homestead rising of 6 Unions under this project.



Protesting treacheries of religious extremists against Women Empowerment & Progress Rally, Gathering and Memorandum Sending at Gaibandha

The people of all sections of Gaibandha district are now vehemently protesting against sinister conspiracy of notorious groups who are creating obstruction to the joint movement of men and women, misinterpreting religion, demanding cancellation of national women development policy and speaking against holy constitution. The question of making voice against women has been raised at the crucial time of the nation when the trial of war criminals is being executed. Now-a-days the demand of banning communal politics is a burning issue. But the religious extremist forces are creating rampant chaos, anarchy, unbridled violence and communal clashes. They are now close at their revelry to dragging the country into an irrecoverable darkness by creating a trend against modern education and culture. Their demands are in fact, run counter to progress of nation, society, civilization, culture and moreover, our constitution.

This fired demonstration was organized by Gaibandha district Domestic Violence against Women Alliances where 70 social, cultural organizations and educational institutions expressed their solidarity where about more than 10 thousand men and women participated.



The district women leaders delivered their speeches in the discussion meeting held at Gaibandha Municipality Shaheed Minar. Later people were inspired by songs of inspiration. Then a memorandum with solicited demands was submitted to D. Kazi Anwarul Haque, Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha district.

1. Proper steps should be taken to establish equal rights of men and women constitutionally recognized by the state in every sphere of life.
2. The required steps should be taken against nefarious conspiracy of religiously bigoted groups.
3. Necessary law should be enacted aimed at full scale implementation of national women development

Protesting Domestic Violence and Developing Human Right Situation Opinion Sharing Meeting

An Opinion Sharing Meeting organized on the way forward in protesting domestic violence and human right situation at GUK training center on April 17, 2013 by GUK by the support of Ain o Salish Kendra. The speakers in the course of opinion sharing meeting demanded vehemently on the question of protesting domestic violence and developing human right situation. The report of the human rights and domestic violence situation was presented by Anjum Nahed Choudhury Lucky, Director of GUK. One minute silence was observed in respect of memory of dead persons of Savar Rana Plaza tragedy at the beginning of the meeting. In the tragedy most of the victims were women and speakers demanded noticeable punishment to the people involved with the collapsed. Recurrent accidents are happening in the industrial factories and the persons responsible have not yet been brought under trial. Consequently, the dreadful destruction of Rana Plaza has happened. All the speakers are demanded to undertake immediate actions by the state for all the affected families of Savar tragedy.

The meeting was presided over by Jahurul Quasim, Vice Principal and President of district Udichi Gaibandha and convener of district Pariarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote and Samajik Uddokta Dal while the Chief Guest was Dr. Kazi Anwarul Haque, DC of Gaibandha. The meeting was also addressed among by others M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK, Gobindalal Das, President of Gaibandha Press Club, Abu Zafar Sabu, Secretary Gaibandha Press Club, Amitav Das Himun, ABM Abu Haniif, RMO of Gaibandha Modern Sadar Hospital, Abu Bakkar Siddique, district Awami League Secretary, Gausul Azam Dollar, district BNP Secretary, Ad. Fazle Karim Pallab, Jatiyo Party, Mihir Ghosh, CPB, Moynul Islam Raja, Golam Maruk Mona, Saiful Islam Saka, Shaha Sariful Islam, Ad. Anis Mostafa Toton, Mosrafa Ahmed Ranju, Selina Akhtar Banu, Mozammel Haque Mondol, Waziur Rahman Rafel, Sajeda Parveen, GM Choudhury Mithu, Nilufar Begum, Riktu Prasad,



Ragib Hassan Choudhury, Saiful Alam Saja, Maksudar Rahaman Shahan, Najmul Haque Badal, Rafikul Islam, Mahamuda Begum Milan, Nowser Alam, Kazi Zulfikar Ali, Selina Akhtar Banu, Anjali Rani Devi. Specific recommendations and planning was adopted in developing violence and human rights situation towards women in the meeting.

Tendering Info-Tech Services by Rural Poor Girls and Women

They are all born as well as grown up in a pristine rural atmosphere in poor families namely Nayantara, Aleya, Shahina, Jahanur, Halima, Ishrat Jahan, Jannati, Manjuri Begum, Dolna, Salema Begum. Some of them are sitting idle around four walls of their families having passed the SSC and HSC. Some of them are studying traversing the thorny of poverty and some are leading domestic lives as a housewife. But there was tremendous impetus and great will behind the gaining self-reliance of these women.



The women capable of attaining self-reliance by utilizing their capital reflected to 13 strenuous women of Gaibandha Sadar. These women have been successful in getting in touch with commercial use of laptops and rendering IT based information and technological services to the community people. They are now in the field using bicycles with laptop, internet and rendering primary health care. Alea Begum of Boali has already earned Tk 4,000 and become very popular in the village by giving different kinds of services to the community people. These women with missionary zeal are getting technological support from GUK, D-Net and Fair Price International. These women entrepreneurs have already gained capacity on laptop based different services to the community people of their own villages. Besides, they are provided with different kinds of trainings on health, agriculture and education. The national bank is also providing them with a loan in giving service and buying tools. Info provider Nayantara informs that nowadays this job is very challenging in the present context of society and for this reason only I myself have taken the job. I will not have to go from door to door for a job only rather I will have to stand by my family and earn money from outside.

This is one of the exceptional examples of women development in fact in the world of information and technology where the rural women getting involved with this profession have played important role to change their lives and livelihoods as voiced by M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK. He also added that other women will also be inspired in approaching these women with difference.

Bicycles were distributed to the Info Ladies for their communication through a function held at the ground of Municipality Shaheed Minar on May 5, 2013, by Advocate Sayeed Samsul Alam Hiru, Administrator of Gaibandha Zila Parishad as Chief Guest. Other prominent figures addressed in this function includes Anjum Nahid Choudhury Lucky, Director of GUK, Abu Zafar Sabu, General Secretary of Gaibandha District Press Club and Jahurul Quaium, Vice Principal and President of Gaibandha Udichi were also present.

Entrepreneur loans by the National Bank Distributed to Info Ladies of Gaibandha

Info Lady of Gaibandha district were provided with entrepreneur loans by the national bank, Gaibandha branch with the aim to develop information services. The loan distribution program held at Gaibandha National Bank Office on April 19, 2013 presided over by SM Masud Rana, Manager while the Chief Guest was GM Sukamal Singha Choudhuri, GM of Bangladesh Bank and also addressed among others by Nazim Uddin, Deputy GM, SM Mahasin Ali Khan, Owasif Ali Khan, Officer of NBL, Rajshahi region, Dr. Anonnyo Rayhan, Chief Executive of D-Net, M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK and Urmi Lohani, Chief Executive of Fair Price International. At this time, Dr. Atiar Rahaman, Governor of Bangladesh Bank participated in the discussion through mobile conference and gave good wishes and incentive to the info Lady to provide information services.

In the first phase, 6 Info Lady received each with 75 thousands taka as an entrepreneur loan. The information service providers' project is being implemented by non- government organization Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) and supported by D net and Fair Price International. The educated jobless women of remote rural areas will contribute much for developing their working areas by creating self employment opportunity with the help of the information and technology service through this project.



UPs Information Service Centre at Gaibandha Workshop for Entrepreneurs and UP Secretaries

Four daylong workshops of 5 UP Information Service Centers under Gaibandha Sadar Upazila was held at the GUK training center on 11 to 14 May, 2013 with the objective to enhance capacity of the concerned entrepreneurs and secretaries organized by GUK with the support of D-Net. The workshop was cordially opened by Mamunur Rashid, Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and facilitated by Tarikul Islam, Senior Deputy Director of Development Research Network, D-Net with the presence of Aftab Hossain, Programme Manager of GUK and Anannya Shaha, representative of D-Net. The total participants of the workshop were 25 including 5 secretaries and 20 entrepreneurs from Kuptala, Ghagoo, Gidari, Boali and Badiakhali Union Parishads.



Building information and knowledge based Gaibandha

Workshop with GO, NGOs Officials and Service Providers

In emerging information and knowledge based Gaibandha, a workshop was organized at the library room of GUK with GO, NGO officials and service providers.



The workshop was presided over by M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK while the chief guest was Mamunur Rashid, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Gaibandha sadar. The workshop also addressed among by others including Anjum Nahed Chowdhury, Director of GUK and D-Net representatives Titu, Ononnaya Saha along with local elected bodies, bank officials, teachers, info ladies. At the concluding the Chief Guest inaugurated the Publicity Campaign of Info Ladies.

Foundation Laid

GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology (GUKIET)

The foundation of GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology (GUKIET) at Gaibandha was laid on May 30, 2013 aimed at creating skilled human resources and economic emancipation through quality technological education entangling the fruitfulness of information, technology and engineering pool.

In the morning, M. Abdus Salam, Founder Chairman of GUKIET and Chief Executive of GUK, opened this 4 storey building adjoining Gaibandha Police Lines. At the opening ceremony of this building the people of different professional groups were present there. The faculty of computer, civil and electrical departments is running in this institute under the management of GUK. There is special provision with lodging arrangement for the river island chars and poor students.



Inclusive Education at Primary Schools

Teachers Teaching Training

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has extended required supports including training, tools and technical assistance to the Govt. Primary Teachers of Nilphamari district to ensure primary education to all disabled children of this district by the assistance of European Union and technical supports of Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD). As a part of this programme, 5 daylong inclusive education training was organized with 30 teachers at the GUK training center of Gaibandha from May 12, 2013. In this training, the teachers were trained mainly on how to teach the disabled children based on different lesson related subjects of inclusive education. Nationally awarded teacher Nurul Alam, disabled specialist Sohel Rana Khandokar and Faisal Ajiz facilitated the training courses. The training session was cordially opened by Sowrendra Narayan Ghosh, Coordinator of GUK with the presence of Mahirul Islam Tusar and Aftab Hossain.



Opinion Sharing Meeting on Ghat Management of Gaibandha Proper Management and Monitoring needed for Infrastructure and Communication Development

An opinion sharing meeting on Ghat Management of Gaibandha district held at GUK training center on last June 5, 2013 was organized by Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) supported by Swiss Contact and M4C. Kallol Kumar Chakrabarty, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gaibandha Zila Parishad was present as Chief Guest while Susanta Kumar, Consultant of Swiss Contact and M4C and former Secretary of Bangladesh Government as special guest. The meeting was also addressed among by others including Mamunur Rashid, UNO of Gaibandha Sadar, M. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive of GUK, M4C representatives Subrata Kumar Kunda, Director Operation, Coordinator Yeasir Arafat, Subhash Chandra Roy, Gobindalal Das, President and Abu Zafar Sabu, Secretary of Gaibandha District Press Club were also present. A report on ghat assessment with emphasizing of communication and the improvement of livelihoods for river island char dwellers' of Gaibandha district was presented by



PM of GUK, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. Later the participants in the meeting engaged themselves into open discussion about the issues raised on. Among the participants Abu Taber, Press Club Secretary of Shaghata Upazila, Nurunnani Hossain Chakmal, UP Chairman of Kamarjani UP, Hamidul Rahman Chan Mia, Ijaradar, Mahabubur Rahman, farmer representatives Moslem Mia and Rafikul Islam., boat man Jamir Ali, Rawsonara, Chan Mia, UP Secretary. At the time of opinion sharing different problems in relation to the river island char dwellers' communication were raised including no stable way of ferry ghat management and monitoring even though the revenue was collected from the government, boat passengers had difficulties during crossing the river, deprivation from fair price and communication difficulties of char farmers and producers, no sanitation facilities, hazardous situation for disabled, pregnant mothers and sick people, no (shed) shelter for boat passengers etc. Besides, Ijaradars have to make up their loss due to the closure of river ghats maximum time of uncertain course of rivers though they have to call river ghat in exchange of extra amount of money. At the end of the discussion, all of them unanimously took the decision to plan for a sustainable river ghat development and management. The long standing sufferings of the river island char dwellers can be alleviated considerably if solid river ghat management is made. River ghat Ijaradars, boat men, river island char peasants of the Teesta, Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers of Gaibandha district with people representatives, press men and officers of different departments of government were present in the workshop.

World Environment Day Jointly Observed at Gaibandha

Highlighting the theme of the day in this year "Taking Meal Consciously and Lessening Wastages" GUK optimistically observed **World Environment Day** on June 05, 2013. A colourful rally moved through the town started from Independence Square of Gaibandha and jointly organized by Gaibandha district administration and GUK. Afterwards, a discussion meeting held at Art Academy under the leadership of Abu Bakar Siddique, additional DC where Dr. Kazi Anwarul Haque, DC of Gaibandha delivered his speech as Chief Guest. All the speakers laid emphasizes on the importance of environment day respectively by Mir Abdur Rakkak, DD of Agriculture Extension Department, Shahidur Rahaman, DD of district Social Welfare Department, Mamunur Rashid, UNO of Sadar Upazila, Lutfar Rahaman Mandol, Chief Executive of Ekata and M. Milu, representatives of SKS Foundation. At this time saplings were distributed among the students of different institutions.



For upcoming 10th Parliamentary Election Training for Election Observer of Rangpur Region

Training for election observers of Rangpur region was held at the GUK training centre on May 18, 2013, organized by Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK). A total of 14 observers of different partner organizations including GUK, Jagarani Chakra Foundation, Light House, Solidarity and IDE participated in this training supported by Election Working Group (EWG). Saiful Haque, National Coordinator and S M Qumrul Hasan grant Officer of EWG, Sowrendra Narayan Ghosh, Mahirul Islam Tusar, Coordinator, Dipali Rani Barman, Programme Manager of GUK delivered their speech during the inauguration of the training.



Aftab Hossain of GUK and Mizanur Rahaman of Jagarani Chakra Foundation mainly facilitated the training. The respective organizations will observe the political activities, the role of administration of Rangpur division based of the 10th national parliamentary election through EWG. The main points of discussion reflected in the training were the role and responsibilities of the observers.

Project Update

FSUP- Food Security Project for the Ultra-Poor Women of Gaibandha District

GUK provided 12730 beneficiaries with the trainings in poultry and cattle rearing, alternative crops, nursery development, fish and fingerling cultivation, food processing, sewing and tailoring through FSUP project aimed at generating income activities during last year of 2013.

19 Federations were formed, each with their committee under the project by this time. They are conducting their development activities in the light of a prepared work plan through regular meeting and discussion.

Meanwhile 5 Union Federation Office buildings were constructed as well as handed over for conducting their programme activities. The Union Federation of Kamarpara, Bamandanga, Ramjiban and Udakhali have been formally handed over in the presence of concerned UP Chairmen, local civil society and GUK representatives.

On the other hand, training was provided to them with the aim to enhance the federation leaders' capacity on Federation management, record keeping and document preparation, accounts management, lobbying and communication. Besides, 95 people (persons) of the Federation and group members were provided with a 3 daylong training course on right and good governance and 19 teachers provided



PFP-Shiree

Path Way from Poverty (PFP-shiree) project implemented by GUK, offered training to 220 members through 12 courses trainings on subject based capacity enhancement. Among the courses (trainings) 3 were on net making and development, 3 on net fish culture, 3 on cattle cow rearing and 3 on sheep rearing were provided during the last 3 months. Apart from this, 190 members were provided with the training on homestead vegetable cultivation.

Quest Project

GUK organized a 3 daylong training course for pre-school teachers each on inclusive education and child take care during last April and May 2013 under the Quest project. Explicit ideas were given to the trainees on various procedures of inclusive education, the responsibility of teachers, (barrier) barriers to free environment, source of disabled persons' services, stage of children's growth, child right and child labor, learning by play and love and the necessity of food and nutrition for growing children, physical soundness and cleanliness of children. Apart from this, the quarterly meeting of Upazila Education Development Committee was held at the conference room of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Sundarganj during the last month under this project.

Garments Project

A three month-long training course in 3 parts (batches) on increasing the capacity of garments and shoe making was held at the Training Center of GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology (GUKIET), Nashratpur, Gaibandha during last 3 months with the participation of 221 jobless boys and girls covering 9 Unions under Gaibandha Sader Upazila including female 101 and male 121. The targeted 1160 girls and boys of this project came from the ultra-poor families provided with training organized by GUK with the support Shiree-DFID and employment opportunities are being created for them to get themselves involved as Machine Operators in different recognized Oven Garments and Apex Edelki Foot wear Ltd one by one.



At the first stage of this project the trainees are provided with a month-long residential training course at Gaibandha and next time for 2 months in or near Dhaka or its adjoining areas in different garments factories and Apex under internship. For the first stage of the training, the students will see different sides of the garments industry e.g. as sewing different part of shirts and pants, joining different part, box plate etc to enhance the capacity of the participants. Till this time, 1140 girls and boys are working in different garments and Apex Edelki Foot ware Ltd after having successfully completed training courses under by this project. Apart from this, goats, poultry and plants are being distributed to 1160 families for conducting income enhancing programmes through this project.

River Project

Under the project of Resilience Improvement of Vulnerable Riparian (RIVER), GUK organized a workshop on Agriculture Production Management: Problem and Possibility of Marketing held in last June 2013. Mir Md. Abdur Razzak, Deputy Director of the Gaibandha Agriculture Extension Department was the chief guest in workshop while the special guests were Yusuf Rana Mondol, Upazila Agriculture Office, Shaha Mouzzem Hossain, District Marketing Officer, M A Sabur, Chairman of Fulchari Union and Joinal Abedin, Chairman of Fazlupur Union Parishad.



Besides other participants of this workshop were includes Mahirul Islam Tusar, Rokunazzaman Zillullah, Protima Chakrabatty as GUK representatives, Assistant Agriculture Officers of Fulchari and Fazlupur Union, representatives of Hat-ljaradars, farmers and group members. The workshop addressed difficult communication as the principal barrier in the way to get fair prices, though there are good productions of high quality chilly, onion, ground nut, maize, paddy and wheat in the river island areas.

PRPD Project

Insufficient (education) educational tools are being observed in the educational institutes for (the) disabled students with less capacity in learning and teaching of the teachers for the disabled children. For this reason, most of the poor disabled students are deprived of getting an education. At this stage, 40 disabled students are provided with different kinds of educational tools organized by Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) and supported by CDD and Manusher Jonney Foundation under the PRPD project.



The education tools contain the materials as school dresses, hard boards, book, notebook, pens and geometry boxes. Apart from this, 14 disabled persons of different levels are provided with assistive tools free of charge in order to ensure free movement, enhancing physical capacity, maintaining daily life and participating in different economic activities under the PRPD project organized by Gana Unnayan Kendra and supported by CDD and Manusher Jonney Foundation. The ingredients contain wheelchairs, try-cycle walkers, special chairs and standing tables. The assistive tools are distributed in the presence of the members of lamb groups, GUK representatives and the social welfare officer of Gaibandha Sadar Upazila.

Livelihood Micro Finance Programme

Under the Livelihood Microfinance Programme, GUK established newly 5 Area Offices to provide financial services to develop the standard of life and livelihoods of the poor and disadvantaged people in Gaibandha district. The Area Offices are Shaghata Area under Shaghata Upazila, Lakhipur Area of Gaibandha Sadar Upazila, Palashbari Area of Palashbari Upazila, Gobindagonj Area of Gobindagonj Upazila under Gaibandha district and Rowmari Area of Rowmari Upazila under Kurigram District. On the other hand, GUK has also undertook a new initiative namely Family Risk Reduction through Insurance under Livelihood Microfinance Programme that will be started from July 2013 and would be able to support the poor families to mitigate their family risk.



Visitors at GUK

ECHO- DeSARI Consortium

Alamgir Rahaman, DeSARI Consortium Manager, Mukib Billah, Programme Manager of European Union, Dolon Gomez, Team Leader-Livelihood of Christian Aid and Abu Yusuf, Fund Raising Officer visited different activities of Early Recovery Support to Flood Victims of North West Project implemented by GUK on behalf of Christian Aid by the support of ECHO through DeSARI Consortium. They visited the different spots of the CFW Programmes under 5 schemes within the working areas.



Oxfam- Novib

Khan Alamgir, Programme Officer and Shariful Islam, Finance Officer of Oxfam Novib, visited GUK (during) last June 2013, under the projects Regenerative Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihood for Vulnerable Echo System (RESOLVE) and Poverty Reduction through Improving Diversified Employments (PRIDE) being implemented by GUK with the financial support of Oxfam Novib. They assessed as well as monitored the standard of quality and progress of the implemented activities of those projects.

CLP- Maxwell Stamp

Mr. Wen Devis, (Operation) Operations Director of Maxwell Stamp came to visit the working areas of the Char Livelihoods Programme (CLP). He made spot (visit) visits to see the development activities at Tengrakandi area of Fulchhari Upazila on June 12,

Institute of Developing Economics (IDE-Tokyo University, Japan

Dr. Kazushi Takahashi, Research Fellow of Institute of Developing Economics (IDE) and Tokyo University of Japan, Dr. Uakudo, Research Fellow and Senior Researcher Dr. Abu Shonchoy Parves of IDE signed the Solar Lantern Project and visited the training center of GUK Garments Project. Besides, They also instated a new project namely Garments Research Project.



South Asian Net Work for Economic Modeling (Sanem) and Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Professor Dr. Selim Raihan, The Coordinator of South Asian Network for Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Professor of Economics Department of Dhaka University and Dr. Abu Yusuf Ahmod, Assistant Professor of Development Studies Department, Dhaka University visited the inception programme of the Garments Research Project and

APALS Project

Philippe JACQUES, First Counselor and Head of Cooperation of EU Delegation, Gonzalo SERRANO, Second Secretary and Head of Section, EU Delegation, Donel ROZARIO, Programme Officer of EU Delegation, Aroma Dutta, Executive Director of PRIP Trust and James Dipok Gomes, Senior Training Officer of PRIP Trust visited the Charlands of Kalasonar Char. They observed cooperation within the community

in-between local public health service providers and the Union Health Standing Committee as well as to assess the improvement of accessibility of the community



Exchange Visit of GUK Representatives

- Anjum Nahed Chowdhury, Director of GUK participated in the Workshop on Business Planning and Financial Projection with Micro Fin in Washington DC during last May 2013.

- Kisore Kumar, Programme Manager of GUK went to Madhura of Tamilnadu of India during last June 2013 to participate in the Workshop on the Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) at the invitation of Christian Aid South Asian Region and Christian Aid Bangladesh. This workshop was organized by the technical support of Practical action, Bangladesh where representatives of 6 countries participated.

- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster risk reduction (UNISDR) organized 4 session sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction where Rehana Begum, Programme Manager of GUK with disabled Kajal Rekha through from the Center for Disability in Development, Bangladesh went to Switzerland to participate in this event

