

BRIEF

Becoming more disaster and climate resilient: Char Kukri Mukri of Bhola District, Bangladesh



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

CONTEXT

Char Kukri Mukri union is an island located in Char Fasson Upazila of Bhola District, with an area of 88.20 km². The union is surrounded by Char Montaz, Char Kalmi and Char Manika.

Char Kurkri Mukri is particularly vulnerable to cyclone, tidal surge, water logging and salinity. Non-existence of embankment, inadequate cyclone shelters, lack of fresh drinking water, substandard transportation, poverty (37.81 %), poor health and sanitation facilities have made this area more susceptible to disasters and climate risks.

In addition people's willingness to go to safe shelters during emergency leaving behind their cattle (the only source of livelihood) is very low, which makes them even more vulnerable to disasters.

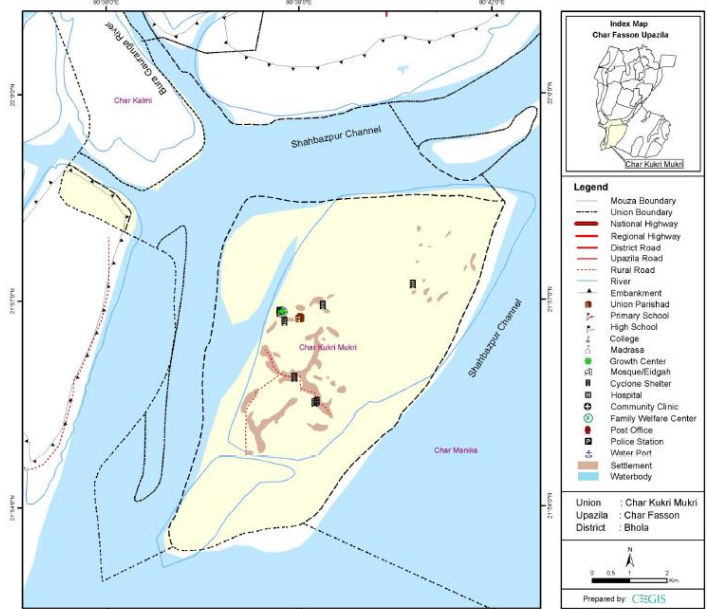
Previously cyclone, tidal surge and water logging in 1970, 1991, 2007, 2009, 2010 and recent cyclonic storm Mahasen in 2013 have severely affected the lives, livestock, physical facilities and livelihood of the people of this locality.

ACTION

In 2011, CDMP in association with Upazila Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) have conducted a detail Community Risk Assessment (CRA) of this area through participatory process and came up with a Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) to be implemented in order to reduce the vulnerabilities of community.

Following the RRAP, CDMP entered into partnership with local Char Fasson UzDMC and a local NGO Shushilan for a number of interventions. Under the partnership with UzDMC, Char Kukri Mukri UDMC is implementing the following interventions:

- Repairing/reconstruction of existing ring embankment cum road from Hashem Howladar to Mujib Killa via uttar Char Kukri Mukri Cyclone Shelter. This is serves as second line of defence from storm surge to protect villages and/or agricultural land and also serves as access road to cyclone shelter, killa and other services.
- Repairing Kamal Uddin Hawladar earthen Killa, an artificially built mound which is traditionally been used as shelter primarily for domestic animals, and even for human beings in coastal regions.



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHAR KUKRI MUKRI

- Population: About 14,600 (male 8,027, female 6,573).
- Households: about 2,560 households in the union.
- Housing: 29.40 % of the houses are jhupri (makeshift), 68.30 % are kutcha, 1.92 % is semi-pukka (half building) and 0.39 % is pukka (building).
- Literacy rate: 28.55 %. male literacy is 31.15 % and female literacy is 25.26 %.
- Poverty: 37.81% living below the poverty line.
- Livelihoods: about 27% fishermen, 26% farmers, 25 % day labourers and 12% businessmen.
- Households with electricity: less than 1% of the total.
- Elevation – varies from 1.5 to 1.6 m above the mean Sea Level.

(these statistics are of 2011)



IMPACTS OF INTERVENTIONS – CHAR KUKRI MUKRI

The undertaken interventions are already started producing results. During emergency period and also in normal time it helped community in many ways as follows.

- During Mahasen more than 1,000 of people, 1,500 livestock (cow, goat and buffalo) have taken shelter on the killas.
- Livestock are now grazing on these killa during high tide in normal situation also.
- 25 number of HHs are cultivating seasonal vegetables on the slope of these constructed killa.
- 1,300+ number of sapling has planted beside these killa.
- The attached ponds are now using for aquaculture activities since last 5 months. Different fish species (15,000 number) has stocked in these ponds.

More than 10,000 people from about 2,500+ households are now benefitting from CDMP Shushilan and CDMP UDMC partnerships in Char Kukri Mukri Union.

- Repairing Mujib Killa which is being used by wild deer, buffalo and wild animals during emergency.

CDMP and Shushilan partnership is implementing both structural and non-structural interventions at Shahabajpur and Charpatila villages of Char Kukri Mukri, these are:

- Structural Support: Construction of earthen Killa, approach road and pond dyke to provide shelter to livestock during cyclones associated with tidal surges and also provides fresh pond water to people and animals.
- Capacity development: Trainings on Leadership Development and Financial Management, Fish cultivation, Duck rearing, and Tree plantation have been provided to local community members.
- Livelihood support: Fish culture, Tree Plantation.

To implement these interventions Community Led Disaster Risk Reduction approach has been adopted. Both UDMC members and UzDMC members e.g. Chairman and Members has provided support during Killa Management Committee (KMC) formation, decision making, site selection, planning, designing, implementation and monitoring activities under this project.

SUSTAINABILITY

The delivery through local governments is a way towards more genuine empowerment of the DMCs to be the entity to have the significant importance in promoting and fostering the DRR and CCA initiatives. It also establishes the closer linkage between the LDRRF-financed pilot initiatives to the mainstream local development planning, monitoring and implementations.



Pond dyke at Sahabazpur – work in progress



Multipurpose approach road – work in progress

