

# Resilient Habitat, Bangladesh

## An Alternative Comprehensive Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction And Climate Change Adaptation

*“Investing in a safer tomorrow by reducing risks from disaster and climate change through community-managed comprehensive programme for better living and social protection”*

**WHAT?:** “Resilient Habitat” is an alternative approach in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation targeting the most vulnerable communities. Expanding the last decade’s introduction of individual small to medium scale DRR/CCA interventions, the government along with the donors mobilizes the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) to introduce a range of interventions that aggregately protect life & asset by uplifting people from extreme poverty.

**HOW?:** The Resilient Habitat engages technology, physical and social infrastructure, local knowledge and social capital to complement the available resources to promote resilience through better living. And thus in the event of major disasters, the at-risk communities avert themselves from mass displacement, destruction of assets, and the expensive rehabilitation or reconstruction afterwards. With the price of one cyclone shelter, the Resilient Habitat helps fortify and concurrently uplift the living conditions of a larger number of the most vulnerable communities.



### THE SALIENT FEATURES:



**Structural Safety:** cyclone resilient structural design, based on 100 years tidal surge safety measures, saline proof structure etc.

**Adaptation Interventions:** renewable energy, rain water harvesting, bio-gas digester etc.

**Social Protection:** children’s school program, health care etc.

**Sustainable Livelihood:** common grazing land, mini-dairy farm, aquaculture ponds, fishery supports, common production centre etc.

**Early Warning:** community warning appropriate reaction, dissemination by and through community volunteers, telecommunication transmission in practical and behavioural languages

**Natural Ecosystem:** sustainable land and water management.

**Community-managed:** to be self-governed by local committees

### THE COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (PHASE II)

Disaster Management & Relief Division

Ministry of Food and Disaster Management



**RESILIENT HABITAT:** Bangladesh' alternative approach to reducing risk from disaster and climate change



Unruly River is slowly engulfing the Bainpara Primary School piece by piece. For safety the school is shifted to another temporary location



Nur Mohammad (11) lives with her parents and two sisters in a small one room makeshift shelter. He had no way to study at home. Classes have not been regular since the cyclone. He barely passed the last final examination. "My class room has a big hole on the floor. We can see the water running underneath." He misses the big playground of his old school. The children of the village had place to play. "It is nothing like playing football with all your friends" he explains



Student gathered in their temporary classrooms. Once there were more than 250 students, now only few hundred attend the school. Classes are cut short before the high tide every day to ensure safe return of the students to their homes.



Koppor Bibi (70) is waiting by the road for the water to recede to go back to her home. She is too old to cross the feeble bamboo bridge. Once the water is gone. her daughter in law will help her to cross.

CDMP II in cooperation with SUSHILAN, a local NGO, contributing to the recovery from the impacts of the 2009 Cyclone Alla, implements the Resilient Habitat approach in Bainpara and Gazipara, of Sutherkhali Unions in Dakope Upazila of Khulna District in the south-western coast of Bangladesh

. The two villages are amongst ten targeted villages to rapidly generate lessons learnt towards a broader scaling up to other vulnerable areas.

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