

Protecting Households from Floods

Flooding in the Chars

The *chars* are low-lying riverine islands that are prone to annual flooding during the monsoon. Such floods can erode whole chars, forcing people to leave their homes and move to higher ground, embankments or flood shelters. Other families may remain in their houses, either living in the water or shifting up on to their roofs. Without access to clean water and adequate sanitation, these families are at risk of diarrhoeal diseases.



The CLP's Infrastructure Activities

As part of its package, the CLP provides essential infrastructure to char households. It raises homes on earth plinths 60 cm above the highest known flood-level (based on the 2007 flood). This provides core participant households, as well as neighbours who live in the same compound as the CLP participant, with a safe and dry place to live throughout the year, protecting their livestock, homes and other belongings.

Plinth-raising activities take place throughout the lean employment season and the dry season. During the lean season, from September to December, the CLP raises plinths to create employment opportunities on the chars. However, the majority of the plinths are built during the dry season, from January to May, when earth is dry and easier to move.

In addition to plinth-raising, concrete pillars are installed in all CLP working villages. These display a marked point demonstrating the highest flood line.

This allows the wider community to use the highest flood mark as a reference point to raise their plinths.



Living on a Plinth

Living on a raised plinth has changed the lives of many *char* households. They are now able to live on their homesteads throughout the year. They can keep their assets safe, continue to use their homestead gardens as well as have continuous access to improved water and adequate sanitation throughout the year. Most importantly, families stay dry. They are less vulnerable to shocks, can pursue their livelihoods and are protected from water-borne diseases. Households living on raised plinths also help their neighbours by offering them and their assets shelter during the annual floods.

