

## Lesson Learning Workshop

### “Consolidating and Sharing Lessons from Phase One”

Date: 22-24 April 2012

Venue: Holiday Inn Resort, Bandarban

Caritas organised a lesson learning workshop titled “Consolidating and Sharing Lessons from Phase One” at Holiday Inn Resort in Bandarban from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

A large number of the Caritas team were present at the event, and all nine *shiree* scale fund partners attended. This gave a chance for the three new scale fund NGOs, Caritas along with Oxfam and Concern, to introduce themselves to *shiree*'s existing scale fund partners. In addition, representatives from innovation fund NGOs in the Hill Tracts were present; Eco-dev, Tarango, Green Hill and Hellen Keller International. There was also a high presence of *shiree* staff, including Colin Risner, CEO, and Anwar Chowdry, CFO. *Shiree* senior management team member, Monjur Hossain of PMTC, was also in attendance.

The whole workshop was well moderated by Mr. Sayeed Hasan, Research Officer at Caritas.

#### **Day 1**

##### **Introduction**

Sayeed Hasan, Research Officer at Caritas, briefed the schedule and agenda of the workshop. He welcomed and thanked everyone on behalf of Caritas and began the introductions from all participants.

##### **Welcome Speech**

Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario, Executive Director of Caritas, welcomed all participants to Bandarban. He shared the meaning of “lesson” both on a personal level and within the context of Caritas. He explained the importance of lesson learning for all NGOs, and how lesson learning workshops have come up with many interesting findings. He explained that as development workers, we are middle men between stakeholders and society, and as such we need to learn how to be good middle men. He went on to give background of his history in Bandarban, and said that it has changed a lot in the last few years – with more foreigners and NGO workers who are all working to develop the region and help the local people. These aid workers all need to help each other to be good middle men through sharing what we learn with each other. In this way he said that he viewed the lesson learning workshop as a good way for Caritas to learn from the other *shiree* partner-NGOs to ensure that they could provide those in the hill tracts with a better quality of life.

##### **Objectives of the workshop**

Colin Risner, CEO of *shiree*, started by welcoming all the participants and thanking them for attending, and also extended his thanks to Caritas for taking the trouble to organise the workshop. He highlighted the objectives of the workshop, which were:

- To welcome the new round 2 Scale Fund NGOs (and other partners) into the *shiree* sharing and lesson learning process.
- To showcase the work and various programmes of Caritas and receive feedback from partners
- To consolidate practical implementation lessons from 6 Scale Fund Round 1 projects
- To address any common issues that partners wish to raise within the MA and to clarify actions going forward

He pointed out that this was the 6th lesson learning workshop but the first hosted by a scale fund round 2 partner and the first in the CHT. Given that there are 36 partners in the *shiree* portfolio with 32 partner NGOs, the scope for exchange of experiences and mutual learning is now considerable.

### **Introduction from Caritas Bangladesh**

Augustine Baroi, Program Manager at Caritas gave an introductory presentation. The major areas of the presentation were:

- History of Caritas
- Vision and mission statement
- Introduction of executive board
- Programme
- Ongoing projects in CHT – these were briefly introduced
- Shiree scale fund 2 project – a tested approach

Details of the presentation can be found [here](#)

### **Introduction from shiree's round 2 Scale Fund partners**

A. Caritas – presented by Subash Gomes, Programme Manager

The major areas of the presentation were:

- Purpose of the project – food security, access to health
- Outputs
- Selection criteria and method for selection
- Project design – IGAs (including vegetable support, livestock, cash crop, cash transfer)
- 30% of beneficiaries did not fit in with any of the initial IGA models – they were therefore given a variety of other support
- Challenges and learning

Details of the presentation can be found [here](#)

B. Oxfam, Afroz Mahal, Programme Coordinator

The major points of the presentation were:

- Evolution of programme and priority
- Two major issues – resilient communities and women leadership
- Purpose and Output
- Livelihood activities – immediate support, and mid-term and long-term interventions
- Partners and working area
- Profile of targeted EP HH – age distribution (15% of bhh are over 60)
- Case study of Sorap Bapary, who is elderly, chronically sick and abandoned by his children. Also that of a single mother abandoned by her husband. Both involved with cash for work and used IGAs to increase daily incomes e.g. selling bread
- Challenges
  - Local government try to influence scheme selection
  - Some women do not feel comfortable to go to work in public places
  - Scattered location of beneficiaries
  - Some EP are sick and not fit to do earth work
  - What IGAs work for elderly and single member households?
  - Livestock and agro-based IGA in context of climate uncertainty

- *Single member household- when asked what IGAs they would like they aren't confident to get close relatives to manage IGA for them. They would rather receive cash as they can't manage IGA themselves, and they don't trust others to manage IGA for them and give them the income*

Details of the presentation can be found [here](#)

C. Concern Worldwide – presented by Zakir Ahmed Khan, Head of Haor Programme

The major points of the presentation were:

- Background of Concern – started in the Biafra (Nigeria) famine
- Working areas
- How Concern works
- Haor region – Extreme varying landscape between monsoon and dry season, and number one issue for bhh becomes protecting their households
- ESEP shiree project
- Other interventions – including construction of village protection walls which is exceptionally demanding. Have constructed 9 walls in the hoar region, and is one of the most important interventions for the hoar people. This is to be pushed in the advocacy agenda

The presentation is available [here](#)

#### **Introduction from *shiree* Innovation Fund Partners from the CHT**

As the workshop was held in the hill tracts, all shiree partners in the hill tracts were invited to present details of their NGO.

A. Eco-Dev presented by Rebati, M&E Officer

The major points of this presentation were:

- Vision, mission and objectives
- Working sectors – community empowerment, women empowerment, education, primary health care and good governance
- Working strategies – community participation, capacity building, integrated development, gender & diversity,
- Current projects – shiree project is the economic empowerment of Jumiya People through medicinal plant cultivation
- Problems
  - Selection criteria
  - Language barrier
  - Extremely remote bbh and large working area
  - EP face hardship and it is difficult for them to give time for meetings
  - Health and WATSAN
  - Migration
- Learning
  - Traits are different – marginalisation and difficult market linkages
  - BBH interested in medicinal plants
  - BBH like to share experience with those that speak the same language

The presentation is available [here](#)

B. Green Hill, presented by Jatan Kumar Dewan, Program Director

- Brief introduction to Green Hill - two innovation fund projects
- Since 1994 – mission is social empowerment of deprived e.g. women, children and indigenous groups in remote areas
- IMPACT (first project to deal with EP in the hill tracts) – achievements
- Lessons
  - Cluster approach results in more impact/synergy
  - Basic crop management practices
  - Production of 1200 hh do not meet demand of Agora
  - Increasing savings results in poverty reduction
  - Samity's strengthen mutual trust, respect and solidarity
  - VSL system has a much lesser chance of savings being spent
  - Loan support increase bbh interest to take more IGAs
  - Issues of unstable market prices (turmeric)

The presentation is available [here](#)

C. Tarango, presented by Pain Shwe U Marma, Project Coordinator

- History, mission, main programmes
- Who will benefit
  - EP families, FHH, differently able people
  - Skilled practitioners
- Innovative aspects – fair trade, revival of endangered indigenous crafts, establishing craft emporium
- Lesson learning
  - Language barrier
  - Traditional mentality of indigenous community – like to rely on donors and handouts
  - Inaccessibility of bbhs
  - Craftsman merely interested in a limited number of handicrafts
  - Criteria of EP is exceptional for CHT

The presentation is available [here](#)

D. Helen Keller International, presented by Nazmul Huda, Marketing Specialist

- Outputs
- Business skill and marketing information
- Results
- Lessons learnt
  - Knowledge and training on seed production and preservation from RDA Bogra
  - Market orientated crop production increases benefit
  - 25 beneficiaries got their land leases cancelled by the landlords after getting a remarkable income - landlords wanted to cultivate and benefit themselves
  - Hedge rows can control soil erosion

The presentation is available [here](#)

## **Presentation on Key Lessons Learnt from Scale Fund Round 1 – Best Livelihood and Practices and Sustainable Mechanism**

Given limited time, the NGOs were asked to present lessons learnt on specific themes rather than the entire scope of their phase 1 projects. The major lessons detailed by the scale fund NGOs are as follows:

### A. CARE, presented by Kaiser Zillany, Technical Coordinator

- Sector engagement can contribute to address EP successfully
- Need to be strategic and careful to design MOU with private sector for LT partnership
- Individual business more effective
- Value chain based interventions and more fruitful

The presentation is available [here](#)

### B. Practical Action Bangladesh presented by Mizanur Rahman, Deputy Operations Manager

- Difficulties to graduate widow/elderly beneficiaries
- Many were not previously involved in agriculture which has limited production
- Partner NGO staff could not provide maximum follow up and technical support
- Procurement issues delayed implementation activities
- Drop out of PGNO technical staff hampers implementation and quality
- Overlapping in some multi project areas e.g. CLP v PAB
- Sandbar cropping contributes significantly to income which may pose opportunities elsewhere in Bangladesh
- Fisheries intervention also significant but more seasonal
- Light engineering interventions for the youth – makes them mobile
- Small enterprise intervention contributes to income of women and girls
- Food processing has large potential market for EP – sanitation and safe water is a prerequisite so not possible in all areas – need linkages with other NGOs
- Awareness raising at household level helps the disabled
- Needs based support from project can help reduce their physical challenge and contribute to income
- Sandbar cropping – can address lean period but major difficulties from elites as no legal documentation to ensure land access

The presentation is available [here](#) | Presentation on disability is available [here](#)

### C. DSK, presented by Abdul Baten, Research Coordinator

- To get real change from EP, special attention and extra precautions are required
- Calorie intake measures are difficult to implement in the field – theoretical measures are not always applicable, need to develop methods which are operational in the field
- Community participation including social mapping etc
- More opportunities in the slums – for linkages with other NGOs and also for a variety of NGOs and market linkages
- Slum people have weaker relational ties and have tendency to hide information at the primary stage
- Threats of eviction, fire etc
- Ineffective targeting can exclude some EP people
- It is challenging to use PRA tools such as wealth ranking as the community members do not know each other as well as in rural areas

The presentation is available [here](#)

D. Save the Children International, presented by Dr. Munir Ahmed, Programme Director

- Consideration of livelihood inputs and IGAs for the SW coastal region – general context and specific at the household level e.g. resilience analysis
- Scored categories of livelihood inputs in terms of viability and resilience – on this score non-agri, fishery and then transport were the most resilient/viable. Poultry was the worst, followed by livestock and agriculture.
- Based on this SCUk learnt that the least resilient/viable shouldn't be included from the very beginning – there is a need to choose the right inputs. BBH might ask for a cow but they do not give an immediate return. The NGO need to assess what else needs to be given, how much would it cost?
- Innovation for dependent households - can link dependent households with able-bodied neighbours or relatives – in this way regular income is not impossible through engagement with community support groups. In 80% of cases there has been an increase in income
- Capacity building is essential

The presentation is available [here](#)

E. Uttaran, presented by Abdul Khaleque, Project Manager

- Conflict between constant return IGAs v one off lump sum e.g. rickshaw v cow
- Offer stipend to very elderly or disabled bhh's who cannot manage IGAs -Uttaran are currently conducting research on the elderly which should shed more light on how to target the elderly with IGAs
- Problems
  - Individual mind set of government officials
  - Political influence/domination'
  - Climate risk and disaster – last year beneficiaries lost 1million taka
  - Soil and water salinity
  - Inadequate policy and implementation
  - Continual engagement is necessary
- Lessons
  - Diversification of assets
  - Involving local government officers in project
  - Create market linkages – it is difficult for the bhh's to get good prices
  - Climate adaptation and resilience
  - Enhancing skilled based training, address health shock assistance
  - Khasland access and retention – 80% get access but how many can retain this?

The Uttaran power point slides are available [here](#)

F. NETZ presented by Munzurul Karim, Project Director

- NETZ suffered a high number of dead livestock – 20% of ducks, 16.5% of hens, 15% of sheep and pig, 11% of goats, 2.7% of cattle
- Challenges
  - Scattered location
  - Social empowerment needs more time as bhh's are just starting to gain confidence
  - Bhh's are identifying their own new IGAs but there is a problem of marketing
  - 91% of bhh's live on khas land or others land – possession of valid documents is difficult
  - Institution sustainability necessary for gradual handover from NETZ to bhh's to be successful

- Adivasis often addicted to chuanis etc and do not work or get increasingly violent against their wives
- Lessons
  - Rearing milking cow is not suitable for EP beneficiaries – if adivasi families produce milk, this milk is not socially accepted
  - Staff presence in the market avoids trap of broker and makes IGAs profitable
  - Access to government safety nets reduce vulnerability
  - Community validation is a unique way to sensitize community people towards the extreme poor
  - Help people with health problems whether they are beneficiaries or not

The presentation is available [here](#)

**Feedback and discussion: What changes should NGOs consider as a result of the learning from Phase 1?**

Open Discussion			
Issue	Raised By	Discussions	Comments from Other
Targeting of EP households	Dr. Munir Ahmed, Save the Children	Needs to be an independent investigation to identify the areas we should be focusing on – <i>shiree</i> should do research based on region What do we mean by the bottom 10% and how far can we relax the criteria? – study should be done by <i>shiree</i>	Zakir Hossain, Concern - We need to have recommendations concerning how flexible we can be in selection criteria
Graduation	Dr. Tofail Azad, DSK	When we were moving into second phase we wanted to find how much money was required to start business and graduate -More than 20,000 taka is needed but also need health, sanitation support (total 22,000 taka) -Beneficiaries need treatment for diseases – if we say that we want to get out of EP then we need to mean it. In case of poverty there is no short cut method – they will fall back into poverty and graduation will not be sustainable	
Dissemination	Zakir Hossain, Concern	These lessons need to be fine tuned and circulated in brief writings to the newcomers, earlier on in the implementation stage	
Targeting	Augustine Baroi, Caritas	In the adivasis communities one bbh had a pig so couldn't be a beneficiary – we were able to relax criteria	
Targeting	Colin Risner, <i>shiree</i>	We have always been flexible and been able to give advice when they have had problems with particular selection criteria. However we have been tough – one study has verified that the NGOs have actually managed to reach the poorest 3-4% of households in Bangladesh There is a trade-off between targeting and graduation – up till now <i>shiree</i> has not been reporting on graduation numbers, but now we have to start doing it as the programme has been going for 3 years. However we don't want to compromise targeting in order to get high graduation rates	



Selection criteria	Munzural, NETZ	Focus on hill, char, hoar, south west etc so shire should suggest different criteria in different contexts – there may be big houses in certain areas but they are still poor -MFI is the cause of poverty – but we are excluding this with our selection criteria. We should rethink this and maybe commission research. Beneficiaries are finding issues with this and falling into EP – what are the solutions?	
Selection criteria	Anwar Chowdhury, <i>shiree</i>	<i>Shiree</i> is ready to discuss individual selection criteria if we can prove they are bottom 5% - criteria is within the contract and we need to discuss – relaxation is not that easy as we cannot claim there are no EP just because we are struggling to find them in certain areas (we should give the opportunities to others)	
	Jatan Kumar Dewan, Green Hill	How to involve government - we got a mixed reaction from a government member when he was visiting bandarban Visits from government officials need to be utilized correctly to make the best use of their time	
Graduation	Nazmul Huda, HKI	With the beneficiaries we have selected is it possible to graduate with 3 or 4 lak taka?	
Marketing	Nazmul Huda, HKI	Beneficiaries are producing a lot and this may be unsustainable. Turmeric crop was fine last year so every beneficiary was able to make money. They have produced again this year but the Indian turmeric is filling the market – how is it possible for them to sell cheaper when they have additional transportation costs? Can we prevent Indian turmeric from damaging our local market?	
MFI	Colin Risner, <i>shiree</i>	Inadequate visits - Our M&E system gives robust evidence against unsubstantiated conclusions drawn by MPs who only visit two or three households.	
Government	Dr. Azad, DSK	National steering committee - <i>shiree</i> should take lead to make the government accountable for some of the issues e.g. eviction. If we look at the project memorandum one of the partners is the Unnayon shammanay	

Important lessons to be shared	Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario, Caritas	We are focusing on targeting/selection criteria. However three things are lacking: -Ownership -Sustainability -Participation Do not forget to share the lessons on these areas in more or less equal importance. These are instrumental to start the process of graduation	
Academic v. practitioners	Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario, Caritas	Always a debate between academics and practioners – there are proven indicators for every situation. If we learn from academics much of this discussion would not be necessary	
Reporting	Munzural, NETZ	Quarterly reports or monthly reports – this needs to be specified in the next phase	Anwar – some of the information they need is monthly. We would let you know in signing of the contract
Finance	Anwar Chowdhury, <i>shiree</i>	Out of our 6 scale funds I have observed that on the financial side Uttaran, Netz and DSK are capitalising on savings through the interventions. The other three have saved a little bit less. When I saw the graduation pathway for SCUK it is longer than three years. What happens for the second phase if they do not have the savings? They need to work with the beneficiaries for longer than three years. We have agreed with all round 1 scale fund partners to include phase 1 beneficiaries in phase 2.	
Reporting	Dr. Munir Ahmed, Save the Children	Has never seen any feedback from <i>shiree</i> programme managers on our monthly reports. If we do not get feedback we cannot relay this to our partners or use it ourselves – even if this is negative we need this to improve - Monthly MIS – will they analyse if we are making a dent in EP? Need comparisons with the other NGOs.	Anwar – Technical and MIS is used for information for the stakeholders e.g. government -accounts manager sometimes send financial reports also -In terms of feeback to the NGOs if you are interested we can do this but this will take up our time and yours

CMS3	Abdul Khaleque, Uttaran	RAs are used in CMS3 for one and a half months. We know this is available at the <i>shiree</i> office but as a manager we would like to know some sort of feedback immediately after the survey. Common things should be shared with us before being sent to the website	Colin – CMS3 also included an impact survey for all 12 innovation fund, as well as all nine scale find NGOs. From now on it will just be on a yearly basis. There is no data from CMS3 yet but Cambridge will give data by the end of May
Comparative study for NGOs	Abdul Baten, DSK	<i>Shiree</i> can give a power point presentation comparing the achievements of the major organizations –a comparative study from the CMS3 data should be shared and would be useful for all NGOs	Colin – not sure about this, we do not want it to become a competition. However, it is a good idea to present on CMS3 findings at next lesson learning workshop. There is no restriction on NGOs accessing and using their own data
Elderly	Abdul Kuddas, Caritas	Elderly people – is there any guidance to provide support for the elderly?	Anwar – livelihood options for the disabled – it is unclear what is better. NB HelpAge are now a <i>shire</i> partner and we hope to learn more from their expertise.
Private sector	Anwar Chowdhury, <i>shiree</i>	Links with the private sector – they are also interested to do some social work but their main objective is to sell their product and get more well known	Colin – Different approaches to the issue of establishing a sustainable business enterprise would be a good research theme
Approaches to development	Dr. Munir Ahmed, Save the Children	Household approach, CBO approach, group approach – can we see what approaches the innovation fund are following	
Graduation	Abdul Khaleque, Uttaran	Within three years the NGO cannot meet all three of the beneficiaries needs. They have too many problems but maybe we can make these more programme based – however this takes lots of funding (Care can continue for more than 3 years with their funding).	

Research agenda	Colin Risner, <i>shiree</i>	Ten of the NGOs here have research officers – their primary purpose is to research the nature, causes and dynamics of poverty and the interventions that work. There was a problem with ownership of the ROs but hopefully with recent discussions, going forward there will be stronger ownership by the NGOs. You, the NGOs, need to contribute strongly to setting the research agenda, via the EPRG.	
Future lesson learning workshops	Munzural, NETZ	One recommendation for <i>shiree</i> – comparing lesson learning workshops. It seems that when Colin, Anwar, Jamal etc are present they are very effective. Request that at least 2 or 3 of <i>shiree</i> top management take part in such discussions to improve quality	

### Sharing Field Visit Plan

Due to a nation-wide hartal there were many changes to the schedule, and in particular several alternative plans were developed for the field visits. Eventually, due to the ongoing political situation, the field visits were unable to take place.

## Day 2

### **Introduction**

Raza from Caritas introduced the day and explained that field visits could not occur today due to hartal.

### **Briefing**

Colin Risner ran through a brief outline of the new schedule to include:

1. Field Visit Arrangements
2. Graduation
3. Nutrition
4. CMS
5. Manifesto for the Extreme Poor – group work on advocacy and political manifestos (preparation for extreme poverty day)

### **Field Visit Arrangements**

There was much reorganisation of field trips, with the hope that they would be able to take place on the 24<sup>th</sup>. However the ongoing situation meant that they eventually had to be cancelled.

### **Points from Sam Beckwith, *shiree* Associate Programme Manager**

1. Health questionnaire – Sam urged the participants to complete the health questionnaire which can be accessed at:
2. Guidance notes

### **Graduation Presentation**

David Jackman, Internal Consultant at *shiree*, presented the graduation paper.

The main points of the presentation were:

- The importance of measuring graduation
- A brainstorming session where participants were invited to suggest their definitions of extreme poverty. The following ideas were suggested:
  - Not having three meals a day
  - World Bank – less than \$1.25 a day
  - Isolated
  - No savings
  - Nutritional diversity/calories measure
  - Employment opportunities
  - Human deprivations
  - Per capita income
  - Different definitions – no consensus
  - Socially marginalised and powerless
  - Not knowing where next meal is coming from
  - Importance of considering what the extreme poor's definition of extreme poor is!
  - Lack of empowerment
- Tensions between definitions and characteristics. A discussion was initiated on the definition of graduation, for which the key points were:
- Shiree works with the bottom 5% - we do not want to select people just below the threshold to improve graduation from extreme poverty – we are still able to show

positive progressive change, even if the beneficiaries do not cross the lower poverty threshold

- Income targets are useful for graduation – but multiple indicators are crucial e.g. empowerment, education
- Much debate about the relevance of “three meals a day” measure to all bhh’s
- Indicators need to be linked to the basic needs
- Definitions need to be in line with the government
- Summarised findings from a shiree survey conducted with the NGOs as to what points they felt were important indicators of graduation – no agreement on how exactly to measure, even within certain indicators
- Introduced proposal to focus on income, assets and nutrition/food

An open discussion brought up the following major points:

1. Dr. Tofail Azad, DSK – Household assets e.g. a tv, although not productive should be included in monetary assessment as indicates incomes are raising
2. Dr. Munir Ahmed, SCI – We need to be in line with national surveys. Operationally we must keep productive/non productive/female operated assets/child labour all included. When we use income measure we should be able to know how much is disposable income
3. Munzural, NETZ – It is already agreed by shiree partners what constitutes graduation as they already have selection criteria (is reversed to estimate graduation – i.e. those NOT fulfilling the criteria)
4. Colin Risner, *shiree*– different between graduation criteria and selection criteria. We cannot just do verification using the same process at the end of three years, where we look for people who are outside the selection criteria rather than who are inside it. Although by definition they would have graduated from the programme as no longer eligible for inclusion and this would be the simplest way of measuring, it would not reflect sustainability which is a crucial part of graduation.

The presentation is available [here](#)

### **Nutrition**

Shiree has newly added nutrition component to its programme which will affect all partner NGOs. Masud Rana, Nutrition Coordinator at *shiree*, gave a presentation on this.

The presentation is available [here](#)

The main points were:

A presentation of broad trends in health and nutrition, set against aims

- Despite progress, indicators are far below aims in maternal health
- Bangladesh is progressing to meet millennium development goals in child mortality
- Prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight among under 5’s and chronic under nutrition and anaemia among shiree beneficiaries was shown and compared to national figures. WHO thresholds were used to show the severity of the Explanation of why nutrition is important and links to the MDGs
- The economic benefit of nutrition
- The causes of malnutrition in relation to the rationale of additional nutrition support for the extreme poor population and where to focus
- Major Scale fund activities and interventions
- Break down of intervention and approved drug regimes by target populations e.g. pregnant mothers, adolescent girls, infants

- Counselling of mothers and key family members on Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices - Activity details and performance improvement cycle
- Training materials and involvement of Alive and Thrive
- Monitoring and evaluation

Colin - DFID allowed us to leave some money for innovative elements in the nutrition programme. Call for proposals – “enhancing protein intake” – want innovative/novel ideas from NGOs concerning food stuffs/social marketing etc. An assessment panel will evaluate these concept notes, and then a select few would then be asked to submit proposals. This will be progressed later this year – basically following a similar model to previous *shiree* Innovation Rounds

An open discussion which followed brought up the following major points

Anwar Chowdhury, *shiree* - NGOs should be able to manage this with the resources they have available. We have added resources but there is an element of shared cost with the core programme  
Colin Risner, *shiree* – we cannot force any of the NGOs to do this if they do not feel the opportunity is something they can manage. Scale Fund 1 NGOs originally requested this support (for example at the lesson learning workshop hosted by NETZ in June 2010) and have been involved throughout the planning. We assumed that Scale Fund 2 would also have similar needs. However we will enter discussion with all individually about this before implementation

Masud Rana, *shiree* – the majority of work (including counselling, distribution of micronutrient supplements, deworming drugs, targeting, maintaining a register and regular updates) is done by community level female counsellors (paid volunteers known as *pusti karmis*). Over 2-3 years we can promote seniority amongst these Pushti Karmis. We have time to come up with solutions.

#### **Group session: Manifesto for the Extreme Poor**

Colin Risner facilitated a group session where the participants split into three groups and took on the role of individual political parties advocating for the extreme poor. They were each to come up with a manifesto of key points, and then a mock election was held.

The summaries of all three manifestos are as follows:

#### Group-1

#### **Bangladesh Party for Ultra Poor (BPUP)**

#### **Vision:**

To make an ultra poor free country where 50% of ultra poor people’s suffering and vulnerability will be reduced and empowered in 5 years time for which dedicated resource will be allocated in the national budget.

#### Manifesto of BPUP

Introduce a special ID card for the ultra poor by which ultra poor will be ensured with required support to move them to the next quintile of wealth status.

- At least one special representative will be provisioned in Union parishad (legislation)
- Explore total amount of Khashland, prepare a master plan for distribution amongst identified ultra poor (ID card holder)
- No Eviction prior to ensuring proper rehabilitation
- Establish Dedicated Bank to finance ultra poor (interest free) for their income generation
- Easy access to every hospital establishment and consider charge rate of minimum cost.
- Land right (HT)
- Create Year round employment opportunities

- Social safety net for urban ultra poor
- Separate ministry & policy for ultra poor
- Education, Health and other facilities with free of cost

Dedicate 80000 core taka in the national budget to move 2.0m ultra from extreme poverty (housing 20,000, IGA 20,000/per person)

## Group-2

### Bangladesh Party for Extreme Poor (BPEP)

#### Manifesto of BPEP

- আর কেউ অতি দরিদ্র থাকবো না  
আর কোন মা ও শিশু বিনা চিকিৎসায় মারা যাবে না
- অতি দরিদ্রকে শিক্ষার সুযোগ দিতে হবে  
স্থায়ী ঠিকানা নিশ্চিত করতে হবে (ভূমি অধিকার)
- বৈষম্যমুক্ত সমাজ গড়তে চাই  
সকল পর্যায়ে অংশগ্রহণের নিশ্চয়তা চাই

#### Title (slogan) of BPEP

- বাংলাদেশ- আর অতি দরিদ্র নয়  
Bangladesh extreme poor no more
- অতি দরিদ্রমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ চাই  
বাঁচার মতো বাঁচতে চাই
- অতি দরিদ্রতা করবো জয়  
পেছনে ফেরা আর নয়
- আর নয় অতি দরিদ্রতা  
গড়বো মোরা সমৃদ্ধতা
- অতি দরিদ্রতা অভিশাপ  
সকলে মিলে করি নিপাত

## Group-3

### Bangladesh Party for Chronic Poor (BPEP)

#### Manifesto of BPEP

#### National Agenda

- Quality, inclusive education for all
- Vocational training for age 16-25
- Total social protection coverage for the extreme poor:
  - Allowances for Vulnerable Groups/Persons with Special Needs
  - Food Security and Disaster Assistance
  - Public Works/Employment Generation



- Human Development and Social Empowerment
- Urban Poverty: Fundamental Education for Urban Working Children
- Pro-poor policy among private sector actors
- Reformed tax system to benefit the poor and extreme poor
- One child policy for all

#### Regional Agenda

- Government land transfer for the extreme poor
  - *Khas* land
- Decentralization of regional job demands
- Improved local government service provision

#### Urban Agenda

- Low cost urban housing in all cities
- Public transportation in Dhaka
- Clean and green cities:
  - Full sanitation coverage
  - Waste management