Local Rights Programme (LRP)-50

LRP Title: Community Accessing to System for Resilience (CASR) Project

LRP #: 50

LRP duration: 9+ years Starting Year: 2017 Phase Out Year: 2026

Implementing Partner: **Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS)**

LRP Location: Kalapara, Patuakhali (Union- Lalua, Champapur, Dalbugonj)

Background

Lalua, Dalbugonj and Champapur Unions, the lowest tire of local government under Kalapara sub-district of Patuakhali district, is one of the most climate change impacted areas of Bangladesh. This coastal region is depicted an acute socio-ecological complexity, where gradually people are becoming powerless, socio-economically marginalized and vulnerable. The complexity arises through vulnerable coastal and mangrove ecosystem and fluctuating socio-economic life pattern that is caused by number of ecologically inconsistent developmental intervention (i.e. embankment, saline water shrimp cultivation etc.) and land use practice. There are many natural and man-made hazards like cyclone, embankment erosion, tidal surge, salinity, water logging, pest in crop etc. that create disaster risk among the vulnerable community.

The establishment of Payra Sea port (3rd seaport of Bangladesh) has been started in Lalua Union which has been instigating urbanization through establishment of power plants, cement factories and other industries in Champapur and Lalua Unions. Due to industrialization and other associated factors, people are experiencing new forms of inequality i.e. loss of land, shifting of traditional livelihood, housing pattern etc.

Programme Participant Groups

Reflection-Action Circle (RAC)	Youth	Community Journalist Group (CJG)	Child Forum	Sp. Children
36	3	3	18	2464

LRP Objectives

1. Organize poor people in a "Reflection Action Team" platform and ensure their involvement in sustainable development process.
2. The poor people will know about their rights and will try to protect them.
3. Gender discrimination, women's rights, all kinds of women's tortures, and the legal process will increase the awareness of the public.
4. Through the school-based child development program, the merit of poor children will develop and will be aware of child rights, child protection policy.
5. The ability of "Reflection Action Team" will be increased. They can negotiate with the policy makers to secure their rights on various issues and to secure their rights.
6. The awareness about disaster management will increase; the family will be able to create their own disaster preparedness plan.

Key Achievements

- **36 Reflection Action Groups (RAGs) formed;** members are rights-aware, actively claiming rights through proper channels, and engaging in advocacy on key issues (water, land, embankment, violence, disaster, climate).
- **Women leaders mobilized communities** to organize a human chain, resulting in **1.5 km road construction within 3 months by local government.**
- **3 youth groups established;** empowered on rights, climate, and disaster action, actively campaigning and raising awareness through community theatre.
- **Women & youth-led disaster response team formed and trained;** providing early warning, damage assessment, logistics, and service coordination.
- **SVAW network formed**; responding to violence, preventing abuse and child marriage—**17 child marriages and 42 violence cases stopped.**
- **18 child forums established;** increasing child rights awareness, leadership, and ability to report and discuss protection issues.
- **400 women trained in vermicompost, organic pesticides, and CRSA;** leading to increased production, reduced costs, and eco-friendly farming.
- **3 Union Parishads adopted participatory planning & budgeting;** strengthening community engagement and access to services (VGF/VGD).
- **Improved community health services through social audit & scorecards;** free services, regular medicines, and active monitoring by RAG leaders.
- **Women advocacy groups formed;** conducted 3 advocacy initiatives—resulting in service access, a water pump for farmers, **150 bank accounts opened, and 1 loan disbursed.**
- **RAGs promoted COVID-19 vaccination;** supported registration—63% vaccination coverage achieved in project areas.
- **COVID-19 humanitarian support:** Cash assistance to 218 families (BDT 3,27,000 total), helping meet basic needs during lockdown.

Previous History

Before 2017, There was not much development of women leadership in here. Most of the women worked only as housewives. Youth involvement in social work was very very low. Children had no separate opportunities to develop child leadership.

Challenges

- Disaster-prone specially cyclone, tidal surge and salinity water area.
- Some of the road communication systems is very bad, it takes a long time to travel. As a result, getting to work on time makes it very difficult at times.
- Our resource is very limited but local demand and need is very high.
- Political conflicts