Editorial
Unnayan Shahojogy Team (UST) with financial support and technical cooperation of Water Aid Bangladesh is implementing the project at the char areas of climate vulnerable three Upazilas i.e. Zanjira and Naria in Shariatpur district and Haimchar in Chandpur district which are mostly affected by climate change. From the inauguration of the project, this is working both hardware and software related works at the project area. The project has a remarkable impact on the community and the Local Government Institutions. People are aware about the Climate Change and its consequences and also the adaptation measures. Thus the casualty of during disaster has been reduced significantly. People are made their houses and toilets raised, grow vegetables on a raised land, made the platforms considering the highest flood level. Ward Development Management Committees (WDMCs) are analyzing the vulnerability, prioritizes the problems, prepare development plan and validate through Ward Shova represents the Participatory Planning of Union Parishad. This project.

Background
Unnayan Shahojogy Team (UST) has been undertaking Adaptation to Climate Change on WaSH in Char Area project in the climate vulnerable char areas of three Upazilas i.e. Zanjira and Naria in Shariatpur district and Haimchar in Chandpur district under the financial and technical cooperation of WaterAid in Bangladesh since April 2011. In the mean time, the project has passed 4 years and has a significant impact on the community on climate resilience technologies and knowledge. The 12 union of these Upazila fewer than two districts are much more climate vulnerable area and the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, livelihood and food security condition are not so good due to the climate change affect of this area.

Overall goal
Promote sustainable access to water and sanitation through activation and capacity building of Disaster management committees of LGIs and mobilization of resources of the duty bearers in the climate vulnerable areas of Bangladesh by 2014.

Objectives of the project
- Contribute to build up knowledge and capacity of the WDMCs, UDMCs to ensure demand-driven services to the vulnerable communities by their active participation.
- Promote knowledge of poor vulnerable people with regard to their rights to water and sanitation
- Foster the capacity as well as dignity of the climate vulnerable communities, marginalized/excluded people to raise their voices for safe water, improved sanitation and hygienic living condition.
- Promote knowledge capacity of the community people, community group volunteers, mechanic, caretakers and SMCs on climate change, its impact and adaptation on WASH.
- Mobilize resources increasing the transparency, responsiveness and sanction-ability of Duty bearers including LGIs, DPHE, and local NGOs for improving the water and sanitation situation in the vulnerable communities.
- Establish a network of the Community Group volunteers and UDMCs with different stakeholders for a sustainable development in water and sanitation.

- Contribute to improving livelihood status of the community by alternative opportunities of waste water and solid waste management
- Contribute to achieve MDG goal and target, sanitation for all.

Project Geographical Coverage
The project is implementing in three sub-districts of two districts:

Shariatpur District:
Zanjira Upazila: 04 Unions: Kunderchar, East Naodoba, Naodoba, Borokandi,
Naria Upazila: 04 Unions: Mukterchar, Charatra, Nowapara, Kedarpur

Chandpur District:
Haimchar Upazila: 04 Unions: Charhairabi, Gazipur, Nikomol, Haimchar

Approach:
The project works with different Committees of Local Government Institutions (LGIs) especially Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs). It was found that there was no ward level committee to represent from ward. Project staff consulted with the community and the LGIs and formed Ward Development Management Committee (WDMCs) and Project will strengthen capacity of these committees to work closely in the project. It will mobilize resources of LGIS and other service providers and give emphasis on the empowerment of the community. It will also give emphasis on the participation of Local Administration, DPHE, NGOs and other service providing organizations to make them more responsive to the poor people and mainstream their services, resources with the project.

The prime focus with regard to the implementation of the project will be laid on the involvement and capacity building of the Ward Development Management Committees (WDMC) and UDMCs of Local government Institutions (LGIs). The WDMCs will be the vehicle of this project. These committees will take leading role in overall planning, implementation and monitoring of the activities under this project. It is obvious that there are Disaster Management Committees at union and Upazila level but these committees are not so active to carry out their responsibilities. Thus as primary task, the project formed Development
Management committee at Ward level with Ward members in the chair and other members from community and reform, activate the UDMCs at Union level. These committees will perform as main driver of the project. These committee prepare Development Plan of the ward and also prepared contingency plan and each plan updated quarterly, six monthly and annually at all the unions of working area.

One word one development plan approach is also continuing but challenging.

**Review of Participatory Ward Vulnerability Assessment (PWVA)**

During 1st year of the project the WDMCs did a ward vulnerability and identify the problems in each ward. By using different tools of PRA, they also identify the resources, poor families and the wash scenario. From the exercise they prepared a ward development plan and validate it into Ward Shova of Union Parishad.

WDMC also review the PWVA of 99 Ward. Ward level PWVA report has been reviewed and it is containing the vulnerabilities in relation to Climate Change, problem and priority, development plan, house hold information etc.

**One Ward One Plan approach:**

In Bangladesh many NGOs are working in the same areas with their own agenda. Most of the areas there is a gap of coordination among the NGOs. As a result there is a scope to misuse/overlapping of resource.

Discussing the issue with the Union Parishad, WDMC and other NGOs everybody agreed the need of coordination among the development works. The issue was discussed with WaterAid and UST introduces one ward one plan approach within a ward following the development plan. The Union Parishad and other NGOs appreciated the initiative and issued letter to all concern in this regard.

**Ward Shova:**

As per UP Act 2009, it is mandatory for Union Parishads (UP) to conduct ward shova for developing a participatory plan of the union. It was found that this process is not functioning well. Community people has no representation on it. As a result the plan and budget are prepared by top down approach in stead of bottom up approach.

The WDMC discussed it with UP to conduct the ward shova. During the ward shova, people had access to ask question or scope to give opinion on the development plan and UST facilitated to conduct the Ward Shova of 99 wards of 12 working unions of Haimchar, Zanjira and Naria upazila. During the ward shova peoples from different corner of the ward, informal groups members, WDMC members were present. Audience validate the ward level development plan during the ward shova. The ward shova followed the system of Union Parishad. After validation of the plan, WDMC submitted it to the Union Parishad.

**Training to LGI on WaSH Rights and Participatory Planning**

To build the capacity and be more responsive to the community UST provided Training on WaSH Rights and Participatory Planning to 12 working union parishad Chairman, Members, Female members and Secretaries.

LGI’s persons are aware about people’s rights. Now both parties realize that getting WaSH facilities is their rights not donation. Now community people are visited different stakeholders to get their rights. On the other hand, this is the first time that Union Parishad received the development plan through a participatory process during PWVA review and validate during Ward Shovie.a.

They union parishad developed a comprehensive development considering those plans and they put allocation into UP budget as per resource available.

**Open Budget Session**

After receiving the plan from Ward Shova, the concern Union Parishad had a pre budget meeting. During this meeting they analyze the plan and compile the Plan to develop a comprehensive plan for the union. They also work to prepare a draft budget. Then the Union Parishad conducted Open Budget Session to getting feedback from the community. Government Officials, NGO representative, WDMC members, Informal group members, community peoples

**School toilet construction**

There is a shortage of improved sanitation facility at Schools. Especially girls’ students faces problem during menstruation period. Sometimes students use open places for defecation of river bank side. Considering the situation 4 Public Toilets constructed considering climate change affects and handed over with water facility and separate chamber with menstruation facility for females.

Open defecation or urinal practice at open place reduced. Drop out of girls students during menstruation period reduced significantly as per teachers statement. Previously there was no latrine facility/very limited facility for boys and girls. Female are feeling better to use separate chamber with water facility.

Considering the situation 1 Public Toilet Renovation installed with water facility and separate chamber with menstruation facility for females.

Open defecation or urinal practice at market place reduced. Previously there was no latrine facility/very limited facility for male and female. Female are feeling better to use separate chamber with water facility.

Impact: Improve sanitation facility has a positive impact on students especially for girls’ students. Drop out during menstruation period of girls students reduced

**Simple repair solve the problem of Latrine facility at school**

There is a shortage of improved sanitation facility at school in the Chor Areas. On the other hand school toilets found inactive for partial damage. That's why student need to go home or outside to use latrine facilities. As a result presence of student is reduced during school hour.
School committees applied for the repair to UST through WDMCs. After assessment UST Authority approved 6 applications. The SMCs formed committees for implementation and procurement committee to execute the repair work. After completion of small repair for 6 schools at Haimchar and Naria students are getting hygienic latrine facilities.

Hygiene Session on MHM

The practice of Menstrual Hygiene Management is very poor in char area. To make the adolescent girls and women motivated to proper menstrual hygiene management (MHM) sessions were conducted with Girls Student groups, adolescent and mothers’ groups. The UST field staff demonstrated the Hygienic Sanitary Pad.

New National Coordinator of WSSCC-B

Shah Md. Anowar Kamal, Executive Director of UST has been nappointed as National Coordinator of Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council-Bangladesh.

WaSH Sector Actors, Government Officials, Organizations from home and abroad well come Mr. Kamal for his new and Challenging assignment.

Mr. Kamal also seek every ones cooperation to develop the WaSH situation in Bangladesh.

Platform construction

Due to lack of awareness people use their tube well water without platform or have broken platform. As a result the water found contaminated by the bacteria from dank ground.

Considering the situation and economic condition WDMCs had meetings and identified tube wells using Ward Vulnerability Maps and Development Plans. After scrutiny by UP and UST 150 platforms constructed for poor families during the reporting period.

Those families are getting safe drinking water at their doorsteps and the hardship for fetching safe drinking water is significantly reduced. Surroundings of the households are found clean.

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

The informal groups of the projects are doing Participatory Monitoring of WaSH situation of the community. Members of Mother, Adolescent, Youth and Children groups are engaged in the process.

Each member observes 5 individual households nearer to his/her house once in a month for 3 months. After observing the situation they fill a hose hold based formats with some selected indicators. Then they compile it in a sheet quarterly. This process has a significant role to improve the personal and environmental hygiene status of the area.

Participated in Fair at Haimchar and Naria

The Upazila Administration of Haimchar and Naria arranged two different fairs. Those are Fruits Tree Fair at Haimchar and Digital Fair at Naria. UST participated in those fair and displayed Climate Resilience WaSH technology, Climate resilient raised vegetable plot, Water quality testing kits, Ward Development Plans, PWVA (Participatory Vulnerability Assessment) reports, model of Climate Information Center etc.

ADC of Shariatpur visited the stall of Climate Resilient WaSH Technology and Climate Information Center at Upazila Digital Fair at Naria.

During the fair community people, students, officials from government and non-government organizations visited the stall. Climate Information Center, Climate Resilience Technologies, PWVA Reports and Arsenic Testing kits attracts the visitors. Some visitors bought the PWVA Reports of their wards with a token money.

Resource mobilization workshop with potential stakeholders at upazilla level

Stakeholders are responding to the poor people. The Union Parishad providing Sanitary Latrine to the community free of cost. Stakeholders are advising people to construct the toilet considering highest flood level.

Sanitation Month and Global Hand Washing Day Obser-vation

National Sanitation Month and Global Hand

Washing day was observed at district, upazila and union level at Shariatpur and Chandpur. Programs were organized by district administration, upazila administration and union parishad and DPHE. WaterAid, WSSCC-B and UST assist the program.

Demonstration of Hand Washing, Rally, discussion held during the observance.

Deputy Commissioner, Executive Engineer of DPHE, Upazila Chairman and UNOs of respective upazilas, UP Chairman were present during the programs it is to be mentioned that UST was the focal NGO to observe the programs at Shariatpur and Chndpur district. UST also participated at the National Level programs.

School Management Committee Orientation on WaSH

This event is conducted to give more emphasis on WaSH through teacher to students. Through this program teachers are more active follow up the hygiene practices especially female teachers to MHM.

Participate in the Journey to Zero Sanitation Conference:

A 15 members delegates participated in the Journey to Zero Sanitation Conference jointly organized by Local Government Division. UNICEF, SNV, WaterAid, SIMAVI, WSSCC, Practical
The National Coordinator of WSSCC-B and Executive Director of UST Shah Md. Anower Kamal distributed the Crest of honor to the Participants of a session.

WDMCs distributed saplings during Observance of World Environment Day utilizing the fund for food:

The Upazila Administration of Naria, Zanjira, Haimchar observed World Environment Day 2015. Rally, Discussion and Cultural program were organized during the observance.

The WDMCs distributed saplings among members and informal groups. They purchase saplings with the money allocated for food and distributed.