

PPRC Policy Paper

Challenges of Transforming Extreme Poverty Realities

Mora Kartik to *Bhora Kartik* Scaling Up Comprehensive Monga Mitigation

Prepared by

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Workshop organized by

Ministry of Agriculture
PKSF
LGED
PPRC

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Preface

Entrenched seasonal poverty in the greater Rangpur region in northern Bangladesh has come into national focus as the *monga* problem. While there is no dearth of mitigation programmes both in the government and the NGO sectors, there is growing consensus on the need for a paradigm shift from a relief-oriented approach to one aimed at a comprehensive transformation of *monga* realities. To be meaningful, such a shift and scaling up of policy efforts needs to be evidence-based and built on the lessons learnt from existing portfolio of programmes. To this end, PPRC with support from DFID undertook a wide-ranging research programme in 2006-07 on the *monga*-affected districts. PPRC Research Team undertook a comprehensive survey of 102 villages and over 22,000 households in the four districts of Kurigram, Gaibanda, Rangpur and Nilphamari. In addition, micro-mapping of all Unions in the four districts was carried out to generate a list of severely eco-vulnerable pockets. Parallely, other actors – notably PKSF – also undertook a comprehensive *monga* research programme. With such research knowledge in hand, a wide-ranging national policy workshop was convened on 1-2 October, 2007 at the LGED Auditorium in Agargaon, Dhaka to distil the lessons learnt so far and map the optimal programmatic and institutional way forward. The Workshop was jointly convened by PPRC with Ministry of Agriculture, PKSF and LGED with support from DFID. Honourable Advisor for Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock and Environment Dr. C.S. Karim was a key promoter of the Workshop and graced the concluding policy session as the Chief Guest. He was joined by among others, Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, former Advisor and Chairman, PKSF, Mr. Chris Austen, Country Representative DFID, current and former Secretaries of the Government, heads of PKSF, LGED and numerous agencies and NGOs working on *monga* mitigation, local government leaders, field administration officials and members of the media. The coining of the slogan *Mora Kartik to Bhora Kartik* was an apt summing of the vision and collective energy which was unleashed through the Workshop.

To ensure a robust engagement with the follow-up tasks, PPRC has undertaken to produce this Policy Brief which summarizes key research insights and the policy lessons and directions emerging from the Workshop. It is our hope that the document will be of use to all those working to scale up *monga* mitigation efforts in the field and at the policy level.

HOSSAIN ZILLUR RAHMAN
Executive Chairman, PPRC

October 28, 2007

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1 Introductory Background

1.1 Emergence of a Policy Priority

Elimination of *monga* i.e. the traditional problem of seasonal poverty in *Ashwin-Kartik* (September-October) in ecologically vulnerable parts of northern districts has been identified in the poverty reduction strategy as a key component of the fight against extreme poverty. There are two paradoxes worth bearing in mind when contemplating a scaled-up attack on *monga*. *Firstly*, Greater Rangpur i.e. the region where the *monga* phenomenon is concentrated, is a food surplus rather than a food deficit area. This suggests the need for greater understanding and clarity on the risks and vulnerabilities faced by the region's poor as well as the long-term livelihood constraints in which they have to operate.

A *second* paradox is that there is no dearth of anti-*monga* programmes particularly since the issue came into national focus several years ago. The persistence of *monga* vis-à-vis this multiplicity of programmes thus suggests the need for a qualitatively stronger framework for coordination, a more effective lesson-learning from existing programmes, and finally, establishment of a comprehensive data-base and a credible monitoring strategy.

To review existing experiences and data-bases and energize action plan for 2007 as well as a longer-term strategy, a two day national workshop was arranged under the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, PKSF, LGED and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) with support from DFID on 1 & 2 October, 2007 at the LGED Auditorium, Agargaon, Dhaka. Key policy-makers, development partners, NGOs, local government representatives, academics and members of local administration participated.

1.2 *Monga in a Time Perspective 1990-2006*

It may be useful to put the issue of *monga* in a time perspective. Though widespread across Bangladesh earlier (Table 1), the problem of *monga* i.e. the traditional problem of seasonal poverty in *Ashwin-Kartik* (September-October) is now concentrated in ecologically vulnerable parts of 5 districts in the Greater Rangpur area. Surveyed data from 1990 shows that as now the epicentre of the problem was the ecologically vulnerable northern districts. However, the general problem of seasonal poverty was more widespread covering at that time the greater districts of Comilla, Noakhali, Kushtia, Jamalpur, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra and Rajshahi. One of the important changes which has taken place over the 1990-2006 period is the general reduction of the seasonal poverty problem across Bangladesh and its continued persistence in the ecologically vulnerable parts of northern districts.

Table 1
Monga Situation 1990

<i>Division</i>	<i>% of Households in Distress: On 1 meal a day for 1-3 days a week in October</i>	<i>% of Households in Extreme Distress: On 1 meal a day for 4-7 days a week in October</i>
Chittagong	6	x
Khulna	1	x
Dhaka	3	x
Rajshahi	18	13
<i>Affected Districts</i>		
Comilla	19	x
Noakhali	8	x
Kushtia	14	x
Jamalpur	12	x
Dinajpur	11	x
Rangpur	25	26
Bogra	28	x
Rajshahi	12	2

Source: Hossain Zillur Rahman, "Mora Kartik: Seasonal Deficits and Vulnerability of the Rural Poor", in Hossain Zillur Rahman & Mahabub Hossain (ed), *Re-Thinking Rural Poverty: Bangladesh as a Case Study*, SAGE Publications, 1995

1.3 PPRC Monga Research 2006-07

With the objective of promoting an evidence-based, comprehensive approach to *monga* mitigation, PPRC has executed a wide-ranging research programme covering the four districts of Kurigram, Gaibanda, Rangpur and Nilphamari. The major component of the research was to establish a comprehensive, empirical base-line on six critical areas:

- *Monga* risks and vulnerabilities
- Micro-mapping of severely vulnerable pockets
- Household characteristics
- Safety net coverage
- Capacity and programme inventory
- Qualitative research assessment of livelihood and other entry points for long-term transformation of *monga* realities.

Besides the capacity/programme inventory and the qualitative research on livelihood entry points, three major research instruments were used, namely, household questionnaire survey, union-level situation analysis, and, upazila and union-level focus group discussions (FGDs) for vulnerability micro-mapping. Table 2 describes the coverage of each of these instruments.

Table 2
PPRC Monga Research 2006-07: Instruments and Coverage

Research Instrument	Districts									
	Kurigram		Gaibanda		Rangpur		Nilphamari		All 4	
Household questionnaire survey	Villages	HHs	Villages	HHs	Villages	HHs	Villages	HHs	Villages	HHs
	33	6294	28	7245	30	5435	16	2358	107	21332
Union Situation Analysis	72 Unions		82 Unions		83 Unions		60 Unions		298 Unions	
Upazila/Union Vulnerability mapping FGDs	Upazila	Union	Upazila	Union	Upazila	Union	Upazila	Union	Upazila	Union
	9	72	7	82	8	83	6	60	30	298

2 Household Characteristics

How do the household characteristics of the monga-affected districts compare nationally? Table 3 provides a disaggregated look at food deficit status of households and compares the national picture with that prevailing in one of the affected districts i.e. Kurigram. The findings clearly underscore the greater intensity of poverty in the monga-affected district.

Table 3
*Disaggregation of Deficit Households:
Preponderance of Food Deficit in Deficit Assessment*

Food Deficit Status:	Kurigram District (2007)	Bangladesh (2004)
	% of households	
Pure hunger some months of the year	1.4	1.9
Half-meals throughout year	8.9	3
Half-meals some months of year	17	12.2
Protein deficiency	28.2	6.5
Total Food-deficit households	55.5	23.6

Source: Kurigram data from PPRC Monga Research Programme 2006-07. Bangladesh data from PPRC 2004 62 village Survey

Table 4 also underscores the intensity of the landlessness problem in the greater Rangpur region. Nearly 60% of households have no arable land in the four surveyed districts except for Nilphamari where the percentage is 51.8. Between 10% to 17% also have no homesteads of their own and live either on other's land or on *khas* (state-owned) land (Table 5).

On the question of other asset ownership, principally livestock, Table 6 shows that between 37% and 46% of households owns cattle and over 70% owns poultry. A much smaller percentage – 15% to 28% - owns goats/lambs. However, when one disaggregates these district averages to see asset ownership by extreme poor households, the proportion owning cattle drops to 14% in Kurigram up to 20% in Nilphamari.

Table 4
Landownership Profile: Owned Cultivable Land

<i>Own cultivable land (decimals)</i>	<i>Surveyd Districts</i>			
	<i>Kurigram</i>	<i>Gaibanda</i>	<i>Rangpur</i>	<i>Nilphamari</i>
	<i>% of households</i>			
0	59.1	59.4	58.4	51.8
1-30	9.9	10.1	8.1	15.9
31-50	7.7	8.4	6.2	6.9
51-100	9.8	9.1	8.4	8.9
101-150	4.4	4.3	5.4	5.5
151-250	4.1	4.1	5.4	4.0
251-500	2.7	3.0	4.5	4.2
500+	2.3	1.4	3.5	2.8

Source: PPRC Monga Household Survey, 2007

Table 5
Housing Status

<i>Housing status</i>	<i>Surveyd Districts</i>			
	<i>Kurigram</i>	<i>Gaibanda</i>	<i>Rangpur</i>	<i>Nilphamari</i>
	<i>% of households</i>			
Own homestead	83.7	89.4	89.1	82.7
On other's land	8.9	8.6	7.4	10.1
On Khas land	3.2	1.3	3.1	7.1
Squatting on embankment/road-side	4.2	0.7	0.4	0.1

Source: PPRC Monga Household Survey, 2007

Table 6
Livestock Ownership

<i>Livestock ownership</i>	<i>Surveyd Districts</i>							
	<i>Kurigram</i>		<i>Gaibanda</i>		<i>Rangpur</i>		<i>Nilphamari</i>	
	<i>Extreme poor households</i>	<i>All households</i>	<i>Extreme poor households</i>	<i>All households</i>	<i>Extreme poor households</i>	<i>All households</i>	<i>Extreme poor households</i>	<i>All households</i>
	<i>% of households</i>							
Owens cattle	14.1	38.6	18.3	36.7	18.4	46.3	20.3	39.9
Owens goat/lamb	6.6	17.9	9.4	15.6	14.9	28.1	14.0	27.6
Owens poultry	52.4	76.0	57.1	72.2	46.9	76.6	53.6	70.6

Source: PPRC Monga Household Survey, 2007

The occupation profile of households highlights the low livelihood diversity which is a characteristic of *monga* vulnerability (Table 7). About a quarter of households have agriculture as main occupation and a similar proportion – 22% in Gaibanda to 34% in Rangpur – are primarily dependent on agricultural labour occupations. The other occupations of some importance are rickshaw-pulling (7 to 14%), non-agri labour (4 to 10%), petty trade (8 to 12%) and service (4 to 6%). Around 6% of households in the districts suffer from various forms of occupational destitution (old age, begging, disabled).

Table 7
Principal Occupation of Household Head

Occupation	Surveyd Districts			
	Kurigram	Gaibanda	Rangpur	Nilphamari
	% of households			
Agriculture	25.8	26.7	28.6	26.9
Agri Labour	30.3	22.3	34.2	28.8
Non-agri labour	10.1	9.9	4.6	4.4
Rickshaw-puller	8.0	13.5	6.8	10.2
Small Trader	7.9	8.4	8.4	12.2
Large Trader	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0
Service	5.9	5.8	3.7	5.4
Self-employed	3.9	3.8	5.0	2.8
Old age	2.9	3.2	2.7	3.6
Begging/dependent	2.1	2.8	2.6	1.9
Disabled	0.7	0.7	1.4	0.5
Others	1.8	2.3	1.4	2.2

Source: PPRC Monga Household Survey, 2007

Households in the *monga*-affected districts also are in a very disadvantageous situation on the question of their human resource status. Table 8 shows that between 60% and 70% of the household heads are illiterate, a figure considerable worse than the national average. Proportion having crossed matriculation only accounts for only 7 to 9% of household heads.

Table 8
Educational Status of Head of Households

Educational Status of Head of HH	Surveyd Districts			
	Kurigram	Gaibanda	Rangpur	Nilphamari
	% of households			
Illiterate	70.2	65.1	60.4	60.2
Read and write	0.9	2.6	3.1	6.3
Primary	14.1	13.6	17.9	14.9
Secondary	7.3	9.7	10.5	11.9
Matriculation & above	7.5	9.0	8.2	6.7

Source: PPRC Monga Household Survey, 2007

3 Research Insights for Scaling Up Comprehensive *Monga* Mitigation

3.1 Importance of a Paradigm Shift

The dominant perspective informing the anti-*monga* strategy so far has been safety net considerations, whether these be temporary food support or temporary employment support. Research and programme experience increasingly, however, underscore the importance of a paradigm shift on the issue. While safety net programmes will remain a key component of the anti-*monga* strategy, the larger focus needs to be on long-term transformation of livelihood realities at individual, household and local economy levels.

It may be instructive to note here that *monga*-type seasonal poverty was more widespread across Bangladesh even two decades ago. But key drivers of change such as agricultural diversification, improved communication and migration have served to transform such erstwhile poverty pockets in Kushtia, Rajshahi, Bogra, Comilla, Noakhali etc.

3.2 *Monga* Vulnerabilities: Four Faces

While the traditional focus on *ashwin-kartik* seasonal poverty is indeed a core aspect of the problem, *monga* vulnerabilities are both deeper and larger than a problem of seasonal poverty per se. Four critical faces of vulnerabilities need to be distinguished:

- i. A declining but still significant problem of *entrenched seasonal poverty* affecting primarily agriculture labour-dependent households expressed most clearly in the seasonal drop in agricultural wage rates;
- ii. A persisting problem of *pockets of ecological vulnerability* on account of river erosion, flood-prone, sandy soil;
- iii. An unpredictable *variation in year-to-year severity* over and above the entrenched nature of seasonal vulnerability. This unpredictable variation is determined by a range of contextual factors, most notably timing and scale of flooding. An un-addressed policy implication here is the critical importance of an effective forecasting and early warning capacity that can inform and enable adjustments in the specifics of *monga* response for the particular year.
- iv. An overall problem of *higher-than-national average level of poverty* manifested in high landlessness and low diversity of livelihoods and thus posing the additional challenge of long-term transformation of livelihood realities of the poor in particular and of regeneration of the local economy in general.

3.3 Target Group: Types and Size

Given the multiple vulnerabilities described above, it is important to visualize the specific types of target groups which make up the *monga*-affected population. PPRC research has established the following typology and size of *monga*-affected target groups in the four districts of Kurigram, Gaibanda, Rangpur and Nilphamari (Table 9: note that there is a degree of overlap between some of the categories).

Table 9
Type and Size of target Groups: 4 Districts

<i>Type of Target Group</i>	<i>Size (No of Households in 4 districts)</i>
Seasonally unemployed agri-labourers (VGF clientele)	334,265
Chronic food deficit (extreme poor) hhs (VGD clientele)	188,181
River-eroded/squatter households	8,093
Landless households (without any homestead)	139,141
Small/marginal producers of risk-prone regional pockets	357,075

Source: PPRC Monga Research Findings, 2007

3.4 Eco-Vulnerable Pockets

A critical new research finding emerging out of the PPRC Monga research is the precise identification of the eco-vulnerable pockets within the *monga*-affected districts. As can be seen from Table 10 below, 30.5% of all villages in the four *monga*-affected districts suffer from severe eco-vulnerability though the relative proportion varies across districts.

Table 10
Eco-Vulnerable pockets

District	Total no. of villages	Eco-vulnerable villages
Kurigram	2058	559
Gaibanda	1345	508
Rangpur	1618	541
Nilphamari	1125	268
<i>All 4 districts</i>	<i>6146</i>	<i>1876 (30.5%)</i>

Source: PPRC Monga Research Findings, 2007

3 Anti-Monga programmes: Lessons Learnt

The four major anti-monga programmes include temporary food support, temporary employment, flexible micro-credit and asset transfer (livestock and poultry). Primary education stipend programme, though not strictly an anti-monga programme, plays a role simply by its scale. There are, however, a number of smaller programmes focused on agri-diversification, shelter, training, enterprises, fisheries and, awareness-building. Many organizations have general anti-poverty programmes in the region but not specifically focused on the *monga* problem. The following lessons emerged from the national policy workshop of 1-2 October, 2007:

Lesson 1 Anti-monga interventions show an extensive program profile and as Table 11 shows, considerable resources deployed on anti-poverty programmes in the districts. But there is in general inadequate coordination of efforts as well as an absence of strong assessment of scaling up options and best practices.

Table 11
Poverty-focussed Programme Expenditures, 2006

<i>District</i>	<i>Poverty-focussed (including Monga) Expenditures in 2006</i>		
	<i>GO</i>	<i>NGO</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Million Taka</i>		
Gaibanda	821.5	122.2	943.6
Rangpur	700.0	97.1	797.1
Nilphamari	419.1	280.6	699.7
Kurigram	718.72	218.99	937.71
<i>All Districts</i>	<i>2659.32</i>	<i>718.89</i>	<i>3378.11</i>

Source; Data collected from various agencies and organizations and collated by PPRC Field Research Team

Lesson 2 There is a significant mis-match between the coverage of major safety net programmes and the corresponding size of the target groups. Specifically, VGF coverage is significantly higher compared to target group size. The reverse is true for the VGD program as evident from the Table below:

Table 12
Mis-Match Between VGD and VGF Programme Size and Clientele

<i>Safety Net Programme</i>	<i>Size of Clientele For Kurigram District</i>	<i>Actual Size of Programme in 2006: Number of beneficiaries</i>
VGD	52334	23760
VGF	74724	180,000

Source: Clientele size is extrapolation from PPRC Sample Survey of 33 villages: Programme size is information collected from official sources

- Lesson 3* Enterprise development approach has proved to be least promising from a sustainability standpoint. The major weakness of this approach has been with regard to establishing market linkage as was brought out from the experience of Grameen Bank which initiated such an approach in Chilmari upazila in Kurigram in 2006.
- Lesson 4* While a training sub-component is added in many programmes, content and subsequent utilization remain poor. Without significant improvement in utilizable and quality content, training will remain a severely under-utilized opportunity.
- Lesson 5* Workfare or temporary employment is a key anti-monga intervention but sustainability of this component requires activity innovations beyond dry-season earthwork only. PKSf, for example, has recently dropped this component from its anti-monga programme on grounds of sustainability. Current program-level debates focus on gender-sensitivity of earth-work programmes, advance wage payments, sustainable wage rate etc but search for convincing resolutions remain ongoing. The shift from being mainly a government sector programme (FFW by LGED/BWDB) to a NGO sector programme (CFW by CLP etc) has also had the effect of weakening the linkage to durable infrastructure creation. Activity innovations such as homestead-raising are promising but a bigger thrust on innovations and sustainability is necessary.
- Lesson 6* Adapting micro-credit through flexible rates and terms for various monga-affected groups shows promise but potential disincentive for regular micro-credit clientele needs to be guarded against.
- Lesson 7* From a sustainability angle, full utilization of local government and community capacities is critical but such capacities remain substantially under-utilized.
- Lesson 8* Effective data-base, relevant impact indicators and credible monitoring will be critical to ensuring progress on comprehensive monga mitigation. PPRC and PKSf comprehensive data-bases generated in 2007 provide a useful start in this direction. A regular cycle of comprehensive workshops before and after the *monga* season can galvanize the focus on monitoring.

4 Missing Agenda

While there is no dearth of programmes, certain critical missing areas were identified in the national policy workshop. These include:

- *Physical protection:* The PPRC micro-mapping of eco-vulnerability in the monga-affected has underscored physical protection as a critical missing agenda within the anti-monga interventions. With 1876 villages identified as in severe vulnerability, PPRC and LGED can collaborate to develop a technically sound and contextually-relevant intervention package for the whole region.
- *Education:* Education statistics show lower-than-national-average achievements for the *monga*-affected districts. The importance of education as a driver of change in the long run has been demonstrated in other parts of the country and needs to be urgently prioritized within the anti-monga strategy. In the short-term, instruments such as the primary stipend program can be scaled up to cover the whole population in the affected regions rather than the current 40% of quota limit.
- *Skills and Remunerative Migration:* While migration from the *monga*-affected districts is quite pronounced, much of it is of a distress nature. Remunerative migration both within and outside the country based on skills has transformed localities in other parts of the country. For the *monga*-affected districts this can be a critical ‘thinking-out-of-the-box’ solution for a comprehensive anti-*monga* strategy.
- *Fisheries:* Partly because ponds tend to dry up in the winter months in the northern districts, fisheries have not been seen as a potential sector. However, PPRC mapping research has identified a substantial number of perennial water bodies in districts such as Gaibanda which are amenable to community-oriented initiatives such as those pioneered in Daudkandi in Comilla. NGO-level experiments with cage culture also underscores the potential of fisheries as a critical thrust sector for a scaled-up anti-monga strategy.
- *Shelter:* An important innovation in the 2006-07 monga and flood coping has focused on flood-proofing homesteads through raised homesteads, establishment of multi-purpose shelter, and, trained evacuation during flood emergencies. However, these remain quite small in scale. A scaled-up focus on the shelter issue is likely to prove quite beneficial.
- *Land:* A key aspect of *monga* vulnerability is the higher-than-national-average landlessness. The national workshop brought out the fact that substantial amount of *khas* land remain potentially available in the affected districts. Utilizing the support of relevant NGOs in this regard, a major thrust can be launched to utilize *khas* land distribution for the comprehensive anti-monga strategy.

5 Components of a Scaled-up Comprehensive Monga Mitigation Strategy

- *Livelihood diversification at both HH and local economy levels:* A three-pronged approach is called for: i) promotion of viable new agricultural crops suited to specific sub eco-systems, ii) a big-push on non-crop agriculture, in particular, fisheries and livestock, and, iii) promotion of skills and non-farm occupations which effectively link to evolving market demand.
- *Improved physical protection for vulnerable micro-regions:* The PPRC micro-mapping of eco-vulnerability in the monga-affected districts has underscored physical protection as a critical missing agenda within the anti-monga interventions. With 1876 villages identified as in severe vulnerability, PPRC and LGED can collaborate to develop a technically sound and contextually-relevant intervention package for the whole region.
- *Better matching of safety net portfolio and target group components:* PPRC and PKSF data-bases have established a clearer profile of various target groups and their overall sizes and it should now be possible to better match safety net coverage to required targets. Currently, VGD clientele is under-covered while VGF clientele is over-covered.
- *Sustainable and scaled-up innovations in workfare/ temporary employment opportunities:* In particular, the dominant focus on earthwork opportunities relevant to post-monga dry season needs to be supplemented by innovations on workfare opportunities relevant to the monga months.
- *Cost-effective and viable settlement program for river-eroded and no-homestead household:* PPRC and PKSF data-bases have established the precise magnitude of these target groups. A number of GO and NGO programmes have also developed promising pilot models which address the issue but the key challenge is scaling up in a cost-effective manner. More effective utilization of available khas land resources is also a priority here.
- *The potential of education as a long-term driver of change has to be brought into sharper focus:* In the short-term, instruments such as the primary stipend program can be scaled up to cover the whole population in the affected regions rather than the current 40% of quota limit.
- *Consolidated data-base and its sharing:* PPRC-BARD 4 district monga data-base developed with the use of customized software utilizing community-based poverty monitoring approaches will be available for others. Appropriate MOUs may be developed to ensure a sustainable and effective approach to sharing data-bases.

- *Development of impact indicators and credible monitoring:* Both indicator development and impact monitoring needs to be pursued both at project level and independent research levels. Independent national-level monitoring will be crucial to ensure credibility to the monitoring process and provide a continuous reality check on progress made.

6 Institutional Priorities to Move beyond Business as Usual

- *Importance of a paradigm shift:* A paradigm shift on munga mitigation away from a relief focus towards a comprehensive transformation of munga realities utilizing regional data-bases developed by PPRC and PKSF as well as other sources will have to be adopted. To concretize this paradigm shift, there is a need to establish a new focal point within the government, preferably a core livelihood-related ministry such as the Ministry of Agriculture through an appropriate amendment in the Rules of Business.
- *Continuity of National Attention:* To ensure a continuity of high-level national attention on the issue, there is a need to establish a Comprehensive Munga Mitigation National Committee headed by the Focal Ministry Advisor and constituted of key Secretaries and major policy actors outside the government. The National Committee will function as a public-private policy coalition. To ensure dynamism, the National Committee can be supported by dual secretariats, one within the government and one amongst the actors outside the government. The Committee should specifically address the tasks of i) motivation, ii) coordination, iii) lesson-learning, and iv) monitoring.
- *Clarity on Scaling up Options:* The key challenge for a comprehensive mitigation strategy is to scale up viable interventions. However, while there is a plethora of programmes implemented by a diverse range of local and national actors, which interventions merit scaling up is not self-evident. Establishing clarity on scaling up options through a rigorous impact analysis and lesson-learning will have to be ensured.
- *Mobilizing Local Government and Community Capacities:* Local government and community capacities remain substantially under-utilized towards the task of comprehensive munga mitigation. Mobilizing such capacities and creating effective scope for such local capacities should be a priority.
- *Priority on Monitoring Outcomes:* To ensure continued national focus on the comprehensive mitigation challenge and to galvanize result-oriented monitoring, a regular cycle of pre-munga (late September or early October) and post-munga (late January or early February) National Policy Workshops will have to be organized. The 1-2 October 2007 National Policy Workshop organized by PPRC

in association with the Ministry of Agriculture, PKSF and LGED can be seen to have jump-started this process of regular cycle of monitoring and lesson-learning events which can bring together all major actors involved on the task of munga mitigation. Following this schedule, a follow-up National Policy Workshop is planned for February, 2007.

Annexes

Workshop Program
1-2 October, 2007
LGED Auditorium, Agargaon, Dhaka

October 1 Review of Programs, Approaches and Data-Bases

9.0 Registration

9.30 – 1.20 p.m. Inaugural Session: Review of Program Experiences

Chair Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Former Advisor, Caretaker Government

9.30 Workshop Objectives

Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC

9.35 – 1.15 *Review of Program Experiences*

Government

PKSF: Mosharraf Hossain Khan, MD, PKSF

Upazila Nirbahi Officer: Mustakim Billah Faruqi, UNO, Saghata, Gaibanda

Local Government

Mahbubur Rahman Tulu, Chairman, Shahapra Union, Gaibanda

NGO

CLP:

BRAC: Rabeya, Program Coordinator

SDF:

Grameen: Dipala Chandra Barua, Deputy managing Director, Grameen Bank

RDRS: Neogi

Practical Action:

CARE:

1-15 – 1.30 *Prayer Break*

1.30 – 3.45 Lessons Learnt

Chair Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC

Co-Chair

Mosharraf Hossain Khan, Managing Director, PKSF

Shahidul Hasan, Chief Engineer, LGED

1.30 – 1.50 *Review of Data-Bases*

PKSF: Dr. Baqui Khalily, Executive Director, INM

PPRC/BARD: Ranjan Kumar Guha, Dy Director, BARD

1.50 - 3.10 *Floor Discussion*

3.10 – 3.30 *Designated Discussants*

Zahid Hossain, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Division

Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Executive Director, ERG

Penny Davies, Senior Livelihoods and Infrastructure Advisor, DFID,B

3.30 – 3.40 *Comments by Co-Chairs*

3.40 – 3.55 *Summing up by Chair Dr. Mahabub Hossain*

3.55 *Close (Iftar Packet)*

October 2 Comprehensive Monga Mitigation: Way Forward

10.00 – 10.10 *Welcome and Brief Up-Date on Day 1*

10.10 – 10.40 *Key-Note Presentation*

Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC

10.40 – 12.00 *Policy-Maker Perspectives*

Moderator: *Hossain Zillur Rahman*

Qazi Aminul Islam, Secretary to Chief Advisor

Syed Ataur Rahman, Secretary, Fisheries

Md. Nazrul Islam, Secretary Rural Development & Cooperatives

Q.I.Siddique, Former Secretary

A.K.M. Shamsuddin, Former Secretary

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Former Advisor, Caretaker Government

Begum Matia Chowdhury, Former Minister for Agriculture

12.00 – 12.10 *Development Partner Perspective*

Chris Austin, Country Representative, DFID

12.10 – 12.35 *Speech by Chief Guest*

Dr. C.S.Karim, Advisor for Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock and Environment

12.40 – 1.10 *Press Briefing*

Dr. C.S.Karim, Advisor for Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock and Environment

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Former Advisor, Caretaker Government

Chris Austin, Country Representative, DFID

Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC

1.10 *Close (Iftar packet)*

List of Participants

Guests/Resource persons

Name of Participant	Designation	Department/Organization
Dr. C. S. Karim	Advisor, Caretaker Government	Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock and Environment
Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud	Former Advisor	Caretaker Government
Syed Ataur Rahman	Secretary	Fisheries
Chris Austin	Country Representative	DFID
Qazi Aminul Islam	Secretary to Chief Advisor	Govt. of Bangladesh
Md. Nazrul Islam	Secretary	Rural Development & Cooperatives
Q I Siddique	Former Secretary	Govt. of Bangladesh
A K M Shamsuddin	Former Secretary	Govt. of Bangladesh
Hossain Zillur Rahman	Executive Chairman	PPRC
Mosharraf Hossain Khan	Managing Director	PKSF
Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud	Former Advisor	Caretaker Government
Md. Zahid Hossain	Additional Secretary	Cabinet Division
Dr. Mahabub Hossain	Executive Director	BRAC
Dr. Sajjad Zohir	Senior Research Fellow	BIDS
Penny Davies	Senior Livelihoods and Infrastructure Advisor	DFID,B
Md. Abdul Gaffar	Additional Chief Engineer	Urban Management, LGED
Dipal Chandra Barua	Deputy managing Director	Grameen Bank

Participants

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Department/Organization
1.	Md. Nurul Islam Dulu	Executive Director	Devi Chowdhurani Palli Unnayan Kendra, Rangpur
2.	Dr. Habibur Rahman	Joint Director	RDA, Bogra
3.	Anjum Nahid Chowdhury	Programme Manager	GUK, Gaibandha
4.	Zillur Rahman Khondoker	Executive Director	Uddyog, Gaibandha
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6.	Ashekur Rahman	DPC	CARE
7.	Rebecca Halder	Senior Social Development Adviser	DFID
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9.	Shahabuddin	SPM	IIRD, Dhaka
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13.	Jony M Sarker	Livelihoods Adviser	DFID
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15.	Muhammad Fazlur Rahman	Managing Director	SDF
16.	Md. Zahangir Hossain	C E	Bakultati Mahila Songshed (BMS), Kurigram
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18.	Md. Sayed Shibly	Project Management Assistant	USAID, US Embassy
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75.	Md. Zillur Rahman	FRS	PPRC
76.	Md. Ali Akbar	IT Executive	PPRC
77.	Kazi Mesbah Uddin Ahmed	Former Member	Planning Commission
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79.	Muahhid. Billah Faruqui	FRS	PPRC
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83.	Arun K. Saha	Project Implement Officer	ADB
84.	Subrata K. Saha	Regional Coordinator	CARE, Bangladesh
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86.	Saleha Akter	Computer Operator	PPRC
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88.	Dr. Atiur Rahman	Chairman	Unnayan Sumannoy
89.	Dipal Baruya	DMD	Grameen Bank
90.	Iftekhhar Ahmed	Programmer	PPRC
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92.	Tania Zaman	Advocacy Officer	SPACE
93.	Nurul Anwar	FRS	PPRC
94.	Shamsul Alam	Secretary	PPRC
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99.	Md. Saidur Rahman	Chairman, Bharatkhal	Sughatta, Gaibandha
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101.	Zobair Hasan	Researcher	DORP
102.	Prof. H.I. Latifce	MD	Grameen Trust
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106.	Jayanta Paul	Research Officer	PPRC
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109.	Hashibul Alam	Field Presence	IFAD
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115.	Dr. M. Solaiman	Adviser	JICA
116.	Iftekhhar Ahmed	PD MSP	LGED
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