Friendship Cluster village for climate migrant population

Introduction

Bangladesh has been listed as a long-time climate change impact barer countries by Global Climate Risk Index 2021 (David Eckstein, 2021). It has been well recognized that climate change works as a global phenomenon and making existing social, economic, political, and environmental challenges even more serious at the local level (Crate, 2011) As a consequence Bangladesh has been facing gradual onset climate stresses and sudden shocks, including water shortage, cyclone, floods, river erosion and many other impacts (Climate Displacement in Bangladesh, 2011). According to Bangladesh, Internal Displacement Centre the consequences of these disasters trigger hundreds of thousands of people to displacements, many in the form of life-saving pre-emptive evacuations. Also in 2020, disasters triggered 4.4 million new displacements in Bangladesh. In serving and supporting these displace communities Friendship have adopted an intervention named plinth with nature-based solution and working as adaptation tool.

Figure 1: Friendship Cluster Village

Description of Raised Plinth:

To reduce the suffering of the people who are living in the hard-to-reach areas **Friendship** NGO brought the plinth (cluster village) concept for vulnerable communities. These are the people who have lost their land in river erosion, staying in the government land or the people who are have land but living in the low lands, adopted the concept of cluster village.

A cluster village on raised plinth can accommodate household for homeless families. The plinth is also equipped with tube wells, latrines, school space, community centre and solar power. There is a Pond in the middle of the plinth so that families can also cultivate fish and in the door yard they are doing homestead gardening. In the Community centre of the plinth all the social decisions related with the people who are living on the plinth get discussed. Also, the maintenance duty of the plinth distributed from these discussions.

The shape of plinth is oval keeping the direction North-South, the height is 8 feet, width 245 feet and Length is 368 feet. Height, width and length is subject to adjust with recent flood level. In the hard-to-reach areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram Districts Friendship have already installed 17 plinths. In future more plinth will be constructed depending on the need.

Figure 2: Plinths are clusters villages raised above flood levels to provide a shelter to house displaced communities and their possessions, including cattle, during flooding.

Preface: Salam Mollah, Climate Migrant from Mohammadi island under Rowmari sub-district and Kurigram district of Bangladesh. The island doesn't have any electricity, not even a shop, no transport other than an occasional weekly boat, and unfortunately no permanent infrastructure is possible. Two years ago, Salam Mollah had a community of 200-250 families, had crops land, school for children, playground, Mosque, graveyard sadly today all those went under the water by river erosion. Previously when there was

a flood , the water comes up to the 5-6 feet on his homestead area and due to riverbank erosion Salam Mollah had relocated his house 19 times. This is the short story of Salam's struggles, there are hundreds of thousands of Salam who are living on these islands. Over 2000 climate migrant are trying to survive day by day on this very island, and millions of others throughout others island in Bangladesh. They are fighting for their survival daily, they are the frontliners bearing the impact of the climate change. Friendship raised plinth cluster village initiatives has been taken to reduce the disaster risk, housing and long-term settlement of countless climate migrants like Salam Mollah.

An overview of plinth at a glance:

Total Land Required: 210 decimals

Length of Cluster Village: 368 feet

Wide of Cluster Village: 245 feet

Average Hight: 8 feet

Construction Method: The maximum use of natural resources has been emphasized in the construction of plinths. River dragging sand has been used as the main material for the construction of plinths, which is increasing the carrying capacity of the river on the one on the other hand reducing the reducing of flooding.

Housing Capacity: 30 family can be shelter in normal period, around 100 families can be shelter in flood period

Cattle living Space: 50-120 cattle can be live in normal time and 150-250 cattle can be live in flood period.

Tube-Well facilities: To ensure safe drinking water 5-7 Tube-wells installed by Friendship

Latrine facilities: 5-7 Latrines constructed by Friendship.

Community infrastructure: Friendship construct one community center on raised plinth area for community people which will use as community meeting in regular time and Satellite clinic during flood.

Electricity Facility: Solar home systems provided by Friendship

Livelihood Opportunity: One pond in at middle of the oval shaped high homestead is use for fish farming and pond side and others open space use for vegetable gardening.

Conclusion: it's an ideal solution of internally displaced population with nature base solution. It's can be an ideal climate adaptation example.

Bibliography

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