

Report from Development Wheel (DEW) Bangladesh



United Nations

Convention to Combat
Desertification

prais

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Implementing sustainable land management practices

Synergies

Would like to share experiences on how your organization is implementing sustainable land management (SLM) practices to address DLDD?

Yes No

If yes, what types of SLM practices are being implemented?

Agro forestry	√	Integrated soil fertility management	√
Area closure (stop use, support restoration)		Irrigation management (incl. water supply, drainage)	
Beekeeping, fish farming etc.		Minimal soil disturbance	
Cross-slope measure		Natural and semi-natural forest management	
Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction	√	Pastoralism and grazing land management	√
Energy efficiency		Post-harvest measures	√
Forest plantation management	√	Rotational system (crop rotation, fallows, shifting cultivation)	
Groundwater management		Surface water management (spring, river, lakes, sea)	
Home gardens	√	Water diversion and drainage	
Improved ground/ vegetation cover	√	Water harvesting	
Improved plant varieties, animal breeds	√	Wetland Protection/Management	
Integrated crop-livestock management	√	Windbreak/Shelterbelt	
Integrated pest and disease management (incl. organic agriculture)	√	Waste management/ waste water management	

Narrative

Provide any complementary information you deem relevant

Development Wheel (DEW) is working with 25000 small scale farmers directly and we have introduced them to examine their soil health condition from Bangladesh Soil Research Development Institute-SRDI to see their soil health condition because in the past days they used chemical fertilizer and pesticide and in Bangladesh context 30-35% overdose are usual for the farmers. Now they have their soil health card, we have introduced compost fertilizer to each and every house and now they are producing and using compost fertilizer, organic pesticide to their land to improve land fertility and produce safe food for them and for the consumers. We are also working in the char land (river island areas), provide them sapling for greening and trying to turn sandy land to normal land but we need to do more for char people who are really in vulnerable position. We need technical support and assistance from our donor and partners to support more to char dwellers in Bangladesh and also need to protect them from river erosion.

Implementing restoration and rehabilitation practices in order to assist with the recovery of ecosystem functions and services

At what level does your organization implement the restoration and rehabilitation practices?

- a. National level
- b. Sub national level
- c. Other (please specify: _____)

Synergies

	Would like to share experiences on how your organization is involved in restoration and rehabilitation practices in order to assist with the recovery of ecosystem functions and services?	Yes	No
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, what types of practices are being implemented?

Bangladesh is among the countries with least forest whereas Laos with 92.1 percentage of forest area is on the top of all in Asia. Bangladesh having 11.2 percent of forest areas of the total area of the country is among India, Mongolia and Pakistan with the least forest, according to the data of Asian Development Bank, 2016. Cutting trees are a very common practice in our country because we need trees for fire wood, furniture, construction, handicrafts, producing papers and so many things. Forest coverage is going to shrinking because of grabbing land from the forest and corrupt govt. officials in the department of forest. So DEW is observing world environment day each and every year to aware to restore forest and trees for the environmental protection and for the better green future for the world. DEW always distribute sapling to its beneficiaries to restore trees and organize rally, discussion and meeting with other networks, GoB and beneficiaries to plant trees and to protect and restore forest, trees ect.

Narrative

Provide any complementary information you deem relevant

DEW is introducing plant like Dhoincha, Jute, Kenaf and some others to improve soil health conditions in its working areas. In addition DEW is maintaining a good rapport with the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change and set up a bamboo demonstration plot with the support of the ministry of Forest and they provided 20 varieties of bamboo spices in 1 acre land. Bangladesh is a river country; river erosion is a very common phenomenon in our country so bamboo can help to protect river erosion. DEW Executive Director is an International Network for Bamboo and Rotten- INBER fellow so aim of the bamboo research is to plantation of bamboo to the river basin areas of the river Brahmaputra and Jamuna where DEW is working.



Working with the rural environmental architects in the char lands on restoration and ecosystem functions through afforestation

Promoting alternative livelihoods

Synergies

Does your organization promote alternative livelihoods practice in the context of DLDD?

Yes No

1. If yes, could you list some practices implemented at your country level to promote alternative livelihoods?

DEW Crafts is a social enterprise and sister concerns of Development Wheel (DEW), a non-profit development organization founded in 1996 by a few development professionals and researchers to promote self-help poverty alleviation initiatives of the poorest households in Bangladesh. The main focus of the Enterprise is to work for the promotion of the sustainable livelihoods for small scale Agriculture and Arts and Crafts sector producers in Bangladesh through facilitating the development of small enterprises with an aim to generate sustainable self-employment opportunities for under-privileged rural and urban people. Besides, DEW Crafts is also active in the fields of climate change, livelihoods security, agricultural promotion, women empowerment, human rights and good governance in partnership and collaboration with different international and national organizations with a vision to have a society where all people will enjoy equal rights, equitable access to employment and adequate resources necessary for their livelihoods and will live in dignity. DEW Crafts has been separated from the charity Development Wheel in August 2016 as a sister concern Social Enterprise with a vision to support more effective and efficient way to its producer groups in the sector of Handicrafts and Agriculture. DEW Crafts is a Certified GUARANTEED Fair Trade organization. DEW Crafts is promoting alternative livelihoods for rural artisan group members and most of them are women. DEW is promoting women entrepreneurship for their socio economic empowerment. We provided them product development, design, quality control and marketing support for their 100% eco-friendly handicrafts to local and international market as alternative livelihood options for them.

2. Would you like to share experiences in engaging women and youth in promoting alternative livelihoods

Research findings reveal that approximately 50 millions of women are less in number than the expected numerical was supposed to be in South Asia as based on ratio of men and women in South Asia. These “missing millions of women” are basically the indicators of gender inequities, discrepancies, oppression and overall negligence towards women as deep-rooted in society. Bangladesh belongs to one of the developing countries with a population of approximately 160 million. With Bangladesh’s 72 years of life expectancy at birth, 8.1 expected years of schooling, 4.8 average years and schooling and \$1,466 per capita income (GoB source), the country has been ranked 139th among the 188 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) according to the Human Development Report-2017 of UNDP. The country has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.518, ranking it 47 out of 144 countries in the 2017. Around 19.7 percent of Parliamentary seats are held by women and 30.8 percent of women have reached a secondary or higher level of education compared to 39.3 percent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 live births 940 women die from pregnancy related causes and the adolescent fertility rate is 68.2 births

per 1000 live births. Female participation in the labor market is 57.2 percent compared to 84.3 percent for men.

Development Wheel aims to transform women's leadership by reducing incidence of violence against women that are taking place at the domestic domain of Mymensingh district areas (north east part). Women are still confined with social stigma due to the conventional notion of patriarchy and conservative religious norms even after implementation of We Can campaign. Although they are familiar with gender based rights issues, they have no escape from the dilemma due to lack of mass realization on gender issue related law and policies. Targeting to the desired goal, the program intends to transform women gradually with an influential role not only within the family, also over the community. For this, their skills and capacities would be enhanced by providing adequate knowledge, information and training. Sustainable income generating opportunities with increased income would be created for them through Fair Trade and Livelihoods program by facilitating market access. Their economic empowerment will be heightened which will lead them towards decision making procedure within the family and the community largely. Regular awareness building activity is also required to create mass realization on gender based rights issues and policies. A strong advocacy network will act as a catalyst to make gender related law and policies more popular raising gender sensitivity within the community largely. The entire effort will be effective in reducing VAW from the community at large where women will have life with equal opportunity, respect and dignity.

Development Wheel (DEW) has identified through its long involvement in implementing various projects in the greater Mymensingh that the rate of infringement of women rights and various forms of violence against them are much higher in the remote areas of the districts than any other parts of the country. DEW has started We Can campaign programme in Mymensingh from March 2008 to till date.

DEW implemented Let Her Decide and Participate-LHDP project is an outcome of "We Can" Programme of Oxfam GB where DEW worked as one of its partners. DEW has implemented "We Can" campaign programme in Mymensingh from March 2008 to June-2011 with limited areas and resource like at Mymensingh district level covering the Municipality area along with three other sub-districts. The community mobilization activities of DEW has made it possible to disseminate "We Can" message to at least 2 lac people by **creating 20,000 vibrant Change Makers with electronic data-base**. On the other hand, a soothing bridge has already been enhanced within the local stakeholders, civil society and also the grass-root community within a viable-network where a well-defined District Alliance occupying 40-members is also formed for a more systematic execution within the community. In addition, DEW has gathered a considerable amount of understanding in linking the related aspects of human rights and good governance issues while experiencing the accomplishment of the movement employing a highly skilled team of competent staffs. Moreover, the systematic approach that is invested by DEW has identically become a very popular model which can be followed as a replicable model for either vertical or horizontal growth or both in further.

In the continuation of the journey, from October 2012, DEW has initiated an innovative intervention named Let Her Decide and Participate (LHDP) to enhance women agency of change through developing Women Transformative Leadership at different level. DEW as a one of its partners has been implemented series of activities through its women platform 'Adda', Change Makers, civil society, service provider organizations and district alliance in this working period. DEW is working with 8 villages and 5 educational institutions under this intervention. The initiative has proved that positive changes have been brought in attitude

Establishing systems for sharing information and knowledge and facilitating networking on best practices and approaches to drought management

and practice among women against VAW. Increased awareness about stereotype role of women, earlier they are not willing to disclose domestic violence due to patriarchal barrier. The women platform 'Adda' can represent itself as a collective and visible stand on violence against women and to prepare themselves to face emerging anti development and women empowerment evil force like Jammata, Hefazat and other fundamentalist force.

DEW provided them different skills development training for them based on that created "Adda" directly and linking them to directorate of youth, agriculture, women affairs, youth development to get govt. support and services as well as DEW is providing them marketing support for their handicrafts and grain safe food items to the market. But the challenges for the organization like DEW to carry forward these efforts and getting support from the donor and partners with sustainability.

Narrative

Provide any complementary information you deem relevant

Joyeeta is a Bengali word which means victory of women. The initiative links over 139 craft based rural women's organizations and give them access to modern urban markets. To create an opportunity for sustainable rural women employment and preserve country's traditional & indigenous handicrafts is also aim of this initiative. Development Wheel (DEW) is also an active partner of this project which is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Children affairs attempts to empower women by giving them platform to exhibit their handmade crafts and products at the stalls. DEW is promoting 6 women headed CBOs at river basined area of Jamalpur District. Development Enterprising Women (DEW) is one of them. DEW provides skill development training support to the artisans to develop their traditional indigenous craft skills and also assists poor women to develop demand driven handicrafts and provides them with the market linkage support to ensure fair return of their products. DEW assists groups to acquire necessary technical skill in product development, design and quality control support, facilitates pre-finance, healthy work place and also, markets their products in local and international markets. Joyeeta located at Rapa Plaza (3rd & 4th floor), Road # 27(old), Sobahanbag, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Our stall no is B-03 and we also have a small space in JATRA MELA at Banani, Dhaka to showcase DEW Crafts producers crafts as alternative livelihood options for DEW producers.



Alternative livelihoods for DEW Crafts producer group members

Synergies

Has your organization established systems for sharing information and knowledge and facilitating networking on best practices and approaches to drought management?

Yes

No



If yes, would you like to share/list the established systems available in your country for sharing information and knowledge and facilitating networking on best practices and approaches to drought management?

 Yes No

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Would you like to share experiences on programmes/activities that promote women's access to knowledge and technology?

 Yes No

Narrative

Provide any complementary information you deem relevant

DEW has been successfully completed some significant research on Char Livelihoods and poverty reduction and women economical empowerment. The main areas of research activities are Livelihoods, Education, Basic Services, Climate Change, Arts & crafts, Indigenous Communities, Fair Trade, Business Development Services (BDS) and Challenges of Religious Fundamentalism. DEW has implemented a research project titled "An Actor Oriented approach to NR Sector value addition: investigating post harvest networks and coalitions to enhance livelihoods in the Bangladeshi char lands" funded by DFID/CPHP-NRI". DEW also been completed another research project on Poverty Reduction and Women Economic Leadership in Asia: Roles, Potentials and Challenges of Social Enterprises with the collaboration of Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia-ISEA and Oxfam. Reports are available at www.dewbd.org

Recently DEW has been completed a small pilot project called "Digital Literacy for Small Farmers" with the support of Ministry of ICT, govt. of Bangladesh. DEW's basic principle is that to select beneficiaries for all of its project/programs at list 40% women and 10% ethnic minority, so we always covering 50% female to share knowledge and skills for them because women are the best carrier and disseminating agents for sharing gathered new knowledge and skills to others.

We have provided Basic Computer Literacy to rural poor small female farmers to get access to ICT based information related to their livelihood agriculture which will help to cover SDG goals and LNB-Leave No One Behind to SDG 2030.



Basic training on computer literacy for female farmers at in house and in the field



Observation of International Women's and International Environment Day 2018 by Development Wheel (DEW) in the field