

Transforming Marginalized Women into Grassroots Climate Leaders through Community-Driven Climate Change Adaptation in Bangladesh



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This presentation is an effort to highlight collective learning's....

- Knowledge & experience of the poor & marginalized women in climate change adaptation needs to be highlighted in the international forums through real life evidences.
- Adaptation with the multifaceted climate risks is beyond the capacity of single poor women but if they act together the possibility of survival against climate vulnerability will increase in many folds than any individual intervention.
- Determination & willingness of the poor women to use their all available resources for a better future for their children is the cornerstone of the community-driven adaptation measures.

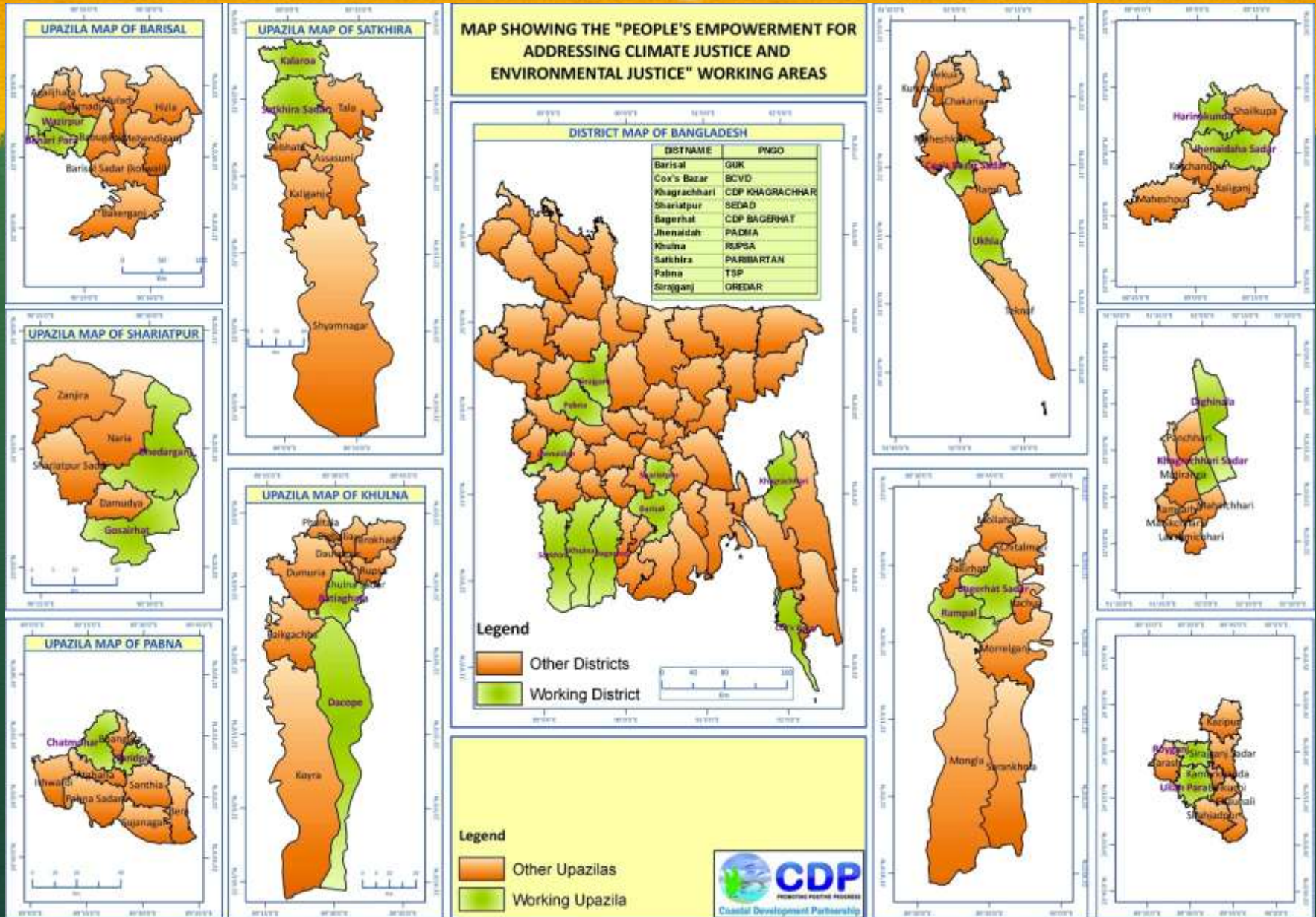
People's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (PCAP)



Typical social & economic situation of women who prepared PCAP

- Majority of the poor & marginalized women's total household income is around US\$ 50 per month. At least 2 household members are involved with income generating activities but one of them is child labor.
- Almost 90% of the women live in their own family house which is made of straw/leaf/polythene/bamboo/ damaged or old tin. Majority of the women are landless except the homestead.
- In Khulna, Bagerhat & Satkhira areas, many women have no income source and their husbands killed by tigers.
- In Khagrachari District all women belongs to indigenous community. In Shariatpur, a significant portion of the women are living with disability and majority of the women households have person with the disability. In Cox's bazaar a notable portion of the women are widow.

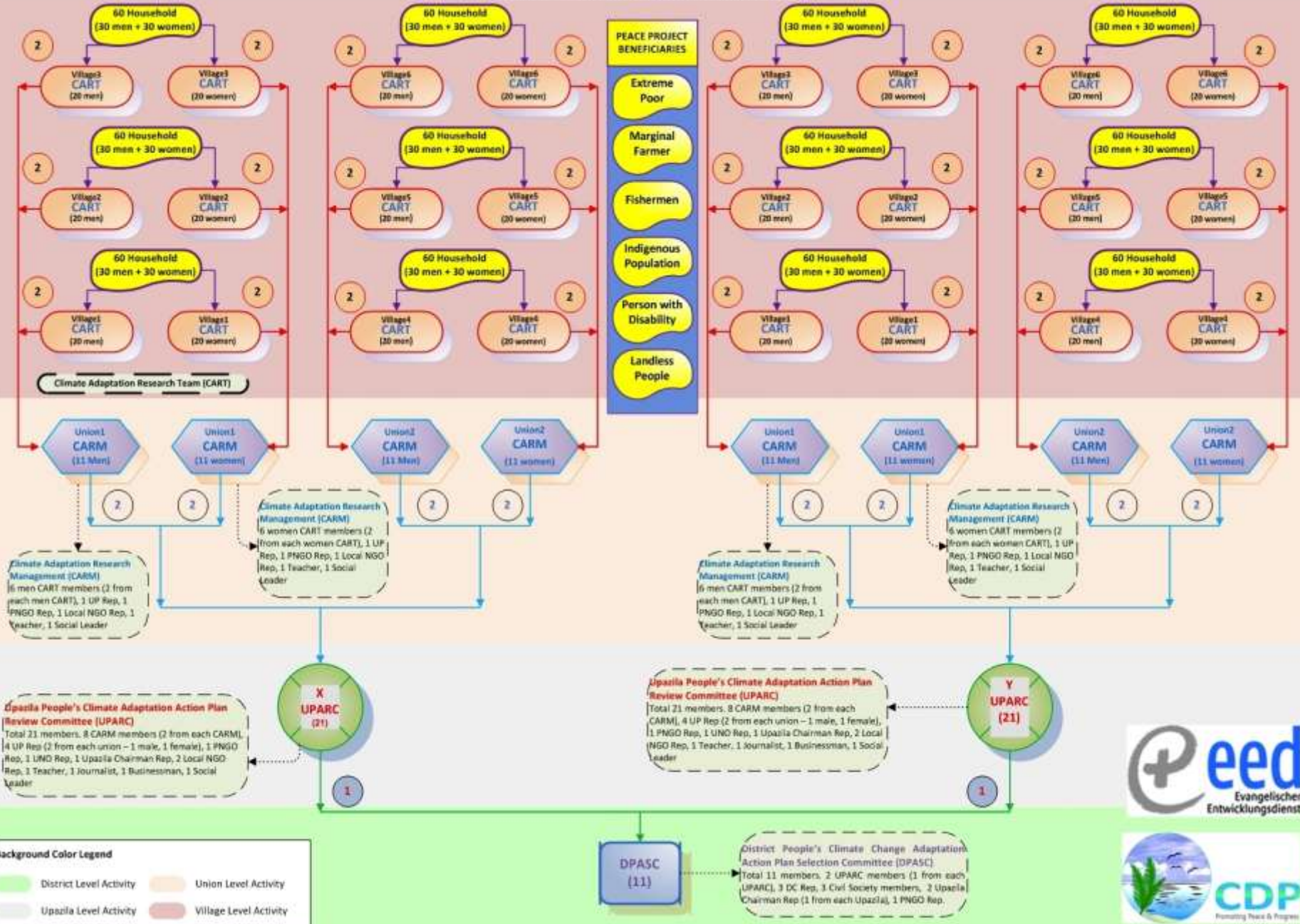
PCAP Development Areas



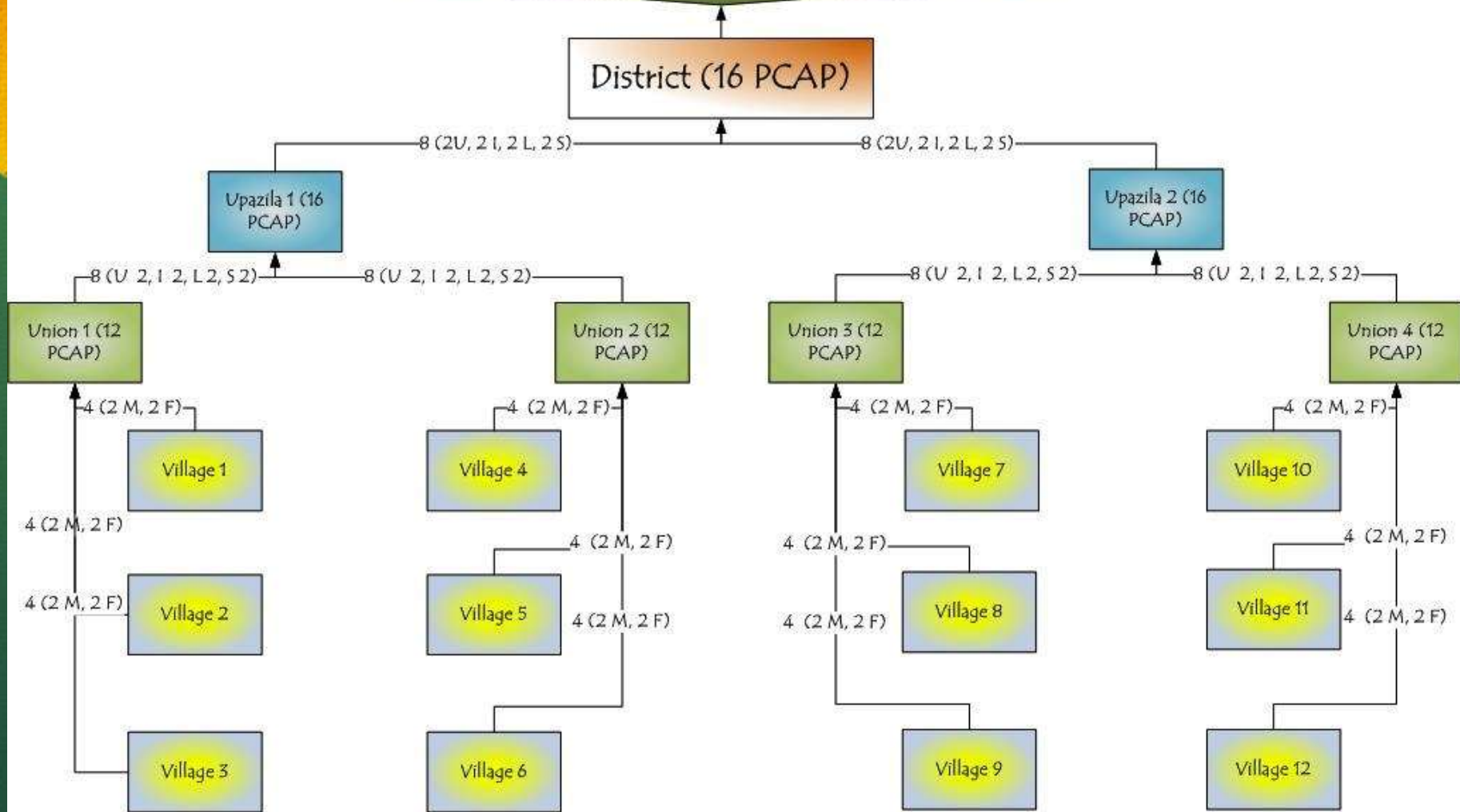
People's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan Development Process

- Using a group-based approach, 10 local NGOs facilitated PCAP development process in their respective community involving 4800 households under 240 groups (50% women) to devise national, 20 district level, 40 Upazilla level, 80 union level and 240 village level (1 for women & 1 for men in each level) People's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (PCAP) according to urgent, immediate, short-term, long-term categories.
- The ultimate focus of the PCAP is to support and enhance community resilience of a number of key development sectors (food production and food security, water resources management, coastal zone, renewable energy etc.).

Group Formation Flow Chart of PEACE Project



Top 10 PCAP Announcement (4 U, 3 I, 2 L, 1 S)



U – Urgent
 I – Immediate
 L – Long Term
 S – Short Term

M – Male
 F – Female



PCAP requires consistent capacity development of facilitator NGOs



PCAP recognized who are the real observers of climate change..



Transforming Women into a Grassroots Climate Leader



Kanon Mallick is a housewife of a marginalized farmer family in Batiyaghata, Khulna. The five member family own a small agricultural land and a small household. The family fully dependant on the agriculture and they were afraid of the climatic consequences



The intensified climatic disasters created enthusiasm among the women to know more about the consequences of climate change and Kanon Mallick and other women joined the PEACE



She was eager to know more and became the part of Climate Adaptation Research Team (CART) of the PEACE Project



Now Kanon Mallick is selected as the member of District People's Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan Selection Committee (DPASC)



Her capacity to lead the team made her the member of the Upazila People's Climate Adaptation Review committee (UPARC)



Her greater interest made her the leader of the CART and she was selected to represent her village in the Union level Climate Adaptation Research Management (CARM) committee

Examples of most common PCAPs

- Homestead vegetable cultivation with saline/ drought tolerant species and varieties of vegetables for family nutrition
- Developing and selling bio-fertilizers and bio pesticides for Organic farming
- Dry seed bed/Floating seed bed for seedling availability and subsequent transplantation in time
- Social Enterprise: Goat rearing, Duck rearing, fish cultivation in pond
- Integrated Nursery & Plantation to supply fuel wood and also for protection from cyclone, flood, flush flood and high tide
- Apiculture (wild & domestic honey productions for sales & household nutrition)

Challenges for PCAP to differentiate people's adaptation or mitigations needs

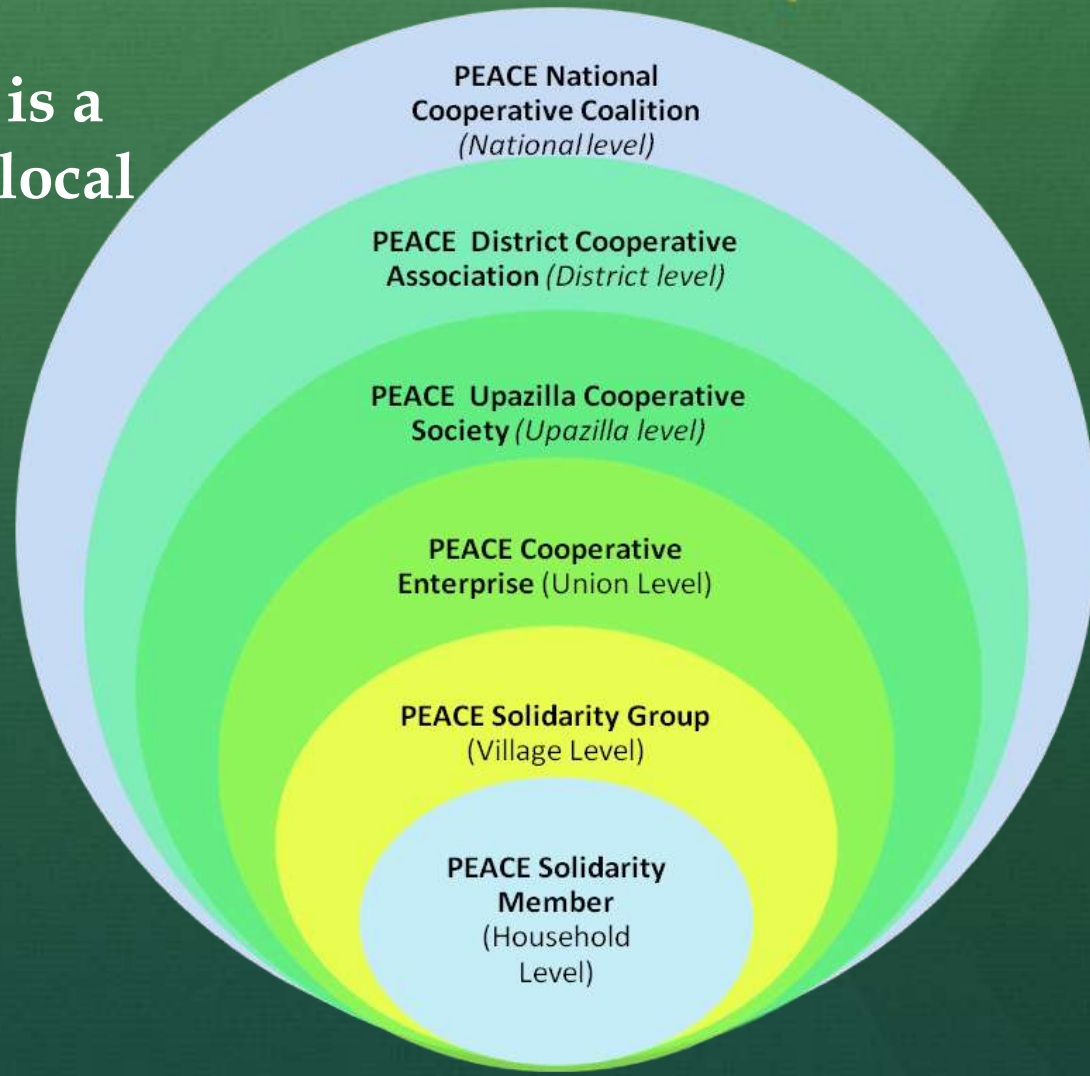
- Alternative Energy to supply electricity and other energy products to the rural community where there is no way of government grid in the next 20 years.
- Distributing and installing household biogas systems (family-sized bio-digesters fueled by household livestock & poultry waste produces methane gas suitable for cooking).
- Develop and deploy village specific electricity generation system and package based on Solar Technology
- water & sanitary service for the marginalized women
- **Improved cooking stove for household level energy efficiency and protecting women from health hazards**

The Circle of Hope

Looking towards gender-responsive climate resilient development approach

climate change adaptation is a people's issue, an issue of local governance

Initially, we were focused on bottom-top approach to counter act the existing top-bottom approach. However, the learning from the women, we agreed that the Circle of Hope perhaps the best framework to encompass more women in the Solidarity circle along with the growth of the groups.



The courage of women to care for the present and future is the key to adaptation

A case study on the survival of the poor women groups against the ravage of super tornado in Barisal district of Bangladesh

2.15 to 2.17 pm, October 08, 2010



“The tornado has told us that climate is changing and changing faster than our understanding. Since our grandfather had no idea about tornado, we believe we humans are somehow responsible and we have to work together.”

One tornado victim women



*The tornado was
unknown to both of
them
(grandmother &
grandchild)*

She is standing still
and gradually
rebuilding the life
because she knows
it is not the curse of
God..





The tornado not only destroyed the houses but also the natural resources that sustains livelihoods of the poor

No house to sleep, no money to rebuild the house but determination to get the livelihood back is much more than ever before. The 8th day after the tornado



Strategy for linking people's will with political will for a climate resilient today

- **Develop capacity of the grassroots NGOs/CBOs/Women groups so that they can extract the hidden strength of women and transforming them into confident person who understand their role and go for it with courage to accelerate climate resilient development both today & tomorrow**
- **Influence government to address the unmet adaptation needs. just demand is not enough, we need to provide details proposal that GO officials or Elected leaders or & international supporters can pursue to the higher level as their own proposal to enhance community resilience to the impacts of climate change.**

Demand to COP 17/CMP7

Negotiators

- Recognize poor & marginalized women's potential on climate change issues at community level and accept women as equal working partner as men in adaptation activities.
- Establish strong and effective women climate leadership in planning, decision-making and implementation of climate change adaptation actions and implement the pro-poor women-led development model to address climate induced livelihood vulnerability.
- Create an enabling adaptive environment where poor women can collectively contribute to maintain social peace through sharing resources or working together for sustaining their lives and generating assets for adaptation of the future generations.

..we would like to highlight that..

Knowledge fuels the courage in women and the courage in women makes them demanding empowerment and the demand of empowerment gradually make them leader and if they are in leadership, then the same process will be going on.



THANK YOU

for your kind patience

CDP is facilitating women-led development process involving 2400 women-headed households in Bangladesh.

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