

## Flood put me in Poverty, I worked to flee out of it

“We are a proud owner of a cow. We will rear it and send our children to school. We will increase our number of cows and live a happy life!” Arshad Molla, 46 years was sharing his dreams and plans of the future.

Arshad Molla is a daily labor working as a day to day basis in the Chargriarpar village under Thetrai Union. Life was going on with the income from a rickshaw till the family members were increased to 7. Life became hard and he had to sell the rickshaw



and start working as a boatman to support huge family. But, life had more to offer to him. In the Flood of NW in 2014 he lost his boat, the only source of livelihood. The whole family was suffering and had to starve which was becoming more and more difficult. Availability of labor opportunities became less. Number of unemployed people increased and Arshad had to wait for days to get some earning.

In March 2015, he heard about the Cash for Work in the area to be carried out by the “Recovery support to the flood affected families of North-Western districts of Bangladesh” Project funded by ECHO, under the DeSHARI consortium implemented jointly by RDRS Bangladesh and DanChurchAid. Through the project’s community consultation meetings he communicated with his ward member and attended a meeting in Green school ground. Through a long process of selection, Arshad could see his name hanging in the Union Parishad wall. He became the beneficiary of the project. He participated in the 30 day Cash for Work @Tk.200/day. He received a total amount of Tk.6,000. He purchased a cattle with some of wife’s savings and the cash from the livelihood cash grant of 3000 BDT.

“I have sevenmembers in family. My father was a wood cutter and lead hard life in the family. All lands belonged to us was eroded by Teesta river. We were hopeless, living a life of starving and suffering. The project helped us to find a mode of livelihood. The cattle is our hope to a decent life”.

The cash for work carried out by the “Recovery support to the flood affected families of North-Western districts of Bangladesh” project built and repaired a lot of rural road, raised ground of institutions and Madrasas/mosque.The impact of the project is multifold as the community are engaging themselves in autonomous business or income generating activities which is aiding in reducing the poverty status of the area. .