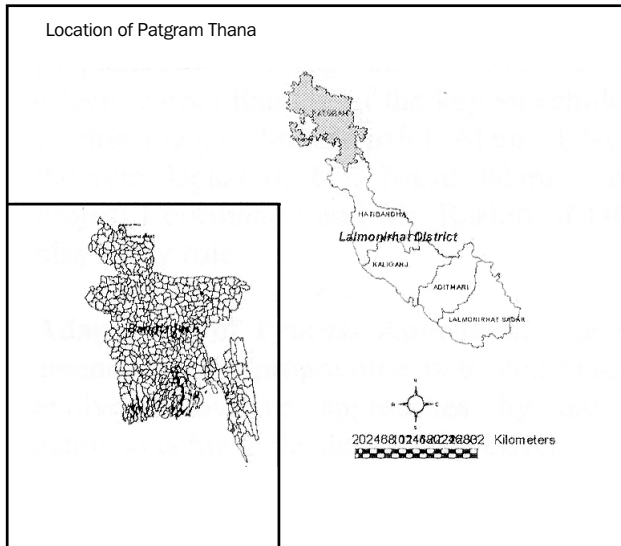




Patgram – A local government initiative for 100% sanitation

Afroza Ahmed, Shariful Alam and Nurul Islam, Bangladesh



AFTER THE DEVASTATING flood of 1998 about 25 people including children of the Patgram Upazila (Lalmonirhat District) died because of the outbreak of diarrhea. It was identified that the poor sanitation is one of the major contributing factors for this high mortality. This incidence of high mortality due to diarrhea became a concern of the local administration. Md. Shariful Alam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) shared his concern to local élites, Chairmen & members of the Union Parishads, teachers of different educational institutions, Imams, political leaders, NGO representatives, and people of all section of the Patgram Upazila and wanted to initiate a movement for 100% sanitation coverage in Patgram Upazila.

Goal and objectives

Goal

To reduce the high prevalence of diarrhea among the 184,295 population of Patgram Upazila by bringing about 100% sanitation practices among all HHs of the Patgram Upzaila by June 2000.

Objectives

- Increase sanitation coverage from 11.48% in 1998 to 100% by June 2000.
- Build capacity of the local organization for sustainable and appropriate sanitary latrine installation and maintenance.
- Empower Union Parishad members regarding resource mobilization.

- Create community awareness and involve community people for building partnership for development works.

Strategies

Motivation and awareness generation

Intensive motivational and awareness generation activities are taking place in Patgram Upazila. As a result, most of the people in Patgram Upazila motivated and generate savings to arrange their own latrines by themselves.

Participatory planning, implementation and evaluation

The Union Parishad (UP) members and NGO workers conducted the baseling survey to understand the existing condition of the sanitation in the Patgram Upazila. According to the baseling survey the UP members set their target for the 100% sanitation coverage in their respective Unions. UP chairman and members are very actively involved in the monitoring and implementation of the pilot project activities.

Convergence of resources

Savings have been mobilized from all different sources to arrange sanitary latrines to households, which are without sanitary latrines, identified by the baseling survey. Each household, which is without a sanitary latrine, has to contribute from own resources. The contribution money is being collected from their different programmes, for instance, food for education, vulnerable group development (VGD), BRDB, NGOs and from UP revolving funds. To increase the coverage of the sanitary latrines new village sanitation centres have been set up in un-served areas with the help of DPHE and Union Parishad.

Effecttive coordination and follow-up

This programme is being implemented through effective coordination of the key stakeholders. In this regard, Mr Shariful Alam (UNO of Patgram Upazila), Mr Nurul Islam, Unicef Project Coordinator and Mr Rashid of DPHE play a key role.

Adaptation of the process approach

The very essence of this programme is to continously evolve innovative approaches by the key actors to achieve the desired objectives.

Multiple channel dissemination strategy

Officials from different departments (Health and Family Welfare Department, Bangladesh Rural Development Board,

Table 1. Baseline survey results

Name of the Unions	NO. of families	NO. of population	No. of families using sanitary latrines	No. of families without sanitary	% of HHs using sanitary latrines
Sreerampur	6385	43176	239	6146	3.74
Patgram	4599	22676	552	4047	12.00
Jogotber	4167	22259	320	3847	7.68
Kuchlibari	2875	16188	316	2559	10.99
Jongra	3483	21430	391	3092	11.23
Baura	3992	25363	588	3404	14.73
Dahogram	1448	10838	419	1029	28.94
Patgram Paurasava	3989	22365	727	3262	18.23
Patgram Upazila	30938	184295	3552	27386	11.48

Demographic Surveillance System etc.) imams, school and college teachers, deed writer, Youth Development Group Members etc., are being mobilized and they worked as the change agents to motivate the different sections of the people for this programme.

No/minimum subsidy

Each individual household arranges their own latrine by their own means to make the programme sustainable.

Major pilot project activities

Baseline survey

A baseline survey had been conducted by the Union Parishad members in all the seven Unions of Patgram Upazila. The UNO and Unicef Project Coordinator developed two dif-

ferent colours of survey forms. The concise baseline survey results are given in Table 1.

Local level capacity building

Briefing and planning workshops with different key change agents (UP members, officials of Health and Family Planning, local elites, youth clubs, Anser, Village Development Party (VDP), Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Demographic Surveillance Systems (DSS), agriculture field extortionist, NGOs, Ward members etc.) for motivational activities had been organized at the early stage of the project implementation.

Awareness generation and motivational activities

Several activities are undertaken to generate awareness regarding the use of sanitary latrines, which are as follows:

- Organization of awareness and motivational session at the Upazila, Union, Ward, Community and school level.
- Transformation of message on use of sanitary latrine at the community level.
- Motivation of the VGD cardholders, guardians and students under food for education and stipend regarding the use of sanitary latrines and motivate them to generate savings for the installation of sanitary latrines.
- Motivation of all the staff of Govt. and autonomous bodies to use sanitary latrines.
- Teachers of the educational institutions motivate their respective students to use sanitary latrines.
- All the 396 imams of the Patgram Upazila motivate their respective people regarding the use of sanitary latrines.
- 7 Union Parishad Chairmen and members were actively took part to make the community people aware about the use of sanitary latrines.
- NGOs (mainly BRAC) of the Patgram Upazila also ensure the use of sanitary latrines among their beneficiaries in the project areas.
- Students of all high schools, college and teachers formed student brigade and visited each household in the

Patgram Upazila to motivate the community for using sanitary latrines.

Generation of Savings

As of January 2000, Tk. 3054,470.00 savings were generated from different on-going programme (Secondary & Primary schools, VGD cardholders, BRDB, BRAC, UP revolving funds etc.). It may be mentioned that UNICEF has only provided about Tk. 600,000.00 to support different training programme on hygiene awareness programme, support village sanitation centers (for sign board and caretakers salary) and provide technical assistance to UNO regarding the programme development. Besides these, modules on hygiene education, and communication materials are provided to this programme from WES section of UNICEF.

Production and supply of sanitary latrines

There were only two sanitary latrine production centers in Patgram Upazila before the project intervention, which were managed by DPHE. To bring latrines close to the people 15 additional sanitary latrine production centers have been established to fulfill the demand of 27,386 sets of sanitary latrines in the Patgram Upazila. DPHE agreed to

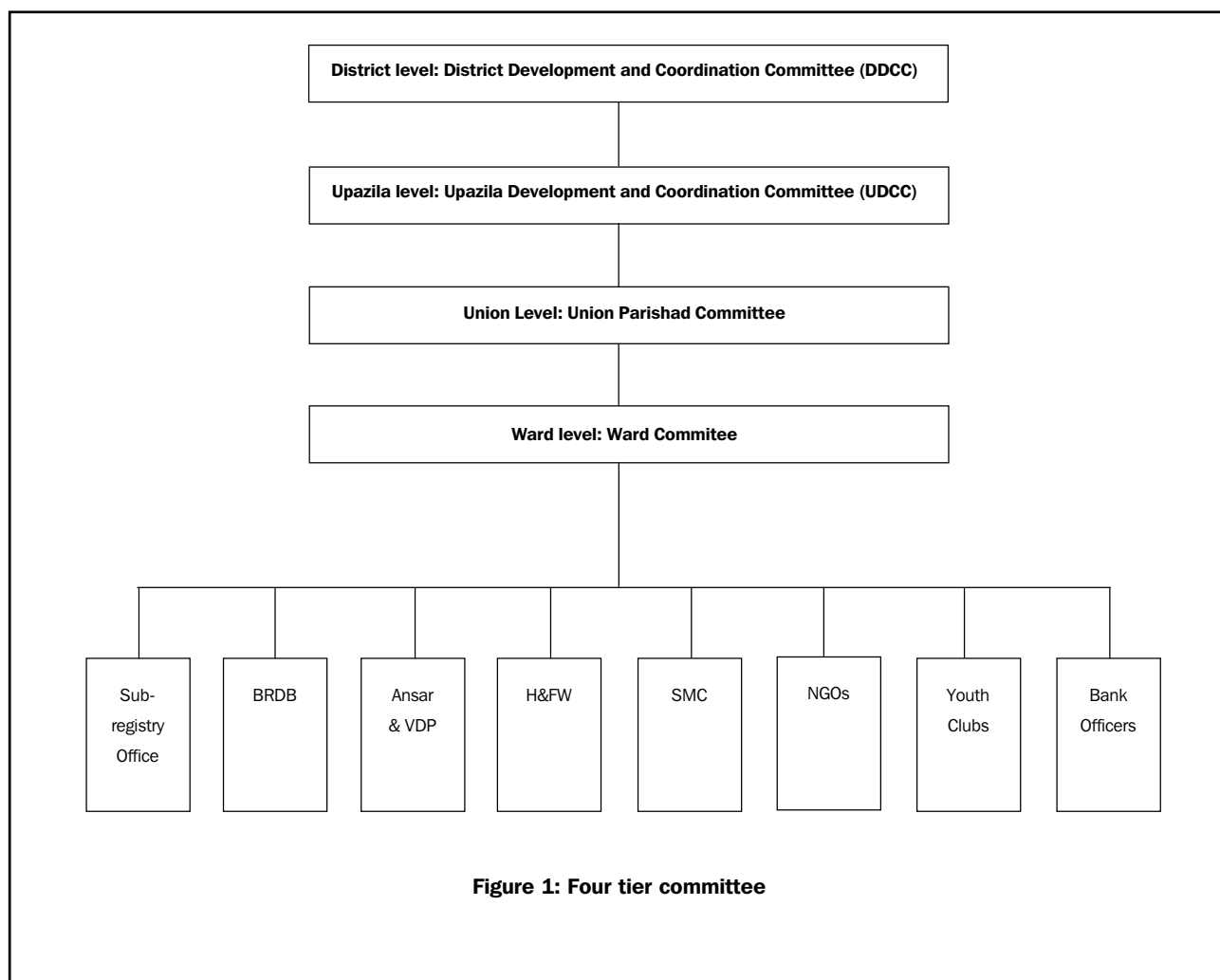


Figure 1: Four tier committee

Table 1. Think tank

Upazila Nirbahi Officer	Chairman
UPC, UNICEF, Rangpur	Member
Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer	Member
Upazila Accounts Officer	Member
Upazila Project Implementation Officer	Member
SAE – PHE	Member
Chairman, Union Parishad	Member

support these sanitary latrine production centers by deploying technicians, train masons and supplying moulds for the latrines.

Project management

To manage 100% sanitation coverage programme a 4-tier committee has been formed under the leadership of UNO as outlined in Figure 1.

Think tank

For overall management and strategic decision making, to the pilot project, a 7-members “Think Tank” has been formed under the Chairmanship of the UNO.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation committee

For proper implementation of the project activities, a 10-member Monitoring & Evaluation Committee is being formed chaired by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

Union level monitoring officers

At the Upazila level, 8 officers are being deployed to each of the Unions to monitor the progress of the activities

The monitoring process

- To review the progress of the work, the UNO organized monthly review meetings with the UP chairmen and union monitoring officers.
- Union Monitoring officers organize fort-nightly meetings to review the progress of the work in each Union. Each Union Parishad Chairman reviews the production of the sanitary latrine in each Ward and check the

register book regarding the sell and production of latrines. S/he has to report the progress regularly to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer. Sub Assistant Engineer of DPHE and Sanitation Monitors have to reports to the UPC separately.

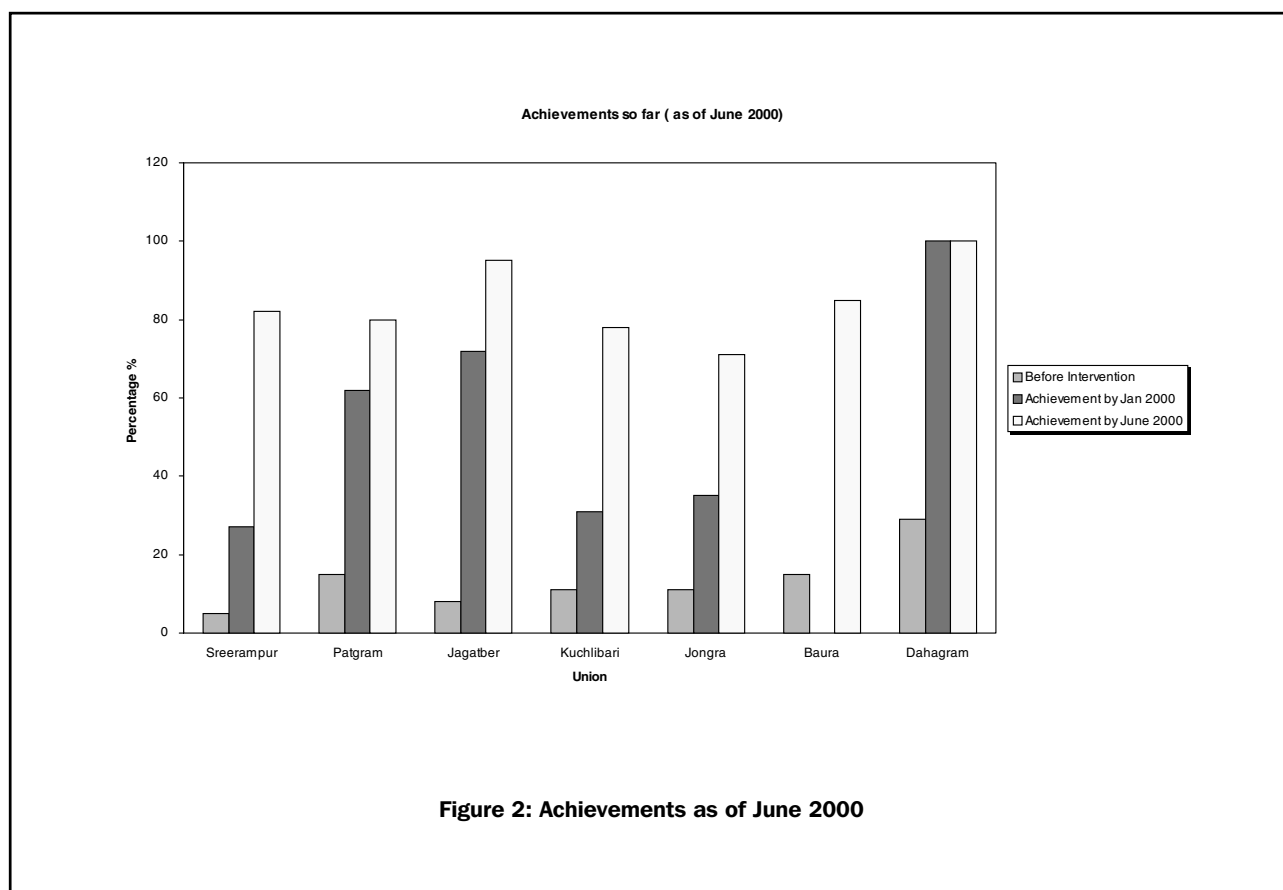
- Union Monitoring Officers should visit Village Sanitation Centers, at least three days a week and report to the UNO.
- UNO, UNICEF Project Coordinator, DPHE officials will visit the project area time to time to observe the activities
- After every 3 months, a review meeting is being held with all the UP members in the Patgram Upazila.

The evaluation system

- A monitoring survey of KAP on the personal hygiene practices (hand-washing practices) will be conducted during July-December 2000.
- A mid-term survey will be conducted in 2001 to find out the status of hygiene practice
- A booster intervention will be provided in 2001-2002 to make the practice sustained.

Achievements so far

Motivational and sanitary latrine production activities in all the seven Unions of Patgram Upazila going on as planned. In Dohogram Union (the most remotely located Union of Patgram Upazila) and Jagatber Union 100% sanitation coverage has been achieved already. And it is expected that by June 2000, all the 7 Unions under Patgram Upazila will achieve their target.



Next steps

Ensure proper use and maintenance of sanitary latrines

Because of their life-long habit for open defecation. It has been already reported that some of the families yet to start use of sanitary latrines (although they already installed latrines), UNO, monitoring officers and DPHE officials are now trying to ensure the proper use and maintenance of the sanitary latrines by their frequent visits in the areas.

Baby latrines for 3-5 years children

Survey in Bangladesh shows that only about 10 percent of children below 5 years use sanitary latrines. One of the major reasons for that is, these sanitary latrines are not child friendly. UNICEF together with the mesons and DPHE Executive Engineer a model for child friendly latrine for this age group has been developed. DPHE will start the production of these baby latrines in their production centers on a pilot basis.

Hygiene awareness programme

At present, all the efforts have been directed to achieve the 100% sanitation coverage in the Patgram Upazila, but very little efforts was directed regarding the behavioral development issues. After achieving 100% sanitation coverage in the Patgram Upazila, special emphasis should be given to proper hand washing practices.

Environmental cleanliness drives

Although the people of Patgram Upazila started to use the sanitary latrines but they are not aware about the overall environmental cleanliness of the surrounding areas. As a result people, especially children are still susceptible for getting diarrhea, parasitic infestation and other skin diseases. To make the total Patgram Upazila environmentally sound and sanitary, especial emphasis should be given to environmental cleanliness of the total Patgram Upazila.

Reaching the hard-core poor

To reach the remaining 5 % of the hard-to-reach poor, UNO and UPC-UNICEF have taken some very innovative approaches.

Access of safe water

There is very limited number of tubewells in Patgram Upazila. Most of the people rely on kuccha ring well and pond for their drinking and other purposes. This can be one of the major contributing factors for the high incidence of diarrhea in this area. Therefore, safe source of water facilities should be arranged in this area to achieve the desired impact of the pilot project.

Conclusion

The success of Patgram experience brought attention of the civil administration of Rajshahi Division. Mr. Khan Shahabuddin the divisional Commissioner showed keen

interest to replicate this model to other districts in the Rajshahi Division. In this regard, a dissemination workshop was conducted on May 21-23 where all the Deputy Commissioners, sixteen nominated Union Nirbahi Officers, Department of Public Health & Engineering (DPHE)'s territorial Executive Engineers, UNICEF concerned officials of the Rajshahi Division were present and a broad based workplan has been developed at the workshop. Now this model is being taken up for each two unions of 16 districts in Rajshahi Division.

AFROZA AHMED, Project Officer, WES Section, UNICEF,
Bangladesh.
