

Dinajpur Sept 2010

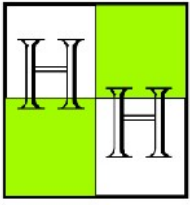
HOUSING & HAZARDS in association with RedR UK

SAFE Building in Bangladesh Workshop Summary Report



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Background, objectives and support

The 2010 two-week SAFE Building in Bangladesh workshop set out to:

- Raise awareness of practical building for safety issues;
- Give participants relevant experience of international development work;
- Assist future relief-workers to chart possible routes into the sector.

It was arranged as a joint venture between the Housing & Hazards Group and RedR UK and worked with H&H local partners BRIF Bangladesh, SAFE Bangladesh and Chetonar Dak, all based in the Dinajpur district of NW Bangladesh.

18 participants travelled from outside Bangladesh (from Netherlands, Indonesia and UK) and an additional 10 Bangladeshis participated from across the country together with locally-based artisans.

The international participants arranged their own travel, visas, insurance and so on. They were provided with advice in the form of 4 newsletters during the 2 months prior to departure. Despite some tight deadlines, all arrived in Dhaka on 13 September. They were met in Dhaka by BRIF personnel and were accommodated overnight in a hostel run by the YWCA, travelling to North Bengal by train on the 14th.

Foreign participants were hosted at the BRIF Training Centre, about 30 mins by car from the worksite. Bangladeshi participants stayed in the Chetonar Dak facilities, close to the Workshop site.

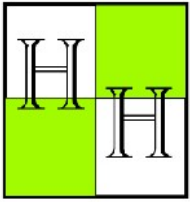
BRIF training centre has accommodation for around 75 trainees in a mixture of twin, triple and dormitory rooms. The workshop participants were all accommodated in twin or triple rooms with en-suite showers/toilets.

The following photos and notes summarise the experiences enjoyed by the international participants.



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Workshop programme

The programme was geared around construction of a village home using cement-stabilised mud blocks and locally sourced timbers/bamboo. The mud used was recycled from a redundant building, crushed, mixed with cement in a ratio of 1:20 cement:mud, formed into compacted blocks and then built up using a cement-mud mortar.

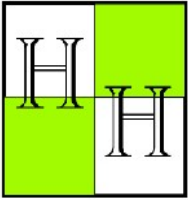
After an initial day of introductions and acclimatisation (15th), construction work occurred on all days apart from one (19th), when participants toured local historic sites. The participants were divided into 3 work groups and each group spent a morning visiting the education and community health programmes of the local NGO, Chetonar Dak, CD.

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Monday 13 Sept	Arrival in	Dhaka
Tuesday 14 Sept	Travel to	Dinajpur
Weds 15 Sept	Welcome ceremony	Visit BRIF project
Thurs 16 Sept	Welcome and	Construction work
Friday 17 Sept	Construction work	Construction work
Saturday 18 Sept	Const + Gp 1 visit Chetonar Dak	Construction work
Sunday 19 Sept	Kantaji Temple, Rudrapur	school & visit Dinajpur
Monday 20 Sept	Const + Gp 2 visit Chetonar Dak	Construction work
Tues 21 Sept	Const + Gp 3 visit Chetonar Dak	SAFE handicrafts visit
Weds 22 Sept	Construction work	Football match vs Atrai Hi Sch.
Thurs 23 Sept	Construction work	Construction work
Friday 24 Sept	Construction work	Farewell ceremony
Sat 25 Sept	Return to Dhaka	By bus
Sun 26 Sept	Sightseeing in	Dhaka
Sun 27 Sept	Leave Bangladesh	Most participants

Evening talks were arranged covering Search & Rescue (Ron Bier), Engineering in Emergencies (Robert Hodgson) and earthquake resistant construction (Raqay Yani).

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Practical construction activities

The practical activities included:

Breaking down the dried mud from a dismantled building

Mixing the mud with cement

Compacting the mixture into block molds



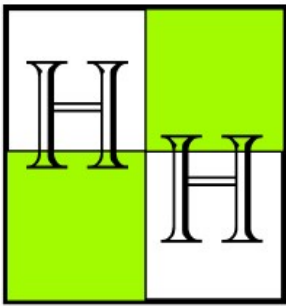
And constructing masonry walls with the resulting blocks

A range of carpentry activities using both wood and bamboo was also undertaken



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Non-construction activities

Each participant spent one morning visiting the non-formal education and community health programmes of local NGO Chetonar Dak



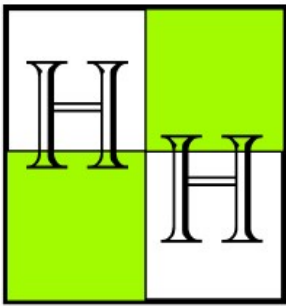
Local handicrafts were inspected as well as a BRIF agricultural programme. The day of sightseeing took in an 18th century Moghul period temple plus a modern award-winning construction built using rammed earth construction methods.

The football match drew crowds from up to 15 miles away...



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And finally...



The house was completed structurally but still needed roof sheets and some timber-work when we left. It is shown here with its new owners and 2 of the craftsmen who contributed to the workshop.

All participants rated the workshop experience as either very good or excellent – which encouraged the organisers to start planning a follow-up in 2011.

A well-earned rest on the journey back to Dhaka!

Followed by sightseeing:



For info:

www.HousingandHazards.org

www.brif.org

www.redr.org.uk

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