

# Global Buzz

MAY 2022



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INTERNATIONAL



## ICA Bangladesh is Redeeming its Momentum

Networking with colleagues and organizations in Bangladesh and overseas in April provided impetus for ICA Bangladesh to become a vibrant NGO to serve many underprivileged communities, advancing human development in Bangladesh.

On April 1 following a number of meetings at its new secretariat at AIRD at Shyamoli, Dhaka, ICA Bangladesh's six task forces (e.g., Administration & Management; Training & Facilitation; Community & Human Development Projects; Research & Advocacy; Fundraising; and Media & Public Relations) have regularly responded to communiques via social media. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AIRD and ICA Bangladesh was to advance the joint ventures, including research, training, and facilitation. ICA Bangladesh acknowledges AIRD's support of operational activities of ICA Bangladesh.

On April 6th, ICA Bangladesh's Chairperson Dr. Aziz Rahman had a meeting with North South University (NSU) External Affairs Director Dr. Katherine Li and Center for Peace Studies (CPS) member Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana to discuss how ICA Bangladesh and NSU collaborate on each other's research, training, internship, and peace promotion projects. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being drafted towards this partnership. As part of the collaboration, ICA Bangladesh is organizing a webinar on Restorative Justice in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges to be hosted with NSU in early June.



On April 13, ICA Chairperson Dr. Aziz Rahman had discussions with ICA Bangladesh members Udo Sankar Das and Naznin Quadir during an iftar event of the German Alumni Association of Bangladesh. They exchanged views about ICAB's upcoming projects in Bangladesh. As a follow up meeting, Dr. Aziz Rahman and Dr. Tatwa P. Timsina of ICA Nepal finalized ICA Nepal's training visit to Bangladesh from May 25th to May 31st. Six ICA Nepal colleagues are visiting Bangladesh. ICA Bangladesh colleagues expect to enhance their knowledge base in fundraising and leadership development scheduled to be held on 26 and 27 May in Dhaka. ICA Bangladesh colleagues in Chandpur Advocate Shahalam, Elias Khan, Abdul Bari Jamader, Saiful Islam and Aziz Rahman met on May 6th regarding the visit of ICA Nepal team to Chandpur and a visit to ICA Ghormara Human Development Project site in Ward Number 13 of Chandpur Municipality. They exchanged greetings on the Eid occasion and spontaneously shared their interests to work with ICA for the greater benefits to the local communities.

On May 7th, Advocate Shahalam and Dr. Aziz Rahman had some yard meetings at Ghormara Asrayan Prokalpa Area to learn more about the current situation of the community of 132 households resettled in a government shelter project of climate refugees. More than 200 children are lacking access to formal primary education. ICA Bangladesh constructed an ICA Ghormara Community Centre and School building there which can be used to restart the Educational and Life Skills training project for the underprivileged children of the area. ICA Bangladesh appreciated the District Council for constructing some bath and sanitary infrastructure projects, Local Government and Engineering Department for constructing paved roads, and Ministry of Primary and Nonformal Education for running two non-formal education centers in the community.

**Mahmuda Akter, ICA Bangladesh**



## Activity Report

In this month of April, we have focused our activities on continuing to raise awareness and monitoring the project to fight against climate change in the localities of the Sub-prefecture of Boudoumé. We have also developed a brochure and identified about fifty structures and organizations to talk to them about the training and use of improved stoves as part of this project to fight against climate change that we are currently carrying out in Côte d'Ivoire.

With regard to training at the Sainte Sato de Brobo preschool education center, the resumption of classes after the Easter holidays was done to the greatest joy of the children who spent more than two weeks at home with parents. . Note that the students will go for the long school holidays in the month of May, so students, parents and teachers are in full preparation for the end-of-year festivities.

At the ICA Côte d'Ivoire office, our pilot snail farming project (*Achatina Achatina*) is continuing with the laying of eggs. These molluscs lay 100 to 150 eggs which will rapidly increase the number of our snails.

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## Rapport D'Activité

Ce mois d'avril, nous avons axé nos activités sur la poursuite de la sensibilisation et le suivi du projet de lutte contre le changement climatique dans les localités de la Sous-préfecture de Bounda. Nous avons aussi élaboré une brochure et identifié une cinquantaine de structures et organisations pour leur parler de la formation et de l'utilisation des foyers améliorés dans le cadre de ce projet de lutte contre le changement climatique que nous réalisons actuellement en Côte d'Ivoire sur financement de ICA USA.

En ce qui concerne la formation au centre d'éducation préscolaire Sainte Sato de Brobo, la reprise des cours après les vacances de Pâques s'est faite dans la plus grande joie des enfants qui ont passé plus de deux semaines à la maison auprès de leurs parents. Notons que les élèves iront pour les grandes vacances scolaires au mois de mai, ainsi les élèves, les parents et les maîtres sont en pleine préparation pour les festivités de fin d'année.

Au niveau du bureau de ICA Côte d'Ivoire, notre projet pilote d'élevage d'escargot (*Achatina Achatina*) se poursuit avec la ponte actuellement des œufs. Ces mollusques pondent de 100 à 150 œufs ce qui va augmenter rapidement le nombre de nos escargots.

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## Buenos Aires and La Vegona villages Participating in the Climate Change and Reforestation Program.

*With the support of ICA USA Global Fund, facilitated by ICA Guatemala, in collaboration with authorities of La Unión, Zacapa*

Waterfalls in threads from the headwaters of the mountains, from above the villages; sometimes thicker and sometimes thinner; in the distance the people of Buenos Aires village, still hear monkeys and the fog still feels dense after a rainy day; it is a sign of concrete faith that must be preserved.

For this reason, two villages were chosen in the municipality of La Unión, from the mountains where water is supplied to more than 20 villages and towns, even to towns below these localities. That is why the workshops were held in that area, to join the efforts of the villages, the Minister of Agriculture and Municipality, aware of the damage that has been caused to the environment and therefore to themselves and present and future generations.

### **Some experts in the environment wrote:**

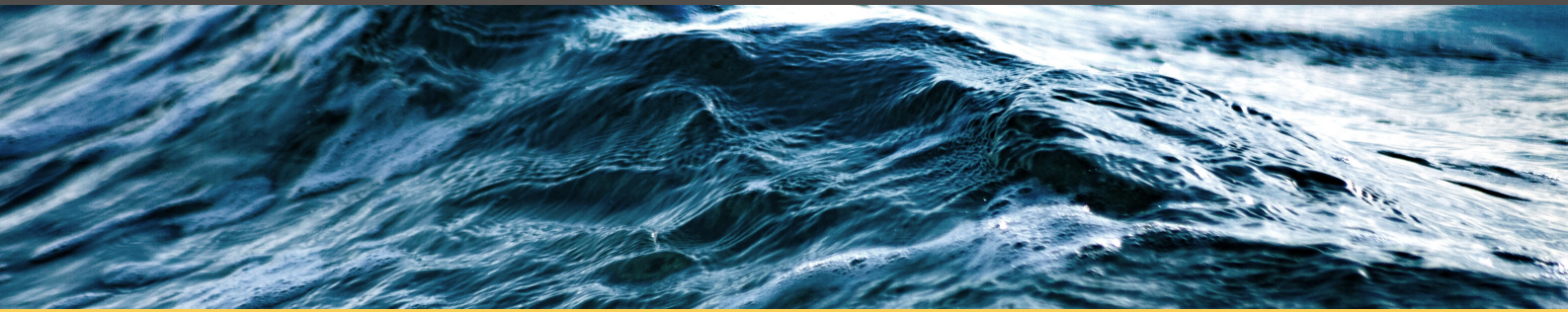
*"In the Municipality, serious problems of immoderate felling of trees are manifested. Every year the forested area of the Sierra El Merendón decreases up to 10%. With this, it is analyzed that in ten years there will be no cloud forests left, which is characteristic of the so-called "Oasis of the East".*



Workshops in three communities on Climate Change/Reforestation were done in 2 Villages: Buenos Aires and La Vegona, and Aldea Cumbre Alta, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA).

During these workshops, they were provided with statistical data, proposed by UNICEF, on how climate change is affecting the lives of millions of children around the world, effects such as tsunamis, the temperature that is rising, hurricanes, etc. And information was given on carbon dioxide effects.

**Participatory Workshop:** In the last village Cumbre Alta, they expressed how these changes affect locally: in the change of the seasons, which were previously well marked as winter and summer. In recent years, the floods, which in a nearby village buried 3 young people, or when the roads are cut and children cannot attend classes, and water deficiency. At the same time they recognized that people have been the cause of these changes, such as deforestation, the excessive use of chemical products in crops, the use of disposable products like plastic cups and plates in family events, the increase in the population in needing spaces to build. The industries still use coal and other waste goes to the rivers and then to the sea. Mining companies also pollute with waste such as lead. An elderly person, with a lot of feeling and concern was about to cry, explained how the environmental situation had changed so much. Before they fed on forest products: animals like deer, and plants of yame, cassava, chipilín, and healthy fruit trees (such as bananas, oranges, which are already being attacked by a plague).



## Future Purposes and Plans

These communities are alert to not continuing deforestation. They are willing to learn and apply soil-friendly techniques such as making and applying organic fertilizers, reforesting with forest trees, to have enough and healthy water, research and have varieties of trees for coffee shade and be attentive to pest control in trees.

It is expected that children and young people will become aware of the use of water, campaigns on garbage management, reuse water, make vermicompost using coffee husk (coffee is the product that gives sustainability to several families in the communities).

At the end of the workshops, the two participating villages La Vegona and Buenos Aires, signed up to obtain the needed trees to reforest their areas.

A workshop on solid waste management was held with the Ministry of Environment (MARN de Zacapa). This event was attended by 36 people from the two participating communities. Key points were (1) the interest of what to do with plastic; and (2) how to take advantage of the pulp and husk that remains of the coffee to use it in compost bins, which can then be used as organic fertilizer. For the future the people of the MARN, expressed that they can continue to give these presentations for children and young students.

### **Some results in delivering various trees to the villages of La Vegona and Buenos Aires:**

- Interest in reforesting was reinforced, thanks to the participatory process.
- Family integration in planting and care of trees; teaching children and young people to protect the environment and especially their forests.
- 3,091 forest trees and 57 fruit trees were delivered to the villages of Buenos Aires and La Vegona. These were planted with enthusiasm by the families of both villages.
- The Municipality of La Unión donated 1,300 forest trees to the village of La Vegona.
- A neighbor of the village La Vegona collaborated with transportation from the nursery tree to the village.

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## Building Adaptive Capacity and Strategies for Climate Change in Kawangware and Kibera using ABCD Methods

### The exercise

The aim of this exercise was to strengthen the capacity of local communities to adapt to climate change. This was done by engaging communities using the ABCD (Asset-Based Community Development) model in identifying, developing, and enhancing the best holistic tools for climate change. The project met its desired goal and objectives in its timeframe, groups reached and trained, and group projects initiated.

### The context: Social-economic and Environmental Context

Nairobi is Kenya's capital city, experiencing the effects of climate change just like most cities in other parts of the world. For instance, the Nairobi dam, the major recreation site that city residents have relied on for many years has dried up. Unplanned waste management, poor drainage, floods and dust storms during dry seasons affect the people of informal settlements more than that of the suburbs. The fewer the assets of people in the informal settlements, the more exposed they are to severe effects of climate change.

Participants were taken through the ABCD concept to understand the opportunities that lie within them. They were invited to take a practical approach of a 'glass half full' to community development, first acknowledging the strengths and resources that people and communities bring to the table, and then building on those strengths to bring multiple stakeholders together to co-create positive community change.

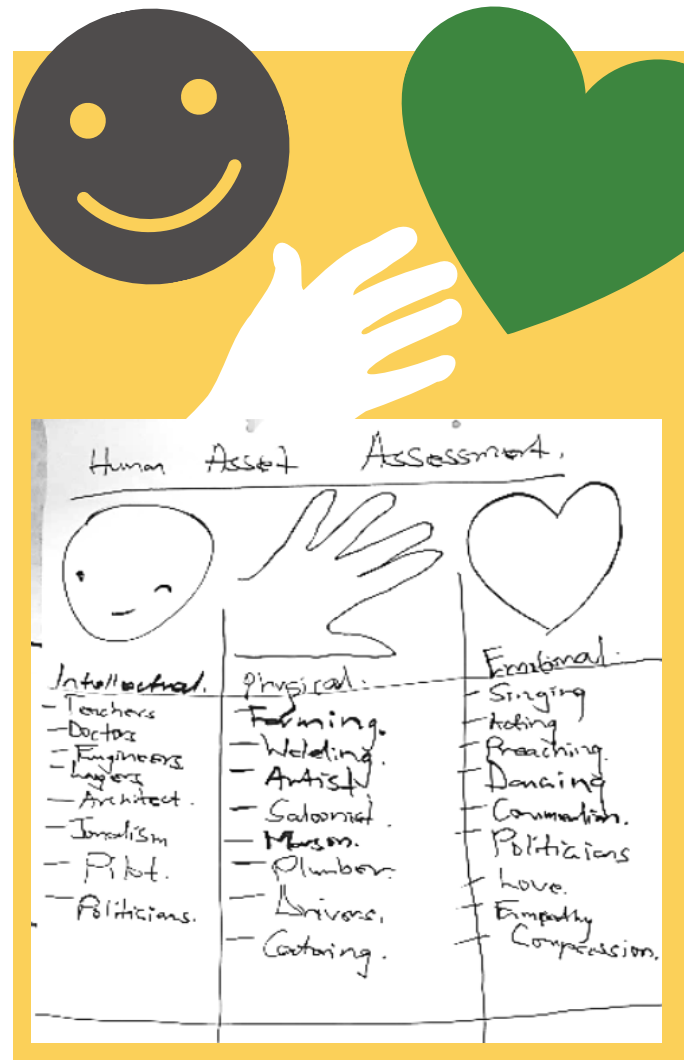
**Asset:** A useful or valuable thing, person or quality, tangible or intangible that goes beyond a traditional economic definition.

**Community Development:** Both a process and the result of an organized and ongoing effort in a community, based on a shared vision for the quality of life that residents wish to achieve and sustain.

**Asset-Based Community Development:** "A methodology that seeks to uncover and use the strengths within communities as a means for sustainable development." (**ABCD Institute**).

ABCD has been influenced by: appreciative inquiry, positive deviance, asset mapping, economic empowerment and a sustainability framework. It identifies talents, skills, assets and capacities of individuals (individual asset assessment).

The ABCD facilitators introduced how the community can identify skills, assets and capacities of individuals in the community. The groups were shown how to draw a capacity inventory using the head, hand, and heart. A chart was drawn for the community members to name their skills in each category. It was quite clear that individuals are endowed with different skills and capacities that can be utilized in the groups to make them grow and reach their desired goals and missions. Once individuals have a better understanding of their own skills, they may want to do a comprehensive capacity inventory of their 'cluster', be it a community group, a village, or the wider area that community members live in. Going a step deeper than the 'Heads, Hands and Hearts' exercise, capacity inventories help people to understand how their assets and strengths can be combined with other people in support of personal and community development.



Insights from the training: The engagement with the groups on identifying individual assets was amazing. The ABCD facilitator introduced the tool to the participants and told them about the three categories of assessing the human asset. He told the members to name some of the skills and assets that they know. The participants named the skills and capacities of individuals with ease.

Opportunities and lessons learned: No one has nothing to give. Individuals are endowed with different capacities and skills. The community participants learned that people can build life from any category of skills and talents mentioned. For those who are not good intellectually, they can focus on either their physical skill or emotional skills.

## Mapping out social assets - institutions and associations.

### Institutions

Local institutions are often overlooked as sources of assets that community groups can draw upon to support community development activities. Time and time again, however, the stories of spontaneous community-driven development, documented by participants in the Coady Institute's educational programs, highlight the importance of the role of local institutions. Examples include: an old church building made available for a group of local women to use for its activities, a local business offering to transport goods to market for a nascent community cooperative. Making a list of the assets of local institutions can often result in the discovery of assets the community had never previously considered as potentially assisting community development efforts. This is why the groups in Kawangware and Kibera mapped the associations they can work with in advancing the issue of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

### Associations

The groups in Kawangware and Kibera carried out the exercise to map most of the associations within that the groups can build relationships and work with.

### Insights from the training:

When the participant for both Kawangware and Kibera were put into groups and told to map out the association and institutions, so many of this were mapped out because each member had at least a name of an institution that another member did not have an idea about and this applied to the institutions too.

### Opportunities and lessons learned:

Different members know different institutions and associations and the moment you bring a group of people together you can map out as many institutions and associations as ten times the number of the group members. Another lesson was the power of connection between the individual and the associations.

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## Activity Report

### Leaders Meet

ICA Nepal in collaboration with Gratia Center successfully conducted the Leaders Meet "Leadership of Today in NGOs and Funding Strategies". The session was divided into three parts: a Panel discussion, a Fundraising Strategies workshop, and Networking Event. Panel guests were: Ms. Ishu Subba, Chairperson of ICA Nepal; Mr. Kamal Subedi, Founder of Central President of National Federation of Youth NGO Nepal; and Ms. Adwitiya Gurung, head of HR President AIESEC. The speakers for the Fundraising Strategies workshop were Ms. Yunusha Kafle, Executive Director of ICA Nepal, and Mr. Mohan Dangal, President of Consortium Nepal, and director at Child Nepal. Twenty-five participants attended at the Gratia Center, Kathmandu from different INGO/NGOs between the ages of 18 and 35.

The panel discussion started with the guest's journey in the NPO sector and how they have been able to sustain all their activities along with the strategies and challenges they have encountered. During the Fundraising Strategies workshop, the speakers highlighted important insights required for fundraising and how it is a very crucial component required for the sustainability of the organization.

Finally, at the Networking Event, all participants got a chance to know each other's organization and build relationships. The event was intended to provide networking connections as well as training to emerging NGOs and implement strategies for funding and by the end of the session, we covered that stage in depth. The awareness among emerging NGOs and their growth was foremost during the learning session. The active participation from both the speakers and the attendees made the program both insightful and fun.

## Social Artistry Leadership; Spark Project

In memory of the Late Richard Sims, ICA Nepal launched a Certificate Course on Social Artistry in August 2021. A second course was held in early October, followed by the third course in March 2022 in collaboration with Kalpa Academy. It is designed as a five-day session. For the first three days, participants work together to understand the tools and methods of Social Artistry and develop Spark Projects. Next, they have 15 days to implement their Spark Project with the help of their mentor. On days IV and V, participants share their learning and achievement.

The third course was participated in by 35 youth from diverse geography and backgrounds. In early April, during days IV and V, all the participants returned with great stories and learnings from the Spark Project they carried out during the time duration. Each participant presented remarkable reports regarding their projects aiming at community development. Participants are provided with Rs. 5000 each as a grant. The session was facilitated by Janet Sanders, Evelyn Philbrook, Tatwa P. Timsina, Amba Datta Bhatta, Ishu Subba, Pramila KC, and Er. Ravi Khanal.



At last, every attendee had tears of joy in their eyes, visualizing their achievement. After the very successful 2-day session, they all promised to keep these works going and aim their Spark. All the participants were very grateful for the training and warmly thanked the mentors. They also look forward to attending these trainings in the near future aiming at individual and community development.

## Role of Innovation in Agricultural Development

In early April, Prof. Dr. Tatwa P. Timsina talked about the 'Role of innovation in Agricultural Development' organized by Okraland, a global agro-based company working in Nepal. Dr. Timsina emphasized the need for innovation and resource generation for the development of the agricultural sector.

## Agro-Forestry in Nepal

ICA Nepal organized the program 'Agroforestry in Nepal: Prospects and Challenges' along with Kalpa Academy. The main theme of the session was Kalpa Academy Development Program (Leave No-One Behind) which was facilitated by Prof. Rama Krishna Regmee. Prof. Dr. Tatwa P. Timsina attended the session.

## Every Saturday Learning Saturday

ICA Nepal in collaboration with Digital Media Group has been organizing different Classified Talk shows from experts on diverse topics such as Fundraising and Development, Ph.D., Imagine Nepal, and ISO Certification. As mentioned in previous reports, we have been conducting Every Friday, Learning Friday program sessions by experts in a particular field. Now, with the same theme and enthusiasm, we joined hands with the media groups. Topics for this month were:

- Appreciative Inquiry for Strategic Planning Process- Dr. Ram Chandra Lamichhane
- Being a Successful Ph.D. Researcher: Ideas & Tips- Dr. Azizur Rahman
- Power of Imagining the Future: Appreciative Approach- Dr. Dhurba Acharya, Mr. Sahadev Mahat
- Karuna Wellbeing for Healthy Aging- Mr. Ravi Pradhan



Attendees have warmly appreciated the learning program and the number of participants is growing each week. More and more audiences are attending this free webinar and improving their skills each Saturday with ICA from all around Nepal. The experts and facilitators provide excellent insights to the participants. We also express our gratitude to the experts through our Certificate of Appreciation.

## Project Plan Meeting

ICA Nepal along with its project partners Hariyali Abhiyan and Okraland Foundation held a meeting on the Natural Farming and Energy-focused project.

## Project Commencement at Sankhuwasabha

ICA Nepal joined hands with NPO Nepal VSS for the construction of the School at the Eastern part of Sankhuwasabha, Makalu Barun Area- Basthala village. The project is supported by the Korean organization, which commenced in early April.

## MHM Awareness at Parbat

Ms. Ishu Subba and Ms. Karuna Mahat led a series of MHM awareness-raising sessions at Parbat. The session ranged from conducting awareness at local schools and women groups to local government as well. As a part of the project Ms. Subba was interviewed by the local community radio known as Ahimsabad Radio Parbat regarding the safe menstruation, and reusable pad-making training. Ms. Subba highlighted various hazards that occur due to the negligence of menstrual hygiene and how one can prevent those. The need for healthy and nutritious food along with the importance of exercise was also shared among the participants. Overall, the session remained very informative and exciting for the participants as they deeply got insights into Reproductive Health and Menstrual Hygiene Management.

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## Activity Report

In April some ICA USA staff were inspired when they heard a presentation made by Luis Aguirre-Torres (Ithaca Chief of Sustainability) and Rebeca Evans (Sustainability Planner) regarding their carbon free work in Ithaca, New York.

**Ithaca is the home of Cornell University, 30,000 residents and 6,000 buildings.**

In November 2021 the Ithaca city government passed a Green New Deal and committed to the seemingly impossible task of decarbonizing all of its buildings by 2030. They are having 1,000 conversations with Ithaca residents about their vision for 2030 and will be launching their pilot of 1,500 buildings before the end of the year.

If you are frustrated by limited how-tos regarding the immense challenges of urban decarbonization, listen to their presentation “How to Decarbonize Your City” for hope and practical tips - now available on [YouTube!](#)

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## Global Schedule of Events

To see four types of events: studies, significant conversations, training and impactful global events visit the Global Schedule at:  
<https://icaglobalarchives.org/social-research-center-events/>

**Remember, YOU are invited to:**

- 1- Offer a presentation you are interested in giving;
- 2- Recommend other people to present;
- 3- Participate in any of the events and encourage your friends to attend; and
- 4- Give feedback by emailing: [icaglobalschedule@gmail.com](mailto:icaglobalschedule@gmail.com)

The vision for the Global Schedule of Events is to make this easily accessible and globally friendly to all no matter where and what!

Alan, Karen, Robyn, Sunny, and Virginia

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