

## Community Shelter Home

Traditionally, the people of the coastal area build their houses with mud, leaves and wood. Recent saline water intrusion pushed the soil to lose its binding properties. Frequency of high-wind incidences has also increased in the recent years destroying conventional mud-leaf houses. Adequate number of cyclone shelter is one option to save lives and assets. But, in addition to the huge cost needed to build these shelters, regular maintenance is another major concern. An innovative approach has been piloted in Satkhira where strong regular houses are built to serve as small shelters during high-wind incidences. Such a house is called a Community Shelter Home.



These community shelter homes are designed based upon Practical Action's long experience in the rural housing sector. A shelter home is a semi-pucca house (room 18'X20'; veranda 6'X13'). Locally available materials are used to build these houses. The structural design allows them to withstand high-wind speed. The plinth is above the highest storm surge-induced flood level. A shelter home has a kitchen (6'X7') by the veranda with improved cook stove. A home has a two-pit, semi-pucca, offset toilet with water supply system. The home is equipped with a 2000-litter rain water harvesting and utilizing system for drinking purpose. Inside the house, an emergency chamber has been built within the floor to keep valuables.

In addition to above-mentioned structural innovations, community shelter home has innovation in its management as well. This home is used and maintained as a normal home by its owner all-the-year-round. During storms and high-wind situations, this house harbours several neighbouring families to protect their lives and valuable assets. This innovative, low-cost, house-cum-shelter model opens up the opportunity for scaling up in other coastal areas.



The technological innovation described in this document has been piloted under the 'Community Based Adaptation in Vulnerable Coastal Areas of Bangladesh', a sub-project under the 'RETA 6422: Mainstreaming Environment for Poverty Reduction Project' of the Asian Development Bank. This sub-project (March 2011–April 2013) is co-funded by the Asian Development Bank and Practical Action. It is implemented by Practical Action, Bangladesh in Shyamangar and Kaliganj upazillas of Satkhira district, Bangladesh.

© 2013 Practical Action Bangladesh

**For further information:** Practical Action, Bangladesh; House 12/B, Road 4, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205, Bangladesh; Tel: +880 2 8650439, 9675236, 9675243; Website: [www.practicalaction.org](http://www.practicalaction.org)