

Organisation: UNDP Bangladesh

Programme/Project title: DE 6 – Sustainable Democratic Union Parishad Project. (A component under UNDP’s Efficient and Accountable Local Governance (EALG) Project

Outcome and output reporting – 2020

Indicators	Baseline [Final Study released Oct. 2019]	2018 Status of achievement	2019 Status of achievement	2020 Status of achievement (January - June 2020)	Target 2020	End 2021 Status of achievement
<b>Outcome: Pro-poor and responsive services by selected UPs enhanced<sup>1</sup></b>						
<p><b>Indicator 1.1</b> 25 % of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded citizens in UPs under the targeted 8 districts having access to decision making processes.</p>	<p>11.3% of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded citizens in UPs under the targeted 8 districts having access to decision making processes.</p>	<p>Ward Shava and Open Budget Sessions were organized in limited scale and poor and vulnerable people had limited scope for contribution.</p>	<p>EALG contributed to increasing participation of rural poor and marginalized people in the decision-making process of local governance through conduction of community-level meetings (Ward Shavas) at Union Parishads (UPs) [[E1]]. 100% of the targeted UPs conducted Ward Shava compared to 42.9% as per baseline survey [E2].</p> <p>A total of 312,105 citizens took part in Ward Shavas in targeted UPs in 2019, of which 36.87% were women and about 12.02% were poor, vulnerable and socially-excluded citizens.[E4]].</p> <p>This improvement has been occurred through different initiatives of EALG project that includes training, technical assistance and logistics support. As part of its technical assistance EALG supported LGD by drafting a guideline for holding WS effectively. The guideline was issued by the LGD to UPs clearly mentioning the importance of participation of diverse section of people including women in the Ward Shava as well as proper documentation of WS including a list of socially excluded people attended in the meeting. In addition, orientation was provided to UP Chair and Secretary to improve their capacity in planning, conducting and managing the WS well. Furthermore, a total of 3,513 CSO/CBO members were oriented on local governance issues putting emphasis on community participation in WS and Open Budget sessions to influence the decisions</p>	<p>EALG supported Union Parishads in project areas to effectively organize Ward Shava, Open Budget Sessions that can enable citizen’s participation in the decision making process of local governments. UPs are obliged to hold Ward Shavas (WS) twice in a year while first WS used to organize during March to May prior to identify development schemes and preparation of budget to address the community demand. Due to COVID 19, GoB declared lock-down since mid-March; hence UPs had to postpone planned WS after holding only 253 WSs. It is noticeable that among the arranged Ward Shavas 39.4% of participants were women and 15% were poor and vulnerable, which shows an increasing trend compared to the previous year. It reveals 2.53% increase in representation of socially excluded citizens and 2.88% for women. [E4]</p>	<p>15% of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded citizens in 30% UPs under the targeted 8 districts having access to decision making processes.</p>	<p>25% of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded citizen in 50 % of UPs under the targeted 8 districts having access to decision making processes.</p>

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			<p>of UPs in local development. CSO/CBO representatives along with their members are participating in WS after receiving orientation. Such combined efforts largely contributed in improving participation and quality discussion in the WS.</p> <p>A total of 5,553 development schemes have been implemented in targeted Union Parishads in 2018-19. Among those, 4,626 (83.3%) schemes were proposed in the community-level meetings (WS) that demonstrates citizen especially the poor, vulnerable and marginalized peoples' influence on UP's decision-making process particularly deciding on development intervention [[E4]]. Through these schemes, around 2.5 million citizens at UP level have been benefited.</p>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.2</b> 50 % of service recipients satisfied with services provided by selected UPs under the targeted 8 districts (citizenship certificate, birth registration, safety-net allowances etc.)</p>	<p>39.8% of service recipients satisfied with services provided by selected UPs under the targeted 8 districts.</p>	<p>Scopes were there for improvement of quality of service delivered by UPs.</p>	<p>The Household survey of the Baseline Study in project areas reveals that 39.8% citizen showed their satisfaction of the overall services of UPs[E2].</p> <p>Satisfaction on specific services related information need to be collected from the service recipients, which would be done through mid-term evaluation in 2020.</p>	<p>Moreover, the project is planning to conduct a midterm evaluation in 2020, conditions under COVID permitting, to collect information against this indicator. Therefore, it is expected more data can be produced in the next reporting period.</p> <p>Although project did not conduct any citizen satisfaction survey to claim increase/ decrease in citizen satisfaction on local government services, a higher satisfaction by local government services looking at the increased participation of citizen particularly women and vulnerable community in WSs.</p> <p>The project has piloted 19 Public Hearing at UP level to address grievances and listening to the people about the quality of the services provided as well as the gap in services. It is evident that through Public Hearings, a total of 136 issues were raised by the citizen, and instant initiatives were</p>	<p>30% of service recipients satisfied with services provided by selected UPs under the targeted 8 districts (citizenship certificate, birth registration, safety-net allowances etc.)</p>	<p>50% of service recipients satisfied with services provided by selected UPs under the targeted 8 districts (citizenship certificate, birth registration, safety-net allowances etc.)</p>

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				<p>taken to resolve 14 issues of which one was upholding the basic human rights and dignity of <i>Rabidash</i> (cobler) community.</p> <p><del>A <i>Rabidash</i> (cobler) community with 150 families live at Vogiroth Masharri village under 1 No. Sarai UP, Kaunia, Rangpur who were neglected and did not have access to local hotel/restaurant to have food sitting with other customers. After raising the issue in a public hearing, the UP Chair consulted with all hotel owners to give them access to have food like other people. Now the problem has been resolved and the cobbler community got access there, which indicates citizen satisfaction.</del></p>		

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<b>Output 1: Capacity of targeted UPs strengthened to provide pro-poor and responsive services</b>						
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.1:</b> % of UPs have operational Standing Committees (SCs)<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>85.7% of UPs only formed Standing Committees but none of these were operational. [Validation survey reveals that UP formed the SCs on paper, and even UP members were not much familiar with the functions and activities of the SCs].</p>	<p>There are legal provisions for SCs for every UPs headed by UP members. In most cases, the SCs were formed to comply with the legal obligations, which needs to be functional.</p>	<p>EALG monitoring finding reveals that 36% of UPs have operational Standing Committees (SC)[E4] and are becoming increasingly functional [E4].</p> <p>The Baseline survey reported on formation of SC and meetings along with the UP's general meeting. Baseline survey's claims regarding 'standing committees are operational' reflects the gap in defining 'operational'. It seems the <u>Baseline report measures UPs functionality</u> by only looking at the <u>formation of SC</u> while <u>EALG considers an 'operational' SC</u> is related to holding of regular meetings and availability of evidence of such meetings. The Baseline report also stated UP formed SCs on paper, and even UP members were not much familiar with the functions and activities of the SCs (page-53), which weakens the claim of 'operational'. The Baseline mentioned that 40% UPs did not held monthly meeting (page-52) and in such context claiming the SCs 'operational' with regular meetings can be further questioned. In addition, triangulation of information of survey, FGD/KII seems weak as the survey found SC holds a good number of meetings while the FGD and KII reflects UP members (SC Chair) are not familiar with the functions of SCs, thus claims of 'operational' SCs need to be taken carefully. Keeping this weakness in mind, EALG depends on its regular monitoring data to report on the progress on 'operational' with evidence. EALG's periodical monitoring collects information from UPs and cross-checks data with evidence (e.g. minutes of the meetings) to confirm the claims of holding meetings, which perhaps was missing in the Baseline survey data; hence the survey data was contradictory with the KII and FGD findings.]</p> <p>It was observed that Standing Committees were formed only to comply with the legal obligations, but members of different committees were not aware of their roles and functions. It is noted that SC chairpersons have poor capacity in conducting meetings systematically, resulting in non-functioning of SCs.</p>	<p>The 2019 EALG <u>Baseline report measured UPs functionality</u> by only looking at the <u>formation of SCs</u>, while <u>EALG considers an 'operational' SC</u> is related to holding of regular meetings and availability of evidence of such meetings.</p> <p>EALG has found a significant improvement in functioning of UP Standing Committees. According to EALG MIS data, 66% of UPs have operational Standing Committees (SC)[E4]and the rest 34% are becoming operational.</p> <p>The functionality of the UP SC is being reflected in administrative documentation. Now, most of the SC has their meeting resolutions which indicate that the SCs are more operational than before. The SC members' participation is becoming more visible in the Ward Shava and their contribution is found significant in supporting UPs allocating more resources to address the need of vulnerable and marginalized people as well as undertaking development schemes from the proposal received in WSs of current and previous years. The SC members also persuade UPs on revenue collection.</p> <p>EALG training has increased understanding of UP representatives and SC members about the importance of activating SCs. In addition, backstopping support and technical assistance of EALG helped UP representatives and SC members to apply such learning and implement decisions [E4]</p>	<p>35% of UPs have operational SCs.</p>	<p>60% of UPs have operational SCs.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Standing Committees constituted and hold meetings on regular basis.

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			<p>EALG therefore conducted orientation sessions for the SC members to make them aware and improve their confidence in conducting SC meetings.</p> <p>A total of 6,971 SC members of which 1,602 female members (22.9%) received orientation from EALG, enabling them to conduct SC meetings more effectively.</p> <p>EALG also organized workshop headed by Deputy Commissioners on functioning SCs with UP Chairs and Secretaries. A total of 489 participants attended the event at district level.</p> <p>As a result, SCs are becoming increasingly functional [E4].</p>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.2:</b> % of targeted UPs with increased participation of women and marginalized citizens in Ward Shavas and Open Budget Sessions</p>	<p>42.9 % targeted UPs with increased participation of women and marginalized citizens in Ward Shavas and Open Budget Sessions</p>	<p>This is mandatory by law for UPs to organize Ward Shava twice a year. EALG has been providing supports to targeted UPs to hold Ward Shava.</p>	<p>All targeted UPs show increased participation of women and marginalized citizens in Ward Shavas and Open Budget Sessions.</p> <p>Ward Shavas: (36.87%) were women and (12.02%) were poor and marginalized[E4]. The average participants of Ward Shavas were increased by 11% (in 2018 on and average 100 people took part in the WS while in 2019 the average participation in WS was 111) compared to the last year.</p> <p>Although the Baseline study was released in October 2019, field data was collected during 2018 and early 2019 while the draft report was shared in April 2019. Given the timeslip between data collection and submission of the draft report, the baseline did not capture 2019 data; since the WS are hold twice a year (first one is in April and the second one is in October), the increased participation as per EALG MIS reporting is a cumulative effort until end 2019. EALG took multiple initiatives to increase participation of women and marginalized people in Ward Shava.</p> <p>EALG provided technical assistance and logistics support to UPs in holding community level meetings (Ward Shavas), enabling increased participation of community people especially from youth, women, poor and the marginalized section of the community to raise their voice in planning and budgeting process of UP.</p>	<p>Among the 253 WS held participation of women and vulnerable community was visible. EALG MIS data reveals among the participants 39.4% were women and 15% were poor and vulnerable, showing an increasing trend compared to the previous year. It depicts 2.53% increase in representation of socially-excluded citizens and 2.88% for women. Last year, EALG has provided a guideline in arranging Ward Shava where it has suggested the inclusion of women, poor, vulnerable, and marginalized people. [E4]</p> <p>Due to COVID 19, UPs could not organize Open Budget sessions, alternatively, UPs were encouraged to upload their budget in web portal as part of public disclosure of information and citizen inputs. In addition, EALG ensured online technical guidance/ advise to support UPs in timely submission of their budget. [E4]</p> <p>In 2020, a total of 136 (57%) top-performing UPs accessed performance-based block grants amounting to BDT 7,25,19,111 from LGSP-3 which indicates that the awarded UPs has met the requirements of LGSP's capacity assessment indicators in terms of resource</p>	<p>40% targeted UPs with increased participation of women and marginalized citizens in Ward Shavas and Open Budget Sessions.</p>	<p>65% targeted UPs with increased participation of women and marginalized citizens in Ward Shavas and Open Budget Sessions.</p>

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			<p>EALG has developed a comprehensive operational guideline on conduction of community-level meetings together with orientation sessions, which helped all UPs to organize these public meetings and document them in a more systemic manner.</p> <p>It has been observed that UPs are constrained in resources to hold WS and thus they seldom organize them. EALG, considering field recommendations provided financial support for organizing the community-level meetings to examine whether financial assistance can help regularizing the WS. It has found financial assistance worked well for organizing these large-scale community gatherings.</p> <p>A total of 2,814 community level meetings (Ward Shavas) were conducted at UP level with technical assistance from EALG. This interactive platform enabled citizen engagement, wider transparency and accountability of UPs to the constituents by committing more schemes to address the needs of the poor, women and marginalized people. A total of 5,553 development schemes have been implemented in targeted Union Parishads in 2018-19. Among these, 4,626 (83.3%) schemes have been taken from the proposal/recommendations made in the community-level meetings [[E4]].</p>	mobilization, addressing fiduciary risks, revenue generation and accountability.		
<b>Output 1.2: Targeted UPs have integrated climate resilience measures in the UP-development plan</b>						
<b>Indicator 1.2.1:</b> % climate vulnerable UPs with climate resilience measures integrated into their 5-year development plan <sup>ii</sup>	14.3 % (6 UPs of 40 surveyed in treatment areas) climate vulnerable UPs with climate resilience measures integrated into their 5-year development plan <sup>iii</sup>	UPs did not have capacity to prepare 5-year plan, and they were not well-oriented about climate vulnerability and climate resilience measures.	16% (38 UPs) UPs have integrated climate adaptation issues into their development plan and took measures for climate resilience. It can be mentioned here EALG selected UPs under its intervention looking at the performance assessment conducted by LGSP and picked 30 lowest ranked UPs from each of the 8 selected districts; hence all the selected UPs (240) are not equally climate vulnerable. Currently, EALG do not have the list of climate vulnerable UPs, therefore report captured information of UPs that planned activities/ schemes to address climate vulnerability. However, EALG will prepare a list of climate vulnerable UPs among the targeted 240 UPs having assistance from UNDP's Climate and Resilience Clusters and relevant projects e.g. LoGIC (Local Government Initiative	None of the UPs under the EALG intervention area had their 5-year development plan but with EALG's support a total of 45 UPs have developed and published their plan addressing climate vulnerability issues. Project monitoring data shows 101 UPs have taken 226 Schemes for addressing climate issues t a total value of BDT 38,765,530. [E4]. It demonstrates UP's sensitivity towards climate adaptation and resilient issues and it is expected that such good practices would have spill over affect in the district and across the EALG project areas.	30% of climate vulnerable UPs with climate resilience measures integrated into their 5-year development plan.	50% of climate vulnerable UPs with climate resilience measures integrated into their 5-year development plan.

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			<p>on Climate Change) in 2020 and report on climate vulnerable UPs and their initiatives on climate resilience.</p> <p>EALG will survey climate vulnerable UPs in 2020 focusing on these specifically on capacity building to integrate Climate resilience in UP 5-year/ annual plans, also linking to UNDP LOGICC project on Climate Change. It is estimated that that around 120 UPs (50%) will be Climate vulnerable.</p> <p>EALG provided training and backstopping support to number of UPs for addressing climate issues in their planning process. As a result, 16% of climate vulnerable UPs integrated the climate adaptation issues in their planning document and allocated resources to schemes that could reduce climate vulnerability, improve climate adaptative practices for resilience. A total of 197 schemes have been taken for addressing climate issue and the budgetary amount of those schemes were BDT 3,53,00850 [E4].</p>			
<b>Output 1.3: Poor and marginalized citizens, including women, are empowered to participate in local politics and make decisions on local development</b>						
<p><b>Indicator 1.3.1:</b> % of women and marginalized citizens taking part in Ward Shavas/elections</p>	<p>18.7 % marginalized citizens and 4.6% women taking part and Ward Shavas</p>	<p>Ward Shavas should be organized with at least 5% of total voters of the Ward. EALG encourages participation of women and marginalized people in the Ward Shavas.</p>	<p>EALG notes that women’s participation in Ward Shavas is increasing. UP reports on WS reveals that approx. 36.87% participants were women out of 312,105 people participating in WS. Although UPs do not collect information of participants’ socio-economic background, it can be assumed (based on estimation of UP) that around 12.02% of them were from the vulnerable and marginalized section of the community [E4].</p>	<p>The EALG notes that women and vulnerable community were found much active in raising their voice in WSs. Their vibrant presence made WSs as an interactive platform of participatory decision-making process. In addition, UPs preparation and presentation quality was also found very organized where they took initiative in demonstrating previous year’s action, which paved the way of interactive discussion. It is interesting to note, people raised issues with high confidence and without fear while the have found their opinion were valued by the UPs.</p> <p>A total of 253 Ward Shavas were arranged at the beginning of 2020. Among the participants, 39.4% were women and 15% were poor, vulnerable, and socially-excluded citizens while the percentage is 2.53% and 2.88% higher than the previous year. This is to be mentioned in 2020, there were 2,835 schemes taken by the UPs, among them 2,513 (88.64%) were proposed from Ward Shava.</p>	<p>15% of women and marginalized citizens taking part in Ward Shavas/elections.</p>	<p>25% of women and marginalized citizens taking part in Ward Shavas/elections.</p>

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				During the Ward Shava, the development proposals come from previous Ward Shava were discussed and reviewed. Sector-wise development proposals for UP annual planning (2020- 21) were also received from citizens through the Ward Shava.		
<b>Indicator 1.3.2:</b> % of budget allocation for participation of marginalized citizens and women in development initiatives	28.6 % of UP allocated budget for participation of marginalized citizens and women in development initiatives	UPs did not have separate budgetary provision for marginalized citizens and women.	Out of all 240 UPs, 81 % have allocated resources for marginalised citizens and women in their annual budget. A total BDT 58,391,185 ( <u>around 10% of total development budget</u> ) was spent on development initiatives that support participation of marginalized citizen and women.  A total of 5,553 schemes have been implemented in 2018-19 with a total budget of BDT 588,127,442. A total of 549 schemes have been implemented with <u>an investment of 10% of total development spending to especially benefit women, poor and vulnerable citizens.</u> [E4].	In <b>2020</b> a certain number of capacity development sessions were facilitated to different levels of stakeholders to ensure the pro-poor and responsive services by the UPs. As a result, the budget allocation for development schemes that address the needs of women and marginalized citizens have increased.  It is found that 91% of UPs (228 out of 251) in EALG intervention areas have allocated resources for marginalized citizens and women in their annual budget. A total of BDT 61,552,700 was spent on development initiatives that support the participation of marginalized citizens and women.  A total of 2,835 schemes have been implemented in <b>2019-20</b> with a total budget of BDT 375,596,923. A total of 699 schemes have been implemented with an investment of 16.38% of total development spending to especially benefit women, poor and vulnerable citizens. [E4].	10% of development budget allocation for participation of marginalized citizens and women in development initiatives.	20% of development budget allocation for participation of marginalized citizens and women in development initiatives.
<b>Output 1.4: Increased knowledge sharing and policy dialogue across national and local level actors on local governance, engaging civil society and other stakeholders</b>						
<b>Indicator 1.4.1.;</b> Number of measures (memos/circulars/ guidelines) issued by LGD on the issues including fiscal flow to UP, UP taxation and assignment of health and education services to UP	Not applicable	Provision for inter-ministerial dialogues on LGI issues was not in practice.	Local Government Division (LGD) formed Policy Advisory Group (PAG) through an Office Order. PAG involved academia, representatives from civil society, representatives from LGIs and government officials to enable policy support and guidance for strengthening of LGIs. First meeting of the PAG was held on 23 December 2019 and took number of affirmative decisions to improve local governance.  <u>PAG decided that LGD should take necessary measures to earmark budget provisions for Ward Shava, Open Budget sessions, disclosure of information related to income and</u>	UNDP has provided technical assistance to Local Government Division (LGD) in reviewing the 'Development Fund' and 'Revenue Fund' uses guidelines allowing flexibility to the local governments in allocating resources for emergency response. As a result, LGD has issued 3 circulars that enabled Upazila Parishads to repurpose up-to 15% of 'Development Fund' and 25% of 'Revenue Fund' for COVID response. This policy guidance has assured more flexibility, expanded spending authority of local government	2 memo/circular/ guideline issued by LGD on the issues including fiscal flow to UP, UP taxation and assignment of health and education services to UP	4 memo/circular/ guideline issued by LGD on the issues including fiscal flow to UP, UP taxation and assignment of health and education services to UP



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			<p><u>expenditure and holding of Standing Committee meetings</u> on a regular basis to improve local governance. It is expected that an <u>Office Order will be issued shortly by the LGD to ensure budget provisions</u> to implement the decisions taken in the PAG. In addition, PAG Chair (LGD Secretary) has instructed LGD officials to examine the provision of Co-financing for LGIs to expand their resource base for local development.</p> <p>EALG has commissioned two studies related to fiscal decentralization and local resource mobilization which will be completed in 2020. EALG will organize seminar/ dialogue to share the findings of the study and present the study findings in the PAG to enable policy support/ guidance for increased resource base for LGIs. Recommendations of local resource mobilization study will be utilized to review and update the existing Model Tax Schedule of UP.</p>	<p>officers and widened the opportunity of fiscal decentralization.</p> <p>Two studies relevant to the indicator on UP taxation and fiscal decentralization have been completed. Policy papers along with the studies have also been drafted to make advocacy with LGD. The meeting/dialogue will be organized by the end of this year. EALG is now in consultation with LGD to review the existing Model Tax Schedule of UP based on the study findings and it is expected that these policy studies will contribute in revision of the Model Tax Schedule of UP and increase the scope of local revenue mobilization.</p>		

<sup>i</sup> The targets are cumulative for the outcome level indicators for the engagement period (2018→21)

<sup>ii</sup> Climate vulnerable UPs indicate the UPs affected by flood, river erosion, salinity, drought etc.

[[E1]] Local Government Budget: Bringing change through people's participation(English news published in English Newspaper): Link:<https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/bringing-change-through-peoples-participation-1752241>

[[E2]] Baseline survey report of EALG project

[[E3]] EALG Semi-annual report 2019

[[E4]] Project MIS report