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# Quarterly Progress Report

April-June 2020

**Name of Project: Efficient and Accountable Local Governance (EALG)**

**(Atlas Project ID: 00105480)**

## List of Acronyms

ADP	Annual Development Programme
BARD	Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development
CGS	Center for Governance Studies
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DDLG	Deputy Director of Local Government
DF	District Facilitator
GO	Government Organization
IBS	Institute of Bangladesh Studies
KMP	Khulna Metropolitan Police
LGD	Local Government Division
LGI	Local Government Institution
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NILG	National Institute of Local Government
PPE	Personal Protective equipment
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
TGP	Technical Group for Planning
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UP	Union Parishad
USD	US Dollar
UZP	Upazila Parishad
VAW	Violence Against Woman
WDF	Women Development Forum

## Project Information

<b>Funded by:</b>	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
<b>Bangladesh National Counterparts:</b>	Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, 18 Upazila Parishads (UZPs), 251 Union Parishad (UPs) and 9 district administrations		
<b>Partnerships:</b>	National Institute of Local Government (NILG); Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD); Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS), Rajshahi University; Center for Governance Studies (CGS), Jahangirnagar University		
<b>Project Locations:</b>	Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Chandpur, Sunamganj, Netrokona and Cox's Bazar district		
<b>CPD Output:</b>	<b>CPD Output 1.2:</b> National and local governments have the capacity to implement urban and rural poverty policies and programmes <b>CPD Output 2.3:</b> The government has the capacity to develop policies and carry out sectoral and geographical interventions in districts where inequality of progress is evident.		
<b>SP Output:</b>	<b>SP Output 1.2.1:</b> Capacities at national and sub-national levels strengthened to promote inclusive local economic development and deliver basic services including HIV and related services		
<b>SDG Target:</b>	<b>SDG Goal 16:</b> Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels <b>SDG Target 16.3:</b> Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all <b>SDG Target 16.6:</b> Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels <b>SDG Target 16.7:</b> Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels		
<b>Project Starting Date (DD/MM/YYYY):</b>	1 July 2017		
<b>Original Completion Date (DD/MM/YYYY):</b>	31 December 2022	<b>Expected Completion Date (DD/MM/YYYY):</b>	31 December 2022
<b>Project Budget (USD):</b>	USD 7.77 million	<b>Fund Received (USD):</b>	USD 3.78 million

## Narratives

### Key Results achieved

Despite COVID-19 crisis, the project achieved some of the results expected to be achieved in this year during the reporting period (April to June 2020):

- Upazila Parishad (UZP) Committees strengthened their downward accountability through inclusive public engagement mechanisms and practices. Throughout this quarter, all pilot UZPs have actively used Facebook accounts and an increased number of active members/followers (21,069 in cumulative). The activities of 'quick impact on COVID 19 response' was highlighted through UZPs Facebook pages as well as other media.
- UZP financial management, funding absorption capacity, and financial accountability have improved by publishing budget timely. In this quarter, 18 (100%) UZPs published their budget timely.
- The capacity of targeted Union Parishad (UP) is significantly strengthened to provide democratic, transparent, accountable, responsive, and pro-poor services by arranging budget sessions in 190 UPs where only the UP representatives were present considering the COVID 19 situation.



Photo 1: Open budget session taking place at limited extent

The project also contributed to reducing the likelihood of COVID 19 infections among the key stakeholders of EALG:

- 35,121 EALG stakeholders/beneficiaries supported by preventive materials (mask, hand sanitizer, soap, hand gloves) to prevent COVID 19 infections among which 7,771 stakeholders/ beneficiaries were supported by Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- 29,780 people were sensitized through the awareness-raising initiative on prevention of COVID 19 and violence against women (VAW) and protection of human rights;
- 251 UPs residents have access to handwashing facilities at two or more prominent places of respective UPs as part of COVID 19 prevention;
- 251 UPs improved capacity for COVID 19 response by engaging a temporary worker in the distribution of preventive materials and information dissemination.

**Gender/ Leaving No One Behind (if any)****Gender**

To promote gender and social inclusion at all levels of project intervention, EALG has incorporated gender issues at all the program guidelines. These sensitivities have been reflected in all aspects of implementation strategies, information dissemination guidelines, and the Terms of References (ToR) for procurement.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter:

- 15 sewing machines were distributed among the local ultra-poor women for promoting their economic empowerment by Women Development Forum (WDF).
- 2 WDF's bi-monthly meetings were held in Khulna district with the participation of 26 women representatives to undertake gender-responsive interventions through Upazila Parishad.
- The project has been raising awareness on COVID-19 through loud miking (amplifying microphone) and social media with human rights and violence against woman (VAW) messages around the project locality which reached approximately 29,780 people, out of which 8,430 were women, including disadvantage and marginal sections.

**Social Inclusion**

EALG considers social inclusion issues with high priority across its approaches and interventions to make the interventions more relevant to the marginalized populations. The project has taken the following actions to address social inclusion issues during the reporting period (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter in 2020).

- The project distributed preventive materials to 35,121 local government representatives to assist the local government in combatting the COVID 19 fatality. Among them, 21.4% were women, 13.55% were poor, 0.32% were indigenous and 0.24% were persons with disability.
- The project created access for all levels of community people to reduce COVID 19 infection by installing hand wash facilities in rural areas (two or more prominent places for each of 251 UPs). During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 33,720 people accessed handwashing facilities, among which 350 were poor and marginalized people.

During the online launching event of COVID 19 preventive material distribution ceremony, Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh said, *"Adapting to the times and meeting the needs of our beneficiaries is necessary during this pandemic, especially as we remain committed to leaving no one behind. Transparency is extremely important while doing that."*



Photo 2: Sewing machine distribution by WDF among ultra-poor women

**COVID-19 Responses** (if any)

COVID-19 has put Bangladesh into an unforeseen challenging situation that led the Government of Bangladesh to ask for the shutdown of all economic activities except for emergency services and to urge people to restrict mobility and stay at home since March 2020. GoB has emphasized emergency support through local government administration and representatives. It increased the workload of UP/UZP representatives as well as the local administration and caused a higher risk of getting them infected by COVID 19. Considering these issues, EALG has facilitated different initiatives engaging the local government institutions.

EALG's COVID-19 response initiatives reduce the potential threat of infection, build confidence among stakeholders and help to engage them in COVID 19 response initiatives with support from the government and other stakeholders. The UP representatives, Secretary, Gram Police, community clinic members, Ward Committee members, and local residents have been benefited through the COVID 19 response initiatives.



Photo 3: Village police wearing PPE and performing their duty while distributing VGF/VGD

A total of 35,121 beneficiaries received various protective materials for COVID-19 response, i.e. mask, sanitizer, hand gloves, soap, etc. and among them, 7,771 beneficiaries received PPE, which enabled them to build their confidence to work as a front-line worker. Through loud miking (amplifying microphone), Facebook campaign, and appointed COVID 19 response focal points, EALG has helped to sensitize approximately 29,780 people on COVID 19, gender and human rights issues during this quarter.



Photo 4: Awareness raising on COVID 19, VAW and human rights through loud miking (amplifying microphone) and poster

To reduce the burden of UPs staff members and representatives, EALG has supported 251 UPs with temporary additional human resources to coordinate regular and COVID 19 functions. On the other hand, EALG has provided financial and technical support to the installation of handwashing facilities in the common places of 251 UPs.

During the online launching event of COVID 19 preventive material distribution ceremony, Mr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Senior Secretary of Local Government Division said that *“These are unforeseen times, yet there has never been a better time to help those who are in need. With the economy gradually reopening, it is crucial to maintain health guidelines and stay cautious. EALG’s COVID-19 response initiatives will decrease the likelihood of people contracting the disease.”*



**Innovation (if any)**

Frequent hand washing is mandatory to prevent coronavirus. Coastal districts like Khulna are badly affected by salinity and have a scarcity of water for handwashing. In a first-of-its-kind collaboration with the local administration and Khulna University's Pharmacy Department, the EALG project together with UNDP-LoGIC project and GoB-LGSP project has initiated the manufacture of hand sanitizers and distributed them for free to the government officials, the poor in the communities, and the village police who are the front-line COVID 19 fighters in Khulna. During this quarter, 6,000 bottles of 100ml hand sanitizer were produced and distributed among the Divisional Commissioner office, District Administration, Relief Control and Distribution center, Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), Circuit House, Police Super Circle, Press Information Department, KMP Traffic, Sonali Bank, Striking force Vehicle, 2 Pouroshva, 32 Third Gender, 9 UZP, 68 UP, Relief Volunteers, Civil Surgeon, Director Health, Khulna Medical Colleges Hospital, local communities, and village police.



Photo 5: Hand sanitiser preparation at Pharmacy Department Laboratory of Khulna University

This is an innovative approach in a sense that the hand sanitizers were produced with cheaper costs while the market supply was very scarce due to the COVID 19 pandemic across the country. This innovative approach has built confidence among the front-liners and was highly appreciated by the administration and local people as an alternative tool to prevent the virus.

While expressing his gratitude, Mohammad Helal Hossain, Khulna's Deputy Commissioner said, *"These sanitizers and safety kits have been provided to ensure the safety of front-line people providing COVID 19 response support and also all officers and employees involved with the district-wise relief program under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner"*.

**Monitoring**

**M&E Strategy:** During this quarter, EALG has finalized its' Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Strategy written in Bangla and is planning to circulate it to the relevant stakeholders including the Deputy Director of Local Government (DDLGs), District Facilitator (DFs) and else. This strategy will strengthen the M&E system of the project and contribute to tracking the progress as well as the optimum results.

**M&E Plan:** The M&E plan, especially the baseline information, means of verification as well as the risks and assumptions are being reviewed and updated in this quarter. Along with a few outputs, all the outcome level indicators were also being included in the M&E plan.

**M&E Data collection template:** To contribute more to the result-based information collection, the M&E data collection template is being revised in this quarter. As the web-based data collection system development is under process, EALG has decided to continue the excel-based data collection system until the online database is completed.

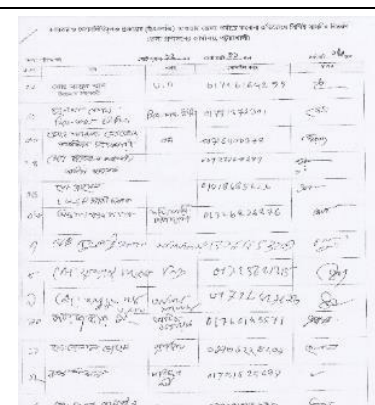


Photo 6: Sample of Muster role for distance monitoring

**Mid-term evaluation:** To assess outcome level progress, EALG is planning to hire a firm to conduct the mid-term evaluation. The bidding process is almost completed during this quarter and it is expected that the hired firm will be able to start the evaluation by next quarter. Evaluation findings will be used for adaptive programming.

**Field level monitoring:** Due to limited scope of physical movement during the pandemic situation, regular monitoring of activities is being done through the Zoom meetings, live video sharing, regular uploading of activities on the UP/UZP Facebook page, over the phone, etc.

#### Project Risks & Mitigation Measures

Sr	Project Risk	Likelihood (High/ Moderate/Low)	Mitigation Measure
1	<b>Continuation of COVID 19 outbreaks:</b> Social gathering and in-country movements are highly discouraged, which disrupts the project intervention.	High	EALG has initiated the online Zoom meetings among the government officials and the UZP/UP representatives. The project is also planning to arrange a limited number of activities like training/meetings, maintaining proper social distance and other preventive measures.
2	<b>Change of local leaders:</b> Change in personnel/leadership due to the COVID 19 impact (death, illness, etc. of respective stakeholder)	Low	A few UP/UZP representatives died or became sick due to COVID 19, but the project implementation was performed with the help of the acting leaders/in-charge. The project is ready for providing immediate support if similar incidents happen soon.

#### Project Issues & Remedial Actions

Sr	Project Issue	Remedial Action
1	<b>Lack of transport:</b> Lack of official transport for DFs hampered regular field monitoring	A lump sum amount of budget is given to DFs for local travel/field monitoring. The project has taken the initiative to procure bikes for DFs to strengthen the monitoring system.
2	<b>Vacancies:</b> The vacant position of UP Secretaries (13) and Accountant cum Computer Operator (187) in project areas	To supplement the vacant position, the project is implementing activities with the help of the UP Secretaries in charge and other representatives. The project will take initiative through LGD to fill up the vacant positions.
3	<b>Vacancies:</b> Vacant full-time DDLG in two districts among nine	DDLG in charge is assigned to perform the role. The project will follow up with LGD to deploy full-time DDLGs in the respective districts.
4	<b>Irregular logistics of supply of COVID-19 preventive materials:</b> The project has faced different issues regarding the distribution of COVID 19 preventive materials. The products were sent to respective districts on different dates and slots while storage, packaging, quality assurance, and distribution were also challenging.	EALG has procured the materials following the appropriate guidance and leadership of the UNDP Procurement unit. As different materials were provided by different vendors, EALG has provided with a list of UZPs/UPs and asked them to pack the materials by the name of respective lists. Corresponding DDLG has arranged space for materials stored in the Deputy Commissioners office premises. The project has assigned volunteers to pack and distribute the materials to the respective recipients and recorded attendance sheets for remote monitoring.
<b>Lessons Learned</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 has opened some window for digitalization – stakeholders are getting used to digitalized tools, including the Zoom which saves time and reduce exposure to the COVID-19 risks.</li> <li>Effective coordination among public representatives and government officials can enhance Local Government Institution (LGIs) performance, including public service delivery.</li> <li>COVID-19 preventive materials have been effective tools to reduce anxiety of local care providers and motivate them to continue their work.</li> <li>Community engagement and ownership are key to control COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>Local transports like the boat and horse cart are useful tools for reaching out to root level people for awareness raising on COVID-19 through loud miking (amplifying microphone)</li> </ul>		

### Indicator Progress

<b>Output 1.1</b>	UZP Committees strengthened their horizontal coordination and oversight capacity with line departments and upward accountability with the District Development and Coordination Committee for inclusive, effective and accountable planning and service delivery			
Indicator	Baseline	EOP Target (2022)	Annual Target (2020)	Progress (Q2-2020)
1.1.1 Number of Terms of References (ToRs) for UZP committees approved	14.3%	17	10	17 (ToR for 17 UZP Committees has been drafted and revised through consultation.)



and introduced into UZP regulatory framework				Advocacy is going on with LGD for approval.)
1.1.2 Tools for UZP service delivery oversight of at least 3 transferred departments piloted and disseminated (Number of tools)	NA	4	2	0 (EALG is planning to develop the tool)
1.1.3 Circular for UZP core staff issued and core staff introduced in all selected UZPs. (Number of staff)	NA	3	2	0 (This activity could not be performed due to the pandemic during this quarter. EALG is planning to develop the tool this year.)
1.1.4 Circular with provision for allowances for participation in UZP committee work issued and practiced in all selected UZPs (Percentage of Upazila in project areas)	NA	40%	20%	0 (This activity could not be performed due to the pandemic during this quarter. EALG is planning to develop the tool this year.)
1.1.5 % of Upazila undertook initiatives on SDGs localization	28.6%	50%	30%	78%
1.1.6 % of Upazila for which UZP and local functionaries of at least three transferred departments coordinate their activities at the District Development and Coordination Committee (at least twice a year).	NA	50%	30%	56%
1.1.7 % of UZP functionaries developed planning and budgeting and managed schemes in participatory manner	NA	50%	30%	72%
1.1.8 % of UZPs published plan book/ annual report	NA	60%	40%	0 (UZPs have started preparatory activities and planning to publish the plan book/annual report by this year)
<b>Output 1.2</b>	Upazila Parishad financial management, funding absorption capacity and financial accountability have improved			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
1.2.1 Public Financial Management (PFM) manual prepared, piloted	28.6%	1	0	0 (Not planned for this year)

1.2.2 Timeliness and regularity of accounts reconciliation by Upazila	NA	85%	60%	100%
1.2.3 Number and % of UZP that publish their budget timely	14.3%	50%	30%	67%
1.2.4 Number of poor youth and women received training and inputs on IGA at Cox's Bazar	NA	488	170	88
<b>Output 1.3</b>	UZP Committees strengthened their downward accountability through inclusive public engagement mechanisms and practices.			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
1.3.1 UZP Act amended with mandatory UZP committee provision for inclusion of citizens, CSO and local media and practiced in all selected UZPs (Number of UZPs and amendment)	58.3%	1	0	0 (Not planned for this year)
1.3.2 Open Budget and participatory Planning mechanisms in UP Act piloted, adapted and replicated in UZP Act.	14.3%	100%	100%	0 (Open budget and participatory planning have not been piloted and replicated in the UZP level)
1.3.3 All pilot UZP have active Facebook and/or Twitter accounts	66.7%	100%	75%	100%
1.3.4 % of citizens in the selected UZPs are aware of UZPs activities and key priorities in the annual budget	24.2%	35%	25%	0 (Progress will be measured by a third-party study in Q3-2020)
<b>Output 1.4</b>	Women Upazila Parishad members strengthened their ability to fulfil their roles and duties in the council work			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
1.4.1 Percentage of women Vice-chair and Councilor trained to active the Women Development Forums	28.6%	95%	60%	100%

1.4.2 % of UZP schemes implemented under the leadership of women vice-chairs/women councilors	71.4% UZP	40%	25%	92 (Cumulative number of schemes implemented)
1.4.3 Number of youth and women received training and inputs on entrepreneurship at Cox's Bazar.	NA	50	10	0 (Due to the pandemic, this activity could not be performed during this quarter. EALG is planning to provide the training by the end of this year)
<b>Output 2.1</b>	Capacity of targeted UPs strengthened to provide pro-poor and responsive services			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
2.1.1 % of UPs have operational standing Committees (on the basis of ToR)	85.7%	85%	70%	66%
2.1.2 % Targeted UPs with increased participation of women and marginalized citizens in Ward Shavas and Open Budget Sessions	42.9%	65%	60%	0 (No Ward Shava was planned in this quarter, while due to COVID 19 situation the open budget sessions (79%) were performed to a limited extent in the participation of UP functionaries only.)
<b>Output 2.2</b>	Targeted UPs have integrated climate resilience measures in the UP-development plan			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
2.2.1 % of UPs with climate resilience measures integrated into their 5-year development plan	14.3%	50%	30%	16%
<b>Output 2.3</b>	Poor and marginalized citizens, including women, are empowered to participate in local politics and make decisions on local development			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
2.3.1 % of women and marginalized citizens taking part in Ward Shavas/elections	NA	25%	60%	0 (No Ward Shava was planned in this quarter, while due to COVID 19 situation the open budget sessions were performed to a limited extent in the participation of

				UP functionaries (4,216) only, where 18.74% women UP functionaries took part)
2.3.2 % budget allocation for the participation of marginalized citizens and women in development initiatives	28.6%	20%	15%	15%
<b>Output 2.4</b>	Increased knowledge sharing and policy dialogue across national and local level actors on local governance, engaging civil society, and other stakeholders			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
2.4.1 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	NA	4	3	2 (Two studies relevant to the indicator like 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.)
<b>Output 3.1</b>	Functional assignments of UP, UZP and Zila Paishad are clarified for at least three transferred subjects			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
3.1.1 Detailed options for division of responsibilities among LGI tiers are available and discussed by GoB.	NA	1	0	0 (Not planned for this year)
3.1.2 Ways and mechanisms of integration and supplementation of UZP plans and plans of transferred departments are identified for more effective service provision.	No	1	0	0 (Not planned for this year)
3.1.3 An integrated planning system of UP, UZP and ZP developed	No	11	2	0 (The integrated planning process at UZP and UP level is going on and a study on potentials and challenges of integrated planning system among the 3 tiers will be started soon.)

3.1.4 Review of the existing tax collection system of the UP is completed and a new model tax system is developed.	NA	1	0	0 (Not planned for this year)
<b>Output 3.2</b>	Public engagement strategies of UP/UZP/ZP have become strengthened through overcoming institutional and structural challenges			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
3.2.1 Dialogues with political parties and policy makers are held to implement the commitment of at least 30% women in political party governance structures	NA	9	0	0 (Not planned for this year)
3.2.3 % of public engagement strategies adopted by LGs in project areas that ensure the participation of women, ethnic and religious minorities and media in LGs (% Upazila and UPs)	16.7%	80%	40%	22% UZP
3.2.4 Percentage of people from different ethnic group attended in Open budget/Ward Shava	42.9% UZP	30%	15%	0 (No Ward Shava was planned in this quarter, while due to COVID 19 situation the open budget sessions were performed to a limited extent in the participation of UP functionaries only.)
3.2.2 Dialogues with government policy makers are held in order to convince to initiate legal reform for improved female participation in the activities of local governance	No	15	3	0 (Due to the pandemic, this policy level activity could not be performed during this quarter. EALG is planning to initiate some advocacy on this issue.)
<b>Output 3.3</b>	UP/UZP committees and inter-ministerial coordination committee is strengthened for better performance of LG bodies.			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target (2022)</b>	<b>Annual Target (2020)</b>	<b>Progress (Q2-2020)</b>
3.3.1 Clarification of the roles and responsibilities of UP and UZP committees including the coordination with line ministry officers	NA	1	1	0 (Due to the pandemic, this policy level activity could not be performed during this



				quarter. EALG is planning to initiate some advocacy on this issue.)
3.3.2 Dialogues with government policy makers are regularly held in the framework of the inter-ministerial coordination committee in order to address priority challenge for effective local services provision	No	15	3	0 (Due to the pandemic, this policy level activity could not be performed during this quarter. EALG is planning to initiate some advocacy on this issue.)

*Note: Data authentication is yet to verify and in the next quarter it will be confirmed with proper verification*

## Activity Progress

Output wise Progress against Activities			
Output 1			
Planned Activities (Three Months)	Progress Achieved	Challenges	Planned Activities (Next Three Months)
1.1.10 Periodic (six-monthly) coordination meeting with field staff of UP line agencies at UZP level	Periodic (six-monthly) coordination meeting with the transferred line department of UP and UZP was held in Khulna during this quarter. A total of 80 participants took part in the meeting, among them 18 elected male representatives, 16 elected female representatives, 34 government officials, 6 UN project staffs and 6 media personnel were present. Over there, they reviewed their functional roles and responsibilities. A few decisions and recommendations have come from the two pilot Upazilla of EALG project: a. The Right to Information Act should be informed, everyone;	Due to COVID 19 situation, most of the District could not arrange this meeting. All departments are still inactive in most UPs because of no monitoring mechanism is found.  Mitigation: DF of EALG and respective DDLG has taken proactive measures to coordinate and make the participants agree to attend the meeting.	The rest of the EALG intervened districts are planning to complete the meeting by July 2020.

	<p>b. Village police will come to the police station once a month to attend the Upazila level parade, led by Ansar VDP officer;</p> <p>c. At the monthly meeting of the Union Council, officers of the departments working at the union level will be present and submit monthly progress reports during the meeting.</p>		
1.4.9 Bi-monthly meeting of Women Development Forum	2 WDF's bi-monthly meetings were held in Khulna district with the participation of 26 women representatives to undertake gender-responsive interventions through Rupsha and Dacope Upazila Parishad. 15 Sewing machines have been distributed among the local ultra-poor women for promoting their economic empowerment by WDF through 3% ADP allocation.	<p>Many of the WDF members have a lack of knowledge and capacity to select and implement gender-responsive programs properly.</p> <p>Mitigation: EALG has provided training to the WDF members on these issues and following up with the lessons learned on the training.</p>	Follow up with WDF and Upazila Parishad will be continued in organizing the other 16 meetings by next quarter and implement the agenda discussed during the meeting at Khulna.
1.1.11 UZP Annual report	Two planning meetings for the preparation and publication of UZP annual reports were held in Khulna, where a total of 30 participants (Male: 24; Female: 6) attended. The publication and dissemination of annual reports enhanced transparency and accountability to the citizen regarding the UZP annual budget, its expenditure, and development interventions of their locality.	<p>Data collection and analysis for preparing an annual report is a substantial job for the UZPs.</p> <p>Mitigation: EALG allocated certain budget for publishing the UPZ annual report.</p>	Follow up for publishing an annual report for remaining UZPs will be carried out.
1.2.10 Publication five-year plan	After receiving training on UZP's annual and five-year planning, a preparatory meeting at Upazila level held were a total of 30 (Male: 24; Female: 6) line department officials and elected	Due to COVID 19, the preparation and publication of UZP's annual and five-year plan book are challenging.	Follow up by DDLGs and DFs will be continued, so that 16 UZPs under EALG can develop their annual and five-year plan book.

	representatives attended. The meeting formed a technical committee (TGP) for collecting relevant information and drafting UZP's annual and five-year plan book.	Mitigation: EALG is mobilizing the UZP to publish the five-year plan through frequent follow-up.	
<b>Output 2</b>			
<b>Planned Activities (Three Months)</b>	<b>Progress Achieved</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Planned Activities (Next Three Months)</b>
2.1.2 UP level Budget Shava	Considering the COVID 19 situation, 190 UPs have arranged a limited extent of budget sessions, where only the UP functionaries (UP Chairman, Secretary, and other members) were present. On these budget sessions, a total of 4,216 participants took part, among them 3,426 were male and 790 were female.	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UP could not follow the timeline (2 months before holding an open budget). None of the UPs could follow the guidance of public gathering.  Mitigation: UPs have decided to arrange the budget session by the presence of respective UP functionaries only.	The open Budget Shava held in Before the end of each fiscal year. So, this year the no more Open Budget Shava will be performed.
1.2.8 Developing a database for mapping potential beneficiaries for different GO-NGO services (safety net programs) at Cox's Bazar	EALG has taken initiative in developing a database for mapping potential beneficiaries for different GO-NGO services (safety net programs) at Cox's Bazar. The firm hiring process has been initiated during this quarter.	During the pandemic situation, the physical movement and maintaining proper social distance will be challenging while collecting the primary data from the field.  Mitigation: Proper safety measures should be taken to get rid of the coronavirus. At the pre-bid meeting, the potentials firms were asked to propose some alternative tools to perform the study.	The study will be carried out in the next quarter.
<b>COVID 19 response</b>			
<b>Planned Activities (Three Months)</b>	<b>Progress Achieved</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Planned Activities (Next Three Months)</b>
Hand sanitizer manufacture and distribution in Khulna District	In a first-of-its-kind collaboration with the local administration and Khulna University's Pharmacy Department, United Nations	Fund allocation, coordination among the University as well as the Administration was the key challenges for the activity. The	The sanitizer manufacturing initiative will be continued until the COVID 19 pandemic is under control.

	Development Programme in Bangladesh has initiated the manufacture of hand sanitizers and distributed free among 6,000 local administration, people in the community and also among the village polices who are the front-line COVID-19 fighters in Khulna.	challenges have been resolved with the proactive intervention of UNDP, local administration, and University authority.  Mitigation: The sanitizer bottle kits were sent to the concerned offices by the district administration's vehicle to avoid gatherings.	
Preventive materials distribution for COVID 19 response	EALG's COVID 19 response initiatives reduce the potential threat of infection and build confidence among stakeholders and facilitate to engage them in COVID 19 response initiatives provided by govt. and other stakeholders. A total of 35,121 beneficiaries received various preventive materials (i.e. mask, sanitizer, hand gloves, soap, etc.) has been distributed among the UP representatives, UP Secretary, Gram Police, community clinic members, Ward Committee members and mass people for COVID 19 response.	The distribution was delayed due to poor-quality product supplies from the vendor and the products had to resend, while some products were not provided in this quarter. Storage of large quantity products was a challenge but respective DDLG allocated some space for temporary storage.  Mitigation: EALG has assigned volunteers to pack and distribute many preventive materials among the respective recipient and preserved the muster role for remote monitoring.	Remaining 2,508 sets of preventive materials (i.e. mask, sanitizer, hand gloves, soap, etc.) will be distributed among the beneficiaries by early next quarter.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distribution for COVID 19 response	Distribution of PPE contributed to strengthening the capacity of targeted UZPs/UPs to provide responsive and pro-poor services. A total of 7,771 local government's front-liners received personal protective equipment (reusable masks, hand gloves, safety goggles, safety gown, gumboot) to combat the COVID-19.	Ensure the quality of the bulk amount of PPE provided by EALG was a big challenge.  Mitigation: DF of EALG has checked the quality of each PPE and distributed it to the respective personnel.	This equipment builds confidence among stakeholders and facilitates to engage them in COVID 19 response initiatives provided by govt. and other stakeholders. EALG will also support the relevant UZPs/UPs with thermal scanner and pulse oximeter by early next quarter.

Support UPs with an additional human resource to coordinate regular and COVID-19 functions	To reduce the overburden of UPs staff members and other representatives, EALG has supported 251 UPs with additional human resources to coordinate regular and COVID 19 functions.	The appropriate person identification and assign for the job were quite challenging.  Mitigation: In all cases of COVID 19 quick impact support, the EALG provided guideline was strictly followed.	The assigned person will work on EALG COVID 19 response in early next quarter.
Assign UP level COVID-19 response focal person	EALG has supported 251 UPs with additional human resources to coordinate regular and COVID 19 functions to disseminate the appropriate message to the community and guide them for their Dos/Don'ts as well as supporting the UPs and UZPs.	The appropriate person identification and assign for the job were quite challenging.  Mitigation: In all cases of COVID 19 quick impact support, the EALG provided guideline was strictly followed.	The assigned person will work till the EALG COVID 19 response ends.
Sensitize people on COVID 19, gender and human rights issues	EALG has facilitated loud miking (amplifying microphone), poster and Facebook to sensitize approximately 29,780 people on COVID 19, gender and human rights issues during this quarter. Respective UPs have started mobile miking activities in all the areas of the Union Parishad at least 2 days per week.	Identify the appropriate method to disseminate the message.  Mitigation: In some cases, the respective UP chairman's voice record was announced to disseminate the message. Additional effort was given to make Facebook more functional, designing the poster, etc.	EALG is planning to sensitize at least 0.2 million more people on COVID 19, human rights, and gender issues by next quarter.
Installation of handwashing facilities	EALG has facilitated the installation of handwashing facilities in the prominent places of 251 UPs like a marketplace, public gathering places, etc.	Identify the appropriate place, local level procurement for the handwashing facility installation was challenging. Mitigation: EALG provided guidelines and monetary support to install the facility to ease the process.	It is expected that at least 125,500 people will be accessed to handwashing facilities.



## Financial Progress

Currency: USD

Output	Total Budget (2020)	Allocated Budget (Q2: 2020)	Expenditure (Q2: 2020)	Cumulative Expenditure (Q1+Q2: 2020)	Balance	Delivery Rate
<b>Comp 1:</b> IAUZP	358,325.00	89,581.25	109,638.14	233,113.46	125,211.54	65%
<b>Comp 2:</b> SDUP	525,871.00	131,467.75	36,160.98	95,436.77	430,434.23	18%
<b>Comp 3:</b> PLEG	76,680.00	19,170.00	8,485.04	20,121.91	56,558.09	26%
<b>Comp 4:</b> Project Management	541,207.00	135,301.75	96,275.84	154,507.01	386,699.99	29%
<b>Subtotal 1:</b> (Comp 1+2+3+4)	1,502,083.00	375,520.75	250,560.00	503,179.15	998,903.85	33%
<b>Subtotal 2:</b> COVID-19 support	617,656.00	617,656.00	558,207.00	558,207.00	59,449.00	90%
<b>Grand total (Subtotal 1+2)</b>	2,119,739.00	993,176.75	808,767.00	1,061,386.15	1,058,352.85	50%

## Annex

### Case study 1: Anand Roy's Battle against COVID19

*"I don't have any choice as I am only the earning member of my family. Without my earning, my family members cannot survive. So, I need to come out for work to meet the needs to live our life"- told Anand.*

Anand Roy (31) a person with disability lives in Kursha Union in Kaunia Upazila of Rangpur district. He is also the president of the local Anirban Disability Organization. He needs to come out from home every day for earning money to manage livelihoods for his four (04) member's family, including his parents and his wife. He is a goldsmith and works in a small jewelry shop located in the union market.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, he comes out as earlier to earn money because staying home creates a huge money crisis for managing daily life expenditures even a minimum food for the family members. Although he comes out, he was much worried about the likelihood of COVID 19 infection as he needs to use his hands for preparing jewelry and exchanging jewelry with the customers. However, in the marketplace, there was a lack of handwash facilities. Day by day he was losing his confidence in coming out for earning due to COVID 19 infection fear looking at the increasing trend of infection among the people.

He became very happy when he found that the UP with support from EALG has installed a handwashing facility for the businesspersons and customers of the market. Now, he washes his hands again and again and has got back his confidence to stay safe from the likelihood of COVID 19 infection.

He also has observed that every day around 300 people cross the marketplace as it's adjacent to Kursha Union Parishad. So, this hand washing facility helps these peoples to wash their hands.

*Anand added that "I am very happy and grateful to those who have made this arrangement. This has made our life easy and reduced the likelihood of COVID 19 infection."*



Anand Roy, washing Hands before entering his jewelry shop in the hand washing facility set by EALG

## Case study 2: Nazma Begum: A Front liner, An Inspiration



Mst. Nazma Begum, elected UP member is prepared for her regular duty by wearing PPE

In Bangladesh, there are lots of women who are directly serving the community as local government representatives. Likewise, Mst. Nazma Begum, a female member of a reserved seat of Khaleya Union Parishad under the Rangpur Sadar Upazila of Rangpur.

Mst. Nazma told, “From the very beginning of the Covid-19 epidemic, I was actively engaged in all kind activities related to COVID19 response in my union, including making all kinds of list of beneficiaries of the Union Parishad, distributing food items, ensuring home quarantine of the Covid-19 suspects. However, while serving the people, I was a bit afraid of being infected by COVID19. I was also feeling that if I could have a set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), I could serve the people with higher confidence and can reduce the lowlihood of COVID 19 infection”.

She was one of the PPE recipients from the EALG project of UNDP funded by UNDP, SDC, and DANIDA. While expressing her feelings about the PPE she told, “I am happy after receiving health care items such as PPE, masks, eye protection glass, hand gloves, gumboots, hand sanitizer, etc. from UNDP's Effective and Accountable Local Government Project (EALG). It's a very timely initiative from the project, which will motivate us to work more without fear. These have also supported us to get back our confidence in working for the people within the pandemic”.

She also added that this is the first time since I was elected a member of the Union Parishad that we have received any kind of health care equipment through any project. She conveyed her thanks to UNDP, SDC, and DANIDA for taking this initiative timely to save them from the infection.

### Case study 3: Khairul's Dream for a COVID19 Free Community



Khairul Islam, UP Member of Sarai Union Parishad of Kaunia of Rangpur District wearing PPE

In the COVID19 outbreak time, people's awareness is very important. Mr. Khairul Islam, a UP Member of Sarai Union Parishad under Kaunia, Rangpur district actively engaged in COVID 19 awareness-raising activities.

"From the very beginning, I have been advising people about hygiene practices, wearing a mask, social distance, and not going out unnecessarily. As a result, and by the grace of Allah, there are no COVID19 patients in my ward so far" said Mr. Khairul.

Mr. Khairul also informed that even since the beginning of the COVID19 outbreak, and before receiving government instructions to deal with the epidemic, he was active in COVID 19 response, and now he is also active in the field with the government and NGOs COVID 19 response initiative.

He also pointed out that while I was working to aware people only by wearing a mask, a fear of being COVID 19 infected always moves around my mind. Right that time, we received infection protective materials from the Efficient and Accountable Local Governance (EALG) project of UNDP, which is funded by UNDP, SDC, and DANIDA.

He feels delighted to receive personal protection materials (PPE, KN-95 masks, eye-protective glass, hand sanitizers, gumboots, and hand gloves) from UNDP's Effective and Accountable Local Government (EALG) project. Now he can do more work during this outbreak with higher confidence and without fear of being infected by COVID 19.



## 23



23



## EALG activities in electronic media



EALG has performed several activities on COVID 19 prevention and some of them were covered by electronic media. The above photos show the moments from different preventive materials distribution ceremony.

## EALG activities in print and social media



## UNDP distributes health protection materials

Published : Monday, 29 June, 2020 at 12:00 AM



## UNDP distributes health protection materials in Rangpur

June 28, 2020 | 16:34 PM | Update 16:34 PM



RANGPUR, June 28, 2020 (BSS) – The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) today began distribution of health protection materials among partners of the upazila and union parishads working for preventing (COVID-19) spread across the district.



HOME / PRESS CENTER / PRESS RELEASES / UNDP SUPPORTS MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION OF SANITISERS IN KHULNA

Posted on April 11, 2020

## UNDP supports manufacture, distribution of sanitisers in Khulna

The above photos show the snapshots of EALG COVID 19 response initiatives published in different local and national newspapers as well as social media.