

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	Target 2020	End 2021 Status of achievement
<b>Outcome: Pro-poor and responsive services by selected UPs enhanced<sup>1</sup></b>						
<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.	11.3% of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded citizens in UPs under the targeted 8 districts having access to decision making processes.	Ward Shava and Open Budget Sessions were organized in limited scale and poor and vulnerable people had limited scope for contribution.	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]. 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]]. 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	EALG contributed to increasing participation of women (39,4%, 3.3% higher than 2019), poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people (14,55%, 2.53% higher than 2019) through the technical and financial support on public engagement activities, such as Ward Shava (WS) and Public Hearings (PH). In 2020, 302,534 people took part in 2,198 Ward Shavas; among the participants, 121,323 were women. UPs adopted more than 92.56% of scheme proposals (2,714 out of 2,932 schemes) from these WSs in a participatory manner. On the other hand, 10% of the local issues that were raised during the PH sessions were instantly resolved. These events enabled citizen’s participation in the decision-making process of local governments. In EALG intervention Upazilas, 18 Women Development Forums (WDF) mobilized a total of USD 81,625 from UPZ’s 3% ADP allocation in 2020. They implemented multiple initiatives like establishing a few breastfeeding centers for lactating mothers in UP premises, providing bicycles for school-going girls, sanitary napkins for women. UPs with women leadership expended	15% of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded citizens in 30% UPs under the targeted 8 districts having access to decision making processes.	25% of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded citizen in 50 % of UPs under the targeted 8 districts having access to decision making processes.

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			<p>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 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>at least 30% of their total development budget, which is also a significant indicator of women empowerment and their access to the decision-making process.</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 mobilization, addressing fiduciary risks, revenue generation, and accountability.</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,</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</p>	<p>The Mid-Term Evaluation of EALG was started at the end of 2020, while the final report is yet to be received from the evaluators. The rough calculation (derived from the evaluators exclusively for this report) of the study shows that most of the citizens are either satisfied (75%) or very satisfied (13%) with the</p>	<p>30% of service recipients satisfied with services provided by selected UPs under the</p>	<p>50% of service recipients satisfied with services provided by selected UPs under the</p>

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safety-net allowances etc.)			the service recipients, which would be done through mid-term evaluation in 2020.	services provided by selected UPs under the targeted districts in terms of citizenship certificate, birth registration, safety-net allowances etc. The actual information will be provided once the final report of the Mid-Term Evaluation is submitted.	targeted 8 districts (citizenship certificate, birth registration, safety-net allowances etc.)	targeted 8 districts (citizenship certificate, birth registration, safety-net allowances etc.)

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<b>Output 1: Capacity of targeted UPs strengthened to provide pro-poor and responsive services</b>						
<b>Indicator 1.1.1:</b> % of UPs have operational Standing Committees (SCs) <sup>1</sup>	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].	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.	EALG monitoring finding reveals that 36% of UPs have operational Standing Committees (SC)[E4] and are becoming increasingly functional [E4].  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 week 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	EALG has found a significant improvement in the functioning of UP Standing Committees. According to the draft Mid-Term Evaluation data, 92% of UPs have operational Standing Committees (SC).  The functionality of the UP SC is being reflected in administrative documentation. Now, most of the SC have their meeting resolutions, which indicates that the SCs are more operational than before. The SC members' participation is becoming more visible in the Ward Shava and other public engagement events. Their contribution was found significant in supporting UPs in allocating more resources to address the need of vulnerable and marginalized people. This is documented by on 18.53% of total UP budgets being allocated for development schemes, based on proposals received in WSS of current and previous years. The SC members also pursue revenue collection in UPs.  EALG training has increased the understanding of UP representatives and SC members about the importance of activating SCs. Besides, backstopping support and technical assistance of EALG	35% of UPs have operational SCs.	60% of UPs have operational SCs.

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

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			<p>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. 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>helped UP representatives and SC members to apply such learning and implement decisions.</p>		

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<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. 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. 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. EALG has developed a comprehensive operational guideline on conduction of community-level meetings together with</p>	<p>Among the 2,198 WS held, the participation of women and the vulnerable community was visible. EALG MIS data reveals that among the participants, 40.1% 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 3.3% for women. In 2019, EALG provided a guideline in arranging Ward Shava encouraging the inclusion of women, poor, vulnerable, and marginalized people. The participation of women and marginalized groups also ensured the special allocation (18.53% of the total UP scheme budget) for them.</p> <p>Due to COVID 19, UPs could not organize Open Budget sessions. Alternatively, UPs were encouraged to upload their budget in the web portal to disclose information and citizen inputs publicly. In addition, EALG ensured online technical guidance/advice to support UPs in the timely submission of their budget.</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>orientation sessions, which helped all UPs to organize these public meetings and document them in a more systemic manner. 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. 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>			
<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	14.3 % (6 UPs of 40 surveyed in treatment areas) climate vulnerable UPs with climate	UPs did not have capacity to prepare 5-year plan, and they were not well-	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	None of the UPs under the EALG intervention area had their 5-year development plan, In 2020, a total 45 UPs have published their 5-year plans, out of 251 EALG targeted UPs. (18%). With EALG's support, 21 UPs have addressed and included climate vulnerability issues in	30% of climate vulnerable UPs with climate resilience measures integrated into their 5-year	50% of climate vulnerable UPs with climate resilience measures integrated into their 5-year

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development plan <sup>ii</sup>	resilience measures integrated into their 5-year development plan <sup>iii</sup>	oriented about climate vulnerability and climate resilience measures.	<p>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 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>	their 5-year plan <sup>iv</sup> . Project monitoring data shows that 104 UPs have developed 251 Schemes for addressing climate issues with a total value of USD 366,069. This demonstrates UP's sensitivity towards climate adaptation and resilient issues, and it is expected that this good practice would have a spill-over effect in the district and across the EALG project areas.	development plan.	development plan.
<b>Output 1.3: Poor and marginalized citizens, including women, are empowered to participate in local politics and make decisions on local development</b>						
<b>Indicator 1.3.1:</b>	18.7 % marginalized	Ward Shavas should be	EALG notes that women's participation in Ward Shavas is increasing. UP reports on WS	The EALG notes that women and vulnerable community were found to be	15% of women and marginalized	25% of women and marginalized

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% of women and marginalized citizens taking part in Ward Shavas/elections	citizens and 4.6% women taking part and Ward Shavas	organized with at least 5% of total voters of the Ward. EALG encourages participation of women and marginalized people in the Ward Shavas.	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>increasingly 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 to be well organized, such actively demonstrating previous year's actions which paved the way of interactive discussion. Interestingly, participants at WS raised issues with relatively high confidence and without fear since they have found their opinion were valued by the UPs<sup>v</sup>.</p> <p>A total of 2,198 WS were arranged in 2020. Among the participants, 40.1% were women and 15% were poor, vulnerable, and socially excluded citizens. In 2020; there were 2,932 schemes taken by the UPs, of which 2,714 (92.56%) were proposed from WS</p> <p>During the WS, the development proposals that 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 WS.</p>	citizens taking part in Ward Shavas/elections.	citizens taking part in Ward Shavas/elections.
<b>Indicator 1.3.2:</b> % of budget allocation for participation of marginalized citizens and	28.6 % of UP allocated budget for participation of marginalized	UPs did not have separate budgetary provision for marginalized	Out of all 240 UPs, 81 % have allocated resources for marginalised citizens and women in their annual budget. A total BDT 58,391,185 (around 10% of total development budget) was spent on development initiatives	In 2020 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	10% of development budget allocation for participation of marginalized	20% of development budget allocation for participation of marginalized

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women in development initiatives	citizens and women in development initiatives	citizens and women.	<p>that support participation of marginalized citizen and women.</p> <p>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].</p>	<p>address the needs of women and marginalized citizens have increased.</p> <p>It is found that 91% of UPs (229 out of 251) in EALG intervention areas have allocated resources for marginalized citizens and women in their annual budget. A total of USD 831,415 was spent on development initiatives that support the participation of marginalized citizens and women.</p> <p>A total of 2,932 schemes have been implemented in 2019-20 with a total budget of USD 4,485,248. A total of 720 schemes have been implemented with an investment of 18.53% of total development spending to especially benefit women, poor and vulnerable citizens.</p>	citizens and women in development initiatives.	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>PAG decided that <u>LGD should take necessary measures to earmark budget provisions for Ward Shava, Open Budget sessions, disclosure</u></p>	UNDP has provided technical assistance to the 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 three 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 the spending authority of local government officers,	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>of information related to income and expenditure and holding of Standing Committee meetings</u> on a regular basis to improve local governance. It is expected that an Office Order will be issued shortly by the LGD to ensure budget provisions 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>and widened the opportunity for fiscal decentralization.</p> <p>Two studies relevant to the indicator on UP taxation and fiscal decentralization have been completed. Policy papers, along with the reviews, have also been drafted and submitted for the assessment of LGD. The UP taxation and fiscal decentralization issues have been discussed in different project meetings. 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 to the 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

<sup>iv</sup> 86 UPs are climate-vulnerable, and 21 (24.41%) of them have addressed climate-resilient issues in their 5-year plan book. As per the target (30% of climate vulnerable UPs) of reaching out to 26 UPs, EALG could reach out to 21 UPs in supporting five-year development plan addressing climate resilient measures

<sup>v</sup> EALG MIS data shows that in 2020; there were 2,932 schemes taken by the UPs; among them 2,714 (92.56%) were proposed from Ward Shava. In 2019, the proposed schemes rate from Ward Shava was around 80. The acceptance of proposals from the Ward Shava gave confidence among participants.