

## Semi-Annual Project Report (January-June 2019)

<b>Project name</b>	Dalit/Adibashi Rights, Empowerment & Access towards Mainstream (DREAM)
<b>Location of project</b>	Adamdighi Upazila under Bogra district, Cheragpur union, Mohadevpur sadar union and Enayetpur union in Mohadevpur Upazila, Patnitala union and Patichora union under Patnitala Upazila of Naogaon district.
<b>Implementing organisation</b>	Association for Rural Cooperation (ARCO)
<b>Duration of project</b>	January 2017-December 2020
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2019-June 2019
<b>Total project budget</b>	6,95,64,212 BDT
<b>Annual project budget</b>	1,86,23,374 BDT
<b>Annual project costs</b>	7,029,145 BDT (semi annual project cost)
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## ABBREVIATIONS

ARCO = Association for Rural Cooperation.

BMDA =BORENDRA MULTIPURPOSE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

BRDB = BANGLADESH RURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

CCA= CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

CDMC=COMMUNITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DHFP = DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

DRR = DISASTER RISK REDUCTION.

FMD=FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE

HAP = HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERSHIP

HOB=HEKS OFFICE BANGLADESH

HRBA=HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

IGA= INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

MFI = MICRO FINANCE INSTITUTE.

MOU =MEMORANDAM OF UNDERSTANDING.

NGO=NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

PCVE=PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY VISIONING EXERCISE

PG=PRODUCER GROUP

PMM=PARTICIPATORY MARKET MAPPING

POOCs = PEOPLE OF OUR CONCERN.

RSSC=RURAL SALES & SERVICE CENTER

TVET= TECHNICAL and VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING

UDMC= UNION DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ULD=UPAZILA LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

ULO=UPAZILA LIVESTOCK OFFICER

UNO=UPAZILA NIRBAHI OFFICER

UP = UNION PORISHAD

UZ = UPAZILA

VCA = VALUE CHAIN APPROACH

VDC = VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DYD=DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

RAKUB=RAJSHAHI KRISHI UNNAYAN BANK

DREAM=DALIT/ADIBASHI RIGHTS,EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TOWARDS MAINSTREAM.

UCEP=UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

BDT=BANGLADESH TAKA

TTC=TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER

SMC=SCHOOL MANAGEMET COMMITTEE

D/A=DALIT AND ADIBASHI

CLTS=COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION

SDG=SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

VGf=VULNERABLE GROUP FEEDING

VGd= VULNERABLE GROUP DEVELOPMENT

NGO=NON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

## 1.EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dalit/Adibashi Rights, Empowerment and Access towards Mainstream (DREAM) Project has been implementing by Association For Rural Cooperation (ARCO) in North-west regions of Bangladesh since 2009 through the support of HEKS/EPER Switzerland. Its goal is to ensure dignity of Dalit and Adibashi community through social inclusion. The project aimed to cover a total number of 6484 PooCs by 2020. The DREAM Project has been covering three Upazila under two districts where 222 Dalit HH and 1479 Adibashi HH are getting benefits through this project intervention. The project has been following four objectives:

- Dalit and Adibashi have increased enjoyment of equal rights
- Increased access to land for Dalit and Adibashi
- Improved security and non-violence through improved relationship with mainstream people
- Improved livelihood and economic status of Dalit and Adibashi through VCA and TVET

All the programs were intervened for bringing systemic change. Human Rights based Approach-HRBA, Inclusive market development, Diapaxis, and Phase in/out strategy to reach the envisaged outcomes. The aspects of gender equality, resilience building, and conflict sensitivity were considered in programming as a cross-cutting issue. The activities were conducted according to the target as per field activity operational guidelines, and thereby achievements have been reached during the reporting period.

DREAM project has gained some tremendous achievement for the Dalit/Adibashi community people of its working area. During this reporting period, in total 2080 PooCs have received basic services from govt. and non govt. departments such as they have received Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Elder allowance, education allowance, health services, agriculture subsidy card etc. Through project activity PooCs leadership capacity have been increasing gradually and they have been communicating with local govt and submitted their claims to relevant department. As a result, govt. and non govt departments became sensitized about their problems and they have given their facilities among our PooCs on priority basis. So, they have received more facilities than previous time. Besides, in total 11 PooCs have included in different committees. Which are 2 is up standing committee, 7 is school management committee and another 2 is puja udjapon (religious) committee.

Around 35% of overall PooCs are aware about land rights and their entitlements and the VDC leaders have move forward to make the community people concerned. As a result, the PooCs have taken initiatives to establish ownership and control over land. Now, they have communicated with upazila land office for their legal land related document and some PooCs already recovered their land related proper documents.

During this reporting period, 143 PooCs have increased their income through VCA and TVET activities. After successfully completion of their production cycles, they have earned average BDT 8,225 from bull fattening. Increasing their income, they have been involving in their familial and economical activities. So, women dignity have been increasing in their family as well as their community which eventually increasing social dignity

## 2.POSITIONING THE PROJECT IN THE HEKS/EPER COUNTRY/PROGRAM

As a partnership of HEKS/EPER, ARCO has been implementing the DREAM project in North-west Bangladesh (Naogaon and Bogra district of Bangladesh) since 2009, which aims to ensure the dignity of non-mainstreamed marginalized communities (Dalit and Adibashi) as goal. According to the HEKS/EPER's Country Program (CP), ARCO has been working with Urban and rural Dalits and Adibashi into the sub-groups of the communities such as there are producer groups, adolescent groups, disaster management groups which are working directly under village development committee (VDC). Its intervention logics, approaches and working methods and transversal themes are very relevant to the CP.

During this reporting period, various activities have been implemented including workshop, seminar, day observation, discussion sessions, value chain financing workshop, meeting with SMC committee, meeting with relevant department, community score card for tracking quality of government services,

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linkage with different govt. and private institutes for youth employment and job placement, DRR and climate change adaptation intervention etc. which addressed the overall objectives of Country Program.

At the beginning of the project, Govt. officials were not used to visit the D/A communities and they weren't sensitized about Dalit/Adibashi issues. At the same time, the PooCs also hardly went to the govt. Department. But, through the implementation of 'DREAM' Project activity, both the PooCs and Government officials have been made sensitized and a both-way communication has been started within the relevant stakeholders. The PooCs are raising their issues and problems to the respective department. As a result, the government officials (such as District Commissioner, UNO, Livestock Officer, Youth development Officer, Health & Family planning officer etc.) experienced the problems of D/A physically and it made them sensitized about the miseries of these group of people. It has also enabled the government officials to analyze the problems and finding out quick solutions. They have provided some facilities among PooCs on priority basis. As a result, some problems have been solved rapidly and some activities are under processing. Relationship of PooCs have been increasing with duty bearer. Our PooCs voice has been raising. Sometimes, they are claiming their rights to the relevant departments without support of partners.

When the DREAM project has started the value chain program, our PooC had not adequate knowledge about VCA. They had rearing their bull for one year and they did not take initiative about treatment of their domestic animals. So, they did not get benefit from bull fattening and native chicken rearing. But through our Value chain activity such as learning session, Training, vaccination camp, linkage with Upazila livestock department and other relevant market actors they have gained proper knowledge about this issue. So, our PooCs have been following the VCA rules and they have been earning more money than previous time. Some PooCs have been communicating with MFI and Bank and they have been receiving the financial support as loan for expanding their business.

Besides, our PooCs have been involving in various income generation activities such as homestead gardening, tree plantation, moringa tree, Napier grass as new initiatives which are increasing their income and reducing the impact of drought.

### **3. CONTEXT: OBSERVATION ON THE PROJECT ENVIRONMENT**

#### **3.1 POLITICAL SITUATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

During this reporting period, national budget of Bangladesh was declared which consists of 5,23,190 crore BDT for the fiscal year 2019 - 2020. No specific allotment has been made in the budget for the Dalit and plain land Adibashi people. Though the volume of social safety net has been increased in the budget, but the amount of allocation per head remains the same. It was not mentioned clearly whether the plain land Adibashi people would get the facilities or not on priority basis.

The parliament of Bangladesh have no representatives from Dalit/Adibashi communities and due to lack of representation, the parliament is not sensitized about the problem dynamics and special needs of the D/A people. Upazila election has been completed. During the election period, some incidents were occurred, but these were not major. Our PooCs and our project area did not face any critical situation. Our PooCs were able to move freely in their inhabiting area.

Though, some of our PooCs have participated in union Parishad election but they did not participate in upazila election. Most of the times, they cannot win the election for negative mentality of the mainstream people. They were used to use as a vote bank. Though in our working area, a very few Adibashi people have representatives in union parishad but they cannot play measurable and important role for the mind set up of mainstream people. But through the DREAM project activities, now knowledge of PooCs have been increasing about the potential of local govt. They are showing their interests for membership of Union Parishad as well as in different committee. Now they are contacting with the union Parishad to include the Standing Committee. During this reporting period, some of our PooCs have included the up-standing committee. As a result, their leadership are increasing day by day and they are being enabled to assist union parishad to make decision and solve the community problems.

#### **3.2 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

Bangladesh is a developing country. Government has taken initiatives for the development of its people but there are no specific facilities for Dalit/plain land Adibashi people. Most of them are engaged

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in agricultural livelihood sector in their profession. They have only four months of employment in a year. Most of the time, they are unemployed at their workplace. During the lean period, they don't have any alternative occupation opportunities in general. So, they are living under poverty line. We know that they are facing various problems such as lack of land related knowledges, they do not get safety net facilities on priority basis. Strong leadership, sanitation and water supply facilities are inadequate for them. As a result, it is very difficult for govt. to achieve the vision of 2041 without Dalit/Adibashi favorable policy.

DREAM project undertook several initiatives to bring positive changes in the lives of D/A people as gender training at community level, motivational training for unemployed youths, doormat training with producer group to improve their livelihood status. The project has also conducted learning sessions with PG group members for increasing their level of knowledge which could help in uplifting their income status. Through these activities, DREAM project has gained some major achievements for the Dalit/Adibashi communities. During this reporting period, in total 2109 PooCs have got access to basic services (VGD, VGF, widow allowance, elder allowance, Education allowance, Medicine, Immunization, community street solars, kind support, warm cloths, agriculture subsidy card, etc.) from the govt and non govt. departments.

At the beginning of the project, drop-out rate from education was so high among the D/A children. Due to extreme poverty, around 45% did not go to school. And, as they didn't get sufficient education allowance/stipend from government department, they were unwilling to send their children for education. The occurrence of early marriage was also remarkably high. But through the advocacy program of the project and counselling with SMC committee, upazila and district administration and school going children parents, their awareness level is gradually increasing, and drop-out rate is decreasing gradually. Now they are getting education allowance from the govt department. So, in our working area around 98% students are going to school at primary level, 83% are going to secondary level and 51% to college level. Some of the students are securing very good results in various examination.

Through the VCA and TVET activities, PooCs knowledge have increased in different trades/sector. Such as the practical knowledge has been increased among 89 PooCs of bull fattening, native chicken rearing and doormat production who have completed their production cycle successfully. It has affected to increase their regular income.

## 4. PROGRESS, RESULTS AND CHANGES

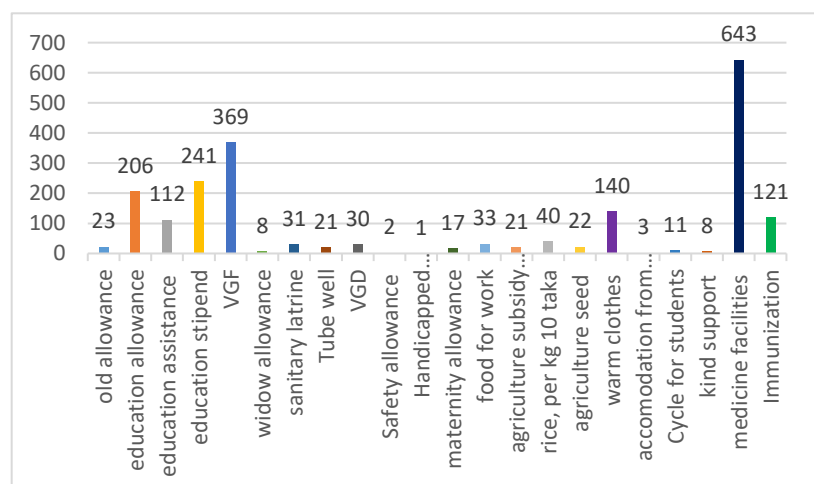
### 4.1 PROGRESS OF KEY ACTIVITIES / INTERVENTION LINES

#### Outcome-1: Dalit and Adibashi have increased enjoyment of equal rights:

During this reporting period, PooCs have attended various advocacy program. So, their knowledge has been increasing than previous time. Their leadership and communication skill are increasing gradually. Now they are starting communication with relevant department. So, they are being informed about their rights from local govt. such as they are getting safety-net facilities, access to basic services, education allowance, health services, land related information etc. from govt and non govt departments. During this reporting period in total 07 claims (Land, Roads construction, water & sanitation, graveyard, warm cloth, education allowance, agriculture subsidy card) were submitted in relevant department and in total 03 claims (agriculture subsidy card, water & sanitation, Roads construction) were accepted from the concerned authority.

DREAM project has gained some major achievement for the Dalit/Adibashi community. During this reporting period, in total 2080 PooCs have received basic services from govt. and non govt. department (VGD, VGF, Elder allowance, education allowance, health services, agriculture subsidy card etc.).

At the beginning of the project, due to untouchability mind set the Dalit and Adibashi people had very less accessibility to the govt./non govt health facilities. But through the interventions of DREAM project,





the situation has improved. Dalit/Adibashi people are getting medicines and other health facilities from the relevant departments. Besides, Health and Family Planning department, SurjerHashi clinic are arranging health camps in the communities where the Dalit/Adibashi people live. In this reporting period, In total 121 PooCs got immunization out of 150 PooCs (as per M & E plan) and 522 PooCs have got medicine facilities free of cost from SurjerHashi clinic. Furthermore, their knowledge level on health-related issues have been increasing. For that reason, the mother and child mortality rate have been decreasing and occurrence of communal diseases also reduced.

The D/A communities are more empowered to represent their people in different committees. Women leadership are also increasing gradually. They are participating in various programs and they are playing important role in taking decision at the community level. During this reporting period, a number 11 PooCs were included into different govt. and other committees.

During this reporting period, in total 15 parents were included in SMC committee from different area of DREAM project. The project conducted several meetings with SMCs to reduce the rate of student dropouts from their study and reduce discrimination. School teachers are now visiting the student's houses, encourages the students for study and inspired parents to send them to school. So that the rate of school going students have increased gradually. Now most of the students have enrolled in formal school and received education without discrimination.

#### **Outcome-2: Increased access to land for Dalit and Adibashi:**

Around 35% PooCs are aware about land rights and their entitlements through awareness/ training programs. Now they are capable of maintaining regular communication with upazila level land offices and the members of VDC have been able to move ahead to establish their ownership and control over land. It has been increasing their rights to access, ownership and control over their land. During this reporting period PooCs have access to transfer rights on 0.62 hectares and User rights on 4.86 hectares. They have started to collect legal documents and trying to take lease from government and other landowner. During this reporting period, in total 25 PooCs have applied to union parishad for land substitution and 20 PooCs are on processing for land related proper documents. The honorable DC, UNO and Assistant Commissioner (AC) land have visited the Dalit/ Adibashi community which they didn't previously and playing proactive roles in access to land.

#### **Outcome-3: Improved security and non-violence through improved relationship with mainstream people:**

Local administration, community people and mainstream people are made sensitized about the security concern of Dalit and Adibashi people. Upazila Nirbahi Officer and Union Parishad Chairman are concerned regarding the security and peace building. For the help of local administration and civil society, Dalit/Adibashi community have been solving some issues. Now, VDC members are aware about these issues. They are starting arising their voices against these issues.

- Local administration, community people and mainstream people jointly have taken initiatives against drug consumption and gambling which improved security situation and reduced violence in the community.
- Improved relationship between D/A and mainstream communities. They are attending each other in different social, cultural and religious events (such as Karam, social sports, day observation, wedding festival etc.).
- Through the Diapaxis approach, community have solved some confliction issues as well as initiated development interventions (such as drug prevention, vaccination camp, social and cultural programs, etc.). It has contributed in reducing conflicts within the communities.
- Local Govt and Upazila administration have taken initiative against early marriage. They are disseminating the information about demerits of early marriage. On the other hand, DREAM project has implemented various activities against early marriage such as DREAM project conducted court-yard meeting, rally, street drama, campaign, household visit etc. by the adolescent/youth groups. So, Dalit and Adibashi people as well as adolescent girls and boys have aware about the demerits of early marriage and the rate of early marriage is decreasing proportionately. During this reporting period, mainstream, local govt. and Adibashi community people jointly have taken initiative against early marriage and prevented one early marriage of Adibashi girl of the village Oraopara under Enayetpur union of Mohadevpur upazila.

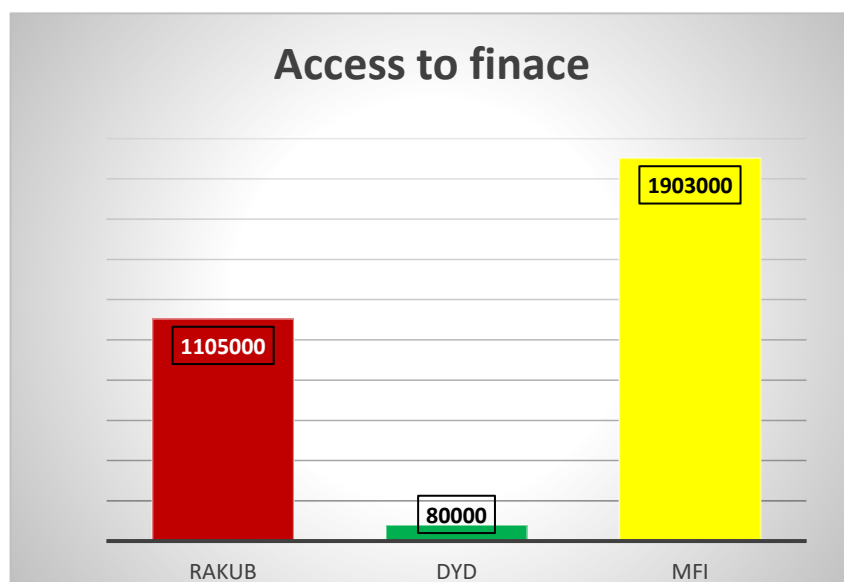
#### **Progress of Outcome-4: Improved livelihood and economic status of Dalit and Adibashi through VCA and TVET:**

During this reporting period, through the PCM and household visit, we have observed that in total 143 PooCs have increased their income through VCA and TVET activities. After successful completion of their production cycles, they have earned average BDT 8,225 from bull fattening, BDT 105 from chicken rearing and BDT 35 from each doormat. Besides 10 lead farmers have made their cow sheds (at least for five bulls) out of 52 producers and 25 of them have made their chicken rearing shed (at least for 200 chicks) out of 42 producers to expand their regular business. As a result, it can be said that the income of PooCs has increased and they have spent their income in education, health, food and etc.

During this reporting period, in total 5 paravets and 21 Vaccinators have received skill development training from livestock department 10 paravets have received training from DYD. Besides in total 210 PooCs have received training on bull fattening and chicken rearing from DYD. On the other hand, 5 youths have received paravet training through the support of DYD. DREAM project has conducted DRR sessions and there were 48 producers oriented on DRR risk reduction measures about production. As a result, the producers were capacitated to mitigate the risks such as high temperature, maintain regular health check up and Joint initiatives for 100% vaccination and de-worming camp. So, we observed that the mortality rate of chicken is 4.20% but previously which was 6.69%. Due to providing training on DRR to our PooCs, the level of knowledge of them has increased regarding environment, flood control, lightning and other disaster. Now they became aware and can take safety measures during the disaster period.

In this reporting period, a total of 25 producers received micro-finance of BDT 11,05,000 from Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB), 2 producers received micro-finance of BDT 80,000 from Department of Youth Development (DYD) and 55 producers received micro-finance of BDT 19,03,000 from MFIs to expand their business.

Besides, in this reporting period in total 69 youths have received TVET training from govt and private institution such as TTC, DYD, women affairs and UCEP etc. out of 69, 35 youths got employed (Pran RFL group, Hasan rent a car etc.) and thanks to TVET and job mediation, who have started up earning by their jobs and their average income is 4,200.00 BDT/month.



## 4.2 INTENDED AND UNINTENDED RESULTS

### Intended results:

- Agriculture and relevant department have provided materials and earthworms among 65 producers in our working area to extend vermi compost.
- The project is facilitating SMC Meetings on a regular basis. So that students, their parents and teachers have encouraged and attending the classes progressively. For that reason, the dropout rate has decreased, and the result of the students has improved, stipend rates have been increasing than previous time.
- Honorable Ambassador of Switzerland H.E. Mr. Rene Holenstein, visited the working area of DREAM Project ARCO at Cheragpur and Mogleshpur Adibashi community. The Adibashi people became very happy and they felt proud. So, that their dignity has increased in the society.
- Duty bearers have been visiting community. They have been observing physically, doing analysis about D/A problems and making discussions with them about these issues for solving these problems rapidly and they have provided some facilities among PooCs on priority basis. As a result, some problems have been solved rapidly and some activities are under processing.
- Besides, our PooCs are involving in various income generation activities such as homestead gardening, tree plantation, moringa tree, Napier grass as new initiatives which reduce the impact of drought.



- Some Adibashi PooCs have started the kuchia (A kind of fish) cultivation as adaptive livelihood which will help them to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on income and thus reduce their malnutrition.

#### Unintended results:

- 10 producers have received a package support (feed, medicine, shed) of bull and native chicken rearing from the Upazila livestock department.
- Outside of our working area in total 10 Adibashi and mainstream youth have motivated to see the TVET activities and decided to receive TVET training from the technical institute of UCEP and their training is ongoing now.
- 65 producers have started production of vermicompost.
- 10 PooCs have started production of Trichoderma.
- Mushroom and hydroponic are going to be cultivate as piloting basis from next quarter of this year. If we become successful through this activity then we will elaborate it on a regular basis in our working area.

### 4.3 BENEFICIARIES / POOC

Beneficiaries (per targeted subgroup)	Organizations (if applicable)	Families / households	Individual persons
Youth Group	30 groups	1701	811
Leaders of local Organizations (VDC)	30 VDCs	1701	390
Producers Groups	31 producer Groups	469	469
Women Entrepreneurs	54	54	54
Community Disaster Management Group	30 groups	1701	450
Total			

### 4.4 WORKING APPROACHES/METHODS

The project activities have been implementing in a Human Right Based Approach to strive for Systemic Change through Inclusive Market Development, Diapraxis and Phase in/out strategy, which have sensitized the stakeholders towards the rights and entitlement of PooCs.

Through the human rights-based approach, some promising practices have started in the working area of DREAM project. PooCs have realized that if they don't continue communication and claiming to the relevant authority, they will be detached from every facility. So, they are maintaining communication with different authorities on a regular basis and having more access to services in comparison to earlier time. The relationship between PooCs and different authorities have developed. Now, they are claiming to the government authority for solving their problems without support of ARCO. So that they are enjoying many facilities e.g. safety net, education, health services, microfinance, inputs of value chain activities, TVET etc. The mindset of the Government and non-Government officials have changed and are more sensitized towards the righteous demands of the Dalits and Adibashis. During this reporting period, UNO, Youth department officer, Livestock officer, women welfare officer have visited different communities and realized the problems of marginalized community people. Now they are playing vital roles. Because this approach will establish the comparative/comprehensive harmonized role to improve their life status. Through the approach of inclusive market, PooCs have been receiving increased access at the financial services to set up their business.

The project's approach has facilitated a number of learning sessions and training on livestock rearing from public and private sectors to increase practical knowledge on value chain. It helped in building linkage with BANK, MFIs, other market actors and relevant stakeholders.

Through the DREAM project activities, the mobilizations of PooCs have been increased to get learning and have the financial services to setup their business. Backward and forward market linkage as well

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as value chain approach increased to foster the profit-making initiatives. Match making within producers and input suppliers from public and private sectors has facilitated for promotion and application of improved agriculture technology, quality and improved input services through gathering of input suppliers, access to market information, and risks assessment of its application for lowering the production cost. DREAM project has been conducting various activity for empowering the RSSC such as business development training, linkage with market actors, regular meeting, vaccination camp etc. Through the support of RSSC our producers have been selling their products in reasonable price. RSSC have been conducting meetings on a regular basis where various market actors attended the meeting so that RSSC committee became well known about the services of market actors. For that reason, our producers are getting different services from actors in reasonable price. On the other hand, our backward and forward market actors increased selling of their products. So that, a Win-Win situation has been created. A number of learning sessions and training on livestock rearing levered from public and private sectors to increase practical knowledge on value chain. It built linkage with BANK, ULO, DYD, and MFIs, developing vaccinators, Paravet, increasing chick's production, increasing DRR capacity building, linkage with output markets buyers, etc. Some institute especially working on TVET are visiting communities and conducting motivational sessions. So, the awareness has been increasing and the parents are sending their children for receiving training regarding TVET and job placement. Through the approach of systematic change, some measurable achievements were determined such as family planning and health workers visited communities on a regular basis. So that, they had provided different types of health facilities, developing relationship among them, PooCs are starting to the upazila and district level hospitals for better treatment. The ongoing approaches have created the scope of applying other approaches such as integrated bull fattening culture, advocacy, and disaster risks reduction to foster the ways of achieving project's outcomes.

#### **4.5 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

##### *Gender*

Gender discrimination is another major problem in Dalit and Adibashi community. Especially women cannot take decisions in their family as well as in their community. They do not attend any social arbitration. They cannot take decisions independently for their economic activities. DREAM project considers Gender issue in all its activities and wants to create a gender-balanced situation within the Dalit and Adibashi community. It is highly emphasized to ensure the participation of women in power structure and decision-making process. The DREAM project has been ensuring the participation of women in different programs. So that, they can learn about different issues, their knowledge is increasing, and they can express their valuable opinions in different forums in favor of women rights and as well as their community. During this reporting period, DREAM project has conducted two batches gender training where in total 60 spouse participated. In this training, they are made aware about gender issues especially their role in the family in sharing responsibilities well as in their community. DREAM project has been conducting awareness sessions as per need of communities. So, they are getting information about various issues. In addition, DREAM project ensured women participation in different events to strengthen and foster women leadership. So, women leadership are increasing gradually. On the other hand, DREAM project has been developing the women entrepreneur through the VCA, TVET and doormat production. Now they are extending their business gradually and they can participate in decision making regarding the economic expenses of family. So, they are being dignified in their family and as well as in their community.

The project facilitated the process of receiving technical trainings for women from different technical institutions which contributed in development of their skills and expertise. It has also facilitated the process of linkage development for them with different private companies where they can have job placements. As a result, their income has been increasing too. Besides, through our educational activity such as meeting with SMC committee, meeting with school going children parents, counselling with school going children, household visit. Because of conducting these activities, education dropout rate have been decreasing gradually, especially women education rate are increasing day by day and early marriage rate are decreasing than previous time. The outlook of society has been starting to change. Women's participation increased compared to the previous time.

##### *Resilience building*

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone area. Many disasters have been occurring in Bangladesh. In north-west part of Bangladesh - drought, thunderstorm, tornado, cold wave has been occurring on regular basis. But flood occurs on irregular basis. Generally, flood comes after two to five years. But when flood occur,

some areas are faced huge losses. During this reporting period, a cyclone named 'Fani' hit Bangladesh which started from the province 'Orissa' of the country India and crossed Bangladesh started from the southern part in Chittagong and Khulna region. Fani hit Bangladesh's coastal areas on 4th May 2019. Though cyclone did not enter the country but due to effect of the cyclone, heavy rains and winds flowing across the country. The water level became much higher in the Bay of Bengal and other rivers. In the coastal area, many trees were broken, plenty of paddy fields were full of water, and crops especially paddy fell down to the ground, houses and buildings were destroyed, animals were lost and died as effect of the cyclone. Due to the effect of cyclone Fani, in our working area average 50% crops (approximately 800MT) have destroyed. Around 879 household have lost their field crops. Considering above situation ARCO has taken necessary action such as strengthen linkage among PooCs, upazila and union administration and other relevant sectors for getting supports from them, continued liaison by improving communication with different organizations including MFI to get loans in low interests. They got different supports from them such as Amon seed and fertilizer free of cost.

During this reporting period, DREAM project has conducted awareness sessions and orientation with community disaster management committee and producer groups. In total 75 PooCs have received orientation on disaster risk reduction. Total 685 PooCs (PG members, CDMC, volunteer etc.) were oriented to undertake DRR measures to protect their production and reduce the losses of benefits. Still capacity buildings of all the communities are not in same level according to the nature and unconsciousness of our PooCs and geographical area but our PooCs have taken some initiatives. They have communicated with relevant department such as different social organizations and union and upazila administration. They got different supports from them such as Amon seed and fertilizer free of cost. So, some PooCs have overcome their situation of Fani. They are starting homestead gardening and tree plantation which reduced the impact of drought. They are using Vermi Compost, trichoderma as fertilizer for better cultivation which is helping to reduce the negative effects of climate change. They are arranging vaccination camp for their domestic animal which prevents the drought induced diseases. On the other hand, our PooCs have repaired their roof of the house to reduce damage from upcoming storm events.

#### *Conflict sensitivity*

The term 'Conflict' is a difficult mechanism where it belongs. It is a man-made issue which always creates problems among people and work as a barrier for their development. We know that intra conflict is a great problem of Dalit/Adibashi group of people. Due to intra conflict no strong leadership grows among them and they never become united. We observed that there are some dividers in the community who accelerates the intra-community conflict among Dalit/Adibashi people and there are some connectors who reduces the conflict. Due to intra-community conflict, they are detached from many facilities of different govt. and non-govt. sectors. Sometimes, it also hampers in the project interventions.

Considering above situation, DREAM project has identified their conflicting issues through the conflict mapping for handling intra and inter community conflicts. Besides, it identified the potential dividers and connectors through the conflict map. Some of the conflicting issues are land grabbing, drug business, gambling, leadership and money lending. DREAM project has facilitated different meeting and activities with those dividers and connectors for reducing the conflict. DREAM project has discussed those conflict issues in the VDC meeting and took necessary action for resolution. Sometime, DREAM project has taken initiatives to reduce conflicts where VDC and mainstream community participates jointly. Such as karam, sports, day observation etc.

The project also maintains the influential relationship with local administration and deal the conflict issues with the help of local administration. It has increased social accountability by improving transparency and information sharing about projects towards PooCs and the wider public and establishes functioning complaint mechanisms in the communities.

#### **4.6 Financial status**

<b>Description</b> <i>(as per the lines of the approved budget)</i>	<b>Total semi annual expenditure</b> (CHF)	<b>Total semi annual budget</b> (CHF)	<b>Variance</b> (%)
Admin costs	8261.50	9307.90	88.76
Personnel costs	47561.76	54037.24	88.02
Project costs (activities)	20720.98	22914.47	90.43
Investment	1263.19	1287.30	98.13
Evaluation	1972.48	2213.36	89.12

Semi-annual [*project 610-404; reporting period-January-June 19*]

Audit	-----	-----	-----
Other	10725.47	12621.95	84.98
<b>Total project costs</b>	<b>90505.38</b>	<b>102382.22</b>	<b>88.40</b>

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION SET-UP

The 'DREAM' project has been implementing through two north-west districts in Naogaon and Bogra of Rajshahi division of Bangladesh. This is an integrated multi-dimensional project. The project has a wide range of actions from the community to the national level with intensive work. The structure of DREAM project staff set-up is good for project implementation. There is being a Project Manager (PM) who is responsible for overall project implementation. There is one Market Development Manager, one Project Officer, one Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, one Advocacy Officer and one Admin & Finance Officer who are reportable to PM. There are two Market Development Officers and one TVET and Education Officer who are reportable to MDM. There are some frontline staffs: seven Community Development Organizer (CDO), six Child and Adolescent Development Organizer (CADO) and eight Community Facilitators (CF), who are reportable to PO but maintain close relation with all technical staffs.

## 6. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOLLOW-UP

<p>Challenges/Risk:</p> <p>C 1: Political situation is not favorable for our project activities.</p> <p>C2: Favorable policy are not available for Dalit/Adibashi people</p> <p>C3 : Banks are not interested to distribute loan among our PooCs without mortgage/collateral</p> <p>C4: exposed to climate</p> <p>C5: Govt Services are not sufficient according to the demands of Dalit and Adibashi</p>	<p>Coping strategies and expected added value:</p> <p>S1: We will inform our PooCs so that they cannot be involved in controversial political issue which creates unrest situation.</p> <p>S2: Project will advocate over issues related to the rights of Dalit and Adibashi people through various advocacy programs, regular meetings, field visit etc.</p> <p>S3: We will build up a good relationship with the respective Bank authority &amp; MFI for loan sanction without mortgage.</p> <p>S4: we will arrange awareness session and training for build, their capacity and we will build linkage between PooCs and govt. official department to include representative of Dalit and Adibashi in DRR committee to get opportunity from govt. department.</p> <p>S5: We will sensitize govt officials to Dalit and Adibashi and getting priority basis different govt services.</p>
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<p>Opportunities: We have many opportunities to get networking membership at national and international level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Govt. officials have started visiting to the Dalit/Adibashi community and became more sensitized about Dalit and Adibashi issues. (Such as safety net, health, education, provide training etc.) than before, time.</li> <li>The organization has a good relationship with local administration.</li> <li>Many MFIs and some Bank authorities are already have become sensitized to provide loan to Dalit and Adibashi PooCs for VCA.</li> <li>Different govt. officials are providing trainings to our beneficiaries for their skill development.</li> </ul>	<p>Capitalization strategies and expected added value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since govt. officials are sensitized on Dalit and Adibashi issues, so therefore, more advocacy initiatives will be undertaken by the community people with facilitation from the project to pursue them in favour of the D/A. It will create enable environment for better access towards services and resources for the D/A.</li> <li>We will get opportunity to work for the development livelihood of Dalit and Adibashi by implementing successful value chain program with the help of other donor projects.</li> <li>We will build linkage between PooCs and MFI institution, build capacity of our PooCs, motivate our PooCs to use the loan money in the right trade and repay the loan money.</li> <li>To build linkage with different departments. So that the relationship might improve and beneficiaries could get better services and we will arrange more advocacy workshop in local and district level so that Dalit/Adibashi could get priority for receiving training.</li> </ul>
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## 7. PROJECT EXIT/CONTINUATION PLAN

It has mentioned that the project will not phase out entirely at a time. The project has adopted a graduation model, which has been working as guideline of phasing out of communities. According to the phasing out criteria, when a community will reach at level 4 (whatever the time needed) the project will stop direct assistance to the community. There are number of VDC has got graduated in some criteria but accordingly to the model there are not a single VDC reach that level fulfilling all conditions. There will be VDC that will get legal status and the VDC will run their activities independently. Meetings will be organized to hand over responsibilities officially to the VDCs ensuring the presence of local government people. Handover process will be with relevant parties, the departments, ministries etc.

## 8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project has been following comprehensive monitoring approach to ensure the quality of project and to ensure objective oriented implementation by producing expected results. Different tools, formats are being used to collect and process data, compiled at different steps. indicators, base value, target value, cross cutting issues, working methods, assumption/risk, intervention logic and YPO to be considered for the project to attain expected outcome. For the field observation, pre-defined monitoring questionnaires, which is strategically most relevant for the success of our project.

Qualitative Participatory methods are used to monitor target and achievement of field level. Staffs are Practicing MSC to find out expected and unexpected changes. Project staff prepares report of their routine monitoring data and submits to his/her Supervisor. Data is collected on six months and yearly basis. Monitoring & Evaluation Officer and Field staff collected Data through visible impact mobile apps and FGD, PCM, checklist, KII, case study, interview, field observation etc. The core staff of the project evaluates the project staff performance on yearly basis through relevant formats. On the other hand, DREAM project has been monitoring the VDC activities or status by using graduation model.

Evaluation: The project has planned to carry out Annual review after completion of first year and Third Quarter of second years of the project by using its own expertise internally. ARCO follows the five DAC (Development assistance committee) criteria. These are 1) Effectiveness, 2) Efficiency, 3) Impact, 4) Relevance and 5) Sustainability. ARCO Propose that DAP will be carrying out an Evaluation of the project at the end. The Evaluation would consider major assumptions to establish causal relationship between input, output and outcome.



## 9. LESSONS LEARNT AND STEERING DECISIONS

Lessons learnt / focus areas	Steering decisions	Deliverables / expected outcomes	Deadlines	Responsibilities
SDG workshop with district level administration	We will conduct SDG Workshop with local administration, there will be analysis of SDG goals and targets which will focus facilities of Dalit/Adibashi.	Planning on implementing SDG goals prioritized on Dalit/Adibashi issues.	Within August 2019	Advocacy Officer, Project Officer & Project Manager.
Improve sanitation situation of Dalit and Adibashi community through CLTS	we will conduct CLTS training in the community	Community have been established 100% sanitation and reduced diarrheal and water bone diseases	Within October 2019	Project Officer, Community Development organizer, Child and Adolescent Development Organizer, Project Manager
Legal aid support for land recovery by panel lawyer(Khariz)	We will aware our PooCs to collect land related document and assist to communicate regularly with land officials.	PooCs have access to land rights (transfer rights).	within June,2019 and continuing regular basis	Community Development Organizer, Project Officer, Advocacy Officer, Project Manager.
Increasing the number of TVET participants and ensure their job placement.	Linkage with govt. and private vocational institute of youth and counselling with youths and their parents for receiving / increasing the training.	Incomes have been increased and changed their livelihood.	Within December,2019	TVET Officer, Project Officer, Advocacy officer, Market Development Manager, Project Manager.
Low cost affordable green technology	We will communicate with relevant department for gathering information, then, we will motivate community and provide training to beneficiaries	Established CCA which contributed to their livelihood	Within 3rd quarter, we will accomplish the activity	Project Officer, Market Development Officer, Market Development Manager, Project Manager
Cattle insurance for bull fattening business	Discussion is going on and a draft MoU is developed	Income have been increased and changed their livelihood.	Start up 3rd Qurt.	MDM and PM

## 10. ANNEXES

Annex A: Financial Report (→ FFAG)

Annex B: Log frame Follow-up Matrix

Annex C: Case Study of Promising Practice / Innovative Working Approach