

Semi-Annual Project Report

Project name	Dalit/Adibashi Rights, Empowerment & Access towards Mainstream (DREAM)
Location of project	Adamdighi Upazila under Bogra district, Charagpur union, Mohadevpur sadar union and Enayetpur union in Mohadevpur Upazila, Patnitala union, Patichora union and Nazipur union under Patnitala Upazila of Naogaon district.
Implementing organisation	Association for Rural Cooperation (ARCO)
Duration of project	January 2017- December 2020
Reporting period	January to June 2020
Total project budget	6,79,59,373 BDT
Annual project budget	15,798,336 BDT
Annual project costs	6,307,753 BDT
Author of report and date of submission	Shukla Mukherjee (Project Manager) Date: 15 July, 2020

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ABBREVIATIONS

ARCO = ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL COOPERATION.
DREAM=DALIT/ADIBASHI RIGHTS, EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TOWARDS

MAINSTREAM

CDMC=COMMUNITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DRR = DISASTER RISK REDUCTION.
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
PG=PRODUCER GROUP
POOCs = PEOPLE OF OUR CONCERN.
TVET= TECHNICAL and VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING
CDMC= COMMUNITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ULD=UPAZILA LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT
ULO=UPAZILA LIVESTOCK OFFICER
UNO=UPAZILA NIRBAHI OFFICER
UP = UNION PORISHAD
DAC = DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE
UZ = UPAZILA
VCA = VALUE CHAIN APPROACH
VDC = VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
DYD=DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
RAKUB=RAJSHAHI KRISHI UNNAYAN BANK
UCEP=UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
BDT=BANGLADESH TAKA
TTC=TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER
SMC=SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
CLTS=COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION
VGF=VULNERABLE GROUP FEEDING
VGD= VULNERABLE GROUP DEVELOPMENT
NGO=NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION
D/A=DALIT AND ADIBASHI

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Association for Rural Cooperation (ARCO) has been working very inclusively for the development of the Dalit and Adibashi communities of north western part of Bangladesh the DREAM Project since 2009 with support of HEKS/EPER Switzerland. The project has been covering 1983 HHs (251 are Dalit and 1732 are Adibashi) which in turn covers 7491 individuals (999 Dalit and 6492 Adibashis). In achieving the goal and objectives of the DREAM project, it has been implementing various activities envisaged to reach the project outcomes through systemic change, Human Rights based Approach-HRBA, Inclusive market development, Dia-praxis, and Phase in/out strategy. The cross-cutting issues in the programming of the project are defined as gender equality, resilience building and conflict sensitivity.

Like other issues, climate change and natural disasters are one of the major factors which is affecting the life and livelihoods of D/A community people. During the reporting period, because of the outbreak of Corona Virus pandemic, the PooCs have been suffering a lot. According to govt. Induced lockdown and restriction on movement, they had to stay at home during this period and couldn't go to their work places. So, their daily income opportunity has drastically reduced or perished. Due to lack of their work and money, they have fallen in to critical crisis. They cannot meet up their basic needs, even they seems to be unable to manage three courses of meal a day. As most of them are malnourished and not getting food properly, they have become physically and mentally weak. On the other hand, due to limited functioning of market system, the producer PooCs couldn't sell their bulls and chickens as expected due to limited market functionality. Additionally, the market-price for bulls and chicken has gone downwards. It is also observed that the pandemic situation also created a gap in the TVET sector. Those who were interested in receiving technical training were unable to avail the trainings from TVET institutions because of country-wide general holiday. Furthermore, those who were involved in various technical jobs in different industries and companies, also face challenges as some of them were shut down and some of the PooCs also got fired from jobs because the companies cut off their staffs. So they faced a critical situation and their income reduced.

As the educational institutions were closed from mid-March, students couldn't go to school. So, their education is being interrupted which may have a negative effect on the student's minds and can demotivate them for continuation of education. It has also potentials to increase the drop-out rate, especially for the girls. In our working area, 98% students are going to pre-primary school, 96% students are going to primary school, 84% students are going to secondary level school and 50% in higher secondary level. Besides, 95% students do not experience discrimination in their schools by mainstream students and teachers. But it is assumed that parents of our D/A students might not have necessary money for this situation which could affect their education.

During the crucial period of COVID-19, The DREAM project took some initiatives at community level to prevent the spreading of Corona virus as well as its other consequences. The project has completed its crisis response interventions in this regard including awareness session, door to door visits, leaflet distribution, hanging of information banner, detergent soap distribution, hand sanitizer distribution, supplied bucket and mug, hand washing demonstration. ARCO has covered 2000 HHs through the DREAM project by the support of HEKS/EPER. After completion of these interventions, DREAM project-ARCO has provided food support to the most vulnerable 397 PooCs, 2000 HHs have received hygiene kit support, 562 PooCs have received cash support by the support of HEKS/EPER.

During this reporting period through our advocacy program, 24 PooCs were included in COVID-19 food response committee, 3464 PooCs have got access to basic services through our communication with government departments and advocacy, our 1388 PooCs got food support, 448 PooCs got cash supports, 11 PooCs got ration card from government and non-government institutes.

Besides, we have been encouraging our PooCs to communicate with relevant authorities such as Union Parishad, Upazila administration and other organizations for getting supports. We have been communicating with VDC and Youth group members on regular basis for collecting the relevant information. We have provided the cell phone numbers to the community so that they can contact us in case of emergency. We also communicated with Deputy Commissioner, UNO and Chairman of Union Parishad regarding government assistance. They assured that they will consider D/A on priority basis regarding government assistance. It is mentionable that all activities were conducted during this reporting period maintaining social distances.

During this reporting period, through VCA activities a total number of 217 producers (which are 67 bull fattening, 63 chicken rearing, 40 doormat production, 7 mushroom production and 40 Vermi compost)

Commented [1]: what is the sources of these percentage? is these percentage of students still continuing even in this COVID situation?

Commented [A2R1]: The percentage was used in report for before COVID-19 situation according to database but during COVID-19 situation schools are totally closed. So, there are no update information till date.

Commented [3]: how have you determined this percentage?

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have increased their income. Besides, 56 PooCs have received loan 22,10,000 BDT from different banks and MFIs.

All TVET activities were running very smoothly as per YPO before the COVID-19 situation arose. We have conducted TVET training for a number of 14 PooCs before the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 10 more participants in our list for TVET training at UCEP-Bangladesh and TTC-Naogaon. But due to COVID-19 pandemic, all government and non-government technical training institutes have closed their program. So that it was very difficult for us to ensure TVET training and job mediation for our PooCs in this reporting period.

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

Association for Rural Cooperation (ARCO) has been implementing Dalit/Adibashi Rights, Empowerment and Access towards Mainstream (DREAM) project in North-west part of Bangladesh since 2009 in partnership of HEKS/EPER, Switzerland. The goal of the project is to ensure the dignity of non-mainstreamed marginalized communities (Dalit and Adibashi) of its working area. The DREAM project has been working with urban and rural Dalit and Adibashi into the sub-groups of the communities according to the HEKS/EPER's Country Program (CP). These 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 Country Program. During this reporting period, it was very difficult to perform all activities because of COVID-19 pandemic situation especially mass gathering, meetings, workshops etc. The project has been going through the instructions from HOB by several online zoom meeting and email suggestions. As per present situation, some activities have changed as suggested by HEKS/EPER. We will be performing suggested activities considering the COVID-19 situation.

3. CONTEXT: OBSERVATION ON THE PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

3.1. POLITICAL SITUATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The issue of politics is one of the major hindering factors for development in the context of Bangladesh. During this reporting period, national budget of Bangladesh was declared which consists of BDT 5,68,000 crore for the fiscal year 2020 - 2021. Though government has allocated 80 crore BDT budget for Adibashi people but it was not sufficient for their development and also there is no specific plan/project in the declared budget. To overcome the COVID-19 pandemic situation, government of Bangladesh has allocated some budget but there is no specific policy for Dalit and Adibashi people. They are not getting priorities in getting facilities from different departments. In the first time of COVID response, our poods have faced various situations. They did not assistance priority basis, political figures have created obstacles and bureaucratic complications were seen there. But the DREAM project has taken various initiatives against this situation. So, this situation has removed gradually and our PooCs got assistance than previous time.

The parliament of Bangladesh has no representatives from Dalit/Adibashi communities. If a few people have representation of local government but they cannot play measurable and important role changing positivity of the mind set up of mainstream people. If they participate in election, but the mainstream people do not show their interest and do not like to vote for Dalit and Adibashi people. So, in spite of their competencies they cannot win the election. So that they do not have adequate participation in the parliament of Bangladesh as well as in local government. For that reason, problems of Dalit and Adibashi people are not reflected in the national budget and no specific project is designed and implemented especially for plain land Dalit and Adibashi communities. So they have been moving in a cycle of problems and they cannot come out from it.

3.2. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

We know that most of our Dalit and Adibashi people do not have work all over the year. They have a scope of work on an average of 4 to 6 months a year on agriculture. We also know that most of the Dalit PooCs work as cleaner. In the present situation, most of the people prepared safety tanks and offset pit instead of pit latrine. So, they do not get work on regular basis which have been hampering their income. Due to the effect of COVID-19 situation, they could not work in said time during this reporting period. Price-hike was observed for all daily necessities which made maintaining a usual living very difficult for the PooCs. On the other hand, the market price of bulls and chicken were not stable and their price dropped quite badly. So our PooCs did not get benefit properly from their bull fattening and chicken rearing business.

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In the 1st quarter (January to March) our PooC's income was seen to be increased and it created a favourable position for them. They managed bank loans to extend their business. But due to COVID-19 situation, the VCA and TVET activities are hampered. Those who were engaged in chicken rearing and bull fattening, could not make profit as per their business plan. According to the PCM, in case of chicken rearing, the profit of our PooCs decreased to 40-45% than previous quarter, while it is 10 % decrease for those who were engaged in bull fattening. Banks are showing low interest to provide loans. But, during COVID-19 period, government has created an incentive policy for business development. Through our advocacy with finance institutions, our 7 PooCs have received 2,90,000 BDT from RAKUB with the 4.5% interest following government incentive policy. We have a number of 30 PooCs loan under processing in different banks.

During this reporting period, 17 TVET participants completed TVET training where 3 were linked in job market and 14 have self employment. Among them 3 Participats who were linked in job market have been getting salary 3333.00 BDT per month on average, 14 participants who are self employed earning 1500 BDT per month on average.

In the covid-19 situation, we have regular communication with different government and non-government departments. Sometimes, we could not do direct communication with relevant departments. But we have been continuing communication with local govt. and non govt. institution through the mobile phone. In the meantime, we have inspired our PooCs (VDC leader, CDMC and youth group) for direct communication with up member and chairman. Following our suggestion, they worked very hard together. As result of their effort, they obtained more assistance from govt. and non govt. institutions. With the concern of our VDC, we prepared an eligible house hold list of those who are most vulnerable. Then we assisted our PooCs to submit those lists to the relevant departments with their own initiative. ARCO played role as a facilitator. Some govt. officials called DREAM project staff and collected the list from ARCO and they have given priority to D/A households. During this reporting period, in total 1847 PooCs have received assistances regarding COVID-19 from different government and non-government institutions.

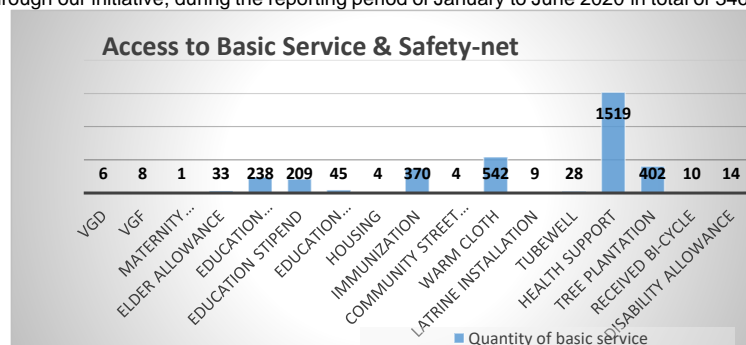
4. PROGRESS, RESULTS AND CHANGES

4.1. PROGRESS OF KEY ACTIVITIES / INTERVENTION LINES

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

The DREAM project has been trying very hard to increase enjoyment of equal rights of its targeted Dalit and Adibashi people. Despite of the COVID-19 situation, we tried our level best to communicate with different govt. and non-govt. organizations and elite persons for getting different supports from various organizations. Through our initiative, during the reporting period of January to June 2020 in total of 3464

PooCs got safety net and access to basic service such as a number of 06 PooCs have got VGD, 08 PooCs have got VGF, 33 PooCs have got elder allowance, 01 PooC has got maternity allowance and 14 PooCs have



got disability allowance, 04 PooCs have got housing, 31 PooCs have got seeds, 402 PooCs have got trees for plantations, 09 PooCs have got latrines, 28 PooCs have got tube wells, 370 PooCs have got immunizations, 1519 PooCs have got medicines, 36 PooCs have installed latrines (own), 238 students have got education allowances and 209 students have got education stipend facilities from upazila education office, social welfare office, Prime Minister's office and union parishad. Besides, a number of 45 students have got

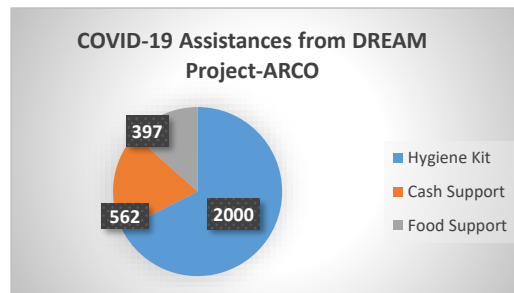
education sponsorship to enhance their education from elite persons and union parishad. Our 10 Adibashi students have received 10 bicycles from upazila administration. So that they can reach their school easily and encourage towards education.

During this reporting period, a number of 63 claims have made by our PooCs and 10 claims were accepted.

We have conducted 6 number of medical camps with the support of health department. Department of Health and Family Planning have been providing medicine free of cost and Surjer Hashi clinic provided medicine at 12% discount and 1519 PooCs have got medicine facilities free of cost.

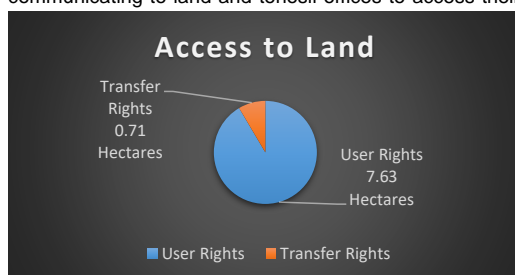
During this reporting period, a number of 20 PooCs were included in different committees such as SMC committee, ward committee, bazar committee and guardian's committee from different area of DREAM project.

The DREAM project took some initiatives at community level to prevent spreading of Corona virus as well as its consequences. The project completed its intervention according to the plan providing awareness session, door to door visits, leaflet distribution, information banner, detergent soap distribution, hand sanitizer distribution, supplied bucket and mug for hand washing demonstration and practice with conducting sessions. ARCO has covered 2000 HHs through the DREAM project by the support of HEKS/EPER. After completion of these interventions, DREAM project-ARCO has provided food support to the most vulnerable 397 PooCs by the support of HEKS/EPER where each of 327 HHs received 10 Kg rice, 1 Kg salt, 1 Kg oil, and 4 Kg potato as food assistance in two rounds and the rest of 70 HHs received one time food support where each HH received 5 Kg rice, ½ Kg dal, ½ oil, ½ Kg salt and 2 Kg potato. The project also has provided cash grant support to 562 HHs by the support of HEKS/EPER.



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

It is well known that the most of Dalit and Adibashi people do not have adequate knowledge and legal documents of their own regarding land. Different powerful people of the society oftenly force them to leave their places and grab their lands. They do not have access to their khas land. Our PooCs cannot take lease from govt and other land sources. Considering the issue, DREAM project has conducted different level activities such as linkage with local network, legal aid support regarding land before the COVID-19 situation. Besides, we have been communicating with relevant land related departments for getting access to lands and services for our vulnerable PooCs. As a result, our PooCs have been communicating to land and tohosiil offices to access their land mutation and solving their land related problems. During this reporting period, 78 PooCs have access to 7.63 hectares land (user rights) and 18 PooCs have access to 0.71 hectares land (transfer rights). Being aware through attending awareness sessions, a number of 22 PooCs have applied for land mutation to the land department and 07 have successfully completed their land mutation.



Our 10 producer members made profit by selling their VC products. They have reinvested the money in purchasing new cows and chicken. They have taken lease 1.06 hectares land with 8,83,000 BDT money of the profit (10 producers).

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

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Ans. We have considered this issue as equal rights.

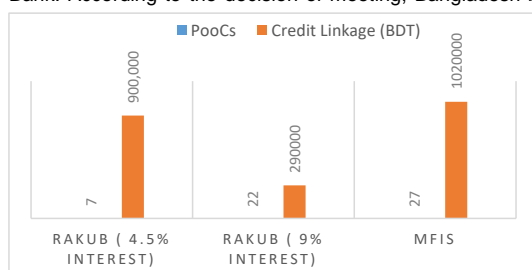
Commented [A6R5]: Yes. We are agreed with you and we have written this para as an equal rights because we have written this para under the outcome of Dalit and Adibashi have increased enjoyment of equal rights.

During this reporting period, we have observed international women's day, organized medical camp, organized cultural development training, youth conference etc. for improving security, non-violence and improved relationship with mainstream people. Local administration, community people and mainstream people are being sensitized about the security concern of Dalit and Adibashi people through these activities. Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Chairman of Union Parishad and Upazila are concerned regarding the security and peace building of our targeted population. Now, Dalit/Adibashi community people have been solving some of their problems through the help of local administration and civil society. At present, VDC members are concerned of their following issues which they started arising their voices against these issues.

- Through awareness rising and counselling, local administration, community people and mainstream people jointly have taken initiatives against drug consumption and gambling. So that the security situation is being improved and violence in the community is being reduced gradually.
- Because of above activities, the relationship between D/A and mainstream communities is being improved than previous time. As a result, they have been attending in different social, cultural and religious events (such as day observation, cultural shows, wedding festival etc.) of each other.
- Through regular and ongoing communication with Local Govt and Upazila administration, they are being sensitized and have been taking initiatives against early marriage and domestic violence. They have been 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, 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.
- Union Parishad and Upazila level provided 4 community street solar. As a result, women and adolescent girls are moving with safety at night in the community.

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

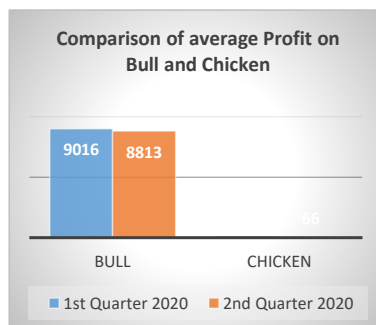
During this reporting period, project team has communicated personally and over mobile phone very strongly with different Banks and MFIs for loan in terms of easy condition and government incentives. Besides, staffs of ARCO and PooCs have also attended workshop which was organized by Bangladesh Bank. According to the decision of meeting, Bangladesh bank would provide loan for small, medium enterprises development by the support of selected private banks. Through this activity and our regular advocacy, a number of 56 producers received micro-finance of BDT 22, 10,000 from different Bank and MFIs to expand their business.



In this reporting period, in total 15 producers have received training on bull fattening and chicken rearing from livestock department and 120 PooCs received training on bull fattening and chicken rearing from DYD. On the other hand, producers attended learning session and PG meeting.

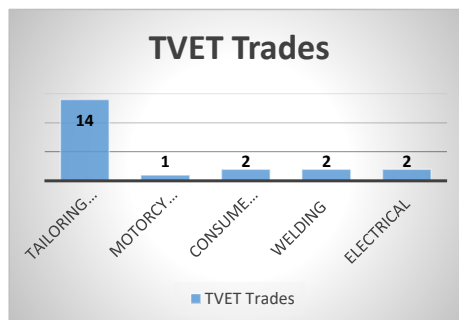
So that the producers were capacitated on bull fattening and chicken rearing and Joint initiatives for 100% vaccination and de-worming camp. So, we observed that the mortality rate of chicken is 5% from PCM database. Besides, they discussed about vermicompost, doormat and mushroom production in PG meeting and they have received practical training in their own communities. So that they became capacitated on production of the products.

A total number of 217 producers (which are 67 bull fattening, 63 chicken rearing, 40 doormat, 7 mushroom production and 40 Vermi compost production) have increased their income but due to COVID-19 situation, though they became profitted yet it was comparatively less than previous quarter. Last quarter (April to June) of the reporting period, they have earned average BDT 8813 which was 9,016 BDT in 1st quarter from bull fattening. They have earned BDT 66 from chicken rearing in last quarter which was 107 BDT in 1st quarter. They have earned BDT 30 from each doormat, BDT 50 from per KG mushroom and BDT 12 from vermi compost which profit is as same as 1st quarter. During this reporting period 75 PooCs have improved practical knowledge on VCA. Among them, 32 PooCs' knowledge improved on bull fattening, 31 PooCs knowledge improved on chicken rearing, 12 PooCs knowledge improved on vermi compost production.



130 producers have reinvested their profit for expansion of their business. Besides, 10 bull producers have made bull sheds and 25 chicken producers have developed chicken sheds to expand their business. 10 of them have been spending their income for land lease, home repairing and education purpose for their children. So that they have been enjoying better life than previous time.

During this reporting period, a number of 21 (Female=16 and male=5) youths had started their training on tailoring cum garments, welding, motorcycle mechanics, electrical and consumer electronics. During the COVID-19 situation, among them 4 participants could not complete their training because of closing of the TVET institutions but they have been waiting for starting of their training. And 17 youths completed their training successfully. After completion of their training, 14 youths became self-employed and have been earning approx. 1500 BDT per month. The rest 3 participants have joined in Alam autos and Gour Autos, Nazipur. They have been earning 3333.00 BDT per month. UCEP-Rajshahi has reduced 2000 BDT of TVET training cost for our Dalit and Adibashi youths through our regular communication with them. We had also communicated with BRAC-Bangladesh for TVET training for our participants and they assured us that they would prioritize our participants in all TVET training with reduced cost of TVET.



4.2. INTENDED AND UNINTENDED RESULTS

Intended results:

- Our PooCs have claimed to the union parishad for binding the side of ponds. Union parishad had conducted meeting with pond owner and through the mutual understanding with owner of ponds, 2 big pond's side has bound by them at Joanpur east para and Joanpur west para. So that our PooCs have been accessing healthy environment in this community.
- During the COVID-19 period, we have disseminated the information to our PooCs in right time and our PooCs have worked together and they have regular communicated with the local government. They have submitted their claims and raised their voices regarding assistances. So that in total 1847 PooCs have received assistances regarding COVID-19 from different government and non-government institutions.
- For reduction of malnutrition and increase immunity, most of our communities have been cultivating different types of vegetables at their home and they have been consuming the vegetables on regular basis.

Unintended results:

- One hotel owner repaired 4 latrines of our PooCs at Santahar driver colony.
- Due to the unstable COVID-19 situation, students are not being able to go to school, private and coaching. So that quality of education has been decreasing.

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- UCEP-Rajshahi has reduced 2000 BDT of TVET training cost for our Dalit and Adibashi PooCs for COVID-19 pandemic through regular conversation with them.
- BRAC-Bangladesh assured that they would prioritize our participants in all TVET training with reduced cost of TVET.
- A number of 402 trees have been planted in different communities of our working area. So that our PooCs would have healthy environment.
- Due to COVID-19 situation, we implemented only 40% of planned activities and most of the activities have modified and one new outcome is added which is related to COVID-19 situation.

4.3. BENEFICIARIES / POOC

Beneficiaries (per targeted subgroup)	Organizations (if applicable)	Families / households	Individual persons
Youth Group	31 groups	1983	737
Leaders of local Organizations (VDC)	32 VDCs	1983	416
Producers Groups	31 producer Groups	660	660
Women Entrepreneurs	130	130	130
Community Disaster Management Group	31 groups	1983	455
Total	255	6739	2398

4.4. WORKING APPROACHES / METHODS

The DREAM project has been working very hard to promote the approaches of systemic change which includes Human Right Based Approach, inclusive market development, Diapraxis and phase in/out strategy. Some promising practices have started in the working area of DREAM project through the human rights-based approach. During this reporting period, the Dream project could not conduct all planned activities because of unstable COVID-19 situations. Despite of the situation, we have contacted with different govt. and non-govt. relevant departments. So, govt officials have been sensitized about D/A issues and they are giving emphasize to provide different facilities for our Dalit and Adibashi community on priority basis. Besides, through regular motivation and counseling by DREAM project staffs physically and through mobile conversation during the lockdown period, PooCs became able to take safety measure maintaining social distancing and realized that if they don't maintain communication and claim to the relevant authority regarding their issues, they will not be able to achieve their facility. Now they have been maintaining regular communication with different authorities. After lockdown period, staffs have been doing office regularly and communicating more with local government and submitted list of vulnerable PooCs and the relevant authorities have received the list. Besides, staffs also shared the update situation of our PooCs with them. So, we think that most of them have been accessing different facilities in next period. For that reason, the establishment of comprehensive harmonized approach has been helping to improve the life status of our PooCs.

4.5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender

Inequality and inequity to gender is a major problem among Dalit and Adibashi community people. Adibashi women are one of the major parts for development. They play a catalytic role towards achievement of transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But they face discrimination in decision making, planning, implementation and getting access to basic services which are among big challenges to them. Considering the above situation, when DREAM project formed different committees and implement various activities then considered the gender issue. When VDC general members forms the VDC executive committee, they have considered the gender issue. In the 32 executive committee male 213, female 203 and in 31 community disaster management committee male 228, female 227. We discuss the gender issue in these meetings and encourage women for attending various meetings besides male. So that they can get various informations regarding rights and value chain and TVET issues. Most of the project's producers are women. Now they have information about VCA and they have conducted their business successfully. Through these VCA activities, they are earning money besides their homistic work. Some women already have received TVET training and involved in job market. So their economical condition are increasing gradually. The women leadership has been increasing and they can spend their money in their needs and participate in decision making of their families as well as in their society. A number of

27 PooCs and staffs were included in the committee of COVID-19. In this reporting period, a total number of 2 PooCs have included in SMC where 01 is male and 01 is female. Especially in the COVID-19 situation, some women communicated with local government and presented their economic condition. So that they have got assistances. When the DREAM project distributed the relief during COVID-19, project prioritized women, pregnant mother, lactating mother, women headed household. Besides, we also considered elder aged people, most vulnerable people like rickshaw puller, van puller etc.

Through the gender training, we have been empowering women. Besides, we have been trying to change mind set up of our male members regarding this issue. So that acceptance of women in their families as well as in their communities have been increasing and familial peace is increasing. Besides, women are attending in various meetings and shared their opinions. So that their knowledge and leadership has been increasing. Sometimes, women are being engaged in different committees.

Resilience building

Building resilience of our PooCs is one of our major responsibility throughout our work. We know that the knowledge of our PooCs are very poor regarding various sectors. So, resilience building of our PooCs is a vision of the DREAM project. We have been conducting different activities with a view to build resilience of our PooCs. Such as value chain activities, TVET, DRR, gender, rights of PooCs etc. We have been organizing different level of trainings and workshops for our PooCs e.g. to ensure their rights we have conducted advocacy workshop, meeting, personal linkage etc. through which we have been discriminating various information to them and rapport building with relevant department has done. So that they have achieved various facilities by which their resilience is being built. Besides, for resilience building of our PooCs by improving livelihood options, we have been conducting various VCA and TVET activities under these sectors. We have been conducting learning sessions, group meetings, trainings and linkages with actors. So, they are being able to continue their business successfully and they can sell their products in the mainstream markets. Through the TVET activities, we have been conducting TVET training for our PooCs and engaged them with job. So that their resilience is being built and they are being made as human resource.

Conflict sensitivity

Conflict sensitivity is the approach that involves gaining a sound understanding of the two-way interaction activities. The context and acting is considered to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts of intervention on conflict within an organisation's given priorities/objectives. It is well known that intra conflict is a great problem of Dalit/Adibashi group of people which is considered as a hindering factor for sustainable development. In relation with this, no strong leadership grows among them due to intra conflict 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 reduce the conflict. They become detached from any facilities of different govt. and non-govt. sectors due to intra-community conflict. Sometimes, the project interventions are hampered because of it as they could not be united.

The DREAM project has determined conflicting issues of D/A communities through the conflict mapping for handling intra and inter community conflicts. Moreover, it has identified the potential dividers and connectors through the 30 conflict maps. We have observed community through the conflicting map that land grabbing, drug business, gambling, leadership and money lending are the remarkable conflicting issues in D/A. Considering this situation, DREAM project has been conducting different meetings and activities with those dividers and connectors where DREAM project has facilitated for reducing the conflict. During this reporting period, some of our VDCs became united in order to establish their rights regarding divinity property avoiding their intra conflicts.

With a view to reduce conflicts, DREAM project has been taking necessary initiatives where VDC and mainstream community participates under the same umbrella. During this reporting period, the events were vaccination camps, day observation etc. In relation with this, the project also has been maintaining the influential relationship with local administration and dealing the conflict issues with the help of local administration which has increased social accountability by improving transparency and sharing information about project towards PooCs and the mass population. The project has been establishing very smooth functioning complaint mechanisms in the communities with a view to increase social accountability by improving transparency.

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4.6. FINANCIAL STATUS

Description (as per the lines of the approved Budget)	Total yearly expenditure (CHF)	Total yearly budget (CHF)	Variance (%)
Admin costs	6,530.13	6,882.47	94.88
Personnel costs	47,163.27	47,163.27	100
Project costs (activities)	12,784.04	19,334.43	66.12
Investment	551.75	551.75	100
Evaluation	280.24	6,019.84	4.66
Audit	...	00	...
Other	3,334.01	3,931.01	84.81
Total project costs	70,643.44	83,882.77	84.22

5. IMPLEMENTATION SET-UP

Association for Rural Cooperation (ARCO) has been implementing the 'DREAM' project through two north-west districts in Naogaon and Bogra of Rajshahi division of Bangladesh. The project has been working through integrated multi-dimensional approach. The DREAM project has been belonging a wide range of actions from the community to the national level with intensive work. The project consists of a well-defined structure of staff set-up for implementation of its activities as well as to achieve its goal ensuring dignity of non-mainstreamed marginalized communities. The DREAM project is designed with a Project Manager (PM) who is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. There is one Market Development Manager (MDM), one Project Officer (PO), one Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (M&EO), one Advocacy and Documentation Officer (ADO) and one Admin & Finance Officer (AFO) who are reportable to PM. There are two Market Development Officers (MDO) and one TVET and Education Officer (TEO) who are reportable to MDM. There are some frontline staffs e.g. seven Community Development Organizers (CDO) and six Child and Adolescent Development Organizers (CADO) who are reportable to PO but maintain close relation with all technical staffs.

6. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOLLOW-UP

Challenges/Risk: C1: Maintaining social distances are not easy during COVID-19 response. C2: Materials are not available in the local market and product price was high than actual price. C3: Market price fluctuation (native chicken) C4: Rishi Para Dalit community is interested in traditional business. So, doormat production is already stopped there.	Coping strategies and expected added value: S1: Door to door visit and relief distribution. S2: We have communicated with different sellers and verified the market price and purchased materials. S3: We have communicated with local traders for selling their chicken. S4: We will support PooCs of Rishi Para to expand their traditional business. Besides, we will analyse root cause of choosing suitable sub sector for them.
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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"> Govt. officials have been sensitized regarding Dalit/Adibashi community and their issues than previous time. (Such as safety net, health, education, provide etc.). The organization has a good relationship with local administration. UCEP-Rajshahi has reduced 2000 BDT of TVET training cost for our Dalit and Adibashi PooCs for COVID-19 pandemic through regular conversation with them. Bank will provide loan to our PooCs at 4-5% interest as incentives. 	<p>Capitalization strategies and expected added value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since govt. officials are sensitized on Dalit and Adibashi issues, so therefore, more advocacy initiatives will be undertaken maintaining social distances 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. 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. Strengthen linkage between D/A youth and TVET institutions for their training on TVET and job placement in schedule time. We will assist our PooCs to linkage with different banks for getting loans at 4-5% interest.
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7. PROJECT EXIT / CONTINUATION PLAN

As per project plan, it is mentioned that the project will not be phased out entirely at a time. The DREAM project has adopted a graduation model for VDCs 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. In the stage four, VDC 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. During this reporting period, people of our concerns have been suffering a lot because of the worldwide COVID-19 situation. As this year is the last year of the current project phase, and most of our PooCs became more vulnerable so that it will be longer for graduation of all VDCs.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

With a view to ensure the quality of the DREAM project and to ensure objective oriented implementation by producing expected results, comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation approach is being followed. The project used different monitoring 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, Yearly Plan of Observation (YPO) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) plan to be considered for the project to attain expected outcome. Pre-defined monitoring questionnaires, which is strategically most relevant for the success of our project is used for the field observation. Target and Achievement of field level activities are being monitored through Qualitative Participatory methods. The project used expected and unexpected changes which have been determined through practicing Most Significant Changes (MSC) by staff. Necessary reports have been prepared by relevant project staffs of their routine monitoring data and submitted to his/her Supervisor. Different data is collected on monthly, quarterly, half yearly and annual basis. Project activities and reports have been monitoring by Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (M&EO) using checklist and shared with Management. During the COVID-19 situation, there were extensive field visits for monitoring of the vulnerable situation of PooCs and as well as VDCs. Different activities were also performed like cash grant distribution, hygiene kit distribution etc. through proper monitoring.

Evaluation: The project has a plan to conduct an evaluation by engaging an external consultant. The consultant will be recruited by the concern of HEKS and it will be started at mid of August 2020 and completed by the end of the September 2020. The evaluation process will be conducted following main objectives of the DREAM project. The evaluation would consider major assumptions to establish causal relationship between input, output and outcome. ARCO has been following the five DAC (Development assistance committee) criteria. These are 1) Effectiveness, 2) Efficiency, 3) Impact, 4) Relevance and 5) Sustainability.

ARCO Proposed that DAC (Development assistance committee) 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. It is expected that there would be much scope of providing better supports through holistic services to vulnerable Dalit and Adibashi people in upcoming year/phase of the project through evaluation in order to ensure their rights as well as their sustainable development. According to the plan, an evaluation would be conducted this year. But it was very difficult to conduct the entire evaluation process during this reporting period because of COVID-19 situation. Yet we have been trying hard to organize the evaluation and it is under processing. Hopefully, it will be done very soon.

9. LESSONS LEARNT AND STEERING DECISIONS

Lessons learnt / focus areas	Steering decisions	Deliverables / expected outcomes	Deadlines	Responsibilities
Hand-washing demonstration can lead to improved hygiene & sanitation for the D/A PooCs.	We will assist VDCs to improve hygiene and sanitation situation of Dalit and Adibashi community through hand washing demonstration.	Community have been established 100% hygiene and sanitation and prevent Corona virus.	Continuous process around the year 2020.	Project Officer, Community Development organizer, Child and Adolescent Development Organizer, Project Manager.
Increase 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.	Income has been increased and changed their livelihood.	Within December, 2020	TVET Officer, Project Officer, Advocacy officer, Market Development Manager, Project Manager.
Improve relation with market actors for better access of our PooCs	We will Improve relation with market actors for better access of our PooCs.	Incomes have been increased and changed their livelihood.	Continuous process around the year 2020	Community Development Organizer, Project Officer, Advocacy Officer, Market Development Officer, Market Development Manager, Project Manager.
Expand doormat in rural Dalit and Adibashi areas and diversification of the product.	Visit of PooCs in well-established area of doormat about building their capacity.	Improved the quality of doormat production, created demand in market, have established in inclusive market system.	Continuous process around the year 2020.	Market Development Officer, Market Development Manager, Project Manager.

10. ANNEXES

Annex A: Financial Report (→ FFAG)
 Annex B: Log frame Follow-up Matrix
 Annex C: Case Study of Promising Practice / Innovative Working Approach

