

**Quarterly project update/report (January 2020 - March 2020)**

<b>Project name</b>	Dalit/Adibashi Rights, Empowerment & Access towards Mainstream (DREAM)
<b>Project number</b>	610-404
<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>Total project budget</b>	6,95,64,212 BDT
<b>Annual project budget</b>	1,74,03,174 BDT
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2020 - March 2020
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## ABBREVIATIONS

ARCO = Association for Rural Cooperation.  
CDMC=COMMUNITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
DRR = DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
HOB=HEKS OFFICE BANGLADESH  
MFI = MICRO FINANCE INSTITUTE..  
NGO=NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION  
PG=PRODUCER GROUP  
POOCs = PEOPLE OF OUR CONCERN.  
TVET= TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING  
UDMC= UNION DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
ULD=UPAZILA LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT  
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  
SMC=SCHOOL MANAGEMET COMMITTEE  
D/A=DALIT AND ADIBASHI  
CLTS=COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION  
VGF=VULNERABLE GROUP FEEDING  
VGD= VULNERABLE GROUP DEVELOPMENT  
NGO=NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

## 1. CONTEXT REVIEW

Dalit/Adibashi Rights, Empowerment & Access towards Mainstream (DREAM) project has been working in Naogaon and Bogra districts with the support of HEKS/EPER, Switzerland. At the beginning of the year, DREAM project has extended its working area in 2 new places. One of them is Sultanpur under Patnitala upazila and the another one is Bamonpara under Mohadevpur upazila. These two communities are deprived and most disadvantaged poor community and they are neglected from getting all facilities from all government and private sectors. They have been suffering from health as they don't get food three times a day and can't go to the specialized doctors for better treatment, they live in unhygienic environment, education rate is low, they have no land of their own, they have work only for six months a year but they have no idea of alternative occupation and all other services. At the starting of the project, other communities of our working have been facing the problems but through the DREAM project activities they are striving to go forward from their problems and they have overcome some of their problems. As these two communities are in the most vulnerable situation, we have conducted need assessment in these areas through the support of HEKS/EPER Bangladesh and we have made a special plan for them and we are following up the communities on regular basis to overcome their situation.

We know that recently, the Corona Virus pandemic has been occurred over the world. Bangladesh has been affected like many countries of the world due to the virus. In Naogaon district, Up to the end of March, 2020, 1085 persons are in home quarantine. In Naogaon sadar upazila 208 persons, in Patnitala Upazila 133 persons, in Mohadevpur Upazila 130 persons are in home quarantine. (Source of information civil surgeon Naogaon). Govt. has declared general closing of all govt. and non-government sectors including all schools and colleges to upto 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and maintaining social distances and any type of gathering is closed. In our working area, there are no Corona affected people found to till. But due to the effect of Corona Virus pandemic and govt. declaration, our PooCs have been suffering a lot. They can not go for their work. So, their daily income has been stopped. They are not getting foods three time a day. Due to non-functioning market system, they can not sell their bulls and chickens and the price of bulls and chicken has fall down. So, that our PooCs are in great crisis.

Government has made various activities to overcome above situation. Such as food package, hygiene kit package. As govt. Has distributing these things for day laborer (non-agriculture) but as our PooCs are involved with farming labor, so that they got a few against their needs. The staffs of DREAM project has been communicating with government and non-governments departments to arrange supports for our PooCs. Through this communication, a number of 304 PooCs have got Masks and soaps, 200 PooCs have got hand sanitizers from political leaders, 38 households received food support from a owner of brickfield, 107 PooCs have got cash grant of 1,500.00 NGO. Each, 173 HHs have got food support from Union parishad and 100 PooCs have got 100 soaps from another political leaders. But it was not sufficient as per their needs.

As per our intervention plan about Corona virus protection, DREAM project has taken some initiatives in community level. Through the support of VDC, we have covered a number of 2000 households in the DREAM project working area. Where we have distributed wash material for hand washing. We have also created 32 hand wash demonstration points. We have distributed in total 100 hand sanitizer where there was hand wash point and those who are involved in risk occupation. We have distributed 100 aware rising banners for COVID-19 and hung it in the key point of community. Besides, we have listed 327 PooCs for their food security. Each HH will receive 10 kg rice, 1 kg mustard oil, 1 kg salt, 1 kg masoor dal, 4 kg. Potato. We have been regular communication with VDC and we have provided our telephone numbers in our communities. so that they could contact us at their early convenience and support. We have been communicating with different committees from union to district level, sharing information from field level observation, and if any kind of supports are available then D/A could get the facilities on priority basis.

Through DREAM project activity, In this reporting period, a number of 1120 PooCs have got basic services such as VGD, VGF, widow allowance, maternity allowance, education stipend, education allowance etc. our some PooCs have submitted their claim to relevant department in their own initiative and received by authority. A number of 49 PooCs have got 4.46 hectare user rights and 15 PooCs have got transfer rights of 0.57 hectares land. On the other hand, 44 producers have got access to finance BDT 17,10,000.00. Due to effect of Corona virus pandemic, we could not perform many of our targeted activities, it hampered our routine work. It will be very hard for us but when situation will be normal then we will recover the situation

## 2. PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### Project logframe follow-up matrix at output level

Intervention logic of the project (copy from logframe)	Planned target value (copy from YPO or M&E plan, as appropriate)	Achieved target value (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter)	Planned budget for expected output	Actual (%) ex-penses on ex-pected output	Explanation on deviations	Steering Decision
Expected output 1.1:  Policy makers acknowledged rights of Dalit and Adibashi and initiated supportive policy recommendations			Total plan budget: 5,90,293 BDT Out put (1.1-1.3.11)	Spent Amount: 2,13,253 BDT (36%) Out put (1.1-1.3.11)	Due to effect of Corona virus,government has closed all mass gathering, meetings and maintain social distance. So, we could not implement some of our activity. Such as could not implement union level, upazila level and district level advocacy program, medical camps, SMC meetings etc.	We will sit with our staff and create a proper plan that we have not been able to implement due to the Corona virus . We hope, we will implement our plan in next quater.
Output indicator 1.1.1: # of Official claims made / accepted reflecting the interests of PooCs	Target: 1st Quarter, 2020  Made claim : 3 accepted claim : 1  (As per M&E plan, our total annual target is Claim made : 10 and accepted is : 5 where we have devided by 4 quarters, then we calculate the quarterly target.)	We have made 63 claims such as access to safety net and basice services, road construction, pond binding etc. And 10 claims have implemented (safety net and basic services,road constrution,pond binding etc)				We will assist our VDCs members to build linkage with local govt. and upazila administration for getting their rights.  In order to aware our PooCs regarding their rights and their entitlement through their capacity bulding.  We will grow leadership of our PooCs.So, they can raise their voices and they can able to submit their claim to relevant department in their own initiative.  we will conduct advocacy meeting with relevant department for sensitize about Dalit and Adibashi issues.

Expected output 2.1: Adibashi people are aware about the laws related to land monitoring mechanism.			Total plan budget: 68,000 BDT  output :(2.1,2.1-2.2.2)	Spent Amount: 25,723 BDT (38%) output :(2.1,2.1-2.2.2)	Data collection is ongoing and after collceting data, we will prepare all document regarding land mutation and we will implement this activity in the next quarter.	we will increase knowledge of our poocs about land issues through the court yard meeting and training.  we will assist our poocs to regular communicate with upazila land office and other relevant office for rapport building and as well as prepare land related proper document.
Expected output 3.2  Social interaction with mainstream neighbors :			Total plan budget: 1,04,100 BDT  out put :(3.1,3.2-3.1.3.2.5)	Spent Amount: 64,513 BDT (62%) out put :(3.1,3.2-3.1.3.2.5)	Due to effect of Corona virus,government has closed all mass gathering, meetings and maintain social distance. So, we could not implement some of our activity. Such as could not implement mass gathering of youth,developed IEC material,	We will sit with our staff and create a proper plan that we have not been able to implement due to the Corona virus . We hope, we will implement our plan in next quater.
Output indicator 3..2.2:  80 % PooCs children don't experience discrimination at school (by teacher, other students)	Target 1st Quarter, 2020  2%children don't experience discrimination  (As per M&E plan, our total annual target is 5% where we have devided by 4 quarters, then we calculate the quarterly target.)	Achivement: 5% (In this quarter we have obsered that more 5% student don't experience discrimination at school.So that in this quarter our cumulative achievement is 95% of PooC's children do not experience discrimination at school by the teachers and other students through manual data collection ,FGD, SMC meeting, school going parents' meetings and household visits)				we will conduct SMC meetings and regular observe the school where the Dalit and Adibashi student study.  We will conduct awareness session with SMC and as well as school going children parents to include the SMC committee.  build good relationship with the mainstream parents towards Dalit and Adibashi students
Expected output 4.1: Increased regular income D/A through VCA			Total plan budget: 3,13,167 BDT out put (4.1.1-4.1.35)	Spent Amount: 1,50,109 BDT (48%) out put (4.1.1-4.1.35)	Due to effect of Corona virus,government has closed all mass gathering, meetings and maintain social distance and due to harvesting period, we could not implement some of our activity. Such as could not implement Validation workshop (TVET assessment, Linkage with govt. and private vocational training centers for training of youth,	We will sit with our staff and create a proper plan that we have not been able to implement due to the Corona virus . We hope, we will implement our plan in next quater.

					Exposure Visit for Value chain Producer group & Actors/public and private sectors (in country), Training on Doormat making for Urban Dalits/Adibashi, rural Dalits etc.	
Output indicator 4.1.3 : # of PooCs who increased their practical knowledge on VCD through specific trainings and on VCD supporting areas	Target 1st Quarter, 2020 :  25 producers have practical knowledge on VC (As per M&E plan, our total annual target is 100 where we have divided by 4 quarters, then we calculate the quarterly target.)	In this quarter, 43 producers have increased practical knowledge on VC				<p>We will increase linkage with regional level buyers as if our produce get reasonable price through sell their products.</p> <p>To Improve their capacity through getting training, we will linkage between our pocs and livestock department.</p> <p>we will arrange exposure visit for our producer members where is established our best practice activity about sub sectors.</p> <p>we will arrange Value chain financing workshop for getting access to finance of our PooCs</p>
Expected output 4.2 Improved professional skills of D/A						
Output indicator 4.2.1: # of PooCs employed thanks to TVET and job mediation	Target 1st Quarter, 2020: 5 PooCs thanks to TVET and job mediation. . (As per M&E plan, our total annual target is 15 where we have divided by 4 quarters, then we calculate the quarterly target.)	15 youths thanks to TVET and starting their business.				<p>Linkage with different TVET institute so that our youth get training and job.</p> <p>we will creat strengthening Communication with Bank and MFIs for access to finance to develop business of TVET graduates.</p> <p>we will arrange motivational training those who are drop out from training and job. So that they are interested in re-training and joining the job.</p>

### 3. LESSONS LEARNT

Lessons learnt	What opportunities are implied by the lessons learnt?	What challenges are implied by the lessons learnt?	Steering decisions for improving project implementation	Responsibility/ deadline
1: PooCs land Rights will be established if proper coordination among upazila land office and another relevant department.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Land mutation and other land related activities will be faster in government land department.</li> <li>❖ PooCs will receive more opportunities (such as access to finance, govt housing project etc.) than previous time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Face harassment</li> <li>❖ Positive mindset of duty bearers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ We will discuss this issue in monthly NGO coordination meeting and Upazila advocacy meeting.</li> <li>❖ Improve communication with government departments for accessing rights (land) of D/A people.</li> <li>❖ we will increase our pooCs knowledge regarding land issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Community Development Organizer, Project Officer, Advocacy Officer, Project Manager</li> <li>❖ Continuous process around the year 2020</li> </ul>
2. Govt has no plan about D/A if any disaster occurred (corona virus and other disaster)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Through create the policy, D/A get priority for accessing the disaster support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Lack of knowledge of D/A about this policy / issue</li> <li>❖ Bureaucratic Complexity and mind setup.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ we will discuss regarding this policy with Disaster Management Committee and they will sensitize to Govt relevant department for create this policy.</li> <li>❖ We will conduct meeting with relevant networks such as Adibashi forum, NNMC, PIDIM etc. as if they will sensitize the department of government for policy making.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Project Officer, Advocacy officer, Community Development organizer, Project Manager</li> <li>❖ Continuous process around the year 2020</li> </ul>
3.increasing access to finance for pooCs through the improve communication with private bank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ PooCs will get access to finance from private Banks as per their demand.</li> <li>❖ Develop women entrepreneur in big scale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Banks and MFIs aren't interested to provide more than a certain amount of loans without legal documents of land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ We will increase communication and build linkage with private bank through advocacy for access to finance of our PooCs.</li> <li>❖ Organize value chain financing workshop specially with private banks.</li> <li>❖ Increasing visits to Adibashi communities by Bank and MFI officials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Market Development Officer, Market Development Manager.</li> <li>❖ Continuous process around the year 2020</li> </ul>