



Quarterly Report:
October – December 2011

Chars Livelihood
Programme, Bangladesh

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Abbreviations

ATP	Asset Transfer Project
AI	Artificial Insemination
BCRDV	Baby Chick Ranikhet Disease Vaccine
BNP	Bangladesh National Party
BQ	Black Quarter
CDO	Community Development Organiser
CDS	Community Development Supervisor
CLP-2	Chars Livelihoods Programme, Phase 2
CPHH	Core Participant Household
CSK	Char Shasthya Karmis or Village Health Workers
DFID	Department for International Development
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DLSO	District Livestock Services Officers
FIVDB	Friends in Village Development Bangladesh
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
FY	Financial Year
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
IEP	Infrastructure Employment Project
IML	Innovation, Monitoring and Learning Project
IMO	Implementing Organisation
LSP	Livestock Services Providers
M4P	Making Markets work for the Poor
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	Maxwell Stamp PLC
PAC	Practical Action Consulting
PRD	Partnerships and Relations Division
RDV	Ranikhet Disease Vaccine
RDCD	Rural Development and Cooperatives Division
SC	Satellite Clinic
SD	Social Development
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SSP	Special Service Provider
TW	Tube well
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officers
UP	Union Parishad
VfM	Value for Money
VSL	Village Savings and Loans (groups)

1. Introduction

This document reports on progress in the second phase of the Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP-2) in Bangladesh – a programme funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Australian Agency for International development (AusAID). The report covers the period October to December 2011. This is the seventh quarter of CLP-2 and the second quarter of the financial year 2011/12.

1.1 Team Leader's Overview of the Quarter

The current report while covering the period from October to December 2011 also allows a look at the progress and issues during the first six months of the CLP's financial year. In advance of developing this quarterly report, the programme held an internal review of both progress against workplan and expenditure against budget in mid-November 2011. The activity allowed all staff to review critically all aspects of performance and progress and prevent any underperformance going unnoticed. Units that saw an opportunity to increase spend have been, where possible, allocated additional funds. The sections that follow report in detail on progress in all units and divisions.

During the quarter, the CLP senior management held its quarterly meeting with Executive Directors (EDs) from all serving Implementing Organisations (IMOs). The centrepiece of the meeting was feedback from the November workplan and budget progress meeting but EDs also had the opportunity to raise issues and ask questions of senior management. The EDs meeting was followed by the Unit Managers (UMs) of CLP meeting (in Bangla) with the Programme Managers (PMs) from the same IMOs. This meeting also focused on presenting progress and budget spend but included an opportunity for all present to raise issues and jointly problem-solve. In this way, for example, Infrastructure was able to highlight problems in achieving its IEP targets and get many IMOs to increase plinth-raising during the *monga* period. This, as will be seen later, enabled IEP to achieve 96% of its plinth-raising objectives.

Progress and performance of individual units are presented in the relevant sections of this report but of note are the following:

- Despite a difficult start, IEP (the CLP work project that aims to provide labour opportunities during the *monga* season) managed to achieve 96% of its original target of raised plinths with a particular big push during December. 5,590 plinths were raised during the quarter with more than 14,000 households benefiting from IEP while piecework payment enabled individual labourers to earn an average daily rate of over Tk 240;
- 500 high-end latrines were installed together with more than 5,600 low cost latrines. The CLP is now providing only low-cost latrines as one of its value for money initiatives;
- The Livelihoods Unit has an increased target for the financial year of 17,500 households to receive assets. The target at the six-month stage (end-December) was 2,500 while only 1,740 households received their assets. The shortfall is explained in the operations sections and is not cause for concern;
- Homestead gardening training was completed on schedule;
- The Market Development Unit has a new unit manager and he is being assisted by two international consultants in evolving the unit away from enterprise support towards market development. MDU has begun cooperating with the new SDC-funded market development programme (M4C) that is to target helping CLP recipients to benefit from market development opportunities. The M4C is a key example of "crowding-in" complementary projects to the chars;
- During the quarter, the CLP health programme provided over 63,000 consultations with more than 16% being attended by non-beneficiary households;
- 649 beneficiary groups were formed in the quarter containing 16,657 new core recipients and all have begun attending group meetings;
- Adolescent groups have been formed and training began in 97 villages;
- Over 19,000 blankets were procured and distributed to new core beneficiary families. The CLP helped Crown Agents (CA) attain a reduction of costs of procurement of over 50% by introducing CA to more economic suppliers;

- Village Savings and Loans groups were established containing 6,440 core recipient members and 7,760 non-core members; well in excess of quarterly targets.

The CLP received several visits during the quarter. Of note was that of a DFID mission led by the new Head of Office for Bangladesh (Gwen Hines) accompanied by her Deputy (Diana Dalton) together with Mary-Ann Taylor and Arifur Rahman. A separate visit was arranged for Colonel Timothy Morris, Military Attaché at the British High Commission. Also of interest was a study tour of old and new CLP worksites in Sirajganj and Tangail respectively arranged for the Asia Talk Climate Research and Learning Group led by Tan Copsey (Research Manager) and looking at the understanding of *char* residents to climate change. The *chars* are becoming a focus of increasing interest in potential climatic impacts with, for example, a visit being programmed in January 2012 for an international journalist developing a report for the New Internationalist Magazine.

Senior members of the team (Team Leader and Director Finance) met with Mark Lowcock (DFID Permanent Secretary) in Dhaka as he gathered information on DFID's asset and cash transfer activities prior to presenting such information to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee. The Team Leader and Social Development Coordinator also met with an AusAID team analysing the success of mainstreaming gender across AusAID-funded programmes.

Partnerships activities have moved ahead rapidly in the quarter. Of particular note are that BRAC has now taken over the CLP health activities in two Upazilas of Gaibandha and targets further expansion over time as they gain experience from the two initial areas. SDC has successfully contracted SwissContact to manage their new programme "Making Markets work for the Chars" (M4C) that is cooperating fully with the CLP. M4C started activities on December 1 and CLP has been helping in a variety of ways from proposing division of activities, to helping arrange accommodation, to assisting SDC with the development of the GoB baseline documents. The Operations Division provides fuller information on these two important initiatives while Partnerships discusses in more detail the other developments underway with Bangladesh- and international-based organisations.

At the end of the quarter, the Development Project Proforma (DPP) for CLP-2 was signed into existence by the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh. This important event means that CLP-2 becomes a recognised entity and that the CLP can now push forward openly in such areas as seeking to bring primary schools to the chars and interacting with GoB district and regional officers.

On the negative front there are two unrelated incidents to report from the quarter. The first was an armed robbery that occurred on the river between the Tangail *chars* and the Sirajganj *ghat* in which a boat carrying a group of Data Entry and Monitoring Officers (DEMOs) on a monitoring survey was boarded by armed robbers and valuables stolen. Fortunately no-one was injured but the incident has forced the CLP to rethink its river security policy.

The second incident involves certain members of a few Union Parishad councils attempting to defraud funds from IEP during the *monga* plinth-raising campaign; mostly by trying to cheat beneficiaries. This is not a new problem; during the early years of CLP-1, such events were frequent and led to a tightening of procedures and the disqualification of all UPs concerned. During the period under review, the CLP has placed IEP funds through a total of 24 UPs and six have made various efforts to misappropriate funds. Five of the cases were rapidly rectified but one remains outstanding.

The CLP is under continuous pressure from many stakeholders to increase implementation through locally elected officials. This we attempt to do at all opportunities but it must be acknowledged that placing funds through local government bodies increases the risk of misappropriation of programme funds, significantly increases management time rectifying instances and frequently impacts negatively on our programme recipients; as in the six cases this year.

1.2 Deputy Team Leader's Overview

The political situation in Bangladesh is volatile at present. It is alleged that the Awami League led government has been proceeding to steadily implement its policies whilst ignoring the voice of the opposition. As a result, the opposition parties are blaming the government for different contentious actions such as the abolition of the 'caretaker government' system, unclear procedure of the war crimes trial, appointment of district level Awami League leaders as administrators in District Councils etc. The opposition parties are also accusing the government of oppressing and harassing them. In the meantime, the main opposition party, the Bangladesh National Party, with the support of its allies has made several marches and observed *hartals* (strikes) protesting at the alleged autocratic activities of the government and its failure to maintain law and order in the country.

Bangladesh's economy, mainly dependent on the ready-made garments sector and remittances of exported manpower is facing strong challenges at the moment. The absence of good governance is constraining growth and Bangladesh's ability to become a middle-income country in the near future. The expected 7% economic growth might not be possible in the current fiscal year due to high import costs, a reduction in the flow of investments, excessive subsidies in public spending, vast loans by the government creating extreme liquidity crises and spiralling inflation reaching around 12%. Price increases of essential commodities have placed a strain on the poor and middle class. Foreign currency reserves have dropped significantly and the unrest in the stock market has remained unchanged. However, it is encouraging to see the effective measures taken by the government for poverty reduction and achievement of targeted production in the agriculture sector.

2. Operations Division

2.1 Overview

The quarter saw, as usual, the completion of participant household verification (for cohort 2.3), the finalisation of IMO staff recruitment, training and orientation, the launch of field activities, including social development groups, community sanitation, formation of local village development committees and, importantly, asset transfer and cattle purchase activities. Asset purchase and related activities were slightly delayed but this will easily be caught up during the following quarter. The Infrastructure Unit implemented household plinth raising through its Infrastructure and Employment Project (IEP). Although the Unit achieved 96% of its planned plinth raising target, it faced constraints in CLP's new areas given that the land is more intensively farmed resulting in land not being as freely available as in former areas; there being some other local employment opportunities available resulting in not as much demand for IEP; and some areas being less vulnerable to flooding meaning there is less need for raised households. A survey of household plinth targets, needs and feasibility is set to take place during the next quarter.

The development of a new approach to Market Development has dominated activities this quarter, with the starting of Mr Bani Amin as the new Manager for the Unit. Two experienced market development consultants, Mr Brian Milton and Mr Mike Albu have made support visits and provided inputs to shape the Unit's strategy and working relationships. Early thinking is that the CLP should build on its past experience of livestock, based on its asset transfer project dominated by cattle, but also its numerous peripheral support activities such as: livestock service providers; fodder promotion (poultry and feed sales); artificial insemination and breed improvement; and milk marketing. While recruitment of a staff team and contracts with sector analysts are finalised, an overall intervention strategy and pilot activities will be developed and field trials will commence.

2.2 Infrastructure Development

The following table shows progress against key infrastructure targets for the period July–December '11.

Indicator	July – September '11		October – December		% progress towards 6 monthly target
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
Plinth Raising	-	-	5,813	5,590	96%
# of female HH members benefiting from raised plinths	-	-	10,514	10,625	101%
# of male HH members benefiting from raised plinths	-	-	10,105	9,850	98%
5-ring Latrines	-	-	500	500	100%
Low cost latrines	1,000	399	4,625	5,205	99%
# of female members with access to a sanitary latrine	1837	732	10,541	10,477	91%
# of male members with access to a sanitary latrine	1763	705	10,100	10,062	91%
Shallow TW	65	74	141	141	100%
Platform around TW	500	600	629	629	109%
# of female HH members with access to an improved water source	4,627	5,495	6,690	6,689	108%
# of male HH members with access to an improved water source	4,445	5,278	6,428	6,427	108%
GPS coordinates	5,100	4,491	8,000	6,714	86%
Arsenic test of TW water	1,660	1,255	1,000	695	73%
<i>IEP</i>					
Equivalent # of person days worked	-	-	350,000	433,512	124%
# of women employed	-	-	3,750	2,490	66%
# of men employed	-	-	15,000	11,834	79%
# of total people employed	-	-	18,750	14,324	76%

Infrastructure and Employment Project (IEP)

September to December is the lean employment period in the north-west of Bangladesh. During this period poor *char* dwellers, reliant on agricultural labour do not find employment. To generate short-term employment CLP undertakes plinth raising activities thus providing employment opportunities. Households are recruited to move earth for plinth raising which serves two purposes. First, it transfers money to the poor and secondly it raises plinths above the flood level to provide flood protection. This project of plinth raising during the *monga* period is termed as Infrastructure and Employment Project (IEP).

IEP 2011 concluded on 31st December 2011. 14 IMOs and 24 Union Parishads (Local Government authorities) participated in the project. Household plinths were raised to provide temporary employment to poor *char* dwellers during the lean employment season (*monga*). 14,324 people (one person per household) obtained an average of 21.65 days employment under this project. 2,490 (17.38%) labourers were women. The average daily wage was Tk. 244.

Plinths for 5,590 households (96% of the workplan target) were raised 0.6m above the recently recorded (2007) highest flood line. 4,768 plinths were raised through IMOs and the rest (822) were raised through Union Parishads (UP). 75% of the raised households are CPHHs.

The CLP is expanding and moving to the south west (the Padma belt). The area is not well known to the CLP. The initial experience gathered from a new district, Pabna, shows that there are more employment opportunities (so less *monga*), the soil is fertile and crops are grown throughout the year. In the last IEP the CLP could not meet the plinth raising target in the Padma and the Teesta belt due to other employment opportunities, higher wages, fertile land in the Padma belt and round the year crops in the Teesta belt). Plinth raising was not the priority demand in a part of Pabna district (as there was no flood in the last 15 years). As CLP is apprehending that the log frame target of plinth raising may not be achieved in the Padma belt, a quick survey will be commissioned in that area very soon to gather relevant data. The survey data will be discussed and accepted internally and plinth raising target for rest of the programme period will be reviewed and set.

96% of the plinth raising target was achieved during the last six months. Fertile land with round the year crops in new areas, better employment opportunities, land owners unwillingness to give away soils, high ground water level are the causes behind the shortfall. It may become more difficult as CLP moves further to the north- west. As the average working days were higher than expected less number of persons were employed.

Out of 24 participating UPs the CLP encountered financial irregularities with several UPs. The irregularities were: use of project money for personal business, kickback demands, irregular and under payments, etc. In one UP, CLP had to suspend the earth work. One case is still unresolved at time of writing. The UP Chairperson concerned promised in writing to refund the project fund money he had used for other purposes before the 15th January. These 4 UPs have been blacklisted for further funding and necessary funds for those areas will be channelled through IMOs in future.

Sanitation provision

Open defecation is very common on the *chars* causing health hazards. The CLP is aiming to provide improved sanitation provision to the *char* dwellers. During CLP 1 sanitary latrines with 5 rings, concrete slabs attached with plastic pan with water seal and GI sheet fencing/roofing were installed on the raised plinths of core participants. CLP 2 has decided to stop providing this model of latrines and rather decided to expand the low cost model piloted during 2011.

The CLP's low-cost sanitation approach has taken root in the new CLP working districts (Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat) and in some selected parts of Kurigram district. Low-cost latrines comprise a concrete slab with water seal, a five feet deep pit protected by a cage made of bamboo or other suitable material. The intervention targets the whole community. All households, irrespective of whether they are CPHHs or not, are eligible to receive the CLP subsidy. Households construct the latrine on a raised plinth above the flood line. Any household not living on a raised plinth is eligible for the subsidy if they first raise a "latrine plinth" above the flood level. The contracted IMO constructs and supplies the concrete slab with a plastic water seal following CLP specifications and design. The CLP provides a cash subsidy of Tk. 400 (to those who construct

latrines on already raised plinths) and Tk. 650 (to those who have to raise plinths for their latrine). 5,226 households received low cost latrines during the quarter.

A total of 6,104 households (100% households of the village) gained access to sanitary latrines in this quarter. People are informed about sanitation issues through the CLP social development discussion modules. As a result, open defecation has almost ceased in targeted villages.

The low cost latrine project will be expanded gradually. In the current financial year (July 2011 to June 2012) 14,000 latrines will be installed and from the next financial year it will be possible to increase output to 40 - 50,000 latrines per year.

CLP villages did not experience a large flood since the introduction of low cost latrines. The CLP is therefore not sure how the model will perform during flooding. Another issue is the awareness level of non core participants on the use and maintenance of the latrines as the CLP does not have regular interaction with them.

Water provision

Many households in Kurigram and Gaibandha are still not in reach of safe drinking water. The CLP provides safe drinking water through subsidies for shallow tube wells (TWs). One household amongst those sharing the TW is paying Tk. 1,000 to own the subsidised waterpoint. That household declares that it will maintain and keep the TW operational, and to grant unimpeded access to all other households wishing to use it. The owning household also has the authority to move the TW in case of an erosion threat. A full subsidy is provided to construct a concrete platform around tube wells provided:

- The tube well is on raised ground;
- The depth of the tube well is at least 40 feet;
- The arsenic level of the water is within 0-50 ppb; and
- At least three households use the TW.

215 shallow tube wells and 1,229 concrete platforms around already sunk tube wells were constructed in this quarter benefiting approximately 24,000 people.

The CLP has been routinely undertaking arsenic tests of TW water in all villages and will continue arsenic testing in all CLP-2 villages gradually and make suitable responses to mitigate the problem in hotspots. The targeted number of TWs tested for arsenic was not fully achieved because the District Infrastructure Officers had to spend more time than planned to support and monitor the UPs who were implementing IEP.

Tube wells in the Teesta belt are very shallow, commonly in the range of 20-35 feet depth. This is due to high ground water levels and the presence of high levels of iron at deeper levels, as reported by local people and confirmed through the government water agency (DPHE). Being unsure of the water quality at such a shallow level, the CLP has postponed constructing TWs or platforms. Water testing on bacteria levels was carried out in this area. Test results show that bacteria counts are at an intermediate range of risk (below 100 cfu/per 100 ml). This analysis indicates that there is no definite correlation on the bacteria count with the TW depth, platform type and TW head used in this area. Our hypothesis is that the high water table and possibly relatively high underground flow rates reduce the bacterial contamination, but we have no way of confirming this. It is possible that due to very high ground water gradient in the study area (Teesta river) the water in the upper aquifer is in its dynamic state (continuous flow) that does not allow concentration of bacteria in the vicinity of TWs. The CLP now intends to install TWs at a depth of less than 40 feet and construct platforms around already sunk selected private TWs in this area for further improvement of water quality.

Infrastructure activities for the next quarter

The following table shows key infrastructure targets for the period January – March 2012.

Indicator	Target for next quarter (January–March, 2012)
HH Plinth raised	2,915
# of female HH members benefiting from raised plinths	5352
# of male HH members benefiting from raised plinths	5142
Concrete pillar with HFL mark installed	20
Low cost latrine installed	3,000
# of female members with access to a sanitary latrine	5508
# of male members with access to a sanitary latrine	5292
Shallow tube well installed	-
TW platform installed	-
# of female HH members with access to an improved water source	0
# of male HH members with access to an improved water source	0
GPS coordinates recorded	5,000
Arsenic testing of water	500

Meeting the plinth raising target will be the key challenge for the next quarter and the rest of the programme period. Providing raised plinths to all core participants may not be feasible as in new areas people seem not to be ready to give away their fertile soil for others. The CLP is now planning to undertake a survey to assess and re-assess the plinth raising target for rest of the programme period.

2.3 Human Development

The following table shows progress against key Human Development targets for the period July – December '11.

Indicator	July – September '11		October – December'11		% progress towards 6 monthly target
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
<i>Social Development</i>					
# of SD groups formed	0	8	588	649	112%
# of female HH members benefiting from SD groups	0	330	25,789	30,582	120%
# of male HH members benefiting from SD groups	0	318	24,778	29,383	120%
# of CPHH members enrolled in SD groups	0	180	14,047	16,657	120%
# of SD groups currently active	827	834	1,139	1,413	114%
# of person-days of SD training provided to CPHHs	146,212	175,951	277,258	194,714	88%
# of VDCs formed	0	5	58	93	169%
# of VDCs currently active	87	92	129	175	124%
# of adolescent girls groups formed	0	10	57	97	188%
# of adolescent girls enrolled	0	200	1,090	2,020	204%
# of adolescent girls groups active	85	95	128	161	120%
# of adolescent boys groups formed	0	10	56	96	189%
# of adolescent boys enrolled	0	200	1,085	1,958	199%
# of adolescent boys groups active	86	96	128	162	121%
# of person days training provided for opinion leaders	0	0	210	74	35%
# of person days training provided for male orientation	0	0	520	294	57%
# of person days training provided for couples' (husband & wife)	0	0	1,364	713	52%

Indicator	July – September '11		October – December'11		% progress towards 6 monthly target
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
orientation					
# of Community Melas held	0	0	2	2	100%
<i>Social Protection</i>					
# of community safety net recipients enrolled	15	71	377	232	77%
# of people currently receiving Community Safety Nets	750	785	817	865	105%
# of people receiving Incapacity & Vulnerability Grants recipients enrolled	0	0	1,410	2,432	172%
# of people currently receiving Incapacity & Vulnerability Grants	0	0	1,060	2,108	199%
# of Emergency Grants provided	1,500	1,210	1,480	17,062	639%
<i>Health</i>					
# of satellite clinics conducted	1,028	1,053	1,216	1,053	94%
# of patient consultations	46,260	56,204	54,720	60,559	116%
# of patients from CPHHs	37,008	47,546	43,776	52,070	123%
# of patients from non-CPHHs	9,252	8,652	10,944	8,489	85%
# of Health, Nutrition and Education (HNE) sessions conducted	2,056	3,127	2,836	3,392	133%
# of participants HNE sessions	41,120	69,194	56,720	68,181	140%
# of CPHH members	30,840	54,348	42,540	54,195	148%
# of non-CPHH members	10,280	14,469	14,180	13,982	116%
<i>Education</i>					
# of learning centres operational	165	161	161	161	100%
# of children studying in learning	4,607	4,395	4,395	4,314	98%

Indicator	July – September '11		October – December'11		% progress towards 6 monthly target
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
centers					
# of girls	2,356	2,201	2201	2,215	100%
# of boys	2,251	2,194	2194	2,099	96%
<i>Village Savings and Loans</i>					
# of core VSL groups formed	190	157	207	286	112%
# of female HH members benefiting from core VSL groups	7,674	5,888	8,362	11,822	110%
# of male HH members benefiting from core VSL groups	7,374	5,655	8,034	11,363	110%
# of CPHH members enrolled in core VSL groups	4,180	3,206	4,554	6,440	110%
# of core VSL groups active	793	697	1,000	983	94%
# of CPHH members active in core VSL groups	16,335	14,106	20,889	20,196	92%
# of non-CPHH members active in core VSL groups	1,782	1,281	1,782	1,848	88%
# of non-Core VSL groups formed	304	113	321	358	75%
# of non-CPHH members enrolled	6,270	2,538	7,062	7,760	77%
# of non-core VSL groups active	357	133	677	491	60%
# of non-CPHH members active in non-core VSL groups	7,454	4,320	14,559	11,755	73%

2.3.1 Social Development:

During the quarter, the Social Development (SD) team were heavily involved in the selection and verification of CPHHs and in the formation of Social Development and Adolescent Groups and Village Development Committees. The key achievements of the Social Development component are summarised below:

- Social Development contracts were issued to 2 IMOs of Jamapalur district and the contracts of four IMOs (RSDA, RDRS-R, MMS and US) were amended as warranted by the increased/ additional allocation of CPHHs.
- A total 649 SD groups were formed against a target of 588 in the quarter with 16,657 CPHHs bringing the total number of SD groups to 657 formed in the current fiscal year. It is expected that by the end of January 2012 SD group formation will be 100% complete.

- 155 newly recruited IMO staff from all units received the standard five day basic training. The training focussed on the livelihoods of char dwellers, the nature of problems and vulnerabilities they face, the CLP's work, the roles and responsibilities of IMOs and their staff, etc. As of December, 2011 a total of 320 IMO staff had received the basic training in 11 batches.
- With the objective of familiarising newly recruited CDOs with the SD modules, a three day 'training of trainers' was organised and a total of 109 CDOs participated. The training was conducted by the IMO Training Officers and the District Social Development Managers. CLP Secretariat staff participated in a number of training sessions.
- Against a target of 277,258 the IMOs imparted 194,714 person-days of training according to the first Social Development Module for CPHHs of different phases (2.1, 2.2 and 2.3). The reason for under-achievement was because many of the CDOs were involved in IEP work and baseline data collection. Tighter coordination between the Units will address this problem in the future. Conducting weekly group meetings with SD groups of cohort 2.1 will be discontinued from January 2012 as the delivery of all topics of SD modules has been completed.
- The IMOs began forming VDCs in each village comprising 11 members from the SD group representatives and community leaders. A total of 93 VDCs were formed during the quarter against a target of 58 and some of the IMOs have already conducted 3-days basic training according to SD Module-2. Monthly VDC meetings are continuing as per plan. It is expected that the formation of all VDCs will be finished by end of January 2012.
- The plan was to form two adolescent groups (1 with boys and 1 with girls) in each village where the CLP is working. During the reporting period a total of 193, against a target of 113, adolescent groups (97 girls and 96 boys) were formed with 3,978 members (2,020 girls and 1,958 boys). IMOs have started providing two days of basic training to the members of adolescent groups according to Social Development Module-2.
- A total of 713 married couples received a one day orientation on gender issues. The targets for number of person days training for opinion leaders and couples' orientation were under-achieved due to a delay in the selection and verification of CPHHs.
- The capacity building of thirty Union Parishad Functionaries of the programme area was completed in this quarter.

2.3.2 Social Protection:

During the quarter a total of 445 emergency grants, each of Tk. 2,000 were distributed to the households affected by river erosion, domestic fire, etc. Moreover, 19,046 blankets were distributed among CPHHs of cohort 2.3 and the recipients of community safety-nets and IEP safety net grants. During the same period the CPHHs collectively helped 865 poor families under the community safety net and 2,432 households without any able body to participate in earth moving work received IEP (Infrastructure and Employment Project) safety-net grants. The target for the number of community safety net recipients was underachieved because of a shortfall in the number of SD groups formed (reason explained above). Usually SD group members choose recipients of their support/help after a few weekly meetings.

2.3.3 Health:

During the quarter a total of 1,053 satellite clinics operated against a target of 1,216 and the Paramedics and Char Shasthya Karmis (CSKs) together provided 60,559 consultations for core and non core participants (non-core participation was 16%). The target for the number of patients from non CPHHs was underachieved because of an unwillingness to pay the consultation fee of Tk. 10. The reason that 163 satellite clinics did not operate was because some IMOs were unable to fill Paramedic vacancies in addition to some Paramedics resigning during the quarter.

During the quarter 68,181 participants attended 3,392 Health, Nutrition Education (HNE) sessions conducted by the CSKs (non-core participant attendance was 21%). Other notable achievements included:

- Progress of the first quarter was reviewed in the quarterly review meeting and the same was also shared in PM's meeting held in December at RDA.
- The IMOs observed Global Hand Washing Day on 25th October and National De-worming

Week between 25th-31st October in a befitting manner. World AIDS Day was also observed by the IMOs in coordination with the Government on 1st December.

- Newly recruited IMOs completed their preliminary work (staff recruitment, training, orientation, etc.) to start operating satellite clinics.
- 4 batches of Community-Integrated Management of Child Illness training imparted for 80 CSKs of RDRS-K, RSDA, AID-Comilla and Solidarity.
- 16 CSKs of NDP and ASEAB received basic training in Pabna and the same training was provided to 10 CSKs of MMS in Tangail.
- CLP will not be supporting 65 CSKs of CLP 2.1 areas from January 2012 but in order to enable them to continue their business CLP provided each of them a one time grant of Tk. 2,000 which includes basic drug, family planning and health commodities.
- Health contracts for the IMOs of Rangpur and Nilphamari District were extended up to June, 2012.

2.3.4 Education:

A total of 4,314 students are studying in 161 learning centers. During the quarter, a 12-day subject based training on Class-V textbooks was conducted by FIVDB for 161 teachers. A total of 4,314 sets of National Curriculum and Textbook Board books for Grade-V have been distributed among the students which were collected last year from the Upazila government education offices.

Procurement of exercise books (*khatas*), bags and uniforms is currently underway. It is expected that all materials will be received and distributed by the first week of January 2012.

Monthly follow-up training for teachers and Centre Management Committee members continued as per plan.

2.3.5 Village Savings and Loans Project:

This is the first year in which the Village Savings and Loans project (VSL) has started working with all interested non-core households. Some of the key activities undertaken by the VSL project during the quarter include:

- A total of 286 core VSL groups have been formed with 6,440 members against targets of 207 and 4,554 respectively. These groups have already started conducting their meetings regularly (both share and loan meetings). Preparatory work has been completed to form more new groups during the quarter.
- A total of 358 non-core VSL groups have been formed with 7,760 members. Respective targets for these two indicators were 321 and 7,062. As with the core VSL groups they also have started conducting their meetings regularly (both share meeting and loan meeting).
- A total of 256 groups (244 core and 12 non-core groups) have shared out their capital at the end of the 1st cycle (first year). The average share out money per group and member is Tk. 55,682 and Tk. 2,464 respectively. All these groups (both core and non-core) have started their second cycle with an initial seed capital of Tk. 2,257,800.
- 25 newly recruited Village Savings Officers (VSOs) received a five-day basic training and are now fully engaged with formation of VSL groups in the field.
- As per the workplan, a team of 12 persons from VSOs, Village Savings Supervisors (VSSs) and District Microfinance Officers (DMOs) made an exposure visit to TARANGO VSL project in Bandarban, Chittagong between 26th November – 1st December. The team visited 4 group meetings (both share and loan) with the Marma and Muslim community. Some learning, like re-organising the passbook, will be incorporated in the CLP's VSL project.

Targets associated with VSL groups for non core households were not fully achieved because of the shortfall in the formation of SD group targets (explained above). The VSL project can't start working before the SD groups are formed and start having weekly meetings. Furthermore, VSL groups are first formed with CPHHs and then with non-CPHHs.

Human Development activities for the next quarter

The following table shows key Human Development targets for the period January – March 2012.

Indicator	Target for next quarter (January–March, 2012)
<i>Social Development</i>	
# of SD groups formed	31
# of female HH members benefiting from SD groups	1,419
# of male HH members benefiting from SD groups	1,364
# of CPHH members enrolled in SD groups	773
# of SD groups currently active	1,484
# of person-days of SD training provided to CPHHs	314,534
# of VDCs formed	20
# of VDCs currently active	202
# of adolescent girls groups formed	11
# of adolescent girls enrolled	220
# of adolescent girls groups active	203
# of adolescent boys groups formed	12
# of adolescent boys enrolled	240
# of adolescent boys groups active	204
# of person days training provided for opinion leaders	506
# of person days training provided for male orientation	1,197
# of person days training provided for couples' (husband & wife)	3,598
# of Community Melas held	23
<i>Social Protection</i>	
# of community safety net recipients enrolled	405
# of people currently receiving Community Safety Nets	788
# of Emergency Grants provided	1,031
<i>Health</i>	
# of satellite clinics conducted	1,400
# of patient consultations	79,800
# of patients from CPHHs	68,613
# of patients from non-CPHHs	11,187
# of Health, Nutrition and Education (HNE) sessions conducted	5,600
# of participants HNE sessions	112,000
# of CPHH members	89,600
# of non-CPHH members	22,400
<i>Education</i>	
# of learning centres operational	161
# of children studying in learning centers	4,314
# of girls	2,215
# of boys	2,099
<i>Village Savings and Loans</i>	
# of core VSL groups formed	333
# of female HH members benefiting from core VSL groups	13,616
# of male HH members benefiting from core VSL groups	13,082
# of CPHH members enrolled in core VSL groups	7,416
# of core VSL groups active	1,333
# of CPHH members active in core VSL groups	28,305

Indicator	Target for next quarter (January-March, 2012)
# of non-Core VSL groups formed	515
# of non-CPHH members enrolled	12,475
# of non-core VSL groups active	1,176
# of non-CPHH members active in non-core VSL groups	27,034

2.4 Livelihoods Development

The following table shows progress against key Livelihoods' Development targets for the period July'11 – December '11.

Indicator	July'11 – September '11		October'11 – December'11		% progress towards 6 monthly target
	Target	Achievem't	Target	Achievem't	
<i>Asset Transfer</i>					
# of CPHHs received assets	0	0	2,500	1,740	70%
# of female HH members benefiting from assets transferred	0	0	4,591	3,135	70%
# of male HH members benefiting from assets transferred	0	0	3,069	3,069	70%
# of CPHHs received cattle as primary asset	0	0	2,470	1,718	70%
# of CPHHs received cross-bred cattle as primary asset	0	0	145	96	66%
# of CPHHs received local cattle as primary asset	0	0	2,325	1,622	70%
# of CPHHs received land lease as primary asset	0	0	30	21	70%
# of CPHHs received stipends (for 1 st time)	0	0	1,800	1,064	59%
<i>Home Gardening</i>					
# of CPHHs completed HG training	6,500	6,500	0	0	100%
# of person days HG training provided to CPHHs	9,000	9,000	17,601	9,443	74%
# of CPHHs completed compost training	6,000	6,000	0	0	100%
# of person days compost training provided to CPHHs	6,000	6,000	5,399	4,481	97%
# of CPHHs received vegetable seeds	0	0	13,500	6,638	49%
# of CPHHs received all tree saplings	0	0	0	0	-
# of CPHHs established	300	300	4,000	1,981	53%

Indicator	July'11 – September '11		October'11 – December'11		% progress towards 6 monthly target
	Target	Achievem't	Target	Achievem't	
compost pits					
# of vegetable pits established by CPHHs	0	0	53,500	18,982	35%
# of plinths planted with grass / fodder	0	0	0	0	-
<i>Livestock</i>					
# of CPHHs completed livestock training	2,800	2,800	5,500	5,262	102%
# of person days livestock training provided to CPHHs	16,500	16,500	19,000	16,187	95%
# of cattle vaccinated (4 doses)	1,500	1,500	200	210	75%
# of cattle de-wormed (3 doses)	150	150	1,000	1,636	155%
# of cattle artificially inseminated	500	500	400	435	88%
<i>Fodder production</i>					
# of people completed field training on fodder	0	0	0	0	-
# of person days field training on fodder production provided	1,598	1,508	5,099	3,602	76%
# active fodder growers	431	322	2,161	2,126	94%
Area under cultivation (acres or 100 decimals)	7	18	250	233	98%
Total production of fresh fodder (kg)	216,508	351,513	565,600	6,300	46%
Total Fodder sold (kg)	42,020	77,627	93,400	950	58%
Average price/kg	25	32	3	6	135%
Total fodder consumed (kg)	166,583	256,478	472,200	5,350	41%
<i>Poultry rearing</i>					
# of people completed field training on poultry rearing	0	0	0	0	-
# of CPHHs	0	0	0	0	-
# of non-CPHHs	0	0	0	0	-
# of person days field training on poultry rearing provided	13,534	12,508	26,976	25,478	94%
Average monthly income from poultry made by trained HHs	14,229	10,031		1,197	79%
# of new poultry vaccinators trained	0	0	80	7	9%

Indicator	July'11 – September '11		October'11 – December'11		% progress towards 6 monthly target
	Target	Achievem't	Target	Achievem't	
<i>Milk marketing</i>					
# of people completed field training on milk marketing	0	0	0	0	-
# of CPHHs	0	0	0	0	-
# of non-CPHHs	0	0	0	0	-
# of person days field training on milk marketing provided	2,502	2,259	6,857	5,662	85%
Average monthly income from milk sales made by trained HHs	779	1064	858	866	Monthly Target
Average price/litre milk	30	27	32	31	Monthly Target
Average quantity of milk sold per HH trained (litres)	26	26	27	26	Monthly Target
Average quantity of milk consumed per HH trained (litres)	9	8	12	12	Monthly Target

Asset transfer:

During the quarter the Livelihoods Development Unit continued to provide support to 17,113 CPHHs from cohorts 2.1 and 2.2 (including second tier CPHHs). The Unit provided assets to 1,740 CPHHs from cohort 2.3 against a target of 2,500 (the total number of CPHHs to be supported in cohort 2.3 will be 17,500). 1,718 purchased cattle (96 purchased crossbred cattle), 21 invested in land leasing and 1 in a shallow pumping machine (for irrigation). The target was not quite achieved as the desired quality and quantity of cattle were not available in the market. This had a knock-on effect for other targets such as livestock training and stipend distribution. The shortfall in targets will be made up during the next quarter.

Livestock training:

5,262 CPHHs completed the full training module on livestock rearing against the target of 5,500. A total of 16,187 person days training for CPHHs from cohorts 2.1 to 2.3 were provided on livestock rearing against the target of 19,000 person days.

Stipend distribution:

The final monthly grant of the family income support stipend to cohort 2.1 CPHHs was completed during the quarter. CPHHs for cohort 2.2 continued to receive their stipends and a total of 1,064 CPHHs from cohort 2.3 started to receive their stipends against the target of 1,800.

Vaccination and de-worming of ATP cattle through voucher scheme:

A total of 210 cattle under asset transfer project of cohort 2.2 were vaccinated against the four major diseases of Anthrax, Foot and Mouth disease (FMD), Black Quarter (BQ) and Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS) against the target of 200. During the quarter 1,636 cattle under cohort 2.1 received 3 rounds of de-worming against the target of 1,000. Achievement was more than the target because some cattle were de-wormed in advance of CPHHs CLP2.1 phasing out from January 2012.

Artificial insemination:

During the quarter a total of 435 cattle were artificially inseminated with improved semen against the target of 400. This brings the total of 3,390 cattle inseminated of which 1,071 have become pregnant. 429 calves have been born.

Establishment of Homestead garden and compost pit:

During the quarter a total of 6,638 CPHHs received winter vegetable seeds and established gardens on their homestead against the target 13,500. In addition, 1,985 compost pits were established against the target 4,000. Targets were not achieved due to a delay in seed distribution caused by the CPHH baseline survey. The shortfall in targets will be made up during the next quarter.

Homestead gardening training:

During the quarter, the Unit achieved 9,443 person days training on vegetable, seed and fruit tree production and cultivation against a target of 17,601 person days. In addition, a total of 4,481 person days training was provided for compost production against a target of 5,399 person days. Vegetable production training targets were not met due to the delayed baseline survey. The reason for under achievement of compost production training was due to staff resignations in some IMOs. Vacancies have now been filled and the shortfall in targets will be made up during the next quarter.

Milk marketing:

The main activities of the milk marketing project during the quarter were training for 10% of total core participants on milk cow management, collective selling of milk by collectors, collector training etc. and participant selection based on cattle purchase.

5,662 training person days were conducted for cow rearers against the target of 6,857 person days (i.e. 85% target achieved so far). This target was slightly underachieved because of late signing of contracts with the IMOs due to an internal review of these projects.

The average milk production per cow rearer is approximately 31 litres per month, of which household consumption is on average 12 litres. 37 collectors are currently collecting milk from the cow rearers at Tk. 31/ litre. A baseline data collection and participant (i.e. cow rearers) selection of 10% participants for CLP 2 phase 3 is ongoing.

The CPHHs under CLP 2 phase 3 who have purchased young heifers that will start producing milk when they mature and after calving. Scattered households and low milk productivity are the key constraints to growth of this sector.

Fodder production:

The main activities of this project during the quarter included training on how to cultivate fodder, seed purchase by CPHHs, and sowing. Participants also harvested fodder, made sales and used some of the crop for their own purposes.

3,602 training person days were achieved against a total target of 5,099 person days (i.e. 76% achieved). This target was slightly underachieved because of late signing of contracts with the IMOs due to an internal review of these projects. Field meetings and training were conducted in 240 sessions on subjects including land preparation, seed procurement and sowing of seeds. The land area under production during the quarter was approximately 233 acres. A total of 6,300 KGs of fresh fodder was harvested of which 950 KGs was sold to other households.

The targeted number of fodder participants is 10% of CPHHs. Whilst the CLP is not providing any direct inputs the Programme is providing training. The major challenge for fodder cultivation is the shortage of High Yielding Variety (HYV) fodder crop seed (e.g. sweet jumbo, imported from Australia). Thus far, seed vendors have not been willing to import these seeds and so the CLP is trying to encourage them to do so. The CPHHs involved in this project are scattered throughout the *chars* which makes it more difficult to organise them for training sessions.

Improved cook stoves:

GUK-G had the contract for this project but this has now finished and will not be renewed. The CLP will review its approach to introducing Improved Cook Stoves to the *chars*.

Poultry rearing:

The main activities of this project during the quarter included training for model rearers, vaccinator's development, model house building, vaccination and feed selling. 25,478 person training days were conducted among the poultry participants (all CPHHs) on rearing techniques during 1,274 against the target of 1,300 (i.e. 98% achieved for the period). In addition, 3,465 poultry model rearers were trained against the target of 3,664 (i.e. 95% achieved so far).

131 person days refresher training were held for vaccinators and 23 vaccinators selected and attended in a day long basic training. 16 model poultry rearing houses were built by participants. A total of 140,504 doses of poultry vaccines (106,859 Baby Chick Ranikhet Disease Vaccine/BCRDV and 33,645 Ranikhet Disease Vaccine/RDV) were administered by the vaccinators to CPHHs based on their chicken and the number of chicks been hatched. In addition, approximately 19,144 Kg of commercial poultry feed was sold by the vaccinators based on feed requirement.

The targeted # of new poultry vaccinators training were not achieved (i.e. 9%) during this period due to delay in project review process, contract signing, baseline and poultry participant selection process completion. This will be a focus for the next quarter and the shortfall in targets will be made up.

Other activities implemented during the quarter:

During the quarter, the Livelihoods Development Unit organised IMO's staff training on livestock rearing and homestead gardening. A total of 150 staff participated in homestead gardening training and 160 participated in livestock rearing training. The training courses were conducted by CLP staff. In addition, preparatory meetings were conducted with IMO's staff for the implementation of livelihoods activities under cohort 2.3. Initiatives were taken to print pass books, vouchers, leaflets and bags for cohort 2.3 CPHHs.

IMO's staff training was held on poultry, milk and fodder projects during the quarter. A total of 96 staff attended the training. The training courses were conducted by CLP staff

Livelihoods' Development activities for the next quarter

The following table shows key Livelihoods' Development targets for the period January – March 2012.

Indicator	Target for next quarter (January–March, 2012)
<i>Asset Transfer</i>	
# of CPHHs received assets	11,750
# of female HH members benefiting from assets transferred	21,573
# of male HH members benefiting from assets transferred	20,727
# of CPHHs received cattle as primary asset	11,490
# of CPHHs received cross-bred cattle as primary asset	735
# of CPHHs received local cattle as primary asset	10,755
# of CPHHs received land lease as primary asset	210
# of CPHHs received other assets as primary asset	50
# of CPHHs received stipends (for 1st time)	11,345
<i>Home Gardening</i>	
# of CPHHs completed HG training	0
# of person days HG training provided to CPHHs	5,783
# of CPHHs completed compost training	5,784
# of person days compost training provided to CPHHs	10,610
# of CPHHs received vegetable seeds	1,961
# of CPHHs received all tree saplings	0
# of CPHHs established compost pits	9,094
# of vegetable pits established by CPHHs	4,300
# of plinths planted with grass / fodder	0
<i>Livestock</i>	
# of CPHHs completed livestock training	508
# of person days livestock training provided to CPHHs	31,903
# of cattle vaccinated (4 doses)	1,950
# of cattle de-wormed (3 doses)	3,460
# of cattle artificially inseminated	985
<i>Fodder production</i>	
# of people completed field training on fodder	0
# of person days field training on fodder production provided	6,848
# active fodder growers	3,585
Area under cultivation (acres or 100 decimals)	319
Total production of fresh fodder (kg)	1,320,129
Total Fodder sold (kg)	305,883
Average price/kg	3

Indicator	Target for next quarter (January–March, 2012)
Total fodder consumed (kg)	1,014,246
<i>Poultry rearing</i>	
# of people completed field training on poultry rearing	0
# of CPHHs	0
# of non-CPHHs	0
# of person days field training on poultry rearing provided	27,943
Average monthly income from poultry made by trained HHs	438
# of new poultry vaccinators trained	106
<i>Milk marketing</i>	
# of people completed field training on milk marketing	0
# of CPHHs	0
# of non-CPHHs	0
# of person days field training on milk marketing provided	7,272
Average monthly income from milk sales made by trained HHs	794
Average price/litre milk	31
Average quantity of milk sold per HH trained (litres)	24
Average quantity of milk consumed per HH trained (litres)	11

2.5 Market Development

Market Development in Transition in the CLP

In 2011, following recommendations made in the review of December 2010, the CLP followed the adoption of a Making Markets work for the Poor (M4P) approach. M4P is an innovative and emerging approach focusing on systemic change of markets, promoting greater integration of the poorer segments of the community into a market system. To pave the way for a new team adopting the new approach, the CLP transferred the majority of its poultry, fodder and milk projects to management of the Livelihoods Unit, leaving the Livestock Service Provider Project (LSPP) as MDU's sole project responsibility.

A new Unit Manager, Mr Bani Amin, started with CLP and the recruitment of further key personnel (Coordinators and District level staff) are underway. Two international consultants have joined the team to support the design of structure and planned work. The consultants have each made their first visits to the programme areas and held meetings with some key stakeholders. The unit has set its target to select 3-5 potential sectors by the end of March 2012. Initial thoughts point to building on CLP's undoubted strength in the various aspects of livestock sectors such as dairy, meat, manure, fodder, veterinary services, and irrigation. The MDU will support enhancing the competitiveness of the selected sectors focusing on generation of new income to the benefit of the poorer *char* dwellers especially.

Livestock Service Providers Project (LSPP):

24 new LSPs were developed in the quarter of which 3 were women. The target of 32 LSPs developed was not fully achieved but the shortfall will be met during the next quarter. In order to introduce these newly trained LSPs in the community, 51 vaccination campaigns were conducted during the reporting quarter. The project trained 71 new LSPs with the 1st LSP training module. 44 CLP-1 LSPs were given a refresher course to update their skills with contemporary knowledge and practices. The LSP refresher training target was not fully achieved because the DLSOs (District

Livestock Service Officer) could not manage as they were selecting and training the new LSPs in 2.3 working areas. The shortfall in this target will be met during the next quarter. The project also trained 11 District Livestock Service Officers (DLSOs) on ToT for LSPs. These DLSOs are now ready to facilitate training sessions for developing new LSPs.

For enhancing access of LSPs to quality veterinary medicines and vaccines, the CLP facilitated 21 linkage meetings (one in each Upazilla) with CLP DLSOs, and input sellers. At the beneficiary level, all livestock of cohort 2.1 in Gaibandha district have been served with 4 doses of different vaccines.

The community vaccination campaign target was not fully achieved because not all LSPs had been developed. This shortfall will be met during the next quarter.

The following table shows progress against key Market Development targets for the period July – December '11.

Indicators	July – September '11		October – December		% progress towards 6 monthly target
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
LSP developed	0	0	32	24	75
LSP Training (man-days)	525	468	1288	1467	114
LSP refreshers course	25	29	67	44	79
Earning TK >4000	31	35	31	36	114
Community vaccination campaign	25	7	50	51	77

Market Development activities for the next quarter

The MDU will develop a shortlist of potential market sector analysts (termed "co-facilitators") for strengthening potential sectors to pilot using M4P approach, select 3-5 sectors, develop sector specific ToR for co-facilitators, send the ToR to short listed entities with request for proposals, evaluate and contract agencies to start analysis and pilot interventions. The unit also targets to complete the recruitment of required staff in the quarter.

The table below shows key LSPP targets for the period of January – March 2012.

Indicator	Target for next quarter (January–March, 2012)
New LSP developed	71
Man days training for LSPs	1200
CLP-1 LSP refreshers course	100
Community vaccination campaign	42
LSPs earning >4000	60

3. Innovation, Monitoring and Learning Division

Innovation, Monitoring and Learning overview

The focus of the Innovation, Monitoring and Learning's (IML) work during the quarter was on redesigning the CLP's website and content; undertaking the annual socio-economic and nutrition survey; and completing and presenting the poverty assessment work which outlines the CLP's proposed approach to graduation criteria.

In addition, IML continued to manage demand driven studies, monitor the progress of CPHHs against a set of indicators, manage the output verification and customer satisfaction survey contractors and develop a range of briefing notes.

Two Young Professionals (YPs), Reuben Blackie and Nicola Melvor, currently form part of the IML team. Both YPs will be leaving the CLP in the near future and consequently IML began the process of recruiting their replacements.

Improved Visibility of the CLP

The IML Division now has an established Communications Unit which is headed by Md. Kabir Hossain. The core activities of the Communications Unit during the quarter included:

- **Redesigning the CLP website and its content:** The new website will go 'live' during the next quarter;
- **Developing new communications products:** Prompted by the Poverty Day event hosted by shiree/ EEP and the design of the new website, the Communications Unit updated various communications materials including background briefs to the CLP;
- **Helping to facilitate visitors to the CLP:** The CLP received a number of visits during the quarter including a high level team from DFID-B during October (led by Gwen Hines, DFID-B Country Representative) and a visit by Mr Tan Copey, Research Manager of the South Asia Climate Talk Group) during December.
- **Increasing awareness of the CLP:** During the quarter there were several mentions of the CLP's work in the national press. The CLP made its presence at various events to raise awareness about the Programme and poverty issues e.g. the Poverty Day and Victory Day events.

Monthly verification of CLP Outputs and Customer Satisfaction Surveys

Research, Training and Management International (RTMI) continues to verify, on a monthly basis, a sample of 5 to 10% of outputs delivered by the IMOs. No significant variations between reported and actual outputs were found by RTMI this quarter. They are responsible for verifying the quality and quantity of reported outputs i.e. outputs that were delivered during the previous month, and for reporting back to IML. Findings are shared immediately with the Operations Division so that activities can be adjusted where necessary. This is also a useful tool for deterring potential leakage.

Another tool to deter leakage, but also to provide feedback on Community Development Organiser / IMO performance and monitor processes as they are actually happening (rather than one month after the event) is the Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS). Any issues that arise from the CSS are immediately raised with the IML Division and then relayed to the Operations Division. During the quarter IML contracted Data Management Aid to undertake CSS at cattle markets and IEP work sites. The CLP has placed IEP funds through a total of 24 UPs and CSS and monitoring visits by CLP staff have identified six UPs that have made various efforts to misappropriate funds.

Household level surveys

During the quarter IML conducted its major annual survey which takes place around October/ November each year. This annual survey collects the nutritional and socio-economic status of newly recruited CPHHs (baseline) and a sample of CPHHs from previous cohorts and as well as CLP-1.

Historically, the CLP has used the 'pipeline' approach to controls whereby the progress of previous cohorts is compared against the baseline status of each new, annual cohort. IML continues with this approach but introduced an additional control group. The baseline status of a sample of

CPHHs in villages where the CLP will not work for at least another year (possibly two years) was collected during the quarter. The CLP will therefore be able to make comparisons between these households and cohort 2.3 households, who are now receiving their assets and who also had their baseline status assessed during the quarter.

In addition to monitoring the progress of CPHHs IML also initiated, concluded and / or shared the results of important studies that focused on particular issues during the quarter. Presentations were made to various audiences including the extreme poverty research group, internally to the CLP team (including EDs and PMs) on three studies which were concluded last quarter. These studies were:

- A review of the CLP's selection and graduation criteria;
- Seasonal demand for labour on island *chars* and its effect on migration and remittances;
- The Tier 2 Pilot: Reviewing the decision not to scale-up and exploring the relationship between sharecropping and income.

Another important study was concluded during the quarter which focused on assessing the performance of three loan products piloted by the CLP during CLP-1 (beef fattening, chilli production and land leasing). The report will be published and findings shared next quarter. The IML managed study on micro-finance coverage on the *chars* is also drawing to an end and the results will be published next quarter.

IML also commenced the design of a survey intended to verify the findings of the Independent Impact Assessment in relation to calf mortality and milk enterprise sustainability. The survey will be conducted independently of the CLP through a private company, and led by a distinguished livestock expert from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh. Data collection will take place during the next quarter.

The Division also managed a follow up survey to categorise *chars* i.e. whether they could be classed as island *chars*, and re-assess the need to move into additional Districts.

4. Partnerships and Relations Division

The CLP's Partnerships and Relations Division (PRD) has the responsibility of:

- Partnerships: target the "crowding-in" of complementary services (GoB and donor-led) to the *chars* in a multitude of disciplines but especially in such areas as education and health delivery, agricultural production, animal welfare, support to the handicapped and gender issues. Partnership activities target two overriding objectives. First, increased sustainability of CLP activities and second, improved service provision and choice for *char* communities;
- Advocacy: work with partners; especially the GoB but also including leading NGOs, donors and similar programmes, to improve access to citizens rights and representation;
- Frontline relations with partner organisations: liaise, particularly with partner IMO's and special service providers, and
- Human resources: lead on HR issues within the CLP to cover recruitment, evaluation, promotion and discipline;

The following activities in PRD have taken place during the quarter:

Partnerships

- BRAC has taken over CLP's health activities in Shaghata upazila and part of Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha district. However, BRAC has now decided that it is unlikely to take over health activities in any other CLP-2 areas. This is pending BRAC's decision to be taken in January 2012;
- PRD has initiated discussions with a CIDA funded Disability and MCH project based in Savar which plans to work in five regions of Bangladesh, till now not decided;
- SwissContact, which was awarded the M4C contract by The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has started its preliminary planning work and has had meetings with CLP Market Development Unit (MDU) in December 2011. CLP's Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader provided support in the development of the supporting government documents, especially the TPP. Further meetings are to be held to agree sectors and geographical areas in which both will work in the support of *chars*;

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- Now that the Development Project Proforma for CLP has been approved by ECNEC (December, 2011), PRD has arranged a January 2012 meeting with the Department of Primary & Mass Education to determine how new primary schools can be approved for the CLP-1 & 2 char villages, where there are insufficient numbers of primary schools. Further discussions are also to be held with BRAC's Education section in this regard;
 - PRD attended a meeting in December with the Trade & Investment Section of the British High Commission and contact with companies that are members of the British Business Group are to be followed up to secure support from any relevant Corporate Social Responsibility funds;
 - In addition, CLP shares its learning and experiences through different fora; a) Advocacy Steering Committee coordinated by SHIREE; b) Extreme Poverty Research Group also coordinated by SHIREE. Another example is that CLP has shared its Income and Expenditure Monitoring & Evaluation tools and techniques with an M&E organization, 'Trickle Up', in the USA.

Advocacy

- In the field of advocacy related to the distribution of khas land to CLP Core Participants, PRD has held further discussions with the Secretary of the Ministry of Land in Dhaka. In this connection, a meeting has been arranged to agree with the Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram District in which Unions this can be piloted. At the proposed meeting with Deputy Commissioner Kurigram, PRD will seek agreement to look into the provision of all Safety Net allowances in the same Unions also on a pilot basis;

Relations with Partner Organisations

Working with the IMOs, the PRD has led on the random verification of the 17,500 Core Participant Households which are being selected in this fiscal year. Over 50% of these core participant households have been selected in this quarter and at least 5% have been verified against CLP's selection criteria. In addition, PRD arranged quarterly meetings of both IMO's Executive Directors and Programme Managers, which took place in this quarter.

Human Resources

PRD also ensured that CLP's HR Personnel Records and HR Manual have been updated as necessary during this quarter and the Annual Performance Appraisal Form has been revised.

Future priorities for the PRD are:

- Ensuring the efficient start of IMOs' fieldwork in northern Jamalpur;
- Monitoring the establishment and functioning of new CLP district offices in Jamalpur district;
- Completing of the verification of the balance of 17,500 new CPHHs for asset transfer cohort 2.3;
- Continuing the monitoring of BRAC's health activities in Shagata and Fulchari upazilas, Gaibandha district;
- Continuing the dialogue with CIDA funded Disability and MCH project based in Savar;
- Initiating the search for other health related partners to 'crowd in';
- Now that SwissContact has started the SDC funded Market Development activities, to ensure that close collaboration takes place between SwissContact and CLP;
- Finalizing the education possibilities with the Primary & Mass Education Department of the Government of Bangladesh and BRAC;
- In selected 'pilot' unions in Kurigram, PRD will initiate efforts to ensure that khas land is allotted to CLP CPHHs and that GoB 'safety net' grants reach the correct recipients; and
- Contacting the best pharmaceutical and other companies re their Corporate Social Responsibility schemes and how they will assist CLP's work.

5. Finance Division

The Finance division experienced back to back high activity disbursements within both quarters one and two with approximate cumulative project expenditure over £7.1m. During the quarter under review only financial expenditure accumulated over £3.7m, which is almost 8% higher than the previous quarter. The department oversaw and carried out over 4,500 financial accounting transactions during the mentioned quarter to carry out effective financial stewardship within partner organisations.

As DFID's FY runs from the first of April to end of March of the following year, at the end of the calendar year 2011 we are already at quarter three of DFID's financial year. It is to be noted that financial and operational planning were carried out in this quarter to ensure that the CLP is within DFID financial forecast threshold. Change in internal work plan budget is conducted to ensure that resources are available at its strategic point, henceforth, budgets are amended to ensure that CLP achieves DFID target for the FY. It is expected that the New Year, January 2012 will start off with a potential influx of invoices arising from the contract amendments with various IMOs. This will contribute to disbursement of around £1.5m for the month only. As "dry season" infrastructure activities are in full swing now and Asset Transfer has started and will continue over the next months, the disbursement rate in February and March 2012 will continue to be on the higher end of the margin.

In quarter two the CLP Finance division carried out external audits of all its partner organizations by an independent Chartered Accountancy practice with a focus on the previous FY. The audited financial statements and management reports were generally good and stated that partner organisations are strictly following CLP procedures and control. However, certain weaknesses were identified during the mission, and remedial actions have been taken. On top of the external audit mission, the CLP finance and procurement units carried out systematic internal audit to identify risk areas and weaknesses. A presentation session was held with the Executive Directors and Project Managers of all partners to notify and identify areas of concern. In the coming quarter, the internal audit team will take steps to work on those areas to overcome such due diligence issues.

Purchase, installation of and training on CLP accounting software was provided and finalized during quarter two for the new partner organisations. Over a period of several weeks the Finance department was engaged in supporting the Deputy Team Leader to obtain "no objection" certification from GoB auditors. Most of the points were related to GoB Tax & Vat, along with PD's allowance, and hand over of CLP 1 assets to the relevant GoB ministry.

During the quarter Finance Division also took part in the yearly beneficiary verification to find out the leakage of beneficiary selection. The division also produced more real time financial and contractual reports along with various VfM exercises throughout the period to help other units to have a clear picture of the fund utilization on a real time basis.

Some of the key actions and interventions by contract and procurement Unit during the quarter include the following:

- Major procurement items like- school bags, printing materials for Livelihoods and Market Development unit, VSL boxes, refrigerators for LSP, mobile set with SIM have been included in the supply chain.
- A consolidate procurement plan divided in two parts-core management part and programme activities part has been submitted to both Crown Agents and DFID.
- A total number of 19,046 blankets have been collected through Crown Agents for distributing among the CPHHs of 2.3, IEP Safety Net and Community Safety Net Grants Recipients. CLP also conducted a successful market survey to ensure justified pricing of the blankets which eventually helped Crown Agents to achieve a huge cost saving.
- As per the procurement plan submitted to Crown Agents and DFID, CLP submitted various indents to CA to start the initiative of procurement.
- Contract also worked with Communications Unit to develop some official designs like- official envelop and staff ID card.
- Contract and procurement also took part in different assessment process for selecting consultancy firms.

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- All the agreements of IEP-IMO and IEP-UP have been developed and dispatched during the quarter.
 - Amendments on Social development, Health and IEP contracts are being issued on need basis.
 - Procurement completed all the necessary purchases regarding the furniture of two new guest houses in Pabna and Tangail.
 - Two lease agreements with landlord for two new district offices in Jamalpur and Lalmonirhat were issued in this quarter.
 - Contract and procurement worked together with IML to produce a brief on cost saving.
 - Some of the key actions taken by Administration are as follows:
 - a) Visa and passbook extension of some of the senior team members have been done by Administration.
 - b) Administration dispatched all the blankets procured through Crown Agents among all the partners following the distribution list.
 - c) Major repairing works were completed for office PABX system and photocopier.
 - d) As per DFID's requirement, CLP Administration completed the vehicle assessment of all CLP vehicles through Rangas and Navana workshops.
 - e) Major repairing work of some CLP vehicles has been initiated in workshops approved by DFID.
 - f) Spare unused motorbikes have been repaired and sent to new partners by Administration to meet the emergency need of field transportation of IMO staff.
 - Some of the key actions taken by IT are as follows:
 - a) 59 sets of IT accessories have been configured to distribute among the IMOs.
 - b) 14 NetBooks and 9 Laptops are also being configured and distributed among the CLP district staffs.
 - c) Local Area Network (LAN) facility has been established for the purpose of Internet and printing in two new district offices in Tangail and Pabna.
 - d) Reviewed project IT budget up to 2016.
 - e) Conducted analysis report on existing hardware equipment and requested procurement to procure necessary IT accessories for CLP Secretariat.
 - f) Regular help desk IT related services have been ensured on a demand basis.

6. Short Term Consultancies

The CLP received three inputs from short term consultants during the quarter. Mr Brian Milton and Mr Mike Albu made support visits and provided inputs to shape the Market Development Unit's strategy and working relationships. Dr. Rie Goto provided nutrition training to a team of enumerators collecting nutrition data on behalf of IML.

7. Next Quarter's Activities

As the CLP enters the third quarter of its financial year (January - March 2012), priorities lie in several main directions:

1. Prepare for the annual review and work with the team who are scheduled to visit the CLP at the end of February (CLP team);
2. Agree a revised, detailed work plan and budget for the remainder of the financial year with DFID (Management);
3. Attend the Programme Steering Committee likely to take place during the quarter;
4. Continue to staff the Market Development Unit and manage international consultancy inputs (Management); and
5. Ensure that priority activities of group formation, household plinth raising and associated works, and asset transfer continue to be facilitated smoothly (Human Development , Infrastructure and Livelihoods Units);

More specifically, the most significant activities/ deliverables by Unit are shown below:

Unit	Significant Activities
Human Development Unit	<p>Completing verification of core households of the increased allocation;</p> <p>Completing formation of remaining SD groups, VDCs and Adolescent groups;</p> <p>Continue campaigning on total sanitation;</p> <p>Continue conducting weekly groups meetings, monthly VDC meetings and quarterly meetings of Adolescent groups;</p> <p>Continuing operating health satellite clinics in all working Districts,</p> <p>Continue formation of VSL groups with both core and non-core households and conducting share and loan meetings of the existing VSL groups;</p> <p>Continue implementing the activities of Education Project.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>Plinth will be raised above 0.6m of highest flood line for 2,915 households in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Tangail and Pabna districts.</p> <p>At least 20 concrete pillars with highest flood mark will be constructed and installed in 20 villages for reference of plinth height.</p> <p>3,000 low cost latrines (consisting of bamboo basket or other materials to protect the sand wall, concrete platform with pan and water seal) will be installed for all households (core and no-core) in selected villages.</p> <p>Water of 500 shallow tube wells will be tested for arsenic.</p> <p>\GPS coordinates of 5,000 infrastructure points (plinths, TW, platform, latrine) will be recorded and posted on Google Earth.</p>
Livelihoods	<p>Asset Transfer</p> <p>IMO staff orientation/preparatory meeting and basic technical training;</p> <p>CPHHs orientation meetings;</p> <p>Purchasing of assets for CPHHs;</p> <p>Distribution of stipends to be continued.</p> <p>Artificial Insemination activities will be continued.</p> <p>Homestead Gardening</p> <p>Home garden establishment for CPHHs</p> <p>IMO staff basic technical training on agriculture;</p> <p>CPHHs training on vegetable production;</p> <p>Distribution of vegetable seeds;</p> <p>CPHHs training on compost pit establishment;</p> <p>Livestock</p> <p>CPHHs training and refresher on livestock rearing;</p> <p>Vaccination and de-worming of cattle procured by CPHHs;</p> <p>Artificial insemination of cattle procured by CPHHs.</p> <p>Poultry</p> <p>IMO staff orientation and training;</p> <p>Selection of new CPHHs under cohort 2.3;</p> <p>Organizing refresher and training for vaccinators;</p> <p>Training of model rearers;</p>

Unit	Significant Activities
	<p>Building and demonstration of model houses; Vaccination and feed supply by vaccinators;</p> <p>Fodder Selection of new CPHHs under cohort 2.3; Interested fodder participants selection; Fodder production training for CPHHs; Facilitate and promote importers, local vendors to collect and sale fodder seed to participants;</p> <p>Milk Selection of new CPHHs under cohort 2.3; Collectors selection and training; Milk producers organization and starting of milk sale;</p>
IML	<p>Publishing the updated CLP website; Developing new communications products e.g. alternative media to demonstrate the CLP's impact on CPHHs; Supporting the annual review (and preparing various documentation in advance); Recruiting and integrating two New Young Professionals to the Division Concluding/ initiating/ presenting studies on MFI coverage, calf mortality and 'the reasons why some CPHHs fail'; Concluding graduation criteria</p>
Finance Unit	<p>Fund Management and cumulative forecasting. Internal Audit of IMOs and SSPs VfM coordination assignments. Development of activity based financial reporting among partners. Routine financial management.</p>
Contracts and Procurement	<p>Contract and work order awarding on demand basis. Working with Crown Agents as per submitted procurement plan. Introducing a new format of work order with more specific terms and conditions. Developing a format for regular cost saving exercise. Conducting Procurement Audit among the partners.</p>
Administration	<p>Setting up cellular communication system in secretariat Regular passbook extension work Introducing new staff ID card Setting up cellular communication system in secretariat Regular passbook extension work Introducing new staff ID card</p>
IT	<p>Establishing new Hardware firewall, anti-virus Software and local server at CLP secretariat Setting LAN facility in two district offices in Jamalpur and Lalmonirhat Procuring multimedia projector, UPS battery and several IT accessories for</p>

Unit	Significant Activities
	LAN connection. Developing a list of old IT accessories to be disposed

Annex 1: Financial targets and achievements

SL No.	Activities	Annual Budget (GBP) (Million)	Achievements 2nd Quarter, Q2 (GBP Million)	Approx percentage achievement as at Q2
1	Infrastructure Unit	3.51	1.07	49%
2	Livelihoods Unit	4.80	1.70	66%
3	Market Development Unit	0.66	0.16	50%
4	Human Development Unit	2.34	0.54	54%
5	Innovation, Monitoring and Learning	0.45	0.10	45%
6	IMO Implementation	0.69	0.19	70%
7	Response Fund	0.10	-	0%
	Total	12.55	3.76	57%