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**QUARTERLY REPORT**

**JANUARY – MARCH 2013**

**Chars Livelihoods  
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              |
| CBC   | Char Business Centre                          |
| CLP-2 | Chars Livelihood Programme, Phase 2           |
| CPHH  | Core Participant Household                    |
| CSK   | Char Shasthya Karmis or Village Health Worker |
| DFID  | Department for International Development      |
| DLS   | Department of Livestock Services              |
| DLSO  | District Livestock Services Officers          |
| DPP   | Development Project Proforma                  |
| ED    | Executive Director                            |
| FAO   | Food and Agriculture Organisation             |
| FIVDB | Friends in Village Development Bangladesh     |
| FMD   | Foot and Mouth Disease                        |
| FBG   | Fodder Business Group                         |
| FY    | Financial Year                                |
| GoB   | Government of Bangladesh                      |
| HDU   | Human Development Unit (of the CLP)           |
| IEP   | Infrastructure Employment Project             |
| ILO   | International Labour Organisation             |
| IML   | Innovation, Monitoring and Learning Division  |
| IMO   | Implementing Organisation                     |
| IU    | Infrastructure Unit (of the CLP)              |
| LBG   | Livestock Business Group                      |
| LSP   | Livestock Services Provider                   |
| M4P   | Making Markets work for the Poor              |
| MBG   | Milk Business Group                           |
| MLU   | Markets and Livelihoods Unit (of the CLP)     |
| MoU   | Memorandum of Understanding                   |
| MSP   | Maxwell Stamp PLC                             |

|      |  |
|------|--|
| PAC  | Practical Action Consulting                  |
| PM   | Programme Manager                            |
| 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 January to March 2013. This is the twelfth quarter of CLP-2 and the third quarter of the financial year 2012/13.

### 1.1 Team Leader's Overview of the Quarter

The period covered by this report (January to March 2013) represents the third quarter of the CLP financial year 2012/13 and the final quarter of the DFID FY. This quarter represents a key moment each year for two main reasons. First, it follows on from the annual internal work plan/budget review (held in December 2012) and second it hosts the donor Annual Review (AR).

As far as the work plan / budget review are concerned, the CLP was found to be on target or exceeding most of its programmed activities although spend was not quite at the level anticipated (predominantly due to a favourable exchange rate and value for money initiatives). Thus the CLP was able to increase several of its activity targets, especially in infrastructure. DFID has received the spreadsheets showing changes in targets for the FY.

For the second (the AR), the CLP received a team composed of donor representatives and independent evaluators accompanied by a Government observer from RDCD. The AR occurred in mid-February and lasted two weeks. It was particularly pertinent since it occurred at the mid-term point of the CLP-2. Based on feedback provided to the CLP, to the donors and to Government representatives at RDCD, the review team were satisfied with the progress being made by the programme. The CLP scored an A+ (meaning overall that all targets were marginally exceeded). The CLP team is delighted to receive this peer recognition and especially so since the Partnerships activities; considered poor in the previous review, scored an individual A+. The only area still causing concern is that of Market Development, which nonetheless, scored an individual A (targets achieved). The review team provided many sound recommendations that the CLP and donors will review once the final report is received.

Achieving such a score is more notable given the climatic and political situation prevailing in Bangladesh during the previous months. It should be remembered that October 2012 was a literal washout for the programme with unseasonal and severe floods that meant field activities were seriously impeded. More severe, however, were the number and severity of hartals that occurred during the last six months. While many field activities can still go on – because they take place at union parishad level and hartals are generally not observed at this level or on the chars – they are impacting mainland activities such as the purchase of cattle at markets (*hats*), the collection of funds from mainland banks to pay infrastructure workers (transfer of stipends by bKash is however, a hartal-beating mechanism), training activities at upazila level, community events, and staff movement meetings and supervision of field activities.

Given the current average of two hartals per working week, some areas of CLP activities are necessarily being impacted; meaning that staff are obliged to work longer hours and show great flexibility to maintain the anticipated output rate. Measures taken to mitigate the impact of hartals include travelling early in the morning and after daylight, and working during the weekends and public holidays (non-hartal days) in able to deliver activities and maintain progress. This quarterly report is used to warn the reader that negative impacts of hartals will inevitably be felt going forward and hartal frequency and severity will certainly increase as the General Election approaches. Despite the negative impacts of the hartals, most activities are still well on-track.

In January, the CLP received two high-level visits. The first was by Graham Gass, the new Team Leader of DFID's Livelihoods Team. He spent two days in the field with senior CLP staff and received a rapid overview of the CLP char-based activities. The second visit was by a team from the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) who visited DFID-B to ascertain the effectiveness of aid expenditure in the country. One agenda item was to observe the management mechanism and effectiveness of the CLP whereby UK funds are placed through a Management Agency (Maxwell

Stamp PLC, in this case). The CLP has not seen a report from the mission but informal conversations with the ICAI team and with DFID-B suggest that they were satisfied with their visit.

A further very significant event in January was the agreement and signature of a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) in which BRAC-Health formally agreed to progressively take over CLP health activities in the field. In addition to CLP/BRAC senior staff, Mr Gass (DFID) and Mr Abdoulaye (RDCD) were also in attendance for the ceremony. Less ceremonial but nonetheless important, was the signature of another MoU between the CLP and the Community Legal Services (CLS) programme; another DFID-funded and MSP managed project. Activities between the two programmes are already starting to get underway and will be reported on in the next quarter.

February was dominated by the Annual Review. Most preparation occurred in the first week, the mission itself in the second two weeks and feedback sessions plus reviews of AR documents completed at the end of the month. Nonetheless, the CLP was delighted to welcome Wyn Davies, the new Operations Director at the CLP.

March is always a busy month on the financial side since it coincides with the end of the DFID FY, meaning that the CLP must close its books on the April to March period. The Finance Director will provide the relevant details in his section of this report. The CLP also held its quarterly meeting with IMO Executive Directors (on one day) and Programme managers (on the next). The main discussion point was feedback from the AR but the CLP also underlined the importance of vigilance to corrupt practices on the chars.

The CLP received technical assistance from two sources during the quarter, both in February. The first was by the market development consultant (Brian Milton) and the second from the MSP Programme Manager (Duncan King).

Other key activities during the quarter are as follows these are explained in more detail in the relevant sections of this report:

- 7,961 additional households were raised on plinths, 8,852 low cost latrines were installed, 134 new tube wells sunk and 556 concrete aprons added to existing tube wells. All achievements by the Infrastructure Unit not only exceeded quarterly targets but they managed to do so despite the frequent hartals;
- The Human Development Unit (HDU) organised 41 community fairs ('melas'), and provided 8,854 person days of gender sensitisation training to couples and 2,798 person days to non-core males in CLP villages. HDU exceeded all targets in rolling out its various safety net activities;
- The recently installed Nutrition Project is managed by HDU and the CLP cooperated with the independent team undertaking the baseline study. However, some delays are occurring independent of the CLP;
- HDU's pilot Primary Education Project finished in December although 44 schools are continuing with independent funding. During March, partnerships assisted the British Council in developing a bid for Qatari Foundation Funds to keep the remaining schools open and bring additional ones to the chars;
- The Markets and Livelihoods Unit (MLU) is being impacted by hartals, not only for the procurement of assets but also by being prevented from travelling freely. On the markets front, the number of producer groups formed and active together with the number of nascent business centres exceed January 31<sup>st</sup> targets but ensuring that these physical structures can lead to real changes in markets still remains the challenge;
- As already seen, Partnerships had an active quarter with the signing of the MoU with Brac and another with CLS;
- Finally, the Finance and Procurement Division successfully closed the books on the DFID 2012/13 FY while working with IML to prepare for the next visit of the VfM consultant (Philip White) during the next quarter.

## 1.2 Deputy Team Leader's Overview of the Quarter

At present, the issues around the war crimes trials and the caretaker government system have made the political situation in Bangladesh quite chaotic and confrontational, between the Awami League led grand alliance government and the BNP led opposition alliance. This situation has resulted in extreme political unrest, nationwide violent agitation, many deaths and the damage of property in the country in the form of Hartals. If proper political negotiation of this conflict does not take place, democratic progress will be hindered, spreading huge violence all over the country.

Bangladesh has been able to maintain a comparatively stable economy despite facing many problems in the finance sector. The main strengths of Bangladesh economy are its agriculture, ready made garments export and the remittances of workers employed abroad. Efficient macro-economic management has enabled the country to see export growth, despite a decline in demand in the western economies. The existing monetary policy and bumper production of food grains this year have resulted in some deceleration of inflation and a sustainable moderation in price pressures. Now the country's reserves have grown to \$14 billion, and GDP growth is around six percent. Bangladesh has made significant progress towards achieving the poverty reduction targets set by the MDGs.

## 2. Operations Division

### 2.1 Overview

In view of the negative effects of hartals during the quarter the Infrastructure Unit, Human Development Unit, and Markets and Livelihoods Unit have overall met and/or exceeded majority output targets with progress of activities delivered as planned. This is an outstanding achievement and highlights the commitment of CLP staff and its partner IMOs staff to meet the needs of Char dwellers and deliver planned work activities regardless of the hartals negative impacts.

The Infrastructure Unit has exceeded all targets set for the quarter. A priority for the IU next quarter is to survey, plan, budget and start to provide safe water to CPHH in cohorts 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. The findings of a recent IML study found that many core participants in these cohorts do not have access to safe water. Options for achieving access to safe water are several, in addition to the present options of installing tube wells and aprons. The change in CLP water policy operational from cohort 2.4 from community wide open targeting to targeting core participants access to safe water, means that this problem will no longer arise for future cohorts. It is also planned to scale up the mobile phone bKash pilot stipend transfer from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 under cohort 2.4, as 78 villages with 6,200 participants have been identified where bKash agents are available.

Discussions with BRAC to provide health services in five northern districts in which CLP is active (Gaibandha and Kurigram and the three Teesta districts of Rangpur Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat) and would take over from the CLP as the programme completes its 18-month cycle in villages resulted in a MOU agreement signing in January 2013. This agreement means that tens of thousands of poor char dwellers will continue to receive health service. However, further discussions are needed to persuade BRAC to bring their health delivery model to districts on the Padma River and along the southern Jamuna where they currently have no health activities.

41 community fairs or 'melas' were organized and implemented in different chars/villages. The objectives of the melas were to raise awareness of char dwellers of different social issues such as the effects of child marriage, polygamy, dowry, divorce, gender and rights issues. The 'melas' were well attended and received radio and newspaper coverage with media reporting that they have been great success in highlighting and raising awareness of social issues and a memorable event for char dwellers. The pace of the Direct Nutrition Intervention project has decelerated due to the delay in the implementation of the baseline survey by DFID contractor IFPRI. It is anticipated that IPRI will soon complete this work after which CLP can commence its regular / planned nutrition activities in villages. Overall, HDU has met planned targets for the quarter, with progress satisfactory in all unit interventions.

Majority of livelihoods activities exceeded targets for the quarter. 10,688 CPHHs received assets and 10,433 CPHHs received their 1<sup>st</sup> monthly stipends. 17,889 person days training on cattle husbandry and management was delivered, and 1,394 cows were artificially inseminated with improved /

crossbred semen. Meat and Fodder Market Development project is progressing very well with several notable achievements in particular the engagements with private sector market actors.

MLU started to deliver activities in the Milk Market Development Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013) in January 2013, as per the sector strategy. 36 milk business groups (MBG) have been established in 18 selected working chars, and a number of key activities taken place. This follows the project establishment period in 2012 which saw staff trained in M4P, char milk market analysis, strategy and implementation plan development, baseline developed, and M&E framework established. Although it has taken longer than envisaged to start this intervention, all the 'building blocks' are now in place for the milk market development model to achieve planned outputs and results.

For the next quarter and foreseeable future what is required is for the MLU to engage with private sector input actors and to focus initially on producer (MBG) and milk market input side gains. This will be achieved through increasing cow milk yields, and thereby producer incomes. The means to achieve this is through better cow nutrition and diet, which requires a combination of fodder and bought-in 'feed concentrate' from input suppliers to be fed to cows. Once cow milk yields (and farmers incomes) have improved, farmers (MBG) will be incentivised to collaborate more with private sector input and output market actors, and vice versa.

## 2.2 Infrastructure Development

The following table shows progress against key infrastructure targets for the period January – March 2013.

| Indicator                | January – March '13 |             | FY 2012-13<br>(July '12 – June '13) |                           | % progress<br>towards yearly<br>target |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
|                          | Target              | Achievement | Target                              | Achievement<br>(9 months) |  |
| Plinth Raising           | 5,390               | 7,961       | 15,280                              | 13,129                    | 86%                                    |
| Low cost latrines        | 6,930               | 8,852       | 32,000                              | 23,525                    | 74%                                    |
| Shallow TW               | 65                  | 134         | 520                                 | 290                       | 56%                                    |
| Platform around TW       | 410                 | 556         | 2,360                               | 1,682                     | 71%                                    |
| GPS coordinates          | 8,000               | 10,267      | 25,000                              | 28,383                    | 114%                                   |
| Arsenic test of TW water | 500                 | 661         | 3,500                               | 2,650                     | 76%                                    |

### Plinth raising

Plinths for 7,961 households have been raised in this quarter exceeding the target set of 5,390. All 18 IMOs and 18 selected UPs have received contracts to raise plinths during the dry season. Despite the numerous hartals work is progressing as planned and is on track to achieve the target of 15,280 by end June 2013. However, some internal changes have taken place to shift some plinths from one IMO/UP to another. Getting earth for landless core participants is becoming more and more challenging in the areas CLP is now operating in, a position similar to that encountered in the Jamuna chars in CLP1. Like last year premium wage rate is being paid to workers in Tangail and Pabna where more employment opportunities are available for poor people.

A behavioural change observed is that labourers are now more aware of their rights and responsibilities under CLP plinth raising works due to induction training before starting work. This has benefitted not only CLP/IMO staff by making their job easier, but has indirectly improved CLP anti-corruption measures. Labourers are now openly informing of any attempts to cheat them or where kickbacks are requested. This is a very positive sign and impacting other earth work of the government and other donor funded projects as well.



### **Improving Access to Sanitary Latrines**

Implementation of low cost latrine for the whole community with the objective of stopping open defecation was a challenge for CLP in this fiscal year as the target was substantially higher as compared to past years. Grant agreement was issued for installation of 32,000 low cost latrines in this fiscal year while 14,867 households received subsidised low cost latrines in fiscal years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. The target set was not easy, particularly as two thirds of the target population are non-core participants.

These low cost latrines consist of a concrete slab fixed with plastic pan and water seal and 5 feet deep pit protected by bamboo cage/clay ring or other suitable materials. The subsidy received by participants to install a low cost latrine does not fully cover the material cost, in addition to any plinth raising that may be necessary. However, the CLP and IMO staff have been successful through a collaborative and cost sharing approach to convince participants to raise plinths (where required) and build latrines so that they are above the flood line.

To date, 23,525 households have installed low cost latrines in this fiscal year, 8,852 during the quarter against the target of 6,930. Another 8,500 households will install latrines in fourth quarter of the year. This model and approach has been successful in providing latrines for all households within a community due to its acceptance by people within the communities where the approach has been tried, and has also improved CLP's image within the wider community in the chars as well.

### **Improving Access to Safe Water**

CLP is providing safe drinking water through (1) subsidies for installing new shallow tube wells and (2) constructing concrete aprons around privately owned CLP standard tube wells above flood line. In this quarter 134 new TWs and 556 aprons have been constructed, making a total of 290 TWs and 1,682 platforms so far in this fiscal year.

Based on the findings of a recent IML study that many core participants do not have access to safe water, CLP has reviewed its water policy (operational from cohort 2.4). It has been decided to prioritise and target core participants in improving water points, replacing the previous policy (under cohorts 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) of community wide open targeting. CLP has identified the causes behind the situation and is taking remedial steps to improving access to safe water for core participants. Planning is underway for launching a detailed survey targeting all core participants from cohorts 2.1 through 2.3. This will provide information on the water points core participants are using as well as the actions needed by CLP to provide them safe water. It is planned to implement this survey in the next quarter. In addition, CLP staff will also work with participants for behaviour change to accessing and drinking safe water through improved communication and revised training materials.

### **Stipend transfer through mobile SIM cards**

The CLP is transferring cash stipend through bKash to participants, a subsidiary of BRAC bank. No additional participants came under this pilot project in the quarter due to unavailability of suitable agents. 44 agents continue to provide stipend payment to 10,500 participants from 2.3 cohort. To scale up the project bKash/CLP is making attempts to find new suitable agents for the project on the chars.

The pilot has overall proved popular with participants and agents alike. For participants transaction costs of receiving money are reduced with fewer opportunities for leakage, in addition to being able to make phone calls. For agents bKash provides an additional source of income to their other business activities. The pilot has however encountered some minor problems, mainly the blocking of the SIM card due to punching of wrong personal identification number (PIN) by the user. This was not unexpected as few (mainly aged) participants do not recall correct PIN number and the accounts are blocked. However, the frequency of this happening has reduced as participants become more familiar with the technology. CLP with the assistance of bKash staff are supporting participants to reopen accounts when blockages occur.

Due to its popularity and ability to minimise leakages CLP is scaling up the pilot, with the next intake of participants joining in July 2013 under 2.4 cohort. So far, IMOs have identified 78 villages

with 6,200 participants where bKash agents are available. IMOs are actively procuring SIMs and opening accounts with bKash so that July 2013 stipends (as many as possible, which is determined by the number of available agents) will be transferred through mobile phone.

The CLP will continue to monitor the pilot, and at the time of writing is considering other applications of this technology that could be used within CLPs range of interventions. The CLP is also participating in an impact study commissioned jointly by Shore Bank (USA), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and bKash.

### Infrastructure activities for the next quarter

The following table shows key infrastructure targets for the period April – June 2013.

| Indicator  | Target for next quarter<br>(April – June 2013) |
|--|--|
| <b>HH Plinth raised</b>                                  | <b>5,570</b>                                   |
| # of female HH members benefiting from raised plinths    | 10,227   |
| # of male HH members benefiting from raised plinths      | 9,825  |
| <b>Low cost latrines installed</b>                       | <b>10,148</b>                                  |
| # of female members with access to sanitary latrines     | 18,632   |
| # of male members with access to sanitary latrines       | 17,901   |
| <b>Shallow tube well installed</b>                       | <b>294</b>                                     |
| <b>TW platform installed</b>                             | <b>921</b>                                     |
| # of female members with access to improved water source | 11,082   |
| # of male members with access to improved water source   | 10,648   |
| <b>GPS coordinates recorded</b>                          | <b>6,800</b>                                   |
| <b>Arsenic test of TW water</b>                          | <b>1,080</b>                                   |

More specifically, the most significant activities/deliverables for the unit are shown below:

| Unit           | Significant Activities  |
|----------------|---|
| Infrastructure | <p>Household plinth will be raised above 0.6m of highest flood line.</p> <p>Low cost latrines (consisting of bamboo basket or clay rings or other materials to protect sand walls, concrete platforms with pan and water seal) will be installed for all households (core and non-core) in selected villages.</p> <p>Assessment of present access to safe water situation of all 2.1 through 2.3 cohorts to improve their access to safe water.</p> <p>Shallow tube wells will be installed to provide improved water.</p> <p>Concrete platforms will be constructed around privately owned shallow tube wells to improve the water quality.</p> <p>GPS coordinates of infrastructure points (plinth, TW, platform, latrine) will be recorded and posted on Google Earth.</p> <p>TW water will be tested for arsenic.</p> |

## 2.3 Human Development

The following table shows progress against key Human Development targets for the period January – March 2013.

| Indicator                                     | January – March 2013 |             | July-12 to June-13 |             | % Achieved |
|---|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|
|   | Target               | Achievement | Target             | Achievement |            |
| <b>Social Development</b>                     |                      |             |                    |             |            |
| # of SD groups formed                         | 36                   | 36          | 785                | 759         | 96.69%     |
| # of VDCs formed                              | 5                    | 5           | 114                | 110         | 96.49%     |
| # of adolescent girls                         | 5                    | 6           | 114                | 109         | 95.61%     |
| # of adolescent boys                          | 5                    | 5           | 114                | 110         | 96.49%     |
| <b>Social Protection</b>                      |                      |             |                    |             |            |
| # of community safety net recipients enrolled | 445                  | 307         | 785                | 750         | 95.54%     |
| # of Emergency Grants                         | 210                  | 104         | 1,500              | 844         | 56.27%     |
| <b>Health</b>                                 |                      |             |                    |             |            |
| # of satellite clinics                        | 1,680                | 1,715       | 7,200              | 4,344       | 60.33%     |
| # of patient consultations                    | 84,000               | 115,687     | 324,000            | 245,315     | 75.71%     |
| # of patients from CPHHs                      | 75,600               | 103,457     | 291,600            | 222,477     | 76.30%     |
| # of patients from non-                       | 8,400                | 12,230      | 32,400             | 23,106      | 71.31%     |
| <b>VSL</b>                                    |                      |             |                    |             |            |
| # of core VSL groups                          | 350                  | 380         | 785                | 745         | 94.90%     |
| # of non-Core VSL groups                      | 350                  | 343         | 707                | 687         | 97.17%     |

### Social Development

During this quarter 36 social development groups, 5 Village Development Committees (VDC) and 10 adolescent groups have been established. Bi-monthly meetings of adolescent groups (both boys and girls) and monthly meetings of Village Development Committees took place as planned.

A total of 1,500 social development groups (741 groups in phase 2.3 and 759 groups in phase 2.4) continued their weekly training sessions as per social development modules. Other key training achievements of the quarter included:

- 3 days residential training provided to 1,079 village development committee members in 53 batches with the objective to increase their awareness level on different social issues and strengthening their skills for running the VDC activities smoothly. VDC constitution distributed to VDC leaders.
- 3 days residential training on puberty, reproductive health, personal hygiene, nutrition, water, sanitation, leadership, and so on were provided to 1,914 adolescent group members (820 boys and 1,194 girls) in 118 batches (53 boys and 65 girls). The trained group members will disseminate their knowledge among the peer groups in their respective villages by conducting awareness session in small groups. Flipcharts for adolescent group members were printed and distributed. These flipcharts will work as guiding tools for the trained adolescents in teaching their peer group members different issues. In addition, promotional materials (umbrellas and bags) with awareness messages have been distributed to 4,322 adolescents.
- 8,854 persons days of gender sensitisation training were provided to couples and 2,798 person days of training were provided to non-core males in the CLP working villages to increase their awareness on gender sensitivity.
- A total of 200 community Opinion Leaders received two days training in 8 batches. The

objectives of the training were to inform of CLP activities and to increase their awareness/knowledge on gender issues, water, sanitation, responsibilities of citizens, and so on. A booklet on different social messages was designed and printed for this purpose. These booklets will be distributed to the trained Opinion Leaders.

50 IMO and CLP staff also received 3-days training on **Gender Awareness and Analysis**. Gender and Justice Division of BRAC was contracted to impart this training, with all participants outlining how they found the training relevant and useful for their work.

41 community fairs or 'melas' were organized and implemented in different chars/villages. The objectives of the melas were to raise awareness of char dwellers of different social issues such as the effects of child marriage, polygamy, dowry, divorce, gender and rights issues. Local elites, opinion leaders, government officials, CLP and IMO representatives were present alongside CLP households and non-core community members. CLP activities were displayed in several stalls. In addition, free blood group tests, dowry-free marriage registration, free health services with medicines and legal aid were provided to the char dwellers. The organisation RUPANTAR staged various performances, folk songs, pictorial art and dramas. The 'melas' were well attended and received radio and newspaper coverage with media reporting that they have been great success in highlighting and raising awareness of social issues and a memorable event for char dwellers.

Finally, Social Development Module-2 and the related flash cards for non-core participants were revised, printed and distributed to IMOs. VDCs and CLP social development staffs supported the Infrastructure Unit to install 6,184 low cost latrines to all households in participating char villages.

### **Social Protection**

A total of 104 emergency grants (each of Tk. 2,000) were distributed to the households affected by river erosion, domestic fire, and so on in the quarter. During the same period, CPHHs of phase 2.3 and 2.4 helped 1,464 poor households under the community safety net project.

### **Health**

1,715 satellite clinics were held against a target of 1,680 and the Paramedics and Char Shasthya Karmis (CSKs) together provided 115,687 consultations for core and non-core participants against the set target of 84,000. During the same period 4,405 Health and Nutrition Education (HNE) sessions were conducted by the CSKs against a target of 3,766, where 120,104 participants attended against a target of 75,320.

Based on ongoing discussions BRAC agreed to provide health services in the chars after CLP's withdrawal. To mark this significant event a formal signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding took place at the Hotel Naz Gardens in Bogra on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Senior representatives from the donor organisations (Australian AID and the Department for International Development), the government of Bangladesh, BRAC and the CLP were present. Key participants included Mr. A.H.M. Abdullah (Joint Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperative Division, MLGRD&C), Mr. Sarwar Mahmud (the Deputy Commissioner of Bogra), Mr. Graham Gass (Team Leader, Extreme Poverty, DFID Bangladesh), and Mrs. Kaosar Afsana (Director, Health, Nutrition and Population Programme of BRAC). This agreement means that tens of thousands of poor char dwellers will continue to receive important health services which are limited on the chars. See section 4 of this report titled 'Human Development Activities' for further details.

Other notable achievements included:

- 80 Rural Medical Practitioners (RMPs) received 3 days training in 6 batches.
- 48 CSKs received a 7-days training on C-IMCI and Behaviour Change Communication held in 2 batches.
- A total of 56 newly wed couples were oriented on family planning issues.
- Second quarterly review meeting was organised.
- CSK registers, prescriptions, referral slips, and so on were distributed to all IMOs.
- One representative from ICDDR,B visited health activities with senior personnel of PHD to develop theme of a research on CLP's health project.
- PHD personnel continued paying field visits for providing on-the-job coaching for Paramedics

and CSKs.

### **Village Savings and Loan**

The major activities undertaken by the VSL project during the quarter include:

- A total of 380 core VSL groups have been formed with 8,060 members against the target of 350 groups. These groups have already started conducting their meetings regularly (both share and loan meetings). It is noteworthy to mention that 445 non-core members of VSL project have become the core participants of CLP due to re-sweeping in old districts (Rangpur, Kurigram and Jamalpur).
- A total of 343 non-core VSL groups have been formed with 7,533 members against the target of 350 groups. These groups have started conducting their meetings regularly (both share and loan meetings).
- A total of 869 groups (276 core and 593 non-core groups) have shared out their capital at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> cycle (first year). The average share out money per group and member is approximately Tk. 56,693 and Tk. 2,457 respectively. All these groups have started their second cycle with an initial seed capital of Tk. 7,789,867.
- A total of 212 groups (207 core and 5 non-core groups) have shared out their capital at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle (2<sup>nd</sup> year). The average share out money per group and member is approximately Tk. 78,297 and Tk. 3,892 respectively. Out of total 212 groups, 209 have started their third cycle with an initial seed capital of Tk. 1,418,088 while 3 groups discontinued due to river erosion.
- 23 Village Savings Officers (VSOs) and 4 Village Savings Supervisors (VSSs) received three-day long refreshers' training on VSL project.
- A total of 205 batches of one-day training for Group Management Committee (GMC) members took place during the quarter with 844 VSL groups (both core and non-core).
- A total of 218 batches one-day training for adolescents on VSL project held with 4,252 participants (both boys and girls) during the period.
- A one-day coordination meeting was organized for all VSSs to inform about the latest update of the project activities.
- A total of 500 VSL boxes and other necessary kits were purchased during the quarter.

### **Education**

Activities of the Education project were successfully completed in the previous quarter by December 2012. During the review period CLP arranged reception in three locations for 232 students who obtained GPA 5. At the request of Aid-Comilla (one of the implementers) CLP provided 155 sets of benches to 3 schools/madrashas to ensure 100% admission of the passed in Grade VI. Out of 138 physical centres 44 are currently used for education purposes (20 with funds from Friendship International, Luxembourg, 23 with funds from BRAC, and 1 is run by the community). CLP continued its discussion with BRAC and other potential donors for further funds - see section 4 of this report titled 'Human Development Activities' for additional details.

### **Direct Nutrition Intervention**

The pace of the Direct Nutrition Intervention project has decelerated due to the delay in the implementation of the baseline survey by DFID contractor IFPRI. DFID has requested CLP not to do any counselling at the household level until the baseline survey is done. In a meeting with DFID in March it was decided that IPRI will soon complete selection of sample villages from where they will collect baseline data after which CLP can commence its regular / planned nutrition activities in the non-listed villages. The key achievements of the quarter are given below:

- Six days duration basic training materials were developed and a total 509 CPKs received basic training on IYCF. Nutrition Supervisors, Nutrition Officers and Government MBBS doctors facilitated the training for capacity building of selected CPKs. IYCF related documents also distributed to CPKs during basic training.
- Households listing format have been finalized, printed and distributed to all IMOs. A database has been developed for entering and preserving all information of core participant households.

- A day long orientation on households listing format was conducted for all Nutrition Supervisors and Nutrition Officers and subsequently all IMOs completed orientation of CPKs on the household listing format. Following the orientation the CPKs already started collecting household information.
- CPKs Job aids and materials on hand washing have been developed, printed and distributed to all CPKs.
- Register for collecting and maintaining the information of pregnant women, adolescent girls, and aged 2 and under children have been finalised.
- Training materials for orienting the newly-wed couples on nutrition have been developed.
- Materials for social mobilisation especially the scripts on folksong have been drafted.
- A district level multisectoral workshop was organized in Gaibandha. A total of 38 participants from health and family planning department, district women affairs office, and nutrition project implementing NGOs were present in the workshop.
- A total 509 mobile phones have been purchased and distributed to CPKs. Moreover 19 motorcycles and 18 computers also purchased in the quarter and will be distributed soon.
- Information of village doctors, newly-wed couples and community clinics' management support groups has been collected.
- Monthly CPKs meeting are taking place as per plan.

### Human Development Activities for the Next Quarter

The following table shows key HDU targets for the period April-June, 2013.

| Indicators                                    | Targets for Next Quarter<br>(April - June 2013) |
|---|---|
| <b>Social Development</b>                     |   |
| # of SD groups formed                         | -   |
| # of VDCs formed                              | -   |
| # of adolescent girls groups formed           | -   |
| # of adolescent boys groups formed            | -   |
| <b>Social Protection</b>                      |   |
| # of community safety net recipients enrolled | 36  |
| # of Emergency Grants provided                | 300   |
| <b>Health</b>                                 |   |
| # of satellite clinics conducted              | 1,680   |
| # of patient consultations                    | 84,000  |
| # of patients from CPHHs                      | 75,600  |
| # of patients from CPHHs                      | 8,400   |
| <b>VSL</b>                                    |   |
| # of core VSL groups formed                   | 40  |
| # of non-Core VSL groups formed               | 20  |

Under the Nutrition project the following activities will be undertaken:

- The district level multisectoral workshop will be organized.
- Community clinic management support group orientation, village doctor orientation and newly-wed couple orientation will be conducted.
- Special social mobilization events will take place.
- Subject to receiving the delivery, initiative will be taken to start inputs (de-worming tablets and iron and folic acid tablets) distribution among the clients of core participant households.
- The CPKs will start one to one counselling with the core participants households of CLP2 on young and child feeding practices.

- Learning visits will be organized.

## 2.4 Livelihoods Development

The following table shows progress against key Livelihoods Development targets for the period January '13 – March '13.

| Indicator   | Target FY<br>2012-13 | January – March, 2013 |             | % progress<br>towards<br>the Quarter<br>target |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
|   |                      | Target                | Achievement |  |
| <b>a) Asset Transfer:</b>                                 |                      |                       |             |  |
| # of CPHHs received assets                                | 16,525               | 10,000                | 10,688      | 107  |
| # of female HH members benefiting from assets transferred | 30,340               | 18,358                | 19,620      | 107  |
| # of male HH members benefiting from assets transferred   | 29,150               | 17,630                | 18,843      | 107  |
| # of CPHHs received cattle as primary asset               | 16,000               | 9,748                 | 10,437      | 107  |
| # of CPHHs received cross-bred cattle as primary asset    | 1,500                | 1,199                 | 904         | 75   |
| # of CPHHs received local cattle as primary asset         | 14,500               | 8,549                 | 9,245       | 108  |
| # of CPHHs received land lease as primary asset           | 450                  | 191                   | 213         | 112  |
| # of CPHHs received other assets as primary asset         | 75                   | 61                    | 38          | 62   |
| # of CPHHs received stipends (for 1st time)               | 16,525               | 9,489                 | 10,433      | 110  |
| <b>b) Home Gardening:</b>                                 |                      |                       |             |  |
| # of CPHHs completed HG training                          | 16,525               | 7,213                 | 7,076       | 98   |
| # of person days HG training provided to CPHHs            | 33,960               | 7,213                 | 7,151       | 99   |
| # of CPHHs completed compost training                     | 16,525               | 13,785                | 13,591      | 99   |
| # of person days compost training provided to CPHHs       | 33,960               | 13,785                | 14,327      | 104  |
| # of CPHHs received vegetable seeds                       | 15,700               | 2,409                 | 1,491       | 62   |
| # of CPHHs established compost pits                       | 15,700               | 11,149                | 8,960       | 80   |
| # of vegetable pits established by CPHHs                  | 62,800               | 9,020                 | 7,548       | 84   |
| <b>c) Livestock:</b>                                      |                      |                       |             |  |
| # of person days livestock training provided to CPHHs     | 67,010               | 16,263                | 17,889      | 110  |

| Indicator   | Target FY<br>2012-13 | January – March, 2013 |             | % progress<br>towards<br>the Quarter<br>target |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
|   |                      | Target                | Achievement |  |
| # of cattle vaccinated (4 doses)                            | 11,000               | 2,200                 | 2,584       | 117  |
| # of cattle de-wormed (3 doses)                             | 14,000               | 10,310                | 9,264       | 90   |
| # of cattle artificially inseminated                        | 5,000                | 657                   | 1,394       | 212  |
| <b>d) Poultry rearing:</b>                                  |                      |                       |             |  |
| # of people completed field training on poultry rearing     | 25,471               | 13,077                | 9,626       | 74   |
| # of CPHHs  | 25,471               | 13,077                | 9,196       | 70   |
| # of person days field training on poultry rearing provided | 84,054               | 17,700                | 20,284      | 115  |
| # of new poultry vaccinators trained                        | 165                  | 162                   | 162         | 100  |

### Asset Transfer

During the quarter the MLU has continued transfer of assets to CPHHs under cohort 2.4. 10,688 CPHHs have received assets against the target of 10,000. This is quite an achievement considering the disturbances caused by the hartals. Out of the total, 10,437 CPHHs purchased cattle, of which 904 CPHHs purchased crossbred cattle, 213 CPHHs chose land leasing and 38 CPHHs selected small business as primary asset. In addition, the unit has continued to provide support to 17,435 CPHHs of cohort 2.3. This includes IMOs and CLP staff regularly visiting households to provide advice on cattle housing, feeding and health care management.

### Livestock Training

Before receiving their asset CPHHs under cohort 2.4 were oriented on CLP, its objectives, activities and the various support to be provided to them. The CPHHs under cohorts 2.3 and 2.4 have all received cattle husbandry and management training and other support in the quarter. A total of 17,889 person days livestock training were provided to CPHHs from both cohorts 2.3 and 2.4 against the target of 16,263 person days. The achievement was slightly higher than the target as the backlogged target was covered.

### Stipend Distribution

A total of 10,433 CPHHs from cohort 2.4 received stipend for the first time against the target of 9,489 and will continue to receive the stipend for 18 months. Achievement was slightly higher than the target as a higher number of CPHHs have received asset during the period. In addition, a total of 10,486 CPHHs in cohort 2.3 continued to receive their stipends through mobile cash transfer provider bKash, with the other CPHHs from cohort 2.3 receiving through the usual master roll system.

### Vaccination and de-worming of ATP Cattle Through Voucher Scheme

A total of 2,584 cattle under asset transfer project for cohort 2.4 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 2,200. Achievement was higher as the lower target was fixed considering scarcity of cattle vaccines.



**Artificial Insemination**

During the quarter a total of 1,394 cattle were artificially inseminated with improved semen against the target of 657. Achievement was much higher than the target as more cattle than expected required mating / AI. The Unit also organized workshop for artificial insemination technicians at different locations. The objective of the workshop was to discuss and share field problems, prospects and future strategy of artificial insemination (AI) in the CLP2 working areas. A total of 92 AI technicians participated in the workshop.

**Homestead Gardening and Compost Pit Preparation**

1,491 CPHHs under cohort 2.4 have received different types of vegetable seeds to grow vegetables both in bed and pits in their homestead against the target of 2,409. The achievement was lower than target as plinth raising activity work took precedent resulting in fewer vegetable seeds recipients. A total of 7,548 vegetable pits were established using provided seed against the target of 9,020. Again the achievement was lower than target as fewer CPHHs received vegetable seeds.

8,960 CPHHs prepared compost pits for producing compost in the homestead area against the target of 11,149. The achievement of compost pit was also less than target due to same reason of plinth raising activity. The establishment of compost pits will be covered during the next quarter. Moreover, the CPHHs under cohort 2.3 continued to receive support for vegetable cultivation, compost production and management of saplings.

**Homestead Gardening Training**

During the quarter 7,076 CPHHs from cohort 2.4 completed homestead gardening training. 7,151 person days training were received on vegetable production by CPHHs from both cohorts 2.3 and 2.4 against the target of 7,213 person days. A total of 13,591 CPHHs under cohort 2.4 have received training on compost production against the target of 13,785.

**Poultry Rearing**

A total of 9,626 CPHHs under cohort 2.3 have completed training on poultry rearing husbandry and management against the target of 13,077. The achievement was lower than target as IMO staff was busy providing different inputs for poultry rearers under cohort 2.4. The shortfall will be covered during the next quarter. A total 20,284 person days training on poultry rearing techniques were provided to participants in the poultry project, against the target of 17,700. Achievement was slightly higher than the target because increased number of CPHHs under cohort 2.4 was included in the training. A total of 162 women have received training on the techniques of poultry vaccination as planned, and all have started work as poultry vaccinator in their locality.

**Livestock Service Providers**

During the quarter a total of 56 interested persons were selected from the CLP working areas through different IMOs with the help of local DLS officials. All the selected persons received seven days long basic training on improved livestock husbandry and veterinary services through three batches organized by CLP. In addition, the training course also oriented the trainees in the CLP MLU work in relation to the market development projects in milk, meat and fodder sectors. The training courses were conducted jointly by the CLP and DLS officials. After receiving the training, all 56 started work as Livestock Service Provider (LSP) at their locality. They have been closely supervised and supported by CLP district and IMO level veterinary graduates. In addition, a total 15 out of the 56 LSPs received another five days long training on primary livestock treatment during the quarter. A total of 467 person days training were provided to LSP against the target of 440 during the quarter. Finally, a total of 10,000 posters as promotional material containing the theme of the importance of veterinary services for healthy livestock were distributed to LSPs.

### Livelihoods Development Activities for the Next Quarter

The following table shows key Livelihoods Development targets for the period April – June 2013.

| Indicator   | Target for next quarter<br>(April- June, 2013) |
|---|--|
| <b>Asset Transfer</b>                                       |  |
| # of CPHHs received assets                                  | 2,877  |
| # of female HH members benefiting from assets transferred   | 5,282  |
| # of male HH members benefiting from assets transferred     | 5,072  |
| # of CPHHs received cattle as primary asset                 | 2,829  |
| # of CPHHs received cross-bred cattle as primary asset      | 434  |
| # of CPHHs received local cattle as primary asset           | 2,395  |
| # of CPHHs received land lease as primary asset             | 31   |
| # of CPHHs received other assets as primary asset           | 17   |
| # of CPHHs received stipends (for 1st time)                 | 3,556  |
| <b>Homestead Gardening</b>                                  |  |
| # of person days HG training provided to CPHHs              | 230  |
| # of CPHHs completed compost training                       | 2,662  |
| # of person days compost training provided to CPHHs         | 18,209   |
| # of CPHHs received all tree saplings                       | 15,413   |
| # of CPHHs established compost pits                         | 3,137  |
| # of plinths planted with grass / fodder                    | 15,176   |
| <b>Livestock</b>  |  |
| # of CPHHs completed livestock training                     | 6,255  |
| # of person days livestock training provided to CPHHs       | 17,737   |
| # of cattle vaccinated (4 doses)                            | 5,000  |
| # of cattle de-wormed (3 doses)                             | 4,505  |
| # of cattle artificially inseminated                        | 2,010  |
| <b>Poultry Rearing</b>                                      |  |
| # of people completed field training on poultry rearing     | 16,916   |
| # of CPHHs  | 16,916   |
| # of person days field training on poultry rearing provided | 15,193   |
| # of new poultry vaccinators trained                        | 3  |

The MLU has several livelihoods development priorities:

1. Organize refresher training for IMOs staff;
2. Organize exposure visit for IMOs and CLP district staff;
3. Finalize and print updated training and promotional materials.

More specifically, the most significant livelihoods development activities/deliverables are shown below:

| Unit                    | Significant Activities  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Markets and Livelihoods | <p><u>Asset Transfer</u></p> <p>Refreshers training on livestock rearing for IMO staff;<br/>CPHHs training on livestock rearing;<br/>Purchasing of assets for CPHHs;<br/>Distribution of stipends and monitoring to be continued.</p> <p><u>Homestead Gardening</u></p> <p>Establish homestead summer gardens for CPHHs;<br/>Refreshers training on homestead garden for IMO staff;<br/>CPHHs refreshers training on compost production;<br/>Establishment of compost pit;<br/>Distribution of saplings, spices seeds and grass cuttings.</p> <p><u>Livestock</u></p> <p>CPHHs training on livestock rearing;<br/>Vaccination and de-worming of cattle procured by CPHHs;<br/>Artificial Insemination (AI) activities to be continued;<br/>Meetings with AI technicians.</p> <p><u>Poultry</u></p> <p>CPHHs training and refresher training on poultry rearing;<br/>Selection of vaccinators and training.</p> <p><u>Training of Poultry model rearer</u></p> <p>Building and demonstration of model houses and training;<br/>Vaccination and feed supply by vaccinators.</p> |

## 2.5 Market Development

The emphasis in MLU market development is on securing and sustaining the gains which have been achieved through CLPs asset transfer project to strengthen livelihoods. As the majority of households select cattle as their preferred asset, the CLP strategy is to facilitate change using M4P principles in mainly three livestock related market sectors in which char households currently operate. These are the dairy cow milk market, meat market (mainly beef, but also goat, sheep and poultry), and the associated fodder market.

### Milk Market Development

MLU started to deliver activities in the Milk Market Development Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013) in January 2013, as per the sector strategy. 9 staff at 8 IMOs (Business Development Officers – BDOs) deliver / facilitate implementation plan activities supported by MLU field staff. During this quarter 36 milk business groups (MBG) have been established in 18 selected working chars, against the target of 36 MBG by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Each group consists of 22-25 milk producer farmers. Membership of these groups is driven by producer's commercial business aspirations and incentives to collaborate. Their purpose is to increase business profit through collective decision making on inputs procurement, production technology access and adoption, and output marketing of produce.

All 36 groups have completed need analysis in which they identify and measure priority areas for improvement, and determine the methods to achieve that needed improvement. In addition, MBG members have received orientation sessions on milk market scenario (22), yard meetings (58), and so on. On the market input side, the project has initiated the establishment of fodder demonstration plots to promote improved nutrition and diets for dairy cows which are key to increasing milk yields

and producer income. To date 55 demo plots (between 20-25 decimal land size) of 'Sweet Jumbo' have been setup by MBG members through direct project support of Tk. 1,000/demo for the farmer to cover the cost of land preparation, irrigation, fertilizer, and so on. Technical training (22) has also been delivered on improved cattle rearing and fodder production techniques. This training is designed to transfer technical 'know-how' to the milk producer farmer and other selected market actors on improved dairy cow husbandry and management practices, including breed selection, health and reproduction, housing, better feeding, calf rearing, beef fattening, milk production, hygienic milking, milk preservation, marketing, and so on.

The key point to grasp is that implementation activities under milk market development intervention have now started, following project establishment period in 2012 which saw staff trained in M4P, char milk market analysis, strategy and implementation plan development, baseline developed, and M&E framework established. Although it has taken longer than envisaged to start this intervention, all the 'building blocks' are now in place for the milk market development model to achieve planned outputs and results.

For the next quarter and foreseeable future what is required is for the MLU to engage with private sector input actors and to focus initially on producer (MBG) and milk market input side gains. This will be achieved through increasing cow milk yields, and thereby producer incomes. The means to achieve this is through better cow nutrition and diet, which requires a combination of fodder and bought-in 'feed concentrate' from input suppliers to be fed to cows. Once cow milk yields (and farmers incomes) have improved, farmers (MBG) will be incentivised to collaborate more with private sector input and output market actors, and vice versa.

The following table is a snapshot of key achievements of milk market development during this quarter:

| Interventions  | Target FY 2012 – 13 | Cumulative achievement by Mar'13 |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Formation of milk business groups (MBGs)</b>                            |                     |                                  |
| (i) Discussion meeting with target community farmers                       | 36                  | 36                               |
| (ii) Follow up meeting and MBGs formation                                  | 36                  | 36                               |
| (iii) Need analysis meeting  | 36                  | 36                               |
| (iv) Orientation session on milk market scenario                           | 36                  | 22                               |
| (v) Yard meeting with MBG members  | 360                 | 58                               |
| <b>Promotion of access to feed and fodder</b>                              |                     |                                  |
| (i) Capacity building events for input suppliers                           | 9                   | 2                                |
| (ii) Linkage meeting with input suppliers between mainland and char        | 9                   | -                                |
| (iii) Demo of fodder plot  | 72                  | 55                               |
| (iv) Results demo on fodder cultivation                                    | 36                  | -                                |
| (v) Exchange visits to fodder fields                                       | 36                  | -                                |
| <b>Promotion of improved Animal Husbandry practices &amp; vet services</b> |                     |                                  |
| (i) Training on improved cattle rearing and fodder production for MBGs     | 108                 | 22                               |
| (ii) Demo on cow comfort   | 72                  | 14                               |
| (iii) Results demo on cow comfort  | 36                  | -                                |
| (iv) Linkage meeting with medicine traders and                             | 9                   | 2                                |

| Interventions   | Target FY 2012 – 13 | Cumulative achievement by Mar'13 |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| retailers   |                     |                                  |
| <b>Improving milk supply network</b>  |                     |                                  |
| (i) Linkage meeting between producers and selected collectors and profiling of collectors | 36                  | 22                               |
| (ii) Cross visit to collective milk supply system   | 9                   | -                                |
| (iii) Linkage meeting between milk collectors and informal/formal processors              | 9                   | -                                |

### Meat and Fodder Market Development

Activities in the meat and fodder market development started in September 2012, with substantial progress achieved to date. Meat market development project has undertaken number of activities with intensive engagement of private sector actors and other relevant market players. During this quarter, major initiatives have covered all the designed interventions, including: (i) Char Business Centre (CBC) development to deal with broader livestock market in char and mainland; ii) Livestock Business Group (LBG) development to increase production and productivity of livestock/meat; iii) Paiker network development to strengthen demand-supply channel; iv) Installing tailored financial product to facilitate increased access to working capital finance; and, v) Institutional buyer engagement to ensure better access to market.

The fodder market development activities include: i) Fodder business group (FBG) development to organize the producer farmers as business groups; ii) Char-mainland green fodder linkage development to promote supply chain of char based products between char and mainland; iii) Char inputs suppliers development to have better availability of the inputs of green fodder and livestock and link them with private sectors; and, iv) Irrigation services improvement for green fodder cultivation by involving the existing and current irrigation service providers.

The following table is a snapshot of key achievements of meat and fodder market development during this quarter:

| Interventions  | Key progress achieved up to March 2013   |
|--|--|
| Chars Business Centre (CBCs) development                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All targeted 30 CBC established in 30 selected working chars.</li> <li>30 CBCs established respective executive committees. A total of 354 committee members from 30 CBCs received capacity building training to develop work plan for meat and fodder business. These trainings are facilitated by GoB personnel.</li> </ul>   |
| Livestock Business Group (LBG) development (for meat sector) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All target 60 LBG established, members total 1,717 meat producers (65% are women).</li> <li>A total of 59 meat cattle rearing training workshops delivered to 1,311 meat producers. These workshops are facilitated by 3 private ready feed companies on a cost-sharing basis. Already 62% of trained farmers have started following the recommended advice on feeding bought-in concentrate feed and fodder to their cattle.</li> <li>All targeted 60 Paiker-linkage workshops completed. 1,937 people including 180 paikers attended.</li> <li>16 demonstrations established to popularise ready feed consumption. The demo is ongoing and its impact is being monitoring.</li> </ul> |
| Paikar network development                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>128 potential Paikers have been identified in both chars and</li> </ul>   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| (for meat sector)  | in adjacent mainland. All of them have received capacity building training. Both GoB personnel and private company have facilitated these technical trainings on cost-sharing basis.   |
| Tailored financial product for LBGs/FBGs                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The United Leasing Company (ULC) has sanctioned 89 working capital financial loans for LBG members, and the result is under observation.</li> </ul>   |
| Institutional buyer engagement (for meat sector)                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed 50 linkage workshops among CBCs, LBGs and large mainland buyers. A total of 1,580 LBG members participated in these events of which 70% were women.</li> </ul>  |
| FBG development (for fodder sector)                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All target 30 FBG established in 30 working chars. A total of 814 HHs/Fodder producers are included in these producer groups of which 58% are women members (476).</li> <li>Fodder Demo plots: Project has provided Jumbo seeds to 38 growers under fodder demonstrations and all together 610 clients among the FBG members have planted Jumbo using a total of around 28 acres of land.</li> <li>The FBG members have joined in 49 linkage workshops with input sellers (CIDs) and a total of 1,470 clients have participated.</li> <li>A total of 33 batches of fodder production technology trainings were facilitated by a private seed market company on a cost-sharing basis.</li> </ul> |
| Char Input Supply Development (for both fodder and meat sectors) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project has identified a total of 67 Char Input dealers (CIDs). Among them, 44 are already linked with ready-feed companies' dealers on the mainland and have started selling ready feed in their respective chars.</li> <li>Around 2-3 CIDs have joined in respective CBC committee.</li> <li>CIDs are receiving capacity building trainings, facilitated by a private seed market company on a cost-sharing basis.</li> <li>These CIDs have sold 385.05 kg Jumbo seeds and 69 ton of ready feed within the chars.</li> </ul>  |
| Irrigation Service Improvement (for fodder sector)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>98 Irrigation Service Providers (ISPs) identified and selected in 30 Chars.</li> <li>Among them 30 ISPs are involved in 30 CBC committees.</li> <li>All together 54 demonstrations (Kurigram 14 and Rangpur 1) on irrigation technology piloting (shallow pump 2 and treddle pump 13) have been set up.</li> <li>Thirty (30) linkage workshops have brought together 997 clients from ISPs, CBCs and FBGs to discuss and develop irrigation plan for fodder cultivation on the respective char.</li> <li>Also linkage workshops (3) with mainland technology suppliers help them to get ideas on available technologies, market price and the business operation aspects.</li> </ul>            |

**Baseline survey**

The baseline survey for milk meat and fodder sectors was completed in the quarter, with the work started in the previous quarter. Data of different market actors under milk, meat and fodder market development sectors was collected from all market actors including service providers using structured questionnaires. For the farmer/producer data collection, CLP used Grameen Bikash Foundation to collect and analyse data from 2,600 households. Data collection and analysis from milk collectors was undertaken by the Markets and Livelihoods unit, with data for the meat and fodder sectors char input dealers (CID), meat paiker and irrigation service providers (ISP) collected and analysed by iDE. The survey covered all the respective working locations under CLP market development intervention on the chars. The draft analytical data and findings were further analyzed in a Workshop in January to obtain details on the roles of each of the market actors, capacities, potentials, sector constraints, business-knowledge level and their associated business linkage. All major findings and results have been documented in a report and shared by CLP IML Division. A detailed M&E framework for monitoring and evaluating CLP MLU market development outcomes and impact was established during the last quarter.

**Staffing**

A total of 8 District Markets and Livelihoods Officers (DMLO) joined the CLP Markets and Livelihoods Unit team during the quarter. They have been posted to different CLP working districts to support the IMOs with market development and livelihood activities as well as monitor progress. The MLU is now fully staffed as planned, with just the one vacancy remaining unfilled. In addition, a Young Professional joined the team in March specifically to support MLU market development M&E learning and dissemination, based at CLP Secretariat.

**Market Development Activities for the Next Quarter**

Key priority is to accelerate progress outputs and outcomes in the milk market development work. More specifically, the most significant activities/deliverables for the unit are shown below:

- Increase dairy cows milk yield. To be achieved through cow diet and nutrition technical training and engagement with feed suppliers. Objective is to increase quantity and quality of dairy cow's diet fodder and bought-in 'feed concentrate' consumption.
- Engage with private sector input suppliers in milk market development intervention.
- Meet with Grameen Danone (formal milk processor) to identify scope and opportunity to engage with char MBGs.
- Activity planning review workshop among all MLU and IMO staff to revise the Milk Market Implementation Plan and activities for next FY (1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014).
- Organize basic training on market development approach/M4P for IMOs and district staff of MLU.
- Monitor and impact assessment of tailored financial loan product delivered to livestock producers and develop next scale-up plan.
- Organize livestock business fairs to promote the market development initiatives at char and attract mainland actors.
- Continue the linkage workshops/meetings involving institutional buyers, big traders/Paikars and meat/fodder business groups.
- Continue capacity building training for relevant market actors under all three projects.

### 3. Innovation, Monitoring and Learning Division

IML's main focus during the quarter related to the annual review both in terms of facilitating preparations but also ensuring the team had access to information during their visit.

Another key area of focus was completing research related to the six outcome themes. Specifically, the research related to livelihoods, WASH and graduation was completed. This information fed into the annual review.

In terms of staffing the IML Division recruited a new M&E Unit Manager, Md. Maksudul Hannan) and a new Communications Intern (Md. Rabiul Hasan.) Md Hamidur Rashid left the Division having spent a year providing excellent support related to GIS.

#### Improved Visibility of the CLP: Communications

##### Expansion of the Communications Unit

The Unit has been expanded during the quarter. In order to assist the Communications Unit Manager in the implementation of the Communications Strategy, one national, full-time Communications Intern joined the CLP in January 2013. The Unit now comprises a Communications Unit Manager, a Communications Intern, and part time support from two international Young Professionals.

##### Publications and research dissemination

One of the most important responsibilities of the Unit is to lead the packaging and dissemination of information regarding the CLP and its impact.

During the quarter the Communications Unit developed eight new background briefs, which collectively provide a straightforward outline of the CLP for outside parties. These will later be translated into Bangla.

The Unit also continued to disseminate its 'Impact Series' of glossy brochures, sending hard copies to donors, NGOs, research organisations and other stakeholders. These five brochures have also been translated into Bangla.

In December, the CLP's successful pilot on non formal education came to an end. To assist in documenting the achievements of the pilot, the Unit compiled a series of five case studies from teachers, students, school committee members and others, which have been published online.

##### Promoting media coverage

During the quarter the CLP again received substantial media attention around events such as the handover of the health programme to BRAC, the graduation of students from the education pilot etc. The Communications Unit facilitated this coverage through liaising with national newspapers, news agencies, television and radio.

##### Maintaining the CLP website

The CLP website is an important platform for the CLP to communicate progress, impact, lesson learned, etc. The Communications Unit continued to manage and update the website during the reporting period through the publication of news stories, monthly progress reports, outcomes graphs etc.

##### Facilitating visits to the chars

The Unit also helped facilitate visits to the *chars* by a number of groups:

- A BRAC Health team visited the CLP's Health projects in Gaibandha as part of establishing a partnership with the programme. Government representatives including A.H.M. Abdulla from the Rural Development Cooperative Division and DFID's Extreme Poverty Team Leader Graham Gass were also present.



- An Economic Research Group visited the CLP and its district office in Gaibandha to understand the contribution of the programme towards the Millennium Development Goals. They were particularly interested in the Food Security and Nutrition components of the programme.
- The Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) visited the CLP and a number of *chars* in Rangpur district to assess the impact of the CLP's interventions.
- Representatives from the International Potato Centre (CIP) visited the *chars* with the aim of exploring a possible collaboration with the CLP.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The focus for the M&E Unit during the quarter related to the annual review i.e. preparations prior to the review but also ensuring the reviewers had access to the right information during the review itself.

The Unit welcomed Md Maksudul Hannan during the quarter as the new M&E Unit Manager. Md Hannan brings strong analysis skills to the Unit.

## **Household monitoring and research**

Just prior to the review the M&E Unit completed its research related to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Livelihoods themes. The M&E Unit also documented and presented progress related to rates of graduation based on the annual October 2012 survey. These reports can all be found on the CLP website.

IML's monitoring system has been adapted to be able to answer questions related to the six themes of WASH, livelihoods, food security, nutrition, women's empowerment and graduation.

## **Verification and customer satisfaction surveys**

Data Management Aid (DMA) continued as the CLP's verification contractor. The company's task is to verify, on a monthly basis, a sample of 5 to 10% of outputs delivered by the IMOs. 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. As one might expect, a few relatively minor issues were identified which prompted follow up action by the respective Units.

Another important mechanism to reduce leakage is customer satisfaction surveys (CSS). DMA also has this contract. The difference between CSS and Verification relates to timing and focus. CSS focus on collecting data during plinth raising and livestock markets when assets are purchased. Verification focuses on collecting data related to a cross-section of the CLP's activities. CSS takes place whilst the plinth is being raised or when the asset is purchased whilst Verification collects data at least one month after the activity has taken place. These are both strong mechanisms to reduce leakage.

#### 4. Policy, Partnerships and Governance Division

The CLP has lacked a Partnerships Director during the quarter but has, nonetheless, made sound progress on several projects. Everyone in senior management has assisted in their specific areas with leadership continuing under the CLP Team Leader, assisted by the Unit Manager, Human Development.

The major advances are as follows:

##### Market and Livelihoods Activities

This twin component of the CLP lends itself to cooperation and the crowding in of players in support of market development. The M4C project continues as the major sector partner for the CLP and the CLP's new Operations Director has held meetings with M4C to reinvigorate the linkage. Other partners in the market arena are several with the most important being:

- iDE (CLP co-facilitator in the meat and fodder subsectors) who are working under contract to the CLP;
- Bengal Meat, a key demand-side entity, with a growing meat distribution and retail franchise that is targeting beef purchases from the chars. As mentioned early, also investigating the potential of high-yield sheep;
- United Leasing Corporation (ULC) who are providing competitive loans to members of the CLP Business Groups based at Chars Business Centres. The CLP continues to explore bringing other credit service providers (e.g. PRIME) to the chars to facilitate competition and choice;
- At an initial stage of discussions is: the CARE "Strengthening the Dairy Value Chain in Bangladesh Phase II (Funded by the Gates Foundation). The project has similar ambitions to the CLP; and the Grameen Danone joint venture that produces fortified yoghurt made from locally sourced milk.

On the livelihoods-related front, the CLP is moving forward with a partnership to bring the Danida-funded Agricultural Growth and Employment Programme and its Farmer Field Schools to the chars, initially in pilot areas. In a similar vein, lengthy discussions were held with the USAID-funded "Horticultural Project" to undertake pilot work on CLP-aided chars, targeting current and graduated beneficiaries with small areas of land under cultivation. The CLP brought M4C into these discussions and the latter project is showing an interest to collaborate too. Many pertinent recommendations were offered by the Annual Review team for further partnership type linkages and these are being studied for adoption.

##### Human Development Activities

Two important areas of human development moved forward during the quarter. First, in health: it was reported in the last report that BRAC had agreed to extend its health activities to the five northern districts in which CLP is active (Gaibandha and Kurigram and the three Teesta districts of Rangpur Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat) and would take over from the CLP as the programme completes its 18-month cycle in villages. A formalised field handover occurred in December 2012 while a high-level ceremony with the signature of a binding MoU occurred in January 2013.

Further discussions are needed in our attempt to persuade BRAC to bring their health delivery model to districts on the Padma River and along the southern Jamuna where they currently have no health activities.

The CLP education pilot finished in December 2012 and marked the end of any direct involvement of the CLP in the provision of education services to the chars. Education has therefore become a Partnership's responsibility which now targets to bring in other service providers. Despite this change of emphasis, educating char-based children still remains an important ambition of the programme. In the previous quarter's report, it was mentioned that structures external to the CLP had found independent funding for the continuation of 43 of the old CLP learning centres while GoB have so far selected seven char sites for the installation of mass learning centres. School

benches for several hundred children who had graduated from CLP learning centres were funded and donated to a local secondary school and a Madrasa thus enabling these children to continue their education.

During the current quarter, a new initiative began with the British Council (BC). In this initiative, BC is requesting significant funds from the Qatari Foundation to provide schooling for 10,000 primary-age children on the chars. The bid details are based on the evaluation report of the CLP education pilot, carried out in mid-2012. If the project request succeeds, the CLP involvement is likely to be as follows:

- The CLP will transfer all remaining learning centres to the project (approx. 100) plus furniture and other items, as available;
- 50 of the (approx. 100) centres will be selected by BC and they will add an extra classroom and facilities. If this involves increasing plinth size, the CLP engineers will supervise and the work will pass through a CLP cash-for-work scheme;
- 50 extra schools will be established by BC and the CLP-GIS used to identify suitable locations. The CLP infrastructure team will also be involved, as in the previous point;
- As far as possible, teachers from the CLP pilot will be re-employed and IMO partners who worked in the pilot will be re-contracted by BC;
- Friends in Village Development – Bangladesh (the CLP service provider) will likely provide BC with the technical support;
- The CLP assistance will carry no financial obligations;
- An MoU to this effect will be established if a positive response from the Qatari Foundation is received.

Following on from some interesting points raised by the Annual Review, the DFID Education Advisor is requested to moderate further trilateral discussions with BRAC-Education.

### **Advocacy activities**

CLP's small land tenure pilot project obtained title to khash land for an initial batch of eleven core beneficiary households and a further 100+ non-core families. There was a very slight delay in providing title (end-January 2013 target missed by 11 days) since the GoB Land Officers, responsible for the work, were seconded to other duties outside the district.

During the period, the CLP has negotiated practical involvement of Community Legal Services (CLS), also DFID-funded, in certain char areas. In January an MoU was signed and provides for cooperation between the two programmes. In February, the two team leaders agreed that cooperation would start in two geographic areas: in Kurigram (for CLS to learn from and help expand the land tenure pilot) and in Rajshahi (at the Law Department of the University) which is anticipated to cover the southern chars (particularly of Pabna). CLS is soon to provide further grants to additional organisations for legal services. It is anticipated that CLS and CLP will work together to ensure additional chars in other geographic areas are added to the cooperation agreement.

Furthermore, CLP is expanding the land tenure pilot to a further six areas, all on the Jamuna chars. Executive Directors of six additional CLP IMOs were approached in the quarter and all responded favourably. It was anticipated to hold a "Lesson Learning" workshop on 19-20 March to look at the Kurigram experience but hartals caused the workshop to be postponed until after the Easter break. Nonetheless, detailed discussions were held between the team leader and EDs at the ED quarterly meeting of 24 March.

### **Priorities for the next quarter**

As always, the CLP remains open to additional partnership opportunities, but in particular, we prioritise:

1. **Education:** Assisting the BC bid for Qatari funds move forward and links with BRAC-Education firmed up. Together, if concluded, significant and new education services could be brought to the chars;

2. **Advocacy:** Continue pushing for additional land title to be allocated in the two pilot unions of Kurigram. Integrate legal/advocacy activities with CLS and its local partners to begin to bring legal services to the chars; over and above the expansion of the land pilot to six new areas;
3. **Health and sanitation:** Find partners (from government and NGOs) who can bring additional resources to provide more tube wells/aprons on the chars;
4. **Personnel:** Contract and integrate a suitable Partnerships Director.

## **5. Finance Division**

The Finance Division completed the quarter with its standard financial exercises and analysis, along with sound fund control and disbursement among partners. Compliance with donor policies was ensured. The division also performed regular audits of financial information with other units.

The division carried out various analysis and wrote various reports on fund forecasts in the pipeline. Donors have become very interested in this issue, so that they can guarantee the effective utilisation of funds. The anticipated flow of funds among all partners was steady during the quarter. The division completed DFID FY 2012-2013, achieving 100% of its £14 million spending target.

The division disbursed £2.54 million during this quarter, and expects to disburse the remaining funds in the last quarter of the CLP financial year. It overcame the biggest challenge of distributing funds among all the partners. Conducting fund requirement exercises on a frequent basis was the key to success.

Following the audit reports of partners, received from an independent chartered accountant firm, the division prepared a summary statement on the observations found in the audit reports, and delivered urgent recommendations to partners. After accounting for the entire residual funds from IMO's in CLP account, Finance also scrutinised the performance of partner organisations using its balanced scorecard.

The Finance team took part in the Mid Term Review of the project and responded to all queries raised by the review team. The team was pleased on both internal control systems and technical schemes. Finance also responded to the points forwarded by the Independent Commission for AID Impact (ICAI), with no major concerns.

As part of the division's regular capacity building plan, all accounts personnel were offered a week long consolidated training programme on specialised accounting software, which was organised centrally in Dhaka.

Last but not least, the division continued to produce multi-stakeholder financial reports for crucial stakeholders such as MSP, donors and GoB, in order to keep them updated on the latest disbursement position.

### **Contracts & Procurement**

#### **Contracts**

As part of its regular activities, the Contracts section continued to produce all the necessary deliverables throughout the quarter. The section also began to collect information on the assets of IMO's in a more systematic way. Dividing the fixed asset list into sub-sections has proven effective in identifying the quantity, condition and location of any particular asset within a short period of time.

The regular responsibility of updating various databases of contractual information has also been conducted from time to time, and all agreements and amendments were issued as per deadlines. The section started to evaluate the budgets of different contracts in order to keep track of changes, and began to analyse essential operational activities in detail. After realising the necessity of cross-checking fund disbursement with different units, the section reported to other unit's forecasts for fund distribution on several occasions, which eventually allowed project to have better fund flows.

There were some significant achievements in the quarter:

- All necessary agreements, such as training contracts with third parties and various survey contracts etc, were issued following due diligence processes;
- Budget finalization, before the issuing of agreements, has taken place;
- Unlike before, the section also concentrated on the operational sides of few contracts, which has proven very useful;

- The consolidated exercise on Cost Allocation per CPHH was carried out with updated information, was also circulated among the units to give them a steady picture of contributions to programme participants;
- The contract paper dispatch and receipt exercise has been altered, and was finally named the "Signed Dispatch and Receipt Note";
- A number of useful reports were generated through using the existing Month-wise Installment Exercise to help the various units with real time information;
- Decisions regarding all IMO Management contractual issues have been delivered with the consultation of relevant senior people, and a noticeable sign of development in the sector is already in place;
- The contracts section thoroughly reviewed its overall filing system, so that it may be informed about any shortfall, as the annual audit season is approaching.

With all its strong connection and involvement with the real streamline of the project, the section is ready to take more responsibilities as more useful section and to establish that statement of responsibility, the quarter was a big step up in favor of it.

### **Procurement**

The quarter was an important one for the section, in terms of the volume of assignments. The section put efforts into introducing some fresh VfM (Value for Money) approaches, and aimed to meet all deadlines. Besides all regular practices, the section carried out the following tasks:

- Essential equipment for the Nutrition Project, such as motorcycles, laptops, mobile phones with SIMs etc, have been acquired through Crown Agents.
- Requests for Procurement Plan of DFID FY 2013-2014 have been sent to different units, to make an advanced consolidated plan to be distributed among different stakeholders.
- The section decided to distribute certificates among the successful Primary Secondary Certificate examinees under the Non-Formal Primary Education Project, and arranged the procedure accordingly.
- Different printing materials were developed and distributed under the supervision of procurement section.
- In terms of various printing works, the section issued some repeat orders from a previous successful supplier, which actually saved a significant amount of money, despite a rise in the price of raw materials.
- For the first time, procurement collected bags and umbrellas for Adolescent group members.
- The section was thoroughly reviewed by Mid Term Review Team, especially on VfM issues. This was a success for the section, as it was praised for its internal systems and VfM output.
- Other regular activities, such as updating the VfM register and cost saving exercises were carried out as before.
- Procurement also took part in the quarterly Executive Directors' and Programme Managers' meeting and shared their views.

Besides all of these, Procurement played the lead role during the Mid Term Review on behalf of the Finance Unit, and delivered an overall presentation before the team, which was appreciated.

### **Administration & Logistics**

The key activities during the Quarter were as follows:

- Regular visa and passbook extension work of CLP senior personnel was performed from time to time.
- All the logistics collected through local procurement or through Crown Agents have been dispatched to target destinations.
- The section conducted a fixed asset audit on a sample basis to understand the overall condition of the assets in the district offices and guesthouses.

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- The new fuel distribution system was again reviewed, and some necessary changes were made.
- Admin initiated the update work of necessary legal papers of all the motorcycles.
- Other regular activities, such as general repairing, maintenance, arranging meetings, and seminars were carried out accordingly.

## **6. Short Term Consultancies**

The CLP only received one short term consultant during the period under review. Mr. Brian Milton provided support to the Markets and Livelihoods Unit during the annual review as well as evaluating progress and offering suggestions for improvements.



## **7. Next Quarter's Activities**

As the CLP enters its fourth quarter of the financial year (April – June 2013) priorities lie in the following areas:

- Agreeing with the donors a response to the recommendations made by the annual review team;
- Inducting new members of the CLP team including the new Operations and IML Directors (and possibly Partnerships and Finance Directors if recruited during the quarter);
- Taking forward recommendations made in the VfM strategy, in particular the cost benefit analysis;
- Developing workplan and budget and seeking approval from DFID, AusAID and Gob for the next financial year (2013/14);
- Accelerating progress in the milk market development intervention;
- Commencing the direct nutrition project and supporting the baseline.

## Annex 1: Financial targets and achievements

| Activities                          | Annual Budget<br>(GBP in Million) | Approx Expenditure<br>3rd Quarter, Q3<br>(GBP in Million) | Approx Achievement as at<br>Q3 (%) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Infrastructure Unit                 | 3.51                              | 0.67  | 19%                                |
| Livelihoods Unit                    | 4.65                              | 0.93  | 20%                                |
| Market Development Unit             | 0.77                              | 00  | 0%                                 |
| Human Development Unit              | 2.82                              | 0.36  | 13%                                |
| Innovation, Monitoring and Learning | 0.36                              | 0.04  | 11%                                |
| IMO Implementation                  | 0.76                              | 0.11  | 14%                                |
| Response Fund                       | 0.08                              | -   | 0%                                 |
| Management Contract                 | 2.00                              | 0.44  | 22%                                |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>14.95</b>                      | <b>2.54</b>   | <b>17%</b>                         |

