



People's Reporting Centre (PRC)

*Strengthening Partnership
Between People and
Local Elected Bodies for better
Management of Union Parishad
in Bangladesh*



Annual Progress Report Year 2008



Funded By
DANIDA/HRGG-PSU

DEMOCRACYWATCH
Involving People, Building Democracy

7 Circuit House Road, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Phone: 9344225-6, 9360588-9

e-mail: dwatch@bangla.net

Website: www.dwatch-bd.org

List of Abbreviation

ADR	=	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ADP	=	Annual Development Plan
BCC	=	Behavior Change Communication
BDT	=	Bangladeshi Taka
CC	=	Citizen Committee
CBO	=	Community Based Organization
CSO	=	Civil Society Organization
CEDAW	=	Convention on Elimination of Discrimination on Women
CRC	=	Child Rights Convention
DANIDA	=	Danish International Development Assistance
DC	=	Deputy Commissioner
DW	=	Democracywatch
GO	=	Government Organization
GDP	=	Gross Domestic Products
HIV	=	Human Immune Virus
HO	=	Head Office
IEC	=	Information Education and Communication
ILO	=	International Labor Organization
INGO	=	International Non-Govt. Organization
LEB	=	Local Elected Body
LGI	=	Local Government Institutions
LG	=	Local Government
MDG	=	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	=	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	=	Non Government Organization
PRC	=	People's Reporting Centre
PIP	=	Project Implementation Plan
PRSP	=	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

Executive Summary

Democracywatch has been implementing ‘People’s Reporting Centre: Strengthening Partnership between People and Local elected Bodies for better management of Union Parishad in Bangladesh’ at 28 unions in Bangladesh since March 2006 which will continue till December 2010. The objective of the project is to let the poor and disadvantaged people gain access to better services concerning health, education, agriculture and alternative dispute resolution. Moreover, the project will ensure people’s participation in budgeting, planning, implementation and monitoring of UP activities and get people’s organization such as Citizen Committees, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community Based Organization (CBOs) involved in the monitoring process of the project. The project will contribute towards establishing an accountable and transparent Union Parishad in the project areas. There is scope for strengthening of institutional capacity of Democracywatch and Partner NGOs while implementing the Project.

Democracywatch has undertaken a number of activities during last year which has enhanced people’s participation in development activities and improved transparency and accountability of local government functionaries. With the assistance of PRC 26 UPs conducted participatory budgeting, 56 standing committees have been formed on agriculture, education, health and law & order in 17 UPs. UP standing committee members have started monitoring to improve local service delivery. Over 2,800 citizen committee members are trained and acting as a bargaining agent to make a positive change of the UP. They organize monthly meetings among themselves, identify local issues and put forward their recommendations to elected officials. More than 300 UP representatives received orientation training on participatory planning of which a considerable number were women. UP representatives are being more proactive in democratic planning and decision making. Over 12 UPs are practicing transparency and accountability on their own initiative.

Democracywatch implementing this project through its local partners such as Swapno Sahajjyo Shangstha (SSS) Jessore, Samajik Unnyon Shangstha (SUS), Gazipur, Nilachal, Nilphamari and PRADIP, Dinajpur.

Democracywatch is working in 28 unions of which 15 unions are in Jessore, 5 Union in Nilphamari, 4 Union in Gazipur and 4 Union in Dinajpur. The total budget of the project is BDT 6 crore 8 lakh 15 thousand 4 hundred 02.

1. Introduction: Analysis of context:

In Bangladesh, a decentralized system of Local Government (LG) based on the devolution of powers, authorities and functions always remained a cherished goal of the people. During last one decade, local government and issues related to local governance have become the central focus of discussion and debate among the civil society activists, local government officials, researchers and other critical stakeholders including the elected office bearers of the Local Government Institutions (LGI).

The context reached a different plain when the Government of Bangladesh formally adopted of the PRSP, which recognized the critical role of LG system particularly the UP as one of the prime vehicles to address poverty issues. Furthermore, the GOB has for the first time formulated the LG sector policy and recognized the need and importance of a decentralized, accountable, financially and institutionally viable and effective local government body. The newly formulated LGSP, as an umbrella programme, has also introduced some new milestone changes in the inter-governmental fiscal transfer, transparency, community participation and accountability.

Critics observed that the LGs as it exists today can only be labeled as extensions of the national government with guided and limited local participation. Consequently, local government units have continued to be institutionally and financially weak, poorly managed and lacked social and political credibility in the eyes of the community.

However, observers, local body officials, activists, researchers and academia have recognized that Local Government system in Bangladesh, with the present legal mandate, regulatory and policy framework, managerial and institutional set up, political environment is handicapped and to some extent has become dysfunctional. There are micro, meso and macro level issues / problems that hamper or hinder the smooth and effective functioning of LG system in the light of the comprehensive Constitutional framework of Bangladesh.

The PRC project aims to decrease the gap between the people and their Union Parishad (UP) representatives and function as a channel between the people and UPs. People elect the UP members who should be delivering services to the people. However in practice there is little interaction between the UP members and their electorate and the peoples' voice is not always being heard. This project will help the UP in strategic planning, participatory management and community participation and assist in linking UPs with community groups such as local traditional leaders, councilors and officials, the private sector and representatives from women groups. It focuses on building self-reliance within the community, and developing interdependent relations between the different layers of government. It will assist Union Parishads to make a comprehensive monitoring system by the local community.

Democracywatch believes that good governance can only be achieved through a strong local government with the contribution and participation of the local people. With a view to establish a society where people are able to exercise their democratic rights in all spheres of life irrespective of their socio-economic, cultural and political identity or status the organization is working in this sector seriously. After the short journey of PRC, Democracywatch gained enormous experiences and learning, which are portrayed in this report.

2. Overall Project development

Evaluation of the pertinence of the project strategy, and eventual need for adjustments

Strategic focus of the PRC project are,

- i) Sensitize and encourage community to participate in UP financial and development planning thus improve grassroots level service delivery and accountability of elected officials to their electorates,
- ii) Enhance multi party interaction with UP (interaction between UP, community, local administration, service delivery bodies, CBO, CSO and media),
- iii) Determine policy issues and conduct advocacy campaign to pave the ways for transparent and accountable LGI, and
- iv) Learn from the experiences of implementation and enhance organizational capacity of Democracywatch and local partner NGOs.

Democracywatch has been implementing this project through its local partners in different districts. The activities were mostly implemented by local partners where Democracywatch staff assisted them, train them and build their capacity to implement them successfully. Moreover, Democracywatch organized some events at field and national levels to get effective results.

Overall progress in relation to immediate objectives

(Analysis based on the summarized monitoring information)

During the reporting period 97% activities have been completed. Percentages of the field level implementation are as follows: Jessore 100%, Nilphamari 99%, Gazipur 98% and Dinajpur 99%.

Under the output 1 Democracywatch has completed 99.00% activities, 99.00% activities has been completed under the output 2, in output 3 we have achieved only 27% of the total activity and in output 4 Democracywatch has completed 80%.

An overview in relation to the overall progress of the project is as follows:

Planned Outputs	Programme achieved (January'08-December 08)
Output 1 UP standing committees and officials are capacitated for involving citizen committees and general people to identify and address problems through participatory analysis, planning and budgeting.	Under the output-1 Democracywatch has been completed 99.00% activities.
1.1 Developed strong and effective networks among UP standing committees, Govt. service providers and other stakeholders at local level for creating access to health, education agriculture and legal services for the poor and disadvantaged women, men and children.	
Output 2 Developed and well-functioned PRC as a platform where LEB, CC and general citizens can identify issue, make effective plan to address the problems and implement programme in a participatory process.	Under the Output-2, Democracywatch have been completed 99.00% activities.

2.2 Mobilized and sensitised mass people, Community based organizations, civil society organizations, local media for demanding transparency and accountability of UP through their participation.	
Output 3 3.1 Identified gaps and limitations in policy, system and practices of LGI	The achievement of Output-3, 27% activities has been completed.
Output 4 Institutional capacity of DW as Human Rights organization has been developed and continued planned project activities	Under the Output-4 we have been achieved 80% activities.

3. Achievements

Analysis of outputs and expenditure.

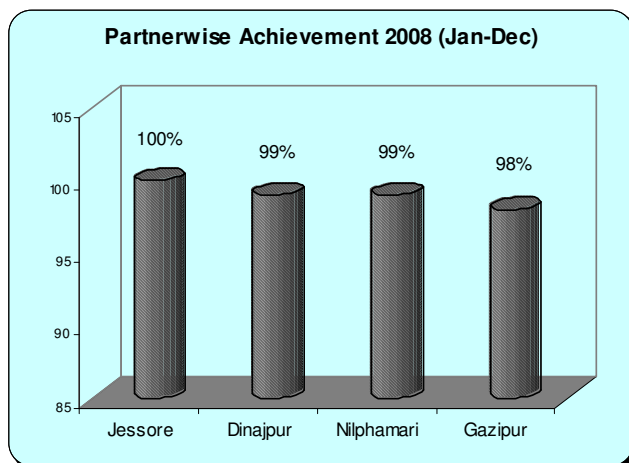
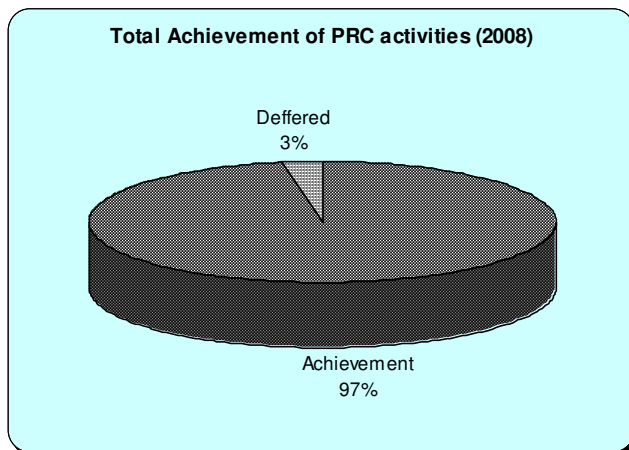
Output	Budget	Expenditure	Percentage (%)
Output 1 UP standing committees and officials are capacitated for involving citizen committees and general people to identify and address problems through participatory analysis, planning and budgeting.	8,64,000	1,114,214	129%
1.1 Developed strong and effective networks among UP standing committees, Govt. service providers and other stakeholders at local level for creating access to health, education agriculture and legal services for the poor and disadvantaged women, men and children.			
Output 2 2.1 Developed and well-functioned PRC as a platform where LEB, CC and general citizens can identify issue, make effective plan to address the problems and implement programme in a participatory process.	26,65,200	24,69,644	93%
2.2 Mobilized and sensitized mass people, Community based organizations, civil society organizations, local media for demanding transparency and accountability of UP through their participation.			
Output 3 3.1 Identified gaps and limitations in policy, system and practices of LGI	5,60,000	2,40,000	43%
Output 4 4. Institutional capacity of DW as Human Rights organization has been developed and continued planned project activities	35,73,830	29,32,328	82%

Note: According to the advice by Danida Programme Officer Mr. Sarder Asaduzzaman, we have rescheduled some activities i.e. standing committee formation and participatory open budget in 2008. Therefore, there are deviations in achievement and fund utilization.

General Project Status and Performance

Peoples' Reporting Centre (PRC) project of Democracywatch started in March 2006 and will be completed at December 2010. During the reporting period Democracywatch received the grant amount in two phases from Danida and disbursed budgeted amount to the partners on time.

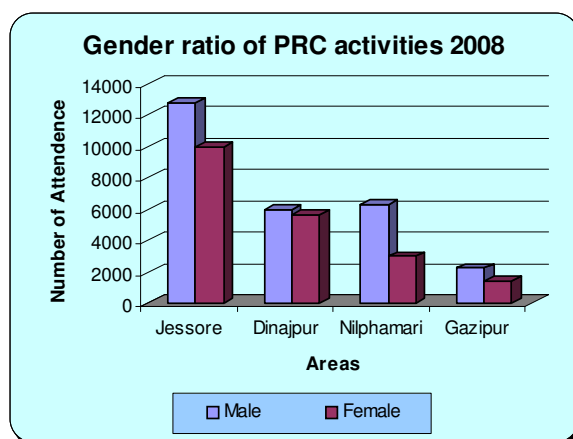
According to research and monitoring department of PRC about 97% activities have been implemented within last one year. It should be mentioned that Democracywatch calculated the achievement rate of PRC activities on the basis of working area coverage. The over all performance is shown in pie charts are as follows,



These pie and bar charts show the activities of PRC which have been done so far in last one year.

Gender ratio of the PRC activities (January 08 – December 08)

Area	Male	Female
Jessore	12836	9996
Dinajpur	5929	5665
Nilphamari	6313	2987
Gazipur	2215	1402



Achievements in terms of output

Out put -1:

- 1.1 UP standing committees and officials have taken effective measures for involving citizen committees and general people to identify and address problems through participatory analysis, planning and budgeting.



Standing Committee formation at Churamonkathi in Jessore

Achievements

- A number of 34 standing Committees (Agriculture, Health, Education, law and order) were formed in Fathepur, Noapara, Arabpur, Diara, Kachua, Churamonkathi, Haibatpur, Chanchra and Isali union of Jessore within this phase.
- A number of 8 standing committees (Education, Health and Agriculture) were formed in Gayabari and Paschim chatnai Union in Nilphamari within this year.
- A number of 6 standing committees (Education and Law & Order) were formed in Palsha, (Law & Order and Agriculture) Singra union and (Health and Law & Order) Ghoraghat union of Dinajpur from January-December, 2008
- A number of 8 standing committees (Agriculture and Law & order) were formed in Kaultia and (Law & order, Health and Agriculture) formed in Pubail and (Law & order, Agriculture and Education) in Bason union of Gazipur at January-December, 2008.
- Out of 4 meeting with journalist and civil society all of them have been completed.

The Role of Standing Committees at UP:

Taking the leverages given by the ordinance UPs can form standing committees in which they may involve community people and oversee local service delivery bodies. PRC project assisted its target UPs to form standing committees on health, agriculture, education and law & order. Some success of the standing committees during last year are as follows:

Standing Committee on Agriculture:

Standing Committee members assess the Knowledge and technology known by the farmers of the locality, they also insist Sub-Assistant Agriculture Development Officer to review the supply of fertilizer and pesticide to the poor farmers.

Standing Committee members also distribute Fertilizer at Singra, Bulakipur, Ghoraghat and Palsha of Ghoraghat Upazilla of Dinajpur. It helped the farmers the area.



Agriculture Standing Committee Distribute Fertilizer at Palsha Union, Ghoraghat, Dinajpur

Health:



Health Standing Committee meeting at Bulakipur, Ghoraghat, Dinajpur

Members of the standing committee made several visits to health centre to improve their accountability to local community and LGI. Members of the standing committee visited Bulakipur Health Complex at Ghoraghat, Dinajpur and made a report on it. After several visits the physician and staff of the health centre are more regular. Standing committee members motivated health officers to get regular status of EPI program. They also assisted health centre to disseminate information on sanitation behavior of the locality.

Law and order:

Members of the standing Committees of law and order at Bulakipur UP organized a meeting with the Ghoraghat Thana in order to put forward their recommendations for improving the overall law and order of the UP. On 10 May 2008 the meeting took place at Bulakipur UP hall room where Acting Officer in Charge was present. Representatives from the community and UP officials were present in the meeting.



Law & Order Standing Committee meeting at Bulakipur Union, Ghoraghat, Dinajpur

Participatory development and financial planning at UP level

Achievements

- Out of targeted 28 open and participatory budget declarations Democracywatch organized 26 open budget sessions in 4 districts.

Within this period a number of 15 open budget sessions were conducted in the project area under Jessore district. A series of budget sessions were held on 21 May, 2008 at Basundia union, on 22 May at Churamonkathi Union, on 24 May at Narendrapur Union, on 26 May at Ramnagar and Diara Union, on 27 May at Lebutola Union, on 28 May at Haibatpur and Upashahar Union, on 4 June at Chanchra Union, on 7 June at Noapara Union, on 8 June Kachua union, on 14 June Kashimpur Union, on 17 June Ichali Union, on 20 June Arabpur Union and 22 June at Fathepur Union of Jessore.



Pre Budget Session at Bulakipur Union in Dinajpur



*Participatory Open Budget(2008-09)
declaration at Arabpur Union at Jessore*

A number of 4 open budget sessions were conducted in the project area under Dinajpur district. Another series of sessions were conducted as follows: on 19 June at Ghoraghat Union, on 21 June at Singra Union, on 24 June at Bulakipur Union and on 26 June at Palsha Union in Dinajpur.

Another series of Open budget sessions were conducted in selected PRC project areas in Gazipur as follows: on 12 June at Pubail Union, 16 June at Kaultia Union respectively. Similar bunch of session were held in Nilphamari on 22 June at Khagakhoriari, on 23 June at Gayabari Union, on

25 June at Balapara Union, on 26 June at Purbo Chatnai Union and 27 June at Paschim Chatnai respectively.

Prior to conducting the participatory budget Democracywatch and its partner organizations conducted a series of Pre-budget sessions in 28 unions. 26 pre-budget sessions were organized where elected chairman, local people, elite, teachers, women representatives, doctors, local journalists and many. Other representatives from different professional groups were present to identify and prioritize their problems. On the basis of the problems and priorities identified, a draft budget was prepared for UP's consideration. The whole exercise had been participatory and inclusive. This is how; the process of UP budget-making has been more transparent and participatory which has been appreciated by local community.

A Brief Analysis and impact

Participatory budget declaration is one of the important task of UP to make them more transparent and accountable to general people. At first members of the citizen committee organized ward level discussion on budgeting process after that they came to UP level and organize Pre-budget session. After that they organized open budget session and dialogue with local people then they organize post budget session or follow up session to see the real progress of development activity at UP. A huge number of participants at different level used to participate in these events.

Output

- 1.2 Developed strong and effective networks among UP standing committees, Govt. service providers and other stakeholders at local level for creating access to health, education agriculture and legal services for the poor and disadvantaged women, men and children.

Achievement

- Out of 168 Alternative Dispute Regulation (ADR) of Union Parishad 168 ADR were completed in last Year (2008) of which 21 in Gazipur, 26 in Nilphamari 21 in Dinajpur and 100 in Jessore.
- Out of 168 Coordination Meeting (CM) of Union Parishad 168 Coordination Meeting Conduction have been completed in last year of which 24 in Gazipur, 30 in Nilphamari, 24 in Dinajpur and 90 in Jessore.



LEB workshop at Arabpur in Jessore



Exposure Visit in Purnima Gati, Sirajgonj

- Out of 2 exposure visits we have been completed 2 exposure visit. Jessore and Gazipur visited Purnima Gati Union of Sirajgonj District to see the performance of union parishad especially in light of transparency and accountability. Dinajpur visited Nilphamari Project area union parishads to see their activities.

A Brief Analysis and impact

Democracywatch staffs conducted this meeting with all the stakeholders of UP so that everybody would be informed about the activities of PRC and UP as well as Government officials such as Education officer, Agriculture officer and member of the standing committee were present at the coordination meeting

Case Study

Rojina is relived from dowry

Defender	Offender
Name: Rojina Akter	Name: Md. Kamal Hossain
Fathers name: Suruj Miah	Fathers Name: Md. Jull Hossain
Age: 23	Age:27
Year of Schooling: eight years	Year of Schooling: ten years
Occupation: housewife	Occupation: business (petty)
Address:	Address:
Village: Hatia, Ward -3	North Shalna
Kaultia, Gazipur	Kaultia Union, Gazipur

Marriage date and nature: not registered

Case: Dowry and torture

Application received and case filling date 26.05.08

The court was held on date 24.06.08

Offender Md. Kamal Hossain passed his marriage life with Mrs. Rojina Akther for last 3 years. After wedding, Mr. Kamal has tortured her wife frequently for dowry. Mr. Kamal is a small businessman. However, very recently his torture became extreme. He sent Rojina to her father's house for money. Rojina's father Suruj Miah is a poor person and was completely unable to pay the amount. Afterwards, torture began to increase day-by-day and slapping, beating, pinching, punching became regular incident.

Mrs. Rojina Akther came to know about her rights through PRC yard meeting. As well as she asked for assistance from Fathema Haque, citizen committee member, wife of Mr. Mokshed Ali Khan from the same village. Mrs. Fathema Haque discussed the matter in the citizen's committee monthly meeting and initiated to file the case in union perished village court on 26.05.2008. Abdul Rashed, citizen committee member and Mr. Rosomoy Mondal, PRC staff did counseling with the offender about the demerits of the dowry and they helped him to realize the legal prosecution against this kind of case of repression. Initially the defender refused to attend the process but finally he agreed to attend the village court.

The village court noticed Mr. and Mrs. Kamal separately to attend the court on 24.06.08 by the presence of Mr. Nazim Uddin, Chairman and Anwar Hossain, UP member of Kaultia UP.

The decisions were:

1. Mr. kamal will never torture her wife Mrs. Rojina Akther for dowry
2. He will make sure her rights and maintenance
3. Mrs. Rojina will not abuse her husband in future
4. If any problem occurs from any side should be discussed with ward member and Mrs. Fathema Haque, citizen committee member in future.

Output-2:

- 2.1 Developed and well-functioned PRC as a platform where LEB and general citizens can work together to identify root causes of violation of basic, civil and political rights of people specially women and children.

Achievements

- Out of 28 Workshop with LEB 28 have been completed in 2008 of which 15 in Jessore, 4 in Dinajpur, 4 in Gazipur and 5 in Nilphamari.
- Out of 84 Coordination Meeting (CM) of Union Parishad 84 Coordination Meetings have been completed in last quarter of which 12 in Gazipur, 15 in Nilphamari, 12 in Dinajpur and 45 in Jessore.
- Out of 56 monthly meetings all have been completed of which 8 held in Gazipur, 10 in Nilphamari, 8 in Dinajpur and 30 in Jessore.
- 252 trainings on Civic Rights and Responsibilities have been conducted for the citizen committee members.
- Four Local Press conferences were targeted at local level of which one has been conducted in each project area Jessore, Gazipur, Nilphamari and Dinajpur.



Citizen Committee Training at Khagakhari Bari at Nilphamari



Monthly Meeting at Arabpur Union in Jessore

- 2.2 Mobilized and sensitised mass people, community based organizations, civil society organizations, local media for promoting people's demand on transparency and accountability of UP and monitoring public services delivery to the poor.

Achievements

- Out of 56 Spot campaigns all have been successfully conducted in project areas. A number of 30 spot campaigns organized in Jessore, 8 in Dinajpur, 8 in Gazipur and 10 in Nilphamari. Spot campaigns during the period were focused on local resource mobilization.



Spot campaign at Pashcim Chatnai Union in Nilphamari

- Out of 56 video show of awareness rising on different UP activities PRC has completed 56 video shows at project areas. A number of 30 video shows at Jessore, 8 in Dinajpur, 8 in Gazipur and 10 in Nilphamari.



VDO Show at Palsha Union at Dinajpur



Yard Meeting at Dinajpur

- Out of 504 yard meetings on transparency and accountability, participatory planning, Human rights and good governance, 504 meetings have been completed. 270 Yard meeting held in Jessore, 72 in Dinajpur, 72 in Gazipur and 90 in Nilphamari. Each meeting is approximately 3 to 4 hours in duration and attendance varies between 40 and 50. The participant having received prior Information gathers at the site and formed a circle. Many of the participants are women. The PRC official takes the initiatives to

make friendship with them so that they feel comfortable discussing there own problems relating to the Union Parishad.

The discussion is participatory and the facilitator encouraged everyone to join in. Another officer takes note which were developed into a report outlining the local problems and possible solutions. The report is sent to local elected members and then it submitted to the chairman.

Case Study

Citizen participation in local development planning

Gopalpur health sub-centre in Palsha Union Parishad under Dinajpur district was established immediately after independence. Infrastructure of the health complex was feeble as there was no reconstruction took place. All the doctors who came, they left within short time for which people were being deprived of health services from the complex. Moreover there was no supply of drinking water and toilet facilities. Therefore, doctor and patients had to visit nearby household for drinking water and toilet.

Dr. Sri Jagadish Chandra Roy local practitioner and member of Gopalpur Citizen Committee word no. 2 raised the issue of health complex reconstruction in a coordination meeting on 27 May 2008 where health officer, UP officials were present. The necessity of reconstruction was discussed and considered as a highest priority development issue in the area. On behalf of UP the chairman said that due to some legal obligation they cannot spend more than 75,000 taka. Citizen committee proposed the UP to allocate several projects for that particular purpose. Chairman agreed with the proposal and allocated 219,000 taka as three projects. The health complex was reconstructed under direct supervision and involvement of citizen committee members. They also constructed a deep tube well and toilet in the health complex premises. People of Gopalpur are now getting better health services from the health complex. Doctors are now available in the complex. Local community praises Dr. Sri Jagadish Chandra Roy and PRC project to resolve the problem of health sub-centre through community participation.

Monzila Bewa got the access to UP service

Monzila Bewa a poor widows of Banial village under 4 no Ghoraghat Union Parishad of Dinajpur district. Due to extreme poverty she had been struggling to survive with her only son. She went door to door but nobody helped her. Most of the time the family had to starve and finally she kept her son in an orphanage.

Monzila was present in a yard meeting at Banial village in 10 October 2008 which is regularly organized by Peoples Reporting Center (PRC) in order to identify local problem and raising awareness among community people. Monzila described her problem in the meeting and urged for assistance. All the participants were shaken to know her condition and recommended ward member Md. Mahbubur Rahman to include her in the VGD list. The member investigated about her condition and included Monzila as eligible for 2008-2010 VGD card.

After getting the support of VGD Monzila's livelihood condition has improved. She brought back her son home and can now afford at least two meals a day. She is also planning to send her son to school for a better future. This is how Monzila Bewa has now the access to UP services by the initiatives of Peoples Reporting Center (PRC).

Output-3:

3.1 Identified gaps and limitations in policy, system and practices of LGI with special focus on resource allocation, decentralization of power, people's active participation in UP and its relation with PRSP.

Achievements

- Out of 2 studies 1 Study has been done on status of UP women members.
- Out of 3 Participatory Policy Dialogues 1 has been organized on 21 September 2008 at CIRDAP auditorium, Dhaka. PRC team presented its experiences and recommendations in strengthening UP standing committee. Dr. Salahuddin Aminuzaman, Professor, Department of Public Administration, Dhaka University moderated the dialogue where Professor Badiul Alam Majumder, Secretary General of Sujon; Professor Zarina Rahman Khan; Professor Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah; Professor Mohammad Mohabbat Khan; Sarder Asaduzzaman, Programme Officer of Danida; Mr. Mohsin Ali, Executive Director of Wave Foundation; Taleya Rehman, Executive Director of Democracywatch were present. The dialogue was presided over by Kabir Mohammad Ashraf, Director General, NILG.
- Out of 4 press conferences at local level we have been organized all press conferences at Jessore, Gazipur, Nilphamari and Dinajpur. PRC local partners organized this event to describe their activities and achievements to local journalists. It should be mentioned that PRC has been gained a significant media coverage regarding their activity.



Participatory Policy Dialogue in Dhaka

Output 4:



Capacity building workshop for partner NGOs

- Out of 2 Annual partnership meeting 2 have been completed in year 2008.

- Out of 2 staff capacity building programme among local PRC staff 2 have been completed within 2008. The first capacity building workshop was held on 12-13 March 2008. governance and advocacy were major focus of the workshop. Second capacity building workshop held on 24 December 2008 in which local partner NGO staff received orientation on UP resource mobilization.



Annual partnership meeting in Dhaka

Discussion and analysis of progress and set back

PRC project started from March 2006 and will continue till December 2010. Immediate after inception of the project a number of activities hampered due to political unrest and confrontational political situation all over the country. After 2006 the nation had to go through the state of emergency. In the beginning of the state of emergency many UP chairman and members were unavailable in their constituency. Also the elected officials had to carry out a number of functions directed by the army and caretaker administration. Therefore, the project had to postpone a number of activities. Moreover, after the first year implementation of the project DW team experienced some ambiguity about few activities. Project contact person from Danida also raised his concerns regarding the activities. However, after more than two years of implementation the project has considerable amount of achievements. They are,

1. PRC has been successful in creating a strong and effective working relationship with 28 UPs.
2. Citizen Committee members are keen to play catalyst's role in some places.
3. Local community acknowledges PRC as a platform where they can raise their voice.
4. A number of UPs are practicing transparency in their development planning, financial allocation and decision making.

5. Women members have clearer job responsibility for which their ownership have increased significantly.
6. Enhanced coordination and cooperation among UP and government officials have been established.
7. Local community is more demanding about their rights from the elected bodies.

Influence of external factors

Assumptions:

- Several organizations are working on local government to improve the situation.
- Government policy emphasised on improvement of the local government.
- UP representatives are more friendly and helpful at present.
- Community members are willing to contribute their time on a voluntary basis.
- Venue is available to conduct training program at local level.

Risks:

The following major risks have been identified

- Unlawful intervention from the local political leaders.
- UP elections may take place within short time and many of the elected representatives may not elect again.

Evaluation of achievements (Outputs) in relation to expenditure

<u>Head of Expenses</u>	<u>% of expenditure on 1st Year budget</u>	<u>Reasons for deviation</u>
Programme Personnel	96 %	N/A.
Administrative Personnel	100 %	N/A
Activity and Running cost	88 %	N/A
Recurring costs	84 %	N/A
Audit Expenses	100 %	N/A

Challenges and way forward

- As UPs implemented hundred days program by the government, regular PRC activities i.e. LEB workshops, spot campaigns hampered. DW rescheduled the events and implemented them.
- Due to National Elections 2008 a number of events including national level seminar and policy dialogues were not possible to be held during the second phase of last year. As we now have an elected government and local government commission in place, we plan to carry out national seminar and policy dialogues in 2009.
- Many of the PRC activities are low cost which were affected by the recent past inflation and price hike. DW plans to propose activity and budget review to Danida.
- People have become aware of the PRC concept but their expectation is too high. They thought that this project would ensure direct service delivery. The message is given to the local people about the project through different activity.
- Citizen committee members are not motivated enough in some target areas. It is due to the fact of their financial status. They expect financial or personal benefit by getting involved with NGO activities. PRC promotes the benefit of UP service delivery for them. Also have taken the initiative to rearrange citizen committee membership and promote voluntarism.

4. Implementation mechanisms

- The functioning of steering mechanisms, project management, planning, monitoring and administration.

DW making all its program decisions at monthly Project Management Meeting (PMM). The PMM participated by Executive Director (20%), Programme Manager, Programme Coordinator, M&E Coordinator, Finance Manager (30%), 1 Internal Auditor (50%), 1 Accountant, 2 Programme Officers and 3 Assistant Program Officers, 1 Technical Assistant and 1 Driver. Organizational and implementation strategy have been discussed and reviewed from time to time through active participation of PNGOs. Partner organizations used to propose their ideas, views and plans through regular partnership meetings.

For smooth running of the project activities the individual partner usually prepares the work plan, implement and monitor the day to day activities. PNGOs implementing the project with 50 % responsibility of Executive Director in addition to his/her regular work. To run the project they have recruited; 1 Project Coordinator, 1 Programme Officer, 1 Assistant Programme Officer, 1 Union Organizer, 1 Accountant with 50% responsibility and 1 support staff. Alongside partners have recruited 1 PRC Representative from each new union who communicate and give messages to people about PRC. All recruitments will be based on project size and geographical

coverage. Management of each partner will provide on the job/in-house and formal training for staff capacity building. A small team of PRC monitoring the project activities and DW is ensuring the necessary capacity building of the individual partners. Partners report to Program Manager and Program Manager reports to the Executive Director of Democracywatch.

Finance Department of DW is keeping accounts for the expenses and produces financial reports. All financial budgeting and reporting will be coordinated by Finance department of DW in close cooperation with the Programme Manager.

DW prepares and submits the periodic and progress reports and programme completion report to DANIDA.

DW in Dhaka and individual partners operate separate bank accounts for projects. The accounting process is carried out in accordance with financial and administrative guideline of DANIDA

An NGO Bureau enlisted firm of chartered accountant and approved by DANIDA will audit financial statement for the individual projects at the end of each year. Audit report will be prepared and sent to DANIDA.

Democracywatch has appointed one M & E coordinator with full responsibility of developing comprehensive M&E system, tools and techniques, which will be practiced both at Democracywatch and field level. DW will on a regular basis monitor the implementation of the individual projects based on the developed monitoring system. In the 3rd year of the project a mid term evaluation will be done which would be an opportunity to look back whether the objectives could be achieved with the present plan or some new ideas need to be incorporated.

The partner organizations' individual projects submit the reports to DW using prescribed formats and timetables as per requirements.

In consultation with partner NGO and keeping the requirement of DANIDA in mind reporting system and formats will be developed by Democracywatch.

Progress in relation to donor coordination and harmonization

Danida officials always coordinate and giving time to time advises to implement the project smoothly. Without it they visit at national and local offices as well to oversee the programmes.

On 4 March, 2008 Hans Hoffmeyer, Programme Coordinator and Sarder Asaduzzaman, Programme Officer of DANIDA-HRGG-PSU visited Kaultia UP at Gazipur and attended citizen committee meeting at Gazipur project office.

Danida Programme Officer Mr. Sarder Asaduzzaman and Danish Embassy Programme Officer Mr. Rafiquzzaman visited Fatehpur field office and met citizen committee members. They visited Deyara UP and met standing committee members and UP representatives. They also visited Ramnagar UP and observed post budget session in Jessore.

Financial Controller and Trainer of Danida Mr. A F M Mayeen visited Democracywatch on 3 December 2008. He made some important comments to improve financial management system of Democracywatch.

Apart from this Programme Officer of DANIDA always use to keep contact with us to know the status of PRC Project.

Principle tasks

- Need more Rapport building at UP level
- Need to establish comprehensive contact with UP chairman and other stakeholders (i.e. UNO, Upazilla Health, Education and Agriculture officer etc)
- Need more training for national and local staff
- Organize partnership meeting, strategy planning to resolve the problems at implementation level
- Ensure regular field visit from Democracywatch to give input at implantation level

Work plan and priorities for next half year

A number of tasks are remains to go at National level to make policy makers more aware and responsive to LG issue. National Programme such as debate, policy meeting, Coordination meeting, LEB workshop, meeting with journalist and civil society, Citizen Committee training on transparency and accountability, standing committee activation and study report publication will get the highest priority for the next half year. (**Attached work plan**)

Annexes:

1. Monitoring charts including all indicators and targets according to specific format
2. Project level (output based) work plan with specific targets for the reported period
3. Project level (output based) work plan with specific targets for the next (half) year
4. Financial report according to specific format

Democracywatch

People's Reporting Centre (PRC)

Achievement of Different Programs in PRC Project Areas (Jul-Dec 2008)

SL	Name of activity	3rd year Jan- June08	6 month target (Jul- Dec 08)	Dhaka		Jessore		Dinajpur		Gazipur		Nilphamari		Total Achieve	Total Deferred
		Def	target	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A		
	Out put- 1														
3.01	Standing Committees Facilitation	3	28			26	26	2	2	3	3	0	0	31	0
	Budget	2	0							2				0	2
3.03	Participatory Budget Analysis	2	0							2				0	2
3.04	Meeting with Journalist/civil society	0	2					1	1	1	1			2	0
3.05	Organize workshop with LEB & officials	0	14			8	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	14	0
3.06	Coordination Meeting Conduction	0	84			45	45	12	12	12	12	15	15	84	0
3.07	ADR Facilitation	0	41			21	21	6	6	6	6	8	8	41	0
3.08	Exposure visit (2 In Country)	0	1	1		1	1							1	0
3.09	Exposure visit (1 Out of Country)	1	1	1										0	1
	Output- 2														
3.12	Training of PRC members, CC members	0	126			67	67	18	18	18	18	23	23	126	0
3.14	PRC manual develop	1	1	1											1
4.15	PRC manual print (5000 copy)	1	1	1											1
3.16	Spot Campaign	0	28			15	15	4	4	4	4	5	5	28	0
3.17	Poster develop, print and disseminate (18000 copy)	2	2	2										0	2
3.18	Yard Meeting	0	252			135	135	36	36	36	36	45	45	252	0
3.19	Video show of Awareness Raising	0	28			15	15	4	4	4	4	5	5	28	0
3.20	Quarterly/Monthly Meeting with CC	0	56			30	30	8	8	8	8	10	10	56	0
3.21	SAT facilitation	0	11			3	1	3		1		3		1	10
	Output- 3														
3.22	Participatory Policy Dialogue	3	3	3	1									1	2
3.23	Participating debate & meetings	6	6	6										0	6
3.24	Report published & distribution on Participatory budget	3	3	3										0	3
3.25	Study report published & distribution	1	2	2										0	2
3.26	Local Press Conference	0	0	0										0	0
3.27	National Press Conference	2	3	3										0	3
3.28	Experience sharing meeting among staffs	1	1	1	1									1	0
3.29	Meeting with Policy Makers		1	1											
3.30	Seminar on policy advocacy	2	4	4										0	4
	Output- 4														
3.33	Staff (DW & PNGO) capacity building	1	2	2	2									2	0
3.34	M&E tools develop and print	0	1	1	0									0	1
3.35	Annul partnership meeting	1	2	2	2									2	0

Democracywatch
People's Reporting Centre (PRC)

Achievement of Different Programs in PRC Project Areas (Jan-Dec 2008)

SL	Name of activity	Target with deferred (January-December 2008)	Dhaka		Jessore		Dinajpur		Gazipur		Nilphamari		Total Achieve	Total Deferred
			T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A		
	Out put- 1													
3.01	Standing Committees Facilitation	56			34	34	6	6	8	8	8	8	56	0
	Budget	28			15	15	4	4	4	2	5	5	26	2
3.03	Participatory Budget Analysis	28			15	15	4	4	4	2	5	5	26	2
3.04	Meeting with Journalist/civil society	4			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	0
3.05	Organize workshop with LEB & officials	28			15	15	4	4	4	4	5	5	28	0
3.06	Coordination Meeting Conduction	168			90	90	24	24	24	24	30	30	168	0
3.07	ADR Facilitation	168			100	100	21	21	21	21	26	26	168	0
3.08	Exposure visit (2 In Country)	2			1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
3.09	Exposure visit (1 Out of Country)	1											0	1
	Output- 2													
3.12	Training of PRC members, CC members	252			135	135	36	36	36	36	45	45	252	0
3.14	PRC manual develop	1			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4.15	PRC manual print (5000 copy)	1			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
3.16	Spot Campaign	56			30	30	8	8	8	8	10	10	56	0
3.17	Poster develop, print and disseminate (18000 copy)	3	3		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
3.18	Yard Meeting	504			270	270	72	72	72	72	90	90	504	0
3.19	Video show of Awareness Raising	56			30	30	8	8	8	8	10	10	56	0
3.20	Quarterly/Monthly Meeting with CC	134			70	70	20	20	16	16	28	28	134	0
3.21	SAT facilitation	11			4	1	3	0	1	0	3	0	1	10
	Output- 3													
3.22	Participatory Policy Dialogue	3	3	1									1	2
3.23	Participating debate & meetings	6	6	0									0	6
3.24	Report published & distribution on Participatory budget	3	2	0									0	2
3.25	Study report published & distribution	2	2	0									0	2
3.26	Local Press Conference	4		0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	0
3.27	National Press Conference	3	3	0									0	3
3.28	Experience sharing meeting among staffs	1	1	1									1	0
3.29	Meeting with Policy Makers	1	1	0									0	1
3.30	Seminar on policy advocacy	4	4	0									0	4
	Output- 4													
3.33	Staff (DW & PNGO) capacity building	2	2	2									2	0
3.34	M&E tools develop and print	1	1	0									0	1
3.35	Annul partnership meeting	2	2	2									2	0
3.36	Mid Term Evaluation													

People's Reporting Centre (PRC)
Six Months Work Plan (January 2009 - June 2009)

SL	Activities Name	3rd Year Deferred Activities	4th Year Target	4th year Total Target (including deferred)	Six Months Target	Working Area				
						Dhaka	Jessore	Nilphamari	Dinajpur	Gazipur
	Out put 1									
3.01	Standing Committees Facilitation	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
3.03	Participatory Budget Analysis	2	10	12	12		5	2	1	4
3.04	Meeting with Journalist/civil society	0	4	4	2		1	1	-	-
3.05	Organize workshop with LEB & officials	0	28	28	14	-	7	3	2	2
3.06	Coordination Meeting Conduction	0	168	168	84	-	45	15	12	12
3.07	ADR Facilitation	0	84	84	42	-	22	8	6	6
3.08	Exposure visit (2 In Country)	0	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
3.09	Exposure visit (1 Out of Country)	1	0	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
	Output 2									
3.12	Training of PRC members, CC members	0	252	252	126	-	68	22	18	18
3.14	PRC manual develop	1	0	1	0	0	-	-	-	-
3.15	PRC manual print (5000 copy)	1	0	1	0	0	-	-	-	-
3.16	Spot Campaign	0	56	56	28		15	5	4	4
3.17	Poster develop, print and disseminate (18000 copy)	2	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
3.18	Yard Meeting	0	504	504	252	-	135	45	36	36
3.19	Video show of Awareness Raising	0	56	56	28	-	15	5	4	4
3.20	Quarterly/Monthly Meeting with CC	0	112	112	56	-	30	10	8	8
3.21	SAT facilitation	10	8	18	9	-	4	2	2	1
	Out put 3									
3.22	Participatory Policy Dialogue	2	1	3	2	2	-	-	-	-
3.23	Participating debate & meetings	6	2	8	4	4	-	-	-	-
3.24	Report published & distribution on Participatory budget	3	1	4	2	2	-	-	-	-
3.25	Study report published & distribution	2	1	3	2	2	-	-	-	-
3.26	Local Press Conference	0	4	4	4		1	1	1	1
3.27	National Press Conference	3	1	4	2	2	-	-	-	-
3.28	Experience sharing meeting among staffs	0	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-
3.30	Seminar on policy advocacy	4	2	6	2	2	-	-	-	-
3.31	Develop Advocacy Strategy	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Out Put 4									
3.33	Staff (DW and PNGO) Capacity Building	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
3.34	M & E tools develop and print cost	0	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
3.35	Annual Partnership Meeting	0	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-

