

Annual Operational Report

(December, 2011-November, 2012)

APARAJITA- Political Empowerment of Women



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
Quality Assurance

Submitted by

Democracywatch
15 Eskaton garden road
Ramna, Dhaka.

Format Snapshot

Implementing organization:	Democracywatch			
Project name: APARAJITA- Political Empowerment of Women	Type of report: Annual Operational Report			
	Reporting period: December ,2011 to November 2012			
Phase duration: December, 2011 to November, 2015	Receiver of the report: APARAJITA: Project Steering Committee/SDC			
Main results achieved and implementation performance of the project/programme				
Summary:				
Democracywatch (DW) has been implementing the APARAJITA project, phase-1 funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) since December 2011 in ten districts of Bangladesh. The districts are Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Pabna, Sirajganj, Tangail, Mymensingh, Jessore, Magura and Narail.				
In the last year of the project DW has achieved some major results in relation to outcome -1and outcome-0.According to project objectives 524 EWRs and 584 P-EWRs have acquired knowledge on leadership and the service provisions of different service providers (Education, Health and Agriculture) and trying to ensure services from concern department for the people. Among them, 41 EWRs are involved to monitor the service of primary school and resolve the stipend problem of 22 students (female), 52 EWRs ensured extra safety net support for 1040 persons,30 EWRs publicly declared their candidature in general seat for next UP election,24 EWRs involved in UP tax assessment and collection committee,18 EWRs mobilized the community people on Right to Information, 43 EWRs included in the local committee of Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF), Municipality Association of Bangladesh (MAB), Mohila Parishad and Manobadhikar Songstha, one arranged drinking water for her community people through advocacy with the department of public health and engineering.				
Annual achievements came out under following expenditure:				
Particulars		Budget	Actual	in %
Total Expenditure of the period (1 st year)		23,579,077	19,838,319	84%
Main steering implications for next period of interventions				
In the operational area of Democracywatch during last year there was no considerable risk or opportunity occurred which may steer implication for next period of intervention.				
Date of report : 28 February, 2013		Faisal Mustafijur Rahman Project Coordinator-APARAJITA Democracywatch		

Democracywatch

APARAJITA: Political Empowerment of women

Annual Operational Report

Reporting period: December 2011 to November 2012

Introduction:

In the first year of APARAJITA project (December 2011 - November 2012) DW implemented activities in 157 UPs, 15 Upazilas, 12 Municipalities and 10 Constituencies in all 10 districts. During the reporting period 470 EWRs from the UP, 13 EWRs from Upazila and 41 EWRs representing the Municipality, 98 UP Chairmen, 13 Upazila Chairmen, 9 Mayors, 2 DCs, 2 district administrators, 13 UNOs, 56 service providing officers, 35 local journalists and 350 local volunteers were directly engaged with the project activities. Through the project implementation process APARAJITA is trying to ensure the political empowerment of women in the operational areas.

In collaboration with the local administration and the civil society all targeted activities have been carried out during the reporting period. The UPs, Upazilas, Municipalities and the civil society organizations/representatives were also mobilized through capacity building and advocacy initiatives and put their attention on pro-poor services provided by the local level service providers.

As the nation is heading towards the next general election political unrest is intensified, but due to positive attitude of the relevant government departments and professionals and their support towards the EWRs and women leaders the project is not yet affected,

Outcomes achieved for:

Outcome – 1: “Elected Women representatives are accountable to their constituencies and together with potential future EWR and former EWR are collectively requiring gender and poverty sensitive practice in local service delivery and assuming leadership roles”

After completing the activities the following changes have been observed under outcome-1:

- EWR's (524 persons) knowledge has been increased on the service provision of the different service providers through participatory training.
- In Tangail, Sirajganj and Mymensingh 41 EWRs visited 46 government primary schools in their area to ensure proper service delivery in the schools (no. of Female students=6254, Male students=4770). Assistant Upazila Education Officer and other officials of education department visited 22 primary schools along with the EWRs. As a

result, now the teachers are regular in their class and students are getting regular service from their teachers in those areas.

- EWRs are now more involved in decision making process. In Dinajpur 52 EWRs of Birampur and Nobabganj Upazila ensured 120-150 cards under government safety net program for their entitled beneficiaries (especially women). Earlier they could manage only 100-120 cards.
- EWRs of Alipur UP of Dinajpur raised “No confidence” along with their 9 male colleagues against the irregularity and corruption of the UP chairman. The chairman tried to manage the EWRs but they didn’t compromise with the irregularities.
- 87 EWRs from Dinajpur, Sirajganj, Jessore and Tangail publicly expressed their interest in contesting with their male counterpart for general seats of Union Parishad in the next election.
- In Mymensingh, Tangail, Nilphamary and Dinajpur 32 P-EWRs included in UP standing committees and made the community people aware of their entitlements and responsibility.
- EWRs prevented 3 cases of early marriage through the support of local administration in Tangail and Jessore
- In Ullapara, Sirajganj 25 EWRs attended in primary school management committee meeting and delivered their opinion.
- EWRs of Ullapara Municipality are involved to ensure water and sanitation facility for community people.
- EWRs increased their regular communication with Upazila Agriculture Extension Officer on local service and as a result the sub Assistant Agriculture Officers also increased their visit at local level agriculture block in Mymensingh.
- In Tangail Sadar Upazila 15 EWRs conducted standing committee meeting as the chair on their own initiative.
- EWRs refused to sign in blank documents (i.e. attendance sheet, resolutions, bank cheques etc.) provided by UP secretary which is a common practice in some UPs of Sirajganj, Tangail and Nilphamari.
- After arranging the meeting with community people 7 EWRs of Jessore, Sirajganj and Mymensingh visited local community clinics and as a result the community people are getting better services.
- A new UP named “Koyra” was formed by dividing Purnimagati UP of Ullapara. Three potential women leaders from Koyra have already decided to contest in the next UP election.
- 15 women leaders are working with the major political party directly. They are participating in different meetings and expressing their opinion freely.

- Due to irregularity on allocation of 40 days job creation program (i.e. earth work, cleaning of ponds etc.) of UP, 45 EWRs submitted complain to the local administration against the chairmen. After the initiative of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Nilphamary Sadar Upazila a negotiation with the chairmen and EWRs was made and now the EWRs are getting their allocation as per policy.
- The participation and attendance of EWRs in the UP monthly meetings increased remarkably (20% to 30%) and they are actively taking part in the discussion.
- EWRs are leading 8 standing committees on health and education in 8 UPs of Jessore Sadar Upazila and are monitoring the services of local service providing institutions accordingly.
- P-EWRs of Jessore Sadar Upazila involved with the union tax assessment and collection committee and contributed to prioritize the plan of UP.
- After receiving the training 154 EWRs have been frequently communicating with local administration which helps in promoting cooperation between them and local administration (UNO).
- Two EWRs have been involved in service delivery monitoring and engaged in taking action. One EWR has arranged drinking water for her community people through advocacy with the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) and another EWR of Tangail supported her community to mitigate the irregularity of electricity bill of Rural Electricity Board.

Outcome-2: “Provisions (legal framework including ordinance & directives) Political commitment and public opinion conducive for inclusion and participation of EWR (and potential EWR) and for promoting gender sensitivity in service provision at community level”.

EWRs have communicated with the Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF) leaders at local level to incorporate them in networks. We have conducted meeting with BUPF Municipal association of Bangladesh (MAB) and Women committee of Upazilla Parishad Association of Bangladesh UZPAB members, oriented about the project and field level interventions. The respective forum members expressed their interest to work with APARAJITA project in the policy advocacy issues.

- 110 members of the central committee of MAB, BUPF and UZPAB are oriented and sensitized on APARAJITA project.
- 10 EWRs of Mymensingh engaged them in the committee of Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF), Municipality Association of Bangladesh (MAB), Mohila Parishad and Manobadhikar Songstha.
- 33 EWRs of Tangail participated in the rights based movements of BUPF regularly at local and central level.

- EWRs formed their association “Upazilla Nari Unnayan Forum” under LGSP-II in DInajpur,Tangail and Rangpur.
- Central leaders of BUPF, MAB and Upazila Parishad Association (UZPAB) sensitized on APARAJITA Project and they instructed to their divisional and district committee for helping implementation of the APARAJITA project.
- Upazila women vice chairmen of 6 Upazilas are now involved with the divisional committee of UZPAB.

Outcome-3: “Information technical and advisory support for EWR valued used and continuing”

- 10 Resource center are functioning at 10 districts and 65 EWRs, 28 P-EWRs, 11 male representatives and 201volunteers visited the Center. Initially basic information regarding the program are provided, gender development documents, and LG manuals, laws and ordinance, recent circulars are available in the center.
- 18 EWRs of 6 UPs contributed to conduct campaign on Right to Information (RTI) in Birampur and Nilphamari Sadar Upazila. They were also actively involved in the preparation of citizen charter of UPs.

Outcome 0: Startup

Under the outcome-0, Democracywatch achieved the following:

- Democracywatch has prepared a map of all organizations currently involved in LG capacity building as well as future plans in the working area.
- Updated IEC materials and different training modules collected from different organizations.
- The project facilitators are oriented on project and their role and they are now capable of facilitating the program accordingly.
- The EWRs of UP, Upazila and Municipalities are oriented on the vision, mission, goal and objectives of the APARAJITA Project.
- EWR and Volunteers are oriented on the baseline methodology.
- Baseline data has been collected and complied to identify the current situation of the project areas.
- All EWRs (524) and central committee of BUPF, MAB and central Women Committee oriented on APARAJITA project.

Implementation constrains and way to overcome them:

Constrains: Dinajpur-6 is one of the largest constituencies of Bangladesh, it contains 4 Upazilas, 23 UPs and 3 Municipalities but staff allocation in this area is same as other small constituencies. Therefore, with limited number of staff implementing the activities become difficult.

Way to overcome: Provision to recruit another extra staff for that constituency would be better for smooth implementation of the project activity in Dinajpur-6 constituency.

Constrains: Due to lack of professional knowledge EWRs are unable to provide support/Sugesstion to the urban and rural poor, especially rural women

Way to Overcome: Through the training, coaching and mentoring, professional knowledge of EWRs was enhanced.

Constrains: Some of the male colleagues of EWRs are not willing to cooperate in implementation of the project.

Way to Overcome: Intensive motivational mechanism for male representative of UP is required.

Constrains: In the project area, academic backgrounds of EWRs are very poor. Most of the EWRs have not completed the SSC. Only few of them have passed SSC or above.

Way to Overcome: EWRs have been nurturing and mentoring through training and regular coaching. Besides DW have been providing coaching to the EWRs on their roles and responsibilities as part of its GRC activities.

Constraints: Most of the EWRs depend on their husband or son or any other close male family members to take any decision.

Way to overcome: Awareness among the EWRs has been raised on their rights and responsibilities through training and mentoring.

Finances and Management

The project expenditures in the reporting period were BDT 19,838,319/- against the annual (1st year) approved budget of BDT 23,579,077/-. Though, the project 'burn rate' was 84% of the annual budget.

Expenditures of the period (1st year)	Budget	Actual	in %
Project implementation	14,008,400	12,495,651	89%
Project activities	6,751,000	4,635,334	69%
Overhead cost	2,819,677	2,707,334	96%
Total	23,579,077	19,838,319	84%
SDC's Contribution	22,492,566	18,864,151	84%
Democracywatch contribution	1,086,511	974,168	90%

(Please see in details in the Annex: 2 Budget spend vs. planned for the project, excel file)

Management issue: The APARAJITA project is being implemented under the guidance of the senior management team of Democracywatch. Project coordinator is responsible for the field operation of the project which is being implemented in different ten constituencies through ten regional offices. DW Recruited 34 full time project staffs including 1 PC, 2 SPOs, 10FCs, 10 POs, 10 PORGs and 1 Finance officer. In addition to the full time staff, 5 DW core staff (Executive Director 20%, Directors Program 40%, Director Finance 40%, Director Operation 20% and M&E coordinator 50%) also contribute in APARAJITA partially. The project is running smoothly with the cooperation of all (34 full time and 5 shared) project staff and stakeholders.

At the beginning of the project DW selected 10 implementing partners to work in 10 districts. After few months one of the implementing partners “PRADIP” who had been working in Dinajpur could not fulfill the target due to lack in compliance. In this regard DW holds a meeting with PRADIP’s senior management and both party agreed to terminate the contact on 21 May 2012. In Dinajpur, now DW is implementing the “APARAJITA” directly instead of partner. DW recruited one Program officer and one program organizer instead of partner’s staff with same budget amount.

Lessons learnt

Good practices and innovations:

- After meeting with the central committees of local government association, BUPF, MAB and UZPAB members participated in the field actively and have shown their positive attitude on the project.
- A sticker has been printed on UP help line and distributed to 11 union of Tangail. Local volunteers of APARAJITA sponsored printing cost of the information sticker with initiatives of EWR.
- 15 EWRs (from Rangpur, Tangail, Dinajpur, and Jessore) have shown interest to increase ICT base knowledge through gender resource centre. Democracywatch have taken initiatives to provide training on ICT knowledge.
- EWRs have been calling over phone to project’s personnel regularly for taking suggestions on local government laws, women violence, dowry etc. A phone call registrar has been maintain in for keeping documentation on recommendation and trends issues.
- During the project activities, DW has circulated two help lines number, which is 16256 to provide UP related information and another number is 10929 (provided by department of women and children affairs) for providing support to vulnerable children and women. After getting the hot line number 30 EWRs called to above mentioned two helpline.
- Beside EWRs, 20 male members visited gender resource centre for taking information.

Recommendation:

Some recommendations come from difficulties during implementation activities, set priorities in action plan. Recommendation as bellow:

- Activities should be prioritized in beginning of the implementation year with details plan.
- Besides the EWRs chairman and male member should be involved more in various events and programs.
- We should have a circular from GoB/World bank and SDC to monitor the LGSP fund so that union parishad can provide us about the information of LGSP.
- Every decision from ACC should be executed timely.

Recommendation from Local Government network:

- Implementing development organizations and development donors should have shared their implementing strategies and prioritized issues with relevant networks (BUPF, MAB, UZPAB-women committee) before/during launching the project.

Operational Report (Part 2 and Annexes)

Outcomes achieved for

Outcome-1: Elected Women representatives are accountable to their constituencies and together with potential future EWR and former EWR are collectively requiring gender and poverty sensitive practice in local service delivery and assuming leadership roles.

- EWR's (524 persons) knowledge has been increased on the service provision of the different service providers through participatory training.
- In Tangail, Sirajganj and Mymensingh 41 EWRs visited 46 government primary schools in their area to ensure proper service delivery in the schools (no. of Female students=6254, Male students=4770). Assistant Upazila Education Officer and other officials of education department visited 22 primary schools along with the EWRs. As a result, now the teachers are regular in their class and students are getting regular service from their teachers in those areas.
- EWRs are now more involved in decision making process. In Dinajpur 52 EWRs of Birampur and Nobabganj Upazila ensured 120-150 cards under government safety net program for their entitled beneficiaries (especially women). Earlier they could manage only 100-120 cards.
- EWRs of Alipur UP of Dinajpur raised "No confidence" along with their 9 male colleagues against the irregularity and corruption of the UP chairman. The chairman tried to manage the EWRs but they didn't compromise with the irregularities.
- 30 EWRs from Dinajpur and Tangail publicly expressed their interest in contesting with their male counterpart for general seats of Union Parishad in the next election.
- In Mymensingh, Tangail, Nilphamary and Dinajpur 32 P-EWRs included in UP standing committees and made the community people aware of their entitlements and responsibility.
- EWRs prevented 3 cases of early marriage through the support of local administration in Tangail and Jessore
- In Ullapara, Sirajganj 25 EWRs attended in primary school management committee meeting and delivered their opinion.
- EWRs of Ullapara Municipality are involved to ensure water and sanitation facility for community people.
- EWRs increased their regular communication with Upazila Agriculture Extension Officer on local service and as a result the sub Assistant Agriculture Officers also increased their visit at local level agriculture block in Mymensingh.
- 10 EWRs of Mymensingh engaged them in the committee of Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF), Municipality Association of Bangladesh (MAB), Mohila Parishad and Manobadhikar Songstha.

- In Tangail Sadar Upazila 15 EWRs conducted standing committee meeting as the chair on their own initiative.
- 33 EWRs of Tangail participated in the rights based movements of BUPF regularly at local and central level.
- EWRs formed their association “Mohila Unnayan Forum” under LGSP-II in Dlnajpur, Tangail and Rangpur.
- EWRs refused to sign in blank documents (i.e. attendance sheet, resolutions, bank cheques etc.) provided by UP secretary which is a common practice in some UPs of Sirajganj, Tangail and Nilphamari.
- After arranging the meeting with community people 7 EWRs of Jessore, Sirajganj and Mymensingh visited local community clinics and as a result the community people are getting better services.
- A new UP named “Koyra” was formed by dividing Purnimagati UP of Ullapara. Three potential women leaders from Koyra have already decided to contest in the next UP election.
- Central leaders of BUPF, MAB and Upazila Parishad Association (UZPAB) sensitized on APARAJITA Project and they instructed to their divisional and district committee for helping implementation of the APARAJITA project.
- Upazila women vice chairmen of 6 Upazilas are now involved with the divisional committee of UZPAB.
- 15 women leaders are working with the major political party directly. They are participating in different meetings and expressing their opinion freely.
- Due to irregularity on allocation of 40 days job creation program of UP, 45 EWRs submitted complain to the local administration against the chairmen. After the initiative of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Nilphamary Sadar Upazila a negotiation with the chairmen and EWRs was made and now the EWRs are getting their allocation as per policy.
- The participation and attendance of EWRs in the UP monthly meetings increased remarkably and they are actively taking part in the discussion.
- EWRs are leading 8 standing committees on health and education in 8 UPs of Jessore Sadar Upazila and are monitoring the services of local service providing institutions accordingly.
- P-EWRs of Jessore Sadar Upazila involved with the union tax assessment and collection committee and contributed to prioritize the plan of UP.
- EWRs contributed to conduct campaign on Right to Information (RTI) in Birampur and Nilphamari Sadar Upazila they were also actively involved in the preparation of citizen charter of UPs.

- After receiving the training 154 EWRs have been frequently communicating with local administration which helps in promoting cooperation between them and local administration (UNO).
- Two EWRs have been involved in service delivery monitoring and engaged in taking action. One EWR has arranged drinking water for her community people through advocacy with the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) and another EWR of Tangail supported her community to mitigate the irregularity of electricity bill of Rural Electricity Board.

Outcome -0 Start up

4.5 EWR and EWR networks identified and oriented

4.5.1 Provide orientation to EWR on plan

15 orientation programs took place in 15 Upazillas under the ten districts. 524 EWRs, Government officials and head of local government institutions attended the orientation. Through this program participants oriented about the ins and outs of the Aparajita project. A good relation has been made among Aparajita staff, EWR, local administration and head of local government institutions. This will help us to run activities smoothly.

Beyond the project design there were attended higher administrative persons, LGIs Chief and service providers who were also oriented about the project. Some promises were come from them for involving EWR in decision making process in UP, Upazilla and Pourashava. EWRs also expressed their constraints during working in union, Upazilla and Pourashava. Some strong findings from up came out through the program. This will help EWR to involve in service delivery monitoring and usefulness of actions taken constituents demand & improve local service delivery.

B.4.6 EWR led monitoring system field tested and ready for roll out

A total 10 orientation programs were took place in ten constituencies on methodology on base line data collection. 150 EWRs and 185 volunteers received the orientation training on baseline data collection and methodology. Beyond the project design, Volunteers were involved additionally. By involving volunteers and EWRs, we have also tried to ensure their deeper involvement or authority into the project. EWRs and volunteers were oriented about eight set of questionnaires and technique to collect data. Head office staff provides ToT to field coordinator as facilitators or co-facilitators of base line methodology training at 10 constituencies. Head office staff was attended five baseline methodology orientation programs as main facilitators at five constituencies and rest of the orientation program was facilitated by field coordinator. Through this baseline survey we identified potential future EWR and former EWR which is contribute to outcome 1.

b.4.2 Collect all current IEC materials , training modules provided by different organizations, identify gaps

This is the process activity for implementing by earlier five months of the project considering three sub-activities including 1) Collect IEC materials and modules, 2) Conduct small meeting

on gap identification and 3)conduct workshop on gap identification. Among three activities two (Collect IEC materials and modules, Conduct small meeting on gap identification) activities were held successfully. Gap identification findings shared with stakeholders through informal ways or sometimes by arranging meeting with different organization. A total 30 informal meetings were held with different organization. All these information would be used by EWR through gender resource center and facilitators. In future it will enrich KCE Hub.

4.8 A-NGO capacity strengthened

4.8.3 Partnership-building and sharing workshops:

In the end of facilitator's orientation program, a session was held for developing partnership strategy with Executive Director of partner organizations. The ED and staff of partner organizations were oriented in details about project background, objectives, activities, implementation strategy, expected outcomes, monitoring and evaluation system.

It will help to smooth running the project by proper nursing to EWR.

Activities beyond the project design:

- This will directly contribute to outcome-3.Number of gender resource centers (GRC) is one of the innovations of Democracywatch are using as KCE-hub for EWRs. It would be used as common space of EWR for gathering, sharing and learning equally. Resource center has already started its journey in ten regional offices under ten districts. Local government and gender related publications, newspaper are available in these gender resource centre. Democracywatch head office is taking more initiatives for effecting thus (GRC).
- Met with DC, UNO, Upazila chairman, UP chairman, secretary, Upazila women vice chairman, UP women representatives and four targeted service delivery agencies (agriculture, education, health and policing). These activities will contribute to outcome 1. It will help EWR to promote pro poor and gender sensitive service provisions.
- Observed International Women's Day: Various group of people who participated in the event occasion where acquainted with the women rights through the rally and speeches and linkage between Democracywatch and local NGO's developed that will establish future cooperation, coordination and collaboration. Local people learned and became inspired, aware and sensitized on women rights. This event is the primary initiatives for advocating on EWRs issues under out come-2.
- Near about 2000 volunteers are identified and created list. Some students, teachers, former EWR, life skill training holders, UISC- focal persons and influential especial skill persons are enlisted as volunteers. Under outcome 3 EWR will be valued by volunteers supporting role by instruction of KCE-Hub and project people. Initially volunteers were oriented about project.

b.4.3 Orient/train facilitators to programme and their role (3 days orientation training, 3 facilitators per constituency)

This is the only formal orientation and training program for facilitators of the project. According to action plan, a three days training on project orientation was received by 10 facilitators from ten regions successfully in end of January, 2012. A total 39 participants including field coordinators, local partner's staff and executive directors were attended the program. There are four external and internal facilitators conducted the session who were directly involved during project development process. Mr. Sohel Ibn Ali, program manager, SDC was attended the program

The participants were oriented in details about project background, objectives, activities, implementation strategy, expected outcomes, monitoring and evaluation system. In the end of orientation program, a session was held for developing partnership strategy with Executive Director of partner organizations..

b.4.4 IEC materials ready

b.4.4.1 Based on gap analysis (output 0.1), design IEC materials

According to action plan, this is the part of KCE hub and help line related process activities which would be guided by KCE hub facilitators. Due to delayed recruitment process of KCE facilitators this activity is undone. This activity will take place by 3rd quarter of this year.

b.4.4.2 Pilot test and refine IEC materials

This is also the part of KCE hub and help line related process activities which would be guided by KCE hub facilitators. Due to delayed recruitment process of KCE facilitator this activity undone. This activity will take place by 3rd quarter of this year.

4.5 EWR and EWR networks identified and oriented

4.5.1 Provide orientation to EWR on plan

According to project action plan this is the activities of third quarter in first of the project. With the discussion of the project team, There are fifteen “EWR Project Orientation” program took place in 15 upazilas under ten districts with participation of 526 EWRs (UP and Municipality), 60 Government officials, 122 LGI chief (UP/Upazilla Chairmen and Mayor). Through the program, participants get orientation about ‘APARAJITA’ project including background, objectives, activities, implementation strategy; expected outcomes.

These events were most fruitful because of organizing earlier in the project. Because beyond the project designed activity, there were attended higher administrative persons, LGIs Chief and service providers who were also oriented about the project. Some promises were come from them for involving EWRs in decision making process in UP, upazilla and Pourshava. EWRs also expressed their constraints during working in union, upazilla and Pourashava. Some strong findings were come out through the program. This will help to set the priorities of action during implementation.

Through the events, 15 upazillas BUPF leaders were invited as special guest. Initially they appreciated the project positively which was great achievement of the project. EWRs were

inspired with them. This orientation program will contribute to build strong network among the EWRs and EWR with others forums.

B.4.6 EWR led monitoring system field tested and ready for roll out

b.4.6.1 Orient/train facilitators & EWR on the baseline methodology (developed before programme start)

This is a 3rd quarter activity. But this activity implemented at end of second quarter after discussion with ACC meeting (with concern of SDC). These activities were held earlier for fixing targets quicker and updating about the based situation. A detail plan (including A questionnaire, methodology and technique, reporting structure) of complete baseline survey was sated and shared among M & E team of four A-NGOs.

A total 10 one days orientation programs were took place in ten constituencies on methodology on base line data collection. 150 EWRs and 185 volunteers received the orientation training on baseline data collection and methodology. Beyond the project design, Volunteers were involved in data collection process additionally. By involving volunteers, we have also tried to ensure volunteers deeper involvement or authority into the project. EWRs and volunteers were oriented about eight set of questionnaires and technique to collect data. Head office staff provides ToT to field coordinator as facilitators or co-facilitators of base line methodology training at 10 constituencies. Head office staffs were attended five baseline methodology orientation programs as main facilitators at five constituencies and rest of the orientation program was facilitated by field coordinator.

4.8.3 Partnership-building and sharing workshops:

During the end of facilitator's orientation program (b.4.3), all ten partners organization's staff and executive director who are directly involved with 'APARAJITA'- project were attended actively with participatory ways. Through the program, initial informal partnership building and sharing was held effectively. Therefore, project mentioned partnership-building and sharing workshop will be held on follow up and future planning with partners in 3rd quarter of the project in this year.

Beyond the action plan: All these activities were directly influence various outcomes.

- This will directly contribute to outcome-3. Number of gender resource centers (GRC) is one of the innovations of Democracywatch are using as knowledge hum for EWRs. It would be used as common space of EWR for gathering, sharing and learning equally. Resource center has already started its journey in ten regional offices under ten districts. Local government and gender related publications, newspaper are available in these gender resource centre. Democracywatch head office is taking more initiatives for effecting thus (GRC).
- Met with DC, UNO, Upazila chairman, UP chairman, secretary, Upazila women vice chairman, UP women representatives and four targeted service delivery agencies (agriculture, education, health and policing)

- Observed International Women's Day: Various group of people who participated in the event occasion where acquainted with the women rights through the rally and speeches and linkage between Democracywatch and local NGO's developed that will establish future cooperation, coordination and collaboration. Local people learned and became inspired, aware and sensitized on women rights.
- Near about 2000 volunteers are identified and created list. Some students, teachers, former EWR, life skill training holders, UISC- focal persons and influential especial skill persons are enlisted as volunteers.
- 110 EWR visited gender resource centre in regional office and got knowledge development support.
- Beyond the project, some initial project information was collected by instruction with M&E team and SDC.

Annex: 1 Budget variance note:

2.4 Due to collective implementation (ANOs together) process of develop monitoring system and IEC materials shifted to 2nd year. All the process of designing of IEC materials has completed but due to time constraints it will be printed in next year. In addition the exposure visit of first year was not possible to organize; it has forwarded to second year.

a.2.4 Due to delayed recruitment of KCE facilitators and NPF, burn rate was only 2%

a.2.13 The program did not demand any technical consultant.

a.2.14 The first year audit cost would be paid in second year.

b.1.1.14 This is the process activities of KCE-Hub, Due to delayed recruitment this activities undone in first year.

b.4.1.5 We could not complete the activities in first year due to priority of inception related activities. Already we have desinged the IEC materials. This activities will implement in second year.

b.4.3.3 We could not complete the activities in first year due to priority of inception related activities. Already we have desinged the IEC materials. This activities will implement in second year.

b.4.4.1.2We have developed a ToR for finalizing the monitoring system. According to ToR, Consultant will finalize the monitoring system after piloting. It has forwarded from first year to second year due to indecision of finalize the monitoring system together ANGOS.

b.4.4.13 After completion the develop monitoring system the orientation of monitoring will be held at field level. It has forwarded from first year to second year.

b.4.7.4 This is undone at first year. It would be implemented with four ANGOS together in 2nd year.

b.4.7.5 These activities will be implemented under expanse/budget of network establishment activities which we will be implemented in second year. This budget will be laps.

b.4.8.1Due to work load in inception period, the activities shfted to 2nd year.

b.4.8.2 Due to work load in inception period, the activities shfted to 2nd year.

d.2 Due to less expenditure in first year as per approved budget, the overhead could not be charged 100%.

- **Annex: 2 (Please see in excel file)**

Form 1 (A): Operational report : key figures spend vs. planned

Form 1 (B): Operational report : Significant variance

Form 1 (C): Details of activity wise budget variance report

Form 2 (A): Cash flow forecast for the next 12 months and rest of the phase

Form 2 (B): Operational report : Cash flow report

Form 3 (A): Operational report : Fund reconciliation statement

Form 3 (B): Fund request

Core staff time sharing status

- **Annex-4**

Case study-1

Rokeya Begum: example of women Empowerment

Rokeya Begum, wife of Mr. Abdur Razzak, is the elected representative of the reserved ward (1,2, 3) of Porabari Union Parishad of Tangail Sadar Upazila. She won by 2627 votes in the last election. Before involvement with APARAJITA project, she could not understand about the perfect responsibilities when she had to perform as an elected representative. For this reason, she was unable to perform responsibilities effectively.

Rokeya Begum and 100 household were suffering by fake electric bill for a long time. They did not get electric bill in time with incorrect meter riding by Polli Biddut Unnayan Board. But nobody take initiative for solving this problem.

Rokeya Begum stated, “She came to know about her responsibilities and duties towards the society, specially the women through involvement with APARAJITA-Political Empowerment of Women project.” This understanding of responsibility encouraged her to work for the people. Then she came to APARAJITA project office on 22nd May, 2012. At first, she discussed with the UP Chairman but the chairman had no voice regarding the solution of fake electric bill. On 27 May, 2012 she discussed with on fake electric bill issue with Chief Engineer by the support of APARAJITA project staff. With the decision of the discussion with chief engineer, she submitted an application on 4 June 2012 with the sign of elite persons and bill number. Subsequently the chief engineer said, the problem would not happen next time and if they face problem again then she can come for talking with chief engineer directly.

The village dwellers Mr. Shajahan said, “The people think that Rokeya Begum done difficult work and solved problem. Also the people hope Rokeya Begum can be solved any problems in future”.

Mrs. Ambia Khatoon said, they are very happy for giving vote to Rokeya Begum and the people will give positive support her for achieving good job”.

Rokeya Begum said, “ Now I understand my role and responsibilities as a woman representative. From now I will work for the people through development activities. Moreover, she believes that they learnt from Democracywatch through APARAJITA project”. Before starting APARAJITA, they can't obey their role and responsibility perfectly due to lack of knowledge. In addition, she said, “at present the EWRs know how they work for people by attending orientation, training provided by Democracywatch. The village people feel proud of this success. Gradually she will build a unity with people for getting service in community”.

Case study-2

Initiative for giving service delivery

Majeda Begum, wife of Mir A. Rouf, is the elected representative of the reserved ward (7, 8, and 9) of Korotia Union Parishad 4 of Tangail Sadar Upazila. She won by 3720 votes in the last election. She has two sons. At first when elected, she did not understand about the exact responsibilities when she had to perform as an elected representative. For this reason, she was depended on her husband, elder brother, Chairman and other male members for accomplishing her developmental tasks in the area. As far, she has repaired a road in expense to 7-ton wheat and 2 roads under 40 days program. She was unable to do these works as effectively as she should do as a representative only due to her lack of skill.

Majeda Begum stated, “She became involved with APARAJITA-Political Empowerment of Women project (Orientation on March 22, Base line survey orientation on April 16 and Capacity Building Training on May 13-14), she came to know about her responsibilities and duties towards the society, specially the women”. This sense of responsibility encouraged her to work for the women friendly development activities and services. Recently she has established a tubewell for safe water at the house of Fulmoti Begum who is divorced at Mirer Betka village and established a hygienic latrine with the money that Fulmoti saved for the tubewell.

Majeda Begum said, “ I can establish the tubewell at any Madrasa or club, but when I came to know that as a woman representative I have more responsibilities towards the improvement and service of women then I thought my priority should be women friendly development activities”. This is a positive sign. The women representatives started to believe that they have a platform after getting APARAJITA besides them. They took a vow to keep APARAJITA beside them all the time.

Case Study-3

Momtaz Begum:Member, Ramnagar Union Parishad (Ward 1, 2,3), Jessore Sadar

Momtaz Begum after losing her husband she struggled a lot with her two children. Being a housewife she always tries to support the deprived people of her locality. In 2011 UP Election she won by a large margin.

Before her involvement with APARAJITA project, she could not understand the exact role and responsibilities as an elected representative. For this reason, she was unable to perform her responsibilities effectively.

In July 2012, one midnight she heard screaming in her neighborhood and immediately rushed to the scene and found that some policemen trying to arrest a man. She introduced herself as an elected representative and asking them the reason of arresting. She asked the Sub-inspector of police to show any legal warrant. He didn't have any legal documents and so in front of an elected representative they took an undertaking and let him free. The local people appreciated the initiative. Now she is more involved in mitigating local problems.

Momtaz Begum said, "After receiving the training from APARAJITA I really understood my roles and responsibilities for the society as a member of UP. Whatever might be the problem now I am more confident to take initiatives for solving those".

Case study-4

Bely Akther:Member, Khagdhar Union Parishad (Ward 7, 8,9), Upazila Sadar, Mymensingh

Bely Akther (28) a housewife attended school up-to class ten. She has a son and a daughter.

She was elected as an UP Member for the first time in 2011. Prior to the election she was a housewife, but still she has been trying to help deprived women and poor people in her locality. But due to financial and social constraints she could not succeed and her determination helped her to compete in the UP election.

Due to lack of orientation and support she did not know about the rules and function of UP and how to perform her duties and responsibilities as an UP member. When APARAJITA project was introduced in Mymensingh district with the aim of political empowerment of women she expressed her interest towards the project and expected to learn and practice many things for the welfare of the people.

Now Mrs. Bely is already practicing and applying the acquired knowledge in field level for the betterment of the people. She distributed over 200 VGF cards among poor people. She is regularly visiting Government primary schools and taking necessary action for qualitative education. As a part of her duties she also visits satellite and union community clinic and has been ensuring available medical services for the people. She trained 18 women and men on comprehensive vegetable cultivation and poultry production through agricultural department. She is an active member of UP standing committees and making decision properly.

She expressed her sincere eagerness to compete in the next UP election as member of general seat and she is optimist that she will be successful and ready to accept challenges.

Case study-5

Shirin Sultana is an elected member of hugra union parishad (ward-3) in Tangail district. She is also a chairperson of women and children affairs standing committee. Before her involvement with APARAJITA project, she could not understand the exact role and responsibilities of the standing committee. For this, she was unable to perform her responsibilities effectively. After receiving the training from APARAJITA she discussed with Chairman and other members of the up about the importance of the standing committee. Later in the committee meeting she made a decision to visit a community clinic (Malotipara community clinic) to see whether the local community especially women and children received their service properly or not. She found that the authority take 2 taka per person for check up, though the government rule is, the service recipients should get the service without payment. Shirin Begum asked the assigned health worker about the charge but did not get any logical answer. Later she discussed with up members and the other influential people of the locality and took initiative to solve the problem. Now the citizen of hugra para is getting the health service properly. The local people appreciated the initiative of Shirin Sultana and feel proud to elect such an efficient representative.

Case study-6

Laila Khanom, member, Corotia Union parishad is always tries to help the deprived women and children from early childhood marriage, dowry especially violence against woman. Being an elected representative after receiving the training from APARAJITA she got more knowledge about the standing committee function, roles and responsibilities. She can understand her social commitment, now she is taking initiatives to solve the social problems. Recently she prevented an early marriage in her ward. When she heard that in her area an early marriage has been arranged. A girl named jui (age 14, father-Julhash, purbapara) and a boy named pulto (age -20, father-Hable Mia) were the bride and bride groom. Then Laila Khanom sat with both family members and discussed the demerits of early marriage. She also made them aware about the punishment of this illegal arrangement. She promised them that she will arrange this marriage of their proper age.

Annex-5**Outcomes Achieved and Outputs Delivered in line with Logframe Indicators****Democracywatch**

Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Remarks
1. Elected Women representatives are accountable to their constituencies and together with potential future EWR and former EWR1 are collectively requiring gender and poverty sensitive practice in local service delivery and assuming leadership roles.	1.1 a) Increase in number of women contesting reserved seats (% with more than 3 women contesting).	94 EWR received training	524 Elected Women Representatives received the training	
	500 EWR involved in service delivery monitoring and usefulness of actions taken to voice constituents demands & improve local service delivery	156 Primary school	41 EWRs visited the 46 primary schools of their area to ensure the proper service delivery in the primary schools as a result Assistant Upazilla Education Officer visited the 22 primary schools. Number of Student F=6254, M=4470 - After getting training EWR solve 22 (F=22) stipend problem of 3 schools. 524 EWRs have been known the service provision entitlements of different service provider (Education, Health and Agriculture) at local level,	

Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Remarks
	% women elected in reserved seats seeking election to general seats.	31 EWRs elected in reserve seats seeking election to general seats	30 EWRs expressed their interest in contesting in general seats of UP.	
	Women in Chair position of Standing Committees	227 EWRs are presently in Chair position of Standing Committees	524 EWRs known about Standing Committees through orientation 471 EWRs have been involved in thematic Standing Committees (Birth and Death registration and Education Health and Family planning, water supply and sanitation, women and children welfare, law and order) and have taken initiatives for effective functions such as regular meeting, School visit(41 schools) and visit to the guardian(112) of Primary school students for reducing dropout .	
2. Provisions (legal framework incl. ordinance and directives), political commitment and public opinion conducive for inclusion and				

Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline	Achievement	Remarks
participation of EWR (and potential EWR) and for promoting gender sensitive service provision at the community level.				
3.Information, technical and advisory support for EWR valued, used and continuing				
Startup			• 3 daylong orientation to 39(F=6, M=66) facilitators on programme and their role. • 65 EWRs and 5 male members were visited resource centre and queries some LG related information from 10 regional 'Gender Resource Centre'	



অপরাজিতা : নারীর রাজনৈতিক ক্ষমতায়ন
নির্বাচিত নারী জনপ্রতিনিধিরা স্থানীয় সেবার মান উন্নয়নে এবং নারীর দারিদ্র দূরীকরণে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছেন।
ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের আইন, গ্রাম আদালত, এলজিএসপি বরাদ্দ ও এর ব্যবহার সম্পর্কিত তথ্যের জন্য

ফোন করুন ১৬২৫৬ নাম্বারে

ডেমক্রেসিওয়াচ
টঙ্গাইল অঞ্চল
বিশ্বাস বেতকা, ঢাকা রোড, আটপুকুর গেট, টঙ্গাইল
ফোন : ০১৭১৬ ৫৪৪৮১৮

সৌজন্যে : এ ওয়ান কম্পিউটার, রহমান সেন্টার, ভিক্টোরিয়া রোড, টঙ্গাইল। মোবাইল : ০১৭১৭-৩৬৮৪৮৪

Code No.	Activities	Reporting Period: Dec 2011 – Nov2012			Reasons for Deviation
		Annual Target	Target Achieved	Deviations	
b.1.1.1	2 days Training for EWRs and P-EWRS of Ups	1268 Persons	1108 Persons	160 persons	Due to unavailability of participants in local area during training period
b.1.1.2	2 days Training for EWR and PEWR of Municipality and Upazilla	300 persons	274 persons	26 Persons	Due to unavailability of participants in local area during training period
b.1.1.3	1 day Training for Women MPs	1 batch 10 Persons	0	10	Forwarded to next year due to lacking of demarcation of the area of Women MPS.
b.1.1.7	Provide user friendly support materials e.g. pocket books, video, self learning tools	184 sets	184 set	N/A	N/A

b.1.1.9	Assist EWR in tracking their own progress (e.g. diaries) and EWR Networks to regularly reflect on progress	200 Nos	000	200 Nos	Forwarded to 2 nd year
b.3.1.5	Maintain drop-in facility and Information Desk for data on Local Government	10	10	00	N/A
B.3.2.2	Support Team Building (Annual coordination Meeting)	1 Meeting	1 Meeting	N/A	N/A
b.4.1	Map all organizations currently involved in LG capacity building as well as future plans	1	1	0	N/A
4.1.2	Collect all current IEC materials , training modules provided by different organizations, identify gaps	1	1	0	N/A
b.4.3	Facilitator selected, Oriented and Capable				
	Orient/train facilitators to programme and their role (3 days orientation training, 3 facilitators per constituency)	1	1	0	N/A

b.4.4	IEC Materials ready				
b.4.4.1	Based on gaps analysis (output 0.1), design IEC materials	1	0	1	Forwarded to second year
b.4.4.2	Pilot test and refine IEC materials	1	0	1	Forwarded to second year
b.4.5	EWR and EWR networks identified and oriented				
b.4.5.1	Provide orientation to EWR	15	15	0	N/A
b.4.5.2	Provide orientation to EWR networks	3	3	0	N/A
b.4.6	EWR led monitoring system field tested and ready for roll out				
b.4.6.1	Orient/train facilitators & EWR on the baseline methodology (developed before programme start)	1	1	0	N/A
b.4.6.2	Facilitate baseline data collection	1	1	0	N/A
b.4.6.3	Collate baseline data	1	1	0	N/A
b.4.6.4	Develop monitoring system , pilot & refine	1	0	1	It will be Jointly developed along with ANGOs
b.4.6.5	Orient facilitators and EWR on monitoring system	1	0	1	Forwarded to next year
b.4.7	KCE Hub and Helpline started				

b.4.7.1	Identify & build database of advisors (F-EWR, RM-EWR, RM-EMR, Lawyers Assoc. etc)	1	1	0	N/A
b.4.7.2	Pilot Hub portal/access and refine	1	1	0	N/A
b.4.7.3	Review research priorities with EWR networks and develop research plan	1	0	1	Forwarded to 2 nd year
b.4.8	A-NGO capacity strengthened				
b.4.8.1	Program & financial management training and coaching in innovative EWR-led monitoring	1	0	1	Forwarded to 2 nd year
b.4.8.2	Orientation to the programme and principles of facilitation, EWR-led approaches & representational politics	1	0	1	Forwarded to 2 nd year
b.4.8.3	Partnership-building and sharing workshops	1	1	0	N/A

Annex-6

Abbreviations

A-NGO	:	Alliance NGO (i.e. Democracy Watch, Khan Foundations, PRRIP Trust and Steps Towards Development)
DW	:	Democracywatch (A-NGO)
EWR	:	Elected Woman Representative
GoB	:	Government of Bangladesh
KCE	:	Knowledge, Communication and Education
LG	:	Local Government
LGSP	:	Local Government Support Project
NILG	:	National Institute for Local Government
P-EWR	:	Potential elected woman representative
PIC	:	Project Implementation Committee
SDC	:	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UP	:	Union Parishad (Council)
UNO	:	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UZP	:	Upazila (sub-district) Parishad (Council)
PC	:	Project Coordinator
SPO	:	Senior Program Officer
PO	:	Program Officer
PROGs	:	Program Organizer
BUPF	:	Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum
MAB	:	Municipality Association of Bangladesh
UZPAB	:	Upazila Parishad Association of Bangladesh