

Quality Assurance

Format Snapshot

Implementing organization:	Democracywatch			
Project name: APARAJITA- Political Empowerment of Women	Type of report: Six Monthly Operational Report- Revised			
	Reporting period: December ,2011 to May, 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 six months DW has been achieved some result in relation to outcome -1and outcome-0.Regarding the achieved result according to project objective 496 EWRs have been known the service provision entitlements of different service provider (Education, Health and Agriculture) at local level, among them 155 EWRs comfortable to frequent communication with administrative person to promoting cooperation between EWR and local administration (UNO) & response accordingly, school visit, ensure stipend from school, arranged drinking water for his community people through advocacy with the department of public health and engineering and another EWR support to his community to mitigate the irregularity of electricity bill through advocacy with Rural Electricity Board and One EWR has declared her candidature to general seat in next UP election. 55 EWRs and 5 male members were visited resource centre and queries some LG related informations from 10 regional 'Gender Resource Centre'. Six months achievement came out under following expenditure:				
Particulars		Budget	Actual	in %
Total Expenditures of the period (six months)		11,088,039	8,927,158	81%
Main steering implications for next period of interventions In the operational area of Democracywatch in last six months there was no considerable risk or opportunity occurred which may steering implication for next period of intervention.				
Date of report : 31 May, 2012		Faisal Mstafijur Rahman Project Coordinator-APARAJITA Democracywatch		

Democracywatch
APARAJITA: Political Empowerment of women
Six Monthly Operational Reports
Reporting period: December 2011 to May 2012

Part 1

Chapter-1 Introduction:

During the reporting period (December 2011 - May 2012), DW has been implemented the project in all ten districts. Activities covered in 157 unions, 15 Upazilas, 13 Municipalities and 10 constituencies. 474 EWRs from the UP, 52 EWRs representing the Municipality, 98 UP Chairmen, 13 Upazila Vice-chairmen (female), 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.

Chapter-2 Outcomes achieved for:

From December'11 to May'12 DW has been performed only outcome-1 and outcome-0 based activities.

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.

According to the output-1.1 of outcome-1 24 EWRs who received the training on Roles and Responsibility of EWR have known the service provision entitlements of different service provider (Education, Health and Agriculture) at local level.

12 EWRs visited the 12 primary schools of their area to ensure the proper service delivery in the primary schools (F=2134, M=1969) as a result Assistant Upazilla Education Officer visited the 2 primary schools of remote char area.

After getting training 4 EWRs solve 5 (F=1, M=4) stipend problem of 3 schools.

According to the output-1.3 of outcome-1, after receiving the training 4 EWRs have been habituated to frequent communication with administrative person to promoting cooperation between EWR and local administration (UNO) & response accordingly.

According to the output-1.4 of outcome-1, after receiving the training 4 EWRs have been involved actively in thematic Standing Committees (Birth and Death registration and Education Health and Family planning,) and have taken initiatives for effective functions such as regular meeting, School visit(3 schools) and visit to the guardian(20) of Primary school students for reducing dropout .

According to the output-1.4 of outcome-1, after receiving the training 2 EWRs have been involved in service delivery monitoring and usefulness of actions taken to voice constituents demands & improves local service delivery. Part of these initiatives 1 EWR has arranged drinking water for his community people through advocacy with the department of public health and engineering and another EWR support to his community to mitigate the irregularity of electricity bill through advocacy with Rural Electricity Board. (Attached 2 Case studies)

According to outcome-1 One EWR Kohinoor Begum of Bhogra UP (Sadar Upazilla-Tangail) has declared her candidature to general seat in next UP election. Her another colleagues and community people ensured the information.

Outcome 0: Startup

Under the outcome-0, Democracywatch has the following achievement:

- Democracywatch is preparing a map including all organizations currently involved in LG capacity building as well as future plans
- Current IEC materials and different training modules Collected from different organizations and gap has been identified
- The project facilitators are Oriented on project and their role and they are capable to facilitate the program accordingly.
- The EWRs of UP,Upazilla and Municipalities are oriented about 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.

Chaptar-3 Outputs and Performance according to the yearly plan of Operation:

According to the yearly plan of operation ***Democracywatch*** has performed to achieve outputs as follow:

- Preparing a comprehensive LG project database as well as developing a Map of all organizations currently involved in LG capacity building as well as plans in this working areas. (Output b.4.1)
- It has collected number of IEC materials & modules from different organizations and institutions such as NILG, Khan Foundation, Inter cooperation, PRIP Trust and Steps Towards Development. Draft training module has been prepared based on EWR's need and current context. (Output b.4.2)
- It has Provided 3 daylong orientation to 39(F=6, M=33) facilitators on programme and their role. All program personnel including shared staff of the project received the orientation about APARAJITA project. Three external resource persons Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman (University of Dhaka), Mr.Shanti Ranjan Hawlader (Free lance consultant) and Mr. Wazed Feroz (Danish Embassy) facilitated in the orientation program. Mr. Sohel Ibn Ali, Program Manager of SDC

briefed the participants about the background, goal and objective of the project in the orientation. (Output b.4.3)

- Recruited 34(F=7, M=27) full time project staff including 1 PC, 2 SPOs, 10FCs, 10 program officers, 10 Program organizers and 1 Finance officer. In addition 5 persons Executive Director, Directors – program, finance and operation and M&E coordinator are also in position of APARAJITA. (Output b.4.3)
- It has conducted 10 orientation courses on base line data collection. 150 EWRs and 185 (F=105, M=80) volunteers received the training orientation on baseline data collection. Every regional office held orientation on baseline data collection. Project staff of central office and trained Field Coordinators conducted the base line orientation. Local EWRs and potential volunteers participated in the daylong orientation course. (Output b.4.6.1)
- Conducted baseline survey in 157 UPs, 13 municipalities and 15 Upazillas from ten constituencies. 120 EWRs and 185(F=105, M=80) volunteers collected the field data on baseline survey.
A baseline report is being prepared. Some strong findings identified by central office. (Output b.4.6.2)
- A 2-day-long-residential pre-test training on the module “Function of EWR and service delivery mechanism” took place at NGO Forum in Tangail successfully organized by Democracywatch. Total 24 EWR from 12 union parishad received training actively. Seven resource persons from four A-NGOs conducted the sessions as resource person. The methodology of the training was mainly brainstorming, participatory group exercise, group presentation and role-play. Participants were EWR who had understanding interest in provisions, Role and responsibilities in union parishad. (Output b.1.1.1)
- Fifteen “EWR’s Project Orientation” program took place in 15 upazilas under ten districts with participation of 526 EWRs (UP and Municipality), 60(F=17, M=43) Government officials, 131(F=1, M=130) LGI chief (UP/Upazilla Chairmen and Mayor). Through the program, participants get orientation about ‘APARAJITA’ project including background, objectives, activities, implementation strategy; expected outcomes. (Output b.4.5.1)
- Rapport building is a continuous process with different stakeholders. It has already started with BUPF and MAB from last March 2012. During the project orientation of EWR some BUPF members were participated in the field actively and have shown their positive attitude on the project. (Output b.4.5.1)

Observed International Women day in different 10 Regions of APARAJITA:

Every year Democracywatch organizes a celebration to commemorate International Women's Day. The celebrations took place on March 8 and included colorful rally and mass gathering of 2,137 people (Approximately), in the 10 regions of APARAJITA projects areas. The very colorful rally was made up of 526 EWRs, Chairman of Union Parishad, Upazilla Parishad, MPs, Mayor, government officials, NGOs personnel, LGIs, students who had come together under same banner. By slogan, signing this declaration, all present pledged to start an awareness building campaign based on the

theme: "Girl Children are Assets, not Burdens" and to diminish all inequality against girl children. The EWRs inspired through speech and commitments of district administration officials during the meeting. EWRs also expressed their constraints in LG to all in meeting.

Special innovation

Established Gender resource center in 10 regional offices:

Established a number of gender resource center (GRC) in each regional office is one of the innovations of Democracywatch. It would be used as common space of EWR for gathering, sharing and learning equally on gender and local government. Established resource centers have already started in ten regional offices under ten districts. Local government and gender related publications, newspaper are available in these gender resource centers. Democracywatch head office is taking more initiatives upgrading such GRCs.

Implementation constrains and way to overcome them:

Constrains: Dinajpur-6 is one of the largest constituency of Bangladesh. It contains 4 upazillas, 23 UPs and 3 municipalities but staff support in this project is same as other small constituencies. Therefore, limited number of staff had to provide extra efforts to implement the activity that was some time difficult for them.

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 to the urban and rural poor, especially rural women

Way to Overcome: Through the applied training and coaching, it will enhance the professional knowledge of EWRs

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

Way to Overcome: It requires developing intensive motivational mechanism for male representative of UP.

Chaptar-4 Finances and Management

The project expenditures in the reporting period were BDT 8,927,158/- against the six months approved budget of BDT 11,088,039/-. Though, the project 'burn rate' was 81% of the six months budget.

Expenditures of the period (six months)	Budget	Actual	in %
Project implementation	9,464,039	8,063,096	85%
Project activities	1,624,000	864,062	53%
Total	11,088,039	8,927,158	81%

SDC's Contribution	10,544,783	8,383,902	80%
Democracywatch contribution	543,256	543,256	100%

(Please see in details in the Annex-1 Budget spend vs. planned for the project, excel file)

The main reasons for low 'burn rate' under some particular overhead are:

1.) For bellows activities, there were 0% expenses of budget. According to action plan, these activities are the part or process of KCE hub and help line which would be guided and designed by KCE hub facilitators and National NPF. Due to delayed recruitment process of KCE facilitators or NPF bellows activities activity and sometimes its parts were undone. Under following activities there is no expenditure: *b.4.1 Map all organizations currently involved in LG capacity building as well as future plans, b.4.2 Collect all current IEC materials, training modules provided by different organizations, identify gaps, b.1.1.9 Assist EWR in tracking their own progress (e.g. dairies) and EWR Networks to regularly relect on progress, 4.7.2 Pilot Hub portal/access and refine, b.4.4.2 Pilot test and refine IEC materials, b.4.4.1 Based on gap analysis (output 0.1), design IEC materials.*

2) a.2.5 staring committee cost share: The burn rate was only 2%of actual budget under this head of activities. Due to above mentioned reason this activity is also undone. A partial amount was expenditure through the Alliance Coordination Committee (ACC) Meeting.

3) 4.8.3 Partnership-building and sharing workshops: *Under this head of activity, 0% was burnt from actual budget. Through the facilitator orientation program initial informal partnership building and sharing was held effectively. Therefore, project mentioned partnership-building and sharing workshop has shifted to 3rd quarter of the project in this year. (The variations in details are in Annex-2, ward file)*

Cash flow forecast:

Detailed cash flow forecast in Annex: 3.1, 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.

Chapter-5 Lessons learnt

Good practices and innovations:

- A sticker has been printed on UP help line and distributed to 13 union of Tangail. Local volunteers of APARAJITA sponsored printing cost of the information sticker.

Operational Report (Part 2 and Annexes)

Chapter 2 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.

24 Elected Women representatives received the training on Function of EWR and service delivery mechanism who didn't receive any training before this course. After receiving the training the participants (EWRs) have informed about their functions, roles and responsibilities, identified their position in the standing committees, established linkage between local service provider and community people, considered the gender issue, and they are being respected by their community people. Moreover, the EWRs have communicated with the BUPF leaders at local level to incorporate with them in local LG network Under the outcome-1 Democracywatch has made following achievements against the indicators measured the Log Frame:

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. 708 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 outcome-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.

Chapter 3 Outputs and performance according to the yearly plan of operation

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.

B.1.1.1 Develop and provide training on democracy & representation, emphasizing skills such as communication, negotiation, assertiveness, (social) leadership (UP)

According to the plan of action, this is the training events for ten region's EWR which will be implemented in next quarter (3rd quarter). But only one regional event was held in middle May, 2012 (2nd quarter) for testing the methodology and developing a module. EWRs received a basic training by four A-NGO's facilitators. On the basis of this test training, more types training according to action plan will be held in next quarter at upazila parishad and pourashava by using same method. Some contents were added by EWR as their needs.

A two days residential training was held at NGO-forum, Tangail. 24 Elected Women representatives received the training from twelve union at shador upazill, Tangail on Function of EWR and service delivery mechanism who didn't receive any training before the course. After receiving the training the participants (EWRs) have informed about their functions, roles and responsibilities, identified their position in the standing committee, established linkage between local service provider and community people, considered the gender issue, and they are respected by their community people. Moreover, the EWRs have communicated with the BUPF leaders at local level to incorporate with them in local LG network.

Under the outcome-1 Democracy watch has the following achievement as the indicators measured against Log Frame:

After receiving the training

- The EWRs who received the training on Function of EWR now know about their position in standing committee. According to action plan from training, 22 EWRs dialogued with chairmen and secretary of union parishad for clarifying their position in standing committee. They have taken initiatives for arranging regular functional meeting.
- The community people expressed their positive attitude to the EWRs

b.1.1.9 Assist EWR in tracking their own progress (e.g. dairies) and EWR Networks to regularly reflect on progress.

According to action plan, this is the part of KCE hub and help line related process activities which would be guided and designed by KCE hub facilitators. Due to delayed recruitment process of KCE facilitators this activity is undone.

Informally EWRs got idea about vertical and horizontal networking system by the project staff and orientated about hole networking system of project.

Out come: 0

b.4.1 Map all organizations currently involved in LG capacity building as well as future plans

This is the ongoing process activity for throughout the year. According to its direct product of the activities, a comprehensive draft LG project database prepared as well as develops a Map of all organizations currently involved in LG capacity building including plans in its working area, implementation strategies. Initially program people is searching the way to involve others project or organization with **APARAJITA** project. Initially some information was collected by informal ways under other activities head.

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 in first year 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 one (Collect IEC materials and modules) activities was held successfully. Gap identification findings shared with stakeholders through informal ways or sometimes by arranging informal meeting with different organization. Rest of the two activities ((2) Conduct small meeting and 3) Workshop on gap identification and) will be held formally by earlier in next quarter.

Collected number of IEC materials & modules from different organization and institution such as NILG, Khan Foundation, Inter cooperation, PRIP Trust and Steps Towards. LDSP-11 details were also collected from various organization and related websites.

All these information would be used by EWR through gender resource center and facilitators.

Facilitators selected, oriented and capable

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.

b.4.6.2 Facilitate baseline data collection

This is a process activity of baseline survey of 3rd quarter which was implemented at 2nd quarter according to ACC and SDC instructions.

Baseline data had collected by conducting successfully from 157 UPs, 13 municipalities and 15 Upazillas under ten constituencies.

b.4.6.3 Collect baseline data (Data entry and report preparation)

This is also a process activity of baseline survey of 3rd quarter which was implemented at 2nd quarter according to ANGOs and SDC's instructions.

Data finally collected by head office including reviewed and feedback from field level. Data entry and a baseline report is being processed for finalizing based on indicators by M&E team.

4.7. KCE Hub and Helpline started

4.7.2 Pilot Hub portal/access and refine

This was the 2nd quarter activities. This is the part of KCE hub and help line related process activity which would be guided by KCE hub facilitators. Due to delayed recruitment process of KCE facilitators, this activity was undone. This activity will take place by 3rd quarter in this year.

4.8 A-NGO capacity strengthened

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 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)
- 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.

Beyond the project, some initial project information was collected by instruction with M&E team and SDC.

Recommendation:

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

- Some activities are directly related with National Program Facilitators (NPF) and KCE facilitators therefore the recruitment process of KCE-F and NPF should be done quicker.
- 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.

Annex: 1 (In attach file Excel)

Annex: 2 Budget variance note:

Note- 1

a.1 project personnel cost

The staff recruitment process was delayed one month after official launching of the project. In the first and second quarter, there was no festival, therefore festival bonus was unspent.

Note- 2

a.2.4 steering committee cost share

According project plan, this is the part of KCE hub and NPF's salary and office related expense. KCE facilitators and NPF are not yet recruited.

Note- 3

a.2 .11 Materials and supplies

During the starting of the project, office was set up newly. Therefore, there was over spent under materials and supplies line item. It will be adjusted by 3rd and 4th quarter.

Note- 4

a.3 Non-recurring cost

Because of dollar price increase, all equipment costs were higher than budgeted amount.

Note- 5

b.1.1.14, b.4.3.3, b.4.3.4, b.4.7.4

According to action plan, above mentioned activities are the part of KCE hub and NPF's guided process activities. Due to delayed recruitment process of KCE facilitators and NPF, those activities are shifted into 3rd and 4th quarter.

Note- 6

b.4.1.4 and b.4.1.5

These are ongoing process activity for throughout the year. Initially some information collected informally. The cost under this activity will be adjusted by 3rd and 4th quarter.

Note- 7

b.4.5.1 and b.4.6.4

A few numbers of Participants were excess then project plan during these events. So the costs were increased.

Note- 8

b.4.8.3 Partnership-building and sharing workshops:

Initial informal partnership building and sharing was held effectively. Therefore, project mentioned partnership-building and sharing workshop has shifted to 3rd quarter of the project in this year.

Cash flow forecast in details with attach excel file Annex: 3.1

Cash flow report in details with attach excel file Annex: 3.2

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.

Rokeaya 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 Unnayn 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".

Annex-5

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.

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