Review of the CLP's Selection & Graduation Criteria

The second phase of the Chars Livelihoods Programme or CLP-2 (2010-2016), aims to improve the livelihoods, incomes and food security of up to one million extremely poor people living on island *chars* in the north west of Bangladesh.

From the *chars* population, CLP-2 will target 67,000 of the poorest households (termed core participant households or CPHHs), the extreme poor, who will receive an integrated package of support including a grant of Tk 16,000 to purchase an income generating asset of their choice, stipends, livelihoods and social development training, access to a raised plinth, water and sanitation. They also receive access to the CLP's health project.

The CLP selects CPHHs based on a set of criteria which are proxies for extreme poverty: they must be assetless, landless and reliant on daily wage labour.

CLP-2's first annual review in March 2011 concluded the programme may be excluding extreme poor households based on its current set of criteria and proposed a poverty assessment (PA) that may result in a modified set of criteria.

The Innovation, Monitoring and Learning team (IML) responded to this recommendation by undertaking a poverty assessment with the support of an external consultant. The report on which this brief has been developed aims to answer the following questions:

Selection criteria	Is there inclusion/ exclusion error with CLP's current selection criteria?
	Do the current selection criteria need to be modified? If 'yes' how?
Graduation criteria	What do we mean by the term graduation?
	What graduation criteria would be appropriate for the CLP and why?

Key Findings:

- CLP's current criteria are in line with how communities define the poorest.
- To date, the CLP has defined extreme poverty (EP) as income below Tk 19 pppd. Using this definition results in both inclusion and exclusion error.
- At the poorest levels of the community the main driver of income is labour – not land and assets. As assets and land are not driving income it is possible to have no assets and/ or no land but still have an income above the Tk 19 pppd threshold (resulting in inclusion error).
- Similarly, it is possible to have high levels of productive assets and/ or land but an income below Tk 19 pppd (resulting in exclusion error).
- The CLP could raise asset and land thresholds to include more households below Tk 19 pppd but this would drive up inclusion error.
- Ownership of a productive asset is not necessarily sufficient to raise a HH out of extreme poverty (e.g. a HH with low human capital), however it can make a significant contribution if supported by other interventions that address vulnerabilities. This highlights the importance of the CLP's integrated package. Asset transfer alone is not sufficient.
- A heavy reliance on labour by the poorer groups means that incomes fluctuate with supply and demand for labour. The result of this is that HHs regularly move across the EP line.
- Emphasising income as the single most important measure of poverty needs to be put into perspective considering the *chars* context. It gives an incomplete picture of a HH 's circumstances, which can change completely following a single good or bad month of employment.
- The CLP should keep the current set of criteria which reflect how communities define the poorest. Alternatives to the current set are either too complex to implement or result in unacceptable inclusion or exclusion error.
- The CLP and DFIDB should reduce the focus on Tk 19 pppd as a measure of extreme poverty.
- The CLP and DFIDB should also consider adopting the proposed graduation criteria, which are based on the sustainable livelihoods framework and take into consideration the vulnerability context.

Methodology

Research was conducted between June and August in 21 island *char* villages across 7 Districts[1]. Villages were selected where the CLP had not previously worked. A mix of quantitative and qualitative data was collected using researchers from an independently outsourced company.

A range of participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools were used including social mapping, wellbeing analysis and seasonal calendars. Wellbeing analysis was used to classify all households in the village into four different socio-economic groups (referred to as well being groups [WBG]).

During the wellbeing analysis, villagers classified families in to four different groups/categories based on criteria set by themselves. WBG 1 is the poorest, and WBG 4 the least poor.

[1] Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Pabna, Tangail, Kurigram and Jamalpur

Quantitative socio-economic data were then collected from a sample of households in each WBG from each village on indicators such as income, assets, food security etc.

IML, with the support of an external consultant, designed and tested the tools. The external consultant assisted with the training, monitored data collection and assisted with the analysis.

There were some limitations with the methodology:

- Researchers asked the community to classify each household into one of four WBGs when the community may not have necessarily seen themselves naturally fitting into four groups;
- There was a reliance on the views of community members who turned up to the PRA exercises. These people may not have necessarily been representative/ objective;
- Communities have experience with PRA exercises and there may have been some manipulation of the process e.g. some households wanting to be part of WBG 1 (even if they were in a higher WBG) in an attempt to access potential resources.

Selection Criteria

The DFIDB poverty line classes HHs with income of less than Tk 19 pppd as extreme poor[2]. The CLP uses a set of proxy indicators which, if met, indicate the household is likely to have an income of less than Tk 19 pppd.

Since the first phase of asset transfer during CLP-1 (2006) the CLP has used the same set of proxy indicators to define extreme poor households (Table 1).

Table 1: CLP's selection criteria

Criteria	Definition
1. Char Household	Resident for at least 6 months in a village which has been classified by CLP as an island char.
2. Landless	Absolutely zero decimals of land ownership including homestead land, and having no access to agricultural including share cropped land and land to be inherited under Bangladesh law. Households renting homestead land are still eligible.
3. Livestock-less	Selected households may not own more than 2 goats/sheep, 10 fowl & 1 shared cattle
4. Credit-less	Have no loan outstanding from *any* microfinance or credit programme
5. Asset-less & Income-less	Are not receiving cash or asset grants from *any* other asset transfer programme
6. Participation	Are willing to attend weekly group meetings, participate in a livelihoods programme and show how the asset will be cared for.

CLP-2 underwent its first annual review in March 2011. The review team concluded the programme may well be excluding extreme poor households based on its current criteria[3] and suggested the programme undertake a poverty assessment (PA). The PA would result in a new set of targeting criteria, including a combination of asset levels and types, and social criteria, that together allow the project to pick up as many of the extreme poor as possible.[4]

More specifically the PA would help gain an understanding of:

- The distribution and characteristics of extreme poor households;
- Livelihood means and patterns including those of migration and remittances;
- Land management cropping patterns and incomes from different sizes of landholding, and also differentiate between incomes from leased land/share cropping.[5]

The CLP seeks a set of proxy indicators which unambiguously define households in extreme poverty, lead to low inclusion and exclusion errors[6] and that are:

- Objectively verifiable
- Applicable on a census basis
- Realistic
- Easy to understand and use/ collect

What are other programmes using as selection criteria?

[2] 2009/ '10 rural Rajshahi extreme poverty line as per *Jackson, A. (2009) DFID Bangladesh Information Note: Poverty Thresholds and Reporting*

[4] Premchander S, et al; CLP-2; Annual Review 2011; March 2011; p21

[5] IML has produced three separate, but inter-related reports as part of this PA exercise:
- *Review of CLP's selection and graduation criteria*
- *Seasonal demand for labour on island chars and its effect on migration and remittances*
- *The Tier 2 Pilot: Reviewing the Decision not to Scale Up and Exploring the Relationship Between Sharecropping & Income*

[6] Exclusion error is defined as: % of HHs below Tk 19 pppd that do not meet the selection criteria.
Inclusion error is defined as: % of HHs meeting the CLP criteria that have pppd income above Tk 19

Other EP programmes in Bangladesh use a variety of selection criteria (Table 2)

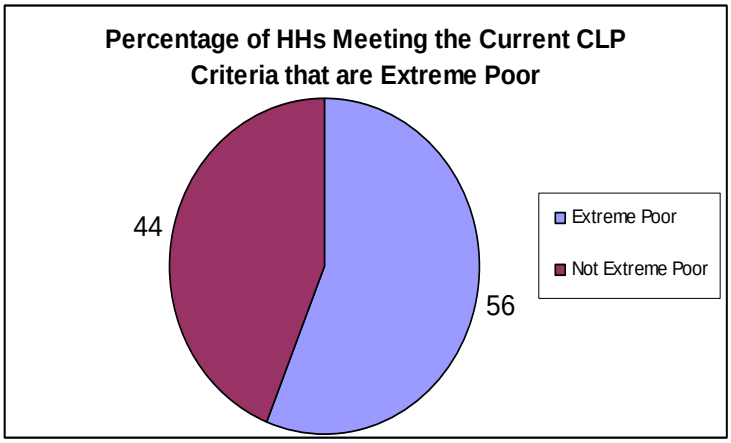
Table 2: Selection criteria applied by other EP Programmes

EEP	Attempt to focus on assetless, landless and no access to MFI IMOs may however apply own criteria
CARE SHOUHARDO	Conducts wellbeing analysis and households from 'bottom' 2 groups (of 5) qualify. Census survey is then done on all HHs in bottom 2 groups. HHs appearing to be especially wealthy are brought to attention of the community, who then decide whether to exclude.
UPPR	Conducts wellbeing analysis using 3 groups and households from 'bottom' group qualify Must be resident of the community at the time of survey.
CFPR	Conducts wellbeing analysis to identify bottom group. HHs from bottom group are then checked against the following: <u>Inclusion</u> Assetless (no productive assets) Landless (own less than 10dc) No adult male member or is disabled/unable to work Children of school-going age in employment <u>Exclusion</u> Has no female adult capable of working Has outstanding loan to MFI Is benefitting from other NGO/ Govt. programme

How effective are the CLP's current selection criteria?

The study found that the CLP's selection criteria are in line with the characteristics of WBG 1, meaning that they are effective at selecting those HHs that the community define as the poorest. However, the characteristics of WBG 1 are quite different from the characteristics of the <Tk 19 group of HHs (For clarity, the term 'Tk 19 group' is used to refer to HHs with income of less than Tk 19pppd, based on a 12-month recall). This means that use of CLP criteria, which reflect the characteristics of WBG 1, is resulting in inclusion and exclusion error. At the time of the survey, inclusion error was found to be 44% (Figure 1), while exclusion error was 69%.

Figure 1: Proportion of HHs Meeting the Current CLP Criteria that are Extreme Poor



Why does the CLP have high inclusion/ exclusion errors?

Inclusion and exclusion errors occur because in the poorer WBGs, assets and land are not the key drivers of income. It is therefore possible to meet the CLP selection criteria (assetless, landless) but to have an income of greater than Tk 19pppd. Similarly, some households with an income of less than Tk 19pppd do have ownership of land, livestock or other productive assets above the CLP criteria thresholds (Figures 2-4). The community definition of wellbeing does not necessarily correlate with income, and as a result HHs with pppd income of less than Tk 19 are found in ***all*** WBGs. This makes it almost inevitable that the CLP will exclude some HHs.

Figure 2: Mean Value of Productive Assets (inc. livestock) by WBG, EP and non-EP

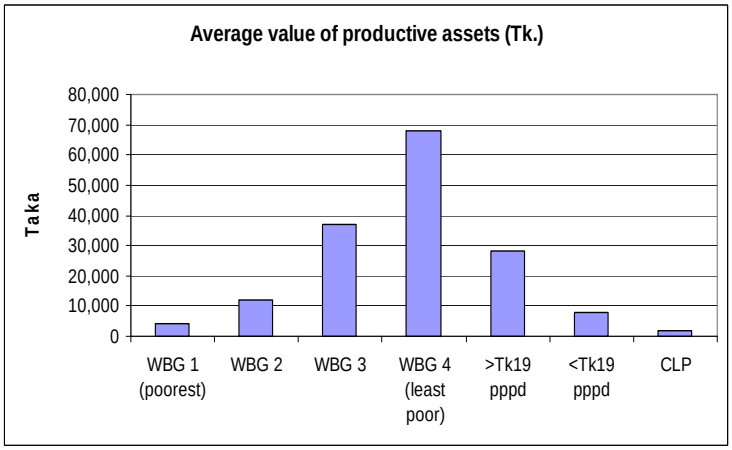


Figure 3: Mean Area of Non-owned agricultural land by WBG, EP and non-EP[7]

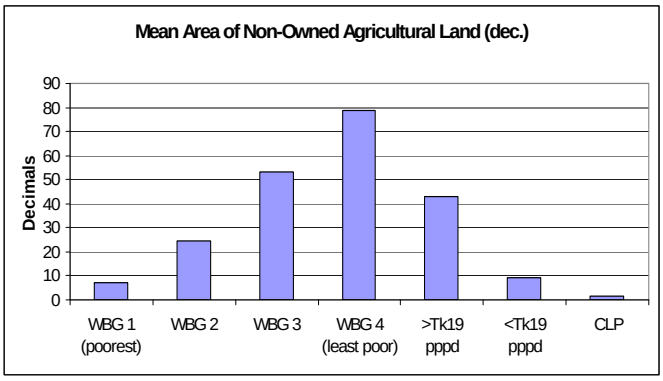
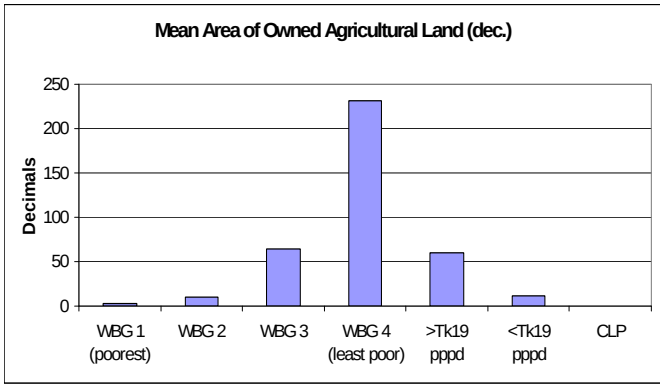


Figure 4: Mean Area of Owned agricultural land by WBG, EP and non-EP



The reason why some households own high levels of assets but still have a low income, while others have a high income with very few assets is almost certainly due to the fact that livestock and land contribute relatively little to income in comparison with wage labour, particularly in the lower well-being groups. Well being groups 1 and 2 rely on labour for 50-60% of their income, compared to a maximum of 26% from land and 2% from livestock.

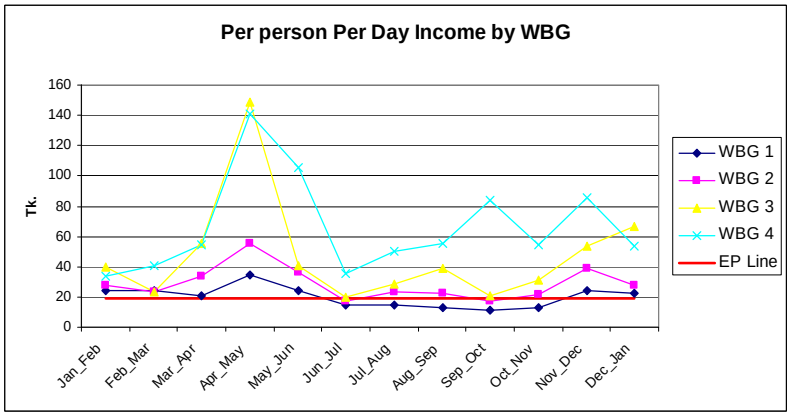
However, this reliance on wage labour, which is highly seasonal and fluctuates depending on a number of factors means that inclusion and exclusion error are also likely to fluctuate. For example, Nurul, a resident of Jamalpur, is currently an example of inclusion error (Table 3). Nurul says that most of his income comes from migratory labour. Because Nurul is dependent on labour, if he falls ill or demand for his labour disappears at any time, his income could quickly drop below Tk 19 per person per day. In which case, he would cease to be an example of inclusion error.

It is therefore likely that fluctuations in household income across the poverty line (Figure 5) are significantly affecting levels of inclusion and exclusion error. The 2011 Independent Impact Assessment found that many HHs that met the CLP criteria were above the poverty line at baseline, and excluded those HHs from its analysis of CLP impact. However, the finding that household incomes fluctuate regularly could affect whether excluding those households from analysis was justified.

Table 3: Two case studies illustrating inclusion and exclusion error

	Exclusion error (EP HH but does not meet criteria)	**Inclusion error (Non EP HH but meets criteria)**
Name	Arju	Nurul
District	Tangail	Jamalpur
Income pppd	Tk 12	Tk 23
Livestock Value	Tk 45,000	Tk 0
Job type	Non-agricultural day labourer	Non-agricultural day labourer
Own Land area	16 dc	0
Not-own land area	16 dc	0
Homestead Land area	6 dc.	0

Figure 5: Per Person Per Day Income Across the Year, by WBG



Options for minimising exclusion and inclusion error

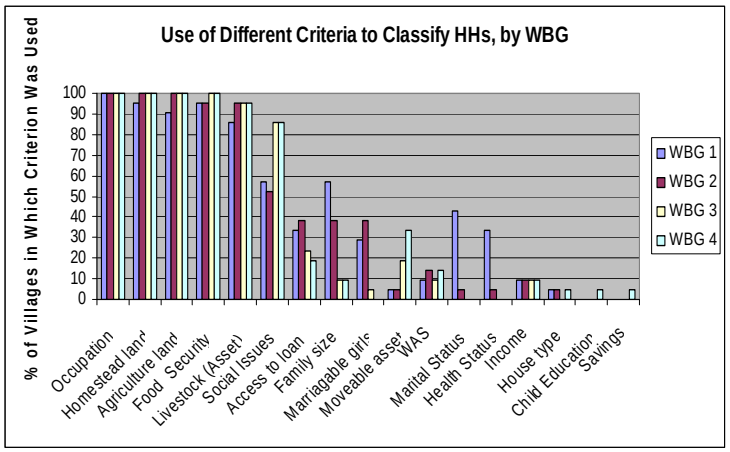
There are four realistic options for reducing inclusion and exclusion error. These are: 1) introduce a completely new set of criteria, 2) modify the thresholds of existing selection criteria, 3) add or remove criteria from the existing set, 4) apply a second layer of criteria for households that fail on the current set

- **1) introduce a completely new set of criteria**

There is little rationale for doing this. The current criteria are in line with how the community define the poorest (Figure 6), and reflect the most important criteria used. It would be difficult to define (and to justify) a set of criteria that had little or nothing in common with what the target population use to define themselves.

[7] *Non-owned land refers to all land accessible but not owned by the HH –EG rented land, share land*

Figure 6: Criteria used by the community to categorise households by wellbeing group



2) Modify the Thresholds of Existing Selection Criteria

This appears to be the obvious logical step, given that the Tk 19 group generally have higher levels of asset and land ownership than the current CLP criteria allow. However, data analysis shows that modifications to the existing thresholds either have little effect on exclusion error, or result in an unacceptable level of inclusion error (Table 4). Increasing the asset threshold has no real impact on inclusion or exclusion error, while increasing the land limit threshold reduces exclusion error but increases inclusion error. Further modifications have been tested and show the same trend.

Table 4: Examples of the impact of modifying thresholds on inclusion and exclusion errors

	% of selected HH that are EP	% of selected HH that are not EP	% of all EP that are not selected
		Inclusion error	Exclusion error
CLP current	56	44	69
Increase productive assets to <Tk 10,000	58	42	64
Increase land limit to <30 decimals (incl HS land)	49	51	52

3) Add or Remove Criteria from the Existing Set

The major problem with removing criteria is that inclusion error rises to unacceptable levels. On the other hand, adding criteria to the existing set results in the criteria becoming too exclusive. While inclusion error can be driven down, exclusion error begins to rise to unacceptable levels (*Table 5*). Other criteria based on the community criteria have been tested and have not proven effective.

Table 5: Examples of the impact of modifying criteria on inclusion and exclusion errors

	% of selected HH that are EP	% of selected HH that are not EP	% of all EP that are not selected
		Inclusion error	*Exclusion error*
CLP current	56	44	69
CLP + 0 months food security	73	27	94
CLP + female headed	74	26	87
CLP + disabled/ chronically ill HH head	50	50	99

4) Apply a Second Layer of Criteria

Applying a second layer of criteria to households that fail to meet the current CLP set seems to be effective in reducing exclusion error without significantly affecting inclusion. The two most promising examples of this second layer are illustrated below (Table 6)**.**

- Option 4a is that the second layer criteria be: *ownership of no more than Tk1,500 worth of livestock and a maximum of six months food security*.
- Option 4b is that the second layer criteria be: *maximum of six months food security*.

Table 6: Examples of the impact of a second layer of criteria on inclusion and exclusion errors

	% of selected HH that are EP	% of selected HH that are not EP	% of all EP that are not selected	% of all non-EP that meet criteria
		Inclusion error	*Exclusion error*	
CLP current	56	44	69	11
4a: CLP or < Tk 1,500 livestock & max. 6 months food sec.	59	41	56	14
4b: CLP or 6 months food security	54	46	41	22

Option 4a is preferred because it reduces exclusion error by more than 10% while also reducing inclusion error slightly. It results in a marginal increase in the total number of non-EP households that would be included in the programme.

Option 4b reduces exclusion error significantly, with a slight increase in inclusion. However this option would allow almost a quarter of all non-EP households into the programme (doubling the current amount), which is not considered acceptable.

Selection criteria: a quick summary

The study has found that the current CLP criteria are effective at selecting those households defined as poorest by the community. However, using the Tk 19pppd definition of extreme poverty, there is in inclusion error (44%) and exclusion error (69%) as a result of the current CLP selection criteria.

It is likely that the size of these errors will fluctuate with time, as households move across the EP line as a result of supply and demand for agricultural labour- the key driver of income for the poor on the *chars*.

There are four options for reducing inclusion and exclusion error: 1) introduce a completely new set of criteria, 2) modify the thresholds of existing selection criteria, 3) add or remove criteria from the existing set, 4) apply a second layer of criteria for households that fail on the current set

Options 1-3 are not preferred because they either exacerbate the problem, or fail to address it adequately. Option 4 however, does drive down both exclusion and inclusion error.

Graduation Criteria

What do we mean by graduation?

This study defines graduation to mean a sustainable move out of extreme poverty, meaning that households are both above the EP line and able to withstand shocks that might push them back into extreme poverty.

Our objective has been to develop proxy indicators that demonstrate this which are:

- Objectively verifiable
- Applicable on a census basis if required (and can therefore be collected relatively quickly)
- Realistic
- Easy to understand and use/ collect

What are other programmes using as graduation criteria?

Relatively few EP programmes in Bangladesh have graduation criteria in place (Table 7)

Table 7: Graduation criteria applied by other EP Programmes

EEP	No graduation criteria at present.
CARE SHOUHARDO	No specific graduation criteria, but have plans to use a household's progression to higher well-being groups as evidence for graduation. Evidence for improvement will also be confirmed by measuring household changes in key indicators such as access to loans and food security.
UPPR	No graduation criteria at present, but have plans to use a household's progression to higher WBG as evidence for graduation
CFPR	The household is evaluated on the following 9 characteristics: 1: Has livestock or poultry 2: School-age children are enrolled 3: Has house with tin roof, 4: Has adopted family planning (eligible couples only), 5: Has sanitary latrine, 6: Drinks tube well water, 7: Has three or more income sources, 8: All household members wear sandals 9: Has cash savings, A household has graduated if it achieves more than 50% of the appropriate characteristics. For example, a household without children needs to meet fewer criteria then a household with children.

Proposed graduation criteria

To graduate, households would need to demonstrate that:

1) They have moved out of extreme poverty, and
2) That this is sustainable.

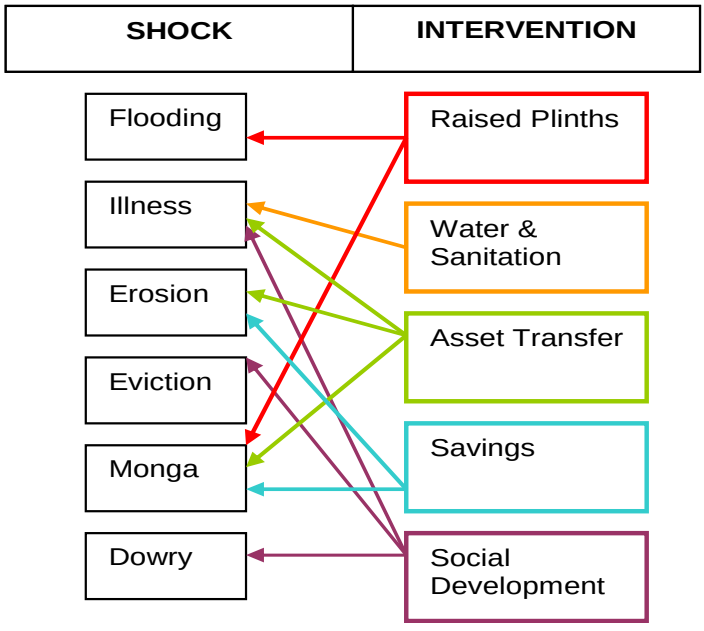
The graduation criteria will be used to measure this, and will be applied 12 months after project support is withdrawn:

The move out of extreme poverty will be measured by comparing households to the CLP's selection criteria (with the exception of the "no outstanding loan" exclusion criterion, which will not be considered as HHs may have decided to access credit). Households that meet the criteria would not be considered to have moved out of extreme poverty. Households that do not meet the CLP selection criteria would be considered to have moved out of extreme poverty.

The sustainability of the move out of extreme poverty would be measured by assessing households' ability to withstand shocks that might push them back into EP. Households with a poor ability to withstand *char*-specific shocks would not be considered to have moved sustainably out of poverty. This is based on the DFID Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, considering HH's access to capitals and the subsequent impact on the vulnerability context of the *chars*.

The ability to withstand shocks will be assessed by using a number of 'sustainability indicators'. The sustainability indicators reflect the interventions provided by the CLP to address the vulnerability context on the chars. These interventions relate to the different capitals within the DFID sustainable livelihoods framework and are shown in (Figure 7). Social development, for example may contribute to human capital through education on hygiene, which reduces a household's vulnerability to illness.

Figure 7: Char-specific shocks and relevant CLP interventions



The sustainability indicators show whether households have access to these interventions (Table 8), and therefore their vulnerability to related shocks. The focus here is on households' access to capitals. While Policies Institutions and Processes do exert influence on the vulnerability context, there is limited scope within the CLP's resources to address these. This is reflected in the LogFrame.

Table 8: Proposed Sustainability Indicators and Weighting

LF Impact Weighting	Sustainability Indicator	Definition	Score if met
40%	Plinths	HH on raised plinth above highest known flood level	14
	Water	Access to tube-well on raised plinth with platfrom to 40 feet	13
	Sanitation	Access to latrine on a raised plinth with intact water seal, superstructure and concrete slab	13
30%	Productive Assets	Has productive assets worth at least Tk30,000 (land, livestock, machinery etc)	20
	Membership of VSL or other social group/committee	At least 1 HH member is a member of VSL or other social group	5
	Savings	Savings in line with max available relocation grant (Tk3,000?)	5
10%	Knowledge of dowry	Has knowledge of dowry law	5
	Ash/soap in evidence	Ash or soap visible at latrine	5
Proposed cutoff: 50			
Total available: 80			

However, it is not realistic to assume that all households will meet all of these indicators 12 months after CLP support is withdrawn[8]. Households will pursue diverse livelihood strategies based on their own strengths and weaknesses, and this is out of the CLP's control. For example, not all households will remain on their plinths, not all households will save. Therefore expecting households to meet all of the sustainability indicators is unrealistic.

To take this into account, a weighted points system is proposed. Each indicator will have a number of points associated with it. Households that meet that indicator will be awarded that number of points. The number of points available for each indicator (the weighting) reflects the impact weighting of different interventions within the LogFrame. While the maximum points available are 80 (meets all of the indicators), it is proposed that the minimum points required to be considered able to withstand shocks should be 50. This allows households to follow a diverse range of livelihood strategies, and ensures that the focus is on livelihoods outcomes rather than outputs.

Therefore to be considered graduated a household would have to meet the following two criteria, 12 months after project support had been withdrawn:

1) The household must not meet CLP selection criteria (with the exception of the "no outstanding loan" criterion)
2) the household must score at least 50 points on the sustainability scorecard

Conclusions

The current criteria are effective at selecting the poorest of the community. The characteristics of WBG 1 match very closely with characteristics of CLP CPHHs on entry, in terms of key indicators such as asset levels and access to land.

Whilst the CLP uses no social indicators, the indicators used are amongst those identified as most important by the community. The community also use food security and other social indicators (such as level of respect given to HH by others, invitations to social occasions etc). The community does not use income as an indicator, which means that HHs with ppd income of less than Tk 19 can be found in WBG 3 and WBG 4, alongside HH's with much higher incomes.

To date, the CLP has defined EP as income of below Tk 19 pppd. Comparing the characteristics of WBG 1 (or CLP CPHH at entry) with the characteristics of the Tk 19 group shows large differences - in general, the Tk 19 group has more assets and land than WBG 1 and CLP CPHH .
Logic would suggest that the CLP should raise asset and land thresholds to include more of the Tk 19 group. However, doing so results in large inclusion error because at the poorest levels of the community the main driver of income is labour – not land and assets. This means that two different HHs may have the very different incomes even though they have the same levels of assets, for example. As a result, raising the thresholds on assets in order to include the lower income HH, would result in the higher income HH being included as well.

Ownership of a productive asset remains important in that it helps reduce vulnerability and acts as a means of savings/ capital generation, despite contributing relatively little to income. While assets alone are not necessarily sufficient to raise a HH out of extreme poverty (e.g. a HH with low human capital), they can make a significant contribution if supported by other interventions that address vulnerabilities. However, it is important to recognise that even after asset transfer, HHs are likely to continue to be reliant on wage labour (and subject to the associated fluctuations in income) for a considerable period of time, until they diversify into land, which is a key driver of income as HHs move into higher WBGs.

In the meantime, heavy reliance on labour by the poorer groups means that incomes fluctuate with supply and demand for labour. In other words, HH incomes are highly vulnerable to circumstances outside their control. The result of this is that incomes are not stable and HHs regularly move across the EP line. This instability in incomes means that the Tk 19 measure is unable show if a HH has moved out of EP permanently, or if it has simply enjoyed a high level of employment recently. Emphasising income as the single most important measure of poverty needs to be put into perspective considering the *chars* context. As the DFID SLA demonstrates, income is only one form of capital that affects HH poverty. Without context, it gives an incomplete picture of a HH's circumstances, which can change completely following a single good or bad month of employment.

The CLP and DFIDB should reduce the focus on Tk 19 as a measure extreme poverty. The current CLP criteria are in line with how the community define the poorest, and consider other aspects of poverty beyond income.

The CLP and DFIDB should also consider adopting the proposed graduation criteria, which are based on the SLF and take into account both whether a HH has moved out of EP (as defined by the community), and the HH's vulnerability to shocks that could return it to EP.

[8] Kenward & Islam (2011) *A Study to Assess the Sustainability of CLP-1 Activities*

Recommendations

Selection criteria

There are two options related to CLP-2's selection criteria: 1) keep the current set, or 2) keep the current set but apply a second set of criteria as well. Their relative strengths and weaknesses are outlined in Table 9.

Table 9: Options for CLP Selection criteria

	Pros	Cons
1) CLP Current criteria	Widely understood Largely verifiable Accurate at selecting poorest In line with how community define Quick and easy to apply	Potential for high inclusion and exclusion error (driven by supply and demand for labour)
2) Current criteria + second set	In line with how community define Reduces exclusion error Includes non-economic criteria Accurate at selecting poorest	More complex More time consuming (cost) Less objectively verifiable

Option 2 will not substantially increase the number of CPHHs meeting the criteria beyond what the CLP can achieve with its current set. However applying a second set of criteria will reduce exclusion error.

It is recommended that the CLP retain its current selection criteria. These have been shown to be effective at selecting the very poorest households as defined by the community. Using the income of Tk 19 pppd as the single most important measure of extreme poverty fails to take into account the different levels of vulnerability to which HHs are exposed to on the *chars*, nor does it reflect the way in which the target community define extreme poverty.

Graduation criteria

Graduation criteria applied by other programmes are either insufficient or not applicable to the *chars* context. This study therefore recommends the CLP pilot the proposed graduation criteria, adapt if necessary, and apply at scale.

Chars households, particularly the poorest, rely heavily on income from agricultural wage labour which because of its unreliability causes households to fluctuate above and below the EP line of Tk 19 pppd (even if HHs have access to land and assets). The donors and the CLP need to be less fixated on using income as the single most important measure of poverty but rather use the set of proposed graduation criteria (and selection criteria), which place an emphasis on ability to cope in the face of shocks, to assess whether households have been lifted out of EP.

Increasing opportunities associated with agricultural land

Access to land is a driver of incomes and savings (and therefore capital accumulation) and can help households move out of extreme poverty. The issue of land is complex and the CLP probably does not have the resources to address this issue sufficiently but there are a number of interventions that could usefully be introduced:

- Pushing forward with the introduction of Agricultural Services Providers (who would provide training and inputs);
- Allowing the asset transfer grant to be used for agricultural inputs;
- Making vouchers available for agricultural inputs;
- Providing agricultural training and/ or lobbying other organisations to provide agricultural training e.g. Department for Agricultural Extension

FAQs

Why not just apply the secondary criteria and forget the CLP criteria?
This would result in an unacceptably high exclusion error.

Why are we continuing to use asset based criteria when we know they don't affect income?
While they may not determine income, they remain reasonably good indicators of households' overall well-being, and in line with the criteria that the community use.

Why do we not include more social indicators as recommended by the AR team e.g. Female Headed?
The data showed that the community tend to use relatively few social indicators. Furthermore, social indicators that are used by the community tend to be extremely hard to verify (for example, a household head may be classified by the community according to the level of respect she gets from other members , or if she is invited to social occasions). Criteria such as female headed households result in an unacceptably high exclusion error.

Why do we not apply the same graduation approach as CARE and UPPR?
It is not felt that these approaches are appropriate in the char context, because they rely on households improving in comparison to other households. As the CLP targets all extreme poor on the chars, it is possible that households could show great improvement in livelihoods without necessarily moving up a WBG.

Why are we measuring graduation at 12-month after CLP support is withdrawn?
To measure immediately after CLP support is withdrawn would be ineffective- it is expected that most households

would have access to the interventions at this point. Measuring 12 months later allows households sufficient time to succeed or fail.

Why have we chosen 50 points as the cut-off point for graduating sustainably?
Using this cutoff leaves flexibility for HHs to take a diverse range of approaches, but still requires them to score on some of the high impact weighting indicators.

Why are we using selection criteria as part of our graduation criteria?
This is logical - it would be difficult to determine progress if indicators used at the start and end were not the same.

Why did we ask the community to split into 4 WBGs?
This was done for ease of analysis. Too many groups would have resulted in too much information while too few groups would have generated insufficient information.

Why are we applying so much importance to the reference point of Taka 19 pppd to define EP?
This has been driven by DFIDB, for examples see definitions in the CLP LogFrame, Annual Review, Independent Impact Assessment and *DFID Bangladesh Information Note: Poverty Thresholds and Reporting.*

Why not just measure Tk 19 pppd during selection instead of having proxies?
This would require too much time in both data collection and analysis, and consequently would also be expensive, and IIA suggested to do so would be unrealistic. HH income is also not verifiable.

Why not just adopt the Tier 2[9] criteria – after all they have the same incomes as T1?
This was tested, but was found to result in unacceptable levels of inclusion error.

[9] See Blackie, R., Kenward, S., and Islam, R. (2011) *The Tier 2 Pilot: Reviewing the Decision not to Scale Up and Exploring the Relationship Between Sharecropping & Income* for a detailed explanation of T2