

## Overview of Change Reports and Self-Review Workshops March-April 2011

### What is this document?

*This document collates information from the Change Reports (submitted March 2011) and Self-Review Workshops (conducted April 2011) of 10 Innovation Fund Round 1&2 partners. The Change Reports are prepared by partner-NGO project managers using data from CMS4 and CMS5, and the Self-Review Workshops are periodic project analyses facilitated by shiree programme managers with project staff.*

*1382 beneficiaries (BHHs) participated in this round of CMS4 activities, and 51 BHHs participated in CMS5.*

### What does it say?

*First, the document identifies shared experiences of beneficiaries across the portfolio (from the Change Reports).*

*Secondly, the document examines these shared experiences in more depth, taking NGO staff's own accounts from the Self-Review Workshops.*

### How should it be used?

*The document (and the methodologies used to provide the information) simply report the accounts of BHHs and partner NGO staff. These accounts have not been externally verified (other than triangulation with staff accounts), but valuably highlight beneficiary perceptions. The document is not exhaustive, but selects a few of the most common shared experiences.*

*That said, this process did very clearly flag up issues which were repeatedly experienced across the Innovation Fund portfolio. Further discussion on these issues with BHHs, NGO staff, and shiree PMs, will allow for further expansion of the issues raised.*



# Change Reports

NB: This section collates beneficiary accounts presented in the Change Reports (and NGO explanations in these reports). Nothing from Self-Review Workshops or other project knowledge is included here.

## Overall Findings

### Incomes

- Noticeable improvements in BHH income-related stories since last quarter (where there were very few mentions of major income increases).
  - Nevertheless, most BHHs have only seen small income increases.
  - Only a small amount of BHHs have seen significant income increases already.
  - Many beneficiaries are still waiting for income impact (particularly those with livestock): Eg. “Since asset transfer (of livestock), some beneficiaries have not had any income yet, because they are waiting for their livestock to fatten before selling.”
- Important to think about how project incomes are supplemented from elsewhere.
  - Availability of day labour still important.
  - Some projects see success from migrational labour and other investments.
- Significant success reported from BHHs with multiple income sources (particularly those with an IGA providing short-term regular income in addition to longer term assets).

### Illness

- Illness continues to be a major problem for these beneficiaries, for two reasons:
  - The worker becomes unable to work to develop the IGA.
  - The high expense on medication, and the daily labour income lost.
- Other disasters (house burning, dowry etc) still cause major barriers to project success.

### Assets

- BHHs across the board reported asset diversification of their own initiative. This is a promising indicator of reinvestment. Some mention of cash savings (including DPS) which is a change from previous reports.
- BHHs appear to report more favourably about their assets, possibly as they are fattening/expanding. Nevertheless, *income* from livestock assets isn't increasing massively at this point.

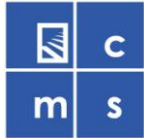
### Consumption of own produce

- Milk, vegetables etc were consumed by households across the board. In some cases this is improving nutrition, while in other cases this is freeing up money that would have been spent on food.
- Considering the food prices hikes which are regularly complained about, this is a valuable achievement.

### Safety nets and safety access

- Still an ongoing problem, but a number of individual successes. Some caused by NGO efforts, some not. These are always isolated though.





# Self-Review Workshops

NB: These accounts are reported by NGO staff at Self-Review Workshops. They build on field staff's experiences conducting CMS exercises with BHHs, but are not the accounts of BHHs directly. Relevant sections from the NGO's Self-Review Workshops are reported here (categorized by significant theme), and where applicable, NGO's recommendations for solution are highlighted. Each line in the tables is from a different NGO.

## Further overarching findings from Self-Review Workshops

- NGOs have in many cases been pro-active since the last round of self-review workshops. They have taken learning about safety nets in particular, to work with the UPs for increase delivery of safety nets to BHHs.
- After 1 or 2 years in the project, some issues regarding sustainability of interventions (and what will happen after phasing out) is in question. Some BHHs are losing interest in their assets, others are not keen to re-invest.
  - For some successful BHHs, their scope for *expansion* remains a challenge (eg. They have successfully earned income from a cow, and would like to buy a second one but only have enough space for one). Some projects move BHHs from under-sustenance to sustenance, but can they move them higher?
- A new phenomenon mentioned by a number of NGOs was stealing of produce by neighbours.

## NGO accounts of major issues by theme

<b>Newly arising issues related to graduation and phasing out. What happens beyond project support?</b>
"Feed cost as stipend given for one year after purchase of the heifer. But in this duration BHHs are not getting calves. Then she loses her interest in rearing heifer."
"Sold asset without project peoples or group concern... They want to prove themselves as asset less to get more assistance from other organizations."
"No space for keeping asset/cattle's, also if they want to purchase another cattle or goat from their earning" (ie. very hard to graduate beyond low level)"
"Some of the cattle neither shown heat sign nor conceived after 3 months of AI... Beneficiaries losing confidence on AI"
"Inadequate space in cattle shed for housing more than 01(One) cattle"
- "In addition four of the existing beneficiaries expressed their unwillingness to continue as project beneficiaries... Project driven selection of beneficiaries do not participate in the long term. It is necessary to match the aspiration of the demanding hh and the project aim." - "A few BHHs want to use seed money for construction of houses instead of re-investing for productive purposes"
"Due to high profit at first season, land lease price is becoming higher... Private land owners and other affordable households are becoming interested to take the interventions"
"Some beneficiaries those who have given their calves and ended of feeding cost, losing interest to attend regular Group meetings on weekly basis."

<b>Illness. Possible link to hygiene/WATSAN.</b>
- "Illness of few beneficiarie – Income eroded..."

- "Sanitation problem... Many beneficiaries have no sanitary latrine"
"Most of the people are suffering from water bond diseases... 70% BHHs use tube well water; but sanitation around 55% maximum"
"Income erosion due to purchase of cattle feed and treatment to combat periodic illness "
"Peoples are suffering from different kinds of water borne diseases... Lots of BHHs do not have sanitary latrine and Tube well"
"Most of the people are sick... Most of the diseases related to water and sanitation"
"Many of BHHs do not have sanitary latrine and Tubewell. This is an old problem but there was some progress since last self review workshop... Following the decision of last self review workshop, the staff of NDP contacted BRAC. BRAC supplied 30 ring slab latrines to beneficiaries... So far nothing received from DPHE either latrine or Tubewell"
"Lots of BHHs do not have sanitary latrine"
"Inadequate health, sanitation and nutrition... Single intervention by the project is not adequate to address extreme poverty"
"In CMS -4 and CMS-5 indicated the problems like... Frequent sickness of earning member/s"

<b>Safety nets – still a problem but some improvements due to NGO efforts.</b>
"Compare to previous quarter, few BHH received support from the union parishad but many still left behind (VGO, VGF, WATSAN, Cash for work)"
- "Total=515, (VGD-75, old aged-32, disabled-3, widow/deserted-3, 100 day employment 385 and maternity benefit-17) - List of disabled people provided to VARD an NGO who are working on safety nets - List of disabled people provided to SHARIQUE the project of [NGO] will pursue UPs to provide support - List of BHHs provided to VARD, MUSLIM AID and POPPY for inclusion of these BHHs in their earth work activities. - List of disabled people provided to upazila parishad."
"Presently 8.4% is getting safety net (in previous quarter it was 6%)"
- "BHH were not preferred for safety net support from UP after becoming project beneficiaries (VGD, VGF, WATSAN, Cash for work)- The problems still exists but some achievement noticed during last quarter... NDP contacted different organization including UP chairman and members. The following achievement made : - 100 days programe: 60 Households were included ( work facilities for 40 days) - VGD and VGF: 43 households were given VGD and VGF cards ( election nearby)... Ekti bari and Ekti khamar – 25 HHs name were enlisted in this programem( Two households already received one cow one bundle of tin from this programme respectively). The rest is under process)"
"UP stopped supporting BHH but situation has slightly improved in last three months... It was agreed in the first review workshop that SKS staff would raise the matter with Union Parishad."
"LGIs showing negligence to provide safety nets to our BHHs(i.e. VGF, VGD and other government deliverables) to elderly/disable/dependent on others."
- "Access to social services (emerged from CMS findings. - Union Parishad excluded households because they are getting support from the project... Liaised with government through VDC leaders. - 17 beneficiaries got 100 days employment."
"BHHs are less involved with govt. safety net programs... Arrangement to access Upazila Agriculture & livestock offices; govt. health facilities... Advocacy to nominate BHHs at 40 days' cash for work of govt... Eligible candidate lists for different allowances have been prepared"

**Links with other government institutions – improving in some cases.**

"Visiting of community clinic increased due to advocacy meeting with health service providers and group cluster meetings . Treatment support from the clinic have also been increased."

-"Local Service Providers (LSPs) are working with their own interest.

-They are interested to know about overall heifer/cow and calves management.

-They have helping attitude as per need i.e. vaccination& treatment."

"Access to health/ lack of treatment/inadequate health services... Due to remoteness BHHs can't send their children to schools (Haor)"

#### **Some lingering challenges – lessons for project design.**

"About 75% Treadle pumps were under or not used because of no water layer /or non-acceptance by individual. Many users mentioned that it is laborious and time consuming."

"Cattle Death... Absence of skilled veterinary officer in the project team."

"Low production of Cassava... Topography of the soil of project working area is not suitable for cassava production"

"Insufficient amount of land allocated to each BHHs... 6 decimal of is not enough for graduation... Group conflict, Many wants plot individually"

"30 goats were purchased. Most of them needed treatment... [NGO] stopped purchasing goats because of high morbidity... To find alternatives risk free IGA options and decide as prioritized and as demanded by the beneficiaries."

"Small crabs were unavailable due to high salinity, natural breeding & low supply comparative to its demand... As a high profitable business crab fattening is expanding at high pace... Crab hatchery establishment is very much essential for maintaining the backward linkage of crab fattening" (value chain efforts)

#### **Elderly and physically challenged BHHs – an ongoing challenge with few clear solutions yet.**

"6% to 8% BHHs are dependent on others for mobility and to earn livelihoods"

"Aged, deaf & dumb, mental disorder, disable, weak and depending beneficiaries are not helpful for project success."

"Widowed, physically weak and disabled are less able to carry out activities. Approximately 50 members... This is an on-going problems... Initiatives were taken to get help from other beneficiaries. In that case, some portion of labour support money was used by the beneficiaries."

"Most vulnerable HHs such as widow, old, disabled: they have motivation but physically they can't work with the kanda land... They can't work personally; take labour to work for them"

"Single member/single earning member BHHs... Can't regularly contribute to fallow land as a member of group due to physical inability"

"Aged, disables, lactating mothers are unable to work in the field"

#### **Incomes – a mixed bag.**

"No regular income – unable to purchase meat to meet nutritional demand... Insufficient income and savings. Price of chili and potato was low especially at the peak harvest period."

"As per CMS-4 data, income and health, Sanitation, still is a problem. Non availability of work, illness, high price of food items contributed further income erosion... [Proposal to] Introduce multiple IGA options."

"Irregular income (emerged from CMS 4 and 5 findings... Single income earning opportunity is not enough to lift extremely poor out of poverty... In 2nd phase diversified IGA options to be incorporated."

**Shocks – an ongoing challenge to livelihood development.**

“Individual loan from local money lender... BHHs in the lean season involved with vegetable cultivation and who earned less income from winter vegetable dependent on loan money for their livelihoods.”

“Production has been hampered due to unfavorable climatic condition... Preservation & Protection systems have been improved”

“Natural disaster (hail storm)”

“Erosion of homestead land/homestead by wave/surge... 100% homestead of haor area get eroded”

**Social issues – theft of produce a problem for a number of NGOs.**

“Stealing of crop has been reduced compare to last three months. But still it was a big problem”

“Net fencing was found ineffective to secure crops from the damaged caused by cow/goat and theft.”

“Cultivation of sweet potato in a distance from beneficiaries homes cause loss by theft”

“Crop damaged by goat and cattle; stolen by unknown person”

“Kapatakkha river bed reclamation by private land owners/land grabbers”

**Market linkages – an ongoing issue, but mentioned less than last quarter, and some positive responses.**

“Marketing of strawberry were found to be difficult but producers were able to sell a good portion of strawberry on their own ( 53 % sold through [NGO])”

“Absence of Strong marketing linkage for organic vegetables of floating beds... Circulation of leaflets, development of group marketing system & seeking potential buyers. Marketing webpage has been developed, four renowned import companies have expressed their interests”