



A typical CLP (2.1) first tier core participant at baseline

The story of Ambia

Background

As a core participant of CLP 2.1 Ambia received a cow during the first phase of the CLP2 Asset Transfer Project (ATP). This is the first cohort of six, which will gradually rollout CLP's package of support to core participating households between 2010 and 2016.

The Story of Ambia

Ambia (19), her husband Nasir (24) and their two-year-old daughter live in Sonay Kazi (Phulbari Upazila, Kurigram district). Ambia is a housewife and Nasir is a landless agricultural day labourer, who earns on average 100-120 Taka per day. They married when Ambia was only 15 years old and both attended primary school.

Socio-economic Status

- The household has no tubewell or sanitary latrine.
- During the last flood (2007) the house floor was submerged but now the household is living on a CLP raised plinth and are very confident about living there during floods.
- The house is made of *chatai* (thin fence made by bamboo) and has a tin roof.
- Before joining CLP, the total value of household assets (excluding poultry and domestic animals) was 1200 Taka. This comprised 1 bed, 1 trunk, a mosquito net, some blankets, pillows, clothes.
- In May 2010, household income and expenditure were 1769 and 1769 Taka respectively.
- The household has no savings.



Ambia received this cow from CLP

In June 2010, Ambia received a cow from CLP, at the value of 14,620 Taka. The household also received a CLP model house for their poultry birds. Ambia expects to earn an income and save in the near future.



Ambia with her 2 years old daughter.

Nutritional Status

- Ambia has a BMI* of 19.5, which means she has healthy height and weight balance as the normal BMI is 18.5+.
- Ambia's haemoglobin level is 125 g/l, which means that she is not anaemic,** as the anaemic threshold is 120 g/l.
- Ambia has a three months old daughter, whose hemoglobin level is 87 g/l, which means she has an iron deficiency.
- As reported in the asset transfer baseline survey, the food groups consumed on a daily basis in this household include rice, potato, green and leafy vegetables and oil. Other food groups including chickens, egg, milk, fish, beans and pulses are consumed about once a week.
- The asset transfer baseline survey reports that the household members ate less than normal everyday in a week; and before joining CLP it was common for the family to eat only two meals a day.
- In times of food shortages, Ambia eats less than her husband. She believes that her husband needs more food than her, as he works long hours in the field

* Body Mass Index (BMI): Calculated as weight (kg) divided by height (m²)

**anaemia is an iron deficiency, measured from the haemoglobin levels in a blood sample (grams per litre).



Ambia's family has never suffered severe hunger. Nowadays they usually eat more than two meals a day. The diversity of their diet has also increased. Whereas before they could for example only afford to eat eggs once a week, today they eat eggs twice a week. The same is true for vegetables.

Empowerment Status

- The household knows how to access and have accessed private and public services including government health workers, the village doctor, a traditional birth attendant. However they do not know how to access services such as birth registration, death registration or college allowances.
- The household has no group membership in any formal social or community group.
- Ambia knows the legal age of marriage for both boys and girls and is aware of the existence of a law against dowry but her husband is unaware of these.
- Ambia feels 'quite respected' by her husband, family-in-law and community and her household also feels 'quite respected' by the family and the community.
- Ambia does not feel confident to take large economic decisions alone, to act against violence/abuse from anybody, or to convince her husband to buy a *shari* or any large assets such as buying or leasing livestock or land.



Ambia in front of her house

When Ambia received her cow, she expected her husband to know how to care for the animal better than she would. However, due to CLP's livestock rearing training, Ambia is also very aware of how to rear cattle and feels confident to do so. She has begun planning for the future. She plans to rear her cow and sell it when it is worth 25,000 Taka or more. With that money she intends to buy land for cultivation and if possible purchase a calf or small cow. She will try to invest safely and accumulate as much profit as possible to improve her family's situation as she said *"everyone dreams for a good life, so do I. We all will try best for a better life than now"*.

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This case study is the first in a series of longitudinal case studies, which will follow the same households' progress under CLP2 until 2016. The information draws upon baseline data collected in May/ June 2010, in addition to an interview conducted in September 2010. The interview took place shortly after the first asset transfer and the commencement of CLP activities.