



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

The story of Anju

Background

As a core participant of CLP 2.1 Anju 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 Anju

Anju (31) married at only 9 years old and became pregnant aged 12. She is now a housewife who lives with her husband (42), four children (aged 1.5 to 20 years) and daughter-in-law (15). The household has been living in East Jatindranarayan (Phulbari Upazila, Kurigram district) for the last four years. Anju's husband is a day labourer and earns 100-120 Taka per day selling vegetables in the market. Their oldest son is also a day labourer and the other two sons currently attend primary school.



Anju received the cow from CLP at ATP 2.1

Socio-economic Status

- The household does not have access to their own latrine.
- The household collects water from their own tubewell.
- The house is made of jute sticks and straw.
- During the last flood (2007), the house floor was submerged and the household moved to temporary accommodation for a while. Now the household is living on a CLP raised plinth but they are not confident to remain on the char during the flood period.
- Before joining CLP, the total value of household assets (excluding poultry and animals) was 2255 Taka. This comprised 1 bed, 1 wooden box, 1 bicycle, some blankets and jewellery.
- The household has 4 ducks.
- In May 2010, prior to CLP support, the household's monthly income and expenditure was 5200 and 5800 Taka respectively.
- The household had no savings.

In May 2010, Anju's household received a bull, a lamb and homestead garden support from CLP. They also received a cow as dowry for the marriage of the elder son. Anju earned 120 Taka by selling vegetables from her homestead garden between May and September 2010.

Nutritional Status

- Anju has a BMI* of 19.0 which means that she has a healthy height and weight balance as the normal BMI is 18.5+.
- Anju's haemoglobin level is 46 g/l which means that she is severely anaemic** as the anaemic threshold is 120 g/l.
- Anju has a 1.5 year old daughter whose haemoglobin level is 99 grams per litre, which means that she is iron deficient as the anaemic threshold in children is 110 g/l.
- As reported in the asset transfer baseline survey, the household members eat rice, oil and potato regularly, and usually have a varied diet consisting of pulses, beans, eggs, fried fish, sweet potato and leafy vegetables.
- During food shortages, Anju usually eats less than her husband and elder son because *"they are earning money for the family and so they should eat more."*

* 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).

When CLP tested Anju's blood in April 2010, they found that she was suffering from anaemia and provided her with a blood transfusion and medicine. The household had to spend 1030 Taka on transport costs. The doctor advised her to eat eggs, milk, vegetables, fish and meat. However, this was not always possible, due to their economic situation. During the last two weeks she could only eat one egg per week and the household could not afford to purchase milk. However, they are optimistic about the future. They expect to receive milk from their cow and vegetables from their homestead garden, which they will consume and sell.



Anju in front of her house with her 1.5 year old daughter

Empowerment Status

- The household knows how to access and have accessed primary education services and government health workers but does not know how to access private secondary education, death registration or college allowance.
- Before joining CLP, Anju had never earned her own income. Now she can take some small economic decisions alone, as well as decisions regarding birth control. Her husband takes economic decisions regarding loans and large household assets. Other daily decisions are made by the couple together.
- Anju and her husband do not know the legal age of marriage for boys and girls, and are unaware of the existence of a law against dowry and early marriage.
- The household members expect to pay dowry for their daughter and receive dowry for their two unmarried sons.
- Anju feels 'quite respected' by her husband, family-in-law and the community.
- Anju does not feel confident to talk with males outside the household or village, or convince her husband to make big economic decisions such as buying land, or taking a loan.

Although able to take small economic decisions alone, Anju emphasised that she will never take important economic decisions without the approval of her husband and elder son, even if it is very urgent. Anju is actively making plans for the future and hopes that the cow which they received as dowry will give birth to two calves. *"Then I have a plan to sell the cow and invest that money to get more income, which will be more beneficial to my family."*

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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 April/ May 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.