

## MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORT

Executing Agency (CSOP+EA projects) or Implementing Agency (CSOP projects) must complete this form and return it to the UNDEF Secretariat by email ([democracyfund@un.org](mailto:democracyfund@un.org)) no later than:

- 13 months for CSOP projects
- 13 months OR when requesting the 2<sup>nd</sup> disbursement for CSOP+EA projects

This information should be provided in a way that compares with the project document signed with UNDEF. Any changes should be highlighted and explained.

The completed Mid-Term Report should be no more than eight pages (excluding annexes).

UNDEF will request additional information as deemed necessary.

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>UNDEF Project Number : UDF-BGD-11-445</b>	<b>Project Type:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSOP <input type="checkbox"/> CSOP+EA																				
<b>Project Title:</b> MDG Unions: Building Participatory Democracy From the Bottom Up in Rural Bangladesh	<b>Report Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May , 2014</b>																				
<b>Project Start Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2013</b>	<b>Project End Date: 30 April , 2015</b>																				
<b>Project Location:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Global <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local	<p><b>Please specify target countries for global/regional projects; or target areas of the country for local projects:</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Division</th> <th style="width: 20%;">District</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Upazila</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Unions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="10" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Dhaka</td> <td rowspan="5" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Mymensingh</td> <td rowspan="5" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Sadar</td> <td>Baera</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Char Ishwardiya</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kustia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dapunia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bhabkhali</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="5" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Tangail</td> <td rowspan="3" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Bhuapur</td> <td>Falda</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nikrail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aloya</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">Gopalpur</td> <td>Hemnagar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jhaiwal</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Division	District	Upazila	Unions	Dhaka	Mymensingh	Sadar	Baera	Char Ishwardiya	Kustia	Dapunia	Bhabkhali	Tangail	Bhuapur	Falda	Nikrail	Aloya	Gopalpur	Hemnagar	Jhaiwal
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**Target group(s)/beneficiaries:**  
Direct beneficiaries include the participants of trainings, members of social units, members of standing committees, and participants of Ward Shavas. The rest of the community members are regarded as indirect beneficiaries.

**Implementing Agency:** The Hunger Project - Bangladesh

**Executing Agency (if applicable):** N/A

**Implementing Partner(s):** BRAC

### 2. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S FINANCIAL STATUS (in US dollars)

<b>a) Amount of the UNDEF grant: \$250,000</b>	<b>c) Amount utilized from received funds (see b) :\$ 87,981.95</b>
<b>b) Funds received by the grantee: \$99,000</b>	<b>d) Remaining balance from received funds (see b) : \$11,018.05</b>

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### **Any comments on the financial status (e.g., significant deviations from the original budget allocations, over/under-expenditures):**

There are few deviations, though there were under-expenditures from the original budget allocation (M1) in various budget heads. A severe political crisis and country-wide gridlock around the national elections from September 2013 to January 2014 caused some delay and hindrances in the implementation of planned activities. Since the national election, the political situation has been improving and the project activities are being effectively implemented according to established priorities. As a result, the under expenditure will be resolved as implementation assumes the planned course.

### **3. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

*Please indicate, where applicable, which management actions have been undertaken to get the project started. Indicate the functionality of the established structure and explain any shortcomings.*

#### **Recruitment of Staff:**

As per the provisions in the project document, five Union coordinators were recruited and three full-time program staff were hired by The Hunger Project for implementing the project, with contract in effect from May 01, 2013 to April 30, 2014.

#### **Procurement of Equipment:**

The project implementing agency procured survey equipment (GPS iPods 5 and Samsung tabs 5) for conducting surveys.

**Partnership Agreements:** The partnership agreements paper was developed and signed by The Hunger Project Bangladesh and BRAC on January 20, 2013.

#### **Set up of Monitoring or Steering Committees:**

A monitoring committee consisting of three members was established to monitor the overall implementation of the project on August 29, 2013. The members of the committee are:

Mr. Abdur Rouf, Deputy Chief, Planning Wing, Local Government Division of Bangladesh  
 Mr. Dilip Kumar Sarker, Program Manager, Local Government and Good governance, THPB  
 Mr. Mustaque Ahmed, Manager, CEP, BRAC

#### **Other Management Actions:**

**Regular Project Staff Meetings:** As delineated in the project document, regular project staff meetings among two implementing partners were held on a monthly basis. During the reporting period, twelve meetings were held in the project area and one was at the headquarter level. These meetings discussed various issues such as the effective and timely implementation of project activities in line with project documents and policies, project planning, monitoring and evaluation, design and development of different training packages, field support and field management, and design and development of weekly priorities.

**Financial Auditing of the Project:** As per the project document, The Hunger Project - Bangladesh appointed Khan Wahab Shafiq Rahman & Co, a legally registered firm of chartered accountants, to carry out audit and certified FUR of the project.

*Please provide information on any shortcomings, delays or changes in the management actions, (e.g. turnover in staffing or relocation of project offices/activities), and remedial actions taken to overcome these challenges.*

No such change has occurred in the reporting period.

### **4. BASELINE DATA**

*Please summarize the baseline data collected, and describe the manner in which they were collected (if not already detailed in the project document).*

The baseline study included both secondary and primary data using research methods of a questionnaire-based household survey, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII).

From 10 working Unions, 900 respondents, of which 51% were female, were interviewed in-person based on a structured questionnaire. In addition to a quantitative survey, the study also undertook a qualitative survey, which included 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with 81 community leaders and 60 Key Informant Interviews (KII) with UP representatives and respective Government Officers covering all 10 project Unions.

The household survey was comprised of the following components, with 48 questions asked to household respondents:

1. Demography (2 questions)
2. Education & Literacy (9 questions)
3. Water and Sanitation (5 questions)
4. Child marriage and violence against women (9 questions)
5. Women empowerment (5 questions)
6. Confidence and citizen rights (5 questions)
7. Engagement with Union Parishad (13 questions)

The KII was comprised of the following components, with 39 questions asked to UP representatives and Government Officers:

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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Union Parishad meetings (9 questions)</li> <li>2. Capacity building of UP representatives (4 questions)</li> <li>3. Standing committees (7 questions)</li> <li>4. Ward shava and five years planning (9 questions)</li> <li>5. Transparency and Accountabilities of UP (10 questions)</li> </ol> <p>The FGD was comprised of the following components, with 11 questions asked to community opinion leaders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development, civil society organization and rights-related (3 questions)</li> <li>2. Citizen engagement with Union Parishad (8 questions)</li> </ol>
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### 5. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AND RESULTING OUTPUTS

*Please outline the **key** outputs and activities that have taken place to date. Please provide these in **a manner that compares** with those activities outlined in the Results Framework of the UNDEF Project Document signed with UNDEF. Please provide both quantitative data (e.g. number of participants) and qualitative data (description of activity) for each output and corresponding activity (ies). Numbers should correspond with the Project Document. Add more rows as needed (to do this go to table → insert → rows below).*

Outputs	Activities
<p><b>Output: 1.1.</b></p> <p><i><b>Intended:</b></i> Baseline and Annual Union level Survey are conducted.</p> <p><i><b>Actual:</b></i> Baseline conducted and report produced.</p>	<p><b>Intended</b></p> <p>1.1.1.Design format &amp; content of baseline survey 1.1.2.Training and conduct the baseline survey in 10 unions 1.1.3.Conduct the follow up survey in 10 unions 1.1.4. Analyze, publish and input baseline survey findings into participatory planning process</p> <p><b>Actual</b></p> <p>1.1.1 Content and complete framework including necessary formats developed by M&amp;E Unit 1.1.2 Arranged 3-day training with 30 enumerators and survey conducted 1.1.3. Follow up survey is currently being conducted as of May 2014 1.1.4. Survey report produced and findings (Findings of the Project’s baseline survey confirm that most of ward shavas and open budget meetings were not held in the Unions. About 42% respondents were not aware about ward shava. Standing committees of UPs formed but not functional. Most of the UPs had no holistic long term plan. Most of the respondents were not satisfied with UP to provide services. In addition, the survey found that primary school enrollment of children between 6 to 10 years of age was lower in the study areas(84%) than the national enrollment rate (98%). Of the children who were admitted to grade 1, 15% could not reach up to grade 5. About 19% of adult (15+ age group) were illiterate. The majority of respondents reported taht child marriage occurred widely in their areas. About 68% female respondents admitted that most women in their areas were physically tortured by their male partner. Most of the respondents did feel that women should not participate in the public space or involve in politics.</p>
<p><b>Output: 1.2</b></p> <p><i><b>Intended:</b></i> Signed MOUs with 10 UPs and 210 UP representatives and government functionaries are trained.</p> <p><i><b>Actual:</b></i> MOU signed with 10 UPs and 76 UP representatives and government functionaries trained</p>	<p><b>Intended</b></p> <p>1.2.1. Design the format, content, module and materials for the training 1.2.2. Project orientation to negotiate MOU and identify representatives and functionaries for training 1.2.3. Conduct training in 10 project unions 1.2.4. Gather evaluation materials and feedback for participants 1.2.5. Quarterly consultation and follow up meeting with respective UP bodies</p> <p><b>Actual</b></p> <p>1.2.1 Format, content, module and materials designed and developed by Training Unit 1.2.2 Orientation conducted with 437 participants including 108 UP representatives and 63 government officials, and signed MOU with UPs 1.2.3. As of April 2014, training was completed in 4 unions out of 10, with participation of 76 representatives and government functionaries at Mymensingh 1.2.4 Participatory evaluation materials with feedback from participants gathered and shared. They mentioned in their feedback: their understanding regarding UP law increased and became clear, outlook towards female members positively transformed, awareness about their roles and responsibilities increased, good relation and understanding between Government functionaries and UP elected representatives improved through training process. argued to make a strong advocacy initiatives in policy level for more decentralization and so on.</p>

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	1.2.5. Total 35 quarterly consultation meetings with UP bodies held to improve governance
<p><b>Output: 1.3</b></p> <p><b>Intended:</b> A critical mass of animators is trained and organized into ward action teams.</p> <p><b>Actual:</b> Critical mass of animators training completed and functioning as ward action teams</p>	<p><b>Intended</b></p> <p>1.3.1. Reviewed and update module materials format for animator training 1.3.2. Identify animators through VCA workshop for training 1.3.3. Conduct trainings in 10 project unions and establish ward action teams 1.3.4. Gather evaluation materials and feedback for participants 1.3.5. Monthly ward action meeting: planning and follow up</p> <p><b>Actual</b></p> <p>1.3.1. Module , materials and format reviewed and updated by training unit 1.3.2 Total 90 VCA workshops conducted at community level, where 1860 (F: 995 and M: 865) community members took part 1.3.3. Total 29 animator trainings held at UP level and 1444 animators (F: 670 and M: 774) trained and organized into 90 ward action teams 1.3.4. Evaluation conducted and gathered with participants' feedback then shared.,The feedback which they mentioned in the feedback from were ; the training helped them to increased their knowledge about citizen rights and citizen engagement with governance, awareness towards women rights increased, self-confidence increased, knowledge and skill about community mobilization improved,duration of the training should be increased, training should be residential, content of UP decision making process should be included in the training and so on. 1.3.5. Total 449 monthly ward action team meetings held to review progress and plan</p>
<p><b>Output: 1.4</b></p> <p><b>Intended:</b> Active Standing Committees (SCs) working toward achieving the MDGs are established.</p> <p><b>Actual:</b> All Standing Committees formed and working to foster achievement of MDGs</p>	<p><b>Intended</b></p> <p>1.4.1. Identify potential and gaps within the committees and provide support to the UP in constructing/reconstructing these committees 1.4.2. Conduct one-day workshop with members of the seven SCs 1.4.3. Support/coaching to hold committees' regular meetings (Bi-monthly meeting as per rule) and ongoing feedback and evaluation of the services 1.4.4. Conduct quarterly half-day meeting/workshop with members of seven SCs</p> <p><b>Actual</b></p> <p>1.4.1. Gaps were identified as Standing committees were not formed following the UP law in some UP, community people and government functionaries were not included to the committees. In some UP committees were formed without any meeting, resolution of standing committee formation was not produced, members did not know their role and responsibility and so on. Afterwards, help UPs reconstitute standing committees and thus 91 standing committees (SCs) were reformed. 1.4.2. Ten one-day workshops for capacity building of members of SCs held, in which 623 (F: 172 and M: 451) participated. Participants mentioned in their feedback that the workshop helped them to understand about the roles and responsibilities of standing committees, their knowledge about functions of standing committees increased, the workshop helped them to perform their role, It also helped them to make effective their bi-monthly meeting workshop time should be increased and so on . 1.4.3. Seven SCs of each UP, (70 total) each connected in achieving the MDGs, were supported through regular communication, follow up and refreshers. 1.4.4. Twenty half-day quarterly meetings with members of standing committees held to support their effective functioning</p>
<p><b>Output: 1.5</b></p> <p><b>Intended:</b> 270 Ward Shavas are held and input is incorporated into five-year development plans.</p> <p><b>Actual:</b> As of April 2014, 169 Ward Shavas have been held and input forwarded to UP planning process</p>	<p><b>Intended</b></p> <p>1.5.1. Coordinate meeting logistics with UP members 1.5.2. Publicize meeting details within Union 1.5.3. Hold ward shavas 1.5.4. Support to hold open budget meetings 1.5.5. Citizen charter posting</p> <p><b>Actual</b></p> <p>1.5.1. Through the quarterly consultation &amp; follow up meetings, all UP members were given encouragement and provided with technical assistance to hold Ward Shavas 1.5.2. Developed and disseminated 20,000 stickers and 2,000 posters to build public awareness and increased participation in Ward Shavas 1.5.3. Support provided to hold 169 Ward Shavas with participation of 21,125 community</p>

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	<p>members</p> <p>1.5.4. Ten open budget meetings held in project Unions with the participation 1,374 community members, including 331 women</p> <p>1.5.5. Citizen Charter posted in all project Unions.</p>
<p><b>Output: 1.6</b></p> <p><b>Intended:</b> Five-year development plans are finalized and approved in each Union Parishad.</p> <p><b>Actual:</b> Related major tasks completed and remaining works are underway</p>	<p><b>Intended</b></p> <p>1.6.1. Develop five-year plan preparation guideline</p> <p>1.6.2. Carry out consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>1.6.3. Data collection, composing, editing Five-Year Plans.</p> <p>1.6.4. Obtain approval of five-year plans</p> <p><b>Actual</b></p> <p>1.6.1. Guideline following UP rules for five-year plan developed</p> <p>1.6.2. As per guideline, Planning Coordination Committees formed and working on preparing draft plan through consultation meeting with relevant stakeholders along with data collection and composing. After finalizing the draft plan book, it will be addressed in next UP monthly meeting for final approval by June 2014.</p>
<p><b>Output: 2.1</b></p> <p><b>Intended:</b> Active local civil society units of distinguished citizens, youth and the poor are established in 10 Unions.</p> <p><b>Actual:</b> Total 3 Civil Society units (Distinguished Citizen Committees, Youth and Poor) established in all project unions and functioning properly</p>	<p><b>Intended</b></p> <p>2.1.1. Identify potential citizens for Distinguished Citizen Committee (DCC) and committee formation</p> <p>2.1.1a. Half-day monthly meetings of DCCs held</p> <p>2.1.2. PAR unit formation through PAR workshop</p> <p>2.1.2a. Half-day monthly meetings of PAR Units held</p> <p>2.1.3. Youth Unit formation through Active Citizens Training</p> <p>2.1.3a. Half-day monthly meetings of Youth Units held</p> <p>2.1.4. Conduct Citizenship workshop with community people (minimum of 3 in each ward with at least 20 participants in each)</p> <p><b>Actual</b></p> <p>2.1.1. Through training and communication, potential citizens were identified and invited to participate in a meeting and a DCC has been formed in each project Union</p> <p>2.1.1a. All DCCs are active, functional and regular in their monthly meetings.</p> <p>2.1.2. Ten PAR workshops have been completed with 270 participants and one PAR unit formed in each Union. There was also feedback process in PAR workshops. We got various feedbacks from participants. For example their skill to conduct PAR session with poor people increased, their knowledge about poverty condition, poverty trend and cause of poverty increased, outlook towards working with poor to bring change in their life positively transformed, more example of PAR should be shared, field visit should be incorporated and so on)</p> <p>2.1.2a. Half-day follow up meetings of PAR units are regularly taking place</p> <p>2.1.3. One Youth Unit consists of 27 students formed in each Union through Active citizen training</p> <p>2.1.4. Fifty citizenship workshops were arranged by youths and 1186 community people participated. Contents of Citizenship workshop included definition of citizenship, citizen identity, basic constitutional rights of citizens, citizen's responsibilities, citizen vs subject, characteristics of active citizens and so on. Participants mentioned in their feedback: Knowledge about citizen rights and responsibilities increased, they demand that this kind of workshop should be spread up in more grass-root areas, more citizenship workshops are needed to raise awareness of mass people, Workshops should be more interactive, and so on.)</p>
<p><b>Output: 2.2</b></p> <p><b>Intended:</b> Cadre of trained women leaders working in each union.</p> <p><b>Actual :</b> Training with cadre of women leaders completed and they are</p>	<p><b>Intended</b></p> <p>2.2.1. Design the format, content and materials for the training</p> <p>2.2.2. Identify dynamic women to participate from Animator training process</p> <p>2.2.3. Conduct initial introductory meeting and training. Five batches will be started from last month of 2nd qtr and finished by 3rd qtr.</p> <p>2.2.4. Monthly follow up and full-day training</p> <p>2.2.5. Gather evaluation material and feedback from participants</p> <p><b>Actual</b></p> <p>2.2.1. All related materials, format and content designed and developed by training unit</p> <p>2.2.2. The women received Animator training and dynamic women were selected to</p>

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<p>working effectively</p>	<p>participate in Women Leaders Foundation Course                  2.2.3. Five batches of the Women Leaders Foundation Course were completed, in which 189 women took part in Mymensingh                  2.2.4. Twenty-five follow up and full-day consecutive training with trained women leaders held during reporting period                  2.2.5. Participants feedback received, gathered and shared. The feedback from participants that we got were-their knowledge about gender, gender role, causes of gender discrimination, women empowerment and leadership increased, their self-confidence to participate in public spaces (ward shava etc) increased, training helped them to explore themselves, their human spirit increased, training empowered them to be visionary, so far they knew only women are the enemy of women but through the training they realized patriarchy is the main cause of gender discrimination, the training should also be arranged for couple, another workshop should be taken for changing the mindset of male persons, gender training should be design for young group of society. and so on.</p>
<p><b>Output: 2.3</b></p> <p><b>Intended:</b> Active civil society units of women leaders and National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) established in each Union</p> <p><b>Actual:</b> Civil society units of women, BNN (Unleashed Women’s Network) and NGCAF, are established and working actively</p>	<p><b>Intended:</b>                  2.3.1. Identify potential participants                  2.3.2. Conduct initial introductory meeting and training and form NGCAF                  2. 3.3. BNN formation                  2.3.4. Bi monthly meeting of NGCAF                  2.3.5. Celebration of International Women’s Day (March 8) and Girl Child Day (September 30)</p> <p><b>Actual:</b>                  2.3.1. Through participation in trainings and performances in community mobilization, potential participants for NGCAF were identified                  2.3.2. Union-based committees of NGCAF were formed which include 130 community opinion leaders                  2.3.3 BNN formed among the trained women leaders                  2.3.4. All committees are running regular bi-monthly meetings to identify local issues. for example, child marriage, violence against women, dowry, eve teasing, women organization building, women participation in ward shavas and they already formed committees on VAW in all wards of project Unions to address the issues to be solved.                  2.3.5 The National Girl Child Day was celebrated in 90 spots under 10 project unions. International Women’s Day was observed in each ward of the 10 unions, with the active participation of about 21,000 community people.</p>
<p><b>Output: 3.2</b></p> <p><b>Intended:</b> Multi-mode of media and communication tools are used to disseminate the good practices and success</p> <p><b>Actual:</b> A web site (<a href="http://www.mdgunions.org">www.mdgunions.org</a>) was developed</p>	<p><b>Intended</b>                  3.2.1. Newsletter for promoting MDG Unions published and distributed. It is note that we are working on newsletter. Hope end of July 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> issues of newsletter would be published.                  3.2.2. Development of the webpage on the THP website</p> <p><b>Actual</b>                  3.2.2. A website has already been developed by the IT unit and is updated regularly with event reports, case stories and news</p>
<p><b>6. PROGRESS ON OUTCOMES</b></p>	
<p><i>Please describe the progress made in achieving the outcomes in a manner that compares to the projected outcomes and outcome indicators in the signed Project Document. Add more rows as needed, (to do this go to table → insert → rows below).</i></p>	
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> The capacity of the UP representatives and functionaries is strengthened and the knowledge of rights, entitlements and responsibilities of public and youth is developed for improving democratic local governance, and active citizenry.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> Attitudes and awareness of basic rights expressed in response to surveys.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> By the end of the project, at least 70% of those surveyed feel that they can make meaningful change in their lives and at least 51% will have awareness of their basic rights.</p> <p><b>Comment on Progress:</b> Awareness and understanding among direct participants of the project on citizen rights, entitlements and responsibilities increased and their engagement in local governance (Ward Shavas, Open budget meetings, Standing Committees’ meetings)</p>	

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has also been enhanced. In addition, they are taking initiatives to make meaningful change for themselves as well as other community people.

**Indicator 1.2:** Established mechanisms for public participation in development at the Union level.

**Target:** By the end of the project, each UP has established active and functioning 1) three local civil society units, and 2) seven standing committees.

**Comment on Progress:** The local civil society units (DCC, Youth & PAR unit) were formed and functioning by the direct initiatives and supervision of UPs. The seven standing committees are also very regular in their bi-monthly meetings and offering input to UPs through active participation and follow up of respective UPs which implies that UPs are functioning actively.

**Indicator 1.3:** Five years development plans finalized through public consultation and approved by UPs.

**Target:** Each UP will take into consideration the recommendations of the standing committees and sub-committees formed during Ward Shavas in developing and approving the five-year development plans.

**Comment on Progress:** Increased UP interest in holding Ward Shavas regularly, and inputs/recommendations garnered from Ward Shavas and standing committees are considered and incorporated into UPs' plans and budgets.

**Indicator 1.4:** Social mobilization campaigns underway to address progress in MDGs.

**Target:** 2015: One campaign undertaken per quarter in each of the 10 project Unions.

**Comment on Progress:** *Project areas are prepared now to carry out the weeklong action campaign, We have plan to carry out the 1 action campaign by July,2014*

**Indicator 1.5:** Quantitative: Measurable progress during the project period, as revealed by annual surveys.

**Target:** Greater than national rate of progress.

**Comment on Progress:** *We are conducting a follow up survey in our project areas. We can find the quantitative: measurable progress from the survey.*

**Outcome 2:** The local civil society, especially the women empowered for increasing their participation in public space, are asking for transparency and accountability, and taking action to reduce violence against women and achieve MDGs.

**Indicator 2.1:** Existence of active civil society women's leadership cadres and active chapters of girl-child advocacy forum in the unions.

**Target:** 2015: One Bikoshito Nari Network (BNN) and one Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) active and functioning in each Union.

**Comment on Progress:** The local civil society units of women (BNN & NGCAF) were formed and functioning in taking actions for creating awareness on women rights, and raising voice against child marriage, dowry and violence against women.

**Indicator 2.2:** Number of social action campaigns on girls and women's rights carried out in each UP by active social units of trained women leaders.

**Target:** 40 Mass Action Campaign (4 campaigns per UP) ( As per our prodoc, 4 campaigns in each Unions will be arranged which also cover both indicator 1.4 and 2.2. We have plan to carry out the 1 campaign by July 2014.

**Comment on Progress:**

**Indicator 2.3:** Quantitative: Women's attendance at Ward Shavas

**Target:** 35% or higher women's attendance at Ward Shavas (on average in the 90 Ward Shavas by the end of the project period).

**Comment on Progress:** Increased women attendance (40.87%) at ward shavas. Total 8635 women out of 21125 attended in 169 Ward Shavas in the reporting period.

**Outcome 3:** Experience and lessons regarding the difference that stronger Union Parishads and regular Ward Shavas can make in development are expansively covered in media to influence public opinion and policy actors.

**Indicator 3.1:** Media coverage of rural union development activities.

**Target:** 2015: At least 20 district-level and 5 national level press news/ stories. Already 7 press news published on district level newspaper.

**Comment on Progress:**

**Indicator 3.2:** Qualitative: perception regarding the importance of strong UPs in development.

**Target:** Increasing percentage of respondents who feel that local government can help them improve their lives.

**Comment on Progress:** *We think, our project interventions have been bring a meaningful change of positive perception about the importance of strong UPs in development since its starting. The progress of this target will be seen in on going follow up survey.*

## 7. PROJECT CHANGES

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***Please outline and explain any significant changes in the project's activities, outputs or delivery schedule.***

Project is going on following the originally submitted RBMF (Result Based Monitoring Framework). So far no significant changes have been made in it and projected timeline with proposed activities.

**Please note: Significant changes in the work plan and/or budget require prior UNDEF approval** through a separate process. Information forwarded to UNDEF through this report cannot replace a formal project and/or budget revision should one be needed.

### **8. CONSTRAINTS OR ISSUES AFFECTING IMPLEMENTATION**

***Please explain any constraints or issues which have affected implementation or may affect project implementation going forward. Please be as specific and concise as possible so UNDEF can determine how to best support the project.***

As a result of the national parliamentary election and judicial action against war criminals in Bangladesh, the entire country had to face a severe political crisis and clash which caused deterioration of an environment of the rule of law. The situation was taking place between September 2013 and January 2014, and during this time all training programs had to be postponed. This is why training for UP representatives & government functionaries could not be completed as per the projected timeline. We are still anxious because conditions may deteriorate again as the main opposition has already rejected the result of election (held January 5, 2014) and are trying to make a strong movement against it.

### **9. SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

***Please outline the major successes and achievements of the project. Be as specific and concise as possible.***

#### **Major Successes:**

**Representatives' perceptions towards common people changed:** It is a common perception of UP representatives that common people are not important enough to be engaged in UP affairs, and that development is solely the job of elected representatives rather than community members. Based on these types of perceptions, representatives did not show any interest in citizens' being engaged with any kinds of UP decision-making processes. As a result of project intervention, the representatives have become aware of their roles and responsibilities, the importance of people's participation in decision-making processes and UP functions. This has changed the environment in 10 project Unions. Now representatives deliberately create opportunities for people to be engaged in decision-making processes and activities arranged by UPs.

**UP Standing Committees:** Although the UP Act 2009 has provisions to form 13 standing committees in each UP, it was ignored and violated by almost every project UP. For the first time, all project unions have constructed their targeted standing committees addressing legal obligations where 626 community people have now received access to be engaged with UP decision-making processes.

**UP Ward Shavas:** Ward Shava is considered the path of grass-root democracy in Bangladesh. It is also the latest provision of the UP Act 2009 of holding at least two Ward Shavas as mandatory in a year. But observation around the last three years has shown that representatives do not agree to hold Ward Shavas as they will have to face questions from their electorate. Even the local administration has not yet shown any notable successes regarding the issue. Here as a success of the project it can be noted that within the reporting period, 169 Ward Shavas have taken place with the active initiatives by 10 project Unions and inputs have been incorporated into UPs' budgets and plans. To make Ward Shava effective and functional, **Pre-Ward Shavas** were introduced to train citizens prior to their participation, due to observed challenges in identifying and prioritizing demands at a small scale prior to Ward Shava. Once in a Ward Shava, a large number of people gather, and listing many specific ward-based demands is difficult. Realizing this, for the first time UP bodies arranged pre-Ward Shavas before the final Ward Shavas for more active participation and representation of all participants.

**Fiscal budget opened to common people:** The fiscal budget of Union Parishads used to be prepared very confidentially and they did not want to disclose it to community people. This is why common people would not have any kind of access nor participation nor even suggestions into the process of developing the UP budget. But as the UP bodies of the project area became conscious of their roles, and became aware of government rules through training, advocacy and communication, for the first time, they have arranged meetings where the fiscal budgets have been declared open to community people and other related stakeholders.

**A number of self-motivated volunteers trained and enrolled:** To bring significant change to a society, a number of self-motivated and committed change-makers are integral. A great success of this project is that through the trainings, workshops, VCAWs and court yard meetings, a total of 2191 self-motivated volunteer community people, of whom 1077 are women, have been created. They are organized into grass-roots civil society units such as Ward Action Teams, DCC, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, BNN (Unleashed Women Network), and Youth units. The units are active in holding Union Parishads accountable as well as taking self-reliant actions for promoting MDGs.

**Participation of women in Ward Shavas:** The increased rate of women's participation in Union Parishad Ward Shavas may be considered a notable success. Within the reporting period, the rate of women's participation in Ward Shavas increased 40.87%. It has become possible



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due to community-based initiatives taken by trained women leaders and others, such as volunteer, training and advocacy initiatives run by The Hunger Project. It is noted that about 650 court yard meeting arranged by trained women leaders to build awareness on the importance of women’s participation in Ward Shavas occurred at the ward level of the project unions.

**Combined initiatives against child marriage:** Combined initiatives led by women leaders against child marriage have taken place in different project unions. Women leaders have led the establishment of ward-based committees on violence against women with distinguished community members. Within the reporting period, the formation of such committees occurred in 50% of the wards in the project unions. For example, in one project union (Vabkhali), committees of 5 wards were able to create massive awareness against child marriage and no child marriage has occurred up until June 2014. So now these wards are declared as child marriage free areas.

**Self-help groUPs:** To change their own lives & livelihoods and to raise a united voice against social injustice within their community, the poorest of the poor have started to become united through self-help groUPs. As a result of the participatory action research workshop, up to June 2014 twenty self-help groUPs created with a membership of 560 community poor are taking initiative to create their own capital through savings schemes.

### **10. MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

*Please list all media coverage of project activities (newspaper, television, radio, internet), as well as the date of publication or broadcast, and relevant web links.*

No.	Type of Media	Name of Media	Content Covered	Date
1.	Newspaper	The Daily Progotir Alo	Open budget development	June 17, 2013
2.	Newspaper	The Daily Purbakash	Animator Training	August 7, 2013
3.	Newspaper	The Daily Sngbad	Open budget development	June 27, 2013
4.	Newspaper	The Daily Mojlumer kantha	Open budget development	June 20, 2013
5.	Newspaper	The Daily Sorejamin	Open budget development	July 2, 2013
6.	Newspaper	The Daily Sabuj	Animator training	November 19, 2013
7.	Newspaper	The Daily Progotir Alo	Open budget development	July 3, 2013
8.	Website	<a href="http://www.mdgunions.org">www.mdgunions.org</a>	Various activities	Continuous
9.	Website	<a href="http://www.thpb.org">www.thpb.org</a>	Various activities	Continuous
10.	UNDEF Facebook page		Women leader course	March 11, 2014

### **11. DOCUMENTS, MATERIALS, AND PUBLICATIONS**

*Please list all documents, materials and publications produced by the project so far.*

1. Flip chart on citizenship
2. Poster on standing committee
3. Sticker on ward shava
4. Folder for participants
5. Certificates
6. Name tag
7. Writing pad
8. Training Curriculum outline

### **12. ANY OTHER REMARKS (highlights, brief anecdotes, etc.)**

N/A

### **13. ANNEXES**

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***Please include all documents, materials and publications mentioned in sections 10 and 11 as well as any other relevant information regarding project implementation (e.g. curriculum outline, training evaluation, conference/workshop programs and reports, pictures of events, press clippings, etc.).***

1. Event's picture, 2. Training Materials, 3. Paper cuttings and 4. Training outline.