

# ***MID TERM EVALUATION***

**Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP)**

**SANCREW Welfare Foundation (SWF)**

**Evaluation facilitation and documentation by:**

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On behalf of the evaluation team members,



**Bhabatosh Nath**

Bhabatosh Nath

Team Leader of Evaluation Team

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December, 2014

## ***Affirmation***

This evaluation report has been prepared by the team of evaluators on the basis of ToR provided by Sancred Welfare Foundation. Except as acknowledged by the references in this report, the evaluation results described herein consists of our own work and undertaken in line with the requirements of Sancred Welfare Foundation's Integrated Community Development Project Design, Monitoring and Evaluation Learning system.

Primary quantitative and qualitative data collected throughout the evaluation process remain the property of the communities and families living in the Sancred Welfare Foundation's ICDP catchment area. Data and information must be used only with their consent.

On behalf of the evaluation team members.



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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante Natal Care
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (Tuberculosis)
BINP	Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project
CHV	Community-level Health Volunteer
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CS	Civil Society
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
ECG	Electro Cardiograph
EPI	Extended Program of Immunization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FM	Field Manager
FO	Field Organizer
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HIV	<i>Human immune-deficiency virus</i>
HR	Human Resources/Human Rights
ICDP	Integrated Community Development Project
IEGA	Income and Employment Generation Activities
IGA	Income Generation Activity
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
JUA	Jubo Unnayan Audhidaftar
LSP	Local Service Provider
LSPA	Local Service Provider's Association
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MTE	Mid Term Evaluation

MFI	Micro Finance Institution
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PAR	Participatory Action Research
PD	Project Document
PNC	Post Natal Care
PO	Peoples Organization
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSP	Participatory Strategic Planning
PG	Primary Group
RTI	Right to Information
SBG	Small Business Group
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time bound
SWCP	Strength, Weakness, Capacity, Potential
SWF	Sancred Welfare Foundation
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
TG	Target Group
TNA	Training Need Assessment
ToT	Training of Trainers
TTBA	Trained Traditional Birth Attendant
UP	Union Parishad
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
USG	Ultra Sonogram
UZ	Upazila (sub-district)
VHC	Village Health Clinic

## Executive Summary and Implications for the Program

Sancred Welfare Foundation is a non-profit and non-political national NGO established in 1997 aiming at implementing charitable and social welfare related activities for the poor, destitute and disadvantaged section of the society. The organization has been implementing the Integrated Community Development Program (ICDP) from January 2012 and would be continued up to December 2016. The Program is being implemented in Tahirpur, Bishwamverpur, Derai and Sunamganj Sadar upazila under Sunamganj district.

The program activities are designed in a way that it is consistent with the role of SWF as a facilitating organization and people of the area as the main actor. **The goal of the project is to achieve secured livelihood, health, education for the poor and marginalized people of project area, ensured environmental sustainability and a more equitable society.**

The specific objectives of the project are articulated as:

- Enhanced community capacity to manage health, education, livelihood security and environmental sustainability more successfully and effectively.
- Poor and marginalized peoples of the project area have access to existing government services and the GoB service delivery system is more responsive.
- Poor and marginalized peoples of the project area have got support services of SWF for more community capacity in health, livelihood, market development, gender justice & human rights issue and strengthening institutional capacity.
- Gender based violence (GBV) is reduced and social justice and gender equality situation is improving.

The high seasonality of the haor-based economy forces local people to remain out of work for a considerable period of time and as a result they suffer from food insecurity. The extensive and in-depth research on *haor* economy and livelihood opportunities specially focused on food security is of utmost importance. Vast majority of the population living in the area having multifarious problems including food, alternative options of income opportunities, health, safe drinking water & sanitation, thus the project is expected to be contributing in improvement of the poor and marginal people including women, children and adolescents.

As the project has five major components therefore the evaluation has given its focus on the issues of compliance of the program implementation process, status of implementation, achievements, impediments etc. that witnessed during the evaluation.

ICDP tried to increase the capacity of targeted communities through formation of Primary groups, Village Committees, Union POs and Upazila Peoples Organizations

and provided trainings for strengthening Peoples Organizations on leadership development, accounts management, advocacy and networking etc.

Development of local people's organization enables the target communities in planning and taking decision for their own and they able to solved their problem through their initiative. It has been noticed that a number of early marriage and dowry issues solved and ensured education of the girls who were faced tremendous mental pressure for accepting proposal of marriage that may hamper their future growth.

Development of Local service providers (LSPs) for Indigenous, Gypsy, Horizon and "Thieves"(Training on pig rearing for IP, goat rearing, mobile phone servicing, gender & HR, nursery development etc.), Environmental development (Development of commercial nursery, sapling distribution for block plantation, IPM demo, organic fertilizer demo, days observation and training on disaster preparedness and management, bio-intensive gardening etc.), Climate Change Adaptation(Solar home system in off grid areas for household by creating revolving fund, Entrepreneurship development in the local market, Demo of vegetable cultivation in sandy lands, Demo of groundnut cultivation in sandy lands, early variety crops cultivation etc.) have directly produced visible results at the community level.

For the services of livelihood, a total of 25 POs have been formed under 25 union 53.5% women share is recorded. Though commonly believed that the involvement of women in income earning activities is much less than that of men but here the program tried to provide equal opportunity to the women. ICDP can be accredited as they have assessed the needs and designed the project interventions to improve the situation and reduction of social vulnerability and exploitations.

Model supports for Gender justice and human rights (School program for IP and ultra-poor students, education by mother tongue for IP children, legal supports against gender based violence, stipend program for students of IP and ultra-poor community etc), Infrastructure development and equipment for model support service (POs office construction, building construction for village health center, house construction for poultry rearing, fish hatchery construction, school building construction, ambulance and medical equipment for hospital & village health centers etc.), Assets transfer to POs (chairs, tables, file cabinets etc.).Advocacy for health, sanitation, networking and other services (Growth monitoring, Support service for severely malnourished children, vitamin A-capsule, family planning services, EPI, HIV/AIDS, safe water & hygienic sanitation, health service delivery etc.), regular meeting, workshop/meeting with POs, local administration, NGOs and local elites), publishing media and campaign (Newsletter publishing and distribution, Posters, documentary film development etc.).

It has been mentioned in the project document that the project was designed to respond on the strong demand from group members, community people and recommendation from the evaluation study of 2005, and suggestion from Normisjon,



Norway. Actually the project started its journey in the year of 2007 in the name of Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) for a period of five years, starting from January 2007. This project which is now being assessed with an intention to learn its achievements at the middle stage of the project is a second phase, started in the year 2012.

Within the project area under 25 unions of 4 upazila, a total of 25 POs have been formed to provide services on Gender. Data shows that the share of men and women is 43% and 57%. The services of ICDP project covered a total of 19,560 beneficiaries in which 10,648 are women (54.4%).

The MTE also reviewed the gender and empowerment dimension of interventions assessing the extent to which empowerment of women has been achieved (related to production, control over resources, income, participation in economic or social groups, leadership, and/or greater autonomy over their time); and of (marginalized) men (related to ownership, access and decision-making power and participation in economic or social groups).

There has been a change in the attitude of the people; the farmers are benefitted in many forms; they are getting many crops in small plots of lands. People are introducing modern agriculture technologies in the agriculture; farmers' interest in agriculture and new technologies are increasing. ICDPs' contribution in building local knowledge and skills in different sectors and management will go a long way in meeting the needs of the people in handling their livelihood. The approach to building local capacity and local ownership of actions through the use of different communication materials are also likely to have longer term effects.

Awareness on health and hygiene, immunization, child nutrition monitoring, health treatment supports, addressing environmental vulnerability and introduction of organic fertilizers, use of underutilized and unutilized land in cultivation are some examples of better performance.

While taking into the consideration of stakeholders' statements regarding ICDP services, it has given mixed reactions both impressive and discouraging results, the livestock and fishery sectors appear to have generated an increased demand but merely addressed this which has a potential trend of increasing income leading to livelihood security. Livestock treatment facilities are available in their doors. The trained vaccinators are traveling different villages for the treatment of their livestock. They are also getting benefited as some supplementary income helps them to maintain their families.

## Project targets by indicators under Objectives and Results By 'the end' of 'the Project' (2016):

Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)	Achievements as of September 2014	Remarks
<b>Objective- 1: Enhanced community capacity to manage health, education, livelihood security and environmental sustainability more successfully and effectively.</b>		
(1) 100% POs are legally identified.	(1) Due to Government policy no achievement in time.	Under processing from Social Welfare & Cooperative society.
(2) At Least 70% group leaders will be representing in the local government standing committees.	(2) By this time 40% group leaders are representing in the local government standing committees.	
(3) 85% HHs are taking quality foods.	(3) 50% HHs are taking quality foods.	
(4) 85% PO leaders performed leadership effectively.	(4) 45% PO leaders performed leadership effectively.	
(5) 80% of HHs has increased income through different off-farm / Non-farm activity.	(5) 40% of HHs has increased income through different off-farm / Non-farm activity.	
(6) 75% group members are aware about disaster preparedness, mitigation and climate change impact.	(6) 45% group members are aware about disaster preparedness, mitigation and climate change impact.	
(7) 60% group members are awarded on importance of forestation.	(7) 40% group members awarded on importance of forestation till now.	
<b>Objective- 2: Poor and marginalized peoples of the project area Have access to existing government services and the GoB service delivery system is more responsive</b>		
(1) 100% POs are accessing to local government & administration for information and services.	(1) By this time 60% POs are accessing to local government & administration for information and services.	
(2) 80% HHs are accessing to essential (health, agriculture, livestock, social safety-net) government services.	(2) 45% HHs are accessing to essential (health, agriculture, livestock, social safety-net) government services.	
(3) 100% children are immunizing at the project location.	(3) 93% children are immunizing at the project location.	
(4) 80% PG members awarded on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease.	(4) 50% PG members aware on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease.	
(5) 40% of targeted HHs engaged in diversified agricultural production	(5) 25% of targeted HHs engaged in diversified agricultural production	

Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)	Achievements as of September 2014	Remarks
(6) 19 POs come under village/cooperative banking and help their community members to uplift community livelihood conditions.	6) 19 POs came under village/cooperative banking and help their community members to uplift community livelihood conditions.	
<b>Objective- 3: Poor and marginalized peoples of the project area have got support services of SWF for more community Capacity in health, livelihood, Market development, gender justice &amp; human rights issues and strengthening institutional capacity.</b>		
(1) 100% trained village doctors, TTBAAs and health volunteers providing better primary health services at the project location.	(1) 100% trained village doctors, TTBAAs and health volunteers providing better primary health services at the project location.	
(2) 100% trained vaccinators providing better primary care for livestock at the project location.	(2) 100% trained vaccinators providing better primary care for livestock at the project location.	
(3) At least 57 women are in leadership position in the groups, family and social level.	(3) At this time 25 women are in leadership position in the groups, family and social level.	
(4) 25% women leaders established communication and linkage with local government and other stakeholders (NGOs, CSOs, Gob and donors)	(4) 15% women leaders established communication and linkage with local government and other stakeholders (NGOs, CSOs, Gob and donors)	
(5) 80% HHs using safe drinking water.	(5) 60% HHs using safe drinking water.	
(6) 250000 community people received health services from ICDP.	(6) 104503 community people received health services from ICDP.	
(7) 250 children enrolled to primary education in the project area.	(7) 156 children enrolled to primary education in the project area.	
(8) 60% training receivers practicing beef fattening, fish culture, duck/poultry rearing, goat rearing and increased their income.	(8) 40% training receivers practicing beef fattening, fish culture, duck/poultry rearing, goat rearing and increased their income.	
(9) 16 entrepreneurs developed in the local market for early varieties crops seeds	9) 11 entrepreneurs developed in the local market for early varieties crops seeds	
<b>Objective- 4: Gender based violence (GBV) is reduced and social justice and gender equality situation is improving.</b>		
(1) 70% PG members are award on family values and child right issues.	(1) 45% PG members are aware on family values and child right issues.	
(2) At least 95 nos. domestic violence against women reduced at the project location.	(2) 45 nos. domestic violence against women reduced at the project location by this time.	
<b>Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)</b>	<b>Achievements as of September 2014</b>	<b>Remarks</b>

(3) 240 adolescent are award on Gender & Human Right issues.	(3) 200 adolescent are award on Gender & Human Right issues.	
(4) 57 – 76 women leaders are participating in local Salish (as Arbiter).	(4) 32 women leaders are participating in local Salish (as Arbiter).	
(5) 40 Victims supported for legal assistance.	(5) 14 Victims supported for legal assistance.	
(6) 19 POs are taking initiatives to preserve traditional folk culture for social harmony.	(6) 19 POs are taking initiatives to preserve traditional folk culture for social harmony.	
(7) At least 200 early marriage reduced.	(7) At least 78 early marriage reduced by this time.	
(8) 20 women leaders will be members of Government Standing Committee and/ or UP members and/ or potential to be UP members.	(8) 15 women leaders got membership of Government Standing Committee and/ or UP members and/ or potential to be UP members.	
<b>Result- 1: Community Capacity Enhancement</b>		
1. 2250 regular meeting arranged for Union health, livelihoods and gender & HR committee	1. 831 regular meeting arranged for Union health, livelihoods and gender & HR committee	
2. 240 regular meeting arranged for Upazila PO (health, livelihoods and Gender & HR) committee	2. 106 regular meeting arranged for Upazila PO (health, livelihoods and Gender & HR) committee	
3. 100% targeted fund created by the POs	3. 100% targeted fund created by the POs	
4. 19 Upazila POs have developed their own PSPs	4. 19 Upazila POs have developed their own PSPs	
5. 95 Annual General Meetings organized for 19 POs	5. 31 Annual General Meetings organized for 19 POs	
6. 100% Staff development training have been provided	6. 100% Staff development training have been provided	Under processing
7. 19 POs have been registered from cooperative society/ social welfare dept. of GOB	7. Due to Government policy no achievement in time.	from Social Welfare &
8. 19 POs (Women and men mixed group) formed in four Upazila and run with effectively	8. 19 POs (Women and men mixed group) formed in four Upazilla and run with effectively	Cooperative society.
9. 100% bank account of POs opened	9. 100% bank account of POs opened	
10. 85% POs leaders performed leadership effectively	10. 50% POs leaders performed leadership effectively	
11. 40% POs linked with GOB and Non-government services	11. 25% POs linked with GOB and Non-government services	

Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)	Achievements as of September 2014	Remarks
12. 50% HHs developed savings	12. 50% HHs developed savings	
13. 19 POs practicing governance and aware and raise their voice against fraud and corruption	13. 19 POs practicing governance and aware and raise their voice against fraud and corruption	
14. 100% POs capacity development training have been performed	14. 100% POs capacity development training have been performed	
<b>Result- 2: Livelihood Security and Environmental Sustainability</b>		
1. 1 TOT organized for village doctors.	1. 1 TOT organized for village doctors.	
2. 1 TOT organized for TTBA.	2. 1 TOT organized for TTBA.	
3. 1 TOT organized for Health Volunteers.	3. 1 TOT organized for Health Volunteers.	
4. 12 refresher trainings organized for village doctors.	4. 12 refresher trainings organized for village doctors.	
5. 12 refresher trainings organized for TTBA.	5. 12 refresher trainings organized for TTBA.	
6. 2500 kit box provided for TTBA for safe delivery.	6. 186 kit box provided for TTBA for safe delivery.	
7. 12 refresher training organized for health volunteers.	7. 12 refresher training organized for health volunteers.	
8. 4 training organized on indigenous health practice.	8. 4 training organized on indigenous health practice.	
9. 100% trained village doctors, TTBA and health Volunteers providing better primary health services at the project location.	9. 100% trained village doctors, TTBA and health Volunteers providing better primary health services at the project location.	
10. 4 trainings organized on indigenous health practice and nutrition.	10. 4 trainings organized on indigenous health practice and nutrition.	
11. 4 workshops organized on promotion of medicinal plant.	11. 4 workshops organized on promotion of medicinal plant.	
12. 50 workshops organized on awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention for community people.	12. 28 workshops organized on awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention for community people.	
13. 80% PG members aware on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease reduced.	13. 45% PG members aware on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease reduced.	
14. 4 LSP Associations formed (Health)	14. 4 LSP Associations formed (Health)	
15. 120 meeting organized with members of LSP Associations.	15. 29 meeting organized with members of LSP Associations.	
16. Sustainable health services ensured for the community peoples.	16. Sustainable health services ensured for the community peoples.	
<b>Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)</b>	<b>Achievements as of September 2014</b>	<b>Remarks</b>

17. 1 TOT organized for vaccinators.	17. 1 TOT organized for vaccinators.	
18. 12 refresher course conducted for vaccinators.	19. 12 refresher course conducted for vaccinators.	
19. 100% trained vaccinators providing better primary care for livestock at the project location.	20. 100% trained vaccinators providing better primary care for livestock at the project location.	
20. 1 TOT organized on vegetable cultivation for LSPs.	21. 1 TOT organized on vegetable cultivation for LSPs.	
21. 12 refresher course organized on vegetable cultivation for LSPs.	22. 12 refresher course organized on vegetable cultivation for LSPs.	
22. 100% training receivers practicing beef fattening, fish culture, duck/poultry rearing, goat rearing and increased their income level.	23. 80% training receivers practicing beef fattening, fish culture, duck/poultry rearing, goat rearing and increased their income level.	
23. 1 TOT organized on duck and poultry rearing.	24. 1 TOT organized on duck and poultry rearing.	
24. 1 TOT organized on crops cultivation	25. 1 TOT organized on crops cultivation	
25. 12 refresher course organized for crops cultivation	26. 12 refresher course organized for crops cultivation	
26. 12 Refresher course organized on duck and poultry rearing	28. 12 Refresher course organized on duck and poultry rearing	
27. 120 families leading their lives by rearing poultry and duck at the project area.	29. 51 families leading their lives by rearing poultry and duck at the project area.	
28. 1 TOT organized on nursery development.	30. 1 TOT organized on nursery development.	
29. 12 Refresher course organized on nursery development.	31. 12 Refresher course organized on nursery development.	
30. 100 block plantations established at community level and reduced soil degradation	32. 25 block plantations established at community level and reduced soil degradation	
31. 1 TOT organized on Beef fattening.	33. 1 TOT organized on Beef fattening.	
32. 12 Refresher course organized on Beef fattening.	34. 12 Refresher course organized on Beef fattening.	
33. 1 TOT organized on goat rearing	35. 1 TOT organized on goat rearing	
34. 12 Refresher course organized on goat rearing.	36. 12 Refresher course organized on goat rearing.	
35. 1 TOT organized for marketing development (value chain and networking)	37. 1 TOT organized for marketing development (value chain and networking)	
36. 12 Refresher course organized for marketing development (value chain and networking)	38. 12 Refresher course organized for marketing development (value chain and networking)	
37. 4 LSP Association formed (livelihoods)	39. 4 LSP Association formed (livelihoods)	
38. 120 regular meeting organized with members of LSP and activate the LSP	40. 34 Regular meeting organized with members of LSP and activate the LSP	
<b>Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)</b>	<b>Achievements as of September 2014</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
39. 1 TOT organized on Gender and Human Rights	41. 1 TOT organized on Gender and Human Rights	

40. 12 Refreshers organized on Gender and Human Rights	42. 12 Refreshers organized on Gender and Human Rights	
41. 50% women leadership ensured in 19 POs.	43. 30% women leadership ensured in 19 POs.	
42. At least 95 domestic violence against women reduced at the project location.	44. 36 domestic violence against women reduced at the project location.	
43. 1 TOT organized for tailoring and fashion design	45. 1 TOT organized for tailoring and fashion design	
44. Refreshers organized for 48 participants on tailoring and fashion design	46. Refreshers organized for 10 participants on tailoring and fashion design	
45. 4 Technical Expert hired for tailoring and fashion design	47. 2 Technical Expert hired for tailoring and fashion design	
46. 48 women became self-reliant through practicing tailoring profession.	48. 10 women became self-reliant through practicing tailoring profession.	
47. 1 TOT organized for Right to Information (RTI)	49. 1 TOT organized for Right to Information (RTI)	
48. 12 Refreshers organized for Right to Information (RTI)	50. 12 Refreshers organized for Right to Information (RTI)	
49. 523 Lessons discussed on RTI by Field Organizer for primary groups	51. 273 Lessons discussed on RTI by Field Organizer for primary groups	
50. 19 POs accessing to UP and upazila administration for information and services	52. 19 POs accessing to UP and upazila administration for information and services	
51. 4 Training organized on Gender and masculinity	53. 4 Training organized on Gender and masculinity	
52. 4 LSP Association formed (Gender).	54. 4 LSP Association formed (Gender).	
53. 120 Regular meeting organized with the members of LSP and activate the LSP	55. 34 Regular meeting organized with the members of LSP and activate the LSP	
54. 50% women leadership ensured in LSP Associations. Government institutions and local administrations.	56. 30% women leadership ensured in LSP Associations. Government institutions and local administrations.	
55. Net-working and liaison maintained with local Govt. Institution and local administration.	57. Networking and liaison maintained with local Govt. Institution and local administration.	
56. LSP Associations organized different movements in collaboration with POs demanding women's rights and protesting violence against women.	58. LSP Associations organized different movements in collaboration with POs demanding women's rights and protesting violence against women.	
57. 1 TOT organized on pig rearing for Indigenous LSP	59. 1 TOT organized on pig rearing for Indigenous LSP	
<b>Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)</b>	<b>Achievements as of September 2014</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
58. 12 Refreshers course organized on pig rearing for Indigenous LSP	60. 12 Refreshers course organized on pig rearing for Indigenous LSP	

59. 500 Support from MFI for pig rearing for Indigenous community	61. 153 Support from MFI for pig rearing for Indigenous community	
60. 100 indigenous families rearing pigs and increased their income level.	62. 35 indigenous families rearing pigs and increased their income level.	
61. 1 TOT for goat rearing	63. 1 TOT for goat rearing	
62. 12 Refreshers course organized for goat rearing	64. 12 Refreshers course organized for goat rearing	
63. 200 Support from MFI for goat rearing for thieves and gypsy community.	65. 71 Support from MFI for goat rearing for thieves and gypsy community	
64. 1 Technical training organized on Mobile phone services	66. 1 Technical training organized on Mobile phone services	
65. 1 TOT organized on gender and human rights	67. 1 TOT organized on gender and human rights	
66. 14 Refreshers course organized on gender and human rights	68. 14 Refreshers course organized on gender and human rights	
67. 1 TOT organized for nursery development	69. 1 TOT organized for nursery development	
68. 14 Refreshers course organized on nursery development at field level	70. 14 Refreshers course organized on nursery development at field level	
69. 48 Support from MFI for small business for Horizon community	71. 9 Support from MFI for small business for Horizon community	
70. 80 Development of commercial nursery plot in the working area	72. 20 Development of commercial nursery plot in the working area	
71. 16000 Sapling distribution for roadside forestation and block plantation	73. 4900 Sapling distribution for roadside forestation and block plantation	
72. 20 Demonstration of IPM at field level	74. 10 Demonstration of IPM at field level	
73. 100 Demonstration organized of organic or composed fertilizer at community level	75. 54 Demonstration organized of organic or composed fertilizer at community level	
74. 100 tube-wells provided for safe water	76. 8 tube-wells provided for safe water	
75. 20 Days observed on World Environmental day	77. 12 Days observed on World Environmental day	
76.4 Training organized on disaster preparedness and management for PO's leaders	78. 4 Training organized on disaster preparedness and management for PO's leaders	
<b>Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)</b>	<b>Achievements as of September 2014</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
77. 80 Bio intensive gardening organized (organic vegetable)	79. 18 Bio intensive gardening organized (organic vegetable)	
78. 16 Entrepreneurships development in the local market	80. 8 Entrepreneurships development in the local market for early	



for early varieties crop's seed	varieties crop's seed	
79. 18 Demonstration of vegetable cultivation in sandy land areas	81. 6 Demonstration of vegetable cultivation in sandy land areas	
80. 18 Demonstration of ground nut cultivation in sandy areas	82. 18 Demonstration of ground nut cultivation in sandy areas	
81. 100% skilled based training are provided for development of Local Service Provider	83. 100% skilled based training are provided for development of Local Service Provider	
82. 16000 sapling distribution for roadside forestation and block plantation	84. 4900 sapling distribution for roadside forestation and block plantation	
83. 20 nursery developed in project area	85. 20 nursery developed in project area	
84. 4 IPM demonstrated at field level	86. 4 IPM demonstrated at field level	
85. 1000 Hygienic latrine delivered for ultra-poor	87. 327 hygienic latrine delivered for ultra-poor	
86. 4 nos. Days observation on World environmental day	88. 4 nos. Days observation on World environmental day	
87. 20 Bio-intensive gardening (Organic Vegetable) organized	89. 18 Bio-intensive gardening (Organic Vegetable) organized	
88. 40 Solar home system in off grid areas for Household (By Revolving fund)	90. 28 Solar home system in off grid areas for Household (By Revolving fund)	
89. 8 Entrepreneurship development for early varieties crops seed	91. 4 Entrepreneurship development for early varieties crops seed	
90. 6 Vegetable cultivation in sandy land area(Model)	92. 4 Vegetable cultivation in sandy land area(Model)	
91.100 beneficiaries saved their crops from adverse of climate change and improvement of food security by increasing early agriculture production.	93. 25 beneficiaries saved their crops from adverse of climate change and improvement of food security by increasing early agriculture production.	
<b>Result- 3: Models of Support Services</b>		
1. 20 beef fattening demonstrated for community base beef fattening.	1. 8 beefs demonstrated for community base beef fattening.	
<b>Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)</b>		
2. 100% training receivers practicing beef fattening, fish culture, duck/poultry rearing, goat rearing and increased their income level.	2. 80% training receivers practicing beef fattening, fish culture, duck/poultry rearing, goat rearing and increased their income level.	
3. 20 crop cultivation demonstrations organized at	3. 10 crop cultivation demonstrations organized at community base.	
		<b>Remarks</b>

community base.		
4. 40 goats demonstrated at farm base.	4. No goats demonstrated at farm base.	
5. 5 fingerlings demonstration plots organized at farm base	5. 3 fingerlings demonstration plots organized at farm base	
6. 5 fish culture demonstration organized.	6. 3 fish culture demonstration organized.	
7. 5 demonstrations for nursery developed.	7. 3 demonstrations for nursery developed.	
8. 100 block plantations established at community level and reduced soil degradation.	8. 25 block plantations established at community level and reduced soil degradation.	
9. 24 demonstrations for poultry and duck rearing developed.	9. 18 demonstrations for poultry and duck rearing developed.	
10. 1 indigenous school developed.	10. 1 indigenous school developed.	
11. 50 poor students provided stipend.	11. 15 poor students provided stipend.	
12. 30 students educated to practice their mother tongue.	12. 154 students educated to practice their mother tongue.	
13. 100% indigenous children enrolled to primary education.	13. 60% indigenous children enrolled to primary education.	
14. 1 model community hospital established.	14. 1 model community hospital established.	
15. 1 ambulance purchased for model community hospital.	15. 1 ambulance purchased for model community hospital.	
16. 3 village health centers established.	16. 3 village health centers established.	
17. 250000 patients got better health services with a minimum cost.	17. 104503 patients got better health services with a minimum cost.	
<b>Result 4. A: Advocacy for Entitlements and Services</b>		
1. 5000 growth monitoring under 5 children covered.	1. 3018 growth monitoring under 5 children covered.	
2. 500 children under intensive care covered.	2. 230 children under intensive care covered.	
3. 500 severely malnourished children recovered from malnutrition.	3. 205 severely malnourished children recovered from malnutrition.	
4. 100% children immunized at the project location.	4. 100% children immunized at the project location.	
<b>Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)</b>	<b>Achievements as of September 2014</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
5. 600 workshop (HIV/AIDS, Arsenic, Nutrition, water and sanitation) conducted by Health Volunteer/FO for health awareness.	5. 296 workshop (HIV/AIDS, Arsenic, Nutrition, water and sanitation) conducted by Health Volunteer/FO for health awareness.	
6. 20 campaigns for safe water and sanitation organized (Sanitation month observation).	6. 8 campaigns for safe water and sanitation organized (Sanitation month observation).	

7. 80% group members aware on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease reduced.	7. 45% group members aware on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted disease reduced.	
8. 200 sessions (5000/25) on Indigenous knowledge on health practice organized.	8. 95 sessions (5000/25) on Indigenous knowledge on health practice organized.	
9. 250,000 community peoples received health services from ICDP.	9. 104,503 community peoples received health services from ICDP.	
10. 48 Regular meeting of CSO networking arranged at PO's offices.	10. 7 Regular meeting of CSO networking arranged at PO's offices.	
11. 16 workshops (480/30) organized with local Administration and govt. service delivery department's and ensured good governance, equal rights and services.	11. 8 workshops (480/30) organized with local administration and govt. service delivery departments and ensured good governance, equal rights and services.	
12. 100% newsletters, posters published and distributed and 1 documentary film is produced.	12. 100% newsletters, posters published and distributed and 1 documentary film is produced.	
13. 19 POs got legal identities and participating actively in local development activities according to plan and rising community voices to practice good governance, equal rights and Govt. services in various aspects as per Community demand.	13. None POs got legal identities. But participating actively in local development activities according to plan and rising community voices to practice good governance, equal rights and Govt' services in various aspects as per Community demand.	
<b>Result- 4.B: Gender justice &amp; Human Rights</b>		
1. 70% PG members are aware on family values and child right issues	1. 45% PG members are aware on family values and child right issues	
2. 240 adolescent are aware on Gender & Human Right issues.	2. 240 adolescent are aware on Gender & Human Right issues.	
<b>Target Indicators (as per Project document-Database)</b>	<b>Achievements as of September 2014</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
3. 100% awareness workshop performed on response & prevention on trafficking.	3. 100% awareness workshop performed on response & prevention on trafficking	
4. 100% day observation performed	4. 100% day observation performed	
5. 100% Victim Support for legal aid assistance	5. 25% Victim Support for legal aid assistance	
6. 100% campaign ensured for early marriage, polygamy, dowry and divorce at primary level.	6. 100% campaign ensured for early marriage, polygamy, dowry and divorce at primary level.	

7. 100% technical training ensured for prostitute women for job creation.	7. 100% technical training ensured for prostitute women for job creation.	
8. 24 village court activated.	8.10 village court activated.	
9. 20 policy dialogues accomplished for strengthening local government.	9. 8 policy dialogues accomplished for strengthening local government.	
10. 120 (24x5) standing committee at UP level functioning	10. 120 (24x5) standing committee at UP level functioning	
11. 100% Regular meeting with cultural group arranged	11. 70% Regular meeting with cultural group arranged	
12. 18 trainings for UP members conducted	12. 12 trainings for UP members conducted	
13. 54 Trainings on Rights to information for PO members conducted.	13. 17 Trainings on Rights to information for PO members conducted.	
14. 19 POs accessing to UP for information and services.	14. 19 POs accessing to UP for information and services.	
15. 20 cultural fair organized (BoishakhMela).	15. 12 cultural fair organized (BoishakhMela).	

## 1. Background and Objectives

Development indicators of Bangladesh have shown consistent improvements over the last two decades. Yet despite these successes, other indicators reflect a sobering picture: over a third of its population remains below the poverty line, indicators of landlessness are estimated at around 60 % and malnutrition rates among children are among the highest in the world<sup>1</sup>. This is further worsened by a recurring incidence of natural disasters destroying lives and severely affecting livelihoods. Particularly the population living under Haor region is most affected communities due its geographical vulnerability.

A large amount of fertile and arable land lies in the haor areas of six north-eastern districts of Bangladesh. This land is generally used for mono-crop cultivation, mainly *boro* rice in the winter. During the wet season, it goes underwater and is transformed into floodplains for fresh water fishing. The high seasonality of the haor-based economy forces local people to remain out of work for a considerable period of time and as a result they suffer from food insecurity. The extensive and in-depth research on *haor* economy and livelihood opportunities specially focused on food security is of utmost importance. Vast majority of the population living in the area having multifarious problems including food, alternative options of income opportunities, health, safe drinking water & sanitation.

The common features of haor people are mostly illiterate with seasonal unemployment. The overall literacy rate in haor region is estimated at about 33%, in contrast with the corresponding national figure recorded at about 49% (BBS, 2008). About 50% of the household heads were involved in farm-related activities and 7% were engaged in fishing. The study indicated that the status of women empowerment in terms of household decision-making was reasonably good in the haor areas.

In this environment, the specific objectives of developmental interventions by the Government and for most development agencies have been basically dictated by the physical and economic environment in which the people are placed. Inevitably they focus on promoting sustainable livelihood strategies that cover not only increasing production among the poor and marginal farmers but also improving income earning opportunities through increasing on- and off farm productivities and linking small holders to domestic markets. A wide body of research<sup>2</sup> appears to show that integrating people living in poverty into higher value markets by inducing targeted beneficiaries to engage or improve their terms of engagement within domestic, regional or international markets, can work. Complementing support for increasing and improving income and access is that of the need to support nutrition and mother and child health as an investment for the future development of the country.

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<sup>1</sup>Nationally, 41% of children under five years are moderately to severely underweight and 43.2% suffer from moderate to severe stunting, an indicator for chronic malnutrition. Underweight prevalence decreased slightly between 2004 and 2007. Of greater concern are the rates of wasting that increased over the same period reaching 17.4 %, exceeding the WHO emergency threshold level (15%), which indicates an urgent need for action.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.microlinks.org>

Finally, the vulnerability of the population to disasters that has a devastating impact on the population already living at a bare survival level has prompted the support of measures that insulate them from the effects of such disasters by strengthening their coping abilities.

As a development organization working in this region initiated a long term integrated project to address the issues those are affecting human lives specially the people living in remote areas of one haor district Sunamganj. Sancred Welfare Foundation is a non-profit and non-political national NGO established in 1997 aiming at implementing charitable and social welfare related activities for the poor, destitute and disadvantaged section of the society.

**Project Description:** Sancred Welfare Foundation (SWF) has been implementing the Integrated Community Development Program (ICDP) from January 2012 and would be continued up to December 2016. The half period of the Program has been implemented during January 2012 to June 2014. The Program is being implemented in Tahirpur, Bishwamverpur, Derai and Sunamganj Sadar upazilas of Sunamganj district.

The program activities are designed in a way that it is consistent with the role of SWF as a facilitating organization and people of the area as the main actor. The goal of the project is to achieve secured livelihood, health, education for the poor and marginalized people of project area, ensured environmental sustainability and a more equitable society.

The specific objectives of the project are articulated as:

- Enhanced community capacity to manage health, education, livelihood security and environmental sustainability more successfully and effectively.
- Poor and marginalized peoples of the project area have access to existing government services and the GoB service delivery system is more responsive.
- Poor and marginalized peoples of the project area have got support services of SWF for more community capacity in health, livelihood, market development, gender justice & human rights issue and strengthening institutional capacity.
- Gender based violence (GBV) is reduced and social justice and gender equality situation is improving.

As the project has five major components therefore the evaluation has given its focus on the issues of compliance of the program implementation process, status of implementation, achievements, impediments etc. that witnessed during the evaluation.

Following are program components which were dully assessed in mid-term evaluation.

**Community Capacity Enhancement:** Formation of Village Committees (VCs), Formation of Peoples Organizations (POs), Conduction of trainings of strengthening Peoples Organizations (PRA, PSP, leadership development, accounts management, advocacy and networking etc.), Staff Development Trainings (PRA, PSP, ToT on leadership development, ToT on accounts management ToT on organizational/institutional capacity Building, ToT on advocacy and human rights, ToT on marketing development).

**Livelihood Security & Environmental Sustainability:** Development of local Service providers (LSPs) for PO-Health (formation of LSP Associations, training for village doctors, TTBAAs, CHVs at field level, awareness program on HIV/AIDS, arsenic, nutrition, mother and child care, water & sanitation etc.). Livelihood (Formation of LSP Associations, training on vaccination, vegetable cultivation, crops cultivation, duck & poultry rearing, nursery development, beef fattening, goat rearing, marketing development etc.), Development of Local service providers (LSPs) for PO-Gender justice & human rights (Formation of LSP Associations, training on gender justice & HR, tailoring & fashion designing, RTI etc.), Development of Local service providers (LSPs) for Indigenous, Gypsy, Horizon and "Thieves" (Training on pig rearing for IP, goat rearing, mobile phone servicing, gender & HR, nursery development etc.), Environmental development (Development of commercial nursery, sapling distribution for block plantation, IPM demo, organic fertilizer demo, days observation and training on disaster preparedness and management, bio-intensive gardening etc.), Climate Change Adaptation (Solar home system in off grid areas for household by creating revolving fund, Entrepreneurship development in the local market, Demo of vegetable cultivation in sandy lands, Demo of groundnut cultivation in sandy lands, early variety crops cultivation etc.)

**Models for Support Services:** Livelihood development (Demo on beef fattening at farm, crops cultivation, fingerling production, nursery development, fish culture, poultry rearing etc.), Model supports for Gender justice and human rights (School program for IP and ultra-poor students, education by mother tongue for IP children, legal supports against gender based violence, stipend program for students of IP and ultra-poor community etc.), Infrastructure and equipment for model support service (POs office construction, building construction for village health center, house construction for poultry rearing, fish hatchery construction, school building construction, ambulance and medical equipment for hospital & village health centers etc.), Assets transfer to POs (chairs, tables, file cabinets etc.).

**Advocacy for Entitlements and Services:** Advocacy for health, sanitation, networking and other services (Growth monitoring, Support service for severely malnourished children, vitamin A-capsule, family planning services, EPI, HIV/AIDS, safe water & hygienic sanitation, promotion of medicinal plants, health service delivery etc), civil society platform (formation of CSO networking, regular meeting, workshop/meeting with POs, local administration, NGOs and local elites), publishing media and campaign (Newsletter publishing and distribution, Posters, documentary film development etc).

**Gender Justice and Human Rights:** Social mobilization (Formation of adolescent working groups, Seminar/workshop/meeting/lesson on gender & discrimination, family values & children rights, women's day observation, indigenous day

observation etc), Response and prevention gender based violence (Survey/study/workshop on trafficking, legal aid for victims, campaign for stopping early marriage, polygamy, dowry and illegal divorce etc.), Strengthening local government (Training/workshop on local government, village court, RTI, Policy dialogue etc.).

The progress and effectiveness of the above mentioned program components have to be reviewed in line with Program objectives.

In accordance with the ICDP program, SWF management has planned to conduct a Mid-term Evaluation to review the achievements, constraints and progress of the Program as well as to consolidate the recommendations to apply in the rest of the period of the program for better implementation of the Project.

**Strategy Revisions:** It has been mentioned in the project document that the project was designed to respond on the strong demand from group members, community people and recommendation from the evaluation study of 2005, and suggestion from Normisjon, Norway. Actually the project started its journey in the year of 2007 in the name of Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) for a period of five years, starting from January 2007. This project which is now being assessing with an intention to learn its achievements at the middle stage of the project is a second phase, started in the year 2012. This project proposal was prepared through a long process through involvement of stakeholders at different stages.

The goal of the project is to achieve secured livelihood, health, education for the poor and marginalized people of Sunamganj, ensure environmental sustainability of the area and a more equitable society. As economic vulnerability and social pattern affected entire lives of the poor and marginal community that directly or indirectly aggravating further. Early marriage, low weight birth, early pregnancy, polygamy, home-based gender violence, ignoring women empowerment etc. are very common in the area. However, the assessment also looked on the specific objectives (SOs) in which it was spelled out the core interventions of the project and ultimately providing its services to the beneficiaries. The following SOs are carefully being looked into during the assessment.

- Enhanced community capacity to manage health, education, livelihood security and environmental sustainability more successfully and effectively;
- Poor and marginalized peoples of the project area have access to existing government services and the GOB service delivery system is more responsive;
- Poor and Marginalized peoples of the project area have got support service of SWF for more community capacity in health, livelihood, market development;



- Gender justice & human rights issue and strengthening institutional capacity and Gender based violence (GBV) is reduced and social justice and gender equality situation is improving,

## EARLY MARRIAGE IS AN EXPLETIVE FOR THE WHOLE LIFE OF A GIRL



*Roni Begum, an adolescent girl comes from an extreme poor family. She lives in West Hati of Ghagotia village under Derai upazila of Sunamganj district with her parents along with four brothers and three sisters. Salemon Mia father of Roni Begum is a day labor having no lands and living on khas Land. In February, 2011 when Roni Begum was a student of class VII and age of 13 she had to face proposal of her marriage with one 22 years old Md. Suman Mia (22) living in a village under South Sunamganj upazila of Sunamganj district. Roni Begum's family agreed to the proposal. When the message reached to the PO Leaders under Sancred-ICDP then they took step urgently to stop the marriage and succeeded at that time but she compelled to accept the pressure of marriage and forcibly her parent gave marriage Roni Begum with that boy in August of the same year. Roni Begum went to her husband's house after one year of marriage with some dowry.*

*She was not properly accepted in her in Law's house who repeatedly asking for more dowry and they started torture mentally and physically. By this time (within one year) Roni Begum became a mother by born a son. Roni Begum did not get ANC and PNC from her husband's family for herself even her son. Roni Begum came back at father's house with her son. Now Roni Begum lives in her poor father's house like a burden. By this time Roni's husband Suman Mia got another marriage but did not give divorce Roni Begum; even he does not take care of Roni Begum and his son. So Roni Begum and her parent again came to PO Leaders and informed their pathetic story and requested to help them. Then the Leaders of Peoples Organization-(Gender & HR) communicated with Sancred-ICDP unit office at Derai and filed a case against her husband to get rights and justice. The PO leaders declared that they would stay with them always and will give legal and financial assistance from ICDP project. The case is yet to be settled. The PO Leaders promised to the community people to stop early marriage, illegal divorce, and dowry from their society in future and Sancred-ICDP always try to ensure Roni's secured life by providing legal support.*

## **2. Review Methodology**

The focus of the Mid Term Review has been the application of qualitative assessments to the quantitative data with the aim to deepen the knowledge acquired through the survey. The methodology adopted for the review used three complementary methods: (i) analysis of available documentation; (ii) interviewing and discussions with stakeholders, and (iii) field visits and discussions with direct beneficiaries to areas where the projects are being implemented. An analysis of documents covered the technical proposal, annual project reports and relevant national policy documents. This was complemented by discussions with stakeholders including SWF, Staff working at different level, service providers and service recipients.

Discussions were held with by using questionnaires for interview with key informant i.e. Village Doctor, Agricultural inputs sellers, Vaccinators, Teacher, Rtd. Army Officer, Health Volunteers, TTBA's, and Farmer. Also discussion were held with Government officials including the technical staff at the Upazila level - the Upazila agriculture, livestock and fishery officers, the medical officer as well as the Family Planning Officer. It also included discussions with representatives of local Government such as the Union Parishad Chairmen and members.

**Site Visits and Focus Group Discussions:** A very critical part of the methodology constituted the site visits and focus group discussions (FGD). They provided 'grass roots' validation of the impact achieved thus far by the project and included discussions with directly participating beneficiaries. FGD discussions were held with purposefully selected beneficiaries from vulnerable and non-vulnerable unions covering all categories of intervention support provided.

A total of 15 FGD meetings and KII were held across the project Upazilas.

The FGD discussions and KII were undertaken with:

- *KII with Area Coordinator*
- KII with Village Doctors
- KII with local traders (Agricultural inputs)
- KII with local Vaccinators
- KII with local UP women members
- KII with local Teacher
- KII with one Retired Army Officer
- KII with local Farmers
- FGD with Village Committee Members
- FGD with Health Volunteers
- FGD with General Beneficiaries/Community People
- FGD with Women Leaders
- FGD with TTBA's
- FGD with Health Volunteers
- FGD with Local Service Provider (LSP)

However, conclusions from the KII and FGD have to be treated with some caution since the actual number of participants in the groups, apart from being purposefully chosen, ranged from 10-15 and were too small to provide any definitive validation of the survey results except in so far as to deepen our understanding and confirm that the conclusions were not dramatically different. The assessment results are synchronized with quantitative data, findings from discussion and examining from the reports and documents.

**Evaluation Questions:** A group of topical questions aimed at each category of interventions has been the basis for undertaking a qualitative review of the assessment and relevant document/reports helps to carrying out preceding the review.

### **The MTE Team:**

The Evaluators combined specialized and complementary skills of each of its technical and programmatic resources in the areas of qualitative study, PRA with experience and expertise in the given aspects of the assignment. The Evaluation team will be composed with the following persons:

1. Mr. Bhabatosh Nath, Head of Associate Consultants on development programmes & issues and Executive Director of Responsive to Integrated Development Services (RIDS) Development Consulting Firm, Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Team leader of Evaluation team)
2. Dr. M.H. Faruquee, Consultant, Head and Assistant Professor, Bangladesh University of Health Sciences, Bangladesh Department of Occupational and Environmental Health (Member of Evaluation team)
3. Mr. Nelson N. Sarkar, Director, Santal Mission Norwegian Board (SMNB), Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Member of Evaluation team)
4. Mrs. Ayesha Siddika, Senior Consultant, NGO Support, Human Rights & Gender Development, Responsive to Integrated Development Services (RIDS). (Member of Evaluation team).

### **Limitation(s) of the Study:**

One major limitation appeared to the evaluation team is traveling to remote areas due its distance and means of communication. More time consuming journey affected entire works and took more hours than that of estimated. Tahirpur Upazila which is far away from Sunamganj district town and livelihood is different than Sadar or Derai upazila but considering the importance we did not exclude from the study. However, this could be seen as limitations but affecting the MTE work at all.

Secondly, during the field visits group members were found busy with works relating to their income earning and farming activities. Even women members tried their best to spare time for the purpose of this evaluation. Most of them were aware about the evaluation; thus, attendance in focus group discussions was encouraging.

### **3. Review Purpose and Objectives**

The main objective of the MTR is to assess the progress of program implementation, specifically progress made in achieving the program's strategic objectives, and to guide SWF in making necessary course of corrections in achieving its set goals. The program which commenced in September 2012 is now roughly completed its journey more than two years through its five year project life.

The main purpose of this mid-term evaluation or project review is that it should be a learning process that will bring out valuable information for the project to accomplish its jobs in achieving all the projected interventions with efficient manner. The MTR will mainly be focused on;

- To review the status of performance and progress of the program implementation;
- To review progress towards localization and long-term sustainability of the program;
- To review the relevance of the program in respect to the cost (cost-benefit analysis);
- To review the management status (administrative, financial, implementation);
- To review the program achievements in line with the Project objectives;
- To review the effectiveness of the capacity building initiatives.

As the project is being implemented under 4 upazilas of (Sunamganj Sadar, Tahirpur, Bishwamverpur and Derai upazila) of Sunamganj district and evaluation team deployed its efforts to collect and observe in all these upazilas.

Through this assessment exercise the SWF management would be benefitted from following result/outputs for which the evaluation team dedicated its attention on the following points:

- ◆ Assessment on the overall management of the project including financial control and what extent the operation took place through transparent manner and how the effectively human and financial resources are used against approved plans and in line with internal rules and regulations of SWF.
- ◆ Assessment on the existing internal control mechanism through monitoring and evaluation system. To which extent is this enabling good management, and appropriate reporting.
- ◆ Assessment on the evidence of cooperation and coordination with Government and other NGOs working in the same area.
- ◆ Assessment the role of the SWF Board in the implementation of this project. Is the Board taking a real ownership of the project by making strategic decisions and how the decision effectively considered during project implementation.
- ◆ Assessment on the effectiveness of the staff development training. What is the level of awareness and capacity of the project staff on different development

issues such as health education, gender and masculinity, advocacy and human rights and environmental issues related to agriculture?

- ◆ Assessment of the project profile and its relevance in the context. Is the project effective in addressing challenges of the targeted groups?
- ◆ Assessment of the project approach, and whether the target groups, especially women, children and adolescent girls, have been involved in an appropriate way.
- ◆ Assessment of the capacity building program. To what degree has this program contributed to income generation and to what extent have young women and men so far been equipped and trained for employment.
- ◆ Assessment on the training implication on the staff who have already been trained on (TOT, PRA, PSP) gender-based violence, gender equality and social justice in Local Service Providers (LSP), People Organizations (PO) and Village Committees. To what extent does this respond to project objectives of reduced gender-based violence and improved gender equality situation? Identify areas of needed improvement.
- ◆ Assessment on the various health services provided, the availability and quality provided to the target groups. How is the services provided responding to the needs of mother and child and adolescent girls?
- ◆ Assessment on the sustainability of the Sacred Hospital in terms of capacity and recruitment of medical personnel, financial sustainability, and health care access at community level. To what extent is the hospital capable in ensuring low cost health service for especially vulnerable target groups?
- ◆ Assessment on the financial sustainability of the health program of ICDP.
- ◆ Assessment on the sustainability and long-term effect of the project at the village level. How PO's and CBOs are strengthened and capacitated for sustainability.

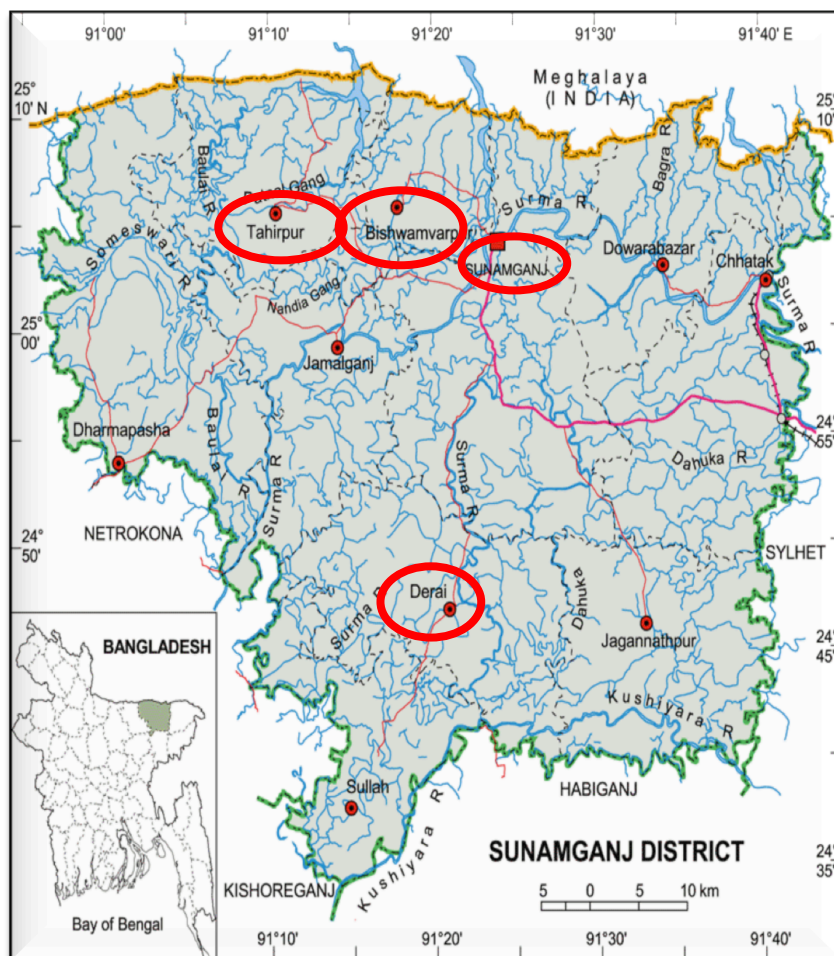
The review also addresses the gender and empowerment dimension of interventions assessing the extent to which empowerment of women has been achieved (related to production, control over resources, income, participation in economic or social groups, leadership, and/or greater autonomy over their time); and of (marginalized) men (related to ownership, access and decision-making power and participation in economic or social groups). Finally it assessed the appropriateness of the M&E system in place; assess the partnership relationships and the sustainability of the outcomes.

#### **4. Findings:**

**General overview of the targeted district:** Sunamganj district is situated under extreme northwest border of Bangladesh in which both moderate and deep haor exists and the livelihood options by upazilas are greatly varied due to its resource availability. **Sunamganj District** (Sylhet division) with an area of 3669.58 sq. km, is bounded by Khasia and Jaintia hills (India) on the north, Habiganj and Kishoreganj districts on the south, Sylhet district on the east, Netrokona and greater Mymensingh districts on the west. One of the major phenomenon of the area is food insecurity that affected entire livelihood of the population. Food insecurity stricken households always try to cope with the situation adopting various strategies. Two of types of coping strategies are usually adopted by the victims of food insecurity: one to address the food insecurity in the short-run and another to tackle it in the long-run. Delving into the different dimensions of food insecurity clearly indicates lack of food availability or supply, insufficient economic and social access to food and inadequate knowledge of food preparation as well as malpractice in intra-household-member food distribution mainly cause food insecurity.

The rural people are broadly engaged in two types of activities – domestic and economic activities. The economic activities against which some sorts of monetary payments are attached are termed as income generating activities (IGAs), which include crop and non-crop production, labouring in others' land; and business, petty services, agro processing and cottage industry (Hossain and Bayes, 2009).

It reveals from the report on Food Security Strategies of The People Living in Haor Areas (Mohammad Mizanul Haque Kazal and Charles C Villinueva, 2010) that the profile of household members and household heads indicates that the haor people were mostly illiterate, engaged in farm activities and unemployed about 6 months in a year. The proportion of households

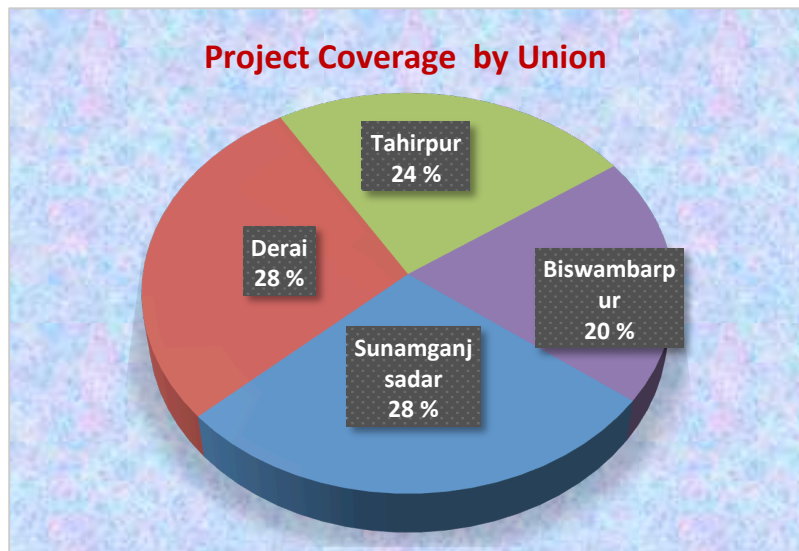


Most of the houses were made of tin and used unhygienic toilet and nearly one third households had no toilet of their own. The household composition indicates that nearly one-in-ten were female-headed households. On average, the possession of the essential household assets was very poor. The vulnerability of physical and social infrastructures of the haor areas was also evident in the findings of the remoteness of selected clusters. The status of women empowerment in haor areas is laudable in terms of taking decision during food crisis and also participating in household decision-making.

Sources of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities are so poor that aggravated the lives of the poor families. Affordability and accessibility of health services is one of the burning issues of haor people.

Therefore the program- Integrated Community Development Program (ICDP) can claim the highest choice to reduce the existing vulnerability as well as improving livelihood standard of the poor and marginal households.

**Coverage:** The project services reached to 315 villages of 25 unions under 4 upazilas under Sunamganj district out of which 7 unions are newly selected during this phase. A total of 75 POs have so far been formed out of which 56.7% are women. The POs are formed by union under 3 categories, health, livelihood and Gender. The formation POs and groups are started in April 2012 and completed in September, 2012.



The beneficiaries are identified as;

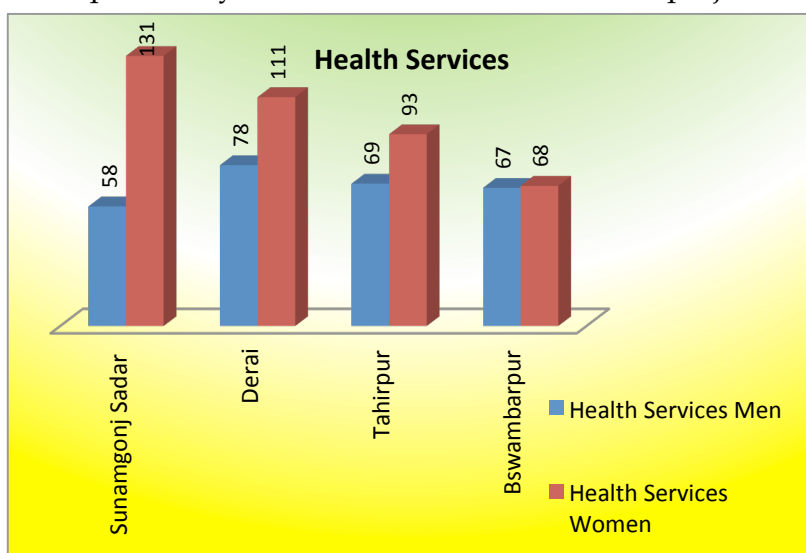
- 652 Primary Groups
- 83 Village committee
- 75 Union POs and 19 Upazila POs
- POs especially for the social excluded people.

Participation of women in different categories are found to be significant which is presented in the following graphs.

**Health Services:** Total 25 POs have been formed under 25 unions where about 60% are women. This figures shows a better responsive to address the most deserved groups as women are comparatively getting less attention for their health while looking at the number of membership in the village committee the participation of women are almost equal to the men.

Local people and stakeholders opined that ICDP works with gender issues and health in the area since long time; they engage the local community people in the survey which enabled them to get more involvement with survey and allow them in learning about the ICDP. Through primary health care services it has created awareness on stopping the activities of Quack; peoples are more hospital oriented instead of going to the village Quack; death rate during child birth and infant stage has remarkably decreased as reported by both health staff of ICDP project,

government health department and the women/ mothers in FGD sessions. Awareness on health issues has increased; people are now development oriented and the clinical services have reached to the people's door step. Pregnant mothers and children are getting health services; people are now aware on early marriage; polygamy



and divorce has decreased and women empowerment has been increased. Ambulance service of ICDP is excellent; people are getting health services at a very low-cost; free medial camps by the specialized doctors are notable. All these are notable which is appreciated by many people.

***Some important lessons shared by stakeholders as;***

- Most of the people are living in remote area but they are getting health services at a very low-cost.
- As unit offices have turned in to area offices, the efficiency of services is increased.
- The trained paramedics provide services to the community. ICDP organizes medical camp and the pregnant mothers do their health check up t
- Girls are now going to the schools; rate of early marriage is decreasing; use of compost fertilizer is being popularized.

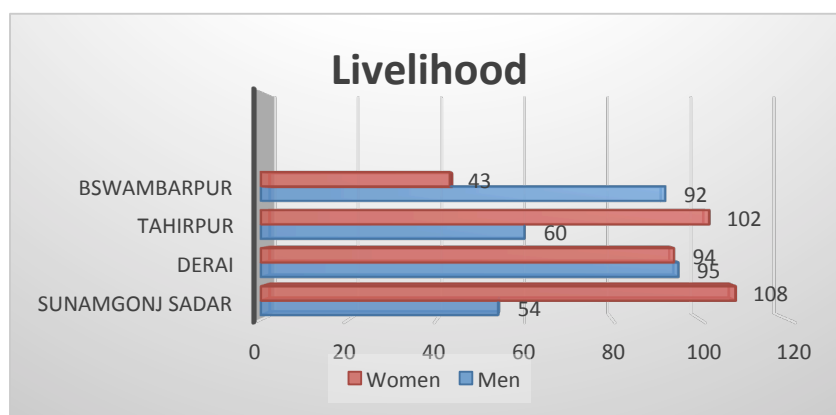


- People are involved in changing their living standard through alternative IGAs.
- People do not depend on one occupation as before; the people who used to live in fishing, now in addition to fishing, they cultivate vegetables and earn more income,
- Mentality of men has developed and respecting women; mobility of women has increased than before.
- Immunization of pregnant mothers and children has been ensured.
- Death rate of mothers and children has decreased that shared by respondents present in the FGD as they observed in their locality. As per district statistics, the maternal mortality rate is 232 deaths/100,000 live births [Nationally 240 deaths/100,000 live births (2012)]. Infant mortality rate: total: 44.68 deaths/ 1000 live births [Nationally 48.99 deaths/1,000 live births]

**Livelihood Services:** For the services of livelihood, a total of 25 POs have been formed under 25 union 53.5% women share is recorded. Though commonly believed that the involvement of women in income earning activities is much less than that of men but here the program tried to provide equal opportunity to the women. ICDP can be accredited as they have assessed the needs and designed the project interventions to improve the situation and reduction of social vulnerability and exploitations. Here the evaluation emphasizes of the core objectives on what extent the project moving toward achieving the target of secured livelihood.

The graph shows that the difference is narrowly projected between men and women.

Registration of the people organization is still remaining an issue which may be ensured by the organization through establishing own office of ICDP at the project sites which is strongly felt by staff and other stakeholders. There has been changed in the attitude of the people; the farmers are benefitted in many form; they are getting many crops in small plot of lands. People are introducing modern agriculture technologies in the agriculture; farmer' interest in agriculture and new technologies are increasing. Farmers are motivated towards agriculture; farmers are involved with modern agricultural technologies; farmers are now competitively growing early variety of crops. There has been increased livestock development in the area; livestock mortality has reduced; many of the people are involved in cow fattening during Eid festival. Before the project intervention, the



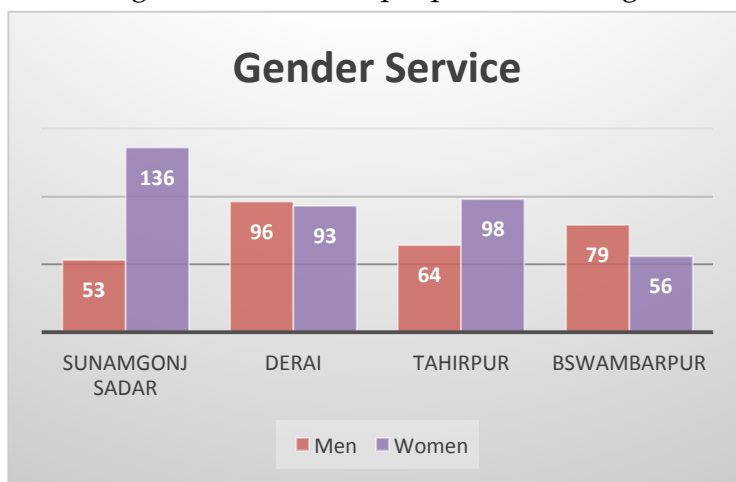
death record of livestock was 90% which is tremendously reduced and now only 5% die that shared by community people and Government Livestock Officials (as per their database/ statistics at district and upzila level) though they have no specific baseline survey, however, this is acceptable as the communities are also convinced to share their unbiased opinion. Unused lands are being cultivated through the introduction of new crops and new agricultural technologies. The living standard of the poor people has improved. Local people including services providers have mentioned their rating as follows:

- Imparting training and demonstration induced local communities in replication of modern agricultural technology.
- Provide counseling to the people's organizations; to develop community relation and strengthen people's organizations.
- Improvement in livelihoods.
- Improvement in agricultures.
- Improvement in new agricultural technologies.

Use of organic fertilizer and land uses have enable the poor communities in proper utilization of resources. They work in homestead vegetables cultivation; tree plantation, duck rearing, poultry and goat rearing improved their family income.

ICDP's contribution in building local knowledge and skills in different sectors and management will go a long way in meeting the needs of the people in handling their livelihood. The approach to building local capacity and local ownership of actions through the use of different communication materials are also likely to have longer term effects.

**Gender Services:** within the project area under 25 unions of 4 upazila, a total of 25 POs have been formed to provide services on Gender. Data shows that the share of men and women is 43% and 57%. The services of ICDP project covered a total of 19,560 beneficiaries in which 10,648 are women (54.4%). It may be noted that 19 People's organization also formed under 4 upazila where 4 POs are comprised with socially excluded people (aboriginal, Dalit and Gypsy (Snake keepers). Typically all the POs have 21 members each who have office in their locality. The planned interventions can be reached through engaging change agents who will work within their community through their own initiative.



Community people opined that they are working on health issues; community harmony and leadership. They have diversification in the intervention that is highly impressive. Number of trainer is comparatively low; there should be more sewing

tailors; there should be more IGA training; there are increased growths of crops, but support is comparatively low. The adolescent girls are now more confident; the concept of self-reliance has increased; as the adolescent girls are now enjoying better reproductive health, their absenteeism in the school have decreased. Due to awareness, Eve teasing has decreased in the area.

**Progress compared to targets:** ICDP actually started its activities in the year of 2007 and this is the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the project that expanded its coverage to more 7 unions under same upazila.

About half way through the project life, one would like to know whether the program component can meet its targets by the end of its project life. After closely reviewing the progress so far, we can reasonably conclude that although it has still a lot to cover at least in terms of numerical targets, it is not impossible to accomplish those over the next two years. With foundation being laid and key targets reached, and under the current rate of rapid progress, there is no reason that the targets by the end of project life will not be achieved. If there are no major disruptions caused by natural or political disasters, the program is going to gain a further speed and meet its final targets. The following table on output and outcome targets can be used as an example in support of this view:

The table appended below is presenting a brief projection on achievements till September 2014.

SI	Activities	Target of the project (as per project database)	Unit	Progress as on Sept 2014 (available at project Office/ database)	Percentage
<b>A. Community Capacity Enhancement</b>					
1	Formation of Village Committees (VCs)	83	number	83	100%
2	Formation of Peoples Organizations (POs)	19	number	19	100%
3	<b>Organizing trainings for strengthening Peoples Organizations:</b>				
	3.1. PRA	12	batch	12	100%
	3.2. PSP	12	batch	12	100%
	3.3. Leadership development	12	batch	12	100%
	3.4. Accounts management	12	batch	12	100%
	3.5. Advocacy and Networking	12	batch	12	100%
4	<b>Staff Development Trainings:</b>				
	4.1. PRA	18	number	20	111%
	4.2. PSP	18	number	20	111%

4.3. ToT on leadership development	32	number	36	112%
4.4. ToT on accounts management	32	number	36	112%
4.5. ToT on institutional capacity Building	30	number	22	73%
4.6. ToT on advocacy and human rights	30	number	24	80%
4.7. ToT on marketing development	30	number	24	80%

<b>B. Livelihood Security &amp; Environmental Sustainability</b>					
<b>1</b>	<b>Development of local service providers (LSPs) for PO Health:</b>				
	1.1. Formation of LSP Associations	4	number	4	100%
	1.2. Training for village doctors	36	number	12	33%
	1.3. Training for TTBAAs	36	number	12	33%
	1.4. Training for CHVs at field level	24	number	12	50%
	1.5. Awareness programs on HIV/AIDS	50	batch	30	80%
	1.6. Awareness programs on arsenic, nutrition, mother and child care	600	number	296	49%
<b>2</b>	<b>Development of local service providers (LSPs) for PO Livelihood:</b>				
	2.1. Formation of LSP Associations	4	number	4	100%
	2.2. Training on vaccination	36	number	12	33%
	2.3. Training on vegetable cultivation	48	number	30	69%
	2.4. Training on crops cultivation	48	number	15	31%
	2.5. Training on duck & poultry rearing	48	number	32	67%
	2.6. Training on nursery development	48	number	16	33%
	2.7. Training on beef fattening	48	number	34	71%
	2.8. Training on goat rearing	48	number	32	67%
	2.9. Training on marketing development	48	number	32	67%
<b>3</b>	<b>Development of Local service providers (LSPs) for PO-Gender justice &amp; human rights:</b>				
	3.1. Formation of LSP Associations	4	number	4	100%
	3.2. Training on gender justice & HR	48	number	30	69%
	3.3. Training on tailoring & fashion designing	48	number	18	37.5%
	3.4. Training on RTI	48	number	32	67%
<b>4</b>	<b>Development of Local service providers (LSPs) for Indigenous, Gypsy, Horizon and</b>				

<b>"Thieves":</b>					
	4.1. Training on pig rearing for IP	36	number	20	56%
	4.2. Training on goat rearing	45	number	15	33%
	4.3. Training on mobile phone servicing	07	number	07	100%
	4.4. Training on gender & HR	28	number	14	50%
	4.5. Training on nursery development	28	number	0	0
<b>5</b>	<b>Environmental development:</b>				
	5.1. Development of commercial nursery	80	number	20	25%
	5.2. Sapling distribution for block plantation	16,000	number	4,900	31%
	5.3. IPM demo	20	number	10	50%
	5.4. Organic fertilizer demo	100	number	54	54%
	5.5. Days observation	20	number	12	60%
	5.6. Training on disaster preparedness and management	4	batch	4	100%
	5.7. Training on bio-intensive gardening	80	number	28	35%
<b>6</b>	<b>Climate Change Adaptation:</b>				
	6.1. Solar home system in off grid areas for household by creating revolving fund	<b>40</b>	number	40	100%
	6.2. Entrepreneurship development in the local market	<b>16</b>	number	8	50%
	6.3. Demo of vegetable cultivation in sandy lands	<b>18</b>	number	7	39%
	6.4. Demo of groundnut cultivation in sandy lands	<b>18</b>	number	12	67%
	6.5. Demo of early variety crops cultivation	<b>20</b>	number	12	60%
<b>C. Models for Support Services:</b>					
<b>1</b>	<b>Livelihood development:</b>				
	1.1. Demo on beef fattening at farm	20	number	7	35%
	1.2. Crops cultivation	20	number	12	60%
	1.3. Fingerling production	5	number	3	60%
	1.4. Nursery development	5	number	3	60%
	1.5. Fish culture	5	number	3	60%

	1.6. Poultry rearing	24	batch	18	75%
<b>2</b>	<b>Model supports for Gender justice and human rights</b>				
	2.1. School program for IP and ultra-poor students	1	number	1	100%
	2.2. Education by mother tongue for IP children	150	number	154	101%
	2.3. Legal supports against gender based violence	40	number	10	25%
	2.4. Stipend program for students of IP and ultra-poor community	50	number	15	30%
<b>3</b>	<b>Infrastructure and Equipment for model support service</b>				
	3.1. POs office construction	4	number	4	100%
	3.2. Building construction for village health center	1	number	1	100%
	3.3. House construction for poultry rearing	1	number	1	100%
	3.4. Fish hatchery construction	1	number	1	100%
	3.5. School building construction	1	number	1	100%
	3.6. Ambulance and medical equipment for hospital & village health centers	1	number	1	100%
	3.7. Assets transfer to POs (chairs, tables, file cabinets etc)	173	number	173	100%
<b>D. Advocacy for Entitlements and Services:</b>					
<b>1</b>	<b>Advocacy for health, sanitation, networking and other services</b>				
	1.1. Growth monitoring	5,000	number	3,018	60%
	1.2. Support service for severely malnourished children	500	number	435	87%
	1.3. Vitamin A-capsule	7,500	number	4,630	62%
	1.4. Family planning services	10,000	number	3,893	39%
	1.5. EPI	10,000	number	3,969	39%
	1.6. Workshop on HIV/AIDS	600	batch	296	49%
	1.7. Campaign for safe water & hygienic sanitation	20	number	8	40%
	1.8. Promotion of medicinal plants	80	number	61	76%
	1.9. Health service delivery	250,000	number	104,503	42%
<b>2</b>	<b>Civil society platform</b>				

	2.1. Formation of CSO networking	4	number	4	100%
	2.2. Organized meeting with POs, local administration, NGOs and local elites	12	number	12	100%
	2.3. Publishing media and campaign (Newsletter publishing and distribution, Posters, documentary film development etc.)	5	number	3	60%
	Newsletter publishing	20,000	number	10,158	51%
	Posters distribution	6,000	number	2,700	45%
	documentary film development	5	number	2	40%
<b>E. Gender Justice and Human Rights:</b>					
<b>1</b>	<b>Social mobilization:</b>				
	1.1. Formation of adolescent working groups	18	number	18	100%
	1.2. Seminar/workshop/meeting/lesson on gender & discrimination, family values & children rights	523	batch	273	52%
	1.3. Women's day observation	20	number	12	60%
	1.4. Indigenous day observation	20	number	12	60%
<b>2</b>	<b>Response and prevention gender based violence:</b>				
	2.1. Survey/study/workshop on trafficking	1	number	1	100%
	2.2. Campaign for stopping early marriage, polygamy, dowry and illegal divorce etc.	523	batch	292	54%
<b>3</b>	<b>Strengthening local government:</b>				
	3.1. Training/workshop on local government	72	batch	36	50%
	3.2. Village court	72	number	10	52
	3.3. RTI	54	batch	17	31%
	3.4. Policy dialogue	20	batch	8	40%

While looking at the figure on community capacity enhancement the achievements are encouraging and in some cases it exceeds the targets. Training on capacity development at early stage of the project would definitely contribute to timely service delivery to the beneficiaries.

In the context of target area the disparity between men and women is higher than other area which is addressed by the project and tried to create awareness, identifying the problem through community participation, action oriented program has been undertaken for reduction of early marriage, increased women mobility and

involved them in income earning activities, motivated people in raising voice against gender based violence.

Awareness on health and hygiene, immunization, child nutrition monitoring, health treatment supports, addressing environmental vulnerability and introduction of organic fertilizers, use of underutilized and unutilized land in cultivation are some example of better performance. Some community people expressed their concern over the project's achievement that Pre-natal and Post-natal care of mother and child, giving advice to pregnant mother for her health and check-up time to time to visit doctor, not doing hard work, to take nutritious food every day. To use tools box during delivery, in critical condition send to the hospital.

TTBA Ronoda mentioned "on 27/09/2014 she was taken a pregnant mother named Nasima to hospital to discharge her delivery but one the way Nasima felt delivery pain and Ronoda took her in nearby house and discharged her delivery and later she returned to her house."

### **Reflection from Community Leaders/UP Members:**

*ICDP is committed organization, devoted for the cause of the poor; ICDP through its project interventions, organize the poor in to primary groups leading to People's Organizations, who gives leadership to the primary groups, which is the most appropriate way to rural upliftment.*

- *We have learnt about lives and livelihood; leadership quality; prevention of many diseases, equality of men and women and how to prepare IPM and compost fertilizer etc. The people of so remote area are getting health services at a very low-cost.*
- *Unused lands are being cultivated through the introduction of new crops and new agricultural technologies. The living standard of the poor people has improved.*
- *The trained paramedics providing services to the community.*
- *Girls are now going to the schools; rate of early marriage is on decreased; ICDP organizes medical camp and the pregnant mothers do their health check up*
- *Concept of self-reliance has developed in the community; women are involved in income earning activities; disparity between men and women has decreased; domestic violence has reduced; the women are recognized in the family and in the society.*
- *Health services at the door step at a very low-cost; there has been much improvement in education and sanitation and the government officials are service oriented.*

However, given the gaps that exist at various levels of interventions including maternity care practices, infant and young child care practices, caring for the disease burden of young children and finally the food consumption and production, the



emphasis on community participation should continue to play the most critical role in the success of this project. This will imply the adoption of additional measures which could include organizing community meetings with community change agents, such as teachers, religious leaders, village doctors, once in a month.

### ***Discussions:***

Being mostly low-lying and in the confluence of seasonal water logging much of the project country is prone to widespread seasonal flooding and is also very vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The frequency and severity of these disasters is likely to be adversely affected by global warming, population growth, environmental degradation, and ill-maintained infrastructure, all contributing to increase acute humanitarian needs. High rates of acute malnutrition are compounded by repeated crises with insufficient time for affected people to recover between them. The effects of a recurrent natural disaster can significantly impact on peoples' food security status and exhaust their coping capacities. In this context, this targeted area has a significant number of extremely poor and vulnerable people in urgent need of humanitarian aid. Despite increased food availability at national level, in all of the crisis affected areas GAM rates are regularly reported to be not only above the globally accepted humanitarian threshold (WHO) of 15%, but in many cases even above 20%. While Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is becoming a priority at national level, much remains to be done for an effective mainstreaming at all levels, by all stakeholders this area must get due attention to the management of ICDP-SWF.

On overall factual situation, the gender gap in the adoption rates is a reflection of the cultural religious bias, the fact that women are perhaps more risk averse than men, but more importantly, it also reflects greater access to resources by men as opposed to women, limited rights over property and resources and limited decision making power. These percentages are anticipated to change as a consequence of the new FFS approach adopted with respect to livelihood. The ICDP has not been given proper attention to those issue where there is enough scope to work for developing gender issues.

However, the adoption rates of agricultural technology with respect to homestead gardens by women are not found at satisfactory level which could reduce the nutrition. The results appear to contradict prevailing perceptions. The message for training and support to women is clear but needs to be attuned to their specific command over productive resources. Evidence of this can be inferred also from the expansion in small ruminants' production by women farmers in a majority of micro finance projects.

Fish farming or harvesting from open water body could increase the income of families. Similarly, although raising livestock alone was not very common in the area, the extension support of ICDP has resulted a rate of achievement.

While taking in to the consideration of stakeholders statement regarding ICDP services, it has given mixed reaction both impressive and discouraging results, the livestock and fishery sectors appear to have generated an increased demand but merely addressed this which have potential trend of increasing income leading to livelihood security. Livestock treatment facilities are available in their door. The trained vaccinators are traveling different village for the treatment of their livestock. They are also getting benefiting as some supplementary income help them to maintain their families.

Farmers are getting services from us for their livestock like esophagus disease of their animals' cow, buffalo, goat, sheep etc. Veterinary hospital is an ideal and reliable source of information about animal diseases and their solution. People from the neighboring areas bring their sick animals to the Veterinary hospital every day. Analysis of the case record gives a comprehensive idea about the disease problems at local areas. The objectives were to determine clinical prevalence of diseases and disorders in cattle and goats at the Upazila Veterinary Hospital.

As they said that we observed in the month of November many cattle were die due to different diseases it will be about 90%. People were not aware to go to the doctor and people tried to provide treatment in the previous concept. Now it has reduced that approximate 5% livestock die due to different diseases.

While access to inputs and technology has been an attraction with more farmers but generally limited them to the crop they were more familiar with, rice, and a very low uptake of any other crop. Recognizing that this represents the results of basically two and half year of implementation, the prospects in the future with the adoption of the technology could record very positive results. ICDP is involved in different development work. Reducing the child marriage, awareness, livestock, education assistance, advocacy, networking, coordination with local people and government authorities.

**AWARENESS IS INCREASING, GOOD RELATIONSHIP AND NETWORKING HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AMONG THE VILLAGERS, INCREASED LITERACY RATE, AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN GROWING PARTICULARLY IN THE WOMEN FOLK. - GULNAHAR BEGUM, A UP WOMEN MEMBER**

Behavior change has had some success due to a cascading effect of different training and mass communication and advocacy, growth monitoring etc. but need effective services in improving nutrition, coverage of 100% immunization, combating deficiency of Vitamin A, reducing early marriage, reduction of dropout from schooling and adverse effects of dowry etc. could achieve some visible impact at the middle stage of project but virtually little progress is witnessed. Yet the ICDP-SWF management is requested for taking quick and demand based services.

Citing from the project document the Effect and Consequence of the Second Phase of the project is expected based on the experience of achievements and limitations from the First Phase of the project. In the second phase, it is expected that the project will be more congruent with Rights Based Approach; therefore, it will be able to contribute strengthening community, people's organizations and civil society

organizations to demand the entitlement rights. At the same time it will be able to sensitize and strengthen government service delivery system through advocacy and also the in the project document clearly said that it will consider past experiences and recommendations through which the output/results will be produced according to the plan and the congruence between the objectives and nature of the outcome.

Four gender and human rights cells will be established to address the issues of deprivation, discriminations and violence against women as part of ICDP. The very existence of these cells signifies a sort of quality achievement in advancing women and human rights. Gender violence within the family is addressed and counseling is provided to the couples for conflict resolution.

They trained the poor and marginal family members, conducted different meetings. They shared their plan and that time they deemed that ICDP concept is appropriate in considering the time evolution. Their thought was that if they join with the program they can contribute for the improvement of the local community as well as our society.

As women have been deprived from all of their rights in every spare. To overcome such situation they wanted to join with this project. Financial support will not exist in future but the skilled development training will support in our continued life time. Financial support is limited to cover the cost of the training. All the time participants attended in the meeting having no transportation cost which seems difficult to bear by the poor community.

While there is maximum congruence with the “decreased morbidity and mortality” due to emphasis on activities around health service and agriculture development, the least congruence remains with the “strengthening of GOB service delivery”. In the Second Phase, the above mentioned achievements will be consolidated, expanded and deepened and one of the consequences of the coming phase is expected to be more focused on the GOB service delivery for the poor and marginalized groups.

The MTE study is convinced enough that the project has proved its overall performance at a satisfactory level which can contribute the achieving project goal at the end. MTE is strongly recommending a thorough quantitative and qualitative survey to find the gaps and factors that need to be addressed within rest of the project period. Following are the component wise findings.

**A. Community Capacity Enhancement:** Overall progress of the capacity development initiative is found to be satisfactory as most of the training has already been imparted for strengthening capacity for both People’s Organization and staff working in the project. One issue is noticed during the assessment that no POs have obtained legal recognition. This may affect the ultimate existence of these POs after closure of the project. It is very usual that the self-managed groups are found very active during the project period and gradually losing their motivation if it is not being managed through legal entity. So, time has come to

registering the POs under respective government department at upazila / district level.

After forming Committee they communicated with Union Parishad Office (lower level of government administration) because they know that in the Union Level there is a Standing Committee. Sancred also helped them through communicating with the UP Chairman. Later UP Chairman found those members of the committee have a strong voice for the development of the local community. So, they become as committee members in the local government bodies.

*MOST OF THE CHILDREN ARE GOING TO SCHOOL, RAISING AWARENESS, OBSERVING COMPETITION TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOOD, SANITATION SYSTEM IMPROVED, INTRODUCE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY, INVOLVED IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES ESPECIALLY MANY POOR WOMEN HAS BECOME AFTER GETTING TAILORING TRAINING.*

*COMMUNITY ARE GETTING ADVOCACY AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FROM ICDP AND FOR IMPLEMENTING THOSE THEY ARE GETTING CREDIT FROM SANCRD, - MR. MURSHED MIA, A RETIRED ARMY OFFICER.*

Besides, the UP Chairman and Members participated in different national events organized by ICDP that time the committee members established a good relationship with them.

It is prudent to put due attention in improving performance on representation of Group leaders in local government institutions, increasing role in leadership, involvement of income earning activities, increasing participation in DRR and Resilience actions as these are high controlling factors on the capacity development and contribution in improving livelihood.

There can be little disagreement on the relevance of the ICDP project in terms of its scope given the specific problems facing in the targeted area. Conceptually, project design interventions address the issues that plague the country - (the lack of) food security, market development, health, gender, access to public and private services, and susceptibility to disasters. However, the strategy falls short in its operational/implementation modality.

The adoption of a classificatory approach linking beneficiaries and the support to be provided in the revised livelihood strategy, suffers from the problems of inadequate coverage on the one hand and an overtly restrictive coverage on the other.

The absence of an articulated rationale or assessment of critical elements for ensuring livelihood security, alternative income generation options have to be ensured through the project interventions. Market development is not confined with availability of inputs and scope of marketing rather it need a combined strategy for smooth functioning of market based and beneficiary friendly environment where all actors involved in livelihood are working for their mutual benefits.

The project support for undertaking IGA for increasing income need to be specified and a survey on income earning scope and involvement of the beneficiary is recommending re-designing the livelihood security sub-results.

Given that off farm activities is not very common, the formation of beneficiary group, a requirement for support, has acted as a constraint in the formation of groups. This has been further constrained by the restriction that support for off farm activities is to be limited to the severely vulnerable areas.

Market led and demand based off-farm activities may be introduced under the project that would benefit the entire targeted communities. Widening the area of coverage to include the less vulnerable areas could have a significant impact for the poor and the ultra-poor.

Some issues came up from the interview of vaccinator that they liked ICDP as it is involved in different development work. Reducing the early child marriage, awareness, livestock, Education assistance, Advocacy, networking, coordination with local people and government authorities. Yet they have lack of knowledge on referral services because village level vaccinator is not allowed for treatment and vaccination of cows which can be ensured through creating access to local DLS office.

- B. *Livelihood Security & Environmental Sustainability*: While assessing the secondary data project in the progress report of ICDP rating can be done as satisfactory though there was scope for achieving better results. For example; training to local service providers is quite lower. Out of targeted 36 vaccination training only 12 training so far been imparted and yet training of TTBA's also below 35%. The SWF management should realize that development of local service providers at initial years of project period could more benefits both for their own financial benefits and service recipients also. Issues of sustainability have close relationship with profitability and mutual benefits.

It needs a clear understanding to concerned staff working for providing the services and also the management that withdrawal of project intervention will have little impact if it is not well accepted and 'owned' by the communities.

Perception of people on the People's Organizations have a positive response where they see as it is used as foundation to sustain livelihoods program in the project and unused lands are being cultivated through variety of new crops and new agricultural technologies that are appropriate for the area.

They also recognized that ICDP established one community school on the top of Tahirpur mountain hill that has been very useful for the area. The people of so remote area are getting health services at a very useful. People do not depend in one occupation as before; the people who used to live in fishing, now in addition

to fishing, they cultivate vegetables and earn more income. It reveals from the KII with community people that the project at least contributed in the following area.

- Improvement in livelihoods.
- Improvement in agricultures.
- Improvement in new agricultural technologies.
- Mobility of the women has increased.
- Trend of early marriage has decreased.
- Farmers are becoming well acquainted with modern agriculture technology, getting time to time advice on different aspects.
- Farmers are getting training on agriculture productions. Getting well seeds, well advice and good productions.

It reveals from the report that there is no training arranged on nursery development for the indigenous people which narrowed down their income diversity. Livelihood security mostly dependent on the assistance in creation of alternative options for income, and increasing of affordability of their immediate requirements. Overall progress in PO Health and PO Livelihood could do better as the current achievement will affect the end term results.

There is some good progress found in training to local service providers of PO Gender Justice & Human Rights. It is to be noted that development support to PO Health and PO Livelihood will have visible outcome whereas PO Gender Justice & Human Rights is important factors that will ultimately affect the human lives. When we consider the issue of secured livelihood that should spell out the reflection how the project interventions is contributing in securing livelihood and what factors need to be considered for rest of the project period.

### ***A Changed life of Razia Begum***

*Razia Begum, housewife age of 38 years living with her husband in a village Jatichar under Rajanagar union of Derai Upazila under Sunamganj district. She is mother of two sons and one daughter. Her husband was a poor farmer and average income per month is below Taka 3000 which is not sufficient to manage a family's daily need.*

*Due to geographical vulnerability the communication system with other parts is very rough throughout the year. It was hard lives they had to maintain and at one stage her husband Golam Robbani got membership of Peoples Organization (Livelihood) under Sancred-ICDP project. Field Facilitator of ICDP assigned for the area offered him three day's long skill development training course on duck rearing in 2013. Instead of Golam Robbani his wife Razia Begum participated in that training and acquired important aspects of duck rearing. The training induced her for starting a duck rearing IGAs which she started in close support of her husband. Her farming started with 300 ducklings purchased from local duck hatchery.*

*SWF supported her with micro credit of Tk. 30,000. During one and half year she increased the number of duck up to 1000. Now she gets about 500-600 eggs from her farm every day. This farming now proved a means of improved livelihood and she is getting monthly net income about Tk. 25000. Now their children are going to school and affordability of the family increased within short time through duck rearing supported by ICDP project. Now they live with happiness and prosperity.*

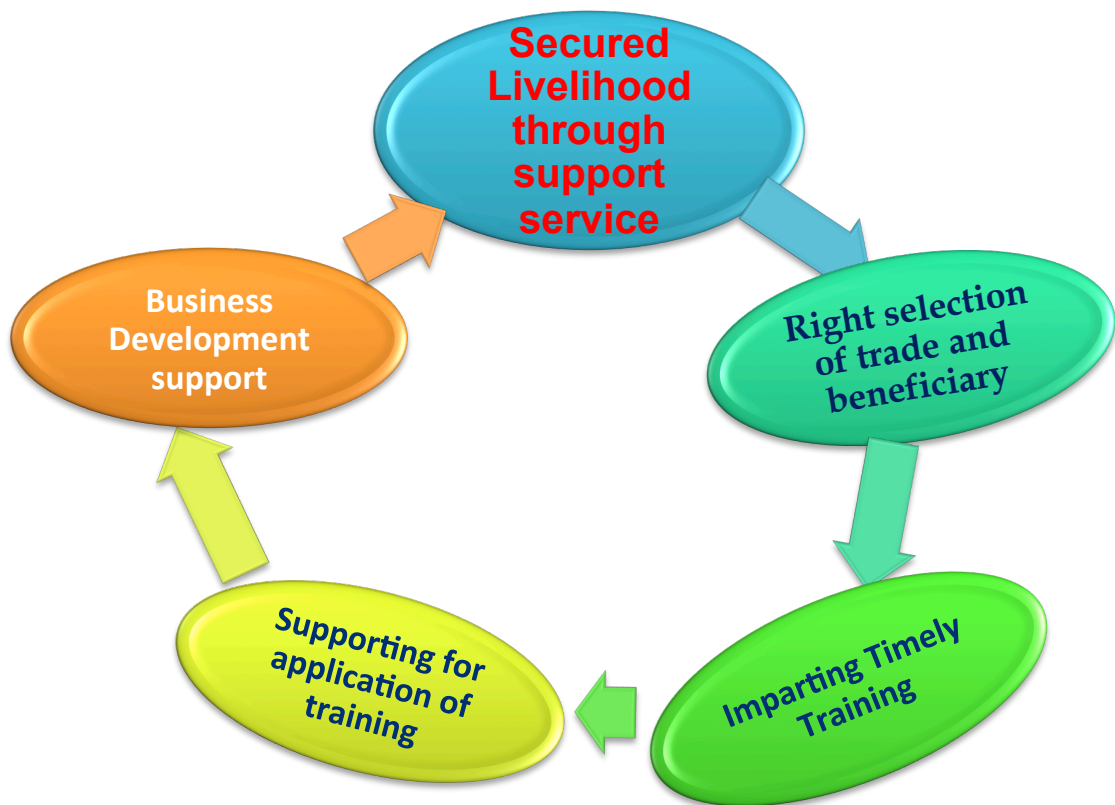
SWF management should dedicate their attention in achievement of secured livelihood that related to access and increasing of affordability to food, health, education, cloths, shelter and social cost of the family members.

One of biggest challenge of Bangladesh is face the effect of climate change and it is more relevant to lives of haor communities. Resilience and coping with natural shocks is crucial issue when people and incapability will aggravate their lives. The project is designed to address the environmental issues through plantation of trees, use of organic fertilizer, training on awareness development on disaster preparedness and management, installation of solar system and promotion of local celibate friendly crop cultivation.

The data shows that 25% beneficiaries were given training on commercial nursery raising, 4,900 saplings distributed, demonstration of IPM (50%), demonstration on organic fertilizer (54%), and 35% beneficiaries were given training on bio-intensive gardening. A significant achievement is found on the interventions of designed for climate change adaptation. The study strongly recommended that both training and its utilization at the community level should be monitored and appropriate supports to be provided to the targeted communities for greater interest of the water logged area under the project area.

C. **Model for Support Services:** Under the scope of the project, several interventions has been implemented in the project upazila. In terms of quantitative achievement it can assessed as better. For achieving sustainable solutions of securing livelihood there should be integration with one actor to another for ensuring services. It is interlinked with service providing for production and buying back from producers and should have guarantee of availability of quality inputs, extension services and marketing opportunity of the products. For viable solution for ensuring sustainable market based enterprise operation networking between the producer groups and all actors in the process need to be established where all actors will have scope of getting services and benefits. It is not the project rather actors of the livelihood sector will lead and facilitate the entire process.

This can be seen through this diagram.



The above figure is a cycle of through which the objectives of secured livelihood through support services can be achieved but the review findings shows that there is little combination of the relevant services was given that may hinder the expected achievement of the goal of the project. Activities related to demo on beef fattening, Crops cultivation, Fingerlings production, Nursery development, Fish Culture and Poultry Rearing seems that overall targeted plan is somehow relatively poor.

For example, one women is interested for starting a poultry farming, she needs training, inputs like day old chicks, poultry feed, vaccines, poultry shed, veterinary



services and selling opportunities. How this can be ensured? We may look the following actors:

Needs	Actors	How it help to TGs
Training on Poultry rearing	DLS or Lead farmers	Increase skills
Poultry Shed	MFIs or project	Financial support
Day old Chicks	Hatchery or local supplier	Available Chicks
Vaccines	DLS or LSPs	Vaccine ensured
Poultry feed	Local dealer or LSP	Available poultry feed
Veterinary Services	DLS or LSPs	Treatment & extension support
Capital support for poultry farming	MFIs or project	Starting capital
Poultry Selling	Bulk buyers or LSPs	Selling ensured.

However, SWF could put their utmost attention in replication of the technology through providing large scale grants or funding support from MFIs. It is found that only 153 beneficiaries have got those facilities which are comparatively lower in terms of total number of target population.

Considering the activities of supports for Gender Justice and human rights seems to be good. It carried out school based program for IP and ultra-poor students, provided education in mother tongue for IP children and stipend allocation for students of IP and ultra-poor communities and also provided legal support against gender based violence. These interventions have reduced the discrimination and increased attitudinal change in the community.

There is significant achievement is assessed in infrastructure and equipment for model support service. The project provided support in construction for PO's office, constructed one health center, constructed one poultry rearing shed, constructed School building and fish hatchery. These are not many but produced high impact in the community.

The study findings directing the importance of software supports besides hardware supports which should be varied in linking with private and public service providing individual and agencies. The network for forward and backward support will enhance the opportunities leading to sustainability.

D. *Advocacy for Entitlements and Services*: ICDP mainly carried out the advocacy for health, sanitation, networking and other services through growth monitoring, support to malnourished children, distribution of Vitamin A capsule, family planning services, awareness campaigning on HIV/AIDS and safe water & hygiene and sanitation. Also a large number of people received health care services.

These services definitely contributed a significant changes in the communities participated by the poor and vulnerable households. Apart from this networking with Civil society, local NGOs, local administration and elites have allowed the POs in sharing their issues and make a platform for addressing affecting factors of vulnerability of haor lives. It is also noticed that documentary and media publications draws the attention on the social and livelihood issues among the mass population.

Except awareness and advocacy works, not much has been done on conceptual and practical improvements on gender issue. It is a paramount important issue for ICDP to re-double its effort on gender issue during the remaining period of the present phase and also the next phase of the program. ICDP itself needs its own conceptual and practice improvements on gender issue. Women should get some leadership in the project for assisting such improvements. Women group members were observed quite aware on women issues and all social violence against women and children. They mentioned that in rural villages still 90% women are abused by men within the family. However, these are now in the declining trend due to increased awareness by women themselves, women's joint actions on some key issues and laws of the land are in favour to support women.

### Self-reliant family of Saifa Begum



*Saifa Begum, a 30 years old typical housewife living Jotichor village of Rajanagor Union under Derai Upazila of Sunamganj district. Eight years back she got married with Md. Harun Mia of same area who used to torture for dowry and she tried to get relived by paying Taka 35,000 but the attitude of her husband not changed rather married again without any consent. Again the extent of torturing increased day by day. She was thinking for her own future and took part in a training course on ``Tailoring training`` for one month in 2012 from Sancred-ICDP project.*

*After completion the training she received Loan of Tk. 8,000 and bought a sewing machine and cloths for starting the business. In 2013 she also got 15 days ``Advance tailoring training`` and 7 days ``Fashion designing on Tailoring training`` in 2014 from Sancred-ICDP project. Now she is maintaining her family independently and also helping her poor father.*

*At present her monthly income is Tk.5, 000-6,000. Her son reading in class III and going to school regularly. Now she bears a dream to build a training centre and a Ladies tailoring shop at nearest Gochia Bazar. She is not a burden to her family and leading a dignified life and became a model women entrepreneur.*

Child marriage has reduced; but it still exists. In spite of some successes, there is still the need to continue awareness and women's voice-raising activities for some more years.

Family planning is considered only a women issue not issue of the couples. There is also no effort from the health workers, volunteers and committee members to involve couples in their educational and assistance approach. The ICDP project proposal is very clear as it has presented family planning as a couples' issue; but the understanding and practice at the field level is not the same. Indigenous groups suggested "softer loans" (with minimum interest rate, for longer durations and instalments only after harvests) for release of their mortgaged and other lands.

Most students of the Hajong Community cannot go for college and other higher studies due to lack of financial support and lack of opportunities. They cannot compete with the students of majority community for various reasons. Hajong group members suggested some kind of stipend component in ICDP in the future. Hajong women group members strongly felt the need of protecting and developing their own culture and language. They give importance to more collaborative works and unity among the Hajong community in the area and also support for the overall development.

All three different types of committees have been formed by the ICDP beginning from 2007. Thus, the committees are yet new and have no much experience. The initiative, however, is quite important from the perspective of continuity and sustainability of the good outcomes of the ICDP.

- E. *Gender Justice and Human Rights*: Improve Gender concept and practice in ICDP. Women should get some leadership opportunity in the project for such improvements. The gender equality is linked with MDG-3 where the project has greater role in contributing the national level but it reveals from the report that participation of women is higher than male. This achievement is greatly ensured women empowerment in the community level.

Gender disparity is a reflection of complex social, cultural, and economics issues. While some improvement in gender equality has been achieved in sectors such as education, health and family welfare, labor and employment, a democratic participation, in Bangladesh true empowerment is still a distant goal. Creating opportunity for men with women for gender balance: Participation of men with women is essential for gender development in the cultural context of Bangladesh. The ICDP needs to develop some specific strategy and effort during the remaining period of the present phase of ICDP.

Gender and Human Rights component of the ICDP focuses on the existing laws of the country that protect the right of women, children, ethnic and other minority communities. The purpose of the component is to raise awareness against various types of violence mostly experienced against women and children- abuse, harassment, early marriage, divorce, dowry, including grabbing of lands of minorities by force. The following are some key issues that the

Evaluation Team particularly focused, as they were raised by the people during discussions:

Gender concept and sensitivity is not clear to the project functionaries. The concept has been limited to reducing child-marriage, dowry, women oppressions, etc. However the concept and its aspects should be clear to all. Group lessons on Violence against women are provided through courtyard meetings and discussions. There is general awareness about women violence. Actions on some occasions were initiated with the encouragement of ICDP staff. It is understood that eventually groups and community people have to come forward for such collective actions of their own.

The ICDP project has carried out some activities to address the issues of gender justice and human rights;

- a. Formed 9 adolescents groups;
- b. Organized 273 different events including seminars/workshop/meeting and lesson sharing on gender & discrimination, family values and children rights.
- c. Observed Women's day
- d. Observed indigenous day
- e. Arranged workshop on anti-trafficking
- f. Organized 292 campaign on stopping early marriage, polygamy, dowry and forced divorce.
- g. Organized 36 batches training/workshop for the members of local government bodies.
- h. Activated village courts and arranged policy dialogues

All that above activities have direct impact on community to make them aware on the social factors that usually been not considered by the rural areas of the project targeted district.

The community people articulate their opinion on the intervention that the women are now aware of their women rights; they can now move out from their four walls of lives; the women are now involved in economic development activities. Before the intervention of ICDP, the women did not know- how to involve with economic earning activity; now they are involve with economic earning activity and that they earn additional income. This is their great achievement. ICDP is involved in opening the eyes of the women of the project area.

Through the LSP, the oppressed women are getting justice against their oppression and exploitation; the early marriage is being stopped; the mobility of women are on increased; now the women can use their earned money; their husbands cannot snatch their earned money; women are now recognized in the family and they have earned respect in the society. EPI of the children are ensured; domestic works are now valued; the women get due remuneration against their labor; if any violence against women happens, the women no more tolerate; they united come forward and claim for justice.

Early marriage has been reduced; physical torture of women has been reduced; domestic violence has been reduced; rate of polygamy has been reduced. The people in the project area are enjoying family peace due to awareness on family conflict. The women are **Tahmina Akter saved from early marriage** now



*Chalbon, a village under Biswamvorpur upazila of Sunamganj district is isolated place where Tahmina Akter lives with her family. She is only 14 years old and a student of class ten of a local high school. Her parents arranged her marriage suddenly at 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2014 with one Rubel Hossain age of 17 years who lives in a nearby village- Bhadertek under same upazila. Tahmina falls in critical situation and became mentally distressed after hearing the news of marriage.*

*Finding no other way she contacted with Sancred-ICDP staffs of Biswamvorpur who arranged court yard session at Primary Group (PG) level for discussing related issues like child marriage and it's afterward affects of lives. Moreover, she informed that in this connection Peoples Organization-Gender & HR was formed under Sancred-ICDP project at Union and Upazila level.*

*So, she acknowledged the matter to Jahanara Begum, a neighbor and a Leader of Peoples Organization named Samota Unnayan Sangstha. Tahmina appealed that she had no willingness to marry at this time; but her family gave pressure to marry now. Then she (Jahanara Begum) discussed the matter with all PO Leaders and Sancred-ICDP staffs over telephone and called an urgent meeting. With a series of actions they able to convinced her parents to be understood about the demerits of chi marriage.*

involved in economic activity and earn additional income.



**List of People's Organization with detail information**

Sl. No	Upazila	Name of People's Organization	Date Formed	Member		
				Female	Male	Total
1	Sunamganj Sadar	Sunamganj Nabajagaran UnnayanSangstha (PO Health)	18.09.12	13	08	21
2		Sunamganj Ekata Unnayan Sangstha (PO-Livelihood)	20.09.12	11	10	21
3		Sunamganj Mukti Unnayan Sangstha (PO Gender)	23.09.12	15	06	21
4		Thengsua Foundation ( PO-Indigenous)	09.09.12	14	07	21
5		Uttamlal Horizon Palli UnnayanSangstha	15.09.12	14	07	21
6		Sonapur Bede Palli Unnayan Sangstha	18.09.12	17	04	21
7	Derai	Bolaka Unnayan Sangstha (PO-Livelihood)	19.09.12	11	10	21
8		Rongdhonu Unnayan Sangstha (PO-Health)	19.09.12	11	10	21
9		DigantaUnnayan Sangstha (PO Gender)	20.09.12	14	07	21
10		Jahanpur Unnayan Sangstha	11.09.12	09	12	21
11		Narkila Unnayan Sangstha	18.09.12	12	09	21
12	Biswamver pur	Seba Unnayan Sangstha (PO Health)	29.09.12	11	10	21
13		Udayan Unnayan Sangstha (PO-Livelihood)	21.09.12	10	11	21
14		Samata Unnayan Sangstha (PO Gender)	19.09.12	11	10	21
15		Purbasha Unnayan Sangstha ( PO-Indigenous)	30.09.12	13	08	21
16	Tahirpur	Progoti Unnayan Sangstha (PO Health)	27.09.12	10	11	21
17		Ekata Unnayan Sangstha (PO-Livelihood)	25.09.12	09	12	21
18		Prottasa Unnayan Sangstha (PO Gender)	18.09.12	14	07	21
19		Surma Unnayan Sangstha ( PO-Indigenous)	29.09.12	15	06	21
	<b>Total</b>			234	165	399

## 6. Sancred Community Health Services & Hospital

Aiming to provide healthcare services to the community people at reasonable cost, Sancred Community Health Services and Hospital was established in the year of 2008 at Dharargaon, Sunamganj which is later shifted to a new own building in April, 2012.

The hospital is managed by one Manager, 4 doctors, one Assistant Medical Officer, 2 Senior Nurses, 4 Junior Nurses, one pathologist, one X-ray lechnologist and 14 other staff who are assigned for supporting in different sections including guards, Driver for Ambulance.

This hospital is well equipped with laboratory facilities including X-ray and having 10 beds for indoor services. Data shows that the hospital earned total amount of Taka 6, 998,145.00 and spent Taka 16,856,880.00 during the period from April, 2012 to June, 2014. This figure reveals that cost is 41.51% higher compared to income. In case of income received from selling of medicine (Taka 2,489,749.00) is 35.57% and other from indoor and outdoor services. On the other hand most of cost is incurred for the payment of salaries (Taka 1,113,178.00) is 66.05% of total expenditure. If the depreciation of the assets and equipment is charged as it is a standard practice then it will enlarge the gap between income and expenditure. The table below is showing the figure of income and expenditure with status of salary payment.

Year	Income	Expenditure	Payment of salary
2012	1,472,340	5,359,121	3,367,542
2013	3,739,287	7,976,150	5,458,656
2014	1,786,518	3,521,609	2,308,980

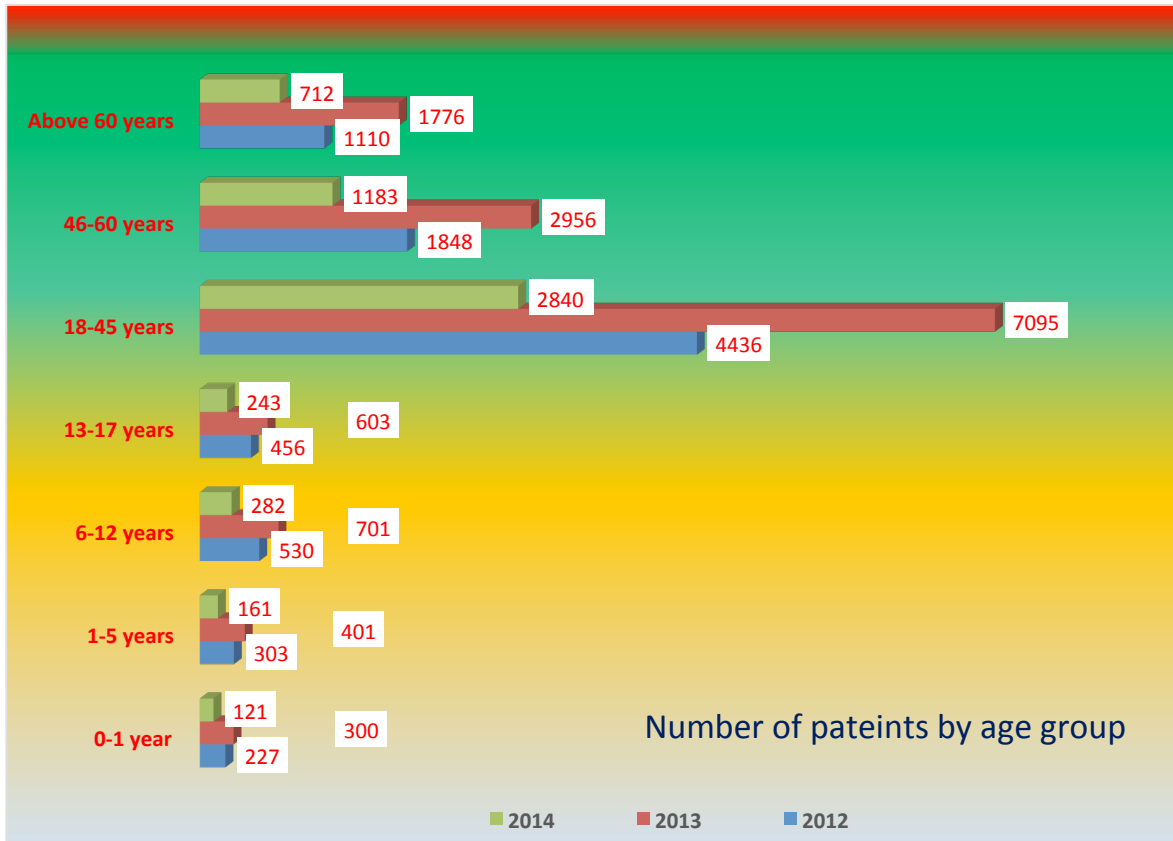
The above figures clearly showing the differences of income and expenditure trend of the hospital. MTE team dedicated its attention to assess the sustainability of the Sacred Hospital in terms of capacity and recruitment of medical personnel, financial sustainability, and health care access at community level. As mentioned in the ToR, it is also important to look in to the extent of hospital capacity in ensuring low cost health service for especially vulnerable target groups.

While considering the element of sustainability, no one will debate the issue of self-financed management of hospital. It would be feasible in any definition that subsidized services will be continued for long time. However, solution in one option that the hospital should be well functioned with its own income.

Huge amount spending for salary and less income from indoor and outdoor services is question. SWF management should decide whether the hospital will operate with subsidy or will move forward toward sustainability with its own earning ensuring as self-financing health service providing unit.



Figure of service recipient's shows that most of the patients are from the age group of 18-45 years and women patients are quite high. The hospital provided treatment facilities from all ages of people. Record shows that from 0 months to above 60 years old patients took healthcare services. Following graph is presenting the age wise distribution of patients who took services from the hospital during the period from 2012 to June 2014.



The data reveals that morbidity of children and adolescents are comparatively lower than higher age groups which show a positive outcome of health and hygiene awareness and behavioral changes. For this positive results role of staff and community should be recognized as this is really encouraging improvement of health status of young communities.

MTE also emphasizing the need of HR audits whether current manpower is underutilized or their skills is not adequate in managing the hospital. There is scope for self-reliant through proper utilization of skills in increasing services and controlling of budget. It would be a prime task of SWF authority to dedicate their attention in improving overall situation if the objective of sustainability will get priority.

## 7. Relevance and Design

### 7.1 Relevance

Addressing poverty and promoting prosperity among the poor and disadvantaged people of Bangladesh requires not only improvements of their economic situation but also their empowerment to demand and effectively access social services. A higher income only results in improved wellbeing if it is combined with access to income opportunities and services in healthcare, nutrition, education, water and sanitation. Poverty persists and social disparity continues to increase particularly in rural poverty pockets due to the lack of access to markets, social exclusion and remoteness. Around 60 million – over one-third of the population – are still food-insecure. More than half of the infant mortality is due to malnutrition and diseases. About 10 million of the poor survive somehow by their own, without any assistance from the public sector or NGOs, and often without benefiting from services from the private sector. Over the last two or more decades, the human and economic development of the poor and disadvantaged has often been addressed through livelihood approaches.

In this context there can be little disagreement on the relevance of the Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) in terms of its scope given the specific problems facing Bangladesh. Conceptually, project design interventions address the issues that plague the haor region of the country - the lack of food security, malnutrition and susceptibility to disasters, nutrition, gender disparity etc. However, the strategy falls short in its operational/implementation modality.

This is particularly critical given the very positive experience that other poverty alleviation projects and microfinance funding in general have had with respect to the sectors that ICDP implemented.

Considering the reality of more than half year water logging and land distribution pattern including land holdings by the poor and marginal families off farm activities could be more relevant which is not very common, the formation of beneficiary group; POs by sector is found to be successful steps in mobilizing the community which allows them in participation in the project interventions but poorly achieved the overall objectives. This has been further constrained by the restriction that support for off farm activities is to be limited to the severely vulnerable areas.

## 7.2 Efficiency

The systematic approach of a combined formulation of the project activities with the active participation of the communities has been the first step. This succeeded in energizing and developing a degree of ownership of the program for each POs as its own. A uniform organizational structure with adequate numbers of relatively qualified and experienced staff have been supported the implementation of the project as found satisfactory. Structured M&E system is not found better which could aim to monitor and ensure that the program is being implemented in a logical manner. From the support of M&E attempts to ensure the maintenance of a high degree of implementation efficiency.

One of the element of livelihood improvement through Market Systems Development approach can lead to increase harnessing of the public and private sector working in its own economic interest (increased markets and/or supplies from the poor) to reduce poverty. Local Service Providers through engagement of relevant individual like lead farmers, main market actors, linking with private sector, as it synchronizes its profit incentives with that of the development goals, may have successful in improving not only the service quality and service delivery to the poor, but also the technical know-how of business/livelihood of the poor – all resulting in poor's increased income and employment. And thus increase income may lead to affordability in health, education, reduction of gender inequality, early marriage, early dropout from schools and many others hindrance of the poverty trap. ICDP imparted training to the staff on different courses including PRA, PSP, leadership development, accounts management, advocacy and networking and completed all the courses during the 1<sup>st</sup> span of project life which ultimately helped in discharging their duties in providing relevant services to the communities.

In some FGD sessions participants highly appreciated the services they received so far but the question is whether it would contribute to sustainability or not. In one sentence it would difficult to draw a conclusion but the development of LSPs and their current status of services that provided among the service recipients could not satisfy the MTE team for which it is recommending to revise the strategy of developing LSPs provision for market oriented and market based LSPs that will work beyond the withdrawal of ICDP support.

For the hospital management special attention is needed for reviewing entire operations to find the tailback because after operation of two and half years it financial situation is found as vulnerable. What will happen if the funding stopped by the management?

### **7.3 Effectiveness**

Effectiveness denotes to what extent major relevant objectives of the interventions have been achieved or is expected to attain in a sustainable way and with a positive institutional developmental impact. As the project locations is hard-to-reach areas with high levels of poverty and exclusion, the ICDP project could plan for carrying out and facilitate win-win linkages between producers (poor and marginal beneficiary family) and local small to mid-sized enterprises which tend to better understand the needs and demands of the poor and disadvantaged. Without having the commercially viable solution, LSPs will have little or no interest in facilitation of market linkages, both in input supply and buy back. The project could focus on demand and supply side interventions facilitate improved access of the producers to micro-credits and linking with capital support services. It is evident from experiences that many project used to achieve the quantitative target with less emphasis on its long-term solution which is ultimately not worked after end of the project support.

It appears from the study findings that, significant development has been made in training and demonstration and motivated direct and indirect beneficiaries but need more focus on each component.

The crucial success of the projects is awareness building and also women empowerment. Though some changes is observed in empowering women members through inclusion in POs, violence against women, early marriage, family decision making, conflict management and dowry but achievement of livelihood improvement through creating opportunities of alternative income options is not much encouraging.

Effectiveness can be seen as increasing access and affordability of the poor people through project interventions which is visible and works alone with less supervision. The total increase in production both in farm based IGAs and Off-farm IGAs is likely to increase the months of adequate food supplies and reach the targeted increase in the number of months of food provisioning. Along with this increased production the increased participation of women in agriculture particularly in homestead vegetable gardening which is almost entirely for own consumption is likely to make the prospects for achieving targets of increasing income and nutritional intake. The additional prospect of the growth in fish production provides supporting evidence and strengthens the prospects of an improvement in the average diet diversity score. FGD discussions did indicate a degree of easing of the period of food shortage since project beneficiaries started participating in the project. They were more forthcoming with respect to the aspect that their intake of vegetables had increased thus providing improvement in their dietary diversity. The farmers have access to purchasing quality seed and using farming practices that facilitate the adoption of technologies, the prospect of reaching the increased gross margin appears to be very bright which need more attention.

## **8. Sustainability**

It is too early to mention about the sustainability but SWF management should re-design some activities like viable solutions of LSPs, creating alternative income opportunities both for women and men, more participation of women in decision making in the family and community (POs), registration of all POs, generate more savings fund, provision of investment, creating visible access to public and private services etc. Resource endowment barriers such as limited land access and/or available family labor can be overcome to a considerable extent by the introduction of new crops, technology and market oriented producer groups. The improvements in food availability and incomes once achieved, even in a small way, are the best guarantors for sustainability as farmers tend to ensure their gains. These can be further strengthened by facilitating links between producers and MFIs. Institutionally, the identification of lead farmer who may be supported by technical officials of the Government and connected to private service providers (for inputs and outputs) will provide sustainability and an exit strategy for ICDP.

### **Voice of the people who gave some suggestions summarized from the FGD**

- The people's organizations should be more planned and organized both economically and organizationally.
- Community capacity should be enhanced and each organization should have economic project.
- Time span of the project should be expanded so that the groups can be more planned and organized.
- One lawyer should be appointed in the project on permanent basis.
- To ensure the registration of the Peoples Organizations;
- To organize regular meeting with the primary groups and the people's organizations; to develop the capacity of people's organizations through higher training; to give much importance on IGA and arrange fund for the sustainability of the project.
- To provide training counseling and training to the illiterate farmers; need more appropriate training; to manage card; subsidy and seeds for poor farmers as every farmers do not get those.
- The project should be supported with various kinds of training courses; it should support more marginalized peoples; it should extend computer training; it should enhance leadership training.
- Occupation based training should be for 15 days; needs refresher training; more people should be trained;
- More good medical equipment is needed; hospital should be modern; services to the most vulnerable people should be increased; to organize courses on nursing; the project should be continued for the development of the hospital.
- The primary groups should be more stronger; to create fund for the primary group; to ensure regular monthly meeting; to update papers and documents and write resolutions on regular basis.
- The group members should be trained up on organizational management; who to maintain accounts and other papers and documents. The group

members should be trained up on the importance of group; its dynamism and sustainability

- Need occupation based training; the duration of the training courses should be longer; honorarium of the training courses may be increased and finally support services should be strengthen
- The adolescent group should have specific sitting/ meeting place.
- They need various kinds of need based training.
- To ensure about the sustainability of the adolescent group.
- Counseling with the local government, engaged Civil Society People in this program.
- The poor people are unable to bear the transport and food expenses to attend in the meeting and the communication are not yet developed in comparison with other parts of the country. It wastes time during the way to travel due to unavailability of proper communication system
- Establishing link among other development agencies who are involved in development activities in this areas.

The above section is presented without any changes which can be accepted as recommendations from the different groups, LSPs, beneficiaries, elites, media personalities and staff.

## **9. Recommendations**

Sancred Welfare Foundation (SWF) has long experience in working with community people in poverty prone district of Sunamganj. The project Integrated Community Development project has been implementing since 2012 for a period of 5 years and this MTE carried out at the mid-way of the project to learn its current situation aiming to learn its overall performance. The project designed to provide scope of target beneficiary to achieve secured livelihood, health, education for the poor and marginalized people of Sunamganj, ensure environmental sustainability of the area and a more equitable society.

In the above section of the report narrated elaborately on the findings of the evaluation and following are the major recommendations for consideration and taking further actions.

It may be noted that people's perception is noted in last part of the report which need due attention of SWF.

1. The issue of livelihood security should be defined as access, affordability and utilization in food and overall livelihood situation.
2. Demand based skill development training and services for increasing income through proper initiative in participation of community need to be undertaken.

3. Commercially viable solutions of LSPs in win-win situation to be in place through establishment of linkages with public, private and individual actors of different sector such as DAE, DLS, DoF, Health, Youth development and other NGOs working in the area.
4. Women participation in the income generation especially through home based off-farm activities may be introduced.
5. LSPs should be integrated effectively for ensuring forward and backward linkages.
6. An exit plan to be in place at the beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> year of the project where community and POs role should be clearly defined.
7. Gradually project support need to be reduced through discharging role of project staff in facilitation and promotional support.
8. Registration of the POs should be obtained through regulatory body.
9. Skills of POs in management and taking control over their own activities should be designed and necessary training should be given for effective functioning.
10. Building of ownership attitude of target beneficiaries and neighboring communities should be taken in to consideration for sustainability.
11. Hospital management issues to be assessed thoroughly as this need re-arrangement for making a self-financed health service provider.
12. Necessary steps to be taken for working an impendent platform of community and role of People's organization should be well defined and understood by the members to develop proactive attitude and their ownership of program are essential elements of sustainability.
13. It is also recommending that Program-wise Committees formed at each Unit levels should be strengthened further with ownership; so that these committees are able to continue the responsibility of ICDP by themselves, when external donor support will be terminated.
14. Improve SWF/ICDP MIS urgently. MTE Team strongly recommends to improve SWF/ICDP MIS reports is urgently need to help the Executive Board to make Strategic decisions on projects, including the ICDP.

The evaluation team suggests to organize a discussion session with all concern staff and management to review the report carefully to understand the findings/observations which will lead them to decide the immediate actions and priority works.

However it is emphasizing by MTE team to put utmost attention on the following areas.

- Demand based skill development training and services for increasing income through proper initiative in participation of community need to be undertaken.
- Commercially viable solutions of LSPs in win-win situation to be in place through establishment of linkages with public, private and individual actors of different sector such as DAE, DLS, DoF, Health, Youth development and other NGOs working in the area.

- Hospital management issues to be assessed thoroughly as this need re-arrangement for making a self-financed health service provider.
- Necessary steps to be taken for working an impendent platform of community and role of People's organization should be well defined and understood by the members to develop proactive attitude and their ownership of program are essential elements of sustainability.
- Skills of POs in management and taking control over their own activities should be designed and necessary training should be given for effective functioning.

## Conclusion

MTE has been carried out rigorous assessment through active participation of community people and staff to understand a wide range of stakeholder's perspectives and their needs in the context of Sunamgonj, this conclusion is clear - the **success** of the ICDP is being demonstrated through their efforts. Impacts of education and support for health, livelihood, gender and human rights are clearly visible and valued at the member and community levels. Numbers of activities carried out to achieve the defined goal of the project but some more work to be done in upcoming years for a visible impact in the target areas.

The MTE team is happy to note that ICDP trainings are addressing various needs of life-skills required by the group members. Secured livelihood would not be possible until the family members have enough opportunity in earning throughout the year. Agricultural and non-agricultural activities would bring more benefits. Training and in some cases refresher training to be given where it is necessary and sector wise plan for efficient management is solicited from the management.