



STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SDLG) IN BANGLADESH

QUARTERLY PROGRESS PERFORMANCE REPORT— NO. 10

JULY 2014

This report was prepared for the United States Agency for International Development
It was prepared by Tetra Tech ARD

This report has been prepared for the United States Agency for International Development, under USAID Contract Number EPP-I-00-04-00035-00, Order Number AID-388-TO-11-00001.

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**STRENGTHENING
DEMOCRATIC LOCAL
GOVERNANCE (SDLG)
PROGRAM IN BANGLADESH
QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE PROGRESS
REPORT—NO. 10: APRIL 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2014**

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CONTENTS

- ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS..... ii**
- 1.0 INTRODUCTION..... 1**
- 2.0 SDLG PROGRESS BY COMPONENT AND TASK AREAS2**
 - 2.1 COMPONENT 1: ROLES AND AUTHORITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.....2
 - MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN BRIEF2
 - ACHIEVEMENTS BY WORK PLAN TASK AREAS.....3
 - 2.1.1 Task 1: National Conferences on LG Policy and Practice3
 - 2.2 COMPONENT 2: TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS3
 - MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN BRIEF3
 - ACHIEVEMENTS BY WORK PLAN TASK AREAS.....5
 - 2.2.1 Approach to Component 2.....5
 - 2.2.2 Task 1 – Improve LGU Management Performance.....5
 - 2.2.3 Task 2 – Enhance LGU – Sector Collaboration for Service Delivery6
 - 2.3 COMPONENT 3 – CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING6
 - MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN BRIEF6
 - ACHIEVEMENTS BY WORK PLAN TASK AREAS.....7
 - 2.3.1 Approach to Component 3.....7
 - 2.3.2 Task 1 – Improve Citizen Participation in Local Governance.....7
 - 2.3.3 Task 2 – Increase Citizen Oversight of LGUs and Sector Service Delivery 8
- 3.0 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND APPROACHES9**
 - 3.1 LINKING SDLG WITH USAID’S SECTOR PROGRAMS9
 - 3.3 COMMUNICATION10
 - 3.3 GENDER AND YOUTH11
- 3.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)..... 12**
 - MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN BRIEF12
- Annexes 1 to 9 Presented as Attachments 13**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BUPF	Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum
CiG	Citizens-in-Governance forum
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
FtF	Feed the Future
GCC	Global Climate Change
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
LG	Local Government
LGD	Local Government Division of MLGRD
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAB	Municipal Association of Bangladesh
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PNGO	Partner Nongovernmental Organization
SDLG	Strengthening Democratic Local Governance Program
UDCC	Union Development Coordination Committee
UP	Union Parishad
US	Unnayan Shamannay
UZP	Upazila Parishad
UZPAB	Upazila Parishad Association of Bangladesh
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Strengthening Democratic Local Governance in Bangladesh (SDLG) Project as extended is a 51-month activity (December 2010–March 2015) funded by the United State Agency for International Development’s Bangladesh Mission (USAID/Bangladesh). Building on more than a decade’s worth of local government strengthening programs in Bangladesh, the SDLG Project combines a focus on research and policy advocacy, capacity development for local government associations, and training and technical assistance for local government units at union parishad, upazila parishad, and pourashava levels. Tetra Tech ARD is the implementing partner for the SDLG Project

Major SDLG Project objectives are to:

- **Expand the roles and authorities of local governments:** Stimulate evidence-based policy dialogue at the national level, test/disseminate innovative practices and partnerships with local governments, and demonstrate the benefits to policymakers;
- **Strengthen and expand the capacity of local government associations (ended December 2013):** Work with the existing union and municipal local government associations – the Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF) and Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB), respectively -- to articulate emerging policy dialogue issues and advocate for legal and policy reform on behalf of their constituencies, and strengthen their member communications and financial sustainability. We will also help form a unified association of upazilas, the Upazila Parishad Association of Bangladesh (UzPAB);
- **Improve and expand the service delivery and resource mobilization of local government units:** Work to expand existing capacities of Union Parishads (UPs) and municipalities. We will also help the newly forming Upazila-level governments to understand and utilize their service delivery and resource mobilization authorities; as we do this, we will support elected women officials at all local levels by clarifying roles and responsibilities and strengthening their capacities; and
- **Ensure public participation, accountability and transparency in local government finances and decision making:** Increase the participation of citizens, including women and youth, through citizen participation forums, newly legislated Ward Committees, Open Budget meetings and activated Standing Committees and other local participatory strategies.

Our technical strategy involves building on USAID/Bangladesh’s history of local governance support programs; linking with USAID/Bangladesh’s and other donor’s programs; integrating global and local lessons learned and proven tools for successful and sustainable local governance programming; identifying, developing and demonstrating to local governments innovative practices to improve performance; integrating gender and youth concerns across the SDLG program while supporting women’s participation; and acquiring, developing and disseminating through multiple media information on the SDLG and local governments in Bangladesh.

Extension Year Work Plan Activities and Collaboration with Presidential Initiatives

This report is organized to provide information on project performance in relationship to the Extension Year Work Plan. It is organized according to the Extension Year Components, subsidiary Task Areas and proposed Activities under each Task Area, and so differs substantially from Progress Reports 1 to 9 for 2011 to March 2014. In this extension year, SDLG is providing support to USAID objectives under its Presidential Initiatives including GHI (Global Health Initiative), FtF (Feed the Future) and (GCC) Global Climate Change – linking USAID sector project activities in health, agriculture, human rights and also climate change to local government structures to improve their effectiveness and sustainability.

2.0 SDLG PROGRESS BY COMPONENT AND TASK AREAS

2.1 COMPONENT 1: ROLES AND AUTHORITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN BRIEF

In the extension period, this Component features research and advocacy events designed to support detailed understanding by relevant Government of Bangladesh (GoB) officers and development partners of the role of upazila and union councils and their standing committees in improving GoB delivered sector services. Activities also identify pending policy reforms needed to support effective functioning of elected council oversight of such services. Case studies focusing on health, agriculture, human rights and climate change related services are featured. Activities under this component are conducted under a grant cost extension approved for SDLG research partner Unnayan Shamannay (US) for the 2014-15 extension year.

Major Achievements

- **National Conference on Upazila Policy and Practice** – In late June, SDLG research partner US conducted a national conference titled ‘Upazila Parishad Governance to Improve Service Delivery. US presented research on Bhairab Upazila Parishad including case study examples of service delivery improvements resulting from functioning upazila standing committees. More detail is provided below. The Bhairab Upazila Parishad and several UPs in the upazila received training from SDLG. GoB participants included the State Minister of Finance and Planning, the Deputy Secretary of the LGD, and an officer from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, in addition to the Bhairab Upazila Parishad members, donor representatives, civil society and the print and electronic media. The conference received excellent press coverage from both English and Bangla dailies with articles featuring a key pending policy reform on fiscal transfer. (An opinion editorial from Bangladesh’s largest English language daily is attached as **Annex 1.**) The State Minister committed to expedite the policy reform in question, which would transfer fiscal resources to upazila councils.
- **Research Product on Upazila Policy and Practice** – Also in late June, coinciding with the national conference, research partner US released a 40-page booklet in Bangla and English on the same topic . The booklet describes in detail the findings of US research on Bhairab Upazila investigating whether a UZP can function effectively in improving services to citizens under current laws, policies and practices. The product is designed to influence policy makers in the LGD and other sectoral ministries as well as local government representatives and bureaucrats. A PDF copy of the English-language research product is attached as **Annex 2.**

Major Challenge

The major challenge under this component was the short period of time available to conduct research due to delays caused from political unrest accompanying staggered February to April upazila elections.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY WORK PLAN TASK AREAS

2.1.1 TASK 1: NATIONAL CONFERENCES ON LG POLICY AND PRACTICE

ACTIVITY 1: NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UPAZILA POLICY AND PRACTICE:

Current Status: Completed. SDLG research grantee US presented the results of its study on ‘Upazila Governance to Improve Service Delivery’ in a national conference held at CIRDAP auditorium in late June. US conducted two rounds of research to prepare the study. In the first round, US facilitated a participatory workshop utilizing a scorecard on upazila governance it developed to guide Upazila Parishad members, the UNO and line department officials in health, agriculture and other sectors in a self scoring exercise. In the second round, US researchers verified the basis of the self scores through review of relevant documents, records and in-depth interviews of stakeholders at the upazila and union levels.

The results showed a mismatch between the high self scores and more moderate post-verification scores. However, examples of emerging practices of effective governance were identified with specific cases of improved services in agriculture, health, women’s rights and disaster management/climate change. The Power Point presentation used in this conference is attached as **Annex 3**. As noted above, one of the key policy issues highlighted was a pending policy on transfer of salaries of department service providers to the Parishad. This received excellent press coverage and a commitment by the State Minister for Finance to facilitate its passage.

Program Deliverable -- Research Product – US also released a research product in booklet format describing its findings of US research on Bhairab Upazila to clarify whether an upazila council can function effectively in improving services to citizens under current laws, policies and practices. The booklet has been distributed to policy makers, ministry officials, Upazila and UP representatives, Upazila officials, UNOs, donor partners, rural development and service sector programs, NGOs and the media

ACTIVITY 2: NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ‘BEST PRACTICES’ IN LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Current Status: Planned for Quarter 3.

Program Deliverable -- Research Product - Planned for Quarter 3.

2.2 COMPONENT 2: TRANSPARENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN BRIEF

This Component trains, facilitates, and mentors local government elected representatives in key processes of transparent, accountable and effective governance in 200 LGUs that overlap with the working areas of USAID sector project partners in health, agriculture, human rights and climate change. Consistent with the extension year focus, training is designed to engage sector projects with local government structures in

ways that directly contribute to their sector project implementation and results. Citizens receive corresponding training under Component 4.

SDLG training is delivered in 190 unions (including 13 new sites) and 10 paurashavas by five local partner NGOs retained from SDLG's 2012 to 2013 period of performance.

Major Achievements

- **All 200 LGU Refresher Trainings Completed** – All 200 local government councils and selected CiG representatives received a two-day residential refresher training. For the 13 LGUs that are new in the extension year, this training is the first they have received from SDLG. The training combined modules on three key governance topics with brief presentations by USAID collaborating partner project representatives. However, as noted in the section on Major Challenges below, almost 400 targeted participants did not attend.
- **110 of 200 Standing Committee Trainings Completed** – Standing Committee members in over half the LGUs received training on monitoring of central government services (and oversight of audit and accounts). The trainings featured monitoring formats revised to include additional questions requested by SDLG's collaborating partners. The SC trainings were attended by USAID sector partner staff and in many cases GoB field representatives.
- **SDLG Participation in USAID Gender Fair in Rangpur** – In April, SDLG participated in a three-day Gender Fair organized by the Mission in the northern divisional capital of Rangpur. Staff members at the SDLG booth provided project literature, played educational public service announcements and radio spots, and conducted a quiz on local government for the many university students, youth and others attending the fair. SDLG activities to support women's participation were highlighted including training of women representatives from local government associations, councils, and standing committees in health, agriculture, women and children affairs, and finance.
- **Visit by the US Ambassador to SDLG Field Site** – Also in April, US Ambassador H.E. Dan W. Mozena participated as Chief Guest in an open budget meeting held at Mulia Union Parishad in Jessore District. The Ambassador, among others, spoke to an estimated 300 to 400 citizens who attended the event to hear the budget for the next fiscal year and raise questions about projects recommended at ward planning meetings and selected for implementation with local revenues.

Major Challenges

Fears of Political Harassment - The major challenge under this component was the lack of participation by some council chairs and members in scheduled trainings. In all, almost 400 chairs and members declined to participate in the trainings despite having participated actively in previous sessions in 2012 and 2013 and actively implementing many of the core governance processes taught. Almost all those absent were affiliated with opposition political parties and feared 'political harassment' or worse if they attended trainings.

Many had criminal charges filed against them while others simply feared harassment or abuse by fellow council members and/or members of local political party committees affiliated with the governing party. Some of these chairs and members of BNP cited physical attacks on fellow party members for their reluctance to attend. If possible, SDLG plans to arrange supplementary trainings for these absent participants during the next quarter.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY WORK PLAN TASK AREAS

2.2.1 APPROACH TO COMPONENT 2

FOUNDATIONAL ACTIVITY 1: ORGANIZE PLANNING MEETINGS WITH TARGET LGUS AND CIGS WITH SECTOR PARTICIPATION

Current Status: *Completed previously.* This activity was reported on in the previous quarter.

FOUNDATIONAL ACTIVITY 2: ESTABLISH EXTENSION PERIOD TECHNICAL APPROACH WITH PARTNER NGOS AND USAID SECTOR PROJECT PARTNERS

Current Status: *Completed previously.* This activity was reported on in the previous quarter.

2.2.2 TASK 1 – IMPROVE LGU MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE

ACTIVITY 1: STRENGTHEN LGU MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE THROUGH TARGETED REFRESHER TRAININGS

Current Status: *Completed.* Two-day residential trainings were conducted by SDLG partner NGOs for all 200 LGUs in the extension year project area, including 13 new sites. Training included sessions on the three key governance topics of Financial Management and Revenue Generation, Participatory Planning and Budgeting, and Service Delivery and Monitoring which received extra emphasis due to the 2014 focus on improving sector services with USAID partner projects.

The trainings emphasized areas for improvement based on the two years of performance in the 187 LGUs continuing from SDLG's prior activities and provided a condensed version of key SDLG modules for 13 new LGUs. In addition, the 2014 trainings include brief sessions and introductions to USAID sector project staff working on health (MH-II, NHSDP), human rights (PHR, ACT), agriculture (Agriculture Extension) and climate change (CREL). These trainings were one of several collaborative activities with USAID sector partners designed to introduce them to local government bodies and allow for sector-related outreach and planning for future cooperation.

ACTIVITY 2: DEMAND-DRIVEN FACILITATION AND MENTORING FOR LGUS

Current Status: *Pending.* This activity provides guidance and support for LGUs as they act on and implement the processes taught in the Activity 1 trainings and is scheduled for the next reporting period, Q3 2014.

ABC Grading: However, even during the April to June period, many LGUs made progress in improving their governance processes as measured by SDLG's 17-point ABC grading system. When compared to the end of Q1 2014, many LGUs had advanced from B to A grades during the quarter and a few new LGUs from C to B grades. Especially notable is the advance of 13 unions new to SDLG; one advanced from B to A, and five advanced from C to B during the quarter.

The chart below details the latest ABC ratings for the 200 LGUs and the increase from Q1.

Grade	As of March Q1 2014	As of June Q2 2014	% Change (Q2 – Q1)
A	62.5%	75.5%	+13.0
B	30.0%	21.5%	- 8.5
C	7.5%	3.0%	- 4.5
Total	100%	100%	

ACTIVITY 3: PEER LEARNING FOR NEW LGUS

Current Status: *Ongoing.* In the reporting period, SDLG encouraged peer learning at the secretary level with several cases of Union Parishad secretaries at continuing SDLG unions supporting on-the-job learning of their peers in new SDLG sites. The limited timeframe for training completion made it difficult to convince and schedule acting UP Chairs to serve as resource persons in training sessions. For the coming quarter, peer support from Chairs will again be attempted for additional training sessions to be conducted for the more than 175 union chairs and members (or paurashava mayors and councilors) who did not attend earlier trainings due to fears of political harassment as noted above.

2.2.3 TASK 2 – ENHANCE LGU – SECTOR COLLABORATION FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

ACTIVITY 1: IMPROVE LGU SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH TRAININGS FOR SECTOR STANDING COMMITTEES

Current Status: *Ongoing.* Over half to the 200 extension year LGUs completed training in monitoring of central government services or audit and accounts oversight by the end to the reporting period. The remaining LGUs are expected to receive training early in Q3. New revised monitoring formats were used and sector project staff attended from collaborating partners MH-II, NHSDP, PHR, ACT, Agriculture Extension and CREL. Sector partners used their sessions to answer monitoring questions and to suggest ways in which standing committee members could cooperate to support their project objectives. GoB officers in health, family planning and agriculture also attended many of these trainings. While health and family planning officers participated with the encouragement of partners MH-II and NHSDP active in almost all SDLG LGUs, agriculture officers also participated in most unions, whether the Agriculture Extension project was active or not.

Program Deliverable – Standardized Action Plans. At the end of each training, each sector SC in health, agriculture, women and children affairs, and also audit and accounts developed an action plan with specific dates for the next bi-monthly meeting, monitoring site visit(s) and report submission to the local council. These plans are then revised at each bi-monthly meeting for the next two month period.

ACTIVITY 2: DEMAND-DRIVEN FACILITATION AND MENTORING FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

Current Status: *Pending.* This activity provides guidance and support for Standing Committees as they implement processes taught under Activity 1 and is scheduled for the next reporting period, Q3 2014.

Program Deliverable – Improved Service Delivery. *Pending.*

2.3 COMPONENT 3 – CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN BRIEF

Component 4 activities are delivered in parallel with those under Component 3 and support the effective functioning of the elected council. Citizen mobilization has played an essential role in improving LGU revenue generation, planning and budgeting, and service delivery.

Major Achievements

- **180 of 200 CiG Refresher Trainings Completed** – A total of 180 LGU sites received CiG refresher trainings during the April to June quarter. The remaining 20 are scheduled for completion prior to the Eid holiday at the end of July. Refresher trainings emphasized sustainability of CiG member *activities* with the elected councils and within various LG bodies, rather than the continuation of the CiG as a separate grouping.
- **25% of Folk Dramas Completed** – A new folk drama highlighting the role of council standing committees in improving sector services was performed in 47 of the 200 sites. In nine of these 47 sites, the drama has been performed a second time. As previously, actors were drawn from local councils and citizens and trained by SDLG partner NGOs. The new drama includes references and examples of health, agriculture, women and children, and climate change issues and services.
- **Citizen Participation Costs Included in LGU Budgets** – At the union level, three bodies are the principal mechanisms for citizen participation in council decision making. These are the nine ward *shava* meetings, one union-wide open budget meeting and bi-monthly standing committee meetings. Reports from the field indicate that most LGUs this year included funding for basic expenses related to these three types of meetings in budgets for the next fiscal year from July 2014, a key step for their acceptance and sustainability.

Major Challenges

There were no major challenges under this component during the April to June reporting period.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY WORK PLAN TASK AREAS

2.3.1 APPROACH TO COMPONENT 3

FOUNDATIONAL ACTIVITY 1: ORGANIZE PLANNING MEETINGS WITH TARGET LGUS AND CIGS WITH SECTOR PARTICIPATION

Current Status: *Completed previously.* This activity was reported on in the previous quarter and serves as a foundational activity for extension Component 2 as noted above.

FOUNDATIONAL ACTIVITY 2: ESTABLISH EXTENSION PERIOD TECHNICAL APPROACH WITH PARTNER NGOS AND USAID SECTOR PROJECT PARTNERS

Current Status: *Completed previously.* This activity was reported on in the previous quarter and serves as a foundational activity for extension Component 2 as noted above.

2.3.2 TASK 1 – IMPROVE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

ACTIVITY 1: CITIZENS-IN-GOVERNANCE GROUPS REFRESHER TRAINING

Current Status: *Ongoing.* As noted above, 180 refresher trainings were held during the quarter emphasizing sustainability of CiG member *activities* with councils and LG bodies. Difficulties in scheduling full council membership for LGU trainings, a priority activity, resulted in the postponement of a further 20 CiG trainings till July. SDLG PNGOs discussed the possible phase-out of CiGs as separate groupings now that the objective of integrating CiG members into local government mandated bodies as citizen participants has been achieved. For the many CiGs that wished to continue as separate entities, NGO officers identified sections of relevant law that allow ward *shavas* to constitute subcommittees and

suggested that CiG members from each ward could seek this recognition as a possible alternative. The CiG trainings also included an introduction to the sector collaboration initiative for 2014.

2.3.3 TASK 2 – INCREASE CITIZEN OVERSIGHT OF LGUS AND SECTOR SERVICE DELIVERY

ACTIVITY 1: COMMUNITY DRAMA WITH FOCUS ON STANDING COMMITTEES AND SECTOR ISSUES

Current Status: Ongoing. SDLG’s second folk drama, *A Friendly Football Match*, was performed in 47 or almost 25% of 200 project sites during the quarter, with nine enacting the drama a second time. The drama combines introduces the responsibility of councils and their standing committees in improving services in health, family planning, agriculture, and advancing women’s rights through prevention of child marriage, domestic violence, and trafficking in persons. Climate change and its impact on crop cultivation and natural disasters are also included. The drama also highlights the role of citizens in standing committees’ oversight of services, in its planning decisions through the ward shavas and in its resources mobilization through tax payments. As in 2013, actors were drawn from local councils and citizens and trained by SDLG partner NGOs. An English-language summary script of the folk drama is included as **Annex 4**.

ACTIVITY 2: CITIZEN ‘EYE REPORTING’ BY LOCAL YOUTH VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

Current Status: Ongoing. Building on the success of the customized training provided in 2013 to 48 youth on creation of video documentaries, SDLG’s communication specialist initiated a series of regional workshops in June for a carefully selected set of youth on producing ‘Eye Reports’ with themes drawn from Standing Committee activities and achievements. Most youth in the *Citizen Journalism through Video Reporting* competition were selected by partner NGOs based on SDLG developed selection criteria (see **Annex 5**) from staff of Union Information Service Centres (UISCs), some from CiG youth members, and two from USAID’s Leadership Development Program. Fifteen participants from 2013 were included without having to go through the selection process. One day workshops for 12 to 15 youth each were held in Bogra , Jessore and Dhaka on June 18, 23, 25. Intense remote assistance will be provided by SDLG during the July – August period and the best three videos will receive special awards in September.

3.0 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND APPROACHES

3.1 LINKING SDLG WITH USAID’S SECTOR PROGRAMS

This cross-cutting theme supports SDLG’s extension year objective of demonstrating how the development of effective democratic local governance in Bangladesh, especially by rural union parishads, can contribute to increased effectiveness and sustainability of USAID sector project activities and GoB services in health, agriculture, human rights and climate change. SDLG collaboration with USAID sector projects is helping to build local ownership and actions (and in some cases small contributions of local council resources) that improves sector services and supports locally-identified development priorities. This approach is designed to contribute to IRs under USAID/Bangladesh’s 2011-2016 Results Framework, including IRs under DO2: Food Security Improved and DO3: Health Status Improved. For example, SDLG interventions may support the IR2.1: Sustainably Increased Agricultural Productivity or the IR3.3: Strengthened Health Systems and Governance, among others.

Major Achievements

- **MOUs Signed with Four USAID Sector Projects** – Four MOUs describing the objectives and modes of cooperation between the SDLG Project and MH-II, NHSDP, PHR, and ACT were signed during the quarter at the initiative of USAID partner projects. Results are summarized below.

SL#	Sector Partners	1st Mtg	2nd Mtg	Field Visit	Active in Field	MOU	Remarks
1	ACT	X	X	X	X	MOU signed	Active in field
2	Ag Ext	X	X	X	X	None Planned	Active in field
3	MH - II	X	X	X	X	MOU signed	Active in field
4	NHSDP	X	X	X	X	MOU signed	Active in field
5	PHR	X	X	X	X	MOU signed	Active in field
6	CREL	X	X	X		None Planned	May Dhaka/field visits, five sites identified, joint activities planned
7	MaMoni	X				Unlikely	Pending, limited response after May meeting

Explanations of collaborating projects abbreviations are given below.

- ACT = Action in Combating Trafficking in Persons (Winrock)
- Ag Ext = Agriculture Extension Project (DAM/CARE)
- MH II = Mayer Hashi II Project (Engender Health)
- NHSDP = NGO Health Service Delivery Project (Pathfinder Int'l)
- PHR = Protecting Human Rights Project (Plan Int'l)
- CREL = Climate Resilient Environments and Livelihoods (Winrock)
- MaMoni = Maternal Health Project (Save the Children) – **inactive, pending**

A sample MOU is attached as **Annex 6**. Cooperation continued with Agriculture Extension and was initiated with CREL but no MOUs are planned. In most cases, the MOU signings were preceded by one or two meetings between the respective COPs and Dhaka-based staff, and mutual field visits to identify concrete collaborative activities to positively impact sector project goals.

- **Sector Project Participation in SDLG Trainings, LGU Bodies** – As noted in the sections on Components 2 and 3 above, sector project representatives and in some cases their GoB counterparts (in health and agriculture) participated in SDLG trainings – LGU refresher training, Standing Committee training and CiG refresher training. In addition, some sector projects were present at ward meetings, standing committee meetings or CiG meetings. Sector partners provided briefings on project activities, suggested joint activities or coordination, and importantly, began establishing relationships with these counterparts to build local ownership to improve sector project results.
- **Initial Successes of SDLG Collaboration** – While collaboration has just begun, there have been initial reports of positive results for sector projects. Under the Agriculture Extension project, one farmer producer group (FPG) formed by USAID implementing partner Dhaka Ahasania Mission (DAM) participated in the union's ward meeting and proposed a marketplace for FPG members which was approved and included in the union budget for the coming fiscal year. Under the Mayer Hashi II family planning project, a CiG member referred four women to the local Family Welfare Center (FWC) for LAPM (long acting permanent methods) of birth control and another 20-25 for injections or other semi-permanent methods. A brief case description is attached as **Annex 7**.

3.3 COMMUNICATION

As reported above, folk drama field activities and youth 'eye reporting' are ongoing under Component 3 to promote citizen understanding, participation and inclusion. In addition, SDLG's communication unit completed several significant communications tasks during the April to June period working with local subcontractor UNITREND.

Major Achievements

- **Folk Drama Workshop** – During the April to June period, UNITREND conducted (i) a two-day central script writing workshop with representatives from all 5 SDLG NGO partners and USAID collaborative project partners in health, (ii) a five-day training of trainers (TOT) workshop and (iii) provided guidance on the management and supervision required for successful forum theaters to be organized at 200 locations. Partner NGO provide only technical assistance and facilitation for local non-actors who develop the performance and stage it in front of a large public audience of 200-400 people. The folk drama 'A Friendly Football Match' features the role of councils and standing committees in improving health, agriculture, women's rights and climate change related services.
- **PSA on Standing Committees Created** – Working closely with SDLG's senior field training leaders, local communications subcontractor UNITREND completed draft scripting and development of a public service announcement (PSA) on local standing committees and the role of citizens in their work. Earlier PSAs on ward planning, open budgets and women's leadership were

commented on positively by the LGD joint secretary and task leader for LGSP II, donor partners SDC and JICA, and several USAID collaborating project partners. The new PSA also draws on findings from an earlier *insight mining* study by SDLG identifying the community respect as primary motivator for citizens engaged in such work. Final PSA production of 60 and 40 second spots is to be completed early in the next quarter with airing to follow in September coinciding with the Component 1 national conference. The amount of air time will be subject to available funding.

- **“We are the Government” Strategic Communications Report** – A final version of the full-color pictorial brief documenting key SDLG communication interventions and their support of citizen participation to achieve project objectives was published early in the quarter. Attached as **Annex 8**, this report explains the overall communications strategy, the results of primary communications research based on marketing techniques, and how SDLG developed research-based messaging and delivered this through different media coordinated with field activities to improve project results.

3.3 GENDER AND YOUTH

SDLG continues to promote women and youth participation in local governance through the following: plans for the promotion of gender equity and inclusion of youth in project components include:

- **Citizen in Governance (CiG) Forums Formation:** Women represent 33% or more of the membership of CiG forums, and the percentage of youth aged 25 and younger in CiGs in 2012-13 was 12%.
- **Local Government Unit (LGU) Training:** Each union or municipal council must have at least three representatives elected to seats reserved for women. All SDLG LGU trainings in the reporting period included the full council with these women members attending. Many of these women are also chairs of the local standing committees that are important in improving local service delivery.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** M&E data is collected and disaggregated by gender if applicable and female-only focus groups are formed as part of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey process.

3.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN BRIEF

The first full quarter of the extension year began with two major M&E tasks - approval and application of a new set of extension year Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) indicators, and implementation of an initial Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey.

Major Achievements

- **SDLG PMP Data Collection** – Data collection on SDLG’s new extension year indicators began during the reporting period after development of new data collection formats and training for both SDLG regional and PNGO field staff by the new M&E Specialist. PMP indicator values based on data collection up to June 30, 2014 indicated significant progress towards many of the 13 PMP indicator targets. A PMP chart with the data values for this quarter is attached at **Annex 9**.
- **KAP Field Survey Completed** – From mid-March through April 2014, a KAP survey process was conducted with preparatory sampling design and questionnaire development by the SDLG team under the guidance of the M&E Specialist. SDLG PNGO staff collected and reviewed field survey data, local contractor provided data entry and cleaning services; and SDLG staff performed analysis and report preparation. The initial KAP survey findings will be compared to final KAP survey values to identify progress on core governance processes and more importantly sector service collaboration.
- **GIS Online Map Updated with Final Results** – SDLG regional staff and partner NGOs submitted final reports on LGU progress on 17 ‘outcomes’ or results of 2014 trainings from 198 LGUs. These results were compiled into a GIS database ending May 2014 showing significant progress on results measures. SDLG has submitted the data set to the GIS team at the Tetra Tech ARD home office and an updated online map is available in following link. <http://cdb.io/1kErFCf>

Major Challenges

There were no major challenges during the reporting period.

ANNEXES 1 TO 9 PRESENTED AS ATTACHMENTS