The European Union's Development Cooperation Instrument for Bangladesh

# Establishing Vulnerable Peoples' Rights and Access to Social Safety Net Programmes (EVPRA) Project

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## MIDTERM EVALUATION

This project is implemented by World Vision in collaboration with Pollisree and PUMDO

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# MIDTERM EVALUATION REPORT (July 2018)

## Establishing Vulnerable Peoples' Rights and Access to Social Safety Net Programmes (EVPRA) Project

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## CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS ..... 7
GLOSSARY AND DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS ..... 8
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... 10
2. BACKGROUND OF SSNPS IN THE DISTRICTS DINAJPUR AND JOYPURHAT IN BANGLADESH AND IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS ..... 11
2.1 Introduction ..... 11
2.2 Socio-Economic Condition and Analysis of the Target Districts ..... 12
2.3 Governance and Legislative Framework for SSNPs ..... 13
2.3.1 Introduction ..... 13
2.3.2 An Introduction to EVPRA SSNPs ..... 14
2.3.3 The Legislative Framework Governing the 9 Focus SSNPs ..... 15
2.3.4 The Governance Structure and Mechanisms for SSNP Implementation ..... 17
2.3.5 Challenges and Issues in SSNP Delivery ..... 18
3. STUDY METHODOLOGY ..... 19
3.1 Background ..... 19
3.1.1 EVPRA Project ..... 19
3.1.2 Rationale for mid-term evaluation ..... 19
3.1.3 Objectives ..... 19
3.2 Introduction ..... 20
3.3 Methodology ..... 20
3.3.1 Desk Review ..... 21
3.3.2 Sampling: Strategies and Design ..... 22
3.4 Data Analysis Plan ..... 23
3.5 Limitations of the Study ..... 24
4. MID-TERM EVALUATION FINDINGS ..... 25
4.1 Profile of Sampled Households ..... 25
4.2 Midterm evaluation findings on project results, specific objectives and overall objectives ..... 33
5. CONCLUSIONS ..... 57
6. RECOMMENDATIONS: ..... 62
7. LIST OF REFERENCES: ..... 65
8. ANNEXURE ..... 66

## List of Tables

Table 1: Demography, poverty and education in Dinajpur and Joypurhat ---------- 13

Table 2: SSNPs schemes' coverage and outlay ---------- 15

Table 3: Implementation structure and duties of officials ---------- 17

Table 4: Comparative Sample summary of Quantitative survey ---------- 22

Table 5: Comparative Sample summary of qualitative survey ---------- 22

Table 6: Demography of sampled household (HHs) ---------- 25

Table 7: Educational attainments in sampled HHs ---------- 25

Table 8: Socio-economic profile of HHs ---------- 26

Table 9: Proportion of HHs above/below averages ---------- 27

Table 10: Landholding Pattern disaggregated ---------- 28

Table 11: Demographic details of households – upazila wise ---------- 29

Table 12: Members in HHs - Upazila wise ---------- 29

Table 13: whether received any training from CSOs ---------- 35

Table 14: Source of Information on SSNPs (% of respondents) ---------- 36

Table 15: Knowledge on SSNP segregated by sex and ethnicity ---------- 40

Table 16: Approached local government representatives directly for either help or information ---------- 40

Table 17: Outcome of approaching local government officials ---------- 41

Table 18: Assessment of capacity challenges on a scale (1: Very good – 5: Very bad) ---------- 43

Table 19: Description of parameters and scales deployed ---------- 43

Table 20: Awareness of eligibility criteria for SSNPs ---------- 44

Table 21: Awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism ---------- 45

Table 22: Access to specific SSNP schemes (baseline vs. midterm evaluation) ---------- 47

Table 23: Access to specific SSNP schemes (by Upazila) ---------- 47

Table 24: Satisfaction with SSNP delivery ---------- 49

Table 25: Respondents' satisfaction with various parameters of SSNPs ---------- 51

Table 26: Satisfaction with parameters of SSNPs across upazilas (Midterm value) ---------- 52

Table 27: Satisfaction with selected parameters of SSNP by gender and ethnic identity ---------- 54

Table 28: Awareness Building Target for Beneficiaries ---------- 54

Table 29: Summary of attainment of project results and objectives, to date ---------- 57

Table 30: Table of Recommendations ---------- 60

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Overall research approach and methodology of the study ---------- 21

Figure 2: Triangulation of data and information ---------- 23

Figure 3: Contribution of SSNP allowances at Baseline and Midterm Study ---------- 27

Figure 4: Homestead land Pattern in terms of ownership ---------- 28

Figure 5: Occupation of sampled HHs (%)---------- 30

Figure 6: Incidence of Natural Disaster within the last five years ---------- 31

Figure 7: Eeffects of natural disaster ---------- 31

Figuire 8: Access to Communication Assets (All households) ---------- 32

Figure 9: Theory of Change Indicators ---------- 33

Figure 10: whether awareness programmes conducted in community ---------- 37

Figure 11: Whether Representative in Local Govt. Committee ---------- 39

Figure 12: Reason for not availing SSNPs ---------- 48

Figure 13: Summary of Current Status of Theory of Change Indicators ---------- 56

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| AFID | Allowances for Financially Insolvent and Disabled |
| AWDD | Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute Women |
| BBS | Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics |
| BDHS | Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey |
| BNP | Bangladesh Nationalist Party |
| CBO | Community Based Organization |
| CCT | Conditional cash transfers |
| CFW | Cash for Work |
| CHT | Chittagong Hill Tract |
| CP | Child Protection |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| CSPro | Census Survey Processing System |
| DFID | Department for International Development |
| DPEO | District Primary Education Officer |
| DRRO | District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer |
| ED | Executive Director |
| EU | European Union |
| EVPRA | Establishing Vulnerable Peoples' Rights and Access |
| FFW | Food for Work |
| FGD | Focused Group Discussion |
| FSSAP | Female Secondary School Assistance Programme |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GNI | Gross National Income |
| GOB | Government of Bangladesh |
| HDI | Human Development Index |
| HH | Household |
| HIES | Household Income and Expenditure Survey |
| ILO | International Labor Organization |
| KII | Key Informant Interview |
| LA | Local Authorities |
| LDC | Least Developed Country |
| LFS | Labor Force Survey |
| MIS | Management Information System |
| MFI | Microfinance Institution |
| MOE | Margin of Error |
| MP | Member of Parliament |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NSSS | National Social Security Strategy |
| NWDP | National Women Development Policy |
| OAA | Old Age Allowance |
| PIO | Programme Implementation Officer |
| PMIU | Project Management Implementation Unit |
| PSEP | Primary Education Stipend Project |

| | |
|---|---|
| PUMDO | Peoples Union of the Marginalized Development Organization |
| SHG | Self-help Group |
| SSNP | Social Safety Net programme |
| UNDP | United Nation Development Programme |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNO | Upazila Nirabhi Officer |
| UP | Union Parishad |
| UPEO | Upazila Primary Educational Officer |
| UPZ | Upazila Parishads |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VGD | Vulnerable Group Development Programme |
| VGF | Vulnerable Group Feeding |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WV | World Vision |

## GLOSSARY AND DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

**Ethnic Minority**
A group of people who, because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from the others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination. Further it can be defined as a group within a community which has different national or cultural traditions from the main population (The community who has distinct livelihood system, socio-economic system and distinctive identity than main stream people of a country).

**Religious Minority**
People belonging to religious minorities have a faith which is different from that held by the majority. Most countries of the world have religious minorities.

**Vulnerable Group:**
The term 'vulnerable groups' is often used interchangeably with the term 'disadvantaged groups'. Vulnerable groups generally include children, ethnic groups/minorities, and persons with a limited lifespan, persons suffering from dementia, persons with mental disorders, abusers of drugs and alcohol and persons with disabilities.
Further, here in midterm, vulnerable groups include those group who are in danger or at risk or being neglected because of their religious identity, sex, ethnic minority, disability to support themselves and they should be taken under the various support provided by the government.

**Beneficiary and Non-Beneficiary**
A beneficiary in the broadest sense is a natural person or other legal entity who receives money or other benefits from a benefactor. In this analysis, beneficiary has been meant those who are availing one of the SSNPs scheme. On the other hand, non-beneficiary group is those who do not avail any of SSNPs Schemes.

**Awareness**
Knowledge that something exists, or understanding of a situation or subject at the present time based on information or experience. Here awareness about SSNPs is considered as having the knowledge about the schemes, selection criteria, 9 schemes of SSNP, eligibility criteria including right to access of SSNPs as a citizen of a country.

**Governance**
In the context of development, governance refers to the act of governing/running a scheme, programme, policy or such like to the targeted population as laid out in its principles in a manner in which its intended developmental objectives are achieved. Examples of mal-governance include corruption, nepotism, favouritism, lack of transparency/accountability and poor quality, among others.

**Access**
In general terms, access to anything means the entrance to any services or anything that might be easy or difficult as a part of human rights of a country. Here, specifically in this midterm study, access to SSNPs include the entrance of the eligible persons to any of the 9 schemes of SSNP through applying in a legal way for availing any of SSNP schemes.

**Satisfaction level**
Satisfaction level includes that a level of pleasant feeling that someone gets when he receives something he wanted, or when he has done something he wanted to do. In addition, here in midterm satisfaction level describes the level of expression of pleasant feeling to receive, access and delivery of SSNPs by the state. Generally refers to the degree of happiness regarding a service/product benchmarked against the expectation of the user. Satisfaction is a qualitative term and is generally mapped on degree or extent (i.e. on a scale).

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Establishing Vulnerable Peoples Rights and Access to Social Safety Net Programmes (EVPRA) project, a four-year grant project funded by the European Union, has been implemented in the Districts of Joypurhat and Dinajpur in Rajshahi and Rangpur Divisions, respectively, in Northern Bangladesh since January 2016. EVPRA is being implemented by World Vision in partnership with Pollisree and PUMDO (Peoples Union of the Marginalized Development Organization), and in close collaboration with local civil society organisations (CSOs), communities and government.

The overall objective of EVPRA is to empower CSOs working for the rights and development of ethnic minority groups, local authorities and communities, to promote the most vulnerable peoples' social development through access to Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNPs) in five sub-districts and two districts in Rajshahi Division and Rangpur Division, Bangladesh. The expected outcomes of the project are the strengthening of organisational capacity and sustainability of targeted local CSOs, promotion of transparency and accountability of existing government SSNPs, and an increase in the number of vulnerable people accessing to SSNPs from the government.

The purpose of the midterm evaluation is to gauge the achievement of the EVPRA project objectives and expected results in comparison with the baseline study, in order to measure the extent to which the project is progressing towards its targets. It also intends to identify limitations, lesson learnt and outcomes according to its logical framework in the context of the current socio-economic, political and government situation and position. Specifically, this midterm evaluation measures the progress of the project towards the overall objectives, three specific objectives and expected results mentioned in the Logical Framework. Midterm evaluation findings were gathered through a survey, secondary data review, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and case studies. These findings are compared with those of the baseline, CSOs capacity assessment report, as well as with national and district-level data, where available. It provides actionable recommendations for the next two years that will support the project in the delivery of sustainable benefits to the target communities.

Results of the midterm evaluation indicate that, overall, the EVPRA project is progressing toward fully achieving its expected results, specific objectives and overall objectives. Of its nine expected results, three are fully achieved, five are partially achieved, and one is difficult to accurately assess because of inadequately defined indicators or absence of a quantified target (even if there are tangible outcomes for the two expected results). Furthermore, one of the four specific objectives has been achieved, and the other three partially achieved. Most importantly, one of the two overall objectives has been achieved, and the other partially achieved.

A brief summary of achievements of specific and overall objectives is as follows:

- Specific Objective 1 (at least 20% of CSOs with improved organisational and management capacity at the end of the project): at midterm evaluation, 50% of targeted CSOs are exhibiting improved organisational and management capacity
- Specific Objective 2.1 (vulnerable people with increased knowledge of target SSNPs, specifically 10% with knowledge of eligibility criteria and 60% with knowledge of grievance and redress mechanisms by the end of the project): increase in awareness of the eligibility criteria for SSNPs between baseline and mid-term evaluation, i.e., from 74.2% to 78.3%; increase in awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism from baseline to midterm evaluation, i.e., 12.3% to 55.3%
- Specific Objective 2.2 (at least three mechanisms that enable vulnerable communities to voice concerns on SSNP delivery by the end of the project): to date, three mechanisms in place, namely: 146 complaint or suggestion boxes placed in CSOs and Union Parishads; one dedicated phone number across the CSOs; beneficiary list posted in the display board of one Union Parishad; complaint response committee formed in one Union Parishad
- Specific Objective 3 (20% of vulnerable people with access to SSNPs by the end of the project): At baseline, only 5.3% of households who availed of at least one of the nine SSNPs targeted by the EVPRA project increased from 5.3% at baseline to 50.58% at the time of the midterm evaluation

- Overall Objective 1 (20% of target population satisfied with the delivery of SNNPs by the end of the project): increase in overall satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs from 79.1% at baseline to 93.0% during midterm evaluation
- Overall Objective 2 (at least 3 policy, system, structure, practice or programmatic changes to improve access to SSNPs by the most vulnerable people): EVPRA project signed MOU with the Right to Food (RtF) Coalition team to organize an advocacy programme to change policy at the national level; Government of Bangladesh increased the budgetary allocation for SSNPs, and relevant policy is being amended to reduce leakage; also, it took the decision to involve municipality level primary schools in the Primary Education Stipend Programme (PESP)

Prevalence rates for a number of Expected Results and Specific Objectives vary according to gender, ethnic identity or being a SSNP beneficiary. For instance, outcomes for female respondents and ethnic minority households for three Expected Rand one Specific Objective are similar to the outcomes of their male and non-ethnic minority counterparts. For another Specific Objective and one Overall Objective, there is no significant difference in SSNP access between female and male respondents; on the other hand, there is significant difference in satisfaction with SSNP delivery between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, as well as between ethnic and non-ethnic minority households.

# 2. BACKGROUND OF SSNPS IN THE DISTRICTS DINAJPUR AND JOYPURHAT IN BANGLADESH AND IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

## 2.1 Introduction

According to the findings of HIES 2016, poverty reduced substantially between2010-2016. In 2010 the poverty head count rate, using upper poverty line, was 31.5% which reduced to 24.3% in 2016. Using lower poverty line head count ratio also reduced, it was 17.6% in 2010 which reduced to 12.9% in 2016. The poverty gap which measures depth of poverty using upper poverty line was 6.5% in 2010 which reduced to 5.0% in 2016, again the poverty gap using lower poverty line reduced from 3.1% in 2010 to 2.3% in 2016. The squared poverty gap (severity of poverty) using upper poverty line was 2.0% in 2010 which reduced to 1.5% in 2016. The same using lower poverty line was 0.8% in 2010 which reduced to 0.6% in 2016. There exists wide variation in poverty incidence in quarters of the year and also among districts of the country. The survey findings show that poverty incidence using lower poverty line, the poverty rate in 31 districts is above national average (12.9%) and using upper poverty line the poverty incidence of 36 districts is above national average (24.3%). (Source: HIES-2016)

In Bangladesh, the existing Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNPs) are one of the key tools used in the country's persistent fight against poverty. An estimated 16 million people have been lifted out of poverty in the past decade[1].

The welfare and social safety net programme has evolved since its inception and is now represented by a wide range of schemes (an estimated 97 of them) accounting for about a fifth of the national budget (Budget, 2015). Disbursement for social safety net has risen from less than 1% of GDP in the late 1990s and 1.60% of GDP in 2007-08 to 2.5% of GDP in 2012-13 (Bangladesh Economic Review, 2012). The aim is to have increase this share to 2.3% within the next five years (GoB, 2015) and the actual share to GDP was 2.08%. Finally, this share to GDP was 2.31% in 2016-17. (GoB, 2016-17).

Access to social safety net which contribute in poverty reduction increased substantially during 2010-2016. In 2010 survey, the beneficiary households were considered with at least one SSNP, but this year both households and beneficiary were considered separately. The households and programme beneficiary under different SSNP was 24.6% in HIES 2010, whereas it increased to 27.8% households and 28.7% programme beneficiaries in HIES 2016. If one household has two beneficiaries were also considered separately in HIES

[1]http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/06/20/bangladesh-reduced-number-of-poor-by-16-million-in-a-decade

2016. The increase in SSNP beneficiary contributed in the reduction of poverty by the households in HIES 2016. (Source: HEIS 2016)

In the early 1990s, Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) were launched in the form of food-for-education programme and in the late 1990s allowance programmes focused on vulnerable women. In early 2000s, there was a broadening of programmes with focus on combining protection and promotion goals.

Subsidies currently account for a major chunk (34.5%) of the total safety net umbrella. According to the World Bank's *The State of Social Safety Nets 2015* report, SSNPs in Bangladesh such as stipends for primary students and the public works programme (Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest) have a wide reach, in terms of scale. Together these two schemes cover within its scope 9 million people. The Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme assisted by WFP currently reaches out to 3.75 million women. SSNPs in Bangladesh have led to increased school enrolment and attendance especially among girls in secondary schools and closing the gender gap; additional employment generation; provision of food during crisis; building infrastructure; and increased access to and utilisation of maternal health care services[2].

For Old Age Allowance, 1890,000 million taka has been allocated while 30.50 million poor will be benefitted. For Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), 11680000 million taka has been allocated to provide help for 120 million people. For Primary School Stipend program, 1400, 0000 million taka has been allocated to include 130 million primary students while 240,000 million taka has been allocated for Secondary Education Stipend program to increase the attendance of 10 million female students. (GoB Budget, 2016-17).

However, Bangladesh continues to be an LDC with massive human development challenges, as reflected in its poor HDI rank. The national socio-economic picture and particularly that in the two districts of Dinajpur and Joypurhat are discussed in a subsequent section, following a brief political analysis.

## 2.2 Socio-Economic Condition and Analysis of the Target Districts

The two districts of Dinajpur and Joypurhat together are home to about 4 million people a vast majority of them living in rural areas. On average, households in both districts are about four-members strong. In terms of demography and level of urbanisation, there is not much to attribute difference between the two districts, except that Dinajpur is almost three times more populated than Joypurhat. Less than 15% of both districts are urbanised respectively (Source: Population and Housing Census 2011, Zilla Report: Joypurhat & Dinajpur).

The incidence of poverty is high in both districts. As per 2010 estimates by World Bank-WFP, 21.3% of the population in Dinajpur were living in extreme poverty compared to about 13% in Joypurhat. The share of population below the poverty line was also higher in Dinajpur (37.9%) than Joypurhat (26.7%).

There isn't significant difference between the two districts on literacy rates, but both districts share between 4-6 percentage points of difference between male and female literacy rates. The number of primary schools, secondary schools and technical/vocational institutions are about three times higher in Dinajpur than Joypurhat in line with the population statistics. Importantly, the number of NGO-run primary schools is higher than the number of government schools in both districts, indicating the direct developmental role of civil society in plugging voids left by the state. It is worth noting that the presence of madrasahs is quite high revealing substantial religious (Islamic) influence on the educational system. Attendance rates among school going children (5-19 years) seems gender-neutral, with slightly higher than 2/3rd of all children in both districts attending schools – irrespective of gender.

The share of population in the two districts who fall under different vulnerable groups are 6.75% (elderly), 1.5% (disabled), 5.22% (widowed), 21.96% (religious minority[3]) and 2.23% (ethnic) in Dinajpur and 8.65%

[2]Honorati, Maddalena; Gentilini, Ugo; Yemtsov, Ruslan G. 2015. The state of social safety nets 2015. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2015/07/24741765/state-social-safety-nets-2015

[33] A total of 41 political parties are registered as per the Election Commission, Bangladesh website (accessed on 16 June, 2016)

[3] Hindus, Christians, Buddhists

(elderly), 1.5% (disabled), 5.27% (widowed), 10.34% (religious minority) and 2.26% (ethnic) in Joypurhat. The main ethnic minority groups in these districts are Santhal and Oraon.

Table 1: Demography, poverty and education in Dinajpur and Joypurhat

| Parameter | Indicator | Dinajpur | Joypurhat |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Demography** | Population | 29,90,128 | 9,13,768 |
| | Sex ratio (number of females per 100 males) | 102 | 101 |
| | Average size of HH | 4.14 | 3.74 |
| | Urbanization (% of population living in urban areas) | 13.17% | 14.46% |
| **Poverty** | % of population suffering extreme poverty | 21.3% | 12.9% |
| | % of population under poverty line | 37.9% | 26.7% |
| **Education and skills** | Literacy rate | 52.4% | 57.5% |
| | Male literacy rate | 55.7% | 61.4% |
| | Female literacy rate | 49.1% | 53.5% |
| | Number of govt. primary schools | 861 | 263 |
| | Number of NGO run schools | 992 | 300 |
| | Number of govt. secondary schools | 6 | 4 |
| | Number of madrasah | 326 | 128 |
| | Female children (5-19 years) attending school | 68.43% | 68.86% |
| | Male children (5-19 years) attending school | 67.17% | 69.42% |
| | Females aged 20-29 years attending school | 4.44% | 3.5% |
| | Males aged 20-29 years attending school | 11.22% | 11.53% |
| | No. of technical and vocational institutions | 23 | 7 |
| **Vulnerable groups** | % of elderly (>60) | 6.75% | 8.65% |
| | % of disabled population | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| | % of widowed population | 5.22% | 5.27% |
| | Religious minority (% of population) | 21.96% | 10.34% |
| | % of ethnic population | 2.23% | 2.36% |
| **Child health** | Underweight Children (%) | 33% | 30% |
| | Severely Underweight Children (%) | 7% | 6% |
| | Stunted Children (%) | 41% | 37% |

*Sources: District Statistics 2011, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2013), Zila-level poverty estimates, World Bank-WFP, 2010; Population and Housing Census 2011& Zila Reports, WFP-IFAD, 2012, Population Monograph, Vol-4*

## 2.3 Governance and Legislative Framework for SSNPs

### 2.3.1 Introduction

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh provides for dignity, basic human rights and social equality. The policy framework at national level governing the social security of vulnerable peoples in Bangladesh is extensive, with a range of laws in place to address inequalities and specific vulnerabilities and threats to women, children, the aged, disabled and ethnic minorities. Notably, policies governing SSNPs is national and applies uniformly to all districts and upazilas. The objectives of the national laws meanwhile are realised partly through the SSNPs.

Under SSNPs 540,000 million taka has been allocated as allowances for the Financially Insolvent Disabled in order to provide support for 7.5 million disabled persons. For Maternity Allowance Programme for the Poor, 300,000 million taka has been allocated from where about 5.00 million people will receive benefit. Maternity Allowance Programme for the Poor, 300,000 million taka has been allocated to support financially for 5 million people. (GoB, 2016-17)

The Perspective Plan 2010-2021[4] is one of the Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) policy documents that provide an overarching view of the government's outlook for the country in the near term. The Plan focuses on the foundations of long run stability and prosperity. To that end, Vision 2021 which is outlined in the Perspective 2010-2021 Plan, focuses on (a) ensuring the rule of law, (b) avoiding political partisanship, and (c) building a society free from corruption, principles which it hopes to guide implementation of development programmes. Social protection, poverty reduction and sustainable development are also among the priorities the government has set for itself within the Perspective Plan/Vision 2021. Recognising that risks and vulnerability are mainstream problems in Bangladesh, the Vision 2021 document states that SSNPs which have been an integral part of the anti-poverty strategy will remain so for the next decade. However, it also recognises problems in delivery and lays down some future plans, which are discussed later in the Section below on Challenges in SSNP delivery.

### 2.3.2 An Introduction to EVPRA SSNPs

EVPRA is focused on 9 SSNPs in particular. These are as follows; Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Food-for-work (FFW), Monthly Allowance for Poor Lactating Mothers (MAPLM), Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute (AWDD), Old Age Allowance (OAA), Allowances for Financially Insolvent Disabled (AFID), Primary Education Stipend Project (PSEP), Secondary Education Stipend Programme (SESP). The SSNPs and by extension none of the schemes in particular – are laws in themselves, and are thus not legally protected rights of citizens. However, the Legislative Framework section below, describing the overarching regulatory and policy designs focused on the target groups for the SSNPs are discussed. The SSNPs are a set of programmes one of the instruments to implement these legislations.

An introduction and background to these SSNPs is outlined below:

- **Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF)** was the first SSNP of Bangladesh, which was introduced by World Food Programme (WFP) during the famine in 1974 and is now being implemented jointly by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and WFP. Among all SSNPs, it has the highest number of beneficiary households. Under VGF 10 kg food grains are allocated to extremely vulnerable beneficiaries during select times of religious festival like EID for Muslims and PUJA for Hindus. Notably, the beneficiary is not fixed, the local government selects them just before the distribution of grains.
- **Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)** programme is a job-generating scheme focused on women between the ages of 18 and 49. Introduced in 1975, the VGD programme provides loan and training in addition to food to vulnerable women. Beneficiaries receive stipulated amounts of wheat per month (30 kgs) along with livelihood-linked training that are administered by the nodal ministry, i.e. Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. Beneficiaries should not own more than 15 decimals of land or any income generating asset. Only one VGD beneficiary per household is allowed.
- **Food-for-work (FFW)** distributes food grains (rice and wheat) as compensation against works in labour-intensive infrastructure building programmes. There is no specific entitlement, and the FFW is one of the channels of the government's nationwide public food distribution system. This programme supports construction and reconstruction of rural infrastructure, generating more than 100 million man-days of employment annually.
- **Monthly Allowance for Poor Lactating Mothers (MAPLM)** aims to encourage mothers in breast-feeding. Under this scheme, women are entitled to Tk. 350 per month starting from the third month after conception for a duration of two years in order to improve nutrition levels.
- **Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute** is a scheme targeted at specific vulnerable groups such as widows and the deserted. Beneficiaries are entitled to Tk. 300 per month. Beneficiaries should not own more than 10 decimals of land. The beneficiary should also not be a beneficiary of any other SSNP and should not have a child of age >15. To serve the purpose of the allowance, the beneficiary would be ineligible if she remarries.
- **Old Age Allowance** is an unconditional allowance transfer scheme which women above the age of 62 and men above the age of 65 are entitled to, provided the woman is not a VGD beneficiary. Allowances are 300 Tk per month. The beneficiary should not own more than 50 decimals of land or be a beneficiary of any other SSNP. Half of all OAA beneficiaries should be women.

[4] http://bangladesh.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bangladesh.gov.bd/page/6dca6a2a_9857_4656_bce6_139584b7f160/Perspective-Plan-of-Bangladesh.pdf

- **Allowances for Financially Insolvent Disabled (AFID)** provides allowances to disabled people with impairments in hearing, visual, speech, intellectual and physical. The allowance is worth Tk. 300 per month per Beneficiary. Beneficiaries should have an annual income of less than Tk. 24,000. Priority is given to homeless, elderly, and women with multiple disabilities.
- **The Primary Education Stipend Project** is designed to provide cash assistance to poor primary school pupils and their families in rural Bangladesh with an aim to increase enrolment rate, attendance rate and retention rate of primary school pupils. Eligibility criteria include 85 percent monthly attendance and minimum of 50 percent marks on the annual exams.
- **The Secondary Education Stipend Programme** ensures provision of monthly stipends to girl students from Std. 6-10 (i.e. 11 to 15 years old) belonging to poor households. The stipends cover the direct costs of schooling, one of the major factors deterring enrolment of girls at secondary level.

The following table provides details of the coverage of each scheme in terms of beneficiaries and budgetary allocation from the latest national budget. District wise budgetary support for SSNPs is not available in the public domain.

Table 2: SSNPs schemes' coverage and outlay

| Scheme | Coverage | Unit[5] | Budget allocation (Tk. Crore) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vulnerable Group Development | 120.00 | Lakh persons | 1168.56 |
| Vulnerable Group Feeding | 64.72 | Lakh persons | 1483.88 |
| Old Age Allowances | 31.50 | Lakh persons | 1890.00 |
| Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute | 11.50 | Lakh persons | 690.00 |
| Allowances for Financially Insolvent Disabled | 7.50 | Lakh persons | 540.00 |
| Maternity Allowances for Poor Lactating Mothers | 5.00 | Lakh persons | 300.00 |
| Food for Work | 18.75 | Lakh man months | 1528.22 |
| Primary Education Stipend Project | 130.00 | Lakh persons | 1400.00 |
| Secondary Education Stipend Programme | 25.00 | Lakh persons | 800.00 |

(Source: GoB budget: 2016-17)

### 2.3.3 The Legislative Framework Governing the 9 Focus SSNPs

While SSNPs are a set of schemes and programmes, critics have pointed out that there is a need for a right-based framework which provides constitutional and legal protection for entitlements.[6] That said, there are key supporting pieces of legislation which should drive the governance and delivery of these programmes:

The right to food security in particular, which links to VGF, VGD and FFW, is in fact one of the areas where laws have been enacted to protect people's rights. The Food Policy of 1988 encourages farmers to purchase products at fair/subsidised prices. The National Food Policy of 2006, passed by the Cabinet, aims at ensuring food security for all, through stable supply, increased purchasing power and adequate nutrition for all, especially women and children. The National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008-2015)[7] outlines the implementation structure involving 11 ministries under the leadership of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit of Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM). One of the agendas outlined is better stock management, storage facilities, transportation and monitoring of targeted food distribution schemes under SSNPs such as VGD, VGF and FFW. Another legislation, the Safe Food Act, which provides for right to safe food and protection of health and human life, however, is not a right to food itself. Currently, monitoring of all this regulations at local level, is the purview of the Union and Upazila levels, mainly the Chairmen.

[5] A lakh is equal to one hundred thousand and is written as 1,00,000 – widely used in South Asia.
[6] QuaziShahabuddin, 'The Right to Food: Bangladesh Perspectives', The Bangladesh Development Studies, Vol. XXXIII, March-June 2010, No. 1&2, p. 128.
[7] National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008-2015), FPMU, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Bangladesh https://www.gafspfund.org/sites/gafspfund.org/files/Documents/NationalFoodPolicyPlanofActionFINAL.pdf

SSNPs also include gender focused development initiatives like VGD and AWDD. The legislative structures for development of women include the National Women Development Policy[8] (NWDP), 2011 under the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, which aims at elimination of poverty of women, their economic empowerment and employment, food security of women, special programmes for disabled women and those belonging to minority ethnic groups. SSNPs like Maternity Allowances for Poor Lactating Mothers and AWDD fit into the broader policy objectives outlined in the NWDP. The MAPLM links to the NWDP objective of ensuring rights to nutrition and to have physical and mental health of highest standard all through the life cycle of women including in childhood, adolescence and during pregnancy.

The National Children Policy, 2011 aims at securing best interests of children with special emphasis on their education, health, protection, special rights of disabled children. The National Education Policy, 2010 seeks to ensure 100 percent enrolment and retention of students at the primary and secondary levels. SSNPs such as Primary Education Stipend Project and Secondary Education Stipend Programme are some of the instruments to achieve these policy goals which are governed by this legislation.

Recently, the Parliament also passed the Persons with Disabilities' Rights and the Protection Act 2013 – complying with the Constitutional guarantee of social equity – under which a complaint of discrimination, if accepted, will lead to compensation for the victim. The law provides for alleviation of risks and prevention from increased disabilities by way of free medical services, disabled-friendly public infrastructure and educational curriculum. The AFID which is a cash transfer programme seeks to protect the disabled through monthly allowances, half of it reserved for women. The AFID provides allowances to disabled people with impairments in hearing, visual, speech, intellectual and physical as outlined in the Bangladesh Protibondhy Kallyan Act 2001 (Bangladesh Disability Welfare Act 2001).

For the elderly, which is a major vulnerable group for, the draft National Policy on Elderly People' has been approved by the Cabinet. The law ministry will set the definition of old persons and specify provisions for ensuring facilities for senior citizens. Thereafter, the social welfare ministry will make the national policy public. It is proposed that "elderly people will have ID cards, health cards, reserved seats in transports according to the policy. Old homes will be established, and the government will also take initiatives to attract the private sector in this regard."[9] To support the elderly, the Ministry of Social Welfare is providing OAA to the poor and vulnerable elderly since 1997, the only social protection scheme currently targeting elderly peoples.

Bangladesh has ratified major international human rights treaties and conventions which relate to indigenous peoples broadly including ILO's Convention No. 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations (1957). In terms of national legislation, under the 15th amendment to the Constitution of Bangladesh the state recognised tribes, *'khudro jatisotta'* (minor races) and *'nri-goshthi'* (ethnic sects) but failed to enshrine their Constitutional rights. Instead it only says that "the State shall take steps to protect and develop the unique local culture [sic] and tradition [sic] of tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities." However, this was the first instance of Constructional recognition of indigenous peoples. But, as Dhamai (2014) notes "critically, for them [indigenous peoples], any sense of achievement is negated by problematic formulations elsewhere in the constitution, e.g. in Article 6, Clause 2, which reads as follows: "The people of Bangladesh shall be known as Bengalee [sic] as a nation and the citizens of Bangladesh will be known as Bangladeshis""[10]

The indigenous peoples of Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) are specially protected under Constitutional provisions, but these are beyond the scope of the EVPRA intervention, which focuses on indigenous peoples in plains, including Santal, Uraon, Mahali, Malo, Mahato, Pahan, Borman, Sing, Kurin, Munda, Robidas, Kormokar, and Horijan. In broader terms, the Constitution does in fact cover all citizens through Part III of the constitution,

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[88]National Women Development Policy, 2011, http://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bgd149160.pdf
Social Safety Net Programmes: Budget 2015-16, 2015-16 (Revised) & Budget 2016-17

[9]http://thedailynewnation.com/news/29769/rights-of-elderly-in-bangladesh.html
[10]Dhamai, B.M. (2014), "An Overview of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh" in *ed* (Chowdhury) *Survival under Threat: Human Rights Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh*, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), 2014

which entails the right to equality before the law and the equal protection of laws. Also, in Article 28 clause (1) protects discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth or any of them.

### 2.3.4 The Governance Structure and Mechanisms for SSNP Implementation

As illustrated in Exhibit ~~1.3~~ 2.3 below, a wide range of stakeholders at various levels of governance are involved in the delivery of SSNPs and other development schemes.

The National Social Security Strategy notes that a total of **145 programmes are administered by some 23 Ministries/Divisions** and that **seven Ministries** (Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief, Ministry of Food, Ministry Finance, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development & Cooperative, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Primary and Mass Education) administer more than 75 percent of the total funding for social security. The implementation of SSNPs involves a top-down structure with the ministries involved in central planning and fund disbursement, while Upazilas and unions are in charge of implementation.

Table 3: Implementation structure and duties of officials

| SSNP | Nodal ministry | Implementation |
|---|---|---|
| FFW | Department of Disaster Management | • Food grains / cash allocated by Ministry to upazilas on the basis of population<br>• Executed by Upazila Parishad under the supervision of District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (an Upazila official) through District Steering Committee<br>• Upazila further allocates grains/cash to Unions<br>• Beneficiary list is prepared by Unions and finalised by Upazilas<br>• Upazilas implement scheme as per circular, through Union Chairman |
| PSEP | Ministry of Primary and Mass Education | • School Management Committee will prepare initial list of beneficiaries/pupils under supervision of Union Parishads.<br>• List is reviewed and approved by the Upazila Primary Education Officer (UPEO) and countersigned by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).<br>• PESP implementation, record-keeping and monitoring will be carried out at the upazila level by the Upazila Primary Education Officer (UPEO) and Assistant Upazila Primary Education Officers (AUPEOs)<br>• PESP monitoring officers, assigned to District Primary Education Offices (DPEOs), will maintain quality control and oversight of upazila PESP operations.<br>• District DPEOs prepare progress reports for central Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU) in Dhaka |
| SESP | Ministry of Education | • Secondary Education Stipend Programme is also a stipend programme, for both boys and girls; the implementation follows the same procedure as PSEP |
| OAA | Ministry of Social Welfare | • Candidates have to apply to Upazila Social Services officer in a prescribed form, helped by the SSO and the field personnel.<br>• A ward committee (at Union level) and upazila Committee consisting of two representatives of the local MP and in concerned cases one representative of Upazila Chairman, selects the old-age allowance recipients in accordance with the implementation manual of the old-age allowance.<br>• Committee submits the list to the upazila committee for final approval.<br>• Approved beneficiaries receive allowances through UP and the Social Welfare Officer monitors the implementation. |

| SSNP | Nodal ministry | Implementation |
|---|---|---|
| AWDD | Ministry of Social Welfare | • Upazila Committee and Ward Committees implement scheme, through UP support on the ground – same process as OAA |
| VGD | Ministry of Women and Children Affairs | • A Union Committee selects fifty women headed households for a two year cycle every year, a list of which is sent to Upazila/Thana Committee<br>• UPZ headed by Upazila Executive Officer through the Upazila/Thana Women Affair Officer reviews and finalized list and issues the VGD cards for accessing entitlements.<br>• Distribution is in the domain of Union Parishads while Upazila Women and Children Welfare Affair Officer is responsible for monitoring, including food management. |
| VGF | Ministry of Social Welfare | • VGF is a VGD like scheme, except it is an emergency relief programme and available to both genders. The implementation process is same as VGD, in line with eligibility. Social welfare officer monitors scheme. |
| AFID | Ministry of Social Welfare | • Union Parishad prepares initial list of disabled households in consultation with Social Welfare Officer. The committee, comprised of Chairmen, SWO and other members, selects beneficiaries in respective Unions.<br>• Upazila Parishad, led by UNO, reviews and finalizes list of beneficiaries.<br>• Allowances distribution is done by UP through banking channels and monitoring is done by the Social Welfare Officer. |
| MAPLM | Ministry of Social Welfare / MoWCA | • As per programme guideline, the Union Committee prepares a list of potential beneficiaries based on age, marital status, number of children, household income and possession of assets.<br>• Upazila Family Planning Officer or Upazila Health Officer issues certificates to confirm pregnancy.<br>• After being selected by the union committee, upazila committee reviews and finalizes selection.<br>• The upazila committee monitors implementation of the programme. The National Steering Committee, if required, can select specific NGOs to assist the implementation process in certain areas. |

### 2.3.5 Challenges and Issues in SSNP Delivery

After the analysis of midterm evaluation, some challenges and issues in SSNPs delivery have been identified as presented herein below:

- The most common challenge of SSNPs is the shortage of SSNPs in number against the real demand according to the eligible persons.
- Still, the beneficiary selection is critical and sometimes biased because of the dominance of political party, nepotism, bribery, good relationship with local government representatives.
- Sometimes, conflict may take place between beneficiary and non-beneficiary but eligible
- According to the local government representatives, they are blamed for corruption as they are unable to provide SSNP facility to all eligible persons because of shortage of number of SSNPs schemes.
- Further, according to the information of local government representatives, sometimes, they face problem on age inconsistencies for elderly people as their age verifying documents are not properly developed. For this reason, some elderly people do not get SSNP facility though they are eligible.
- Some cases date of birth of NID is under or over marking so many people are deprived of their actual benefit only for their birthdates error, but they are fully eligible.
- While selecting the target groups for public SSNPs and distribution of benefits to them stronger participation from civil society and local level representatives both from formal and informal groups had not been ensured as yet.

- Information flow on the objectives and targeting criteria of the safety net programmes has not been brought clearly to the notice of the general mass.
- There should be provisions for review and adjustment of SSNP allocations from time to time.
- Amount of allowances for various SSNPs, especially the Old Age Allowance; Allowance for the Widowed, Deserted and Destitute Women; Allowances for the Financially Insolvent Disabled etc is not sufficient.
- Proper monitoring and inspections of food grain storehouses should be carried out by a special committee.[11]

# 3. STUDY METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Background

### 3.1.1 EVPRA Project

World Vision Bangladesh (WVB) is implementing EU funded project in collaboration with Pollisree and PUMDO and the title of the project is "Establishing Vulnerable people's Rights and Access to social safety net program". The project working area is three sub-districts in Dinajpur District and two sub-districts in Joypurhat District. PUMDO is responsible for Joypurhat and Pollisree for Dinajpur District. World Vision Bangladesh on behalf of World Vision UK is providing oversight management, technical support, advocacy & communication interventions and M & E support through a core project team based in Dinajpur. The project has targeted 278,668 extremely poor people of these working areas and among them 39,953 are ethnic minority. Meanwhile, EVPRA is working with 100 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) composed of ethnic minority people and also vulnerable groups. EVPRA is focused on 9 SSNPs in particular. These are as follows; Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Food-for-work (FFW), Monthly Allowance for Poor Lactating Mothers (MAPLM), Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute (AWDD) women, Old Age Allowance (OAA), Allowances for Financially Insolvent Disabled (AFID), Primary Education Stipend Programme (PSEP), Secondary Education Stipend Programme (SESP).

### 3.1.2 Rationale for mid-term evaluation

The project is utilizing WV's local level social accountability approach called Citizen Voice and Action (CVA), by empowering CSOs, their members and communities to increase their influence on access to SSNPs. EVPRA also helps CSOs and community to persuade pro-citizen related policies at local and national levels and strengthen the capacity of duty bearers to respond proactively to citizen's participation in service delivery related decision-making and monitoring processes. The project also trained local CSOs and CVA working group members able to run this approach, targeting all vulnerable people (viz, ethnic minority and other extreme poor) in the local communities to participate in the CVA process, together with Local Authorities (LAs). Baseline study has documented the base value. Short term impact assessments (being conducted at monthly, semi-annually and annual basis) showed some changes related to the intervention at activity and output level compared to baseline. At this stage (i.e., approximately at middle of the project) it is needed to measure the progress against set indicators as well as other context to evaluate the changes happened over time. Besides this, EVPRA management policy creates the opportunity for evaluation to see the sustainability, changes, lack thereof, impact, new opportunities etc. For this reason, the EVPRA management has commissioned the Mid-term Evaluation.

### 3.1.3 Objectives

***Overall Objective of Project***

The overall objective of the project is to Empower Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working for the rights and development of ethnic minority groups, Local Authorities (LAs) and communities, to promote the most

[11] Effectiveness of Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNPs) in Poverty Reduction Sheikh Mohammad Mohiuddin

vulnerable peoples' social development through access to Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNPs) in targeted sub-districts.

***Key Objectives of Mid-term Evaluation***

The specific objectives of accompanying evaluation are as follows:

i. To measure the progress of the project towards the overall objectives and three specific objective statements and indicators mentioned in the Logical Framework (log-frame) particularly in relation to overall objective, specific objectives and expected result indicator.
ii. To compare the mid-term evaluation findings with those of the baseline, CSOs capacity assessment report as well as with national and district level data (where available).
iii. To identify lessons learned and good practices and sustainability framework for the objective and each specific objective of the project.
iv. To provide clear and actionable recommendations for the next two years that will support the project delivering sustainable benefits to the target communities.

## 3.2 Introduction

The proposed study was conducted with an objective of providing mid-term status on the subject. A mixed methods approach, beginning with a literature review of project reports and relevant documents was adopted. The quantitative survey was designed considering a mid-term evaluation where pre-post comparison was possible.

## 3.3 Methodology

Both quantitative and qualitative tools and methods were applied to address the specific objectives of the study. Findings from quantitative data and qualitative information was triangulated. The survey measured both *quantitative* and *qualitative* indicators, which allowed finding 'what' questions in numerical value while qualitative indicators provided answer to the 'how/why/way of solution' questions. In order to ensure meaningful analysis of the survey data, statistical tools were used. Mainly, two types of analysis technique namely, Descriptive Analysis (percentage distributions, cross-tabulations, graphs/charts, and the like) and Comparative Analysis (hypothesis testing and measures of association, as deemed fit) was adopted. The latter attempted to compare prevalence between genders, ethnic groupings, beneficiary vs. non-beneficiary respondents, and baseline vs. midterm evaluation findings.

***Survey Design***

The key purpose of the proposed mid-term survey was to determine the existing situation of the project to provide sound basis for assessing project's progress and achievement by comparing before-after scenario. Moreover, the study was also foreseen to help the project's management to determine the priority intervention areas.

The midterm study undertook in upazilas were project intervention is in place. The sampling strategy followed the procedure employed during baseline. A quantitative survey of 955 households (HHs) selected through random sampling. Mid-term study included qualitative methods to allow finding answer to the 'how'/'why' question in description of judgment, opinion, perception and attitude. Qualitative assessment included semi-structured key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) with project stakeholders with selected government and civil society representatives.

***Study Locations***

The study was conducted in 2 districts of Bangladesh i.e. Dinajpur (3 upazilas: Fulbari, Birampur, and Dinajpur Sadar) and Joypurhat (2 upazilas: Joypurhat Sadar and Panchbibi) districts.

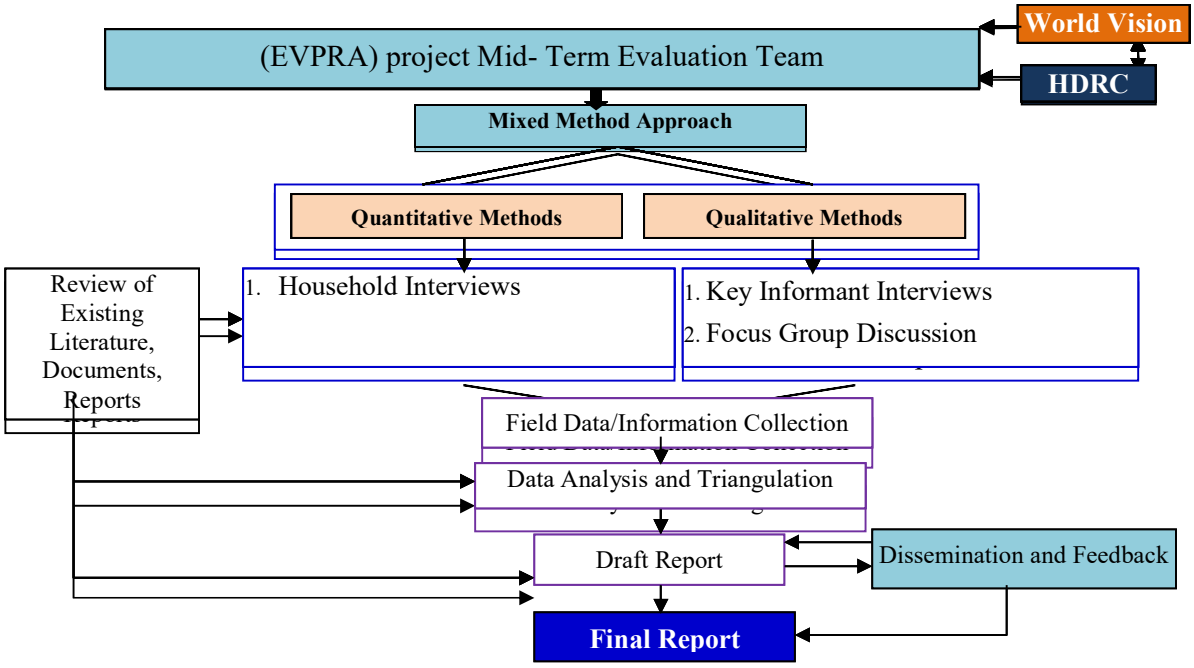
***Data collection method***

Various data collection methods were carried out to gather/solicit information on different variables and themes.

1. Household Interviews
2. Key Informant Interviews (Members of Parliament, Upazila Chairmen & Officials, Union Chairmen & Officials, Officials in District administration, development partners (USAID, Plan Bangladesh, Care Bangladesh), CSOs, CBOs, NGOs, ethnic minority groups, PM-EVPRA, PUMDO, Pollisree as the implementing agencies
3. Focus Group Discussion community people and ethnic minority groups.

The data collection methods and tools were supplementary and complementary to each other. Triangulation of different methods and sources were examined to maximise the validity and reliability of data and reduce the risk of response bias.

Figure 1: Overall research approach and methodology of the study




### 3.3.1 Desk Review

Exhaustive and detailed secondary research was undertaken in order to obtain information and insights. Some of the policy and project documents and online resources those were reviewed are listed below:

- EVPRA Narrative Proposal
- Baseline Survey Report 2016
- EVPRA final Log Frame
- District Reports (Census, BBS)
- Bangladesh Population Census of 2011
- Report on Household Income Expenditure Survey 2010
- Preliminary report of Household Income Expenditure Survey 2016
- NGO Affairs Bureau, GoB (2016)
- Bangladesh Seventh Five Year Plan FY 2016 to FY 2020 (Final Draft – 13 Oct. 2015)
- The State of Social Safety Nets 2015, World Bank
- National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh, 2015
- Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, 2014

### 3.3.2 Sampling: Strategies and Design

***Sampling design for the quantitative survey***

The mid-term evaluation followed the footsteps of baseline survey methods ensuring robustness of analysis and comparability with the baseline outcomes with most appropriate statistical significance. The EVPRA baseline survey was conducted in five target project upazilas. A household survey of 955 randomly selected SSNP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries was conducted through random sampling.

Table 4: Comparative Sample summary of Quantitative survey

| Upazila | Unions | No. of households (Midterm) | No. of households (Baseline) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birampur | Jotbani | 248 | 248 |
| | Poliprayagpur | | |
| Dinajpur Sadar | Auliapur | 124 | 122 |
| | Kamolpur | | |
| Fulbari | Khayerbari | 161 | 162 |
| | Shibnagar | | |
| Joypurhat Sadar | Badsha | 214 | 211 |
| | Chakbarkat | | |
| Panchbibi | Aolai | 208 | 210 |
| | Bagjana | | |
| Total | | 955 | 953 |

***Design for secondary data analysis***

The study also explored monitoring data (by WVB) collected at regular intervals from all CSOs/CBOs. Such data was available from project MIS and project shared the data for robust quantitative analysis of the CSOs/CBOs activities and achievements since baseline.

***Qualitative information collection***

Only a quantitative assessment was not adequate to fulfil all the objectives of this study. Therefore, the adoption of qualitative and participatory nature of assessment techniques to address the objective was crucial. The qualitative assessment methods included:

- Key Informant Interviews
- Focus Group Discussion

Table 5: Comparative Sample summary of qualitative survey

| Qualitative Sample (Midterm) | | | | Qualitative Sample (Baseline) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stakeholder | Level | KII/FGD | Total Units | Stakeholder | Level | Total Units |
| Member of Parliament | National | KII | 1 | Members of Parliament | National | 2 |
| Directorate of Social Welfare, Directorate of Women's Affairs, Directorate of Disaster Management, Directorate of Primary and Mass Education etc. | National | KII | 2 | | | |
| District administration (District Commissioner & other officials) | District | KII | 2 | Officials in District administration | District | 8 |
| Upazila Chairmen/Officials(Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Upazila Project Implementation Officer, Upazila Women's Affairs Officer, Upazila Social welfare Officer, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Upazila Education Officer, Upazila Secondary Education Officer, etc.) | Upazila | KII | 5 | Upazila Chairmen & Officials | Upazila | 35 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Union Chairmen/Member/Officials | Union | KII | 5 | Union Chairmen & Officials | Union | 10 |
| USAID/Plan Bangladesh/Care Bangladesh | Multilateral /Global | KII | 2 | USAID/Plan Bangladesh/Care Bangladesh | Multilateral /Global | 2 |
| PM-EVPRA /PUMDO /Pollisree (Implementing agencies) | Regional | KII | 3 | PM-EVPRA /PUMDO /Pollisree (Implementing agencies) | Regional | 4 |
| CSOs/CBOs | Union/Community | Case Studies | 10 | CSOs/CBOs | Union / Community | 4 |
| NGOs/ Ethnic Minority groups/Women's group | Upazila | FGDs | 4 | NGOs | Union | 4 |
| Total | | | 34 | NGOs / Indigenous groups | National | 2 |
| | | | | Total | | 71 |

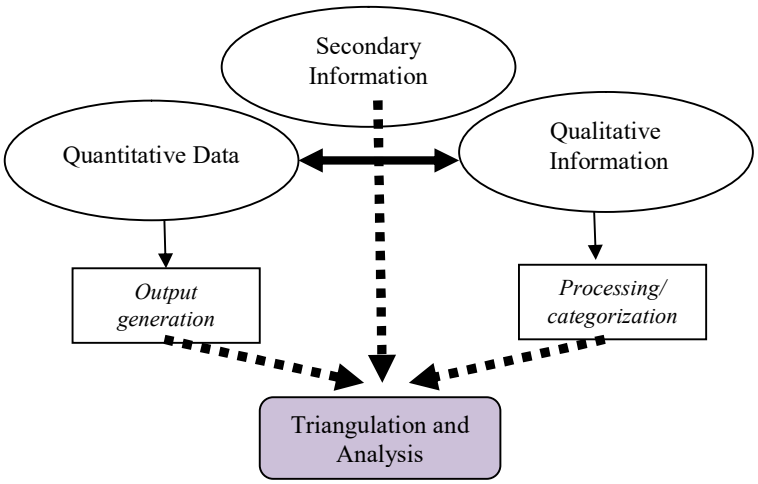
## 3.4 Data Analysis Plan

The key unit of analysis in the evaluation-study was household; with results summarized for the project area. Data was analysed using SPSS. Quantitative data analysis techniques mostly included uni-variate analysis and bi-variate analysis. Comparative analysis (though significance tests) was performed for selected indicators between their baseline and mid-line status. Moreover, significance tests were performed for selective variables (i.e., knowledge, awareness, accessibility to SSNP) by different demographic variables (i.e., ethnic identity, gender, level of education etc.). The measurement levels of the variables were taken into account while analyzing the data, as applicable statistical techniques are available for each level:

- Frequency distributions and graphical representations (numbers, proportions, percentages)
- Statistics (mean, median, mode, standard deviation, variance, skewness, kurtosis etc.)
- Cross tabulations
- Computation of new variables using existing variables
- Comparative Analysis, e.g., hypothesis testing (Chi-square test), measure of association (e.g., phi, Cramer's V)

The qualitative data analysis included content and thematic analysis of information collected through different qualitative methods. Content as well as thematic analysis was performed for drawing replicable and valid inferences from data to their context, with the purpose of providing knowledge, new insights, a representation of facts and a practical guide to action. The qualitative and quantitative data analyses were undertaken separately, and their findings were synthesized.

Figure 2: Triangulation of data and information



## 3.5 Limitations of the Study

As this midterm study was followed by the baseline survey, some limitations have been revealed but the findings are capable to assess and evaluate the baseline findings in term of indicators. Like the baseline, as this study also has worked with representative samples, it is observed that there is less inclusion of beneficiaries, eligible persons of SSNPs, ethnic minorities including female and other vulnerable groups. Some limitations have been given below:

- At the time of analysis of not availing the SSNPs, it is observed that a huge number of respondents were ineligible for SSNPs otherwise it would be possible to explore more effective reasons for not availing the SSNPs among the eligible persons.
- Further it is observed, we have got considerably less number of beneficiaries than non-beneficiaries. If we get more sample of beneficiaries, we would get a better result regarding the role, effectiveness of CSOs including EVPRA project.
- Further, the samples of vulnerable groups like female, ethnic and religious minority, lactating mother, pregnant mother, persons with disabilities were not satisfactory to analyse and draw recommendation for this specific group.
- In addition, the district and sub district government officials were also hard to reach for interviews through managing enough time from them.

# 4. MID-TERM EVALUATION FINDINGS

## 4.1 Profile of Sampled Households

The midterm evaluation findings have been presented on the basis of baseline survey conducted in 2016 with a comparative view. Before analysing the specific findings of the midterm survey like baseline, the following section highlights in brief the demographic and socio-economic profile of the sampled households. Later, the demography will also be used to help shed light on the interpretation and analyses of findings.

Table 6: Demography of sampled household (HHs)

| Upazila | Baseline | | Midterm | | Baseline | | | Midterm | | | Baseline | | Midterm | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Gender | | Gender | | Religion | | | Religion | | | Ethnic identity | | Ethnic identity | |
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Christian | Hindu | Muslim | Christian | Hindu | Muslim | Non-ethnic minority | Ethnic minority | Non-ethnic minority | Ethnic minority |
| Birampur | 44.4 | 55.6 | 50.4 | 49.6 | 15.3 | 19.0 | 65.7 | 2.7 | 10.6 | 86.4 | 75.8 | 24.2 | 93 | 7 |
| Dinajpur Sadar | 54.9 | 45.1 | 49.7 | 50.3 | 8.2 | 19.7 | 72.1 | 8.2 | 13.7 | 78.1 | 89.3 | 10.7 | 86.8 | 13.2 |
| Fulbari | 60.5 | 39.5 | 50.1 | 49.9 | 13.6 | 32.7 | 53.7 | 20 | 27.6 | 51.5 | 76.5 | 23.5 | 69.2 | 30.8 |
| Joypurhat Sadar | 54.0 | 46.0 | 50.3 | 49.7 | 2.8 | 54.0 | 43.1 | 4.7 | 48.8 | 46.5 | 61.6 | 38.4 | 55.1 | 44.9 |
| Panchbibi | 47.1 | 52.9 | 52.4 | 47.6 | 18.6 | 16.7 | 64.8 | 27.5 | 30.5 | 41.8 | 72.4 | 27.6 | 51.2 | 48.8 |
| Average | 52.2 | 47.8 | 50.7 | 49.3 | 11.7 | 28.4 | 59.9 | 12.3 | 26.3 | 61.1 | 75.1 | 24.9 | 71.1 | 28.9 |

The demographic data has been presented in terms of gender, religious groups and ethnic/non-ethnic minorities. On an average, 50.7% of sampled households, less than baseline (52.2%) were female. In terms of religion, 61.1%, higher than baseline (59.9%) were Muslim. Among the religious minorities, 26.3%, lower than baseline (28.4%) were Hindu. Among, ethnic and non-ethnic minorities, the non-ethnic (71.1%) of all households are less than baseline value (75.1) while ethnic-minority (28.9) is higher than baseline value (26.3). The highest 48.8% ethnic minorities were found at Panchbibi which is higher than baseline value (27.6).

Table 7: Educational attainments in sampled HHs

| Ethnic/Non-ethnic | Upazila | Baseline | | | | Midterm | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Educational Qualification (%) | | | | Educational Qualification (%) | | | |
| | | No education | Primary Level | Secondary Level | Tertiary Level | No education | Primary Level | Secondary Level | Tertiary Level |
| Non-ethnic minority | Birampur | 44.7 | 31.4 | 23.4 | 0.5 | 33.9 | 30.1 | 31.2 | 4.7 |
| Ethnic minority | | 53.3 | 23.3 | 20.0 | 3.3 | 55.1 | 23.2 | 17.4 | 4.3 |
| Non-ethnic minority | Dinajpur Sadar | 63.3 | 22.9 | 13.8 | 0.0 | 37 | 27.2 | 30.4 | 5.4 |
| Ethnic minority | | 76.9 | 23.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 47.1 | 22.9 | 27.1 | 2.9 |
| Non-ethnic minority | Fulbariya | 61.3 | 27.4 | 10.5 | 0.8 | 36.3 | 27.3 | 31.1 | 5.2 |
| Ethnic minority | | 68.4 | 18.4 | 13.2 | 0.0 | 37.5 | 22.6 | 30.3 | 9.6 |
| Non-ethnic minority | Joypurhat | 51.5 | 29.2 | 17.7 | 1.5 | 43.3 | 29.7 | 22.6 | 4.4 |
| Ethnic minority | | 77.8 | 17.3 | 4.9 | 0.0 | 54.3 | 19.3 | 20.4 | 5.9 |
| Non-ethnic minority | Panchbibi | 58.6 | 26.3 | 15.1 | 0.0 | 34.8 | 31.2 | 28.5 | 5.5 |
| Ethnic minority | | 69.0 | 13.8 | 17.2 | 0.0 | 34.2 | 31.2 | 26.7 | 8 |
| Non-ethnic minority | Total | 54.8 | 27.9 | 16.8 | 0.6 | 36.5 | 29.2 | 29.3 | 5 |
| Ethnic minority | | 68.4 | 18.4 | 12.40% | 0.8 | 43.4 | 24.7 | 24.8 | 7.1 |

This data table segregated by ethnic and non-ethnic presents a clear scenario of upazila-wise literacy status. In educational status, among the ethnic minority, the highest percentage of primary (31.2%), secondary (30.3%) and tertiary (9.6%) education is at Panchbibi, Fulbari and Fulbari respectively which are higher than the previous baseline data. And in the case of Non-ethnic respondents the highest percentage of primary (31.2%) at Panchbibi, secondary (31.2%) at Birampur and tertiary education (4.7) at also Birampur is observed. And the attainment of educational status among ethnic and non-ethnic is relatively better than baseline.

And highest rate of illiteracy is observed among the ethnic-minority at Birampur with 55.1% which is likely similar to the baseline data. But among ethnic, the lowest rate of illiteracy is observed in Panchbibi with 34.2% which were 69% in the baseline data. Among the non-ethnic respondents, the highest illiteracy rate is observed in Birampur with 55.1% which is a decrease than baseline data. It is mentionable that the secondary (24.7%) and tertiary (7.1%) education level is significantly higher than baseline value of 12.40% and 24.8% respectively.

The socio-economic profile of the respondents has been designed through the presentation of mean (averages) and variances (standard deviation) of incomes, loan, expenditure, savings and ownership of land across the sampled households.

Table 8: Socio-economic profile of HHs

| | Panchbibi | | | | Joypurhat | | | | Fulbari | | | | Dinajpur Sadar | | | | Birampur | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Baseline | | Midterm | | Baseline | | Midterm | | Baseline | | Midterm | | Baseline | | Midterm | | Baseline | | Midterm | |
| Indicator | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation | Avg. | Std. Deviation |
| Occupational Income of HH | 6564 | 3748 | 7717 | 7717 | 7348 | 3992 | 7151 | 3848 | 8284 | 4371 | 8924 | 7935 | 8080 | 4412 | 7083 | 4158 | 7610 | 4519 | 7736 | 5065 |
| Remittance Income of HH | 4465 | 2456 | 267 | 2588 | 4205 | 2600 | 222 | 1353 | 2986 | 3178 | 365 | 1459 | 3795 | 2768 | 54 | 457 | 4522 | 3479 | 500 | 4115 |
| Cash Allowance Income of HH | 538 | 389 | 145 | 410 | 173 | 1367 | 173 | 845 | 671 | 837 | 82 | 285 | 338 | 328 | 162 | 404 | 489 | 406 | 190 | 712 |
| Amount of HH Loan/Debt | 23879 | 29859 | 26282 | 29915 | 19701 | 14710 | 26461 | 48373 | 21133 | 28286 | 24932 | 33250 | 23797 | 26791 | 27944 | 77182 | 35060 | 45626 | 35768 | 49788 |
| Amount of HH saving | 5026 | 4298 | 4154 | 7311 | 5404 | 6065 | 4503 | 13073 | 14919 | 56363 | 7220 | 13027 | 12487 | 23537 | 5306 | 7420 | 15615 | 79148 | 5515 | 11056 |
| Expenditure on Food | 3764 | 2043 | 4338 | 648 | 4457 | 2743 | 4780 | 3372 | 5024 | 2396 | 5507 | 4065 | 4627 | 1969 | 5566 | 4890 | 4371 | 2214 | 4905 | 3329 |
| Expenditure of Education | 1234 | 1569 | 716 | 1663 | 1415 | 1212 | 1130 | 4946 | 1099 | 1021 | 1234 | 1150 | 884 | 1278 | 861 | 1204 | 1412 | 1684 | 934 | 1360 |
| Expenditure of Medical/Health Expenses | 1089 | 1303 | 985 | 936 | 1059 | 826 | 875 | 1258 | 976 | 1006 | 905 | 1071 | 705 | 647 | 1268 | 1447 | 964 | 1081 | 929 | 1229 |
| Household Land (in Decimals) | 6 | 4 | 21.1 | 54.4 | 7 | 6 | 14.4 | 33.2 | 6 | 4 | 29.1 | 62.3 | 6 | 4 | 10.8 | 26.8 | 6 | 4 | 16.7 | 45.7 |

Among all the upazilas, the average highest occupational income is in Fulbari (8924 Taka) while the average lowest occupational income is observed in Dinajpur Sadar with 7083 Taka. Among all the sectors of aforesaid expenditure, food cost is observed higher in Dinajpur Sadar with an average 5566 Taka which is higher than the baseline data while Fulbari is leading the sector of savings with an average 7220 Taka showing a huge decrease than the baseline. But, in terms of loan, the average amount, higher than baseline, has increased among the respondents of Joypurhat though the increase has been observed in every area. It is observed a comparatively increasing trend of average Household land distribution among all the areas while Fulbari is leading significantly in this case.

Specifically, in order to analyse economic condition, average income, loan and savings of households has been estimated and the percentage of house hold head who have equal or more than the average income, loan and savings.

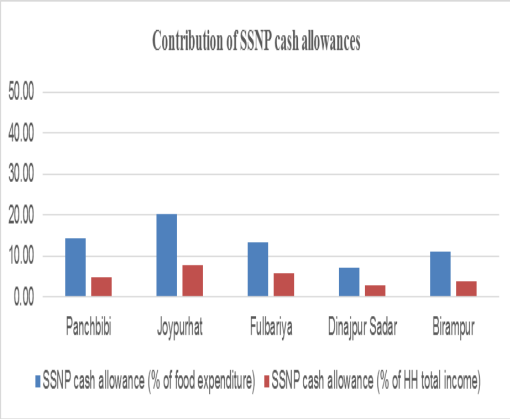
Table 9: Proportion of HHs above/below averages

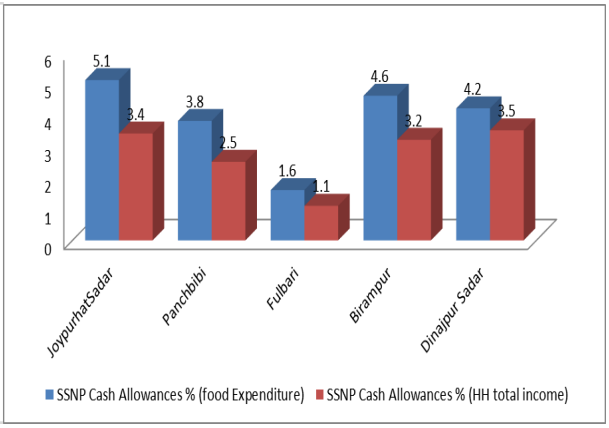
| Income and Loan of HH | Baseline | | Midterm | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Averages | Percentage of HHS who have equal and above average (%) | Averages | Percentage of HHs who have equal and above average (%) |
| Average HH Income | 7887.68 BDT per month | 42.40% | 14938 BDT per month | 35.9 |
| Average HH Loan/Debt | 28465 BDT per year | 6.50% | 28540 per year | 32.1 |
| Average HH saving | 10889 BDT per year | 11% | 8828 per year | 25.0 |

At the time of midterm, the average monthly household income figuring 14938 BDT has increased significantly than baseline figuring 7887.68 BDT but the percentage (35.9) of increased average income has decreased than baseline data figure (42.40) that means the amount of monthly average income has increased but on the other hand, the percentage of those who earn this average or more than average income, has decreased than baseline 42.40% But the average savings have decreased by near about 2000 BDT than baseline but in percentage it has become doubled. In addition, the amount of average loan is nearly similarly like the baseline data but the percentage of respondents for loan has significantly increased.

As an importance of SSNP, it is useful to also look at the adequacy of SSNP cash allowances, and their contribution to household incomes is one potential measure of this.

Figure 3: Contribution of SSNP allowances at Baseline and Midterm Study



Considering the importance of SSNPs, it is reasonable to take a look at the adequacy of cash allowance and their contribution to the household income and food expenditure as it is significantly high among all expenditure. Further, it is observed that like the baseline survey, the contribution of it to Joypurhat is higher than any other areas but this trend for all areas is decreasing than baseline survey.

Here, for understanding the landholding pattern as a part of socio-economic status, the average area of land owning by the household has been presented.

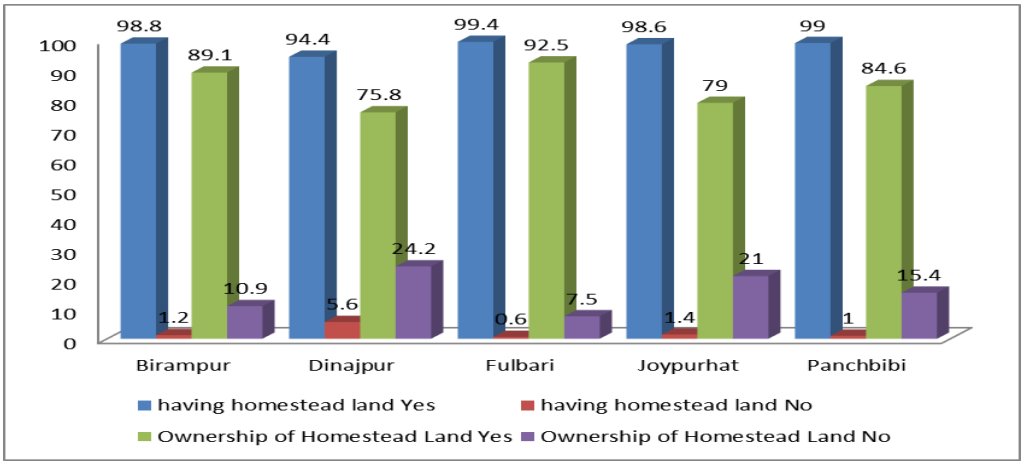
Table 10: Landholding Pattern disaggregated

| Types | Land Ownership | Baseline | Midterm | Ethnicity | Land Ownership | Baseline | Midterm |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beneficiary | Household land (Decimal) | 6.3 | 15.7 | Ethnic | Household land (Decimal) | 6.3 | 15.8 |
| Non-beneficiary | Household land (Decimal) | 7.2 | 21.4 | Non-ethnic | Household land (Decimal) | 7.0 | 19.6 |

See Annex for Baseline Data

It is clearly understood that the average amount of land 15.7 Decimal possessed by the beneficiary is less than the non-beneficiary which is higher than the baseline data. On the other hand, non-ethnic respondents possess a little bit higher amount of land than the ethnic community.

Figure 4: Homestead land Pattern in terms of ownership




In Fulbari, 99.4% of the respondents have homestead land but among them 92.5% have their ownership on homestead land. More interestingly 99% respondents of Panchbibi, higher than Birampur, have homestead land but in ownership, this percentage is higher than Panchbibi.

Table 11: Demographic details of households – upazila wise

| Areas | Baseline | | | | | | | Midterm | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Children (% of total HH) | | | | Children under 5 | Lactating mothers | Elderly | Children (% of total HH) | | | | Children under 5 | Lactating mothers | Elderly |
| Upazila | 1 child | 2 children | 3 children | >3 children | (% of total HH) | (% of total HH) | (% of total HH) | 1 child | 2 children | 3 children | >3 children | (% of total HH) | (% of total HH) | (% of total HH) |
| Birampur | 31.9 | 32.7 | 6.9 | 28.6 | 30.7 | 16.1 | 25.8 | 36.7 | 37.1 | 9.3 | 2 | 29.8 | 0.8 | 8.9 |
| Dinajpur Sadar | 37.7 | 23.8 | 6.6 | 32.0 | 34.4 | 23.8 | 33.6 | 23.4 | 38.7 | 17.7 | 4.8 | 33.9 | 1.6 | 13 |
| Fulbari | 32.1 | 28.4 | 9.3 | 30.2 | 29.6 | 19.8 | 33.3 | 29.8 | 41 | 11.2 | 4.3 | 31.1 | 3.1 | 8.1 |
| Joypurhat Sadar | 37.4 | 22.3 | 3.3 | 37.0 | 17.5 | 10.9 | 40.3 | 34.6 | 34.6 | 9.8 | 0.9 | 20.1 | 1.9 | 5.6 |
| Panchbibi | 36.7 | 21.9 | 3.3 | 38.1 | 24.3 | 12.4 | 43.8 | 34.1 | 33.7 | 7.7 | 1 | 26 | 3.4 | 9.6 |
| Average | 35.0 | 26.1 | 5.6 | 33.3 | 26.7 | 15.7 | 35.3 | 32.8 | 36.6 | 10.5 | 2.3 | 27.5 | 2.1 | 8.7 |

It is observed here that the percentage of 1 child has increased while the percentage of lactating mother and old age people has decreased considerably among the total respondents than the baseline data. The percentage of household having children under 5 has slightly increased in Fulbari, Joypurhat Sadar and Panchbibi. But amazingly, the percentage of lactating mothers among households has significantly decreased in all areas. Further, the percentage of elderly persons among households has also significantly decreased in all areas.

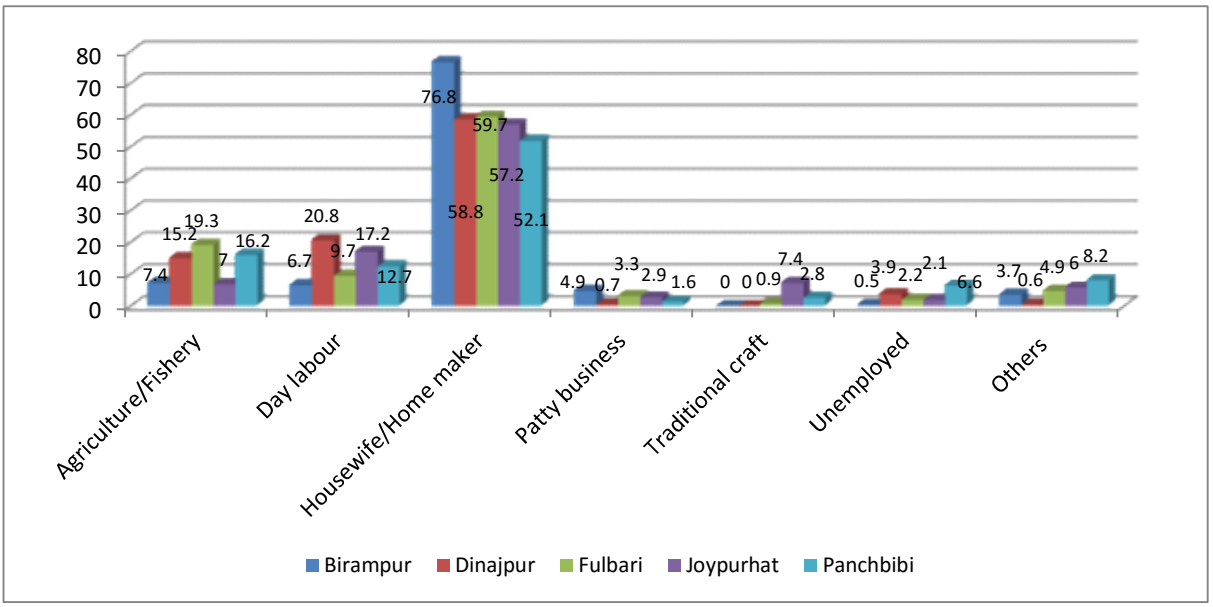
Table 12: Members in HHs - Upazila wise

| Upazila | Baseline | | | | | | Midterm | | | | | | Baseline | | | Midterm | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of members in household | | | | | | Number of members in household | | | | | | Number of earning members in household | | | Number of earning members in household | | |
| Upazila | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | >5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | >5 | 1 | 2 | >2 | 1 | 2 | >2 |
| Birampur | 0.8 | 8.5 | 21.8 | 36.3 | 17.3 | 15.3 | 1.6 | 7.7 | 26.6 | 35.5 | 16.1 | 12.5 | 64.1 | 28.6 | 7.2 | 72.6 | 24.2 | 2.8 |
| Dinajpur Sadar | 3.3 | 9.8 | 20.5 | 27.0 | 20.5 | 18.8 | .8 | 9.7 | 12.1 | 32.3 | 25.8 | 19.4 | 66.4 | 28.7 | 4.9 | 58.9 | 36.3 | 4.8 |
| Fulbari | 2.5 | 11.7 | 11.1 | 31.5 | 29.6 | 13.5 | | 5.0 | 24.2 | 32.9 | 18.0 | 19.9 | 56.2 | 34.6 | 9.2 | 63.4 | 31.7 | 5 |
| Joypurhat Sadar | 2.4 | 14.2 | 18.5 | 34.1 | 17.5 | 13.2 | 3.7 | 13.1 | 24.3 | 35.5 | 15.4 | 7.9 | 68.2 | 25.6 | 6.1 | 58.9 | 34.6 | 6.5 |
| Panchbibi | 4.3 | 16.7 | 21.4 | 25.2 | 19.0 | 13.3 | 2.9 | 13.5 | 21.2 | 30.3 | 17.8 | 14.4 | 77.6 | 19.5 | 2.8 | 65.9 | 28.4 | 4.3 |
| Average | 2.6 | 12.2 | 18.7 | 30.8 | 20.8 | 14.8 | 2.0 | 9.9 | 22.6 | 33.5 | 17.9 | 14.0 | 66.5 | 27.4 | 6.0 | 64.7 | 30.3 | 4.6 |

Here, in Birampur two-thirds of the household members depend on only 1 household earner figuring 72.6%. Member of 2 household earners with 36.3% is observed for Dinajpur Sadar while the percentage of 1 household earner has decreased in these years. It also indicates that for Joypurhat Sadar the percentage of 1 household earner (58.9) has decreased while the percentage for 2 household earners has increased significantly. At last overall, two-thirds respondents depend on 1 household earner.

Simply speaking the occupational structure of an area refers to the division of its work force engaged in different economic activities. In addition, how many of the total working population are engaged in agriculture and allied activities and how many of them are engaged in industrial and service sector can be known from the occupational structure of any area.

Figure 5: Occupation of sampled HHs (%)

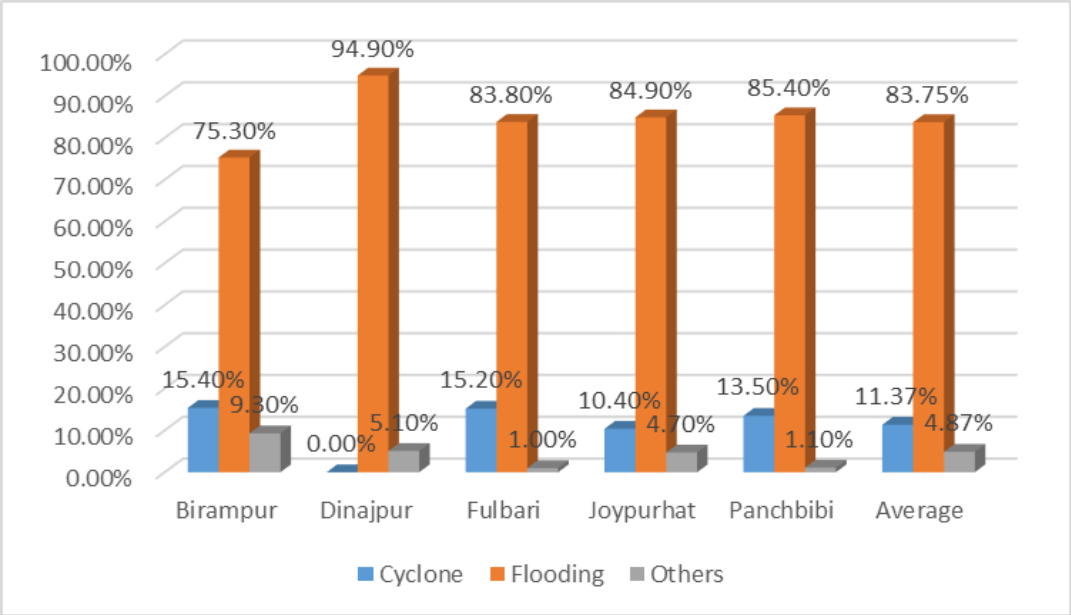



Among all the upazilas, most of the respondents are involved in agriculture/fishery and day labour for their earning when the average percentage of agriculture/fishery and day labour are 15.4% and 13.9% respectively. On the other hand, among the respondents, the percentage of housewives is mostly higher with an average percentage with 51.9 the individually the highest rate is observed in Birampur with 76.8%

In Dinajpur and Joypurhat, most of the respondents excluding housewives, with the percentage 20.8 and 17.2 are engaged in the occupation of day labour. Further, most of the respondents of Fulbari and Panchbibi depend on agriculture with percentage 19.3 and 16.2 respectively. It is highly noticeable that the areas having a higher percentage of agriculture/fishery as occupation have a higher percentage of unemployed like Panchbibi (6.6) and Dinajpur (3.9).Traditional craft men are higher in Joypurhat (7.4%) and Panchbibi (2.8) than any other areas as these areas have extensively higher inhabitant of ethnic minority. At last, among the respondents of Birampur, most of them are associated with patty business in occupation as a greater number of respondents is housewives.

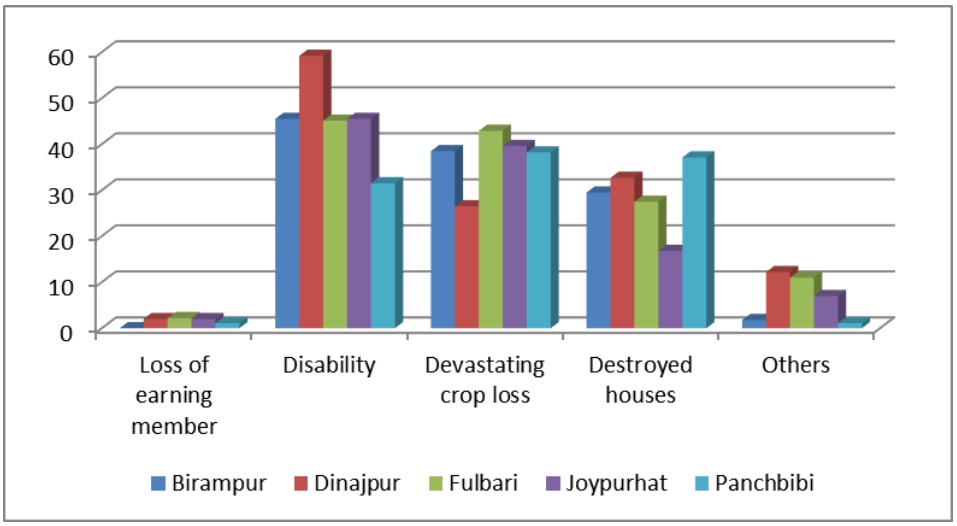
Bangladesh is a land of natural calamities. Flood, cyclone, drought, famine destroy the life and property like crop fields, houses, roads, streets creating insecurity of food, drinkable water, shelter every year. People live here fighting against the frequent natural calamities. So, to understand this trend, the frequency of occurrence of natural disaster within the last five years have been explored.

Figure 6: Incidence of Natural Disaster within the last five years



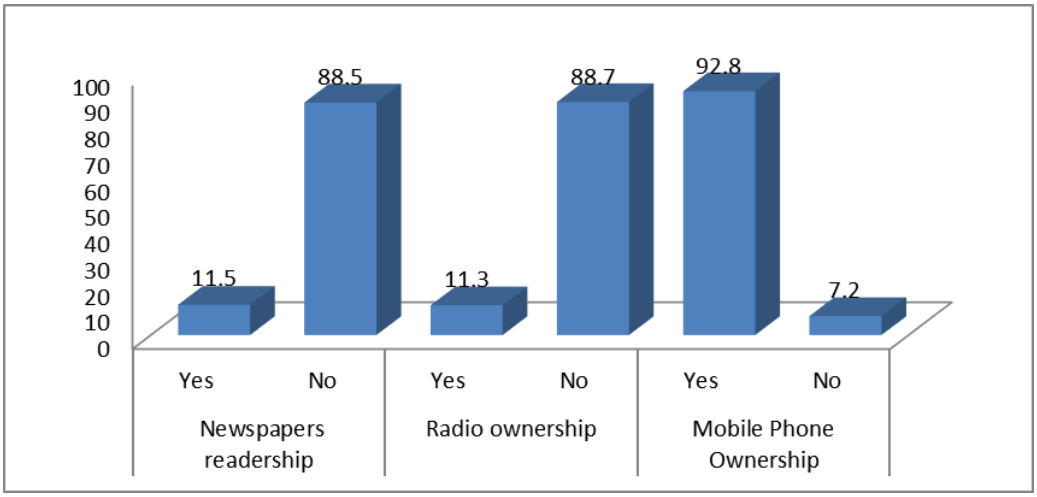

At mid term, they were asked to know what types of natural disasters occurred within last five years. Most of them answere cyclone and flooding which affect them mostly. It is highly noticed that the highest part of the population has been affected by flood while about 94.90% of the respondents of Dinajpur has reported and the average percentage of flood affected people is 83.75.

Figure 7: Eeffects of natural disaster




The highest percentage of people of Dinajpur figuring 59%, higher than any other areas, have reported disability as an effect of natural disaster while 45.5% of both Birampur and Joypurhat have experienced the same effect. In same way, all the areas with highest percentage ( 42.9) of Fulbari have gone through crop losses. The third intense effect of natural disaster was the destruction of houses in all areas and 32.7% of Dinajpur, higher than any areas, have reported the same.

Figuire 8: Access to Communication Assets (All households)



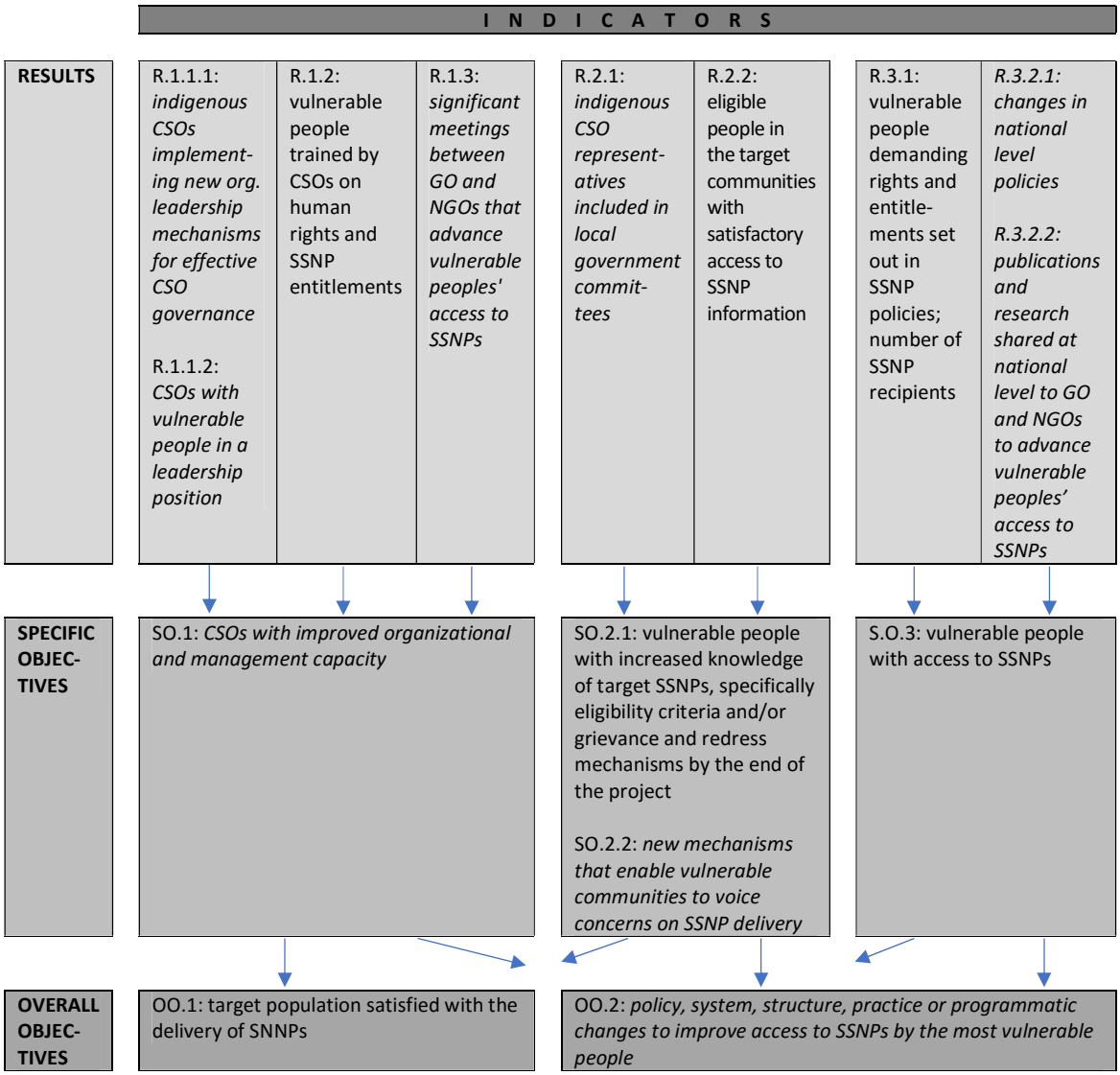

On an average more than 90% have mobile phone while almost an equal number has no radio of their own. Newspaper readership is also too low with only 11.5%. So only mobile phone as a way of communication might play a vital role for awareness build up. In case of using mobile phones, a phenomenal increase is observed in HIES 2016. It has increased to 92.50% in 2016 from 63.74% in 2010. (Source: HIES-2016).

The high mobile phone ownership in all upazilas indicates that it can be used as a helpful tool for not just awareness generation, but extension services such as updates on SSNP calendars, changes in provisions, and any other information relevant to SSNPs that might impact access of households. Already the use of mobile phones has brought about visible changes in rural Bangladesh in the areas of women's empowerment, greater awareness/information, higher agricultural incomes (undercutting middlemen), etc. This has learning for the EVPRA intervention as well. Increased connectivity through mobile phones also has positive governance related impacts and improved participatory democracy in addition to being a vital tool for effective service delivery. Here, our 4 FGDs findings include that all have informed us that they can call local government representatives at any time in order to inform any demand or share any news or something like that and the contact numbers of all local government representatives including other members of Union Parishad are available with them in written form.

## 4.2 Midterm evaluation findings on project results, specific objectives and overall objectives

This section presents the results of the midterm evaluation, using the project's theory of change indicators as discussion outline, i.e., starting with the results indicators, followed by indicators of specific objectives and eventually, the indicators of the overall objectives. The theory of change captured in the diagram below shows how a combination of positive changes in vulnerable peoples' knowledge or awareness, behaviors and conditions (boldened text) and institutional improvements at the CSO, local government and national levels (italicized text) complement and interact with each other to attain the project's purpose and goals.

Figure 9: Theory of Change Indicators




The ensuing discussion presents findings for nine results indicators, followed by findings for four indicators of specific objectives, and finally, findings for two indicators at the overall objective level.

**Indicator for Result 1.1.1: 80% of targeted CSOs implementing new organizational leadership mechanisms (e.g. new board standards, periodic/annual elections, inclusion of women, operational structures and systems etc.) for effective CSO governance at the end of Year 3**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *80% at the end of Year 3*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"… 50% of the targeted CSOs are exhibiting improved organisational and management capacity. Some 84% of the CSOs are implementing new organisational leadership mechanisms …"*

At baseline, most CSOs (91.7%, or 11 out of the 12 CSOs surveyed) revealed a lack of organisational and management practices, and respondents could not answer questions on leadership. According to the baseline study, there were no significant organizational leadership mechanisms in place before the start of the project.

The EVPRA project has been working with 100 CSOs in selected 5 upazilas, all of which were selected by an external consultancy firm in mid-2016. As part of the project's capacity building, CSO members received leadership development, organisation management, and advocacy and campaign skills trainings and workshops. The project has also been holding monthly meetings with CSO members. In December 2017, EVPRA team assessed the 100 CSOs using indicator measurement tools, and concluded that 50% of the targeted CSOs are exhibiting improved organisational and management capacity. Some 84% of the CSOs are implementing new organisational leadership mechanisms, specifically:

- All CSOs hold monthly meetings
- All CSOs keep meeting resolutions in their registered book
- All CSOs have committees formed with fair election/discussion with all CSO members
- All CSO leaders received leadership development and organization management and advocacy and campaign skill training
- 72% of CSOs have prepared their constitutions
- 73% of CSOs have written vision, mission & objectives
- 52% CSOs already started saving
- 78% CSOs have the written roles and responsibilities of CSOs leaders
- 19% of CSOs are registered with the pertinent government department
- However, only 3% CSOs have written human resource policies

Some of these findings were validated by 4 FGDs with CSOs members, e.g., their organization has a constitution, they have an executive committee, regular monthly meetings are held with proper documentation of meeting minutes in registered book, and they received leadership development, organizational management, and advocacy and campaign skill trainings from the project. These helped them manage their organization smoothly, as well as increase their communication capacity. As a result of all these, the FGD participants claim that they are now getting SSNPs from the local government committee, and in turn, are helping other vulnerable community members have access to SSNP services.

**Indicator for Result 1.1.2: 40% of targeted CSOs with either women, or other vulnerable people, in a leadership position by the end of Year 2 of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *40% at the end of Year 2*
- ***Current status:*** *achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"… 95% of CSOs now have women in leadership positions … Almost every CSO that participated in FGDs and interviews reported having women, widows, elderly and ethnic members …"*

At baseline, only 2 of the CSOs surveyed were ethnic CSOs. Also, none of the non-ethnic CSOs interviewed have people from ethnic minorities in leadership positions. As of December 2017, 97% of CSOs are fully led by ethnic minorities.

At baseline, 41.6% of CSOs have women in leadership positions. According to the assessment conducted by the EVPRA team in December 2017, 95% of CSOs now have women in leadership positions, including as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Additionally, 31 CSOs are female-only groups, and are therefore fully led by women. One CSO has a disabled person in leadership position.

Almost every CSO that participated in FGDs and interviews reported having women, widows, elderly and ethnic members; on the other hand, they don't have disabled members. Nearly all participating CSOs claim to have almost half of members as females. Females also participate in forming committees and are actively involved in its operations.

**Indicator for Result 1.2: 60% of the target population report having received information or training on human rights and their specific SSNP entitlements from an official source or CSOs by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *60% at the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"… percentage who received training increased from 16.90% during baseline to 52.25% during the midterm evaluation … NGOs, CSOs and CBOs as primary sources of information increased tremendously from 14% to 43%, overall … awareness programs on SSNPs have been conducted in their community, and the difference between baseline and midterm evaluation is significant, i.e., (32% vs. 69%)"*
- ***Other notable results:***
    - *Results for beneficiaries better than non-beneficiaries*
    - *Upazila-level results: best results in Fulbari; below-average in Panchbibi*

Survey results indicate a significant increase in the percentage of households that report to have received training from CSOs. Overall, the percentage increased from 16.90% during baseline to 52.25% during the midterm evaluation; this increase pushes the project close to the end-of-project target of 60%. The midterm evaluation result would have even been closer to the target if not for the lower percentage among non-beneficiaries, i.e., 48.31% compared to 56.11% for beneficiaries. Among upazilas, Panchbibi and Joypurhat Sadar registered the lowest midterm results for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. On the other hand, Fulbari has the highest midterm percentages, as well as highest percentage change over time. The table below provides comparative details between baseline and midterm evaluation, beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, and among upazilas.

Table 13: whether received any training from CSOs

| Type | Upazila | Received any training from CSOs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Baseline | Midterm |
| Non-beneficiaries | Birampur | 23.00% | 49.07% |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 4.00% | 51.02% |
| | Fulbari | 10.80% | 68.97% |
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 16.00% | 42.74% |
| | Panchbibi | 12.90% | 36.04% |
| | All upazilas | 14.30% | 48.31% |
| Beneficiaries | Birampur | 28.70% | 62.86% |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 14.90% | 61.33% |
| | Fulbari | 15.70% | 70.27% |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 29.10% | 53.61% |
| | Panchbibi | 11.50% | 34.02% |
| | All upazilas | 21.20% | 56.11% |
| **Total** | Birampur | 25.80% | 56.85% |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 8.20% | 57.26% |
| | Fulbari | 12.30% | 69.57% |
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 19.40% | 47.66% |
| | Panchbibi | 12.40% | 35.10% |
| | All upazilas | 16.90% | 52.25% |

Between baseline and midterm evaluation periods, word-of-mouth/neighbors as the primary source of information on SSNPs, overall, dropped significantly from 84% to 39%. On the other hand, NGOs, CSOs and CBOs as primary sources of information increased tremendously from 14% to 43%, overall; this is also true for Union Parishad which saw an increase from 2% at baseline to 10% during the midterm evaluation. Qualitative findings support these results, e.g., among 4 beneficiary case studies, 2 have identified CSOs as source of information regarding SSNP schemes, and all of them think that NGOs, CSOs or CBOs can play more important role in this matter. Likewise, the increased percentage of local CSOs and Union Parishad as main sources information is attributed to the EVPRA project, and that this is indicative of the strengthening CSO capacities, as well as the most vulnerable and ethnic minority groups' increasing access to Union Parishads.

Percentage distributions at midterm evaluation are similar for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Among upazilas, Fulbari had the largest percentage of households who received information on SSNPs primarily from CSOs, NGOs and CBOs (57%); on the other hand, Panchbibi has the lowest at 29%.

A hypothesis test was undertaken to gauge statistically significant difference in main source of SSNP information between ethnic and non-ethnic minority groups. Results (Chi square = .135; Cramer's V = .095) indicate there is no significant difference between ethnic and non-ethnic households regarding source of information on SSNPs, and that association is weak.

The table below provides comparative details between baseline and midterm evaluation, beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, and among upazilas.

Table 14: Source of Information on SSNPs (% of respondents)

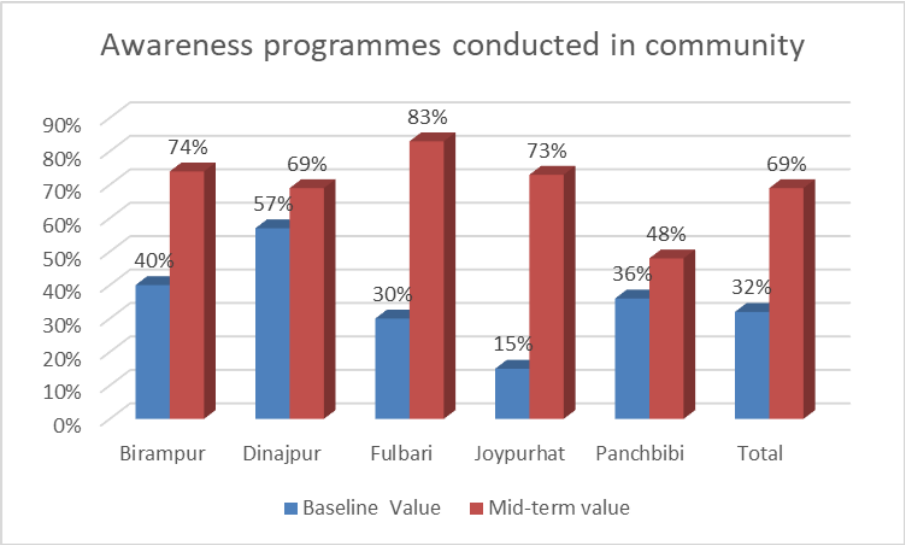
| Type | Upazila | Source of Information on SSNPs | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Baseline | | | | Midterm | | | |
| | | Union Parishad (%) | NGOs/CSOs/CBOs %) | Word of mouth/ Neighbours %) | Others %) | Union Parishad %) | NGOs/CSOs/CBOs %) | Word of mouth/ Neighbors %) | Others %) |
| **Non-beneficiary** | Birampur | 2 | 19 | 78 | 1 | 9 | 42 | 43 | 6 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 3 | 3 | 95 | 0 | 17 | 49 | 31 | 4 |
| | Fulbari | 1 | 7 | 91 | 1 | 7 | 60 | 26 | 7 |
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 1 | 22 | 77 | 1 | 5 | 39 | 51 | 5 |
| | Panchbibi | 0 | 14 | 83 | 2 | 4 | 30 | 57 | 9 |
| | Average | 1 | 13 | 85 | 1 | 8 | 43 | 43 | 6 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Beneficiary** | Birampur | 8 | 15 | 76 | 1 | 11 | 42 | 37 | 11 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 0 | 4 | 96 | 0 | 14 | 51 | 24 | 12 |
| | Fulbari | 2 | 4 | 92 | 2 | 10 | 54 | 24 | 12 |
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 0 | 36 | 64 | 0 | 9 | 44 | 41 | 6 |
| | Panchbibi | 0 | 26 | 74 | 0 | 15 | 29 | 52 | 5 |
| | Average | 2 | 18 | 80 | 1 | 11 | 44 | 36 | 9 |
| **Total** | Birampur | 5 | 17 | 77 | 1 | 10 | 42 | 40 | 9 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 2 | 3 | 95 | 0 | 15 | 50 | 27 | 9 |
| | Fulbari | 1 | 6 | 91 | 1 | 9 | 57 | 25 | 9 |
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 1 | 26 | 74 | 0 | 7 | 42 | 46 | 5 |
| | Panchbibi | 0 | 19 | 80 | 1 | 9 | 29 | 54 | 7 |
| | Average | 2 | 14 | 83 | 1 | 10 | 43 | 39 | 8 |

Survey respondents were asked if awareness programs on SSNPs have been conducted in their community, and majority of them (69%) answered in the affirmative. Moreover, the difference between baseline and midterm evaluation is significant, i.e., (32% vs. 69%). The difference would have been more pronounced had it not been for the relatively low percentage at midterm evaluation in Panchbibi. On the other hand, Fulbari has the highest midterm evaluation percentage at 83%, as well as largest difference over time, i.e., from 30% to 83%.

The figure below provides comparative details between baseline and midterm evaluation, and among upazilas.

Figure 10: whether awareness programmes conducted in community




A hypothesis test was undertaken to gauge statistically significant difference between ethnic and non-ethnic minority groups in terms of whether or not they claim that awareness programs on SSNPs were conducted in their community. Results (Chi Square = .014; phi = -.08) indicate there is significant difference between ethnic and non-ethnic households; however, the association is weak. The box below provides details of the test.

**Statistical Significance between Ethnic/Non-Ethnic HH and Advocacy/awareness drive been conducted for any of the SSNP schemes in community**

In this study statistical Chi Square test was conducted to check if there is any Statistical Significance between

Ethnic/Non-Ethnic HH and Advocacy/awareness drive been conducted for any of the SSNP schemes in community.

$H_0$: There is no significant difference between Ethnic and Non-Ethnic HH when it comes to Advocacy/awareness drive been conducted for any of the SSNP schemes in community

$H_1$: There is significant difference between Ethnic and Non-Ethnic HH when it comes to Advocacy/awareness drive been conducted for any of the SSNP schemes in community

**Chi-Square Tests**

| | Value | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) | Exact Sig. (2-sided) | Exact Sig. (1-sided) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pearson Chi-Square | 6.083 | 1 | .014 | | |
| Continuity Correction[b] | 5.711 | 1 | .017 | | |
| Likelihood Ratio | 6.225 | 1 | .013 | | |
| Fisher's Exact Test | | | | .014 | .008 |

After conducting the Chi Square test, it was found that $\chi$ (1) = 18.279. $p$ = 0.014, which implies that $p$ value i.e., 0.014 < 0.05, henceforth, we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that that there is statistical significant difference found between Ethnic and Non-Ethnic HH when it comes to Advocacy/awareness drive has been conducted for any of the SSNP schemes in community.

**Symmetric Measures[c]**

| | | Value | Approx. Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nominal by Nominal | Phi | -.08 | .014 |

Observed phi value is 0.08, suggesting weak association between Ethnic/Non-Ethnic HH and awareness drive conducted for any of the SSNP schemes in community though there is statistical significance.

**Indicator of Result 1.3: CSOs report at least 1 significant engagement with GO on an issue promoting improved SSNP provision for the target population by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *at least 1 significant engagement by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *hard to say, the baseline and evaluation do not have comprehensive definition and measure of "significant engagement"*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"… at least one CSO leader said that they now easily communicate with Union Parishad and upazila-level government officer"*

At baseline, most CSOs (11 out of 12 CSOs surveyed) did not hold meetings with GOs; those who do manage 3 to 6 meetings per year. However, outcomes of these meetings are unknown.

The EVPRA project conducted various activities from the local to the national level to promote engagement between CSOs and government officials. Based on interviews, at least one CSO leader said that they now easily communicate with Union Parishad and upazila-level government officer. As a result, the CSO is getting SSNP and other related services from the local government.

**Indicator for Result 2.1: 30% increase in the number of CSO representatives included in local government committees, specifically including CSO representatives from ethnic minorities, women and other most vulnerable groups by the end of Year 3 of the project.**

***Summary of findings:***

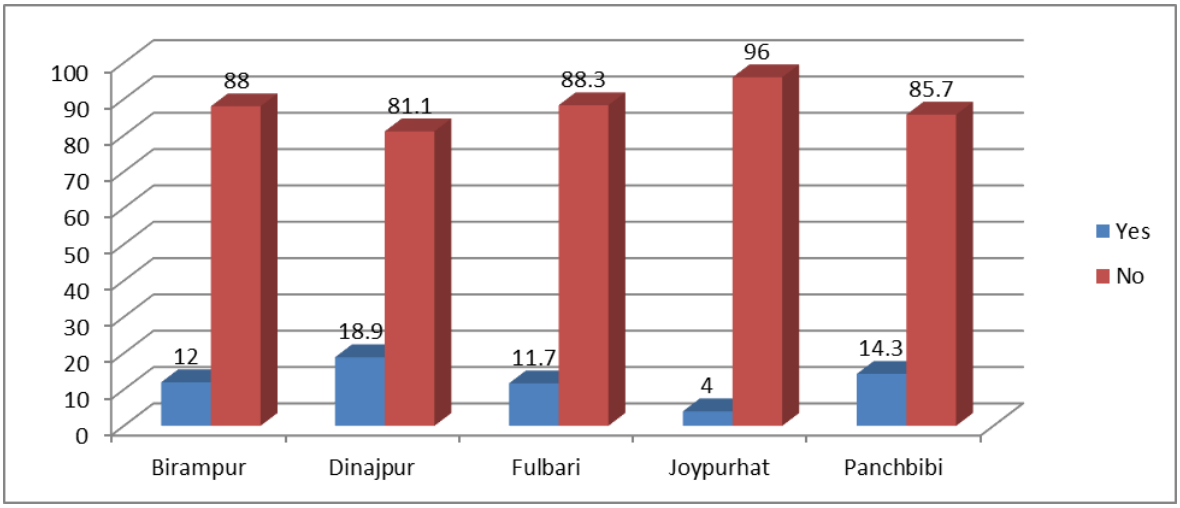
- ***Target:*** *30% by the end of Year 3 of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"… from 2 out of 12 CSOs at baseline to 5 CSOs during midterm evaluation that are represented in the Union Parishad standing committee, and 6 CSOs at midterm evaluation represented in the local government SSNP committee"*

- ***Other notable results:***
    - *"… while no respondent during baseline said that they are involved in the local government committee, the prevalence increased to 11.63% during the midterm evaluation"*
    - *Upazila-level results: best results in Dinajbur; below-average in Joypurhat*

Interviews with CSOs indicate an increase in the number of CSOs represented in local government committees, i.e., from 2 out of 12 CSOs at baseline to 5 CSOs during midterm evaluation that are represented in the Union Parishad standing committee, and 6 CSOs at midterm evaluation represented in the local government SSNP committee. This was achieved despite the absence of local government policy that mandates CSO representation in the SSNP committee.

The survey results validate this finding, i.e., while no respondent during baseline said that they are involved in the local government committee, the prevalence increased to 11.63% during the midterm evaluation. Among upazilas, Dinajbur has the highest prevalence at midterm (18.9%), while Joypurhat Sadar had the lowest (4%). The figure below provides prevalence per upazila.

Figure 11: Whether Representative in Local Govt. Committee




**Indicator for Result 2.2: 20% increase in people in the target communities with satisfactory access to SSNP information by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *20% by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"… increase in the percentage of respondents between baseline and evaluation who claim satisfactory access to SSNP information, i.e., from 57.30% to 81.88%"*
- ***Other notable results:***
    - *Almost 100% of respondents at midterm evaluation claim to have knowledge of SSNPs; there is no difference between sexes, as well as between ethnic and non-ethnic minority households*
    - *Upazila-level results on knowledge of SSNPs: best results in Fulbari; below-average in Panchbibi*

There was a significant increase in the percentage of respondents between baseline and evaluation who claim satisfactory access to SSNP information, i.e., from 57.30% to 81.88%. Among female respondents, the increase went from 57.6% at baseline to 81.61% at midterm evaluation. The increase is more pronounced among respondents from ethnic minority households, i.e., from 46.8% to 81.79%.

In terms of knowledge of SSNP schemes, survey respondents were asked during the midterm evaluation if they are aware of any scheme operated by the local government under which some kind of benefit is due to the citizens. Thy were also asked if they can name at least five schemes. The table below provides the results, wherein the percentage who responded on the affirmative was almost 100% overall, and when segregated by sex and ethnic identity.

Table 15: Knowledge on SSNP segregated by sex and ethnicity

| Group | Overall Knowledge on SSNP | Name at least 5 SSNPs |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 96.3 | 97.0 |
| Female | 99.4 | 98.1 |
| Ethnic minority | 98.6 | 97.1 |
| Non-ethnic minority | 99.1 | 98.2 |
| Total | 99.0 | 97.9 |

**Indicator for Result 3.1: 20% increase (above baseline) in the number of SSNP recipients by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *20% by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** "At baseline, only 5.3% of households availed of at least one of the nine SSNPs targeted by the EVPRA project … At the time of the midterm evaluation, the percentage increased to 50.58%"
- ***Other notable result:***
    - *between baseline and midterm evaluation, there is an increase in the percentage of those who claim to have received the required SSNP information/help when they approached local government officials, i.e., from 31% to 57%*
    - *between baseline and midterm evaluation, there is an increase in the percentage of respondents approaching local government officials directly to either seek help or information on SSNPs, i.e. from 69.8% to 82.5%*

At baseline, only 5.3% of households availed of at least one of the nine SSNPs targeted by the EVPRA project. At the time of the midterm evaluation, the percentage increased to 50.58%. An almost the same percentage of female respondents (51.28%) claimed to have access to SSNPs. The prevalence is lower for ethnic minority households, i.e., 40.36%. Access to SSNPs increased for ethnic minority households from 31.6% at baseline to 40.36% during midterm evaluation. Similarly, access to SSNPs increased among female respondents from 38.7% at baseline to 51.28% during midterm evaluation. **See below under Specific Objective 3 for more detailed narrative on this indicator.**

When it comes to respondents approaching local government officials directly to either seek help or information on SSNPs, there is a significant increase between baseline and midterm evaluation, i.e., 69.8% to 82.5%, respectively. The percentage is slightly higher among beneficiary households compared to non-beneficiaries, both at baseline and midterm evaluation. According to interviews with four local government officials during the midterm evaluation, they each contend that any information is disseminated to the community through canvassing in the locality, which may have contributed to getting more responses from the residents.

Among upazilas, the largest increase between baseline and midterm evaluation occurred in Dinaipur Sadar, i.e., from 57.4% to 83.9%. The table below provides details of these results.

Table 16: Approached local government representatives directly for either help or information

| Type | Upazila | Approached local government representatives directly for help or information | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Baseline value (%) | Midterm value (%) |
| Non-beneficiaries | Birampur | 67.5 | 78.7 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 56.0 | 83.7 |
| | Fulbari | 74.8 | 75.9 |
| | Joypurhat | 68.6 | 84.6 |
| | Panchbibi | 68.9 | 75.7 |
| | All upazilas | 68.0 | 79.4 |
| Beneficiaries | Birampur | 68.9 | 87.1 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 59.6 | 84.0 |
| | Fulbari | 74.5 | 82.4 |
| | Joypurhat | 78.2 | 84.5 |
| | Panchbibi | 82.1 | 87.6 |
| | All upazilas | 72.8 | 85.5 |
| Total | Birampur | 68.1 | 83.5 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 57.4 | 83.9 |
| | Fulbari | 74.7 | 78.9 |
| | Joypurhat | 71.1 | 84.6 |
| | Panchbibi | 73.8 | 81.3 |
| | All upazilas | 69.8 | 82.5 |

The survey respondents were asked a follow-up question on the main outcome of approaching with local government officials. Results indicate that, between baseline and midterm evaluation, there is an increase in the percentage of those who claim to have received the required information/help from 31% to 57%. As expected, beneficiary households have a higher percentage of respondents who received the required information at midterm evaluation (76%), compared to non-beneficiaries (35%). The percentage of households who stated that their request was turned down also went up between baseline and midterm evaluation, although at a less pronounced manner (23% to 28%). This decrease is largely accounted for by responses from non-beneficiary households.

Among upazilas, Panchbibi and Dinajpur have the largest percentage increase in the number of households that claim to have received the required information/help. The table below provides detailed results segregated by baseline vs. evaluation, beneficiary or non-beneficiary, and among upazilas.

Table 17: Outcome of approaching local government officials

| Types | Upazila | Outcome of approaching local government officials | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Baseline (%) | | | | | | Mid-term (%) | | | | | |
| | | Received required information/help | Request was turned down | Was not given a hearing | Received unhelpful answers only | Others | Cannot say | Received required information/help | Request was turned down | Was not given a hearing | Received unhelpful answers only | Others | No response |
| Beneficiary | Birampur | 40 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 33 | 80 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dinajpur | 20 | 20 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 44 | 71 | 21 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | Fulbari | 35 | 20 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 25 | 74 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 2 |
| | Joypurhat | 10 | 42 | 4 | 12 | 1 | 31 | 72 | 15 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | Panchbibi | 8 | 35 | 5 | 21 | 0 | 31 | 79 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 22 | 28 | 4 | 13 | 1 | 32 | 76 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Non-beneficiary | Birampur | 52 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 31 | 37 | 45 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| | Dinajpur | 36 | 9 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 40 | 37 | 49 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| | Fulbari | 45 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 26 | 35 | 47 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| | Joypurhat | 40 | 24 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 28 | 51 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| | Panchbibi | 54 | 17 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 18 | 41 | 29 | 13 | 17 | 0 | 1 |
| | Total | 47 | 14 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 27 | 35 | 44 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| All | Birampur | 46 | 13 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 62 | 26 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | Dinajpur | 26 | 16 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 43 | 58 | 32 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| | Fulbari | 38 | 18 | 6 | 12 | 1 | 25 | 54 | 28 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| | Joypurhat | 18 | 37 | 5 | 10 | 1 | 29 | 48 | 34 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| | Panchbibi | 25 | 28 | 5 | 15 | 1 | 26 | 60 | 20 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 1 |
| | Total | 31 | 23 | 4 | 11 | 1 | 30 | 57 | 28 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 |

**Indicator of Result 3.2.1: At least 18 contributions to national level policy consultations with government to facilitate policy changes by the end of the project (e.g., consolidating schemes into fewer ministries; improving national level policy; improving national level coordination; strengthening management and administrative delivery systems etc.)**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *at least 18 contributions by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *Interviews with project staff indicate that 11 national-level programs were organised with relevant ministries with the intent of addressing policy matters.*

**Indicator for Result 3.2.2: 10 publication items and research pieces presented and disseminated at national level, to government and civil society, to advance access to SSNPs by the most vulnerable by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *10 items by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *Interviews with project staff reveal that six SSNP-related research pieces have been published, as well as presented to government officials, secretaries and ministries at various local- to national-level forums.*

**Indicator for Specific Objective 1: At least 60% of targeted local CSOs are exhibiting improved organizational and management capacity, of which at least 20% are women's organizations, by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *at least 60% by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*

- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"at midterm evaluation, 50% of targeted CSOs are exhibiting improved organizational and management capacity"*

At baseline, most of the participating CSOs (91.7% or 11 out of 12 CSOs) revealed a lack of proper organisational or management practices; for instance, none of the respondents could answer questions on leadership. Furthermore, according to the CSO capacity assessment report, 90% stated that the main challenge they face is running the organization. None of the two ethnic CSOs exhibited organisational and management capacity. Likewise, none of the CSOs were women's organisations.

CSO assessment conducted at the midterm evaluation showed that 50% of targeted CSOs are exhibiting improved organisational and management capacity. For instance, 73% of CSOs have set their vision, mission and objectives; 3% of CSOs have HR policy; all CSOs are organising monthly meetings, they are keeping their meeting record in the resolution books, and they formed their executive committee through fair election; all CSO leaders received leadership development and organisational management training, as well as advocacy and campaign skill training. Some 40% of these CSOs are women's organisations.

Following the preceding discussion on CSO challenges, a scaling has been attempted for purpose of understanding level of challenges in CSOs and is based on responses received by participants in FGDs (and KIIs) conducted with NGOs and CBOs. The codes/scales here are applied to qualitative data for the purpose of condensing, consolidating and explaining the text heavy discussions that comprise the data.

Table 18: Assessment of capacity challenges on a scale (1: Very good – 5: Very bad)

| SN | Parameter | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Networking with government (G2C) | | | | | |
| 2 | Involvement in SSNP delivery | | | | | |
| 3 | Internal knowledge | | | | | |
| 4 | Physical Infrastructure | | | | | |
| 5 | Human Resources strength | | | | | |
| 6 | Management practices | | | | | |
| 7 | Commitment / enthusiasm levels | | | | | |
| 8 | Inclusion | | | | | |

Table 19: Description of parameters and scales deployed

| Parameter No. | Explanations |
|---|---|
| 1 | The scaling of Networking with Government (G2C) has been arrived at by analysing responses to questions on number of meetings held with government, degree of involvement with government in the developmental processes,<br>E.g.: Now CSO involvement has been noticed not in large. |
| 2 | This parameter was relatively easier to code given that the discussion centred on SSNPs. Questions such as presence in government committees for SSNPs, involvement in creating beneficiary lists, monitoring, any other aspect, etc. were used to analyse this question.<br>E.g. of responses: "Now there is scope for CSO monitoring in SSNPs"; Now the CSOs are connected with local government and influence then to choose the right one through listing. |
| 3 | Internal knowledge is gauged through responses on SSNPs itself, and on other scheme specific details, availability of data in organisations, etc.<br>For example, The CSO members have better understanding of SSNP delivery, processes, etc. Including the specific criteria of different schemes of SSNP. |
| 4 | This parameter was gauged through observation of offices, furniture, files, availability of computer, etc., and also through responses that cropped up organically during discussions. |
| 5 | Human resource management are not same in all organizations. Further, the human resource management should be better than this through enhancing capacity of them. |
| 6 | There was lack of clarity on what management practice entails and on specific probing, information received was scant and did not point toward effective management practice. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Though elections were not periodic in some cases but management practice improving by ensuring freedom for opinion. |
| 7 | The enthusiasm and commitment levels were gauged through observation and was generally quite high. Responses were spirited, and the discussions carried on for long revealing high commitment to the cause. |
| 8 | This parameter was gauged through specific responses to the question on membership of various vulnerable populations, and also through observation. |

**Indicator of Specific Objective 2.1: 10% increase in the number of targeted people (including ethnic minority groups and women) with increased knowledge of target SSNPs' eligibility criteria by the end of the project; 60% increase in the number of targeted people (including ethnic minority groups and women) with increased knowledge of SSNP grievance and redress mechanisms by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *10% and 60%, respectively, by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"… modest overall increase in awareness of the eligibility criteria for SSNPs between baseline and mid-term evaluation, i.e., from 74.2% to 78.3%, … significant overall increase in awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism from baseline to midterm evaluation, i.e., 12.3% to 55.3%"*
- ***Other notable results:***
    - *By upazila, the largest increase in awareness of the eligibility criteria for SSNPs was in Fulbari (61.7% to 90.1%); the smallest increase was in Joypurhat Sadar (from 98.1% to 73.9%) and Panchbibi (from 98.1% to 79.2%)*
    - *By upazila, the largest increase in awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism was in Fulbari 11.1% to 84.5%.; the smallest increase was in Panchbibi (from 20.5% to 37.0%)*

In terms of awareness of the eligibility criteria for SSNPs, there is a modest overall increase between baseline and mid-term evaluation, i.e., from 74.2% to 78.3%. The increase would have been much larger, had awareness of SSNP eligibility criteria not decreased in two upazilas, i.e., Joypurhat Sadar (from 98.1% to 73.9%) and Panchbibi (from 98.1% to 79.2%). The upazila with the largest increase is Fulbari, i.e., from 61.7% to 90.1%.

In terms of beneficiary-to-non-beneficiary comparison, there was an increase in awareness among beneficiary households (from 73.7% to 84.8%); on the other hand, there was a decrease in awareness among non-beneficiaries (from 74.5% to 71.7%). Awareness among ethnic minority households also increased in a similar manner, i.e., from 74.80% to 79.29%; the same is true for female respondents, i.e., from 72.50% to 78.32%.

The table below provides details of awareness of SSNP eligibility criteria according to beneficiary type, upazila, and baseline vs. midterm evaluation.

Table 20: Awareness of eligibility criteria for SSNPs

| Group | Upazila | Awareness of eligibility criteria for SSNPs (%) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Baseline | Midterm |
| Non-beneficiaries | Birampur | 55.6 | 59.8 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 56.0 | 79.6 |
| | Fulbari | 66.7 | 88.5 |
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 97.4 | 67.2 |
| | Panchbibi | 97.0 | 71.2 |
| | All upazilas | 74.5 | 71.7 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beneficiaries | Birampur | 47.5 | 77.0 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 70.2 | 90.7 |
| | Fulbari | 51.0 | 91.9 |
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 100.0 | 82.5 |
| | Panchbibi | 100.0 | 88.5 |
| | All upazilas | 73.7 | 84.8 |
| Total | Birampur | 51.6 | 70.7 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 61.5 | 86.3 |
| | Fulbari | 61.7 | 90.1 |
| | Joypurhat Sadar | 98.1 | 73.8 |
| | Panchbibi | 98.1 | 79.2 |
| | All upazilas | 74.2 | 78.3 |

When it comes to awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism, there was a significant overall increase in awareness from baseline to midterm evaluation, i.e., 12.3% to 55.3%. The increase is even larger among beneficiary households, i.e., 14.4% to 61.1%. Among upazilas, Fulbari experienced the largest overall increase in awareness from 11.1% to 84.5%. On the other hand, Panchbibi had the smallest overall increase, i.e., from 20.5% to 37.0%.

Among ethnic minority households, awareness of grievance redress mechanisms increased from 8.8% at baseline to 62.86% at midterm evaluation. To a lesser but still significant extent, awareness also increased among female respondents from 13.5% to 55.42%.

According to interviews made with project staff and partners, this significant progress in awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism could be attributed to the establishment of 100 complaint boxes at the CSOs, as well as 46 complaint boxes in 41 Union Parishads and 5 municipalities by the EVPRA Project. EVPRA action also played a vital role for the functioning of these complaint response mechanisms at both CSO and local government levels. According to 4 CSOs who participated in midterm evaluation FGDs, they said that they can now discuss complaints and suggestions on SSNP beneficiary selection, services and other social issues entered in complaint boxes with Union Parishad representatives.

The table below provides details of awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism according to beneficiary type, upazila, and baseline vs. midterm evaluation.

Table 21: Awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism

| Group | Upazila | Awareness of public complaint/grievance redresses mechanism (%) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Baseline | Midterm |
| Non-beneficiaries | Birampur | 4.0 | 43.5 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 5.3 | 57.1 |
| | Fulbari | 9.9 | 81.6 |
| | Joypurhat | 14.7 | 39.3 |
| | Panchbibi | 17.4 | 36.9 |
| | All upazilas | 11.0 | 49.4 |
| Beneficiaries | Birampur | 13.1 | 62.9 |
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 4.3 | 76.0 |
| | Fulbari | 13.7 | 87.8 |
| | Joypurhat | 10.9 | 50.5 |
| | Panchbibi | 25.6 | 37.1 |
| | All upazilas | 14.4 | 61.1 |
| Total | Birampur | 8.5 | 54.4 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Dinajpur Sadar | 4.9 | 68.6 |
| | Fulbari | 11.1 | 84.5 |
| | Joypurhat | 13.7 | 44.4 |
| | Panchbibi | 20.5 | 37.0 |
| | All upazilas | 12.3% | 55.3 |

**Indicator for Specific Objective 2.2: three new mechanisms (e.g. inclusion of CSO representatives, including ethnic minority groups and women, in local government committees, establishment of complaints and redress systems, transparency and accountability boards etc.) introduced by local government to enable vulnerable communities to voice concerns on the delivery of SSNPs by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *at least 3 mechanisms by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *see below*

The midterm evaluation yielded the following qualitative findings:

- 146 complaint/suggestion boxes were placed in CSOs and Union Parishads
- There is one dedicated phone number across the CSOs
- One Union Parishad chairman said that they are hanging beneficiary list in their display board, and community members can provide their opinions or complaints regarding the list
- The Union Parishad formed a complaint response committee to address all complaints

According to the EVPRA team monitoring assessment in December 2017, about 95% CSOs women are in leadership position and 6 CSO members are already involved in the local government's SSNP committee, and 5 CSO members are also involved in other local government committees. Because of this, they are able to influence local government decision making.

All midterm evaluation FGDs indicate that CSO representatives attended an interface meeting at upazila parishad with the chairman and other government officials in order to present their complaints, demands and suggestions. They also demanded that this meeting should be organised more frequently, i.e., at least 3 times in a year.

**Indicator for Specific Objective 3: 20% increase in the number of vulnerable people, including ethnic minority groups and women, who report accessing 1 or more of the 9 targeted SSNPs by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *at 20% by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"At baseline, only 5.3% of households availed of at least one of the nine SSNPs targeted by the EVPRA project … At the time of the midterm evaluation, the percentage increased to 50.58%"*
- ***Other notable results:***
    - *access to SSNPs increased for ethnic minority households from 31.6% at baseline to 40.36% during midterm evaluation*
    - *access to SSNPs increased among female respondents from 38.7% at baseline to 51.28% during midterm evaluation*

At baseline, only 5.3% of households availed of at least one of the nine SSNPs targeted by the EVPRA project. At the time of the midterm evaluation, the percentage increased to 50.58%. An almost the same percentage of female respondents (51.28%) claimed to have access to SSNPs. The prevalence is lower for ethnic minority households, i.e., 40.36%. Access to SSNPs increased for ethnic minority households from 31.6% at baseline to

40.36% during midterm evaluation. Similarly, access to SSNPs increased among female respondents from 38.7% at baseline to 51.28% during midterm evaluation.

According to interviews with EVPRA staff, not all eligible persons have been included in the SSNP schemes because of shortage of SSNP slots. Also, according to one of the four FGDs, the EVPRA project made them aware of SSNPs; however, they are unable to visit local government offices frequently because the location is too far from them. Further, it costs a large amount of time and money to visit the local government office.

In terms of specific SSNP schemes, the one with the highest access rate during midterm evaluation is Secondary Education Stipend Programme (SESP) at 15%, followed by Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) scheme at 12%, Old Age Allowance (OAA) at 9%, and Primary Education Stipend Project (PESP) at 8.6%.

Comparing baseline to midterm evaluation results, the scheme with the largest increase is Secondary Education Stipend Programme (SESP), i.e., from 3% to 15%. A distant second is the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) scheme, i.e., from 7% to 12%. The programs that experienced a decrease in access rate are Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme (from 12% to 7.2%) and Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute (AWDD) scheme (from 5% to 4.8%).

Table 22: Access to specific SSNP schemes (baseline vs. midterm evaluation)

| SSNP Scheme | Access to specific SSNP schemes | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Baseline % | Midterm % | % Difference (M-B) |
| Food-for-work/cash-for-work (FFW/CFW) | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) | 7 | 12 | 5 |
| Old Age Allowance (OAA) | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute (AWDD) | 5 | 4.2 | -0.8 |
| Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) | 12 | 7.2 | -4.8 |
| Monthly Allowance for Poor Lactating Mothers (MAPLM) | 1 | 2.1 | 1.1 |
| Primary Education Stipend Project (PESP) | 8 | 8.6 | 0.6 |
| Secondary Education Stipend Programme (SESP) | 3 | 15 | 12 |
| Allowances for Financially Insolvent Disabled (AFID) | 2 | 2.1 | 0.1 |

The table below provides details of access to specific SSNP schemes among upazilas, and comparisons between baseline and midterm evaluation prevalence.

Table 23: Access to specific SSNP schemes (by Upazila)

| Upazila | SSNP Schemes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Baseline (%) | | | | | | | | | Midterm (%) | | | | | | | | |
| | FFW/CFW | VGD | OAA | AWDD | VGF | MAPLM | PSEP | SESP | AFID | FFW/CFW | VGD | OAA | AWDD | VGF | MAPLM | PSEP | SESP | AFID |
| Birampur | 4 | 14 | 8 | 3 | 18 | 1 | 17 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 9 | 6.5 | 6 | 0.8 | 9.3 | 19 | 1.6 |
| Dinajpur Sadar | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 17 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 3.2 | 17 | 1.6 | 8.1 | 18 | 0.8 |
| Fulbari | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 8 | 0.6 | 5.6 | 3.1 | 9.3 | 12 | 3.1 |
| Joypurhat Sadar | 2 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 2.8 | 7 | 1.9 | 7 | 14 | 2.8 |
| Panchbib | 2 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 6. | 4. | 3. | 9. | 12 | 1. |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| i | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | | 9 |
| All upazilas | 3 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 4.2 | 7.2 | 2.1 | 8.6 | 15 | 2.1 |

**Notes:**

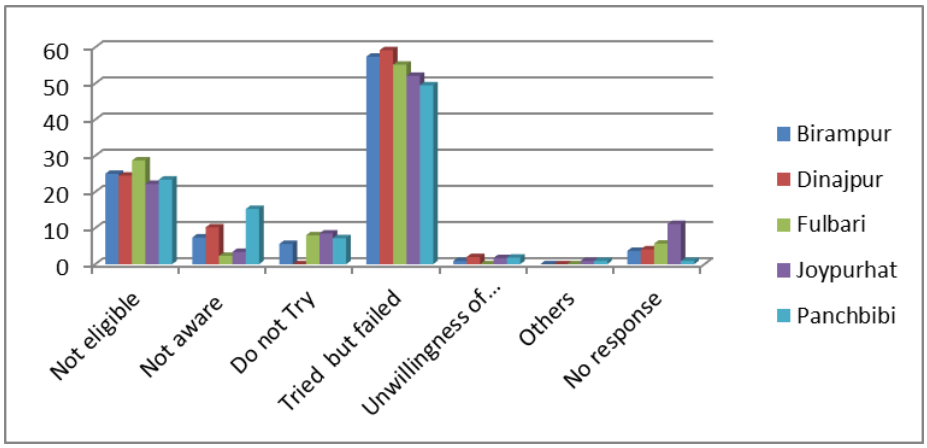
- Beneficiary and non-beneficiary households have been defined through self-reporting of respondents i.e. if respondent says s/he is availing of an SSNP, s/he is treated as a beneficiary, and if s/he is not availing SSNPs, s/he is a non-beneficiary.
- Further, among all our respondents, we have considered those not eligible who have identified themselves as ineligible as a cause of not availing SSNP facility.
- Notable here is that beneficiary is different from *eligible* beneficiary. Likewise, non-beneficiary respondents in the sample do not mean ineligible candidates for SSNPs. Thus, at no point in the study respondents can be classified as *actually* eligible and non-eligible.
- All respondents have however been asked to indicate whether they *know* about the eligibility criteria. But their knowledge of eligibility per scheme has not been tested.
- Mis-targeting of beneficiaries is explored through other questions on access of and factors affecting SSNPs.

Respondents were asked to identify the main factor that affects access to SSNPs. At the top of the list is "no idea" for both baseline and midterm evaluation, i.e., 42.9% and 40.3%, respectively. Another factor identified is bribery. At baseline, 40.9% of respondents identified bribery; this percentage significantly went down during the midterm evaluation (18.7%). Also during the midterm evaluation, 10% of respondents named nepotism as another factor; another 9% considered prevalence of the rich as yet another factor affecting the access to SSNPs. Interviews with members of an NGO which carries out monitoring of SSNP delivery and conducts awareness generation regarding SSNPs and its mechanisms corroborated these findings. For instance, cards are often distributed to those who bribe the chairmen. Likewise, monitoring is few and far between with minimal due diligence. In some cases, a person is arbitrarily removed from one list if he/she is eligible to benefit from more than one SSNP scheme. Some upazila officers said that political influences during beneficiary selection are more common in the Unions than in upazilas.

Respondents were also asked to identify the main reason for not availing of SSNPs. The percentage of households that did not even attempt to access SSNPs dropped from 12.7% at baseline to 7.0% at midterm evaluation. However, the percentage of households who tried but failed increased from 46.6% to 55.7%. Interviews with project staff and partners said that while the EVPRA project undertakes activities that focus on the governance aspect of SSNP delivery and providing knowledge on the existence of a government sponsored SSNP system, it is important to note that perhaps the main cause for not accessing SSNPs is that the supply of SSNPs is limited, in the first place (especially in light of high demand for SSNPs).

The figure below provides details on main reasons for not availing of SSNPs broken down by upazila.

Figure 12: Reason for not availing SSNPs




**Indicator for Overall Objective 1.1: 20% increase in the number of people among the target population reporting increased satisfaction regarding the delivery of SSNPs (disaggregated by ethnicity and other vulnerable groups) by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *20% by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *partially achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *"increase in overall satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs from 79.1% at baseline to 93.0% during midterm evaluation"*
- ***Other notable results:***
  - *Fulbari registered the highest percentage of satisfied respondents (97.5%) … the upazila with the largest increase from baseline to midterm evaluation is Birampur, i.e., from 66.4% to 92.3%*
  - *there is statistically significant difference between ethnic and non-ethnic minority households regarding satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs*
  - *there is statistically significant difference between beneficiary and non-beneficiary households regarding satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs*

Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs was measured during baseline and midterm evaluation utilizing two types of questions, namely: [1] binary, i.e., yes/satisfied and no/not satisfied, and [2] 5-point satisfaction scale, i.e., very good, good, fair, bad and very bad. Responses to the first question type will be presented first.

There is an increase in overall satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs from 79.1% at baseline to 93.0% during midterm evaluation. However, out of 10 case studies including beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, four expressed their satisfaction with delivery of SSNP services.

Among upazilas, Fulbari registered the highest percentage of satisfied respondents (97.5%); the others are not far behind. The upazila with the largest increase from baseline to midterm evaluation is Birampur, i.e., from 66.4% to 92.3%. The table below provides details of satisfaction prevalence by upazila.

Table 24: Satisfaction with SSNP delivery

| Upazila Name | Satisfaction with SSNP delivery | |
|---|---|---|
| | Baseline value | Mid-term value |
| Birampur | 66.4% | 92.3% |
| Dinajpur Sadar | 83.0% | 92.7% |
| Fulbari | 82.4% | 97.5% |
| Joypurhat Sadar | 81.8% | 90.2% |
| Panchbibi | 82.1% | 93.3% |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| All upazilas | 79.1% | 93.0% |

A hypothesis test was undertaken to determine whether or not there is significant difference between ethnic and non-ethnic minority households when it comes to satisfaction with SSNP delivery. The result below (Chi Square: p = .043) indicates that there is statistically significant difference between ethnic and non-ethnic minority households regarding satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs.

**Statistical Significance between ethnic/non-ethnic HH and Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs**

In this study statistical Chi Square test was conducted to check if there is any statistical significance between **ethnic/non-ethnic** HH and Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs.

$H_0$ : There is no significant difference between **ethnic and non-ethnic** HH in terms of Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs.
$H_1$ : There is significant difference between **ethnic and non-ethnic** HH in terms of Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs.

| **Chi-Square Tests** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Value | df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
| Pearson Chi-Square | 3.025 | 1 | .043 |
| Likelihood Ratio | 3.050 | 1 | .041 |

After conducting the Chi Square test it was found that $\chi$ (1) = 3.025. p = 0.013, which implies that p value (i.e., 0.013 ≤ 0.05) is less than 0.05. Henceforth, we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is statistically significant difference between ethnic and non-ethnic HH regarding Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs. Based on evidence (quantitative analysis), it can be said that non-ethnic HHs are more satisfied compared to ethnic HHs in case of satisfaction with the delivery of SSNP.

| **Symmetric Measures[c]** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Value | Approx. Sig. |
| Nominal by Nominal | Phi | .058 | .073 |
| | Cramer's V | .058 | .073 |

There is association between Ethnic/Non-ethnic HH and Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs. Observed phi value is less than 0.10, suggesting weak association between Ethnic/Non-Ethnic HH and satisfaction with delivery of SSNP.

A similar test was undertaken to determine whether or not there is significant difference between beneficiary and non-beneficiary households when it comes to satisfaction with SSNP delivery. The result below (Chi Square: p = .001) indicates that there is statistically significant difference between beneficiary and non-beneficiary households regarding satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs.

**Statistical Significance between beneficiary and Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs**

In this study statistical Chi Square test was conducted to check if there is any statistical significance between beneficiary and Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs.
$H_0$ : There is no significant difference between beneficiary and non-beneficiary HHs in terms of Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs.
$H_1$ : There is significant difference between beneficiary and non-beneficiary HHs in terms of Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs.

| **Chi-Square Tests** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Value | Df | Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) |
| Pearson Chi-Square | 10.663 | 1 | .001 |
| Likelihood Ratio | 10.861 | 1 | .001 |

After conducting the Chi Square test it was found that $\chi(2)$ = 953.0. p = 0.001, implies that p value is less than

0.05 (i.e., 0.001 < 0.05). Henceforth, we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is statistically significant difference between beneficiary and non-beneficiary HHs when it comes to Satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs. Based on evidence (quantitative analysis), it can be concluded that beneficiaries are more satisfied compared to non-beneficiaries due to non-availing the SSNP benefits.

| **Symmetric Measures**[c] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Value | Approx. Sig. |
| Nominal by Nominal | Phi | 0.106 | .001 |
| | Cramer's V | 0.106 | .001 |

Observed phi value is equal to 0.1 indicating weak to moderate association between benefit receiving and their satisfaction level from SSNP service delivery.

This reveals the greater satisfaction of SSNP beneficiaries with delivery of SSNP. It can also be concluded that there other HHs who are possibly eligible but not receiving SSNP suggesting that the poorest of the poor may not be the SSNP beneficiaries (targeting error).

As mentioned earlier, a second survey question type was employed to gauge respondents' satisfaction with government SSNP services, i.e., the following five-point scale -- very good, good, fair, bad and very bad. For purposes of this report, "very good", "good" and "fair" responses are considered as satisfied with government SSNP services, while "bad" and "very bad" are considered dissatisfied. The rating scale was utilized to measure extent of satisfaction with 12 SSNP parameters, namely: [1] relevance of SSNP services, [2] ease of access of entitlements/benefits, [3] access to information on eligibility criteria, beneficiary list etc., [4] sensibility and approachability of government, [5] capacity of implementing agency/partners organisation, [6] capacity/efficiency of field staff of government, [7] capacity/efficiency of field staff NGOs, [8] initiative-taking/proactivity of front line workers, [9] transparency of SSNP delivery, [10] fairness of SSNP delivery, [11] adequacy of cash or in-kind benefit and [12] quality in-kind allowance. Baseline and midterm evaluation results for the 12 parameters are captured in the table below.

Table 25: Respondents' satisfaction with various parameters of SSNPs

| SSNP Parameters | Satisfaction Level: fair to very good (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Baseline | Midterm | Difference (M-B) |
| Relevance of SSNPs | 77.70% | 94.98% | 17.28% |
| Ease of access to benefits/entitlements | 70.00% | 83.45% | 13.45% |
| Access to information on eligibility criteria, beneficiary lists, etc. | 62.90% | 81.89% | 18.99% |
| Sensitivity/approachability of government officials (union parishad, upazila parishad) | 67.20% | 83.66% | 16.46% |
| Capacity of implementing agency/partner organization | 48.10% | 83.25% | 35.15% |
| Capacity/efficiency of field staff of government | 53.30% | 81.36% | 28.06% |
| Capacity/efficiency of field staff of implementing NGO | 56.20% | 82.31% | 26.11% |
| Initiative-taking/pro-activeness of frontline workers | 70.40% | 78.85% | 8.45% |
| Transparency of SSNP delivery (vis-à-vis corruption) | 61.63% | 72.15% | 10.52% |
| Fairness of SSNP delivery (vis-à-vis identity-based discrimination) | 74.00% | 72.89% | -1.11% |
| Adequacy of cash and in-kind benefits | 87.60% | 86.28% | -1.32% |
| Quality of in-kind benefits | 81.80% | 88.80% | 7.00% |

As can be seen in the table above, the parameter that registered the highest percentage during the midterm evaluation is satisfaction with the relevance of SSNPs at 94.98%. This followed by satisfaction with quality of in-kind benefits (88.80%) and adequacy of cash and in-kind benefits (86.28%). In terms of percentage increase from baseline to midterm evaluation, the parameter with the highest percentage increase is satisfaction with the capacity/efficiency of implementing agency/partner organization (35.25% increase), followed by capacity/efficiency of field staff of government (28.06%), and capacity/efficiency of field staff of implementing NGO (26.11%). On the other hand, two SSNP parameters registered decrease in satisfaction between baseline

and midterm evaluation (albeit minimally), namely: adequacy of cash and in-kind benefits (1.32% decrease) and fairness of SSNP delivery (vis-à-vis identity-based discrimination; 1.11% decrease).

Out of 5 case studies (3 beneficiary and 2 CSO leaders), 3 have expressed their satisfaction as very good. But 2 have urged that the amount of SSNP s should be increased while 1 has expressed his slight concern about transparency. Further, 6 CSOs and 1 CBO were interviewed. 5 of them are highly satisfied with the relevance of SSNPs. Even they also are satisfied with pro-active role of CSOs. 2 of them have reported that there need some improvements in case of transparency of SSNP delivery and discrimination but overall all is good.

Among upazilas, Fulbari respondents marked their satisfaction level as good for every options of satisfaction with significantly higher percentage than baseline data. More or less all the areas have expressed their satisfaction as good significantly higher than baseline. The table below provides detailed midterm evaluation results on satisfaction with SSNP delivery by upazila.

Table 26: Satisfaction with parameters of SSNPs across upazilas (Midterm value)

| Issues | Satisfaction level | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Very good | Good | Fair | Bad | Very bad |
| **Relevance of SSNPs** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 13.31% | 64.11% | 17.34% | 5.24% | 0.00% |
| Dinajpur | 27.42% | 62.90% | 4.03% | 5.65% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 14.29% | 67.70% | 14.29% | 3.73% | 0.00% |
| Joypurhat | 15.89% | 56.54% | 24.77% | 2.80% | 0.00% |
| Panchbibi | 19.71% | 43.75% | 28.85% | 7.69% | 0.00% |
| All | 17.28% | 58.43% | 19.27% | 5.03% | 0.00% |
| **Ease of access to benefits/entitlements** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 2.02% | 50.81% | 27.82% | 15.73% | 3.63% |
| Dinajpur | 14.52% | 51.61% | 18.55% | 15.32% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 6.83% | 62.11% | 20.50% | 9.32% | 1.24% |
| Joypurhat | 2.34% | 45.79% | 36.45% | 10.75% | 4.67% |
| Panchbibi | 1.92% | 35.10% | 43.27% | 17.79% | 1.92% |
| All | 4.50% | 48.27% | 30.68% | 13.93% | 2.62% |
| **Access to information on eligibility criteria, beneficiary lists, etc.** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 6.45% | 39.92% | 31.85% | 18.15% | 3.63% |
| Dinajpur | 9.68% | 54.03% | 16.94% | 17.74% | 1.61% |
| Fulbari | 8.07% | 55.28% | 19.88% | 15.53% | 1.24% |
| Joypurhat | 2.34% | 36.45% | 45.33% | 11.21% | 4.67% |
| Panchbibi | 1.92% | 33.65% | 48.08% | 14.42% | 1.92% |
| All | 5.24% | 42.20% | 34.45% | 15.29% | 2.83% |
| **Sensitivity/approachability of government officials (union parishad, upazila parishad)** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 4.03% | 35.48% | 41.13% | 15.73% | 3.63% |
| Dinajpur | 5.65% | 54.84% | 28.23% | 10.48% | 0.81% |
| Fulbari | 8.70% | 51.55% | 27.95% | 10.56% | 1.24% |
| Joypurhat | 1.87% | 34.11% | 45.33% | 14.02% | 4.67% |
| Panchbibi | 1.92% | 29.81% | 51.44% | 15.38% | 1.44% |
| All | 4.08% | 39.16% | 40.42% | 13.72% | 2.62% |
| **Capacity of implementing agency/partner organization** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 4.03% | 41.94% | 39.11% | 11.69% | 3.23% |
| Dinajpur | 4.84% | 53.23% | 29.84% | 12.10% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 9.94% | 60.25% | 23.60% | 4.97% | 1.24% |
| Joypurhat | 1.87% | 37.38% | 42.52% | 15.89% | 2.34% |
| Panchbibi | 1.44% | 24.52% | 45.67% | 27.88% | 0.48% |

| Issues | Satisfaction level | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Very good | Good | Fair | Bad | Very bad |
| All | 4.08% | 41.68% | 37.49% | 15.08% | 1.68% |
| **Capacity/efficiency of field staff of government** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 5.24% | 39.11% | 35.48% | 16.53% | 3.63% |
| Dinajpur | 8.06% | 55.65% | 25.81% | 10.48% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 9.32% | 54.66% | 25.47% | 10.56% | 0.00% |
| Joypurhat | 1.87% | 37.38% | 42.52% | 15.89% | 2.34% |
| Panchbibi | 1.44% | 24.52% | 45.67% | 27.88% | 0.48% |
| All | 4.71% | 40.31% | 36.34% | 17.07% | 1.57% |
| **Capacity/efficiency of field staff of implementing NGO** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 5.65% | 50.81% | 31.05% | 9.27% | 3.23% |
| Dinajpur | 14.52% | 58.87% | 20.16% | 6.45% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 4.97% | 67.08% | 21.74% | 6.21% | 0.00% |
| Joypurhat | 2.34% | 35.05% | 44.39% | 15.89% | 2.34% |
| Panchbibi | 1.44% | 24.04% | 35.58% | 38.46% | 0.48% |
| All | 5.03% | 45.24% | 32.04% | 16.23% | 1.47% |
| **Initiative-taking/pro-activeness of frontline workers** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 6.05% | 36.29% | 37.10% | 17.34% | 3.23% |
| Dinajpur | 9.68% | 59.68% | 21.77% | 8.87% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 9.32% | 61.49% | 23.60% | 5.59% | 0.00% |
| Joypurhat | 1.87% | 25.70% | 43.46% | 24.30% | 4.67% |
| Panchbibi | 1.44% | 25.48% | 39.90% | 32.21% | 0.96% |
| All | 5.13% | 38.85% | 34.87% | 19.06% | 2.09% |
| **Transparency of SSNP delivery (vis-à-vis corruption)** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 4.03% | 35.48% | 30.24% | 27.02% | 3.23% |
| Dinajpur | 7.26% | 50.00% | 23.39% | 19.35% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 9.94% | 49.07% | 18.63% | 21.74% | 0.62% |
| Joypurhat | 1.87% | 25.70% | 43.46% | 24.30% | 4.67% |
| Panchbibi | 1.44% | 25.48% | 39.90% | 32.21% | 0.96% |
| All | 4.40% | 35.29% | 32.46% | 25.65% | 2.20% |
| **Fairness of SSNP delivery (vis-à-vis identity-based discrimination)** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 3.63% | 37.50% | 28.23% | 27.82% | 2.82% |
| Dinajpur | 12.10% | 51.61% | 20.16% | 16.13% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 8.70% | 43.48% | 24.22% | 22.36% | 1.24% |
| Joypurhat | 2.80% | 26.64% | 42.99% | 22.90% | 4.67% |
| Panchbibi | 1.92% | 25.48% | 40.87% | 30.77% | 0.96% |
| All | 5.03% | 35.29% | 32.57% | 24.92% | 2.20% |
| **Adequacy of cash and in-kind benefits** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 8.47% | 48.79% | 28.23% | 9.68% | 4.84% |
| Dinajpur | 19.35% | 58.06% | 15.32% | 7.26% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 16.15% | 55.28% | 21.12% | 6.21% | 1.24% |
| Joypurhat | 1.40% | 44.86% | 38.79% | 9.35% | 5.61% |
| Panchbibi | 0.48% | 27.40% | 51.92% | 16.83% | 3.37% |
| All | 7.85% | 45.55% | 32.88% | 10.26% | 3.46% |
| **Quality of in-kind benefits** | | | | | |
| Birampur | 11.29% | 46.37% | 30.24% | 9.68% | 2.42% |
| Dinajpur | 20.16% | 61.29% | 13.71% | 4.84% | 0.00% |
| Fulbari | 19.25% | 52.80% | 19.88% | 6.83% | 1.24% |
| Joypurhat | 0.93% | 49.53% | 38.79% | 6.54% | 4.21% |
| Panchbibi | 0.09% | 6.50% | 90.25% | 2.80% | 0.36% |
| All | 9.11% | 47.54% | 32.15% | 9.01% | 2.20% |

As shown in the table below, gender and ethnic identity seem to differ in terms of satisfaction when it comes to some of the SSNP parameters.

When it comes to transparency of SSNP delivery, both females and males experienced an increase in satisfaction between baseline and midterm evaluation; the increase in satisfaction is higher among males compared to females. While ethnic minority households show a similar increase in satisfaction, the opposite is true for non-ethnic minorities, i.e., there is a slight decrease (i.e., from 71.70% at baseline to 70.07% at midterm evaluation).

In terms of ease of access to benefits/entitlements, both males and females, as well as ethnic and non-ethnic minorities registered an increased satisfaction between baseline and midterm evaluation. The increase in satisfaction is almost the same between females and males, while it is higher among ethnic minorities compared to non-ethnic minority households.

Regarding fairness of SSNP delivery, there is a difference in change over time between males and females, as well as between ethnic and non-ethnic minority households. Male respondents and ethnic minority households experienced an increase in satisfaction between baseline and midterm evaluation, while there is a slight decrease among female respondents and non-ethnic minorities.

On adequacy of cash and in-kind benefits, both males and females showed a slight decrease between baseline and midterm evaluation; the same is true for non-ethnic minority households. On the other hand, ethnic minority households registered a slight decrease in satisfaction over time.

Table 27: Satisfaction with selected parameters of SSNP by gender and ethnic identity

| SSNP Parameter | Group | Satisfied with SSNP Parameter (%) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Baseline | Midterm | Difference (M-B) |
| **Transparency of SSNP delivery (vis-à-vis corruption)** | | | | |
| Gender | Female | 56.00% | 71.13% | 15.13% |
| | Male | 54.40% | 78.36% | 23.96% |
| Ethnic Identity | Non-ethnic minority | 71.70% | 70.07% | -1.63% |
| | Ethnic minority | 64.40% | 77.14% | 12.74% |
| All | | 61.63% | 72.15% | 10.52% |
| **Ease of access to benefits/entitlements** | | | | |
| Gender | Female | 67.60% | 83.19% | 15.59% |
| | Male | 72.00% | 85.07% | 13.07% |
| Ethnic Identity | Non-ethnic minority | 57.90% | 83.26% | 25.36% |
| | Ethnic minority | 47.60% | 83.93% | 36.33% |
| All | | 70.00% | 83.46% | 13.46% |
| **Fairness of SSNP delivery (vis-à-vis identity-based discrimination)** | | | | |
| Gender | Female | 72.60% | 71.50% | -1.10% |
| | Male | 72.60% | 81.34% | 8.74% |
| Ethnic Identity | Non-ethnic minority | 76.70% | 71.56% | -5.14% |
| | Ethnic minority | 60.40% | 76.07% | 15.67% |
| All | | 74.00% | 72.88% | -1.12% |
| **Adequacy of cash and in-kind benefits** | | | | |
| Gender | Female | 86.80% | 86.24% | -0.56% |
| | Male | 87.40% | 86.57% | -0.83% |
| Ethnic Identity | Non-ethnic minority | 88.20% | 85.93% | -2.27% |
| | Ethnic minority | 86.00% | 87.14% | 1.14% |
| All | | 87.60% | 86.28% | -1.32% |

Besides the almost universal call at both levels of government interviewed for an increase in the number of beneficiaries and also in the quantity of in-kind and cash allowances, both at the Union and Upazila level,

interviews with Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of CSOs provided suggestions to improve delivery of SSNP services. These range from awareness building to better targeting of beneficiaries and are compiled below:

Table 28: Awareness Building Target for Beneficiaries

| Union Parishad | Recommendation |
|---|---|
| "For awareness generation, message for SSNPs schemes should be delivered through mobile phone and local newspapers. In addition, though they are demanding that more are aware of it now. Further, networking with union parishad and upazila parishad should be strengthened. | • More importantly, both the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries irrespective of ethnic and non-ethnic minority have to be taken under information advertising through popular sources of information like mobile, local newspapers or any other initiatives will be taken by local government.<br>• More advocacy/awareness program should be arranged by CSOs, CBO etc.<br>• Number of meetings like interface meeting with presence of CSOs leaders might be increased. |
| Union wise demographic list categorised by ethnic and non-ethnic including other vulnerable groups like hijra, persons with disability and extreme poor should be developed to identify the eligible persons for different schemes of SSNPs. | Monitoring mechanism from the Government level should be strengthened at community level. |
| Further, a strong monitoring system should be developed, and government field staff should be more active. | The government in association with local Government should develop a population list characterised by poverty, disability, vulnerable groups and sex. |
| **Upazila Parishad** | **Recommendation** |
| As the literacy rate has not been increased in an advanced level, so they need to be informed how and when they apply for SSNPs schemes at the time awareness campaign. Further, the NGOs, CSOs and CBOs working with them for awareness build up might play a vital role in this regard through their program.<br><br>The number of SSNPs should be increased by the government.<br><br>At first all vulnerable group should be identified through selection and assurance of SSNPs program for them. | • More importantly, both the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries irrespective of ethnic and non-ethnic minority have to be taken under information advertising through popular sources of information like mobile, local newspapers or any other initiatives will be taken by local government.<br>• More advocacy/awareness program should be arranged by CSOs, CBOs etc.<br>• Monitoring mechanism from the govt. level should be strengthened at community level.<br>• The government in association with local govt. should develop a population list characterised by poverty, disability, vulnerable groups and sex. |

**Indicator of Overall Objective 1.2: at least three policy, system, structure, practice or programmatic changes (increased budgetary allocation towards provision of SSNPs; administrative actions that reduce leakage; access to information provisions; introduction of explicit community targeting guidelines etc.) to improve access to SSNPs by the most vulnerable people, specifically including ethnic minority groups and women, contributed to by EVPRA by the end of the project**

***Summary of findings:***

- ***Target:*** *at least 3 by the end of the project*
- ***Current status:*** *achieved*
- ***Basis for assessment of current status:*** *please see below*

Interviews with EVPRA staff reveal that the EVPRA project team already raised policy, system, structure, practice or programmatic issues with various government officials and ministry representatives at the national

level. Likewise, the EVPRA project already signed a memorandum of understanding with the Right to Food (RtF) Coalition team to organize an advocacy programme to change policy at the national level.

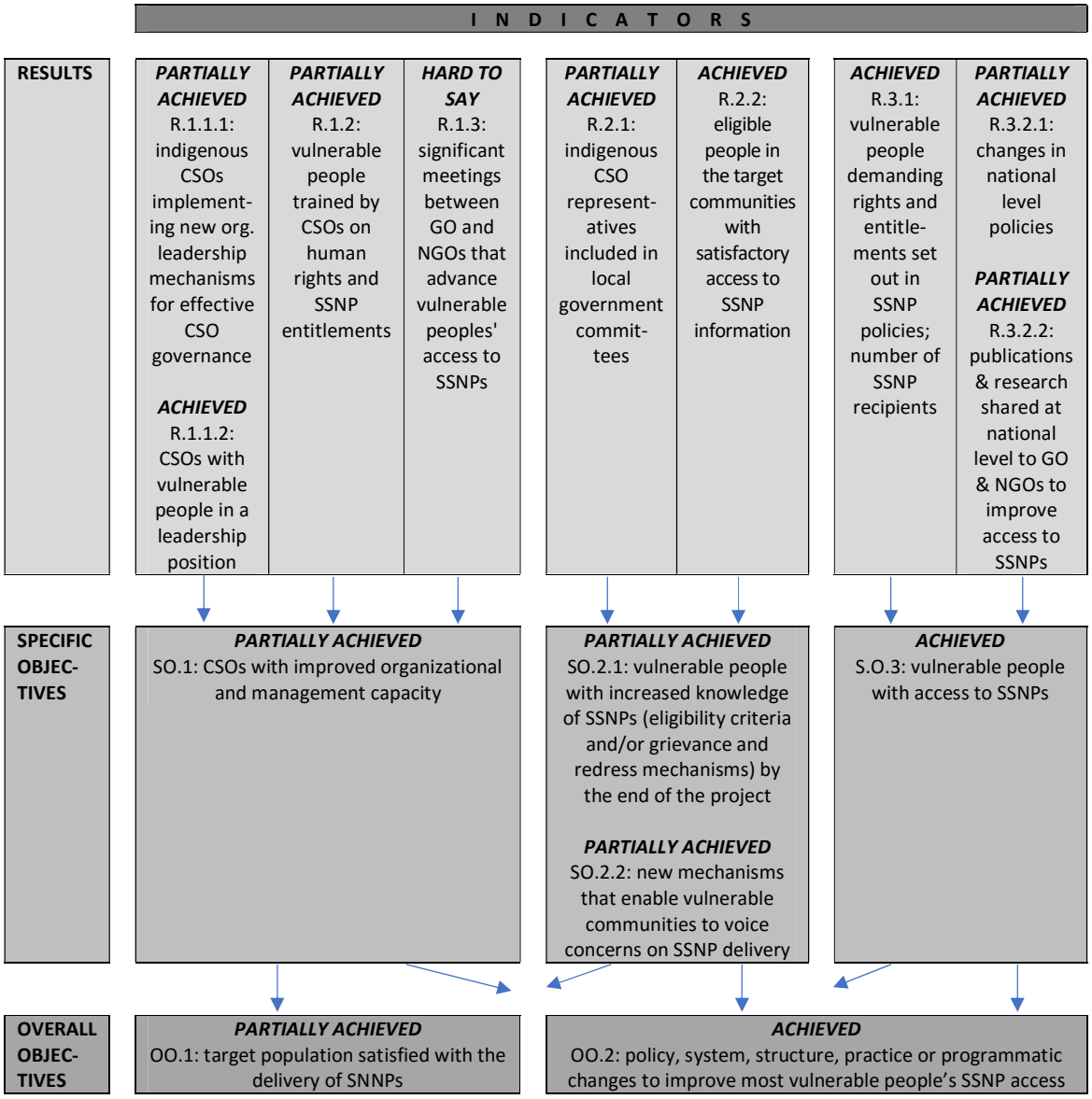
It was learned from interviews with various government officials that the Government of Bangladesh already increased the budgetary allocation for SSNPs, and relevant policy is being amended to reduce leakage.

Results of reviews of secondary data and the updated SSNP policy and procedure document indicate that the Government of Bangladesh took the decision to involve municipality level primary schools in the Primary Education Stipend Programme (PESP). It also increased the monthly allowance for people with disabilities from 600 taka to 700 taka. Furthermore, the government Increased the percentage of male students that are eligible for the Secondary Education Stipend Programme (SESP) from 10% to 20%. Also, there are increases in the number of SSNP beneficiaries for the Old Age Allowance program (3.15 million for FY2016-2017 and 3.50 million for FY 2017-2018), and Allowances for Widow and Husband's Deserted Destitute Women program (1.15 million for FY2016-2017 and 1.26 million for FY 2017-2018).

# 5. CONCLUSIONS

Results of the midterm evaluation indicate that, taken as a whole, the EVPRA project is progressing toward fully achieving most, if not all, of its expected results, specific objectives and overall objectives. Of its nine expected results, three are fully achieved, five are partially achieved, and one is difficult to accurately assess because of inadequately defined indicators or absence of a quantified target (even if there are tangible outcomes for the two expected results). Furthermore, one of the four specific objectives has been achieved, and the other three partially achieved. Most importantly, one of the two overall objectives has been achieved, and the other partially achieved. A visual summary of these achievements is shown in the figure below.

Figure 13: Summary of Current Status of Theory of Change Indicators




This general assessment presented above is based on the extent to which the project has performed at the time of the midterm evaluation in terms of how much progress has been made vis-à-vis baseline figures, and how close they are from targets. The table below provides a summary of the EVPRA project's performance, to date.

Table 29: Summary of attainment of project results and objectives, to date

| Indicators | Target and Current Status | Summary of Main Findings/Basis for Assessment of Current Status |
|---|---|---|
| R.1.1.1: indigenous CSOs implementing new org. leadership mechanisms for effective CSO governance | • Target: 80% at the end of Year 3<br>• Current status: partially achieved | 50% of the targeted CSOs are exhibiting improved organizational and management capacity; some 84% of the CSOs are implementing new organizational leadership mechanisms |
| R.1.1.2: CSOs with vulnerable people in a leadership position | • Target: 40% at the end of Year 2<br>• Current status: achieved | 95% of CSOs now have women in leadership positions … Almost every CSO that participated in FGDs and interviews reported having women, widows, elderly and ethnic members |
| R.1.2: vulnerable people trained by CSOs on human rights and SSNP entitlements | • Target: 60% at the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | percentage who received training increased from 16.90% during baseline to 52.25% during the midterm evaluation … NGOs, CSOs and CBOs as primary sources of information increased tremendously from 14% to 43%, overall … awareness programs on SSNPs have been conducted in their community, and the difference between baseline and midterm evaluation is significant, i.e., (32% vs. 69%) |
| R.1.3: significant meetings between GO and NGOs that advance vulnerable peoples' access to SSNPs | • Target: at least 1 significant engagement by the end of the project<br>• Current status: hard to say | at least one CSO leader said that they now easily communicate with Union Parishad and upazila-level government officer |
| R.2.1: indigenous CSO representatives included in local government committees | • Target: 30% by the end of Year 3 of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | from 2 out of 12 CSOs at baseline to 5 CSOs during midterm evaluation that are represented in the Union Parishad standing committee, and 6 CSOs at midterm evaluation represented in the local government SSNP committee |
| R.2.2: eligible people in the target communities with satisfactory access to SSNP information | • Target: 20% by the end of the project<br>• Current status: achieved | increase in the percentage of respondents between baseline and evaluation who claim satisfactory access to SSNP information, i.e., from 57.30% to 81.88% |
| R.3.1: vulnerable people demanding rights and entitlements set out in SSNP policies; number of eligible applications to SSNPs | • Target: not specified in the project's approved logical framework<br>• Current status: achieved | Increase between baseline and midterm evaluation, i.e., 69.8% to 82.5%, respectively, when it comes to respondents approaching local government officials directly to either seek help or information on SSNPs |
| R.3.2.1: changes in national level policies | • Target: at least 18 contributions by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | Interviews with project staff indicate that 11 national-level programs were organized with relevant ministries with the intent of addressing policy matters |
| R.3.2.2: publications and research shared at national level to | • Target: 10 items by the end of the project | Interviews with project staff reveal that six SSNP-related research pieces have been published, as well as presented to government officials, secretaries and ministries at various |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| GO and NGOs to advance vulnerable peoples' access to SSNPs | • Current status: partially achieved | local- to national-level forums |
| SO.1: CSOs with improved organizational and management capacity | • Target: at least 60% by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | at midterm evaluation, 50% of targeted CSOs are exhibiting improved organizational and management capacity |
| SO.2.1: vulnerable people with increased knowledge of target SSNPs, specifically eligibility criteria and/or grievance and redress mechanisms by the end of the project | • Target: 10% and 60%, respectively, by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | modest overall increase in awareness of the eligibility criteria for SSNPs between baseline and mid-term evaluation, i.e., from 74.2% to 78.3%, … significant overall increase in awareness of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism from baseline to midterm evaluation, i.e., 12.3% to 55.3% |
| SO.2.2: new mechanisms that enable vulnerable communities to voice concerns on SSNP delivery | • Target: at least 3 mechanisms by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | • 146 complaint/suggestion boxes were placed in CSOs and Union Parishads<br>• There is one dedicated phone number across the CSOs<br>• One Union Parishad chairman said that they are hanging beneficiary list in their display board, and community members can provide their opinions or complaints regarding the list<br>• The Union Parishad and formed a complaint response committee to address all complaints |
| S.O.3: vulnerable people with access to SSNPs | • Target: at 20% by the end of the project<br>• Current status: achieved | At baseline, only 5.3% of households availed of at least one of the nine SSNPs targeted by the EVPRA project … At the time of the midterm evaluation, the percentage increased to 50.58% |
| OO.1: target population satisfied with the delivery of SNNPs | • Target: 20% by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | increase in overall satisfaction with the delivery of SSNPs from 79.1% at baseline to 93.0% during midterm evaluation |
| OO.2: policy, system, structure, practice or programmatic changes to improve access to SSNPs by the most vulnerable people | • Target: at least 3 by the end of the project<br>• Current status: achieved | • EVPRA team raised policy, system, structure, practice or programmatic issues with government officials and ministry representatives at the national level<br>• EVPRA project signed MOU with the Right to Food (RtF) Coalition team to organize an advocacy programme to change policy at the national level<br>• Government of Bangladesh increased the budgetary allocation for SSNPs, and relevant policy is being amended to reduce leakage; also, it took the decision to involve municipality level primary schools in the Primary Education Stipend Programme (PESP) |

The evaluation results/findings indicate that a number of EVPRA project initiatives seem to be working.

**First**, awareness raising and information sharing activities appear to produce positive results, as could be gleaned from the significant progress toward the attainment of indicator targets for the following:

- Expected Result 1.2 (vulnerable people trained by CSOs on human rights and SSNP entitlements)

- Expected Result 2.2 (eligible people in the target communities with satisfactory access to SSNP information)
- Specific Objective 2.1 (vulnerable people with increased knowledge of target SSNPs, specifically eligibility criteria and/or grievance and redress mechanisms by the end of the project)

The project's performance on the expected results and specific objective would have even been better had it not been for the following:

- only a modest increase in awareness of the eligibility criteria for SSNPs between baseline and mid-term evaluation
- below-average performance in Panchbibi and Joypurhat Sadar for the two expected results and specific objective
- below-average increase in conduct of trainings for, and knowledge of target SSNPs by, non-beneficiary respondents

Outcomes for female respondents and ethnic minority households for these expected results and specific objective are similar to the outcomes of their male and non-ethnic minority counterparts.

**Second**, efforts to improve the capacity of CSOs seem to produce positive results; this could be seen in the attainment of indicator targets for the following:

- Expected Result 1.1.1 (: indigenous CSOs implementing new org. leadership mechanisms for effective CSO governance)
- Expected Result 1.1.2 (CSOs with vulnerable people in a leadership position)
- Specific Objective 1 (CSOs with improved organizational and management capacity)

Progress by the time of the midterm evaluation would have been closer to the indicator targets had it not been for the following:

- Only 19% of CSOs are registered with the government
- Only 3% have written human resource management policies
- There is a lack of representation from the disabled community in CSO leadership and management posts

**Third**, because of increased training on, knowledge of and information on SSNP services and entitlements, community members are demanding rights and entitlements set out in SSNP policies (i.e., Expected Result 3.1). Specifically, a lot more respondents are approaching local government officials directly to either seek help or information on SSNPs. There tends to be more beneficiary respondents claiming to display this behaviour, compared to non-beneficiaries. There does not appear to be a specific upazila that has prevalence rate that is significantly lower than the average rate.

**Fourth**, the EVPRA project's support to CSOs seem to contribute to the establishment of complaints and redress systems, transparency and accountability boards (i.e., Specific Objective 2.2). Specifically, 146 complaint or suggestion boxes were placed in CSOs and Union Parishads, there is one dedicated phone number across the CSOs, a beneficiary list can be located in one Union Parishad display board wherein community members can provide their opinions or complaints regarding the list, and the Union Parishad formed a complaint response committee to address all complaints. The project's support to CSOs also seem to increase in the number of CSO representatives included in local government committees (i.e., Expected Result 2.1). For instance, 5 CSOs during midterm evaluation that are represented in the Union Parishad standing committee, and 6 CSOs at midterm evaluation represented in the local government SSNP committee.

**Fifth**, efforts by the EVPRA staff seem to be making headway in influencing policy and practice at the national level, as is demonstrated by progress in the following:

- Expected Result 3.2.1 (changes in national level policies)
- Expected Result 3.2.2 (publications and research shared at national level to GO and NGOs to advance vulnerable peoples' access to SSNPs)
- Overall Objective 2 (policy, system, structure, practice or programmatic changes to improve access to SSNPs by the most vulnerable people)

**Sixth**, the EVPRA project's success in improving knowledge and awareness among community members, as well as working with CSOs to improve their management and leadership capacity, and influencing policy at the national level, all seem to contribute to the increased ability of vulnerable people to access, and be satisfied with the delivery of, SSNP services. Specifically, this is shown by progress in attaining target indicators of the following:

- Specific Objective 3 (vulnerable people with access to SSNPs)
- Overall Objective 1 (target population satisfied with the delivery of SNNPs)

SSNP access and satisfaction would have even been better if not for the following:

- Lower percentage of ethnic minority households accessing SSNP services
- Decrease in the percentage of vulnerable people accessing Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme and Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute (AWDD) scheme
- Decrease in satisfaction between baseline and midterm evaluation when it comes to two SSNP parameters, namely: adequacy of cash and in-kind benefits and fairness of SSNP delivery (vis-à-vis identity-based discrimination).

Overall, there is no significant difference in SSNP access between female and male respondents, although there are minor differences in a few SSNP parameters. On the other hand, there is significant difference in satisfaction with SSNP delivery between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, and to a lesser extent, between ethnic and non-ethnic minority households.

# 6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Table 30: Table of Recommendations

| Indicators | Target and Current Status | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| R.1.1.1: indigenous CSOs implementing new org. leadership mechanisms for effective CSO governance | • Target: 80% at the end of Year 3<br>• Current status: partially achieved | Continue developing new organizational leadership mechanisms in order to increase the number of CSOs with improved organizational management capacity from the current 50% to at least 80% by the end of the project. Areas of focus should include but not be limited to the following:<br>• Registering with the government<br>• Written HR policies<br>• Documenting meetings |
| R.1.1.2: CSOs with vulnerable people in a leadership position | • Target: 40% at the end of Year 2<br>• Current status: achieved | • Actively recruit, train and appoint people with disabilities to leadership positions<br>• Continue supporting current women-leaders, as well as identify and develop potential leaders |
| R.1.2: vulnerable people trained by CSOs on human rights and SSNP entitlements | • Target: 60% at the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | • Continue conducting trainings so that the percentage increases from the current 52.25% to at least 60% by the end of the project; areas of focus should include but be not limited to the following:<br>  ○ Eligibility criteria and beneficiary selection<br>  ○ Redress mechanisms<br>  ○ Non-beneficiaries<br>  ○ Learn from Fulbari's positive experience; explore how to improve performance in Panchbibi and Joypurhat Sadar<br>• For awareness generation, information on SSNP schemes should be delivered through mobile phone and local newspapers. Further, networking with union parishad and upazila parishad should be strengthened. |
| R.1.3: significant meetings between GO and NGOs that advance vulnerable peoples' access to SSNPs | • Target: at least 1 significant engagement by the end of the project<br>• Current status: hard to say | • Provide additional support to CSOs in initiating meetings with GOs to advance vulnerable people's access to SSNPs; meetings could include involvement in beneficiary selection<br>• Operationalize what "significant engagement" means in order to be clearer when evaluating this expected result |
| R.2.1: indigenous CSO representatives included in local government committees | • Target: 30% by the end of Year 3 of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | • According to current policy, local government representatives comprise the SSNP committee, and that there is no mandate to include CSOs representative in the committee. EVPRA team should organise more national level initiatives for changing the policy to include CSOs member in the local government SSNP committee<br>• Continue support to CSOs so that CSOs with representation in local government committees reach at least 30% by the end of the project<br>• Learn from Dinajpur's experience, and if possible, apply to Joypurhat Sadar |
| R.2.2: eligible people in the target | • Target: 20% by the end of the project | • Here, the role of the local government as a source of information is always important for increasing the involvement of the community members. NGOs and CSOs |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| communities with satisfactory access to SSNP information | • Current status: achieved | can play a vital role to introduce local government as an authentic source of information by partnering with government offices and connecting them directly with the community residents.<br>• More popular and available media like mobile/local media should be used as source of information for taking the remote people under the circle of awareness. |
| R.3.1: vulnerable people demanding rights and entitlements set out in SSNP policies; number of eligible applications to SSNPs | • Target: not specified in the project's approved logical framework<br>• Current status: achieved | • Raise the issue with local government officials to increase the percentage of households who receive the appropriate information/help |
| R.3.2.1: changes in national level policies | • Target: at least 18 contributions by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | Organize more national-level initiatives so that the number of contributions increase from the current 11 to at least 18 by the end of the project |
| R.3.2.2: publications and research shared at national level to GO and NGOs to advance vulnerable peoples' access to SSNPs | • Target: 10 items by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | Continue presenting and disseminating publications and researches until the current number increases from the current 6 to at least 10 by the end of the project |
| SO.1: CSOs with improved organisational and management capacity | • Target: at least 60% by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | • Continue providing capacity building initiatives so that the percentage of CSOs increases from the current 50% to the target of at least 60% by the end of the project<br>• Support CSOs in registering with the government |
| SO.2.1: vulnerable people with increased knowledge of target SSNPs, specifically eligibility criteria and/or grievance and redress mechanisms by the end of the project | • Target: 10% and 60%, respectively, by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | Continue undertaking awareness raising and information sharing activities until knowledge of public complaint/grievance redress mechanism increases from the current 55.3% to at least 60% at the end of the project |
| SO.2.2: new mechanisms that enable vulnerable communities to voice concerns on SSNP delivery | • Target: at least 3 mechanisms by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | • Expand the number of Union Parishads that post the beneficiary list in public display board<br>• Expand the number of Union Parishads that have a complaint response committee<br>• Support CSOs' demand that meetings with local government SSNP committee should be organised more frequently, i.e., at least 3 times in a year |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | • Continue pressing for direct involvement of community members in beneficiary selection process; since this might take some time to accomplish, CSO representation in local government SSNP committee should be pushed |
| S.O.3: vulnerable people with access to SSNPs | • Target: at 20% by the end of the project<br>• Current status: achieved | • Support CSOs in exploring ways to influence national government increasing funding for and beneficiaries of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme and Allowances for Widowed, Deserted and Destitute (AWDD) scheme; there is a limited number of beneficiary cards (capable of meeting only part of the demand); this is always going to be an issue unless changes occur at the level of Ministries/funding authorities<br>• Increase monitoring of SSNP delivery<br>• Support CSOs in pressuring government to address perceived corruption in SSNP delivery, e.g., bribery, nepotism<br>• Focus on current non-beneficiaries who might actually be eligible but are not aware of eligibility criteria |
| OO.1: target population satisfied with the delivery of SNNPs | • Target: 20% by the end of the project<br>• Current status: partially achieved | No direct intervention needed, i.e., the current percentage of vulnerable people satisfied with SSNP delivery could be maintained if there is sustained and continued support for activities that contribute to achievement of expected results and specific objectives that, in turn, contribute to the attainment of this overall objective (e.g., continue providing relevant information to community members, continue supporting CSOs in building their capacity, continue advocating for SSNP access at the national level) |
| OO.2: policy, system, structure, practice or programmatic changes to improve access to SSNPs by the most vulnerable people | • Target: at least 3 by the end of the project<br>• Current status: achieved | Same as immediately above |

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# 8. ANNEXURE

*SSNP service delivery in Dinajpur, Bangladesh*

**This project is funded by the European Union**

**This project is implemented by World Vision in collaboration with Pollisree and PUMDO**

***"The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of World Vision, Pollisree and PUMDO and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union."***