Compilation & Editing:
Shaikh Abdul Halim
Yakub Hossain
Quamrul Islam
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</table>
I am pleased to see the Annual Report of VERC 2016 - 2017 on the progress, achievements and highlights of the future growth. The year had been a challenging one to the nation as a whole in respect of challenges generated by climate change as well as humanitarian crisis issues generated by global politics. Crisis issues like scarce rainfall and high temperature level and environmental pollution have started posing threats to livelihood and survival of mankind across the developing nations including Bangladesh. Influx of refugees from Myanmar had been a serious human catastrophe to the nation. Despite all the difficulties, VERC efforts succeeded in bringing about new lessons to program sectors envisioning directions for growth and consolidating its role to contribute more to the national development initiatives.

We recall with deep appreciation that built promising partnerships with unicef, SCI, Plan Bd had been continued in the reporting period. We acknowledge the generous and dedicated support of the development partners for carrying out innovative people empowering process as well as humanitarian activities in the country. Working for Rohingya refugees had been of special interest.

The year had been a special one to VERC in terms of making the micro-credit program as a source of support to undertake health service delivery for the disadvantaged women and children, stipend for poor students, support to pre-primary and primary levels which were encouraging to community people to come forward and invest more on education in a collaborative manner. We thankfully acknowledge and highly appreciate the support that we received from PKSF, Plan Bangladesh, and water.org in addressing the humanitarian needs of the victims of climate change across the vulnerable communities.

I, on behalf of the management, appreciate the General Council Members of VERC, the Executive Director and staff members of VERC for their relentless efforts in making VERC efforts more innovative and people-oriented. Special thanks should also go to the NGO Affairs Bureau, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, for its effective collaboration and generous support to VERC in all its efforts to do the best possible to the marginalized people in the country.

It would be highly obliging to see that you all are continuing support to us moving ahead with the cause of the people in general.

Majeda Shawkat Ali
Chairman
Board of Directors
VERC

December 2017
Remarks of the Executive Director

I am happy to present the Annual Report 2016 - 2017 reflecting VERC activities/outcomes in the project areas spreading across the country. Despite limited support from different sources, the spirit of innovations continued during the reporting period in VERC interventions. VERC recalls the valuable contributions made by development partners home and abroad with deep appreciation.

Development interventions in respect of education, WaSH, livelihood, technology promotion, health, local governance promotion, institution building and income generating activities to benefit more and more people had been encouraging. Strategic emphasis on capacity building of Local Government bodies, service providers continued as focus issues. unicef, WaterAid, SCI, water.org USA, Care BD, MJF, Practical Action, USAID continued to support CBOs and local government bodies attaining targeted success in line with commitments made by the government. Generous support from partners for humanitarian response to refugees from Myanmar had been of critical importance to save life undertaking activities in the camps in Ukhiya, Cox’s Bazar.

Rights based activities continued to establishing rights of women and children in VERC interventions in the country. TdH Netherlands support to keep on project interventions on child rights issues continued to influence the CSOs and local government bodies allocating resource; VERC remains thankful to them. Special thanks to Max Foundation for its support to the innovative partnership with VERC to work on health in a challenging geophysical context.

Pre-primary and primary education activities in Sonargaon remained as a good example of sustaining activities of ECD and primary education with the initiative and resource support of community people and local administration.

VERC has further consolidated its position in respect of micro-finance program in the country with extensive support from PKSF, commercial banks and VERC’s own fund with a view to expansion and finding ways for social development interventions in the country in a sustainable manner. Lessons learnt from a number of innovative interventions have been scaled up across IBIG program areas of the country; observations are encouraging to VERC itself and others in the sector. Various departments of the government have been extending the required technical support to to bring more people under coverage. IBIG program is now linked with education, climate change adaptation and livelihood development, health and WaSH activities and extending operational support towards sustenance.

A number of networks have been established with national and international organizations at home and abroad to expedite and consolidate activities on environment, WatSan and community health promotion along with capacity building of NGOs and local government bodies. In addition to regular project activities, VERC has taken part in observation of days/events, campaigns across the country as advocacy initiatives with the government and stakeholders.

VERC is indebted to the development partners including the government, the community people in general for their sincere support and participation in the development activities. I would recall the contributions made by the Board of Directors and the General Council of VERC for their generous support to our development efforts. VERC conveys thanks to the interested friends and professionals from across countries for their interest and encouragement to VERC. Special thanks to dedicated staff members at all levels for their relentless efforts and contributions in carrying forward the mission of VERC!

Shaikh Abdul Halim
Executive Director
VERC

December 2017
About VERC

VERC started its journey as a project of SCF-USA back in 1977 with an aim to provide process consultancy to the internal projects of SCF-USA for ensuring effective participation of community people in implementing the projects effectively and efficiently. The organization has performed the assigned role by maintaining high level quality in delivering its services to achieve the goal of SCF-USA projects. VERC became a separate local organization and continued almost similar role up to 1989 not only for SCF-USA but for the whole NGO sector in Bangladesh.

The historical evolution of VERC shows different shifts in its approaches and role with a range of providing high technical consultancy role but no implementation role to very high project implementation role but very low technical support role. Currently, VERC is focusing more on implementing different development projects and providing comparatively less technical support to other NGOs. It might be noted that VERC has been acknowledged as a pioneering organization in the field of Non Formal Education (NFE) and Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programs.

In order to be a learning organization as defined by a respected management author Peter Senge (1990 wrote The Fifth Discipline) “organizations where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning to see the whole together”, VERC has always been focusing on strategies its course of action based on Strategic Planning. The Participatory Strategic Plan (July 2015 – June 2020) also shows the commitment of VERC to chart out its development direction based on well thought Strategic Plan.

VERC’s Vision, Mission, Goal, Core Values and Core Competencies revised and reformulated as:

Organizational Societal Vision:
A self-reliant and enlightened society based on justice, equity and sustainability where every human being has equal opportunity to maximize their potentials.

Mission Statement:
Establishing and promoting a dynamic and participatory sustainable process towards human development and providing humanitarian assistance towards empowerment of the people especially the disadvantaged by exploring, generating and mobilizing resources for ensuring wellbeing.

Goals:
- Active involvement and empowerment of the disadvantaged; and
- Develop human capacity.

Core Values:
01. Participation & Ownership
02. Respect
03. Environment Friendliness
04. Sustainability
05. Innovation
06. Good Governance
07. Equality

The 7 values can be precisely remembered as PRESIGE or PRE-SIGE

Core competencies:
- Innovativeness
- Professionalism
- Teamwork
- Participatory Management
- Sharing Resources and Services
- Networking and Partnership
- Learning Organization
- Functional Governing Board
- Reaching and Working with Hard to Reach People
Programmatic Strategic Issues
The programmatic issues were clustered into six thematic areas like: social and legal, economic development, environment, institutional, technological, and youth development. Subsequently, strategic issues, objectives, strategic directions and major activities under each strategic direction were identified. Here it follows:

Thematic Area –
1: Social and Legal
2: Economic Development
3: Environment
4: Institutional
5: Technological
6: Youth Development
7: Cross Cutting Issues

Program Interventions
VERC has been implementing the following six major programs in its working areas across the country during 2016 - 2017:

1. Women’s literacy and Children’s Education especially for the poor and disadvantaged;
2. WatSan and Technology
3. Livelihood Development
4. Health
5. Environmental Protection
6. Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation

In addition, VERC Training and Communication Unit organizes different need-based training program for its beneficiaries, staff members and also for the employees of different government and non-government agencies. Different support units of VERC for instance Research, Evaluation & Documentation (RED) and Finance & Administration unit provide necessary support for proper implementation of the development programs/projects.

Pioneering Contributions
Non Formal Education: VERC is one of the pioneering NGOs in Bangladesh in the field of children’s education program which has later been adapted and replicated by many other development organizations both within and outside the country. VERC has also initiated models of community run schools and adult education model including innovative and appropriate education materials suitable for the children and adults.

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS): VERC introduced CLTS approach in February 2000 as the pioneering organization in Bangladesh. In the process of working with the community at the grassroots level on WatSan, VERC has learned that community awareness and participation could prevent most of the water and excreta-borne diseases. Keeping this in mind, VERC implemented “People Initiated 100% Sanitation Approach” since early 2000 with financial and technical assistance of WaterAid Bangladesh supported by DFID. The approach is now called as the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach in Bangladesh and abroad. VERC experience is also being reflected in the national sanitation program strategy.

CLTS was innovated by VERC in early 2000. It is a participatory answer developed to traditionally subsidized sanitation programmes that have not succeeded in getting people to want, build, pay for, and use latrines. The approach promotes 100% open defecation free communities to minimize the risk of contamination for all, breaking the cycle of faecal-oral contamination. Contrary to most conventional sanitation approaches which aim simply at providing toilets, CLTS aims to promote collective behaviour change as the key to sustainable, improved sanitation.

Facilitators supports communities conduct their own appraisal and analysis of their sanitation situation and take action to become open defecation free. During the process, the facilitators bring attention to sanitation related topics, provides facts (e.g. faecal-oral hazards can only be reduced if open defecation is completely banned from the community as a whole), and provokes a discussion about open defecation and the feelings of disgust and shame associated with it. This triggers change.

Total coverage is not always easy: certain members of the community never reach the target or fall back into practising open defecation. Other issues presenting challenges are scaling up the approach and the issue of exclusion or punishment of community members who do not (or cannot) comply with self imposed restrictions.
Program Locations
VERC Programme area districts across the country:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Sectors</th>
<th>Name of Districts</th>
<th>No. of Upazilas/City Corporation</th>
<th>No. of Unions</th>
<th>No. of Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Sirajganj, Bogra, Natore, Pabna Tangail, Gazipur, Manikganj, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Cox,s bazar, Narsingdi (11 Districts)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsan &amp; Technology</td>
<td>Dhaka, Rajshahi,Sirajganj, Gazipur, Cumilla, Kurigram, Bhola, Sunamganj (8 Districts)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>90 (Municipality-2)</td>
<td>907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Environment</td>
<td>Dhaka, Rajshahi, Barishal, Gajipur, Chattagram, Naogaon (6 districts)</td>
<td>12 (City Corporation-1)</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>2328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihood Development</td>
<td>Chapainwabganj, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gazipur, Dhaka, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Cumilla, B.Baria, Chattogram, Munshiganj, Narshindi, Nilphamari, Noakhali, Habiganj (17 districts)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>2459</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There is overlapping of program interventions in Union, Upazila and in the districts.*
#### Highlights of July 2016 to June 2017

**EDUCATION**

Village Education Resource Center (VERC) has been emphasizing on education program since its inception to congregate the purpose to promote and fortify human potentials. The main objective of VERC program is to build up children’s potentials and to mainstreaming them in education. Education has been identified as a priority sector in Bangladesh by the government and non-government organizations, not only to exterminate illiteracy, but also for human resource development. Accordingly, VERC has been implementing education program in innovative ways with support from development partners in the sector. The ongoing projects are SHIKHON, SISIMPUR, PCHL, Piloting in Kaliakoir, EPRC, HOPE- Savar, HOPE-Belkuchi, DIPECHO-VIII and a regular program operated by making use of VERC own fund. The coverage of education program includes 19 upazilas in 12 districts of the country.

**Ongoing projects at a glance:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the Project</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Type and no. of School</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th># of Teachers</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Children’s Education Resource Center (CERC) Program</td>
<td>1979 – on going</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>ECD 4 NFPE 5</td>
<td>2016: 196 (B-100, G-96); 2017: 198 (B-101, G-97)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>With minimum community support and support from VERC-Micro-Credit program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sonargaon Sustainable Education Program</td>
<td>2012 on going</td>
<td>Narayanganj</td>
<td>ECD-15 NFPE-29</td>
<td>2016: 1515 (B-751, G-764); 2017: 1791 (B-856, G-935)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>HOPE, Savar</td>
<td>2016 to 2018</td>
<td>Dhaka Sirajganj</td>
<td>NFE-41</td>
<td>2016: 24311 (B-11739, G-12953)</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>IKEA Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>READ</td>
<td>January 2014-December 2018</td>
<td>Dhaka Manikganj, Tangail</td>
<td>Govt. Primary School - 270</td>
<td>2016: 39958 (B-19989, G-19969); 2017: 35414 (B-17689, G-17725)</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>Save the Children International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SHIKHON</td>
<td>January 2012 to February 2017</td>
<td>Sirajganj, Natore, Pabna and Bogura</td>
<td>NFPE-670 EPE-400 SHIKHON Club-229</td>
<td>2016: 31077 (B-15544, G-15533); 2017: 19734 (B-9989, G-9745)</td>
<td>1299</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Education and Protection for Refugee Children</td>
<td>May 2012 to Dec 2016</td>
<td>Cox’s Bazar</td>
<td>Primary-21 Secondary-2 ECD-52</td>
<td>2016: 7619 (B-3759, G-3860); 2017: 8880 (B-4389, G-4491)</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>UNHCR, Save the Children International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sisimpur Enhancing Essential Life Skill</td>
<td>January, 2014-June 2017</td>
<td>Narsingdi</td>
<td>Primary-38 Madrasha-1 KGS-13</td>
<td>2016: 8869 (B-4489, G-4380); 2017: 8512 (B-4317, G-4195)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>USAID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>DIPECHO-VIII</td>
<td>2015 to 2017</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>NFE-7</td>
<td>2016: 700 (B-248, G-365); 2017: 1400 (B-619, G-781)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Save the Children International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh Project</td>
<td>January – December 2016</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>ECD-20 NFPE-20</td>
<td>2016: 700 (B-248, G-365); 2017: 1400 (B-619, G-781)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Tdh Netherlands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WatSan and Technology

VERC has been implementing Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) program since its inception as a component of technology promotion for livelihood status improvement. WatSan activities at the initial stage were mostly carried out in terms of production and distribution of latrine ring-slabs, installation of tube wells for safe water use promotion with limited hygiene education for awareness raising. The widely known Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) was evolved in early 2000. WaterAid Bangladesh (WAB) has been providing technical and financial support to VERC since 1986. The process also influenced in setting national strategies and programs to achieve MDG sectoral goal and has been duly reflected in the Sector Development Plan (2011-2025) of the Government of Bangladesh. VERC efforts in the sector addresses about 3 MDG targets which are more clearly linked with SDG target 6 where Bangladesh government is striving for achieving visible improvements.

Menstrual hygiene facilities in secondary schools were major factors in the rate of absence and dropout of adolescent girls. To address this issue, VERC project intervention could successfully convince the secondary school authorities in Durgapur Upazilla in Rajshahi district providing separate latrines that have adequate water and waste disposal facilities for girls. As a result, more than 10 secondary schools throughout the entire upazila have constructed separate toilet facilities for girls and more than 30 secondary schools received MHM Almira with necessary materials from the MP concerned.

Progress of performance at a glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Achievement of 2015-2016</th>
<th>Achievement of 2016-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Projects under implementation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Donors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Districts covered</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Upazilas covered</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Unions covered</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of CBOs</td>
<td>1,092</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation and renovation of safe water facilities</td>
<td>1,283</td>
<td>1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation and renovation of sanitation facilities</td>
<td>9,487</td>
<td>9035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene Promotion events organized</td>
<td>7,957</td>
<td>28351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water beneficiaries covered</td>
<td>23,756</td>
<td>33809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation beneficiaries covered</td>
<td>50,486</td>
<td>41357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene beneficiaries covered</td>
<td>157,256</td>
<td>606702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries covered by Capacity Development activities</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>4634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Mobilization activities</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAP coverage with hygienic latrine</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

VERC considers health as a basic human right. But the reality is that most of the people in Bangladesh are deprived of such rights. Quality health services are mostly concentrated in urban areas and are not affordable to the poor. Once known the country as an ecologically in the sound belt has turned to an environmentally endangered region and has started facing climate change and challenges linked with new generation health problems and poverty. In view of the situation VERC has given emphasis in addressing health problems and environmental degradation. VERC initiative is aimed at accessing mother and child health services for poor and marginalized and supporting people to cope-up with the challenges of climate change in program areas.
During the reporting year, VERC had been active with interventions under five projects in addition to two hospitals. The projects include – two right based health project, improved cook-stove promotion focused project and two climate vulnerability focused projects.

Progress of performance at a glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Achievement of 2015-2016</th>
<th>Achievement of 2016-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Projects under implementation</td>
<td>07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Donors</td>
<td>06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Districts covered</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Upazilas/ City corporations covered</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Unions covered</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of beneficiaries covered</td>
<td>52617</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

VERC Micro Finance Program has experienced a long journey in addressing a comprehensive development need of the disadvantaged and underprivileged poor people living in both rural and urban areas of the country. It is an important program of VERC in reducing the poverty level by ensuring a sustainable socio-economic status of livelihood security for the people in need of external support. To this effect, efficient management system and tools, linkage with financial institutions, identification of alternative micro-finance schemes, approach to address poorest of the poor section and access to the remotest and hard to reach locations has added an extra dimension to VERC Income Generation Program (IGP) under its Institution Building and Income Generation (IBIG) program.

VERC interventions of the program addresses 1, 3 and 7 of MDG targets and covers 1, 2, 5, 12, and 13 of SDG targets and supplements national development initiatives.

Progress of performance at a glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Status of 2015-16</th>
<th>Status of 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Branches</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Districts Covered</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Upazilas Covered</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Unions Covered</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Villages</td>
<td>2,073</td>
<td>2,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Group/Samity</td>
<td>7,299</td>
<td>7,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Members</td>
<td>94,999</td>
<td>1,00,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Borrowers</td>
<td>76,486</td>
<td>77,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursement Amount</td>
<td>Tk 2,878.09 Million (Tk 287,80,91,000)</td>
<td>Tk 3,369.70 Million (Tk 336,97,07,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Outstanding (Portfolio)</td>
<td>Tk 1,526.78 Million (Tk 152,67,83,066)</td>
<td>Tk 1,780.75 Million (Tk 178,07,59,007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings Balance</td>
<td>Tk 462.40 Million (Tk 46,24,04,158)</td>
<td>Tk 549.15 Million (Tk 54,91,54,837)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Balance</td>
<td>Tk 39.94 Million (Tk 3,99,41,550)</td>
<td>Tk 56.39 Million (Tk 5,63,95,788)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery rate</td>
<td>99.92%</td>
<td>99.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As part of corporate social responsibility (CSR), VERC supports implementation of services like health, sanitation, education and agriculture related projects with limited financial resources across different program sectors of the organization in the country considering the priority needs. The contribution amounts to Tk 58,36,000 for the reporting year and the total of till date contribution stands at Tk.2,06,35,023.00. The amount of contribution is increasing every year.
CAPACITY BUILDING

VERC is one of the pioneering social development entities in Bangladesh. Strengthening of Local Government is a key strategy for sustainable development involving the local government and community people at large. The section not only develops the capacity of VERC program staff, it also plays a key role in capacitating relevant government staff, LGI representatives and other NGO staff in order to make meaningful contributions in the development sectors, particularly in the fields of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion; Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation of programmes; Governance; Gender and Equity; Human Rights; Child Protection; Climate Change Adaptations; Disaster Preparedness and Management; Community Management Aspects; Education; Advocacy and Process Promotion; Micro Finance and Small & Medium Scale Entrepreneurship Development.

The Section extends training support to different VERC projects as part of regular task. During the period 29352 participants received training on various program capacity needs. A total of 581290 participants received training since inception of the organization.

Progress of performance at a glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Status of 2015-16</th>
<th>Status of 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract Training</td>
<td>765 participants</td>
<td>119 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERC projects training</td>
<td>18627 participants</td>
<td>29233 participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research, Evaluation and Documentation (RED)

Research, Evaluation and Documentation (RED) Section has emerged within VERC for conducting action research and piloting new initiatives which are documented and shared with the partners, stakeholders and donors. It also extends support to interne students of graduation and masters level to undertake study on various development issues for academic purposes and sharing the findings with respective program sectors of VERC. Following are the types of studies carried out during the reporting period –

1. **Studies done by external consultants:**
   A. **Training & Communication Section:**
      i) Learning on Empowerment of Children and their Relational Link with Membership of Children Organisation – Enamul Huda
      ii) Evaluation of the “ICT and innovative partnerships – responding to well-known challenges for children in new ways” project in Bangladesh - by Rasmus Jørgensen, Senior MEAL Advisor, SCD (Save the Children Denmark) - September, 2016
   B. **WatSan & Technology Section:**
      i) Baseline Survey for Chhatak Project carried out by KIT - Royal Institute of the Netherlands. Data collection task completed in period and processing of data and report writing going on.

2. **Interns carried out study on VERC interventions:** In all 25 studies conducted by 25 Interns from three different institutions on VERC Program Interventions. Study issues are: Hazardous child labour, Fish culture by micro-credit groups, Resilience building in urban slum area people, ECD and pre-primary education program, Health and Environment.

With the purpose of fostering and strengthening individual potentials, VERC has been giving emphasis on education program since its inception. This is the era of social development where education has been recognized as the most precedence sector by all the developed and developing nations as well as the government of Bangladesh. Education is not only to eradicate illiteracy but also to form knowledge based society which will help our country to be a developed one. To this effect, VERC has been piloting and implementing education program in innovative ways with technical and financial support from development partners, GoB and using its own resources. The strategic dimension has been useful to specifically address the growing education needs of children and women in the country. VERC membership with networks growing at stages and in dimensions has been contributing to mainstreaming to primary education efforts of the Government. VERC supplements the government efforts in addressing 2 MDG Goals and four SDG concerns.

TdH NI supported project came to its closure in December 2011 in Sonargaon and since then a total of 45 schools are running in the area with community support. Community people bear 89% of the program operation cost and VERC supports the ongoing program in the area by extending technical support. In addition, GoB Education department is extending monitoring and administrative support to the initiative.

During the reporting period, VERC has implemented 10 projects across different areas in the country. The projects are SHIKHON, READ, Sisimpur, DIPECHO-VIII, HOPE and EPRC covers the districts of Pabna, Sirajganj, Natore, Bogra, Dhaka, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Cox’s Bazar. In the projects, VERC implements non-formal education (NFE) and works with the government primary schools, KG schools, Madrasa for quality education and mainstreaming the dropout students. A total of 99,453 students (Boys-49,328, Girls-50,125) are prosecuted study under the program. VERC works with 330 govt. primary schools (GPS) for quality education through READ, HOPE and Sisimpur projects. In additional one model primary school is running with community support where VERC also provides limited resources.
Further to mention here that VERC is implementing 21 primary schools, 52 ECCD and 2 secondary schools in two Ruhingya Refugee camps in Cox’sbazar district where 8880 children are enrolled as students for education as per GoB curriculum with special attention on Burmese language proficiency. In response to the practical need of continuity of education, VERC has been successful to create provision for class VI and Class – VII with the support of Camp Administration and Education department.

**Ongoing projects at a glance:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Name of the Project</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Upazilla</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community and VERC</td>
<td>Children’s Education Resource Center (CERC) Program</td>
<td>1979 – on going</td>
<td>Savar</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and VERC</td>
<td>Sustainable Education Program</td>
<td>2012 on going</td>
<td>Sonargaon</td>
<td>Narayanganj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children</td>
<td>Holistic approach Towards Promotion of Inclusive Education- (HOPE)</td>
<td>2016 to 2018</td>
<td>Savar, Belkuchi</td>
<td>Dhaka, Sirajganj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children</td>
<td>Reading Enhancement for Advancing Development (READ)</td>
<td>January 2014-December 2018</td>
<td>Savar, Shibalaya, Harirampur, Daulatpur, Saturia, Ghior, Mirzapur</td>
<td>Dhaka, Manikganj, Tangail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children</td>
<td>SHIKHON</td>
<td>January 2012 to February 2017</td>
<td>Belk’uchi, Kamark hand, Raiganj, Gurudaspur, Baraigram, Chatmohar, Dhunat,</td>
<td>Sirajganj, Natore, Pabna and Bogra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education for Refugee Children</td>
<td>May 2012 to Dec 2016</td>
<td>Teknaf, Ukhiya</td>
<td>Cox’s Bazar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sisimpur Enhancing Essential Life Skill Project</td>
<td>January, 2014-June 2017</td>
<td>Raipura</td>
<td>Narsingdi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TdH Netherlands</td>
<td>DIPECHO-VIII</td>
<td>2015 TO 2017</td>
<td>SAVAR</td>
<td>DHAKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERC-Micro-Credit program</td>
<td>Piloting of integrated program in Kaliakair</td>
<td>2012 on going</td>
<td>Kaliakair</td>
<td>Gazipur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children’s Education Resource Center (CERC) Program**

Since 1979 VERC is implementing own funded education program in Savar area with four ECD centres and five NFPE (Non-formal Primary Education) centres running with 251 students. Four of the ECD centers are used for testing out innovative learning materials to enrich the education for the pre-primary level learners in addition to regular curriculum so that the findings can be shared with stakeholders of the same nature of program in the sector and preparing the children as learners for the primary level.

VERC run NFPE centers are to support the primary level education needs of the children of the marginal income group families living in the municipal areas of Savar. The Govt. primary schools are
not within easy reach of the families and these are already over pressured. Marginal families are mostly from different areas of the country seeking employment opportunity for survival. They live here with family members and they want to get their kids attending school for being educated and securing a better life in course of time. It is difficult for the children to attend schools located at a distance of about 2 kilometers everyday as a result the children remain out of school. For lack of required number of schools in the township that suit their level of income and livelihood pattern, they are bound to find alternatives and VERC NFPE schools are a good means to that end. The housewife mother being new in township finds it difficult to take the kids to the school and bring them back home requires extra time ignoring the pressure of household tasks. The NFPE centers are suitable to the families for the reasons like – easily accessible in neighborhood, needs no expenditure for transportation and children are less vulnerable to road accidents and the children can contribute to family needs in absence of the bread earner etc. Mobility in the township is expensive as well as risky for the children. The earning members of the households cannot take the kids to the govt. school spending time. The children mostly in these families rather left at home to take care of the household while the parents are out for earning at day time. In addition, the timing of formal primary school is not friendly to the children of these types of families. The timing, basic curriculum and teaching method of NFPE centers are accommodative to the needs of the noted families.

During July 2016 to June 2017 period, the following achievements have taken place as outcome of multiple stakeholder involvement showing the potentiality of self-management mobilizing local resources and monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL No</th>
<th>Type of Activities</th>
<th>No. of Union</th>
<th>Progress (2015-16)</th>
<th>No. of Union</th>
<th>Progress(2016-17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Center</td>
<td>No of Teacher</td>
<td>No of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>boys</td>
<td>girls</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centers</td>
<td>1 Union and 1 Municipal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-formal Primary Education(NFPE) Centers</td>
<td>5 Municipal</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Int. Literacy Day Observation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Positive aspects are – attendance rate is 96%, monthly refreshers are held regularly and all the teachers are trained, performance of students good and the success rate in exams is 98%.
- Community people bear 24% of the programme cost (Community Tk.48,000 and VERC – Tk. 2,00,000); Cost per student amounts to Tk.1,240.00 approx.

**Sonargaon Sustainable Education Program**

The 5th and last phase of TdH Netherlands supported project completed its three years duration in December 2011. Village Education Resource Center (VERC) has successfully implemented the project in 7 Unions of Sonargaon Upazila under the district of Narayanganj. Aminpur, Pirojpur, Mograpara, Boidder Bazar, Barudi, Naogaon and Jampur are the unions.

The project had been successful in demonstrating the effects of ECD and NFPE in children of the seven noted union areas and as outcome of the project a visible interest in community people of seven unions helped to sustaining the activities. There was a feeling generated in the people that the good quality pre-schooling should not die down; it should rather be continued at the interest of their children as such they sought for limited technical support from VERC and they mobilized local resources. Local administration as well as the Union Parishads took interest in supporting the people’s initiative to keep on the efforts. Presently, a total of 45 schools are running in the area with community support.
During the reporting period, the following achievements have taken place as outcome of multiple stakeholder involvement showing the potentiality of self-management, mobilization of local resources and monitoring –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL No</th>
<th>Type of Activities</th>
<th>No. of Union</th>
<th>Progress (2015-16)</th>
<th>No. of Union</th>
<th>Progress(2016-17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Center/ School</td>
<td>No. of Teachers</td>
<td>No. of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centers</td>
<td>7 Union and 1 Municipal</td>
<td>13 13 210 219 429</td>
<td>7 Unions and 1 Municipal</td>
<td>13 13 226 204 430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE) Centers</td>
<td>29 29 402 433 835</td>
<td>33 33 406 481 887</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Model Primary School</td>
<td>01 6 166 172 338</td>
<td>01 06 210 156 366</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes

- Monthly refreshers are held regularly and all the teachers are trained, performance of students good and the success rate in exams is 98%.
- All of the 126 PSC passed students got admission in Mugrapara and Jampara High School for higher education.
- Community people pays regular visit to the schools to keep things on track.
- Community people bear 89% of the programme cost (Community Tk.24,74,400 and VERC – Tk.3,00,000 ) Cost per student amounts to Tk.1622.00 approx.
- Education department officials of the government pay regular monitoring visit to the schools that helps as encouragement to contributions made by the community people ensuring wider coverage intended by the government.
- All of the 126 students attended in Primary School Certificate (PSC) Examination and 100% students passed the exam.9 students got GPA 5 and 2 students got scholarship from Habibpur VERC School.

**Holistic approach Towards Promotion of Inclusive Education - (HOPE)**

Village Education Resource Center (VERC) has been emphasizing on education program since its inception to congregate the purpose to promote and fortify human potentials. The main objective of VERC program is to build up children's potentials and to mainstreaming them in education. Education has been identified as a priority sector in Bangladesh by the government and non-government organizations, not only to exterminate illiteracy but also for human resource development. Accordingly, VERC has been implementing education program in innovative ways with support from development partners in the sector.

HOPE Project already has passed two years implementing activities at the field level. In the mean time several education projects gained popularity among the children and community and Govt. forum such as inclusive education, CBR center support to children with disability, out of school children
enrolment, community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) center service, referral support, Child forum activity as well as youth volunteer CBR-RP support. During the reporting period, we have established two CBR centers in two Union Parishad compounds. We have enrolled 4627 out of school children where 95 children were found with disability. We have distributed 94 assistive devices among the Children with Disability for better living. During the reporting period, we have completed 216 community meetings and 3234 counselling sessions at community level.

HOPE, project organized and conducted dialogue session with Union Parishads with Child forum members to ensure the child rights. During the reporting period UP bodies completed 18 Ward shavas and Open budget meetings with the support of HOPE project. HOPE project has made outstanding and significant progress in the reporting period. There are three major components of the project; these are Support to Out of school children and Children with Disability. In addition, Community Based Rehabilitation Centre - CBR is one of another component which has directly touched result one and three. Two CBRs also were functioning from June 2016 and accomplished tasks successfully with the coordination of two Union Parishads and collaboration along with education department, government teachers and SMCs.

Community Based Rehabilitation Center - (CBR) activity-

During the reporting period, we have completed clinical assessment of 239 Children with Disability out of 432 CWDs from CDD. The Community Based Rehabilitation Resource Persons provided PRT service for 239 children with Disability 1625 times through CBR centers. Receiving the PRT service, the children are now going to school regularly and moving easily. We have completed 217 community meetings at community level where 3888 parents participated. Normally, CBR-RP and UF conducted the meetings and they discussed about the issue of CWD, fever, disability, rehabilitation and inclusive education. In the meeting, the CBR-RP has shown the flip chart and discussed about the massages. During the reporting period, we have distributed 94 Assistive Devices among the Children with Disability and Referred 59 clients for better treatment as per instruction of technical experts and admitted 95 children with disability in schools.

At a Glance of CBR center -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity / Category</th>
<th>Boy</th>
<th>Girl</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Children with Disability</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>With the instruction of CDD training document and SCI format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Assessment</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>With the support of CDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission in school</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>As per Instruction of Technical person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided Device Support extended</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>As per Instruction of Technical person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral extended</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>As per Instruction of Technical person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>523</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>919</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Accessibility Activity - During the reporting period, we have completed 15 school accessibility activities. We have prepared ramp, toilet ramp, water line and installation of high commode for children with disability. The project has completed accessibility of all the children for going to school on regular basis and for active participation in lessons. We have completed colouring of 15 schools as of SCI guide line. SMC committee, SLIP committee and UP bodies supported the accessibility activities. The UP bodies constructed the boundary wall for safety of the children and levelling the playground with soil. SMC and SLIP committee supported the class room painting for creating educational environment. Accessibility committee followed up the activity to ensure the quality. During the reporting period, we have enrolled 4627 out of school Students where 95 Children was with disability and ensured their attendance.

At a glance information of learners and Teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of School</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Children with disability</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Teaches</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Girl</td>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Girl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>3439</td>
<td>3798</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>7332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capacity building of Teachers and SMC members - During the reporting period, we have completed 15 school SMC and teachers orientation on Inclusive education. In all, 109 teachers and 129 SMC members participated the orientation. The technical officer and UC has conducted the orientation and discussed about IE issue, support the children with disability, Clarification of disability, duty of SMC and teachers of the class room and community, to ensure the enrolment and inclusive class room. On the other hand, we have participated in 189 SMC meetings at school level where 1620 members participated the meeting. Normally the technical Officer and Upazila Coordinator conducted the meeting to discuss about Inclusive Education, support the CWDs, admission of CWDs, device support, school accessibility activity and environment of class room. After the meeting The SMC committee members support the CWDs to ensure the admission and discuss about admission with their parents. During the reporting period have completed 45 sensitization meeting at school level with parents, teachers and students where 1638 parents, 6262 students and 112 teachers participated. After the meeting the teachers changed their behaviour to accept the CWDs admitted in their school. Students are not disturbed by the children with disability in their class rooms and they support the Children with disability in the classes and happy to play with them as well.

At glance of SMC and Teachers orientation Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL no</th>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SMC</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>116</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**At a glance of Sensitization meeting information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Union</th>
<th># of school</th>
<th>Students Total</th>
<th>Parents Total</th>
<th>Teachers Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Girl</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathalia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1473</td>
<td>1579</td>
<td>3062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhamsona</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1588</td>
<td>1612</td>
<td>3200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3061</td>
<td>3191</td>
<td>6262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Union Parishad support** - During the reporting period, 2 Union Parishads have provided 2 rooms for continuation of CBR centres. The UP bodies have completed 18 Ward shavas and 2 open budget sessions with the support of HOPE project. The UP bodies invited the children for their participation in all the activities like monthly meetings, ward shavas and open budget sessions. They conducted 4 dialogue sessions with Child forum members and collect their demand. As per children demand the UP bodies prepared a school building, Road repair, provided education materials and assistive device disable card. The UP bodies prepared the boundary wall and fill up the playground for the children to ensure the safety and smooth use of the playground. The UP bodies are ensuring the child rights at community level and distributed 95 assistive devices offered by the support of HOPE project. They prepared an action plan to continue CBR centers without any project support. All the UP members have supported 216 community meetings to be held in their communities.

**Participants of Ward Sava and Open Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL No</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Participant Male</th>
<th>Participant Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward Sava</td>
<td>6838</td>
<td>2420</td>
<td>9238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Open Budget</td>
<td>2938</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>3058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>9776</td>
<td>2540</td>
<td>12296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Child forum Group Activity** - Child forum is the group of children at community level. It was formed with the school going students, out of school children and children with disability. These were formed with 30 members where there were 15 girls and 15 boys. They worked on child rights and child protection issues at community level. The child forum members support the children with disability, out of school children and with vulnerable children. Child forum has 2 committees, one is the general committee and the other is Executive Committee. Normally, child forum group arranged one meeting in each month and they conducted the meeting with the participation of UP members and their parents. Normally, Union Facilitator and Technical Officer support the meeting. They discuss about child rights and protection issues, AD support, distribution of card among the disable and help children in respect of admission. As per decision of meeting, they prepared an action plan for implementation of activities. During the reporting period, they have arranged 4 dialogue sessions with UP bodies to ensure the child rights. They have admitted 723 out of school students where 27 children were with disability. They have distributed education materials among 17 children with disabilities and vulnerable children. During the reporting period they have conducted 216 meetings where 5184 children attended as participants. They arranged 2 children fair at community level to ensure participation of the children with disability.
**Information on Child Forum meeting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Union</th>
<th># of Meeting</th>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Boy</td>
<td>Girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathalia</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhamsona</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>845</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community Meeting** - As per project guideline, The CBR-RP will organise a community meeting at community level. Normally, the UF and CBR-RP conducted the community meeting for behaviour change of children with disability. Community people and parents participated in the meetings. UF and CBR-RP conducted the meetings and discussed about children with disability, inclusive education, Sessional digress and How to remove the hardships of disability. After receiving the information the community people support the children with disability. During the reporting period the CBR-RP and UF has conducted 216 community meetings where 3240 community people and parents participated.

**SHIKHON Urban** –SHIKHON Urban is a sub project of HOPE program of IKEA Foundation under the management of Save the Children International with one implementing partner. This project aims to contribute to the achievement of Bangladesh’s development goals and to a national basic education framework by providing proper education to children and building awareness on the necessity of education in the society and other issues namely health-hygiene education for the children, conducting parenting session to increase the capacity of parents specially for supporting their children as guardians. The project’s purpose is to promote access and increase basic education.

A total of 50 schools were running at Savar, Tongi, Uttara and Gazipur Upazilas. SHIKHON Urban School came to its closure through the PECE exam. During the reporting period, 754 students are participated the PSC exam in 2016. Most of the students have passed the PSC exam and receive Certificate from GOB authority.

**Now Mukti Can Stand**

Mukti is the daughter of Md. Mutaleb and Morioum begum. They live in village of Dendabore under Dhamsona union of SavarUpazila. Mukti is the fiest daughter of her parents. When Mukti is one year, she got fever and lost her ability. She cannot stand and walk. She went to doctor for improvement, but she could not improve. Then her father admitted her in CRP for better treatment. For poverty, she could not continue the treatment.

One day Mukti’s father came to chairman for help. The chairman said, Union disable center provided the disable support from CBR center. You can go to UNION Protibondishebakendro. As per instruction of chairman, her mother met with CBR-RP and discuss
about her condition. CBR—RP included her name in general register and completed the clinical 
assessment. As per assessment interaction of technical professional, The CBR-RP provided stretching 
therapy of solder, knee, rist and ta. Receiving the therapy service, day by day Mukti is improving. 
Now she can stand long time, and moving anywhere. She can read the book, and write in her hand. Her 
parents are very happy for her improvement. Mukti’s mother said, I proud of CBR center support. My 
daughter is very happy for CBR-RP support. She can go to school. I will admit her in the school next 
year. Her father said, I am a poor man, I can not support the treatment for poverty, but CBR center has 
shown the future plan.

Reading Enhancement for Advancing Development (READ)

Bangladesh has achieved unimaginable success in Basic Education especially in access and equality 
with the assistance of development partners and non-governmental organizations under strong 
leadership of ‘Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh’.

But the success of education in access and equality weakness was still found to achieve competencies 
in Bangla of the students of grade III and V at National Competency Test in 2011. From this evaluation 
it is found that especially reading skill is gradually decreasing from grade III to grade V. If this situation 
continues the foundation of Bangla language of some students will gradually weaken and later on, this 
weak foundation of reading skill of students may influence negative impact on overall education system.

Government of Bangladesh has prepared an integrated action plan named Third Primary Education 
Development Plan to eliminate these obstacles. Speeding up the endeavor of government is for 
developing the quality of Primary Education through ‘Reading Enhancement for Advancing 
Development (READ).

VERC is implementing READ project with the collaboration of the Directorate of Primary Education 
(DPE) with a view to sustain the READ activities after phasing out of READ project. The key objective is 
to increase reading competences among grade 1-3 students in READ-supported Primary Schools in 
the selected districts of READ. This project is implementing by the financial support of USAID with the 
technical support from Save the Children International.

Coverage: A total of 400 government primary schools (120 newly nationalized primary schools and 280 
government primary schools) in 10 Upazilas under 3 districts. About 61 concerned GoB Officials, 400 
Head Teachers, 800 Assistant Teachers and 49,000 students have been covered during the reporting 
period from 01st July, 2016 to 30th June, 2017.

The major activities accomplished during the period of the project:

- Master Trainer Training on Reading Instruction and Assessment (RIA) for GoB official
- Teacher basic and refresher training on RIA
- Master Trainer Training on Academic Supervision (Coaching Methodology) for GoB official
- Training on Academic Supervision (Coaching Methodology) for Head Teachers
- Master Trainer Training on instructional adjustment tools (IAT) for GoB official
- Training on instructional adjustment tools (IAT) for Assistant Teachers
- Orientation of SMC members
- Refresher training on CRC for Community Literacy Volunteer
- IAT Result Sharing Workshop with District and Upazila officials
- READ Provided 1,10,320 story books of seven level to the selected school as well as 2730 
  Supplementary teaching learning materials produced so as to make class room environment child 
  friendly for better learning
- Parents gathering for awareness regarding how to assist children acquiring reading skills
- Community Reading Camp to encourage children to acquire reading skills
- Assessment of students performance level
- Regional product dissemination workshop
- NNPS exit workshop
- Reading Festival
- Advocacy Workshop on Local Government role in Community Reading Camp (CRC) sustain
Outcomes of the period:

- A total of 27835 students were assessed out of 41757. The students were assessed in the areas of reading elements such as Phonemic Awareness, Letter knowledge, Vocabulary, Reading Fluency and Comprehension.
  - For grade I only measured the reading elements Phonemic Awareness and Letter knowledge. Total number of 8882 students covered by IAT exam, among them 58% Mastery level, 15% developed level, 27% need improve level got in Phonemic Awareness and 72% Mastery level, 19% developed level, 9% need improve level got in letter knowledge.
  - For grade II only measured the reading elements Phonemic Awareness, Letter knowledge and Vocabulary. Total 9258 students covered in IAT exam among them 79% Mastery level, 14% developed level, 7% need improve level got in vocabulary and 67% Mastery level, 22% developed level, 11% need improve level got in Comprehension.
  - For grade III only measured the reading elements Reading Fluency and Comprehension. Total 9695 students covered in IAT exam among them 64% Mastery level, 24% developed level, 12% need improve level got in Reading Fluency and 62% Mastery level, 24% developed level, 14% need improve level got in Comprehension.

(Note:  
IAT = Instructional Adjustment tools. 
Mastery level = Students can answer 3 question out of 3. 
Developed level = Students can answer 2 question out of 3 
Need to improvement = Students can answer 1 or 0 question out of 3)

- The Master Trainer group developed can conduct Bangla Teachers training on Reading Instruction and Assessment including project staffs, Upazila Education Officials and Instructor of Upazila Resource Center (URC).
- A total of 608 Assistant Teachers have gained knowledge and skills on Reading Instruction and Assessment. Now they have conducted Bangla classes based on acquired knowledge and skills. As a result, students learnt their lesson faster than earlier in joyful learning environment.
- A total of 280 Head Teachers participated in the Academic Supervision Training and acquired further knowledge and skills on academic supervision. Having training on academic supervision, the Head Teachers can conduct academic supervision and provided feedback to the Bangla Teachers for enhancing their lesson delivery skills. As a result, students can prepare lesson with new tools and techniques and acquired learning outcomes smoothly.
- A total of 1340 SMC members have received orientation from READ project. They are now aware of their roles and responsibilities. They have gained knowledge on READ activities, how to prepare SLAP budget as well as use of SLAP budget for developing students reading skills. After receiving the orientation they plays more positive role in school so that the attendance rate of the students is better in the classroom and reduced the rate of absence.
- A total of 260 Community Literacy Volunteer conducting Community Reading Camp sessions properly
- With acquired knowledge from training. They can use of TLM in the session properly. As a result student’s attendance increased in community reading camps.
- Through READ product Dissemination workshop 50 Participants like DD, DPEO, ADPEO, UEO, URC instructor, AUEO, Civil society, Media person known about READ produced product.
- 26 Community leaders as well as GoB officials has committed to give the contribution for 7 sustaining Community Reading Camps. Brief the importance and need of Community Reading Camps in community level the local government feel interest to continue the activities. To observation the shadow Community Reading Camps in the venue, Upazila chairman proposed to READ team give him the materials he will set up a Community Reading Camps which will be ideal for each school and union chairman inspire to establish as like Community Reading Camps in there union’s schools. Collaboration with local government the community activities sustain in these area.
- A total of 41757 Parents are now aware on ways to assist their children acquire reading skills.
• Various teaching materials developed by the project in printed manner have created rich learning environment in the selected schools of grade I, II and III classrooms. Now, the students can understand lessons easily and student’s reading fluency has increased.

• In the IAT Result Sharing Workshop Govt. officials agreed that their monitoring should be increased at the school. Teachers are applying the RIA in the class room.

• 763 Student of 5 Upazila participated in the Reading Festival. UNO, Upazila chairman, Upazila vice chairman, UEO, AUEO, URC instructor, GoB officials, Union parishad chairman, parents, journalist and NGO representatives also participated in the program. They are very much interested to READ project activities.

Physical disability could not stop Sinthiya!!

Congenitally Synthia has not had fingers in two of her hands. She faces various difficulties in her daily routine work due to physical disability but that can not affect in her study. She has ignored the adversity and continuing her education. Synthia is the 8 years young child of expatriate father. She is living with her mother and two sisters and brothers in Chakharicharon village under Daulatpur Upazila in Manikgonj District.

There is no end to housewife mother’s sorrows because of the physical disabilities of her daughter. The mother has to help her in all the activities. She is always thinking that how she can lead normal life and who will take care of her later on. Synthia’s mother is worried about the girl. The anxiety of her family due to her disability and considering ways to be overcome by determined Synthia. She is now studying in class three in Chakharicharon Govt. Primary school in the READ projected area.

Her Mother said, “since childhood, she is very good in studies; she got into school at her interest in study; besides her feeding, her bathing and maintain all kinds of tasks to sit together and help to write and reading her in everyday life”. She (Synthia) takes story book from the reading corner every week. She regularly reads story books and shares the stories with classmates. Meanwhile, she has read most of the reading Corner books and can recall name of most of the books. Head Master said, ‘she is very good in reading, coming regularly to school, she has interest in reading books, there are many problems in turning the book page and writing due to problems with the hands, classmates and others love her very much”.

Synthia said, she does not have any problem to read but there is a problem in writing, I cannot write long enough to write down the pen. However, I will get a good result by studying regularly, I want to secure the first place in the next annual exam”. After completed her education she intends to be a teacher.
Remarkable initiative taken by Mr. Selim Hossain!

Md. Selim Hossain the Head teacher of Moslemabad Govt. Primary School has taken a remarkable initiative to enhance reading skill of the students who have weak in phonemic awareness and letter knowledge. Now he is teaching alphabets with proper pronunciation arranging the special class from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM on regular basis by using letters card and phonemic chart provided by the VERC-READ Project.

VERC started the READ Project in the beginning of 2017 in Singair area. At the beginning of READ project Mr. Selim Hossain was not so interested in READ project. But after receiving the Training on Academic Supervision (on coaching methodology), he could realize the importance of READ Project. Now he supervises the Bengali class of grade I to grade III according to READ project’s instruction and provides necessary support to respective teachers.

Mr. Selim Hossain said that ‘after conduction of 2nd IAT, I found the real scenario of reading skills of our students. A large number of students have been identified who can’t identify the letters and read the alphabets with proper pronunciation through this assessment. In this situation I realized that we need to take initiative immediately to remove this problem and that is why started special class with the targeted students. It is also suggested to Bengali teachers for using TLM in the classroom. We are getting necessary support from READ project. I am highly satisfied and grateful to the concerned authority of READ project for providing effective support to ensure quality education. Hope that READ project will be continued for a long time and contribute to increase reading skills of our students’.”

We hope, the initiative taken by Mr. Selim Hossain will bring positive changes to enhance the reading skill of the targeted students and it may be an example of success.

SHIKHON

The SHIKHON program ensures quality education through adopting active teaching and learning methods and working hard to create a joyful learning environment, while following the curriculum and using the text books of the National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTB) of Bangladesh. A typical SHIKHON school is a community-provided, one-classroom school with a teacher from the same community who delivers quality teaching to a group of 30-35 children between 8 and 10 years old. Children in SHIKHON schools complete a 5 year primary education in 4 years, from the readiness class through grade five, and sit in the primary school completion examination. SHIKHON has developed class-wise and subject-based teacher’s training courses that ensure that the community teachers provided SHIKHON students with a quality primary education. The Program has also published class and subject specific teacher’s guides, to help support the teacher as they work to ensure that the children acquire the necessary competencies.

SHIKHON works in remote rural areas, riverine chars, (low lying flood and erosion prone areas) and haors (marshlands) and disaster prone areas in Rajshahi divisions of Bangladesh. Collaboration with Upazila and district primary education office is a key strength of SHIKHON schools and active participation of parents and community are also vital to the success of SHIKHON schools.

VERC SHIKHON project being implemented in 437 villages under 67 unions of 11 Upazilas of four districts in Rajshahi division. Total 402 NFPE schools and 229 EPE centers are running under the project.

Objectives of the project -

1. Increased access to cost-effective non-formal basic education for hardest to reach children in targeted communities;

2. Increased efficiency and quality of non-formal basic education services using holistic approaches for children to succeed in school; and

3. Increased collaboration between the formal and non-formal primary sectors to promote sharing and adoption of best practices
NFPE-2 and EPE -2 School/centers established:

Activities:

- Training for 88 regular staff and 631 volunteers under four field offices and one regional office.
- Continuing 268 numbers of NFPE schools activities under 3 field offices which are Raiganj, Kamarkhanda & Belkuchi on regular basis supported by School Management Committees (SMC).
- Functioning of 229 SHIKHON Clubs in 179 government primary schools and 4580 (2410 girl and 2170 boys) students took support through the clubs under 4 field offices. Provided necessary learning materials to the clubs.
- Establishment of hand washing station in 10 primary schools in Raiganj areas under the study is Nudging hand washing a cluster-randomized trial in Bangladesh supported by Oklahoma University.
- Organized a workshop with primary school teachers and education officers of Charmohar Upazila.
- Selected 10 EPE centers for piloting activity under Baraigram field office. Using audio device teachers will play the device using a memory card where already the word pronunciation has recorded.
- Follow up of monthly School Management Committee (SMC) and Center Management Committee (CMC) meeting.
- Organizing monthly parents meeting and sharing the progress of their children’s performance.
- Organize 3 success celebration meetings with Upazila administration under Raiganj, Belkuchi and Kamarkhanda Upazila about project completion.
- Observance of different national and international day i.e. red letter days by SHIKHON Schools, International mother Language Day, Independence Day, Victory Day, Global Hand washing Day and International literacy Day.

Outcome:

- School visit and follow up by Parents, Government officials, GPS teachers and local administration on regular basis; teaching learning processes, model test, Grade end exam, health and hygiene situation has improved.
- Total 171 EPE centers’ learners participated in annual examination with govt. primary schools. After successful pass Grade 2 all children take admission in class 3 at near primary school of their residence. Each learner gets a certificate from SHIKHON project for successful completion of Grade 2.
- Total 97.52% students passed and took admission in high schools through PECE result after NFPE-1st cohort completion. Parents and community people are happy for passing their drop out children and get opportunity to take admission in high school. In total 5612 children took part in Primary Education Completion Exam out of 5827. Total 5473 students passed in the exam and all of them took admission in class VI in high schools.
- The 14 primary schools’ authority have got a full of trunk materials with 300 childish story books for their school and children as to set up a Mini library. These story books were provided in each GPS through UEO. GPS teachers using the materials during class time; Upazila Education Department of Chatmohar get clear concept about VERC, Save the Children and SHIKHON
- Teachers are using it as per guideline and share their daily experience with team. Baraigram Upazila Education Officer took part in the inaugural session of the activities; UEO handed over the devices among the teachers. UEO said it is a new idea in education sector if student exercise it regularly their skill will improve.
- Now school authority looks after their schools activities regularly and takes initiative for further improvement particularly regarding, repair maintenance, student and teachers timing, material distribution among the children and ensure water and sanitation situation. Moreover, de-worming tablet covered all the children by communicating with union health workers as well as with the authorities of Upazila Health Complex. Total 631 School Improvement Plans (SIP) prepared by the committee.
Community has taken different types of initiatives and provided materials i.e. jug, mat, tin, clock, national flag, water pot, ceiling fan etc. Parents and civil society take part in repair of school house, committee members conduct session in absence of teachers; all these actions indicate community ownership.

Parents are taking constructive decisions for progress of their child in meetings and get scope of sharing with teachers and supervisors. They are more aware about education, health, hygiene, nutrition and seasonal disease of their children. They also visit schools regularly and contributing in better result in exam, follow up their children's daily routine, sharing with school supervisors and provides necessary feedback.

SHIKHON schools visited by different stakeholders such as SMC/CMC, DPEO, ADPEO, UNO, UEO, AUEO, Head Teachers and Assistant Teachers, UP Members and Health Assistant. The student attendance target achieved almost 90% enrolment in Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) schools. Potential parents and SMC members are taking responsibility to regularize the student.

**Mainstreaming:** Unsuccessful 139 (43 girls and 96 boys) students take admission in Madrasa and primary schools. 215 (81 girls and 134 boys) absent of PECE students are took admission on GPS in class IV and V.

Field office wise PECE results as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Field Office</th>
<th>Total DR</th>
<th>Attendance in PECE</th>
<th>Result of SHIKHON Students</th>
<th>Pass</th>
<th>Pass %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belkuchi</td>
<td>1603</td>
<td>1552</td>
<td>A+ 0 A- 111 A 234 B 398 C 625 D 146 E 38 F 1514</td>
<td>97.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raiganj</td>
<td>2285</td>
<td>2169</td>
<td>A+ 16 A- 385 A 438 B 471 C 625 D 203 E 31 F 2138</td>
<td>98.57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamarkhanda</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>A+ 8 A- 155 A 278 B 378 C 694 D 308 E 70 F 1821</td>
<td>96.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G. Total</strong></td>
<td>5827</td>
<td>5612</td>
<td>A+ 24 A- 651 A 950 B 1247 C 1944 D 657 E 139 F 5473</td>
<td>97.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community support sustains SHIKHON School:

In all 13 schools are functioning in communities according to SHIKHON model. Among the three field offices, 12 schools are running with EPE modality of pre-primary class and 1 is NFPE modality of class-2. The schools have some old materials beside it some storybooks, chalk, usable blackboard, khata, duster, mat and corner materials. The project staff maintained liaison with Upazila education department as well as primary schools for helping the committee to run the schools smoothly. Save the Children representative and VERC staffs follow up and support the teachers to operate the schools. Parents are more interested to enroll their children in community based SHIKHON Schools because the teachers are trained and more capable to conduct classes in child friendly and joyful environment. SMC members have been capacitated and they know how to operate the schools in their community for the disadvantaged children. They have trained teachers, school premises with different materials. As a result SMC members are ensuring teachers honorarium with the support of parents.

**Information on community supported sustained SHIKHON schools:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Office</th>
<th>SI no</th>
<th>Name of center</th>
<th>Implementation Modality</th>
<th>Total Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamarkhanda</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Karnasuti Madha</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Karnasuti East</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Karnasuti North</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Jamtail North</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Barapakuria</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Barapakuria</td>
<td>NFPE, grade-2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Kayra Bhagalpur</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Charasbataria</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Angaru East</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Kayelgati North</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raiganj</td>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Taras Badha</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Asanbari</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belkuchi</td>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Choto Chamtara</td>
<td>EPE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SHIKHON Club support to slow learners to bring them in the merit list

Village Education Resource Center Started SHIKHON Program in 2013 in Pabna, Natore, Sirajganj and Bogra districts with financial support of European Union & technical support by Save the Children. The main objective of the project was supporting Hadrest to Reach Children through Basic Education. In 2013 from the beginning of the project, a survey status carried out in Chatmohar upazilla showed that 30% of children are slow learners and they drop out from school. The major cause of children drop out was class one and two has 2 books and three have 6 books. The number of books is the mental pressure on the children and they cannot cope with large number of books.

It can be noted here that SHIKHON started one-year school support activity named SHIKHON Club for the slow learners of class three in the Govt. primary schools. The objective of the SHIKHON Club was to make sure lesson through joyful teaching method and improve children competencies and regularity. In Chatmohar field office 880 children came under SHIKHON Club activities in 37 primary schools. One community supported facilitator teaching among the children six days in a week and 2 hours of each day with joyful learning materials. A total of 880 children appeared the class three final exam and most of the children achieved roll 1,2,3,4,10 and was admitted in class four; of them 137 children was placed in roll 1-10; 1st 8 children, 2nd 6 children, 3rd 10 children, 4th 7 children, 5th 23 children, 6th 16 children, 7th 16 children, 8th 15 children, 9th 16 children and 10th 20 children. In Pachuria primary school 5 children are in roll 1-10. In class three Reiaz’s roll was 29 and he secured the first position in class three final exams. In Saipai primary school, Sumy’s roll was 23 in class three and she also secured first place in class three final exams. In Soraikol primary school Mahmuda’s roll was 54 and she became first in class three final exams. In Vangura primary school, Suborna’s roll was 36 and she got first in class three finals exams. In Koidanga primary school Joti’s roll was 23 and she got first in class three final exams.

Ms. Maleka Khatun, the mother of Sumy said, “Amar maiya Sumy 1 number hobe ame kokhono chintai korini, amar maiya ke barite poranor moto kono manus nai, amra osikklo”.

Md. Mizanur Rahman, The Head teacher of Saipai Primary school said, ‘the teaching learning process of SHIKHON Club is very attractive and help to increase the learner’s competencies and if SHIKHON Club continues in my school, it ought to support our children to improve’.

DIPECHO-VIII

VERC is implementing the Disaster preparedness project with the support of Save the Children fund and European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection according to DIPECHO-VIII Action Plan in Bangladesh. The project provides technical support to the Primary and Mass Education Department, Education Ministry and education related authorities on ways to involve in planning for resource management and monitoring during disaster period. To provide technical support for National Curriculum Board to include disaster related lessons in the primary level text books and also develop efficiency of education administrator, teacher, School Management Committee for effective planning and implementation of disaster related activities at the school level. This project is being implemented by VERC in Savar Upazila under Dhaka district since September 2015.

**Title of Action:**
Learning resilience: Institutionalizing school disaster management (SDM) in the education sector in Bangladesh

**Objectives:**
To ensure children’s right to education and protection by promoting uninterrupted and safe access to educational opportunities in the disaster-prone context of Bangladesh

**Targeted Groups:**
Students (GPS, Secondary school & NFPE), Teachers (GPS, Secondary school & NFPE), SMC Members, Parents, Community People, Govt. Officials, Union Parishads

**Beneficiary Coverage of DIPECHO-VIII Project:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>1203</td>
<td>1358</td>
<td>2561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMC</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTA/Guardians</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>1573</td>
<td>1788</td>
<td>3361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Major Activities:**

- Organize orientation session for 17 School on School Disaster Management (SDM)
- Capacity building for 17 school leadership groups such as SMC, Teachers, PTA
- School Level Improvement Plan (SLIP) update of 7 Govt. Primary Schools
- School Improvement Plan (SIP) update of 7 NFE School.
- Organized drill in 14 schools on Earthquake & Fire
- Observance of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and National Disaster Preparedness day in 17 schools
- Ensure visibility with Earthquake and Fire related awareness message in 17 Schools

**Outcomes of the period:**

- et out the roles and responsibilities of various actors i.e. teachers, students, school leadership groups in preparing for conducting, and evaluating the drill.
- Addressing a range of hazards as appropriate to the context.
- School Management Committee (SMC) have prepared School Improvement Plan (SIP) in 7 Non Formal Education (NFE) schools
- 17 schools have capacitated to conduct risk assessments in accordance with the standard guidelines for school level
- Developed 4 types of awareness raising festoon/materials and put on display in 17 schools as well  
  First Aid boxes with medicine now available in 10 schools
- Awareness messages visible on the walls of 17 schools

**Sisimpur Enhancing Essential Life Skill Project**

This project is under implementation in Raipura upazila with 38 Govt. Primary Schools, 13 Kindergarten Schools (KGS) and 1 madrassa in Raipura upazila under Narsingdi district (1 pourashava and 4 unions). Under the MOU with DPE (Department of Primary Education), this project is working only on Bangla reading and Life Skill based co-curricular activity in the primary schools highlighting how to be able to read Bangla and be aware on ways to protect oneself in various disaster situations.

Donor : USAID  
Technical support : Sesame Workshop Bangladesh (SWB)  
Duration : January 2014 to June 2016.  
Target people : Primary school students – Class I to Class III

**Project Objectives**

1. Strengthening capacity of government school teachers on Reading focus Bangla teaching.
2. Developing educational materials for co-curricular classes on essential life skills like health and hygiene, social environment and water safety.
3. Contribute to national agenda on Early Childhood Development.

**Activity:**

- 85 Para teachers Refreshers training (4 batches)  
- 189 subject base teacher refreshers training  
- 2 times, 36 items learning materials provided to Schools  
- Observance of International literacy day and International mother language

**Outcomes:**

- Para teachers and Subject teachers are able to support the subject teachers conducting class by using Sisimpur learning materials and method; weak learners being supported to improving Bangla reading and writing ability, conduct life skill sessions properly  
- Learners can attract and use to read and write daily work as per lesson in class room by Sisimpur attractive and colorful workbook and other materials.

**Education and Protection for Refugee Children (EPRC) project**

VERC is supporting 21 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 52 ECCD centres in two Ruhingya Refugee camps in Cox’sbazar district where 8880 children are enrolled as students for education as per GoB curriculum with special attention on Myanmar language proficiency. In response to the practical need of continuity of education, VERC has been successful to create provision from class VI to Class – VIII with the support of Camp Administration and Education department and also runs 2 Myanmar language labs in two refugee camps.
A total of 961 ECCD children got admission in the primary schools in two of the refugee camps at the beginning of 2016.

Save the Children (SCI) as partner of UNHCR has been managing Education and Protection for Refugee Children (EPRC) Project in Nayapara and Kutupalong refugee camps under Cox’s Bazar district since January 2012. IKEA Foundation is offering financial support the project. Village Education Resource Center (VERC) as implementing partner of SCI is providing basic education services to some 8880 children through, 21 Primary, 2 Secondary schools and 52 ECCD centers. EPRC has skilled staff both in SCI and VERC who works for providing quality education to the refugee children and promoting child protection. The teachers are the main work forces who are directly responsible to ensure the education services. However, a number of other staff members who support the teachers in the form of training, mentoring, guiding, monitoring and supervising EPRC activities to maintain the standard of education. EPRC also uses some innovative resources to improve refugee children’s education and promoting child protection that has been newly introduced in 2016. Along with its own innovative resources, EPRC project has also been using the resources developed by SCI’s other programs (SHIKHON, PROTEEVA and Shishuder Jonno) those includes teacher guidebooks, parents’ education manual, after school curriculum, story books, literacy boost, SHN materials etc and established teachers’ resource centre in each school to gather the general and professional skills on teaching.

Objective of the Project:

- Ensure Quality of Education
- Ensure 100% Enrolment of School Aged Children.
- Ensure Participation of Rohingya Community People.

Activities:

- Parents meeting and parenting education session are two regular activities of EPRC project
- SMC meeting
- SAGs meeting
- Monitoring quality of teaching learning process and classroom visit.
- Regular shed visit
- Assist to visit by Govt. official and other stakeholders.
- School examination
- Communication and coordination with counterpart

Outcome:

- Head teachers have been able to improve the quality teaching learning environment
- The irregular and drop out learners back to school and increased attendance of children.
- Teachers have been capacitated to provide quality teaching/guidance for learners.

Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh Project

The ‘Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh’ of VERC funded by Terre des Hommes – Netherlands is under implementation in Savar Upazila, an industrial hub and satellite town of the capital city Dhaka. Due to its geographical location and industrial character, a large number of slum dwellers, poor and marginalized families are living in Savar. The children of these families are vulnerable and deprived of development and protection rights. They are also victim of abuse, exploitation and hazardous child labour. The project is working to protect these children and simultaneously, creating a child-friendly environment where they participate in interventions to develop themselves.

The ‘Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh’ project is a follow up and extended project of previous ‘Protection of Children from Hazardous Labour Project’ and ‘Protection of Children at Risk from Abuse and Exploitation and ensure their Development Project’ those were implemented in Savar from 2012 to 2015. Now, Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh is being implemented as a consortium where five partners and TDH-Netherlands are working through comprehensive approaches to eliminate child labour from Bangladesh. This project is also working with the children, parents, employers, civil society and government administration to create a social safety net-work for the children in critical situations. The VERC alone will reach about 17,939 people (Children–7,715 and adults - 10,224) in the project period from 2016 to 2018 as per plan.
In the first and second quarter of the year (January-June, 2017) the project has worked to create a safe environment for children free from hazardous child labour and force work, abuse and exploitation in Savar Upazila under Dhaka district. The project has initiated to raise people’s voice against child labour by sensitizing the citizens. The project has re-organized influential elites under the banner of CPMC and united them for local level advocacy to achieve the goal of the project. Simultaneously, children are also organized through Child Led Organizations (CLOs) for working in favour of child-rights especially for eliminating hazardous child labour. The project has been continuing the ECD and NFPE centers as the children with vulnerability attaining literacy, numeracy and other appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to come out from hazardous child labour and enter into the mainstream education.

During this period, running the ECD and NFPE centers, ensured teaching-learning materials in centers, monitoring the centers and feedback given to teachers for further development, employers’ quarterly meeting held, half yearly and quarterly meetings of CPMC and CLO held, follow-up training on ECD, NFPE and Life Skills conducted, arranged socialization programme with the children of NFPE and micro credit support to vulnerable families of the children for their livelihood development including other regular activities accomplished successfully.

**Vision:** A world free of child exploitation and **Impact:** Children are protected.

**Outcomes:**
1. Children claim their rights when their rights are violated,
2. Families and communities (caregivers) protect children from abuse and exploitation,
3. Government provides access to rights and services to children to protect and respond their vulnerabilities,
4. Government (law-making institutions) protect children by making and adequately implementing laws and policies and
5. Judiciary and policy prosecute and convict perpetrators of child abuse.

VERC has identified the concentration areas of slums where most of the poor and marginalized families of the child labourers are living in Savar which include the Bipail, Gypsy Community, Rajfulbaria, Hemayetpur and CRP area, Savar Bazar, Nabinagar, Talbag, Bank Colony and Ananadapur. It is mentionable that as per the survey of the project staffs there are about 13,709 children are involved in hazardous labour are prevailing in our working areas, of them the project is covering about 600 working children involved in hazardous works each year excluding other group of children.

**Activities done during the reporting period:**

**Childrens’ Access to Education to reduce Child Labour:**

In this reporting year (July, 2016 to June, 2017) a total of 40 centers being run in respective communities of Savar Upazila with the purpose to make access to Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) and ECD. Altogether 1400 working children (aged below 18 years) and children (aged 5 to 6) vulnerable to hazardous work are being taught in the reporting year. Learning materials for the children were provided as per need.

Life skill sessions were conducted in each NFPE center while teachers have taught the classes on monthly basis. The learning was provided by involving children in games, drama, story-telling and different innovative exercises. Life skills are abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. Teachers have enabled the children on decision making, problem solving, creative thinking, critical thinking, effective communication, interpersonal relationship skills, self-awareness, and empathy, coping with emotions and stresses gradually as per plan.
Children Participated in Annual Sports

VERC and Child Protection Monitoring Committee organized annual sports in different places where all the children from NFPE centres have participated. At 9 venues all 15 centres children have participated in the annual sports. All of the events were organized with joyful participation of the children, CLOs, CPMC members and project staff. One of the sports venues was at the Upazila playground on 24 December, 2016 where children from Talbag, Anandapur, Vagolpur and Bank Colony centres participated. Mr. Yakub Hossain, Deputy Executive Director of VERC chaired the award giving ceremony and Sanjida Yesmin, Assistant Commissioner (Land) was present as chief guest. Mr. Subash Chandra Saha, Director, Training & Communication Section of VERC, Upazila CPMC members were also present in the event. Upazila Nirbahi Officer awarded the prizes among the children along with a winter blanket from his own side to each child. The Agragamee Shishu Parishad’s cultural group performed drama on bad effect of child labour in the prize giving ceremony of the annual sports while local cultural team of UDICHEE also performed popular songs for entertainment of the children. Almost the similar events were arranged in the other venues where area based CPMCs, CLOs, members from local governments, elites, project staff and the NFPE children were present to share and enjoy. Children from all ECD centers participated in the year-end drawing & cultural competition. Prizes were distributed among the children in this connection.

Progress of making Employers positive to protect children from HCL:
Children involved in hazardous labour are being protected through awareness building of the employers regarding negative consequences of hazardous child labour. The project has been trying to motivate employers to reduce hazards in work places. During the reporting period, a total of 30 meetings were organized (out of 30) with employers of child domestic workers and working children in 10 areas as per the plan during this time. These meetings have covered excellent number of participants where 647 employers attended against the target of 450. The meetings have discussed child abuse and protection, development and roles of the employers. They have given emphasis to send children regularly to the schools and monitor their progress. Some of the employers were explaining that they usually try to ensure children’s attendance and help them to make progress. Teachers shared children performance result and demanded necessary support for the children who could not perform well.

Parents Sensitized on Child Protection through ECD Parenting Sessions:
Total 700 children are at risk of hazardous child labour have pre-primary education through Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme and their parents, guardians are being motivated through parenting sessions to help continue their study and saved from child labour. The project has conducted monthly parenting sessions with the parents of ECD children on regular basis. Involvement of parents in children’s teaching-learning process is very important to make the process a success. In this the reporting period, the project has organized 149 meetings as plan where a total of 4165 parents, caregivers and guardians of ECD groups have attended against the target of 4470

Community Leaders are organized and mobilized against Child Labour:
CPMC is a civil society organization called Child Protection Monitoring Committee the most important component of the project to ensure effective education for working children. CPMC has been emerging to act as a safety-net for children who are involved in hazardous child labour.

In this reporting year, 11 CPMCs are active with 181 social elites as pressure, advocacy group with local govt., business people and employers as per plan, of them 10 is Area Based CPMCs and one is Upazila level CPMC. Area Based CPMCs and Upazila level CPMC had half yearly meetings regularly. The CPMC members have decided to improve the working children lives. They have visited the employers to improve the children’s safety level and to eliminate harsh working situations.

It is worth mentioning that the CPMC has become a self-started civil society child rights activist group to protect the children from child labour, exploitation and abuse. They arranged different wellbeing events
for the children. In this reporting period, they have arranged a day outing for socializing the children of the project in Savar on 18 March, 2016. About 75 children from NFPE centers have participated in this socializing programme. The children have celebrated the day with a lot of fun and amuse. They interacted with other children by participating in singing, dance and taking rich food and site seeing. The children of project staff, CPMC and guests also participated in this socialization programme.

**Agrogamee Shishu Parishad** (a Child Led Organization - CLO) to raise voice against child labour:

Large scale children’s voices under the banner of **Agrogamee Shishu Parishad** have risen widely against child labour in Savar Upazila. A total of 11 Child led Organizations (CLOs), of them 10 are area based and one is at the Upazila level running with a total of 1025 members where 235 executive members are working to reduce hazardous child labour in the project areas throughout different actions. In the meantime, they have held regular meetings and had developed a yearly action plan. They have also formed 5 cultural teams to perform dramas to make people aware on child labour issues. Five cultural teams have also performed dramas to make the people aware on child labour issues. In this reporting period, a capacity building orientation on child rights was held to raise voices against child labour effectively where 102 CLO executive members (boys-50 and girls-52) participated. The members of Agrogamee Shishu Parishad have made some visits to the child labour sites to observe the child labour situation as they could make a report and talk to the employers and Labour Inspector to reduce child labour.

**Dialogue with Upazila Administration and Pouroshava to reduce child labour**

In this connection, the ECLP has arranged dialogues with the Upazila Parishad and with the elected body of Savar Pourashava to create a social safety-net for the children involved in child labour and their families. In these dialogues, the concerned duty bears like Upazila administration, Police, factory Inspector, Journalists, civil society etc participated and they vowed to assist the vulnerable children as they freed from worst forms of child labour and enjoy child rights to flourish their full potentialities as worthy citizens of the country.

**Press Conference held at Savar Press Club:**

Village Education Resource Center (VERC) and Child Protection Monitoring Committee (CPMC), Savar jointly organized a Press conference onthe Roles of the Protection of Children from Hazardous Labour project to Implement the National Plan of Action 2012-2016 for eliminating Child Labour from Savar Upazila on 17 December 2016, at the Press Club of Savar. A total of 39 Journalists were present in the press conference from different print and electronic media. Sheikh Abdul Halim, ED and Ms. Rokeya Haque, President of CPMC were also present in the press conference along with other project personnel.

**Formation of Child Rights Journalist Forum:**

Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh Programme has formed a Child Rights Journalists Forum in Savar especially to support the children for ensuring their protection and overall rights. A 15 member committee is now active and working as watchdog of child rights for reducing child labour in Savar through reporting on worst form of child labour.

**Skill training for poor parents:**

Thirty members (25 females and 5 males) of the child labour families were provided short course of skills training in the 2nd half of the year 2016 as per plan. Twenty five participants had received training on Garment Machine Mechanics, two had received Dress Making & tailoring, two had received beauty parlor and one had received computer. Of them, 18 have already secured job in the mean time.

**International Literacy Day, 2016**

The project staff, CPMC members and CLOs have observed the International Literacy Day, 2016 on 8 September in this quarter. On this occasion, a colorful rally and discussion was arranged at VERC premises. VERC staff and children from NFPE centers participated in the rally and discussion. The rally
moved nearby areas chanting slogans on ensuring education for all emphasizing the marginalized people of the society. Later on, in the discussion Shaikh Abdul Halim, the Executive Director of VERC and Ms. Rokeya Haque, Chairperson of the CPMC talked to the children on the importance of education that how it changes our lives towards up-stairs. In addition, the project staff, CPMC members and CLOs have also participated the rally and discussion with Upazila administration where other social bodies have taken part. Dr. Enamur Rahman, MP was present in the event. ‘Literacy and skills for the sustainable society’ was the main theme of discussion on the day. About one thousand people gathered to uphold the spirit of the day.

- **Meeting with formal school teacher**
  In this reporting period, one meeting with formal school teachers held against the target of one. In all 16 Teachers were present in the meeting where they showed their willingness to support the working children by providing further education. They told us that, if any working children want to continue higher secondary education they will provide their best support to them.

- **Provide livelihood support to child labourer’s family:**
  In this reporting period, a total of 156 child labourer’s family was targeted to provide livelihood support as soft loan. As per the report, 156 child labourer’s family was covered where Tk.44,57,000/-was disbursed in this reporting period. There are different trades like Furniture repair, tailoring, Auto Rickshaw Purchase, Grocery Shop, Cloth Business, Toilet Making, Toilet Repair, Car Repair, Agriculture, Vegetable Business, Water Tank Purchase were provided this soft loan.

- **Develop and hang Code of Conduct:**
  The project has a plan to develop and hang 30 Code of Conduct (CoC) charts on child rights in informal companies in 3 years (2016-2018). So, in the reporting year, 10 CoCs have been developed and hanged at children’s work-places. But it is worth mentioning that there are 20 CoC charts already existing in children’s work-places in the area which were developed and hanged in previous years.

- **Outcomes of the period:**
  The NFPE schools and ECD centers have contributed the children involved in hazardous child labour and the children at risk to be involved in child labour to enrol in education and had opened a window to escape from HCL, force work, abuse and exploitation. The NFPE schools and ECD centers are playing a vital role to reduce children labour in Savar. In this reporting period, a total of 324 children have been saved from hazardous work, of them 35 have withdrawn from child labour and admitted to mainstream schools as regular students and 129 children have moved to light works;

  Parents of ECD children have gained awareness through parenting sessions on topics like child development, the importance of playing games, child rights, discipline in children and offering protection against sexual abuse.

  - Through ECLP intervention, children involved in work have raised their voice for rights and are claiming better environment and increased salary and some have been reduced heavy work.

  - A very good relationship has been developed with the employers and all of them participated very effectively in regular meetings. The meetings have discussed children’s development and role of the employers. They have given emphasis to send children to the schools regularly and monitor their progress. The employers expressed their contribution and facilities ensured for the betterment of children. This process is helping the project to motivate employers and have taken significant initiatives to reduce hazards i.e. providing safety devices at work places, reducing working hour, started following code of conduct (stopped using slang and beating), providing first aid facilities at work place and ensured schooling and entertainment;

  - The project has mobilized people, civil society, local government and administration, concerned people are coming forward to extend their support and the Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Savar is giving blankets to the children of NFPE centers every year as a mark of support to the children.
A Brave Girl Moni Mukta

Moni Mukta is an 18 year old girl, former Chairperson of Savar Upazila CLO (Aragami Shishu Parishad), presently studying in a Savar college. She lives in Bank Colony, Savar. She has two sisters and three brothers. Her father is a retired school teacher and mother is a housewife. One day, at the age of 12, Moni Mukta while on return home from school noticed a small child of 7 or 8 years doing some risky work in a workshop. She felt very bad to see the child. That was not the first time she noticed a scenario. There were lots of children, everyday she met not going to school don’t have proper clothes, doing risky and heavy work having a rare look….To see this kind of scenario, she always felt bad and wanted to do something for them. Sometimes she tried to talk with them, tried to convince them to get into school. But it was so tough for her extending this kind of support to them.

In the year 2016, VERC introduced CLO (Child Lead Organization) named Agragami Shush Parishad for the first time under the Ending Child Labor in Bangladesh project. Project staff was organizing members for CLO from the community. At that time, Moni Mukta heard about the CLO from Talbag VERC school teachers. She showed her interest to get involve with Agragami Shishu Parishad and finally she was selected as Chairperson of Upazila CLOs. As a Chairperson of Upazila CLO, Moni was performing very well. Regularly she visited community, various factories and collected children to get them admitted in VERC schools. She also regularly attended all the meetings, training and orientations which were provided by the project side and keep communicating with CPMC.

On 23 April, 2017, Moni Mukta set a remarkable example. Moni, a 15 years old child of her neighbourhood was forced by her parents to get married. In her wedding evening, Moni Mukta went to Moni’s house to try making her parents understand not to get their daughter married. But they were unable to understand and the groom’s family has already arrived there to complete the wedding formalities. In this situation, Moni Mukta called our project staffs and asked for help. She also communicated with Upazila CPMC and briefed them on the situation. With the cooperation of CPMC, Moni Mukta finally was able to stop Moni’s wedding and save her from the disaster of life.

In the same month, another child marriage in Bank Town was also stopped by the Upazila CLO members which initiative was also taken by Moni Mukta. Moni Mukta is now a really good leader. Not only child marriages, she always handles worse situation of children very carefully. She encourages the other children like her to get involved in CLO activities.

Now, she is playing an advisory role of Agragami Shishu Parishad. She is sharing her experiences with other CLO members and the present Chairperson. Moni Mukta also has very good communication with local journalists, MP (Member of Parliament), administration. In the month of January, 2017, she went to the MPs house along with other CLO members for asking materials support for ECD and NFPE centers and the MP has agreed to provide the support. Moni Mukta always dreams of doing something better for the children. This dream of her childhood, she said ‘CLO has given me opportunities to walk in to my dream. Children are always vulnerable and CLO is a great platform to get back to a normal and secure life by these vulnerable children’. This is not the end of the story of Moni Mukta; now she is more interested and gathered various experiences from CLO which will make her more confident to set another example in children’s domain.
Piloting of Integrated Program in Kaliakoir:

VERC has undertaken an integrated project on pilot basis in Kaliakoir Upazila in Gazipur district. Its aim is to replicate the sectorwise best learning of VERC program/projets so that a ground for sharing can be installed in the easy to reach location for others. The area is located within the distance of one hour drive from VERC head office. After completion of ground works in the area, a total of 10 ECD centers have been activated in collaboration with respective SMCs of Govt. primary schools; after selection and orientation of teachers, the centers have been running based on local resources and initiatives.

A total of 10 trained teachers are engaged for the center on regular basis and their salary being paid jointly by VERC and by the parents.

A total of 8 WatSan CBOs have been involved in promotion of hygiene practice through message dissemination and followup support is being rendered to maintenance of sanitation facilities. A total of 12 existing IBIG groups are being linked with other development activities.

During the year Community Bsed Primary Health Care program continued in Ward-9 (Ataboha Union) by engaging 3 Health Assistants on preventive and primary health care. Activities are carried out maintaining linkage with the UP Educatin Health and Family Planning Standing Committee, UHFWC and the CC concerned.

VERC is extending staff support from IBIG for facilitation and resource mobilisation to carry on this innovative project. VERC senior magement team members along with other senior level program personnel are also involved in the project process.

Outcome:
- The centers have been successful to mainstream boys and girls in January 2017
- Community Pays 50% of teacher’s salary.

Stipend for meritorious poor students

VERC has been offering stipend to poor beneficiary off-springs since 2009 who obtains GPA-5 or A (+) in SSC exam and decides to continue education further. Under this program each student receives Tk. 500 (five hundred) on monthly basis for two years. This is continuing as a regular activity. The students can collect their stipend from the nearest VERC office. Through this program in the last financial year (July’16 to June’17) Tk. 1500000.00 (fifteen lac) has been offered from the service charge of its micro-finance program for 250 students (new 176- old 74) The amount of allocation is increasing annually to bring more students under coverage. As of 30th June, 2017, the cumulative amount of allocation stands at Tk. 16,72,572 (sixteen lac seventy two thousand five hundred seventy two only) has been offered as stipend for the total of 495 students.
Bangladesh with a population 150 million has made significant progress towards providing water supply and the sanitation in the last two decades. According to the Joint Monitoring (JMP) report 85% people have access to safe water and 57% people use hygienic sanitation facilities. However, still there remain significant challenges if Bangladesh wants to ensure safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable services for all that requires a multi-prolonged approach. This needs to address challenges posed by hard to reach areas and vulnerable people. It also needs to tackle the emerging issues like the negative impact of climate change and meeting the demands for services due to rapid pace of urbanization, as well as strengthening sector governance through building the capacity of institutions to ensure quality, accountability and transparency. Considering the above reality WASH is still one of the focus program areas of VERC. The key objectives of the program is sustainable improvement in WASH and reduction of related risks of the poor and marginalized through effective mobilization and capacity building of community and local government. Over the reporting year VERC has implemented eight projects with the support of five donors. The projects cover 96 unions, 12 upazilas and 08 districts across the country. The key activities under the projects were community mobilization through CLTS process promotion, improving WASH facilities in community, schools and public places, Arsenic mitigation, Reduce child stunting, capacity building, Improved Cookstoves (ICS) test, technology installation linkages building networking etc.

The WASH projects cover Bhola, Sunamganj, Kurigram, Gazipur, Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Comilla and Dhaka covering 33,809 people with improved access to safe drinking water 606,702 people reached through education on hygiene and health, 41,357 people gained access to adequate sanitation and 4,634 people including LGI representatives, Teachers and SMC members covered through different capacity building training and orientation.
Projects at a glance

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Projects implemented during the period

Promoting Safe Water and Sanitation access and Hygiene Motivation among rural poor in Northern Bangladesh

The VERC-Durgapur WASH programme provides hygiene education and increased access to water and sanitation in all the seven unions of Durgapur Upazila of Rajshahi. The programme is currently providing access to sanitation to 51754 people, safe water options to 25238 people and hygiene education to 75270 people. The programme helped form CBOs in each village it operates in; thus giving the community an independent role to mobilise and keep track of WASH-related changes in their area. Each committee is made up of 9-11 members comprising women and men representing all stakeholder groups. Each committee conducts monthly meetings to assess the existing water and sanitation situation of the entire village and identify issues that need urgent action. They select sites for community water sources, collect money and monitor the latrine usage and maintenance. The committee members are responsible for identifying ultra poor households in their communities that need VERC’s assistance and grants from WaterAid Programme. To strengthen the capacity of committees are provided leadership and hygiene promotion training. To date, 104 committees have been formed. Through these committees, women’s empowerment is also addressed in the rural areas by recognizing women members through their voluntary contribution to the community.

Goal:
The overall goal of the project is to contribute to improved human well being and dignity of disadvantaged people in Durgapur upazila under Rajshahi District through improved WaSH access.

Objectives:
Poor and excluded population will be able to demand context specific water supply and sanitation services.
Poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable population in selected areas will be able to establish their access to sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Policy-makers, local governments and service agencies will be sensitized and respond effectively in promoting sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

**Major activities carried out during the period:**
- Comprehensive school modalities seminar held at Upazila level with the active participation of Govt. and non Govt. officials. (e.g., Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Secondary Education Officer, Primary Education Officer, NGOs, SMC, Journalist etc.) The goal, objectives, approaches of the school activities was shared among the participants.
- 89 folk songs organized at different places at working areas to motivate community people to establish waste management system, drinking safe water, hand washing practices and for using and cleaning hygienic latrine, at household level.
- The project has renovated 91 TW platforms and installation of 53 STWs to ensure safe water for the rural poor people in Durgapur Upazila, Rajshahi
- The project has installed 430 hygienic latrines and renovated 985 unhygienic to hygienic latrines at Household level by motivating community people
- The project has established 702 solid waste management systems at household level
- The project has initiated and established 351 hand washing devices at household level by community based organizations.
- 5 numbers of school construction works implemented where numbers of adolescent girls and boys are sensitized on WASH issues.
- The project has initiated to implement ward level meetings in seven unions for open budget declaration.
- 48 courtyard sessions conducted at household level where only women attended on specialized issues.
- Seven budget declaration meetings have been conducted by union parishad where VERC extended facilitation support
- 1235 CBO meetings were held where CBO members played an active role to create better environment on WASH in their society.

**Visible Outcomes:**
- 41% households using hygienic latrine and 8% households using shared hygienic latrine
- Number of people using safe water option round the year in the working areas
- 11% households have hand washing device and they all are washing hands with soap.
- 11% households have solid waste management system and all of them are using their home made system
- 46% people have gathered hygiene education knowledge
- Arsenic screening test has covered all the tube wells in arsenic affected areas.
- Increased awareness about WASH related curriculum in text book among Education department, SMC, Teachers and other sector actors.
- Increased awareness about UP budget processing and budget tracking.
- Increased allocation of WASH budget in all respective union.
- Efficient and effective implementation of 13 school sanitation blocks with MHM facilities and enabled students remain healthier, perform better in school, positively influencing others on hygiene practices in their homes, among family members and in the wider community;
- Operation and maintenance of respective schools have become addressed by providing SMC, teachers and cleaners orientation
- Member of Parliament has become inspired by seeing VERC-School WASH activities and provided 42 MHM Almira with necessary material at secondary school level from his own fund.
- Secondary Education Office addressed Govt. circular regarding MHM facilities in all respective schools.
- Sensitized Rural WASH project concept among Upazila administration, Education Department, SMC, teachers, UP Chairmen, secretaries, members and now they are committed to ensure their support and engagement in the project implementation process.
Dreams Do Come True!

“When I came to Jugisho Choyonika High School as head teacher, there were 150 students (150 girls) and no latrines or running water for use in the school. But that has changed quickly when the School’s Promoting Safe Water and Sanitation Access and Hygiene Motivation among Rural Poor in Durgapur Upazila, Rajshahi better known as Rural WASH, began constructing ventilated improved latrines and drilled a borehole. The entire community—parents, students, and teachers—were excited.

Funded by WaterAID, the Rural WASH activity supports the provision of improved drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural schools, promotes good hygiene practices, and strengthens local capacity for maintenance of school WASH facilities.

Not long after the construction of the latrines and installation of a water tank, enrollment at the Jugisho Choyonika High School increased to 280 students (280 girls) with a substantial increase in the number of girls. “It is obvious to me—water and sanitation facilities are necessary to support girls going to school, because now the students and the teachers have clean drinking water as well as clean toilets with MHM facilities,” said Mr. Samsur Rahman as a proof that running water and sanitation facilities increase overall enrollment. Further, it is evidence of the importance of latrines for sustaining the attendance of girls, who many times have no choice but to stay away from school during their menstrual periods because of inadequate basic sanitation facilities at school.

“No more water collection from shallow wells and no more compromised water quality. Rural WASH project has made a huge difference in our lives,” Mr. Samsur continued. “Indeed, I overheard pupils saying that they would rather learn in the newly constructed latrines than in the classrooms, which have no proper floors!”.

Menstrual hygiene management knowledge, facilities, and practices are associated with school absence among adolescent school girls.

WASH Result project

VERC-WASH Result Project is working to contribute improvement of human well being and dignity of poor and excluded population in Rayganj Upazila of Sirajganj district through context specific and Water, Sanitation and hygiene access. The project is focusing to accelerate present sanitation coverage of Rayganj Upazila.

The project has implemented through the effective mobilization of community and Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach and with participation, collaboration and coordination of CBO, CAC, LGI, government office, etc. The four years project will be implementing with supporting of Water Aid and funding of DFID in 31st March 2018.

Goal:
The broad goal of this project is to contribute to the improvement of human well-being and dignity through context-specific and scalable water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion in low service coverage areas in Bangladesh.
The goal will contribute to the national goal for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and WASH-related SDGs.

Objective:

WASH Result Project is to increase the number of people with sustainable access to WASH Services in low income (LIC) and low coverage sub-districts in Bangladesh, thereby making a significant impact on the MDG on water, sanitation and hygiene.

- Community mobilization for Interaction and knowledge sharing with local administration, media, LGI’s and sector actors increased on WASH.
- Increased access to adequate safe water for poor and excluded community people of the areas.
- Increased access to improved sanitation facilities in the project areas.
- Improved hygiene practice adapted through session, meeting, HH visit and mass campaign.
- Developed capacity building on WASH rights, advocacy, leadership, Hygiene promotion for project staff, LGIs representative, CBO leaders, Religious leaders

Major activities carried out during the reporting period:

- Community WaSH Action Committee meetings (CWAC) and engagement of CWAC, WWC & UWC members for Hygiene knowledge dissemination at community level.
- One to one visit for reaching household head/Male members of HH for dissemination of information on 5 critical times of hand washing.
- Hygiene session at tea stall and mosque and involvement of religious leaders for hand washing promotion at religious gathering.
- Hygiene session with women and adolescent girls group
- WSP discussions with the community people
- Mobilize the community to install hygienic latrines
- HH level latrine upgradation by community initiatives
- Hand washing device installation by community initiatives
- TW installation and renovation by community initiatives and other stakeholders
- Hygiene session with students at school on hand washing and food hygiene
- Maintenance liaison, networking and linkage between community people, DPHE staffs and local TW mechanics for available them.
- Ward and union WATSAN Committee meetings
- Union WASH standing committee meetings
- Water quality monitoring test
- All reported options (Water and Sanitation) to be visited and ensured functionality
- Quarterly meeting with stakeholders
- Monthly progress reviewing meeting with project staff
- Follow up HH visit by CVs, UF’s, CDO, M&E and PM to reach women, men, adolescent for improving knowledge related to 5 critical times Hand Washings at community level.

2nd outcome monitoring survey completed

Visible Outcome:

**Outcomes 1**: 100% of beneficiaries continue to use safe drinking water sources.

**Outcomes 2**: 90% of beneficiary households continue to use and maintain their toilets, 70% of households in target communities use improved latrines

**Outcomes 3**: Evidence shows that improved hand washing practices continue in target population

**Outcomes 4**: 80% of Union Parishads continue to co-ordinate and monitor WASH activities.
South Asia WASH Result Project II

The objective of the South Asia WASH Results Project (SAWRP II) is to reach people specially with poverty and marginalization who do not have access to improved water sources or sanitation to ensure universal access and helping households to move up the sanitation and water ‘ladders’ in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that the benefits last for long. The objective of the project is to increase the number of people with sustainable access to WASH Services.

Ullapara upazila has been selected as the proposed project site because of prevalent high incidence of water-related diseases, poor nutrition indicators, absence of sustainable WASH service provision, and concentration of highly marginalized and environmentally vulnerable population.

Goal, outcomes and outputs of the project
The broad goal of this project is to contribute to the improvement of human well-being and dignity through context-specific and scalable water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion in different low coverage areas in Bangladesh. The goal will contribute to the national goal for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and WASH-related SDGs.

OUTPUT 1: WATER
Key Activities
1. Installation of context specific water points
2. Renovation of existing water technologies
3. Water Quality Testing
4. World Water Day observation
5. Stakeholders engagement thorough quarterly meeting and other activities
6. Training to community, caretaker on Water Point operation and maintenance (Mechanics)

OUTPUT 2: SANITATION
Key Activities
1. Community mobilization for installation and use of household level latrine
2. Provide support to the extreme poor, people with disability and ethnic community on latrine installation
3. Capacity building of local level entrepreneurs on ‘sanitation marketing’ (SanMark) and other product promotional activities
4. Observe Sanitation Month at Union, Upazila Level
5. Capacity building of LGI sanitation standing committee members to contribute to local level sanitation development
6. Formation and nurture Ward level community based organisations (CBO)

OUTPUT 3: HYGIENE PROMOTION
Key Activities
1. Organize community campaign on hand washing with soap at critical times
2. Courtyard meeting for women, adolescent and children to promote improved hygiene behaviors
3. Mass Campaign/Day observation at Ward, Union and Sub-district levels on WASH issues
4. Arrange campaign, popular drama/folk songs at community level and telecast hygiene messages through local cable channels
5. Display hygiene message through installing bill board
6. Global Hand Washing Day observation at different levels

OUTPUT 4: GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS
1. Project launching workshop with Local government administration and representative at Sub-district level.
2. Staff and community volunteer training and orientation on WASH intervention implementation.
3. Conduct union level planning workshop on WASH issues
4. Learning visit of government and local leaders on WASH and sustainability.
5. Monthly Progress meeting
6. Develop/print Guidelines/Module, IEC/BCC materials
Major activities carried out during the reporting period:

- **Key staff recruitment:** All the key staffs (PM, M&E, Project Accountant, CDO and Project Engineer) including Caretaker and Night guard are on board in due time.

- **Frontline staff recruitment:** 39 Union Facilitator have been recruited and they have joined at Ullahpara project office on 1 June.

- **Present activities of UF:** Now they are doing preliminary works of project activities like building relation with LGI body, introduce themselves with community people, gather information on WASH situation of UP and disseminate information about project objectives and activities.

- **Union and Project office setup:** A project office hired in Ullahpara pourashava near Shree khola more and setting up completed as well as nine union offices also have been set up and Union Facilitator are sitting there.

- **Project bank account opening:** Opening a STD bank accounts at Janata Bank Ltd. Ullahpara branch for dealings financial activities.

- **Procurement of logistics:** VERC contributed logistics like office furniture, five motor cycles and two laptop supplied to field and project supported logistics yet to be supplied

- **Contact with LGIs:** Primary introduction with thirteen LGIs and upazila administration completed and agreement signing with Union Parishad under process.

- **Frontline staff (UF) orientation:** Conducted a daylong orientation on South Asia WASH result project-II's goal and objectives, project implementation process, PbR approach, rules and responsibility and organization introduction.

- **Induction meeting with project staff:** An induction orientation has been arranged at Ullahpara SAWRP-II project office on 18.05.2017. All the key staff of two working Upazilas of SAWRP-II project, Director-WatSan & Technology Section and Associate Coordinator-Finance & Admin from VERC HQ was present in this meeting. The meeting agenda had Inception Period activities, Project briefing, Concept of PbR, m-Reporting system, Progress report, Data Verification, CSA, Project organogram and hierarchy, fixed asset, Admin & financial issues and VERC Policy.

- **Learning visit:** Project key staffs have visited Royganj project area to learn and observe activities of WASH Result Project at field level. They have visited three unions in two day and observed CWAC meeting, Hygiene session, HH visit, reported latrine and TW, Ward and union WatSan committee meeting etc.

Visible Outcome:
Policy-makers, local governments, teachers, local elites, civil societies and service agencies are being sensitized about project goal, objectives, activities, implementation process and committed to respond effectively in promotion of sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

South Asia WASH Result Project II

The project will have important focus to accelerate present sanitation coverage of the area which is relatively poor compared to the national sanitation coverage. Meanwhile, water and hygiene coverage will be enhanced through the effective mobilization of the community. The project will especially focus the ethnic community, disabled people, women and children. It will follow the participatory monitoring system with the participation of CBO, CAC, LGI, etc. A total of 7722 water beneficiaries will be covered through installation of 16 new water options and renovation of 620. As per project plan 22680 sanitation beneficiaries will be addressed through CLTS approach, 40% of the total sanitation beneficiaries especially, poor and hard core poor will be supported through subsidized provision if needed. Similarly, 22681 hygiene beneficiaries (hand washing with soap) will be addressed through mobilization. The beneficiary will be counted once in each service like water and sanitation.
Goal:
The overall goal of the project is to contribute improvement of human well being and dignity of poor and excluded population in Royganj upazila through context-specific and scalable WaSH access. This will contribute to the achievement of WaSH related national goal and MDG as well.

Objective:
Water: Increased access to adequate safe water for poor and excluded community people of the area

Specific objectives:
- Targeted 320 population will have access to adequate (at least 2.5 litres/person/day) and safe potable water through installation of 16 new water facilities
- A total of 925 water facilities will turn into safe water sources through renovation support and motivation to benefit 7402 community people
- A total of 1000 water points will be tested at field level and 10% of them will be cross checked at lab and the findings will be disseminated with the user community for appropriate corrective measures.

Sanitation: Increased access to improved sanitation facilities in the project area.

Specific objectives:
- Targeted 13880 populations will have access to improved sanitation through community mobilization process in line with CLTS approach in the form of up gradation and renovation.
- About 2200 extreme poor and excluded households (Approx. 8800 people) will have access to improved sanitation options with minimum subsidy support
- Reduced ratio of shared latrines will be brought down to an acceptable level.

Hygiene: Improved hygiene practice adapted through motivation and mass campaign.

Specific objectives:
- Undertake awareness raising campaign on practice promotion in all CBOs
- Targeted 62000 people will adopt hand washing practice on three critical times (After defecation, before having food and after cleaning children’s bottom) across the project area.
- A total of 45 demonstrations on hand washing device would be undertaken at community clinic and institution level.

Governance: Interaction and knowledge sharing with local administration, media, LGIs and sector actors increased on WaSH.

Specific objectives:
- Project objectives and interventions shared with local administration and other stakeholders at Upazila and 7 target Union levels
- Representatives of LGI are capacitated effectively that enables them to play their roles and responsibilities on WaSH related issues
- Local government bodies in all the 7 UPS engaged meaningfully in WaSH situation analysis and drawing plan of action on WaSH situation improvement
- Network established among CBOs, CAC and LGI in sustaining the project initiatives in the long run

Major activities carried out during the reporting period:
- Staff recruitment: All key staffs (PM, M&E, Project Accountant, CDO and Project Engineer) including care taker and night guard on board.
- Frontline staff recruitment: 21 Union Facilitators have been recruited and they have joined at Rajarhat project office on 1 June, 2017.
- Present activities of UF: Doing preliminary works like building relation with LGI body, introduce themselves with community people, gather information on WASH situation of UP and disseminate information about the project objectives and activities.
- **Union and Project office setup**: A project office hired and completed setting up as well as seven union offices also set up and Union Facilitator are sitting there.

- **Project bank account opening**: Opening a STD bank account with Sonali Bank Ltd., Rajarhat, Kurigram

- **Procurement of logistics**: VERC contributed logistics like office furniture, four motor cycles and two laptops, 3 desktops supplied to field.

- **Contact with LGIs**: Primary introduction with LGIs, Upazila Parishad and upazila administration completed and agreement signing with Union Parishad also completed.

- **Frontline staff (UF) orientation**: Conducted a daylong orientation on South Asia WASH result project-II’s goal and objectives, implementation process, PbR, rules and responsibility and organization introduction.

- **Induction meeting with project staff**: An induction orientation has been arranged at Ullapara SAWRP-II project office. All key staff of two working Upazilas of SAWRP-II project, Director-WATSAN & Technology section and Associate Coordinator-Finance & Admin from HQ was presented in this meeting.

Inception Workshop at Rajarhat Upazila held at officer’s club hall room. VERC-Rajarhat organised the meeting in association with its project titled “South Asia WASH Result Project-II” and WaterAid. Mr. Md. Abul Hasem, Upazila Parishad Chairman addressed the discussion as chief guest while Mr. Md. Rezaul Huda Milon, Zonal Coordinator of WAB and Mr. Tapan Kumar Saha, Regional Coordinator of VERC spoke as Special Guest with Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer was present and spoke as in the chair.

**Visible Outcomes:**
Policy makers, local governments, teachers, local elites, civil societies and service agencies are being sensitized about project goal, objectives, activities, implementation process and committed to respond effectively in promotion of sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

**Creating Arsenic Safe Unions with Sustainable Improvement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Selected Unions of Daudkandi Upazila, Comilla**

A new approach to Arsenic (As) mitigation by addressing entire villages to provide As-safe water with improved sanitation and hygiene behaviour. Rather than thinking about individual water points, consider the entire population in a village and construct appropriate technologies to provide effective coverage based on the site-specific information and options. The main objectives of this project are a quantitative, measurable, reduction in arsenic exposure, and the aim is to building up areas of contiguous arsenic safety in the sequence: village --> union --> upazila --> district.

**Goal**: Sustainable arsenic and microbiologically safe water provision, sanitation and hygiene for improved health and livelihood.

**Objective**: Arsenic (As) mitigation by addressing entire villages to provide As-safe water with improved sanitation and hygiene behaviour.

**Major activities carried out during the reporting period**:
- 120 CSAs conducted
- 1297 CBO meetings held
- 4 Union planning workshops held
- 36 Batches of CLTS orientation conducted for WWC members
- 4 batches of training conducted on WASH for LGI members
- 6 batches of training conducted on WASH for school teachers and health workers.
- 256 Water point sites identified accessible to all
• Assisted DPHE during 214 DTW installation and water user group formation
• 50 Existing safe water source renovated with project support
• 18 Existing safe water source renovation through motivation
• 425 WSP orientation conducted for water user groups
• 4 Bill boards installed and 20 walls painted with WSP message
• 40 Orientation conducted on WASH for school students
• 306 School hygiene sessions conducted
• 2416 Hygiene sessions conducted at community level
• 40 Cultural programs held
• 934 HH latrines installed through CLTS
• 1813 HH latrines converted into hygienic

Visible Outcome:
• 22234 Poor and vulnerable people gained access to safe water round the year
• 214 Water user groups capacitated on WSP
• 2636 People orientated on WASH issues
• 72320 Male and female received WASH education/information
• 20654 School students received WASH education
• 14122 Male and females are using hygienic latrine.
• 18557 Peoples are practicing hand washing at critical times
• 987 Hand washing devices installed in HH level

Pervin Begum’s Pioneering Steps created opportunity for safe water

Maruka is a Union of Daudkandi Upazila. It is situated twenty kilometers south from Upazila headquarter. Around 76% tube wells of Maruka union found arsenic contaminated during arsenic screening test done under Creating Arsenic Safe union Project in May 2016. Ms Pervin Begum, is a permanent inhabitant of this union. Thirty eight years old Pervin lives at Golappur village of ward no. 02 with her two sons and only daughter. She heads her family as her husband lives abroad for earning.

There are twenty three households at Sarkerbari of Golappur village and all of them use tube well water for cooking and drinking purposes. It was a strong media to contaminate arsenic as all the tube wells were found arsenic contaminated more than the acceptance level at the village. After getting known about arsenic contamination and it’s health hazard Ms. Pervin became very much tensed about her family and community health. VERC formed an environment development committee (EDC) at Golappur village under Creating Arsenic Safe Union Project. In this committee meeting, Ms. Pervin proposed to install an arsenic free deep tube well in the village for ensuring safe drinking water but almost every member of the committee opposed it. They also replied that all of our ancestors and seniors used to use these tube well water for years and remained safe and nobody died of arsenic caused diseases. Someone questioned how it is possible to use only one tube well for twenty two to twenty five families. In this process Ms. Pervin get disappointed but does not give up hope. Then she collected arsenicosis patients’ pictures from VERC official and started doing awareness raising activities in her village on the affect of arsenic contamination. She also stated canvassing to use deep tube well water at least for drinking and for cooking, washing up and other purpose we can easily use other tube well water. This way we will remain safe. She urged villagers to contribute according to their ability for deep tube well and this way arsenic free deep tube well ownership will belong to us.
After a series of hardworking sessions, Ms. Pervin all the twenty three households agreed to contribute for installing arsenic free deep tube well. Finally, all twenty three HHs contributed around 7500.00 BDT and deposited to local DPHE office for setting an arsenic free deep tube well in their village. Now all families of their village are using safe water for drinking. They also introduced community led maintenance system of their dream safe drinking water. Every family is contributing for the proper maintenance of the tube well and it became a community property. Now Ms. Pervin is very confident about her family and community health. Everybody at Golappur village loves and respects Ms. Pervin for her tireless efforts.

Max Value for Stunting Free Village Project

According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014, 36 percent of children under 5 are considered to be short for their age or stunted, while 12 percent are severely stunted (below -3 SD). The prevalence of stunting increases with age from 14 percent of children under age 6 months to 46 percent of children 18-23 months and decreases to 38 percent among children 48-59 months. Rural children are more likely to be stunted than urban children (38 percent compared with 31 percent). Stunting is most prevalent in Sylhet (50 percent). Children of mothers with no education are much more likely to be stunted (40 percent) than children whose mothers have completed secondary and higher education (29 percent).

Max value for stunting free village is an integrated program, especially developed to work in the rural communities of Islampur & Noarai Union at Chhatak Upazila in Sunamganj District under Sylhet Division.

The approach “stunted free Village” has been developed based on the experience of CLTS. The CLTS approach was found as one of the most successful approaches for promoting “Open Defecation free (ODF) villages, extensively practiced in the developing countries as well as in Bangladesh. Further, it can be said, the success of the sanitation movement was partially due to its ability to create a desire and responsibility amongst citizens to create ‘open defecation free’ jurisdictions.

**Goal:** The goal of the project is to ensure healthy growth of the children with Max Value for Stunting Free Village approach in the selected project area.

**Objective:** The overall objective of the project is to improve child nutritional status (and reduce stunting) through the integrated approach of WASH, Nutrition and SRHR. The interventions are being implemented through four major components: WASH, Nutrition, Safe Motherhood and SRHR.
## Major activities carried out during the reporting period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI</th>
<th>Name of the Main Activities</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Foundation training/refresher for project staff</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Staff training on conduction of ignition session by using stunting data</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Activation of Union WatSan Committee</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Activation of Ward WatSan Committee</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Develop of Project implementation plan (PIP)</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Formation of Community Support Group (CSG)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>According to area need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Formation of Courtyard Group</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>According to area need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>HH Baseline survey</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>Not available no of HH in KIT selected village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>In Depth Interview (IDI)</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>07</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Staff Training/capacity building on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Staff Training/capacity building on Nutrition</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Observance of significant national and international days</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>07</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Advocacy Meeting With LGI</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>09</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Orientation On Baseline Survey Form</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Orientation On Qualitative Survey</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Periodic Planning and Review meeting/staff meetings</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Visible Outcome:**

We have formed 72 CSGs and 284 CY Groups in the last six months (Jan-June’17). Also we have completed questionnaire surveys of 786 households. Besides, 12 FGDs with different groups like Male Groups-4, Female Groups-4 and Pregnant Women’s Groups-4 have been completed. We have completed 06 IDIs out of 08 with relevant stakeholders as part of Baseline Survey. In this reporting period one batch staff foundation training and one batch staff training on ignition has been conducted. A total of 18 project staff received both the trainings.

**Enabling people towards sustainable safe water and hygiene through water credit support project.**

The WASH situation in Bangladesh still struggling to achieve a standard across the country also, the situation in some pockets needs extra attention in this regard. The situations in the peri-urban areas vary from community to community due to some complications like land use and management, rapid industrialization etc. This needs awareness raising to create demand for improvement of the situation with affordable technology and financial support. The project aims to address the situation by providing the needed support to the communities in line with interventions and strategies that are blended in CLTS approach. Through this approach and adding credit support component people’s need will be fulfilled and the access of safe water and improve sanitation facilities will be ensured. All sorts of
Coordinatination with local government bodies and line department of government will be ensured so that a sustainable improvement can be achieved. VERC will make use of the expertise to bring an optimum outcome through the project.

**Goal of the project:**
A sustainable development of health condition in terms of improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene practice for underserved people living in rural and peri-urban locations of the selected project areas.

**Objectives:**
- Increase awareness on hygiene practice and promote personal hygiene habits at community level leading to demand creation for safe water facilities and hygienic latrine installation, use and maintenance.
- Assist in establishing linkage with microfinance support entities for assistance.

**Project Period:**
April -2015 to September -2018
Supported by : Water.org
Project Beneficiaries: 19800
Number of Beneficiaries for Water: 9450
Number of Beneficiaries for Sanitation: 10350

**Geographical coverage of the project:**
Total district covered: 02, Dhaka and Gazipur
Total upazila (Sub district) covered : 04 (Savar, Kaliakoir, Dhamrai, Gazipur Sadar)
Total Branch covered: 09

**Strategy:**
The project will follow the people’s participatory process so that from situation analysis to monitoring and evaluation of the project will involve the people of the target area. Besides, Market demand assessment will be done to ensure proper supply of water and sanitation hardware. Hygiene awareness session, Capacity development training, developing product design will be continued. Establish linkage with LGI, GOB and other relevant stakeholders will be made for better out come. In addition, capacitate community catalysts to retain the motivational activities.

**WASH team members:**
All team members will be working under the guidance of Director Watsan. The project staff positions are: 1) Project Manager 2) Project Engineer 3) Project Accountant 4) Senior Supervisor Monitoring 5) Hygiene Promoter.

**Key activities of the project:**
1. Community situation analysis
2. Market demand assessment
3. Product design
4. Beneficiaries awareness building session
5. Health and Hygiene awareness session
6. Staff training
7. Beneficiaries training
8. Technical assistance offered for installation of water facilities
9. Technical assistance offered for installation of sanitation facilities
10. Water quality test
11. Collaboration with GOB and others stakeholders
12. Community cross visit for learning and promotion
13. IEC/ BCC materials development
14. Different day observation
Project activities target from April-2015 to September-2018

- Water facilities installation: 2100
- Sanitation facilities installation: 2300
- WASH capacity training for 4315 beneficiaries
- Hygiene awareness beneficiaries: 30600

VERC develop product design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl#</th>
<th>Sanitation products</th>
<th>Water products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Types of product</td>
<td>Types of product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>CI sheet with mud floor  (Pit latrine)</td>
<td>01 Shallow tube well (Depth: 150’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>CI sheet latrine with brick platform (offset pit latrine)</td>
<td>02 Deep set tube well (Depth: 260’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Brick wall, RCC roof slab (Offset pit Latrine)</td>
<td>03 Submersible pump (Depth: 280’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Septic tank with latrine</td>
<td>04 Water purifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Attached bath with latrine</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Community latrine</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Two chamber latrine with brick wall &amp; CI sheet roof</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hygienic latrine turns the family into a healthy life.

Lily begum is a housewife and her husband is mason. In spite of living near by the upazila sadar she standard of living was not satisfactory. She has 01 daughter only. Her husband works on daily basis and with his few incomes they led their family. She has to meet the family income with hardship. Through inspiration of her neighbors she got admitted in to VERC group as regular members. One day she comes know in the session that VERC will give financial support to the borrower to construct hygienic latrine. She then share with her husband and decide to take for latrine installation. With complying all formalities she got financial support in amount of 20,000/= to construct single pit hygienic latrine. Now they use the latrine and their family members are very happy. Lily begum said that at present nobody through me into the shameless position. In previous time we suffered from various types of diseases. Now Allah has saved us form the distress conditions. My daughter’s friend sometimes comes to visit my house they feel comforts to use the latrine. All family members are using sandal and soap during latrine use time. The Lily Begum is doing some act as motivator now. She is trying to keep healthy environment in their Mahalla through positive counseling. She and her husband are grateful to VERC and as well as water.org for changing their environment. She said now we feel proud to be the owner of hygienic latrine.

South Asia WASH Result Programme (SAWRP)-II

After signing of MOU with Plan Bangladesh, VERC has undertaken preparatory works for implementetion of the project in Bhola district.
VERC has been working on health and environment since long with support from development partners and by mobilising its own resources. Main objective of the program is to ensure access to affordable health services for the poor and marginalised along with prevention of communicable diseases giving priority to mother and child health situation in working areas. Environment being an integral part of health, VERC gives emphasis on issues of environmental hazards. VERC initiatives cover MDG goals 4, 5, 7 and addresses 1, 2, 3 and 13 of SDG issues. VERC operates two full fledged hospitals in Savar and Mirsarai. People of the said areas especially children and mothers are getting health services from the hospitals. Beyond this, VERC has been implementing two Rights Based Projects to establish health rights of the poor and marginalized people in different areas of the country. The ICS program supports communities with fuel-efficient cook stoves to improve health and preventing the ongoing trend of deforestation. VERC is also active with specific interventions in building capacity across selected climate change vulnerable area people to combat the challenges in a sustainable manner.

Visible outcomes:

During the reporting period the total number of patients was 13,893 which was 13,134 in the previous year, the total income from the hospitals was Tk. 19.56 million (Tk. 1,95,63,738); expenditure was Tk. 17.07 million (Tk. 1,70,70,951) and net surplus was Tk. 2.49 million (Tk. 24,92,787).

Smoke emission related health hazards reducing through the use of ICS (Improved Cook Stove). Goat rearing in slatted house has reduced disease vulnerability of goats as such people are now more encouraged in goat rearing as an alternate source of income and health in the area.

Under the BRUP project areas CDC is that, the whole community is strongly bonded and collectively brought together under a common vision, realized RRAP; to help each other in times of disaster. A good example of neighborhood was observed on several occasions like- fire outbreak at Dakshin Tetultola. During the fire outbreak at Dakshin Tetultola, CDC mobilized the community to feed affected families by collecting money from locals, managed temporary shelters for two days following the blaze.
Ongoing projects at a glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donors</th>
<th>Name of the project</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Union/Ward</th>
<th>Upazila/City Corporation</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VERC Own Fund</td>
<td>VERC Mother and Child Hospital</td>
<td>Ongoing since 2004</td>
<td>Savar</td>
<td>Savar Corporation</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERC Own Fund</td>
<td>VERC Mother and Child Hospital</td>
<td>Ongoing since 2013</td>
<td>Mirsarai</td>
<td>Chattagram</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDCOL</td>
<td>Improved Cook stove (ICS) program</td>
<td>Ongoing since 1987</td>
<td>66 Unions</td>
<td>Savar, Keranigonj Kaliakoir, Mohanpur, Bagmara, Durgapur,</td>
<td>Dhaka, Gazipur and Rajshahi,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARE, Bangladesh</td>
<td>Building Resilience of the Urban Poor (BRUP) Project</td>
<td>January 2015 - December 2017</td>
<td>02 Wards</td>
<td>01 City corporation</td>
<td>Gazipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCF</td>
<td>Inclusive Protection and Empowerment Project (IPEP) for Children with Disabilities</td>
<td>16 August, 2016 - 15 July, 2017</td>
<td>Barishal Sadar, Babugonj Bakerganj</td>
<td>Barishal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKSF-CCCP</td>
<td>Community Capacity building to Face Challenges of Drought as an effect of Climate Change (CBFDCC) Project</td>
<td>February 2014 - September 2016</td>
<td>04 Unions</td>
<td>Niamotpur</td>
<td>Naogaon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VERC Mother & Child Hospital, Savar, Dhaka and Mirsarai, Chattagram

Since early nineties, VERC had been working on mother and child health with overseas donor support and the then BPHC was one of them. The services were aimed at meeting the MCH service needs that the Government health services could not meet adequately. To this effect, VERC had a coalition with the GoB service providers supported by community based trained volunteers across Savar, Singair, Aminbazar etc. The efforts were successful in establishing a reputation of VERC in the area which faced a setback with the phasing out of project focused activities. Later on based on the experience, inspiration of the volunteers and demand for MCH services from the communities, VERC took initiative to organize a mechanism so that the mothers in the noted areas can have access to quality services at affordable cost. To this effect, a Mother and Child Hospital was established in 2004 and continuing rendering services to the poor and marginalized people in Savar, Dhaka. The hospital based curative services are linked with the communities through a pool of volunteers with the experience of working with VERC for long. This network helps ensuring ANC/PNC services, safe delivery and treatment support in general ailments. This program is now running in the area in a sustainable manner.

VERC experience and successes as noted above has encouraged VERC to extend similar service delivery mechanism in Mirsarai, Chittagong when an overseas supported health project was phased out in 2013. The present service provisions available with the hospitals includes services like – ANC/PNC, normal delivery, caesarean operation, general treatment, pathology, ultra-sonogram, ECG and all kinds of easy to manage surgical operation. Health services are provided to VERC beneficiaries from these hospitals at a subsidized rate and offering grant support to deserving poor patients. To this effect, VERC staff members make a generous contribution to the subsidy fund on a regular basis.

IBIG Section is responsible for planning and managing the program as a corporate social responsibility.
Services available with Savar Hospital

Three MBBS (one consultant and two full time residential medical officers) doctors specially trained on maternal & child health is available to render outdoor services every day. For indoor treatment of patients 10 beds are available with an air conditioned operation theatre, a safe delivery room, an observation room and a post operative care room in the hospital. The hospital has also manager, counsellor, lab technicians, diploma nurses and paramedics to provide counselling to pregnant mothers, postnatal mothers and eligible couples for recommending FP methods. Immunization program is carried out in collaboration with Savar Pourasava through Savar upazila health complex. Besides this free health camps were arranged by the hospital in Savar, Kaliakoir and Singair upazilas as regular activity. Every health related international and national days are also observed by the hospital.

Hospital services at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>July 2015 to June 2016</th>
<th>July 2016 to June 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td>2,642</td>
<td>2,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Delivery</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUCS (Caesarean Operation)</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operation</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.R.</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.E &amp; C</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>3,194</td>
<td>3,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USG</td>
<td>1,948</td>
<td>2,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Patients</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Card (ANC)</td>
<td>1,152</td>
<td>872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPI</td>
<td>2,118</td>
<td>1,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,164</td>
<td>12,279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the reporting period, the total income from the hospital was Tk. 17.19 million (Tk. 1,71,92,356); expenditure was Tk.14.82 million (Tk. 1,48,29,681) and net surplus was Tk.2.36 million (Tk. 23,62,675). The total number of patients was 12,279 which was 12,164 in the previous year.

Services available with Mirsarai Hospital:

The hospital provides both indoor and outdoor services to the patients coming from Mirsarai and adjoining areas. One MBBS doctor specially trained on maternal & child health is available to render outdoor services every day. There are also manager, counsellor, lab technicians, diploma nurses and paramedics to provide counselling to pregnant mothers, postnatal mothers and eligible couples for recommending FP methods.

The hospital at Mirsarai is equipped with ambulance, pathology lab and patient beds with doctors and other supporting staff.

Hospital services at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>July 2015 to June 2016</th>
<th>July 2016 to June 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Delivery</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUCS (Caesarean Operation)</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Operation</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Particulars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July 2015 to June 2016</th>
<th>July 2016 to June 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.R.</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.E &amp; C</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USG</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>970</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,614</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the reporting period, the total income from the hospital was Tk. 2.37 million (Tk. 23,71,382); expenditure was Tk.2.24 million (Tk. 22,41,270) and net surplus was Tk. 0.13 million (Tk. 1,30,112). The total number of patients was 1,614 which was 970 in the previous year.

### Rahela Begum restored her happiness

Rahela Begum lives in Ambaria village under Mirsarai upazila of Chittagonj district. She is 25 years old. Her husband is Kahir Uddin. Kahir Uddin is a day laborer but he can not work regularly, because of his physical weakness and illness. So the family had been struggling with the scourges of poverty. Rahela could not give birth to any child within six years of her conjugal life. They moved to many traditional healers and continued to practice sanctified waters and similar other practices. But all efforts went in vain. The people of neighborhood and relatives blamed her in many terms.

Incidentally she got pregnant in the seventh year. But her husband deserted her in the 4th month of pregnancy. In the situation this intensity of poverty began to increase simultaneously, with the growth of the foetus in her womb. At this stage Rahela became puzzled and decided to end up the pregnancy through abortion from any clinic and other indigenous method. But none of the practitioners agreed with her proposal considering the risk of advance stage abortion.

Ultimately Rahela went to VERC hospital with suggestions made by her relatives. Considering her psycho-physical condition VERC doctors and nurses conducted counseling session with her and convinced her to give up the idea of abortion. She also decided to keep on the pregnancy and began to take care of herself as per suggestions made by the hospital.

After 4 months, one day Rahela began to feel labor pain. She tried to deliver at home with the assistance of TBA for two days for want of money. But when it was not possible she went to VERC hospital. Hospital doctor observed that there was no serious complication with her, so they prepared her for normal delivery. On that day two cute twin babies were born through normal delivery. One of them was girl and the other one was boy. VERC Mother and Child Hospital provided the services totally free of cost. Rahela and her children are in good health now. Her husband has come back home to know the good news and very much pleased with her wife and the babies. They are proud to have the babies and very thankful to VERC hospital management.

### Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) Program

The noted activities are under implementation of WatSan & Technology Section. Village Education Resource Center (VERC) has been working on Improved Cookstoves Program in Bangladesh since 1987. By the time VERC has been disseminating different types of cookstove models which were developed by BCSIR (Government of Bangladesh) and
ARTI (India) and BUET. From our experiences we have found that the Improved Cookstove can save 60-65% fuels compared to traditional ones and make the kitchen smoke free. As VERC intends to introduce improved stoves in our proposed working areas, hence it will reduce a huge amount of CO2 and this amount of CO2 can be traded in the carbon market. So the program will actively be contributed in reducing the poverty and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and where possible achieve other benefit such as improved human health and conservation of biodiversity, in a sustainable manner.

**Goal of ICS program:**
Disseminate Improved Cooks Stoves to improve health for mother and children.

**Objectives:**
- Reduce Indoor air pollution (IAP) for improvement of health especially mother and children
- Protect environment by reducing CO2 emissions and deforestation
- Mobilize the community for ICS promotion and use
- Develop and apply behavioural change communication techniques on ICS

**Major activities** carried out during the reporting period: (July 2016-June 2017)

### VERC IDCOL-ICS Project

This is a nationwide project of IDCOL to disseminate 1 million ICSs through partner NGOs by 2018. As a partner of IDCOL, VERC has been working in 6 clusters and targeted to promote 18000 ICSs.

**Major activities carried out during the reporting period:**
- Orientation on ICS for IBIG, WASH and ICS team
- Construction, distribution and installation of 15,241 ICS
- Develop IEC and BCC materials on ICS
- Engagement of local entrepreneur for ICS production and sale
- Organize different events for ICS promotion e.g. courtyard meeting, cultural campaign (Gomvira), school session, CBO/UP meeting, miking, cooking competition
- Conducted Water Boiling Test (WBT) of newly innovated portable ICS models
- ICS user Training organized to orient 17372 ICS users on techniques of use and maintenance of stoves, they are now more efficient in the use of devices.
- To submit quality data for reimbursement against production, sale, installation and data entry and submission for reimbursement against 17372 ICSs.

In-country training organized by VERC of the reporting period (July 2016–June 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL.</th>
<th>Name of the training</th>
<th>Duration and Place</th>
<th>Organized by/donour</th>
<th>Number of Participant</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Training on Empowerment, Leadership &amp; Business for Female Entrepreneurs of ICS</td>
<td>1-6 April 2017, At VERC Training Center</td>
<td>with the financial support of USAID/Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh (CCEB)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sales representative of Surjokonna, program of Future Carbon Limited (Stove Manufacturer).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Training on Empowerment, Leadership &amp; Business for Female Entrepreneurs of ICS</td>
<td>6-11 May 2017, At VERC Training Center</td>
<td>with the financial support of USAID/Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh (CCEB)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sales representative of Venus International Co. and Luxer Green Energy Limited (Stove Manufacturer).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In-country VERC staff development training /Exposure visit/meeting/seminar/workshop of the reporting period (July 2016 –June 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL.</th>
<th>Name of the training</th>
<th>Duration and place</th>
<th>Organized by/donour</th>
<th>Name and designation of staff</th>
<th>Section/Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ICS Master Training</td>
<td>13-16 May 2017. At SOJAG Training Center, Kalampur, Dhamrai</td>
<td>Organized by IDCOL</td>
<td>Syeda Hosneara Akter, Cluster Manager</td>
<td>Watsan &amp; Technology Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>IDCOL Annual Review Meeting</td>
<td>24-26 March 2017 At Dream Square Resort, Gazipur</td>
<td>Organized by IDCOL</td>
<td>Md. Masud Hassan, Director and Laila Ishrat Jahan Ruen, Assitt. Coordinator and Syeda Hosneara Akter, Cluster Manager</td>
<td>Watsan &amp; Technology Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4th Annual Market Facilitation Platform</td>
<td>29 September 2016 At SREDA office</td>
<td>Organized by USAID/Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh (CCEB) in collaboration with GACC and Government of Bangladesh (SREDA) to create a sustainable market in Bangladesh for clean cookstove.</td>
<td>Md. Masud Hassan, Director and Laila Ishrat Jahan Ruen, Assitt. Coordinator</td>
<td>Watsan &amp; Technology Section</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exposure visit/meeting/seminar/workshop to/in other countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL.</th>
<th>Name of the event</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Organized and Venue</th>
<th>Organized by/donour</th>
<th>Name and designation of staff</th>
<th>Section/Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Training of Trainers Workshop on Empowered Entrepreneur Trainer Certification Program</td>
<td>During 28 March - 01April 2016 ( Five days )</td>
<td>Bangaluru, India with the technical and financial support of Jhon Hopkins University Winrock international, USAID, GACC and Visionaria Network</td>
<td>Laila Ishrat Ruen, Assitt. Coordinator</td>
<td>Watsan &amp; Technology Section</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visible outcomes:

Newly innovated tier - 3 portable ICS has become popular in communities. Campaign, awareness raising at user level, schools, UPs, contributed in the increasing number of ICS users. Training of catalysts has been effective in installation and use and making an income for the catalysts themselves is also visible in the areas. Mother and children in user families feel the health benefits of the technology use in terms of reduced complications of indoor air pollution. Overall impact in terms of fuel use efficiency, Carbon emission, income generation, conservation of forest resources and environment. Production and installation services are available around and people can find alternate technology options that helps them choose the affordable one for their purpose which contributes in retaining the rate of ICS users in the areas.

VERC intervention around ICS promotion has generated employment for earning and ensuring other benefits of increased environmental protection and reducing health hazards among users across other program intervention beneficiaries.
Building Resilience of the Urban Poor (BRUP)

The Building Resilience of the Urban Poor (BRUP) implemented by Village Education Resource Center (VERC) supported by CARE Bangladesh and funded by C&A Foundation under implementation in Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) from January 2015 and scheduled to continue till September 2017. The overall goal of the project is to enhance resilience of targeted urban communities and institutions to get prepared for, mitigation, response to and recover from shocks and stresses. The project is working with people in 06 vulnerable communities residing in 02 wards (Tongi-55 and Konabari-12) of GCC.

During this period of BRUP, VERC focused on creating mass awareness and capacity building of different community groups and mobilized communities for community-led inclusive participatory planning and implementation of RRAPs. Apart from community interventions, the project has facilitated formation and functioning of CCDMC and demonstrated WDMC model in targeted wards. For better coordination and technical assistance, project has signed partnership agreements with FSCD.

By the end of the reporting year, all 6 of the targeted CDCs and 02 WDMCs have been trained, implemented gender inclusive RRAPs. A total of 225 UCVs, trained under BRUP, are now working as extended force of FSCD, providing crucial assistance, especially during Tampaco tragedy where 42 people have died. Safer living condition is a crucial aspect of long-term urban resilience. As such, BRUP has created a resource pool within GCC with technical assistance from HBRI and trained 200 masons on adherence to building code. Beside these with technical assistance from HBRI, project also organized a workshop on safe construction with the resource pool and enlisted contractors under GCC.

Overall Goal

Enhanced resilience of six targeted urban communities and three targeted institutions, reaching a total of 8,000 individuals (directly and indirectly) who can prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from shocks and stresses.

Objective 1:
8,000 urban individuals (direct 2,000 and indirect 6,000) in six communities have enhanced resilience strategies to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from shocks

Objective 2:
300 poor and extremely poor women in the six targeted communities are empowered to become better risk managers at the household and community levels, influencing decision-making related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Objective 3:
Enhanced capacity and responsiveness of three targeted institutions to provide services to the communities to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from shocks and stresses.

Achieving Program Goals: Key Progress

Strategic Goal 1: Urban individuals in six communities have enhanced resilience strategies to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from shocks and stresses

Community Development Committee (CDC), is working as a driving force to build community resilience

CDC is the heart of community-led activities running under BRUP Project. At the beginning of the year, the project has developed a comprehensive training module and awareness materials for CDC. Skill development training and later refreshers on leadership skill, strategy to develop community Risk Reduction Action Plan, disaster preparedness and emergency response, importance of women leadership, WaSH, garbage management, etc. have been provided to develop their capacity and lead the development work. During this reporting period, VERC organized the 02 days long basic training for CDC members and also organized a refreshers course for enhancing their capacities. Beside these, a total of 72 no’s CDC meetings were held where average attendance rate was 81%. In this meeting, CDCs discussed existing problem issues and made decisions regarding ways to overcome like-
community-led garbage management system, implementation of Risk Reduction Action Plan, mobilize local resources, liaison and networking with local elected body and various service providers, conflict management etc.

One of the major outcomes of CDC is that, the whole community is strongly bonded and collectively brought together under a common vision, realized RRAP; to help each other in times of disaster. In urban setup, people came from all over the country creates a heterogeneous cultural atmosphere and lack of trust which is an obstacle to build social cohesion. But, the challenge is overcome by CDC and a good example of neighborhood established during several incidents like- fire outbreak at Uttar Tetultola. During the fire outbreak at Uttar Tetultola, CDC mobilized the community to feed affected families by collecting money from locals, managed temporary shelters over the two days following the blaze.

Apart from tackling emergency hazards, CDC is contributing to their regular job like- community-led garbage management system, implementation of Risk Reduction Action Plan; mobilize local resources, managed water supply system. In terms of disaster preparedness, the credit also goes to the CDC. Overall household level preparedness measures against existing local hazards increased from 15% to 78% during this period.

**Urban Community Volunteers (UCVs) working as First responder team**

A total of 200 UCVs have been selected earlier through this project and from two wards according to criteria set by FSCD and during this period, 25 UCVs has been finalized. Initially, 200no’s (male-123, Female-77) UCVs received 03-days basic training facilitated by FSCD and have learned emergency basic search and rescue, firefighting and first aid. In this year, VERC organized a 02- day’s refreshers training for all UCVs and this refreshers courses facilitated by FSCD. In order to sustainability and institutionalization, these UCVs closely work with WDMCs and FSCD. Furthermore, in regular quarterly meeting, UCVs practice tools and equipment at local fire stations. During this reporting period, 17 no’s quarterly meetings held for 08 sub-group and attendance rate was 81%. Each sub-group is composed with 28 to 32 members on an average.

Major outcomes during this period, trained UCVs have made some exemplary instance as first responder of the incident like - fire break out at Kolabagan, fire incident at a Kaliakoir Apparel factory and Uttar Tatultola community, Tongi. One of the biggest accomplishment of these UCVs is, working at Tampaco tragedy where 42 people have died. UCVs actively worked shoulder to shoulder with professional rescuers. A number of prominent international media covered the news.

**Reviewed and Implemented Risk Reduction Action Plan – addressing communities’ risks and vulnerabilities**

To identify specific risks, hazards, vulnerability of communities, Government’s customized Urban Risk Assessment (URA) tool has been applied in six targeted communities for developing the Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP). After a year, CDC took initiatives to review the Risk Reduction Action Plan. According to the initiatives VERC provided the technical support for review the plan. Six RRAP has been reviewed and implemented also some options from the reviewed plan. CDC is guiding for the overall RRAP implementation, supervision and monitoring. A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) has been formed consisting of 7 members (atleast 50% women) in each community to follow up the overall process. Gender inclusive plan with different groups bring out some positive result. Women identified ‘darkness’ as a major concern for their safety after dusk. BRUP has given priority to their needs and as a result supported to install a total number of 26 street solar lights covering all the six communities under this project. BRUP also addressed women privacy. So that VERC also installed 01 no community bathroom.

BRUP has supported hardware implementation of 05 no’s staircases for easy movement and four water supply systems to meet the demand of safe drinking water. The design of the safe water supply system also includes a fire hydrant (also called fire plug), a connection point by which firefighters can tap into a water supply with their hose pipe during a fire hazard. BRUP has also installed 21no’s single off set pit latrine and also renovated 02 no’s community toilet for improved the hygiene situation for reducing the health hazaders, beside these, project also improved 02 no’s link road in the community for better movement within the community.
With an additional co-fund received during this period, BRUP provided some environment friendly and climate smart technology to beneficiaries. Transparent roofing sheets and solar bottle lights have been demonstrated to brighten shady rooms. Aspiring to reduce carbon emission and women’s health hazards a total of 65 beneficiaries have been selected for providing Improved Cooking Stove (ICS).

Garbage Management System has establish a model of cleanliness

Community-led garbage management has been established in all six targeted communities. CDC is leading the overall supervision and management of this system. Initially, CDC members of the respective community took the lead to mobilize community, monthly fee collection, deposit the money at the bank. The accumulated fee will be used to run the system after BRUP exits. Out of six targeted communities, two privately-owned communities already had a garbage management system, serving only the well-off. With the guidance of the CDC, the community led service has expanded to cover all inhabitants of the community. CDC has the sustainability strategy and action plan to carry on the process by involving the City Corporation. The communities also carry out ‘Cleaning Day’ every three months.

Through this service, a total number of 6404 people (Female-2899 and Male-3505) are being served every month.

**Forum Theatre and mock drill- enhancing mass awareness on DRR and social issues**

Street drama and cultural shows are considered as a very effective way to create information flow and easy to touch the people’s emotion on different types of social problem issues. Transforming youth as a responsible individual, the initiative is flourishing their creativity as well. Gradually youth are becoming socially responsible and working as change agents in order to bring a positive change in the community. From this point of view, BRUP project organized total 04 no’s show during this period where 1361 no’s communities enjoyed the show and gather knowledge on disaster preparedness and social problem and its solution. Besides community awareness, it is an additional recreation for the busy urban dwellers.

Beside these, during this period a number of 03 mock drills have been organized with the technical assistance of FSCD. Per mock drill, an average number of 1546 people witnessed the practical demonstration of fire fighting and earthquake preparedness at surrounding areas covering communities, schools and factories.

**Children Forum act as a change agent for promoting behavioral change**

Children forums follow child-to-child approach to disseminate messages related to DRR and social issues. To facilitate regular sessions, awareness module and pictorial materials have been developed earlier, focusing on child rights, personal hygiene, disaster preparedness, etc. Regular sessions are carried on following the modules twice a month. To include children’s priorities in DRR planning and implementation, VERC ensured children’s participation in URA process and developing the RRAP. Apart from these regular sessions, children can pass some quality times with their peer groups in Information Centers that seriously lacks in urban setup. Besides learning-sharing children can take part in games, read books or just have a conversation. During the reporting period, 87% children (Girl-4313, Boy-3186 and Total-7499) were present in total 296 awareness sessions.
**STRATEGIC GOAL 2: POOR AND EXTREMELY POOR WOMEN IN THE SIX TARGETED COMMUNITIES ARE EMPOWERED TO BECOME BETTER RISK MANAGERS AT THE HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY LEVELS INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKING RELATED TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)**

Women are working as an effective disaster manager in community and household level through EKATA process

EKATA is considered as the nucleus of all endeavors to foster women’s potentiality. Usually EKATA groups meet fortnightly to discuss a range of social issues. EKATA approach resulted in increased community cohesion and women’s access to basic services and decision making power. Including women and girls’ participation in ‘Gender Vulnerability Analysis’ and ‘Urban Risk Assessment’ (URA) helped to identify their hazards like- darkness in community streets after dusk, lack of WaSH facilities, violence against women issues etc. During this period, 290 no’s meeting was held and total 7242 member were present. Attendance rate was 83%.

**Workshop with Service Providers (particularly Health and WaSH)**

During this reporting period, VERC organized a workshop on “Sustainable Service Delivery Strategy at Gazipur City Corporation” involving all stakeholders and service providers on WaSH. The workshop was power-driven by the respective Zonal Office under Gazipur City Corporation. The main objective of this workshop was- To build up effective coordination among the service providers and to ensure quality services to targeted communities. Through this workshop, a participatory action plan developed and build consensus on an ongoing basis which will make the existing services more improved, available, affordable and pro-poor friendly and this followed workshop also held during this period. A total 04 no’s workshop held in two project areas where analyzed and reviewed the plan with GO-NGOs collaboration.

**Creating resilient livelihood opportunity for the most vulnerable women and financial inclusion**

Income diversifying has been found an effective mechanism to increase family resilience in terms of any emergency or sudden shock. Poor households in which women are more solvent often achieve greater progress in terms of resilience and so on sustainability. By this time, BRUP developed a comprehensive guideline and according to Well-being Analysis (WBA), CDC selected a number of 192 no’s most vulnerable women from six communities through feasibility assessment for appropriate livelihood and crosschecking of the individual beneficiary. In this period, selected beneficiaries developed her own business plan and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). A basic orientation on business plan was provided to selected beneficiaries also. It was a pre-condition of this support that each beneficiary has to open a bank account and practice regular savings to get the second installment. Women widely choose grocery shop, tailoring, tea stall, beauty parlor, vegetable shop, small hotel or restaurant as IGA. Apart from the livelihood support receivers, a good number of women have been inspired to formal banking.

**Gender Vulnerability Analysis**

The effect of climate change and disaster consequences is not same for men and women. There are social and natural differences. Disasters increase gender inequality, making bad situations worse for women. People of all classes especially the poor are the most vulnerable group to experience those disasters. Women’s limited access to resources and decision-making processes increases their vulnerability. As a Result, it is so important to identify Gender vulnerability for proper intervention.
The specific objective was of this analysis to increase understanding of gender issues and needs in disaster risk reduction by explaining the causes of the communities vulnerability especially Women and Children and make gender sensitive risk reduction action plan. During this reporting period, Gender Vulnerability Analysis has been reviewed at the particular community of this project. The reviewed results are as follows -

**Knowledge and Information Centre a center of vast information at the community**

Project has been established six information hubs in six communities earlier, which will provide residents with information on service provisions, and strategies for coping with risks and vulnerabilities. So, the hubs are acting as various purposes of the community like source of information, female gathering, child gathering etc. Beside these, information center also established fruitfully linkage with different service providing agencies like Surjer Hashi Clinic, Bondhu foundation, Marry stop, BNWLA and In this period 3029 no’s (male- 1187 and female- 1842) communities received various services like health, awareness, legal aid, various information from these center.

**Raising awareness through Day observance in line with Community and Government**

BRUP project observed a number of International days in line with Govt. agenda to raise public awareness and mobilize people to end violence against women and children. ‘The 16 Day Activism against Gender Violence’; ‘International Women’s Day’, International day for the elimination of violence against women, ‘World Day against Child Labor’ National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD)” and “International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)” have been observed with appropriate solemnity. Focusing the days, discussion arranged with gender inclusive group (men & women), discussion with children and parents, organized quiz competition in community level. In addition, BRUP participated in district level discussion sessions and rally. Community had remarkable contribution to make these arrangements meaningful.

**STRATEGIC GOAL 3: ENHANCED CAPACITY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF TARGETED INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR, MITIGATE, RESPOND TO, AND RECOVER FROM SHOCKS AND STRESSES.**

**Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) is now functioning of the City Corporation**

The Disaster Management Act, (2012) directs the formation of City Corporation Disaster Management Committee (CCDMC) in every City Corporation but Gazipur had no such committee till the last year. In accordance with Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD), this year VERC facilitated Gazipur City Corporation to form and organize the first ever meeting of CCDMC through BRUP Project. Mr. Harun-Ur-Rashid Mollah, Director (Training and Research) from the Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief presented the roles and responsibilities of CCDMC. In the meeting, GCC decided to form WDMC in all of its 57 wards and seek technical support.
from the project According to the meeting decision, VERC has been supported to form the WDMCs for all ward in the city corporation. Consequently, VERC organized a two day’s workshop titled “Ward Disaster Management Committee Scale-up Workshop” on 29th-30th April, 2017 at Greentech Resort and Convention Center, Bhabanipur, Rajendrapur, Gazipur for all (57 no’s) ward secretaries. Through this ToT, ward secretary oriented on WDMC formation process. Roles and responsibilities of the committee. Among 57 no’s ward, 55 ward secretaries including 2 female ward secretaries were participated in the ToT workshop. K. M. Rahatul Islam, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Md. Aslam Hossain, Secretary and Slum Development Officer of GCC also participated in this workshop. At present, Gazipur City Corporation has DMCs for all ward and also newly formed WDMCs organized an inception meeting. During this period, 42 no’s WDMCs inception meetings held.

For the project targeted wards, 08 no’s WDMCs regular meeting was held where attendance rate was 88%. Through this meeting, WDMC's prioritized the RRAP at ward level and VERC has supported hardware activities including- establishment of a 02 no’s safe water supply system, installation of 13 no’s street solar lights and 02 no’s construction of staircases. WDMC coordinated and monitored the overall process and mobilize community contribution. Beside these meeting, WDMCs discussed existing problem issues and made decisions regarding ways to overcome. For enhancing their capacities, project also organized a refreshers training courses for the WDMCs. Total 80% members of WDMCs received this training.

Initiatives for Safe Construction and Sustainable Urban Development

With the technical partnership and assistance from HBRI, a Resource pool was formed consisting of GCC engineers and planners from all zones and trained on ‘Safe Construction and Building Code’ facilitated by HBRI technical personnel. City Corporation is the only authority for the approval of building construction in Gazipur city. Considering the sustainability issue, training has been provided for local masons and rod binders, facilitated by the Resource pool so that they can further contribute to safe construction of this region. A total number of 200 construction workers including 33 women received the training. In the sessions, masons were taught about the technical knowledge to ensure structural safety of the buildings.

Outcome of the BRUP project in this period

- CDCs established social cohesion and collectively brought together under a common vision, realized RRAP; to help each other in times of disaster. In urban setup people came from all over the country creates a heterogeneous cultural atmosphere and lack of trust which is an obstacle to build social cohesion. But, the challenge is overcome by CDC and a good example of neighborhood established during several incidents.
- Community led garbage management system in place.
- The community is getting benefit through implemented RRAP options. A total 3308 no’s communities (female- 1764 and male-1544) are getting more advantages before than previously.
- Urban Community Volunteers (UCVs) working as First responder team in any kind of the incident like- wall collapse, fire break out , fire incident at a Kallakoir Apparel factory etc. One of the biggest accomplishment of these UCVs is, working at recent Tampaco tragedy where 42 people have died. UCVs actively worked shoulder to shoulder with professional rescuers. A number of prominent international media covered the news..
- Children forums act as a change agent. They started various awareness raising activities within their community on environmental health, WaSH, current critical issue like “Chikungunya” fever, nail cutting etc. Children’s awareness campaign took the attention of the community. Peoples of community have accepted their initiative with pleasure.
- Women are now involved in economic activities and practices personal savings for emergencies through the resilient livelihood support activities. Women have been also inspired to formal banking.
- Sensitized and strengthening the DMCs of Gazipur City Corporation.

CHALLENGES FACED

- Migration is a common phenomenon in an urban context and frequent migration is a critical issue.
- Bank transaction is not timely operated by the Water Management Committee.
Operationalizing RRAP-identified needs required project persons with engineering background, especially in realizing infrastructural development schemes effectively.

LESSONS LEARNED

- If community gets little bit suggestion, they can manage any kind of support or assistance by the Govt and non-Govt. sector by their mobilization and advocacy.
- Systematic engagement of women in various platforms is needed to build solidarity and cohesiveness.

Inclusive Protection and Empowerment Project (IPEP) for Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities are deprived of rights, protection and empowerment in our societies. VERC has implemented a project titled on Inclusive Protection and Empowerment Project for the Children with Disabilities (IPEP) with the support of SCI and European Union (EU) Strengthening of Community Base Child Protection Committee (CBCPC), empower the children with disabilities (CWDs) by activity based functional learning and return to their normal life with dignity which was the objective of the project.

**Project Duration:** 16 August, 2016 - 15 July, 2017

**Project Objectives**
- To build and strengthen capacity of CBCPCs to be more responsive towards CWDs
- To increase the self-confidence of CWDs by responding to their therapeutic, educational and psycho-social needs in association with the respective CBCPCs
- To make referral linkage for CWDs and monitor the progress.
- To respond to the incidence of violence against Children with Disabilities (CWDs) through CBCPCs.

**Project Working Areas:**
Barisal Sadar, Babugonj and Bakergonj under Barisal district, 11 Unions and Barisal City Corporation Ward No.11, 20 and 29.

**Project Activities:**
- Awareness raising program for CBCPC members
- Monthly Meeting with CBCPC
- Referral
- Hospital or Clinical Charges including cost for investigation
- Cost of Medicine
- Legal support (e.g. Filing case, Lawyer fees etc.)
- Assistive Device and Hearing Aid Distribution
- Vocational Training

**Quantitative summary of activities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Participant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Awareness raising programs</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>381</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>CBCPC Meetings</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>424</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Referral cost (Transportation, accommodation, food and assessment fee)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Cost of medicine</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Achieve</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Cost for receiving legal help (e.g. Filing case, lawyer fees etc.)</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Assistive devices</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Vocational training</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lessons learnt:**

- Effective collaboration with repotted and specialized organization like-CRP and would concern are very much helpful to provide most adequate and quality services to the beneficiaries like CWDs.
- Distribution of hearing aid without any linkages with qualified institutions is useless because use of hearing aids needs long time nursing and coaching to the users.
- Surprised to observe the less interest to get better and adequate services from repotted organization without any cost only due to distance and spending more time.
- Implementation of smaller part of a big project with quality is very much crucial.

**Yusuf Rasel future dream is that he will be a potential citizen of Bangladesh and living with dignity**

Yusuf Rasel is a deaf and dumb child whose mother and father are traceless. Yusuf Rasel is living in Children’s Training and Rehabilitation Center, Barisal. He was basically a street child (abandoned child). IPEP Field Coordinator Mohammad Ali discussed about the situation of the child with Subash Chandra Saha, Director Training and Communication Section and contacted Ms. Shahina Akhtar, Headmistress of Barisal World Concern Hearing School for disability screening support. After diagnosis in Barisal, Concern Hearing School, a high power hearing aid was recommended for him to improve his reading and hearing capability. The device was handed over to Yusuf Rasel in presence of The Deputy Commissioner of Barisal on 13 July 2017 with the support of IPEP project. Also Concern Hearing School admitted him as a regular student.

Now, Yusuf Rasel is in a better off status and able to communicate with others with the support of high power hearing aid and continuing study in Barisal Concern Hearing School. His future dream is that he will be a potential citizen of Bangladesh and be living a life with dignity.

**They are very grateful to VERC**

Answar Ali and Ms. Ferdousy have 5 children of whom three children are: Hiru Akhtar, Mehdi Hasan, Imam Hassan with different types of disabilities. Answar Ali is a daily labor and Ms. Ferdousy is a house wife. They were living with boundless miseries with the CWDs and were unable to manage them. Their mother locked them up in a room regularly so that they cannot disturb her. Answar Ali made bamboo railing in his house for supporting the children walking. Barisal IAPP project personnel arranged screening for all the three children of the family under this project from CRP Savar. CRP Savar also imparted training on the use of the devices in a friendly manner along with the parents. They have been provided walking frame to Hiru and Mehdi Hasan and wheel chair has been given to Imam Husain. Now, they are no more using the bamboo railing has been removed from the premises; now
Progress of the Project and visible outcome in Pictorials:

Community Capacity Building to Face Challenges of Drought as an Effect of Climate Change (CBFDCC) Project

Village Education Resource Center (VERC) has implemented the project titled - “Community Capacity building to Face Challenges of Drought as an effect of Climate Change (CBFDCC)” with the support of Palli karma sahayak foundation (PKSF) since January 2014. After completion of the project, people of the project area will apply different livelihood options to ensure food security, to use safe water and hygienic latrine. Women will be engaged in alternative income generating activities. CBOs will be capacitated to develop leadership and mobilize community in disaster risk management. Targeted polluted/silted ponds will be ready for use through re-excavation. People will be aware about environmental pollution and use improved cooking stove. They will plant trees as safeguard against natural disasters and to keep the environment green. The project has phased out in 31st December 2016.

**Goal:** Capacity building of targeted communities to combat with drought as adaptation to Climate Change Challenges.

**Objective:** The main objective of this project is to build capacity of the people to combat with drought caused due to climate change by undertaking appropriate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation mechanisms.

Major activities carried out during the reporting period: (July 2016 - Dec 2016)
- CBO Meeting
- Vaccination Campaign (Buster dose include PPR)
- Solid waste management (Slatted housing)
- Homestead gardening own initiative
- Distribution of Sustainable and Hygienic latrine-08, HH-24, Benf. -M-50, F-48.
- Provide financial and technical support for re-excavation of ponds-01
**Installation of household based hygienic latrine**

Germ spreads quickly in hot and humid weather. Unhygienic latrine is breeding ground of germs. In a climate change context both situation is prevailing in the working area. Considering the perspective, CCCP has designed an improved sanitary latrine to ensure hygiene. The unique feature of the latrine is that it has water supply systems (a water reservoir is constructed attached with the structure connected with pipe and tap), handle inside the latrine for children, pregnant women, elderly and physically challenged persons, ceramic pan, separate pit connected with PVC pipe, tin-roof with sufficient ventilation etc. In this period 08 sanitary latrines installed with superstructure that will enable 24 families (3 families per latrine) having access to hygiene sanitation practice.

**Outcome:** Access to sanitation facilities ensued for 24 HH and 98 members.

**Re-exavation of pond**

Climate change will have the most impact on water. The numerous canals, ponds and water availability depend mainly on rainfall. Additional water during the rainy season, causes floods so there is always a scarcity of drinking water and water for cultivation in the dry season. It is being possible to increase the availability of water in the dry season through re-exavation and proper management of ponds. In these circumstances CCCP has taken an important program called re-exavation of pond for drought and salinity prone areas. In this period VERC completed 01 pond re-excavation in project implementing area.

**Outcome:** Availability of water sources increased, Drought risk decreased, accelerated plantation.

Challenges faces during the reporting period:

- Management and maintenance of the joint/shared latrine.
- Most of the beneficiaries are tribal/ethnic group.
- HH level shared latrine distribution.

**Lessons learnt:**

With the high level staff commitment and management support it was possible to implement all the activities in time.

**Accomplishment of Wish**

Community Capacity Building to face challenges of Drought as an Effect of Climate Change project has been implemented in 04 unions (Hazinagar, Chandannagar, Rasulpur and Bahadurpur) of Niamotpur under Naogaon district supported by Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) financed by World Bank. The main goal of the project is building capacity of targeted communities to combat with drought as adaptation to Climate Change Challenges and main objective of this project is to enhance capacity of the people to combat with drought caused due to climate change by undertaking appropriate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation mechanisms. Mosammat Saifa begum lives at Natipukur village of Chandannagar union in Niamotpur upazila. Her’s is a 3 member family Md. Mahabbat Hossain day labourer was her husband and they had one son and she was fighting to manage her family. She was the youngest among 5 brothers and sister and got married.
in 2006 and had no other cultivable land except the homestead, they didn’t have any hygienic latrine before her marriage and sometimes they had to go for open defecation and sometimes shared the neighbor’s unhygienic latrine fenced by palm. She herself along with other members in the father in law’s house use bamboo bushes for defecation and children were defecating openly as a result they were suffering from water borne diseases mostly and they suffer a loss physically and economically. They were reproached daily by the neighbors for polluting the environment and Saifa had to bear silently and was hoping to install a hygienic latrine which she failed to implement due to severe poverty.

Saifa begum got admitted in the group fighting against the climate change related problem and participating the group meeting and different awareness raising sessions on climate change, disaster preparedness, hygiene and how to face drought related problems of VERC CCCP project regularly She submitted an application for sustainable hygienic latrine following the process and VERC accepted her application by visiting her house and considering the feasibility. She and her family members now use the installed hygiene latrine for defecation and keeping the latrine always clean. None of them gone for open defecation, surroundings are now clean, healthy environment ensured, personal and family hygiene is maintained. The hope of Saifa Begum is accomplished and she is very much thankful to VERC and PKSF.
VERC is implementing Micro Finance Program with the disadvantaged and underprivileged poor people particularly with women as per the program strategy. VERC is also reaching the poor ethnic minority to fulfil the demographic coverage goal with Micro Finance Program for overcoming their helplessness, dependency and deprivation in the society. From the very beginning of initiating Micro Finance Program, VERC is expanding the areas and coverage of people gradually in the remote and isolated areas of Bangladesh with a view to outreach coverage and the sustainability of the organization as well. The program sector is contributing to VERC in attaining self-financing status in terms of contribution from the surplus (Tk. 58,36,000 in the reporting year). Besides, the area expansion and population coverage, VERC is increasing multidimensional lending service delivery system by opening different wings gradually keeping relevance with the market demand and ensuring access to comparatively big size of investment amount in the rural and urban micro economy sectors. It has introduced new dimensions of investment in agriculture with a view to contribute in making agriculture a more dynamic sector of development and emphasizing on health service sector empowering people to demand service from relevant service giving agencies. At the same time, VERC is providing skill development training in agriculture other income generating trades along with leadership development, human rights and awareness raising training to the loan recipients prior to starting income generating activities.

Credit and training support to people in program areas have been enabling to communities on maintaining environmental hygiene, proper composting in pits, through hygienic disposal of garbage in fixed places so that contamination can be prevented, along with vermicompost skill, pesticide free vegetable production by using pheromone trap, the wastes turned into resources contributing to increased crop production and increased income as well as health and nutrition. Large scale extension in the area has made benefits accessible to more and more farmers in the program areas. Insurance coverage is benefiting both the organization itself and beneficiaries in terms of recovery support on sudden death of beneficiaries and their families, also in case of cattlehead morbidity and death.
Goal
To create a community force capable of planning, operating and managing need based development programs to overcome the socio-economic problems associated with poverty and improving socio-economic status.

Objective
To raise the economic status of the poor people by engaging them in income generating activities and consequently make them self-reliant and improving their social status.

VERC believes that without a positive change of the economic status of the poor people all types of development activities will prove to be futile and from this reality based feelings, VERC started Micro Finance program in selected locations of the country in 1982. VERC obtained PKSF Partnership in 1996 and Micro-Credit Regulatory Authority (MRA) awarded membership for operating credit program as per rules of the Government in 2006. VERC operates all of its Micro Finance programs in 2,459 villages of 329 unions under 58 Upazilas of 17 districts in Bangladesh. The program is managed by 622 staffs working under 66 branches spreading across the country.

Main activities carried out in each specific program in brief

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Jagoron</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Agrosor</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Sufolon</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Buniad</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Sahos</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Kuwait Goodwill Fund (KGF) for Promotion of Food Security in Islamic Countries Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Agriculture Unit and Livestock Unit</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacity of Poor Households Towards Elimination of their Poverty (ENRICH) Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Developing Inclusive Insurance Sector (DIISP) Project</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>UPP-Ujjibito project</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>OBA Sanitation Microfinance Program</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. Jagoron Program

Jagoron loan provides means for the poor families to take small loans to help them to be engaged in productive activities or to expand their small business. Thus it can help the poor to increase income, build viable business and reduce their vulnerability to external shocks. It is also a powerful instrument for self-employment by enabling the poor, especially women, to become income earners and agents of change. The clients of Jagoron Program are low-income persons not having access to formal financial institutions. Till June 2017, the number of Members was 84,361 in 5,648 groups; No. of Borrowers—54,002; Loan Outstanding (portfolio) Tk. 752.30 million (Tk.75,23,02,338); Savings Outstanding-Tk.366.16 million (Tk.36,61,64,717); and the recovery rate was 99.90%.

- The scope of project implementation has increased as outcome of imparted training on income generating activities side by side with micro credit support.
- About 5-7% beneficiaries are enhancing their status through proper use of micro-credit support and implementation of projects
- Health and Sanitation status improved by 3.96%

2. Agrosor Program

VERC observed that there are many small entrepreneurs, small and medium scale market based businessmen and skilled workers in the rural and peri-urban areas in Bangladesh who are struggling to expand their business for lack of capital. Based on the realization, VERC has been lending Agrosor loan product in addition to its Mainstream Micro Finance to meet the demand of the large number of clients. VERC Micro Enterprise lending products also covers previous borrowers of the mainstream Jagoron program who have been successful in generating income by establishing different profitable schemes and made their production/scheme responsive to the market who have proven track record of
successfully passing several loan cycles. The status of members till June 2017 is 10,400; No. of Borrowers - 8,522; Loan Outstanding (portfolio) is Tk. 526.45 million (Tk.52,64,53,102); Savings Outstanding amounts to Tk. 162.36 million (Tk. 16,23,69,837); and the recovery rate is 99.82%

- Capacity of the use of micro-credit support enhanced
- Job opportunities increased
- Increased rate of higher education in children
- Enhanced social status

3. Sufolon Program

Through the implementation of micro finance activities, VERC has observed that most of the beneficiaries are involved in agriculture based seasonal activities. They face financial crisis for agricultural production purpose. As a result they are not getting expected output. To increase their production and make them financially well off, VERC has initiated to implement the Sufolon program. VERC firmly believes that this is a part of multi-dimensional microfinance activities assisting the farmers in due time with positive outcome. Till June 2017, No. of borrowers is 11,537; Loan Outstanding (portfolio) is Tk. 303.03 million (Tk.30,30,39,841) and the recovery rate is 99.91%.

Beef fattening activity is gaining popularity among the borrowers for making income can be mentioned as an outcome of Sufolon program. Eidul-Azha requires supply of a huge number of cattle heads for sacrifice as a result the price of cattle heads escalates in the markets. In the context of seasonal crisis, fattening has become popular across communities and to this effect; VERC offers financial support to interested borrowers to make an income. This is now a popular way of making seasonal income across the program areas and the demand for support is gradually increasing every year.

- Reduction in the use of hazardous pesticides
- Increased awareness, the use of de-worming tablets and vaccine increased
- Dynamism in the involvement of seasonal activities

4. Buniad Program

The people who can’t fulfil their basic needs, having no permanent address, with little or no education and health support and not having little access to social benefits are known as Buniad. Most of these Buniad members are floating. So it is difficult to organize them as sustainable groups. VERC is trying to identify these people for group formation, supporting them for income generating activities and introduce them with social values since October 2005. Under Buniad program, 2,660 Buniad members received training support on various issues. In addition, in order to building up their capacity, VERC imparts training to them on various IGA and social issues. Till June 2017, number of members stood at 5,049; and borrowers 3,269; Loan Outstanding (portfolio) amount is Tk. 33.29 million (Tk.3,32,96,673); Savings Outstanding is Tk. 14.26 million (Tk.1,42,60,084) and Recovery Rate is 99.98%.

- Reduced number of extreme poor households
- Increased opportunities of undertaking more and more small scale projects
- Training on IGAs has increased the capacity of implementing project activities.

5. Sahos Program

The loans that are distributed among the poor families who are affected by man made as well as natural disaster are termed as VERC Sahos Program. Sahos Program means when the loan distributed among the enrolled members from disaster management in response to their demand for disaster preparedness, in times of disaster and for the post-disaster period recovery purposes. A borrower can take further loan as disaster management loan in disaster period though he/she has a regular unpaid or partially paid loan under the program on the condition of no overdue instalment remains pending.

In case of disaster preparedness loans the purposes are preparation for tackling disaster, fulfilling demand for food and basic livelihood related goods, for purchasing life saving drugs, for repairing of damaged house, latrine and for tube well repairing or reinstallation and for rehabilitation activities. After disaster, the borrowers can take disaster management loan. Under this program, beneficiaries can take a maximum of Tk. 10,000 as loan at a time. The duration of this loan is 12 months and service charge is 4% per year. Till June 2017 total number of borrowers was 1,826 and loan distributed Tk. 88,03,000.
6. Kuwait Goodwill Fund (KGF) for Promotion of Food Security in Islamic Countries Program

The goal of Kuwait Goodwill Fund (KGF) for promotion of food security in Islamic Countries by creating scope of distributing loan as per need for agriculture and agriculture related activities like - food production, preservation and market promotion for food and livelihood security. Its objectives are to make use of modern, effective and sustainable agricultural technology related knowledge and implement it in agriculture sector for increasing production to meet food deficiency reduction targets in the country.

Enrolled members of Jagoron program, Agrosor program and Sufolon program of VERC will be eligible for receiving this loan. This project has two sub components. 1) Loan support, 2) Capacity building and technical support. Till June 2017 no. of borrowers was 4,390; amount of loan outstanding is Tk. 156.64 million (Tk. 15,66,49,500) and recovery rate is 99.92%.

Outcomes

Capacity building training with technology support being offered from VERC in Bholahat, Shibganj, and Singair Upazilas of the country is promoting USG (Urea Super Granule) for rice cultivation. This has brought down the use of Urea from 35% – 40% ensuring continuity of nitrogen supply and increased production up to 25%. VERC also provides applicator for Urea deep placement in the field in the effort. The activities under the Livestock Unit has ensured reduced mortality rate (.56% compared to the previous year .33%) in cattleheads through free vaccination and low-cost deworming.

7. Agricultural Unit and Livestock Unit

From the experience of implementing various agro-based projects and programmes, VERC observed that agricultural production cannot be augmented without channelling technological and capacity building supports along with credit facility to the farmers. With this reality, VERC has established “Agriculture Unit” from October 2013 for extending sustainable agricultural technologies and services to the door-steps of marginal and small farmers with a view to increasing agricultural production as well as ensuring food security. During the reporting period 11 block demonstrations have been established by providing 110 porous pipes, 1280 pheromone traps and, 450 kg Urea Super Granule (USG) to the farmers. In addition, result demonstrations have been undertaken in order to popularize high yielding zinc enriched variety of BRRI dhan 62 and summer tomato. Similarly, a specific method demonstration on compost preparation has been established in order to inspire the use of bio-fertilizer, a total of 115 demonstrations have been arranged to enhance native fish culture, composting, rice seed production and vegetables cultivation.

Livestock unit demonstrated improved technologies on goat rearing, dairy milk production, beef fattening, production of vermicompost and fodder production with selected beneficiaries during this period. In total, 400 demonstrations were arranged in Singair upazila under Manikgonj district and Dhamrai upazila under Dhaka district.

Outcomes

The training has enabled community people in 15 Unions of the 2 Upazilas (Dhamrai and Singair) on maintaining environmental hygiene through hygienic disposal of garbage in fixed places so that contamination can be prevented, along with vermicompost skill training, they have started using the wastes as organic manure through proper composting in pits. The wastes are now turned into resources contributing to increased crop production and increased income. The skill training and its demonstration impact have aroused interest in significant number of farmers to produce and make use of the manure for increased agricultural production. The other important technology based skill training in the above noted area is for pesticide free vegetable production by using pheromone trap. During the reporting period, a total of 150 in 6 batches training have been conducted along with field based demonstration. The outcome includes availability of insecticide free vegetable in the area attracting whole sellers offering better price to the farmers and the pheromone trap technology is also on large scale extension in the area to make it accessible to more and more farmers in the program areas. This is benefiting the consumers as well as the farmers in terms of increased income, health and nutrition. This is also being applied in case of mango orchard in Bholahat and Shibganj areas in Rajshahi division.
8. Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacity of Poor Households towards Elimination of their Poverty (ENRICH) Program

ENRICH is a program under implementation at the grassroots level focusing on overall household development of the poor. The programme targets poor families to enhance and maximize the utilization of their resources and skills. ENRICH aims to alleviate poverty not only through income generation but through a holistic approach targeting other crucial aspects of human life including health, education, youth development, community development, etc, the goal being sustainable development driven by the people themselves.

By working with selected households in association with the local government and committed stakeholders, ENRICH catalyses the households’ efforts to lift them out of poverty. The overall goal of the programme is to ensure human dignity and freedom by gradually reducing poverty in a sustainable manner, towards total elimination at the household and community level in a union.

VERC is implementing ENRICH program in Laxmanpur union under Monohorgonj upazila of Comilla district. During the reporting period 100 sets of sanitary latrine was distributed among 100 poor families, 5 ENRICH centers constructed. A total of 4 general health camps, a special eye camp 177 static clinic and 48 satellite clinics also have been organised in this period. Beside this 24 education centers have been set up and 576 students are continuing education in pre-primary, class I and II.

Outcomes
Out of 355 pregnant women 242 received ANC support, 83 had safe delivery support and 83 received PNC support from the project. Besides, the project organized special eye camp through which 170 patients had been offered treatment support and 11 were given cataract surgery service.

9. Developing Inclusive Insurance Sector (DIISP) Project

The project goal is to reduce the vulnerability and improve welfare of the poor through improved access to reliable and affordable institutional risk mitigation services through micro insurance, building upon the existing risk mitigation services. The objective of the project is to protect the livelihoods of poor households, especially women, from risks such as accidents, illness, theft or natural disasters- to secure their welfare and productive or unproductive assets through the development of low-cost inclusive insurance service coverage.

Project activities are divided into three components-

1. Microcredit Insurance: VERC is providing Microcredit Insurance services to the borrowers from October 2013. Under this insurance policy till 30 June 2017 number of 3,03,176 borrower took policy and premium collected was Tk. 59.73 million. Claim paid was Tk. 42.40 million among 997 policy holders and fund balance was Tk35.84 million.

2. Paramedic Services: Under this component, a member has to pay Tk.80-100 as premium for one year to get Paramedic Services. Up to June 2017 total number of 4118 beneficiaries got treatment, moreover 3380 beneficiaries received services provided by specialized doctors. At that time service charge collected was Tk. 0.52 million.

3. Livestock Insurance: To obtain this policy the borrower has to pay 0.7% of loan amount as premium to get their cattle insured for the loan period. In the last financial year (July’16 to June’17) the amount of premium collected was Tk. 1.29 million and claim paid was Tk. 0.40 million. Up to June 2017 livestock Insurance fund balance is Tk. 2.38 million.

Outcomes
Organization and beneficiaries are mutually benefited in terms of recovery support on unexpected death of cattle, beneficiaries and their families. Opportunities created for the hardcore poor obtaining better treatment from renowned hospital. Health burden reduced as health services rendered by doctors are now available at the door-step at an affordable cost.

10. UPP-Ujjibito project

For reducing poverty and hunger of women headed and vulnerable ultra poor families VERC took initiatives through this project in the selected areas of Rajshahi district. Expected results of this project
are: 1) women beneficiary and their families have the means to enjoy a standard of living 2) health and physical well-being of women beneficiary and their families has significantly and sustainably enhanced 3) for enhanced empowerment and participation in society of women beneficiary and their family members. Under the project, to enhance the capacity of beneficiaries, during the reporting period, VERC has imparted training on vermi compost to 50 members, handicrafts to 50 members, tailoring training to 75 members, vegetable gardening to 75 members, goat rearing training to 375 members and vocational training to 15 ultra poor family members. Besides these, supports extended under this project includes - Seed distribution-7,927 kgs, Vaccination (Goat) - PPR- 1950, Vaccination (Poultry)-RDV-3299, Vaccination (Poultry)-BCRDV-3323, Deworming-1628, Goat rearing firm- 11, Nursery-1, Adarsha Ujjibito Bari-1, Beef fattening shed-2, Poultry firm-2 Small Business-1 and Vermi compost plant-259.

Outcomes
Through the project, poverty and hunger in 608 women headed families experiencing a gradual reduction. Mother and child health awareness is increasing among the project beneficiaries. During the period 86 pregnant mothers received ANC service and 76 mothers received PNC services. A total of 121 children has been screened and 35 malnourished children were identified in the area for offering counselling support and the nutritional status of 31 has already improved.

11. OBA Sanitation Microfinance Program

Bangladesh has made notable progress in reducing the practice of open defecation, from 34 percent in 1990 to just 1 percent of the national population in 2015. However, according to the report of the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) 2015, the current prevalence of improved sanitation is 61 percent, mounting at only 1.1 percent annually. Good sanitation is vital for good health and for wealth creation as well. Hygienic latrines are considered the next generation of toilets, fully confining waste from both the user and the surrounding environment. Many households in the rural areas of Bangladesh don’t have sufficient cash in hand to upgrade sanitation systems, but can afford the cost if they are able to spread the cost over time. PKSF has come forward to this effect with the support of World Bank.

In the backdrop of prevailing high rate of unhygienic toilet which is about 65%, PKSF has decided to undertake a demand led strategy for promoting expansion of hygienic toilets by using lending instrument. However, grant instrument may be required for supporting the ultra-poor households in this regard.

Types of Latrine

Most of the rural households in Bangladesh have access to direct pit latrines. These are improved latrines but not hygienic because wastes are not kept completely away from users and environment. Under this project, a set of standard latrine models have been promoted to upgrade the existing systems, in order to meet the hygienic standards that could keep wastes fully away both from users and surrounding environment. The project-designed latrines are:

- Aram, Aram Plus and
- Bilash or Bilash Box

The Project has been started from February 2016 in Comilla and Brahmanbaria districts. Under this project, beneficiaries can take Tk.10,000 as loan at a time only for latrine construction. Trained selected local entrepreneur constructs the latrine. Duration of this loan is one year and without any service charge it will be repaid by 50 equal instalments. Till June 2017 total number of borrowers was 76 and the amount of loan distributed is Tk. 7,60,000.

Total Program Implementation at a glance (Up to June 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Status of 2015-16</th>
<th>Status of 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Branches</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Districts Covered</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Upazilas Covered</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Unions Covered</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Villages</td>
<td>2,073</td>
<td>2,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Staff Involved (Operation)</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Group/Samity</td>
<td>7,299</td>
<td>7,931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

74
### Particulars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of 2015-16</th>
<th>Status of 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Members</td>
<td>94,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of Borrowers</td>
<td>78,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status of 2015</td>
<td>Status of 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursement Amount (Yearly)</td>
<td>Tk 2,878.09 Million (Tk 287.80,91,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursement Amount (Cumulative)</td>
<td>Tk 14,442.75 Million (Tk 1444,27,54,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realizable Amount (Yearly)</td>
<td>Tk 2,557.85 Million (Tk 255,78,50,379)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized Amount (Cumulative)</td>
<td>Tk 12,905.33 Million (Tk 1290,53,37,228)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Outstanding (Portfolio)</td>
<td>Tk 1,526.78 Million (Tk 152,67,83,066)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings Balance</td>
<td>Tk 462.40 Million (Tk 46,24,04,158)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Balance</td>
<td>Tk 39.94 Million (Tk 3,99,41,550)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdue Amount</td>
<td>Tk 10.63 Million (Tk 1,06,33,704)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery rate</td>
<td>99.92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Source of funds up to June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (In Tk)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PKSF</td>
<td>44,39,58,332</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus Fund</td>
<td>74,73,26,567</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member’s Savings</td>
<td>54,91,54,837</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Loan</td>
<td>21,77,40,341</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Fund</td>
<td>5,63,95,788</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4,99,00,152</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>209,34,36,080</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gradually own fund sources increasing with the available increased surplus fund which is 36%. Member’s contribution is 26%.
**Agriculture Advice Center:** VERC operated two Agriculture Advice Centers at Singair upazila under Manikganj district and Dhamrai upazila under Dhaka district to solve farmer’s problem instantly and timely informing farmers on upcoming hazards.

**Collaboration and networking done during the reporting period**
VERC has been taking part in PKSF organized workshops/trainings that are useful in enhancing the level of efficiency in staff members and making interventions more output oriented. Participation in the Exhibition that was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka was a scope for wider dissemination/exchange of experience of working with the poor and marginalized.

**IBIG contribution in terms of CSR:** The Micro-Credit Regulatory Authority of the Government of Bangladesh has been asking the NGOs working on micro-credit in the country to make contribution towards meeting the social development needs of the poor and marginalized people. This is necessary to help the poor and marginalized people securing a better living through increased access to employment and income and livelihood support including WaSH, health and education whereby organizational efforts will contribute in achieving the MDG targets. IBIG program of VERC is making contribution from its CSR allocation towards social development in different areas of the country supporting interventions on education, health, ICS and has been supporting a pilot initiative of VERC in developing an integrated total development approach program in a union in Kaliakoir. The contribution amounts to Tk. 58,36,000 for the reporting year and the total of till date contribution stands at Tk. 2,06,35,023.

**VERC Sambhar:** VERC has started a showroom inside VERC campus with the products of its beneficiaries who are involved with various IGA project implementation since 2012. The beneficiaries take loan from VERC and they produce colorful and quality products for which they need market access to get right price of their products. In the context, VERC started the showroom cum sales center for marketing of the products by creating market linkage with the customers and buyers. Tk. 7,00,000 (seven lacs) has been invested from the service charges of VERC micro-finance program as preliminary working capital for VERC Sambhar.
Since its emergence VERC has been emphasizing people's participatory sustainable human development and capacity building of the development actors as facilitators and to institutionalize the lessons learnt from the development process as clearly enumerated in VERC's Mission statement and Strategy. In accordance with that the Training Program of VERC has been addressing its mission and strategy.

Training Program set the goal to enhance human potential, change the attitude and develop commitment of development actors at different levels to enable them to contribute to the development sectors. Accordingly, transfer the skill and knowledge, enhance human and institutional/organizational capacity it undertook series of capacity building activities since its inception.

Training Program enhances the capacity of program staff with relevant government staff, LGI representatives in order to contribute to the development sectors, particularly in the fields of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation; Gender awareness; Human Rights; Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Basic ToT, Motivation and Facilitation, Child Rights Programming, Child Protection; Disaster Preparedness and Management; Community Mobilization, Education; Advocacy and Process Promotion; Early Childhood Development, Non formal Education, Primary Health Care, Nutrition, WatSan & Technology, Micro Finance and Small & Medium Entrepreneurship Development. A total of 581290 participants received training since inception of the organization. During 2016–2017 the Program has covered 29352 participants and the participants have turned into efficient contributors in the development process in multiple ways.

Training imparted during the reporting period on contract basis:

Foundation Training for IBIG Staffs:
Training & Communication program staff conducted Foundation Training for IBIG staffs financed by VERC IBIG section. The foundation training was started on 10 April 2017 and ended on 13 April 2017. A total of 20 staffs of IBIG section have been covered by the training.
Training on Income generating Activity for IBIG section staff:
The IGA Training was started on 10 June 2017 and ended on 15 June, 2017. A total of 64 beneficiaries of VERC integrated development program beneficiaries of VERC Integrated Development Program participated in the training in 3 batches where beneficiaries were 64 (Female-64) at Kaliakoir.

Training on Empowerment, Leadership & Business for Female Entrepreneurs of ICS:
VERC organized the Training on Empowerment, Leadership & Business for Female Entrepreneurs of ICS program during 6-11May 2017 with the financial support of Catalyzing Clean Energy in Bangladesh (CCEB). The training was facilitated by VERC Facilitators Throughout the training course, a total of 8 facilitators were actively involved in the facilitation process to conduct the training sessions by following the Empowered Entrepreneur Training Handbook. The Empowered Entrepreneur Training Handbook is designed to support an organization and its trainers in empowering women micro-entrepreneurs, small enterprise owners, and sales agents who work throughout the value chain in the household energy sector. While the Handbook has been developed by the Alliance and is designed to empower women to scale adoption of clean cooking solutions globally, it has applicability throughout the household energy sector. This Handbook is focusing on training women as entrepreneurs or sales agents, but there is also potential for them to be engaged in many other ways in the cooking sector.

The purpose of the training is to equip female entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, confidence and ability to succeed as a business woman in the clean cooking technology sector. The training is designed to enhance their capacity to make strategic choices in business and to transfer those choices into desired actions and outcomes. This training is focused on improving capabilities and insights so that they can become agents of positive social change on their own behalf and gain recognition in the community.

A total of 19 participants attended the training from 9 different districts of Bangladesh i.e. Chuadanga, Noguon, Dinajpur, Jhinimports, Pabna, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Bagerhat and Khulna. They are the sales representatives of Venus International Co. and Luxer Green Energy Limited (Manufacturer).

Training on Community Driven Development:
Bala Vikasa is pleased to announce its first overseas program in collaboration with VERC-Bangladesh. A total number of 16 participants attended the training from different NGOs in Bangladesh

Course Goal
To increase the level of understanding of the participants on community development concepts and familiarize them with various approaches and tools that can be applied in the process of empowering the community.

Course Objectives
- Imparting knowledge: For a better understanding of sustainable development.
- To familiarize on various approaches of community driven development.
- Developing abilities and tools: To familiarize oneself with community driven community organization tools.
- Enhancing values and change of attitudes: To enhance understanding and respect for local communities and their inherent capacities and work for their own development.

Training support to VERC projects during the reporting period:
During the reporting year, various VERC projects were supported through the capacity building of 29233 staff and stakeholders in 1475 batches of various training courses. On WatSan and Technology program 985 batches of training imparted where 17091 participants took part. On various education program issues 272 batches of training imparted and 7043 participants took part. Training on Livelihood program imparted 143 batches of training and 3459 participants took part. Health and Environment program imparted 75 batches of training and 1640 participants have been covered.

Outcomes of project training of the reporting period:
Capacity enhanced in program catalysts like teachers, volunteers, entrepreneurs, students, SMCs, CPMC, CDC, Ward Disaster management committee, Women’s groups and all types of CBOs active in program sectors in program areas across the country.
RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Since emergence, VERC has been undertaking different types of community development research and related innovative activities. Later on Research, Evaluation and Documentation (RED) Section has emerged within VERC for conducting action research and piloting new initiatives which are documented and shared with the partners, stakeholders and donors. The studies are usually carried out by VERC itself and by engaging external program experts in consultation with donor agencies. It also extends support to intern students of graduation and masters level to undertake study on various development issues for academic purposes and sharing the findings with respective program sectors of VERC. Following are the types of studies carried out during the reporting period –

1. Interns carried out study on VERC interventions: In all 25 studies conducted by 25 Interns as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>No. of Interns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Savar University College</td>
<td>July – October, 2016</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Savar University College</td>
<td>Sept 16 – March’17</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Savar University College</td>
<td>March – June ’17</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>East West University, Dhaka</td>
<td>March – April’17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gano Biswabidyalaya, Savar</td>
<td>Feb – May 2017</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3 institutions</td>
<td>July 2016 – Oct. 2017</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Title of the studies:**

Savar Varsity College (Group – 7) – 5 studies: Final year Masters

i. Fish culture in IBIG Groups  - 2
ii. Study on Hazardous Child labour in Savar  - 2
iii. BRUP in urban slums for community based interventions  - 1

Savar Varsity College (Group – 8) – 7 studies: Final yr (Hons)

i. Capacity enhancement of children in Savar Primary Schools  - 2
ii. Impact of overlapping in VERC microfinance areas  - 3
iii. Education for the Working children in Savar  - 2

Savar Varsity College (Group – 9) – 6 studies: Final yr (Hons)

i. WaSH Credit program in VERC  - 2
ii. Ending Child Labour program  - 2
iii. Inclusive Education for the children with disability  - 2

East West University, Dhaka 1 Intern of Sociology (Honours final year) – 1 study

Study title – Reducing Child Labour in VERC Project areas.

Gano-Bishawabidyalaya, Savar – 6 studies;

I. Fish culture in IBIG Groups  - 3
II. VERC Education Program  - 2
III. Health and Environment  - 1

2. Studies done by external consultants:

A. Training & Communication Section:

i) Learning on Empowerment of Children and their Relational Link with Membership of Children Organisation – Enamul Huda

ii) Evaluation of the “ICT and innovative partnerships – responding to well-known challenges for children in new ways” project in Bangladesh - by Rasmus Jørgensen, Senior MEAL Advisor, SCD (Save the Children Denmark) - September, 2016
B. WatSan & Technology Section:
   ii) Baseline Survey for Chhatak Project carried out by KIT - Royal Institute of the Netherlands. Data collection task completed in the period and processing of data and report writing going on.

3. Publications:  
b. Swabolombi (Quarterly in Bangla)
The Administration and Finance Section provides financial and various other support services such as personnel management, procurement, logistic support, secretarial services, recruitment and placement, supervision, staff related matters and maintenance of vehicles according to the organizational rules and regulations. The section also keeps liaison with government and other non-government organizations regarding the administrative and financial matters.

All the activities are carried out following the Service Rules and Financial Guidelines and other bi-laws of the organization. The Executive Director is responsible for overall administration of the organization. The Deputy Executive Director assists the Executive Director in carrying out the management of VERC. All of the six Directors jointly assist the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director in smooth functioning of administrative works and financial management of VERC.

Management of VERC
General Council: The General Council is the highest body in VERC management system. Presently, the General Council consists of 21 members (19 individuals and 2 institutions) from among development workers, university teachers and officials from various types of organizations. The General Council elects the Board of Directors and meets once a year. If necessary it can hold emergency meetings.

Board of Directors: Presently, a 7 member Board of Directors elected by the General Council looks after the governance of the organization and advises the Executive Director in carrying out the organizational responsibilities.

The Executive Office: The Executive Director is responsible for overall administration and program implementation including keeping contact with government and non-government agencies and donors. To discharge his duties, he is assisted by the Deputy Executive Director and a number of professionals who have considerable experience in the field of rural development.

The 43 Annual General Meeting was held on 17 June 2017. The meeting discussed and approved the Annual Report and Audit Report for the period of July 2015-June 2016 and the Annual Budget and Work Plan for the year 2016 - 2017. The meeting also authorized ED for appointment of the audit firm for auditing the accounts of VERC.

Six meetings of the Board of Directors were held during the year as per practice. Important policy matters, vital issues and problems related to VERC’s current and future programs were discussed. The Board of Directors reviewed VERC’s operations, provided guidance and direction to make VERC more effective and dynamic in the future.

Coordination Meetings: Staff meetings were regularly held at two levels. These were senior staff coordination meetings comprising the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and other Directors to review the ongoing program implementation process and take needed decisions that are needed for prompt action at the implementation level while quarterly Program Coordination meetings are held with the participation of all office/field programs in charges. These meetings are primarily held to ensure proper communication and coordination regarding implementation of activities for analysis, decision making and working out the needed solution to critical issues.

Physical Facilities/Logistics
Infrastructure: VERC has 7-storied own building on use as its head office, training and resource centre. It has three training rooms and one counselling room and accommodation for 57 persons. Three
of the training rooms, one counselling room and 11 hostel rooms are air-conditioned. All the meeting rooms are fully equipped with audio-visual equipments.

The library is maintained with computerized cataloguing system for the books. It is a valuable resource unit of the organization that has more than 3427 reference books and 782 journals and various project documents.

**Vehicles:** To ensure smooth running of official assignments, VERC maintains a 5-vehicle transport pool at its headquarters. It also has a fleet of 212 motorbikes for use at the field level.

**Office equipment:** One hundred twenty six computers and one hundred nine laptops are on use in the program management of the organization. An electronic mailing system significantly enhances communication with donors and other organizations. VERC maintains its accounts with software based accounting system.

**Staff of VERC:** The organization has a good number of experienced and dedicated staff. In the reported year VERC had a total of 958 staff including 639 regular and 319 project/contract basis staff. A total of 65 staffs are based at VERC head office and the remaining 893 are involved in the programs that work under guidance of project/area offices. There are 96 Branch offices at various locations of the country. During the year, 271 staff was recruited and 1322 left. VERC has a system of annual performance appraisal of staff by a committee. During this year 32 staff was promoted to higher grades.

**Financing of VERC**
To ensure transparency and effective internal control systems, all of its transactions are made through bank accounts. VERC receives all of the grants from the donor agencies through its mother bank account of general fund. After receiving the funds, the amounts are transferred to the project bank accounts in respective project areas. The management of the organization has decentralized the signatory authority to the area staff members for smooth implementation of the activities at the field level.

There is an internal audit team which reports directly to the Executive Director time to time on the basis of field findings. The audit team conducts audit in all the areas over financial management related with program implementation process on quarterly basis. External audit farms are appointed by VERC Executive Committee, the audit firms conduct professional audit as per government rules and regulations.

The organization mobilizes fund from both external and internal sources to meet up its program implementation costs. The external sources comprise of the contribution from the donors and government while the internal source includes earning from sale of training, sale of facility, services, publication and service charges received from Micro credit, also as voluntary contribution from staff members for infrastructure development/maintenance purposes.

**The source of funds during the year based on the audit report shown bellow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount [in Taka]</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donor Fund</td>
<td>212,006,117.00</td>
<td>4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERC Income</td>
<td>765,103,671.00</td>
<td>15.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor Loan Fund</td>
<td>310,000,000.00</td>
<td>6.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Savings</td>
<td>424,688,713.00</td>
<td>8.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolved Loan and other</td>
<td>3,220,191,694.00</td>
<td>65.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,931,990,195.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount [Taka]</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution Building &amp; Income Generation</td>
<td>4,491,749,309.00</td>
<td>94.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>28,366,696.00</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment, Planning &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>943,939.00</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation, Health &amp; Environment</td>
<td>57,001,879.00</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Literacy</td>
<td>84,715,595.00</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Amount Taka</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material Development</td>
<td>4,401,426.00</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Management/Livelihood</td>
<td>16,452,740.00</td>
<td>0.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management cost</td>
<td>40,894,742.00</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditure</td>
<td>12,094,212.00</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,736,423,538.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Village Education Resource Center (VERC)

#### Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at June 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>FY 2016-2017</th>
<th>FY 2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>Micro Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current Assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>22,543,031</td>
<td>25,868,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments :</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>127,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan to Beneficiaries :</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,780,759,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets:</td>
<td>29,307,250</td>
<td>144,808,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Assets:</strong></td>
<td><strong>52,150,281</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,078,886,773</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Capital &amp; Reserves:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Surplus</td>
<td>435,654</td>
<td>687,525,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>62,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Long Term Liabilities :</td>
<td>860,000</td>
<td>443,958,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Current Liabilities :</td>
<td>50,854,627</td>
<td>884,902,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Total Fund &amp; Liabilities : (A+B+C)</td>
<td><strong>52,150,281</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,078,886,773</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annexed notes from 1.00 to 23 form an integral part of the financial statements.

SD

Executive Director

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

SD

Date: December-20, 2017

J.U. Ahmed
Chartered Accountants.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>FY 2016-2017</th>
<th>FY 2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>Micro Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Charge Realised</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>391,648,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Income</td>
<td>2,569,910</td>
<td>13,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Health Service</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>745,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead Income</td>
<td>17,988,400</td>
<td>1,425,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Bank Account and fixed deposit</td>
<td>74,583</td>
<td>8,438,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Incomes</td>
<td>38,417</td>
<td>6,077,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20,673,310</td>
<td>408,349,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Charge to PKSF</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,489,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational cost</td>
<td>26,521,331</td>
<td>153,247,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>908,283</td>
<td>4,351,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Development Activities</td>
<td>688,873</td>
<td>5,520,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank and other interest</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45,965,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve for LLP, DMF and others</td>
<td>1,399,278</td>
<td>18,111,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>29,517,765</td>
<td>258,686,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Income over expenditure</td>
<td>-8,844,455</td>
<td>149,662,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20,673,310</td>
<td>408,349,365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annexed notes from 1.00 to 23 form an integral part of the financial statements.

SD
Executive Director

SD
Director, Admin & Finance

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Date: December-20, 2017

J.U. Ahmed & Co
Chartered Accountants.
## Village Education Resource Center (VERC)
### Consolidated Statement of Receipts & Payments
#### For the year ended June 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>FY 2016-2017</th>
<th>FY 2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>Micro Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Receipts:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>16,799,375</td>
<td>93,753,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt from Donor</td>
<td>212,006,117</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Income</td>
<td>2,569,910</td>
<td>13,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from Health Service</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>774,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Bank Account and fixed deposits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,840,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Received from PKSF</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>310,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Received from Others</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>281,145,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Principal Realised</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,109,639,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Savings and Other Collection</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>424,688,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Charge Realised</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>390,829,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt from Operating Income</td>
<td>15,152,176</td>
<td>68,170,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>246,527,578</td>
<td>4,685,462,617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **B. Payments**                                  |              |              |             |
| Loan Refunded to PKSF                            | -            | 340,241,665  | 340,241,665 | 479,000,002 |
| Training Exp                                     | 928,093      | 1,364,038    | 2,292,131   | 1,987,327   |
| Social Development Activities                    | 688,873      | 5,520,572    | 6,209,445   | 5,850,490   |
| Capital Expenditure                              | 41,239       | 566,595      | 607,834     | 6,641,783   |
| Loan Refunded to Others                          | 174,144      | 253,579,252  | 253,753,396 | 170,421,599 |
| Loan Disbursement                                | -            | 3,369,707,297| 3,369,707,297| 2,878,091,000|
| Member Savings and Other Refund                  | -            | 342,595,845  | 342,595,845 | 290,112,327 |
| Service Charge paid to PKSF                      | -            | 31,489,896   | 31,489,896  | 34,594,168  |
| Investment                                       | 6,700,000    | 6,700,000    | 6,700,000   | 30,600,000  |
| Donor Project Exp                                | 187,269,335  | 7,744,790    | 195,014,125 | 262,276,647 |
| Operating Expenses                               | 29,484,049   | 224,515,811  | 253,999,860 | 483,104,290 |
| Closing Balance                                  | 27,941,845   | 101,436,856  | 129,378,701 | 110,552,681 |
| **Total**                                        | 246,527,578  | 4,685,462,617| 4,931,990,195| 4,753,232,314|

The annexed notes from 1.00 to 23 form an integral part of the financial statements.

SD  
Executive Director

SD  
Director, Admin & Finance

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

SD  
J.U. Ahmed & Co  
Chartered Accountants.

Date: December-20, 2017
Visits and Special Events

Executive Director, VERC Shaikh A. Halim receiving CITI Microfinance Award (CMA) 2016 as the best innovative organization of the year. Senior staffs or VERC were present in the ceremony.

Laila Ishrat Jahan Ruen, Asstt Coordinator received official certificate for completing all requirements of the ToT/certification program organized by GACC, USAID, Winrock International, Visionaria Network and John Hopkins University.

Syeda Hosnerear Akter, Cluster Manager, Savar, Keranigonj and Kaliakoir Cluster, got Best Promoter award from IDCOL out of 66 Partner organization

Other Activities:
Representatives from IDCOL and Atomic Energy Bangladesh visited Savar cluster to select area for IAP Test on 12 January 2017.

Channel-I visited Production Center on 15 February 2017

A team of (60) representatives from IDCOL Officials visited VERC Office, adjacent Production Center, Testing Facility and few household using ICS on 16 Feb 2017

Conducted IAP Test with AEB and IDCOL at Savar Cluster (60 HH) on 3 March 2017 to 12 March 2017.


Attended twelve Operation Committee meeting on Improved Cook Stove (ICS) Program of IDCOL

Representative from The World Bank and IDCOL visited VERC ICS Lab, ICS Production Center and field activities on 20 April 2016 at Savar and 10 May 2017 at Savar and Keranigonj Cluster.

Quarterly Newsletter of VERC named “Swabolombi” for the period of January to June 2016 published and distributed
We in VERC deeply mourn the sad demise of Nurul Islam Khan, Chairperson of VERC Board of Directors! He has passed away on Tuesday, 25 April, 2017 due to old age complications. He served the nation as a brilliant professional and retired as Additional Director, Department of Social Services. He also served the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) as a Senior Executive at its Office in Geneva, Switzerland and was the Country Representative of ITDG Bangladesh. During his lifetime, he was associated with ABC, Nijera Kori, BSEHR, Nayan Action Foundation, TIB, Democracy Watch, Unicef as a philanthropist/expert. While working with him, we learnt a lot from his vast experience in the development sector.

We all are deeply saddened with the loss of such a dynamic leader and a brilliant professional we had in the country. May Almighty be pleased with the departed soul and bless him in the life after death!!!

We all in VERC,
Board of Directors

Nurul Islam Khan
Chairman

Dr. Ahmadullah Mia
Vice-Chairman

Mirza Tareq Md. Mamtazar
Rahman, Secretary

Abdul Karim
Treasurer

Syed Nurul Alam
Member

Majeda Shawkat Ali
Member

Khondker Rebaka San-yat
Member
# Professional Profile of General Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name, Designation and phone number and email address</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Member or service holder of any other NGO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.      | Mr. Nurul Islam Khan Chairman Phone: 8914439, Mobile: 01713031847 khan.nurul@gmail.com | • Rtd. Additional Director, Social Service, Dptt. of Social Welfare  
• Senior level Executive UN High Commission for Refugees, (UNHCR) Geneva | • Former Country Representative of ITDC  
• Founder Member, ABC  
• Secretary and Past President  
• President, Nijera Kori  
• Member BSEHR  
• President, Nayan Action Foundation  
• Member, TIB  
• Vice-President, Democracy Watch  
• Former Consultant UNICEF and now Freelancer |
| 2.      | Dr. Ahmadullah Mia Vice Chairman Mobile: 01746192907 aumia1941@gmail.com | • Rtd. Prof. Dhaka University  
• Professor and Dean. Faculty of Social Sciences University of Dev. Alternative (UODA) | • Chairperson or Member of more than a dozen of professional bodies including Associations, Research Boards, Executive Board of NGOs, Expert Technical Committees at National, Regional and International levels. |
| 3.      | Mirza Tareq Md. Mamtazur Rahman, Secretary Phone: 7741295, Mobile: 01721176263, 01942850799 | • Rtd. Deputy Director Department of Social Welfare | • Freedom Fighter  
• Member CDD  
• Life member Bangladesh Rtd.Govt employees Association. |
| 4.      | Mr. Abdul Karim Treasurer Phone 8120037 Mobile 01819218117 akarim.dba@gmail.com | • Rtd. Secretary, Government of Bangladesh  
• Former Managing Director, MIDAS | • Treasurer-SAP Board of Directors  
• Board Member, MIDAS |
| 5.      | Syed Nurul Alam Member Mobile-01711530990 Phone: 88 02 8118465 nalam8064@gmail.com | • Former Executive Director SAP-Bangladesh | • Member, Action Aid Bangladesh  
• Member, CDF |
| 6.      | Ms. Majeda Shawkat Ali Member Mobile: 01819510913, 01713314837 Email: majeda.shawkat@gmail.com | • Chief Executive, Naria Unnayan Samity (NUSA) | • Chairman, Gram Bikash  
• Member, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) |
| 7.      | Khondker Rebaka Sun-yat Member Mobile: 01819213450, 01716001179 cupid2010@gmail.com | • Executive Director Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) | • Member, BWHC  
• Treasurer, Gram Bikash Samity  
• EC Member Khulna Zella Samity |
| 8.      | Ms. Tahrunnessa Abdullah Member Mobile-01713084024 abdullah@bangla.net | • Rtd. Govt. Officer  
• Freelance Consultant | • Ramon Magsaysay Award winner (1978)  
• Chairperson- SAP  
• Vice Chairman NGO Forum  
• Member BRAC Governing Body |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name, Designation and phone number and email address</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Member or service holder of any other NGO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9.     | Ms. Shebika Sarkar  
Member  
Mobile: 01712620268 | Deputy Director  
Swanirvar Bangladesh | • Member PKSF Governing Body |
| 10.    | Lt. Col. Muhammad Hussain  
(Rtd), Member  
Mobile: 01819528181  
masudmannan1973@gmail.com | Rtd. Army Officer  
Ex- Director, Pathokoli Trust | |
| 11.    | Mr. Md. Emranul Huq Chowdhury  
Member  
Phone office-8115 459  
Mobile- 01711564826  
udpn@agni.com | Executive Director  
UDDIPAN | • Convenor ATSEC-BD  
• Executive Board Member CDF  
• Chairman BSAF |
| 12.    | Mr. Jainal Abedin Khan  
Member  
Mobile: 01552339869 | Rtd. Govt. Officer | • Member CDD  
• Chairman, SANAK, Savar, Dhaka  
• Member, MM Chaklader Mohila College, Savar, Dhaka-1340 |
| 13.    | Ms. Sofia Islam  
Member  
Mobile: 01715025780 | Rtd. Govt. Officer | • Retired Dev. Advisor, Canadian High Commission  
• Member UST  
• Member RIC |
| 14.    | Dr. Md. Wazihullah Patwary  
Member  
Mobile: 01716790567 | Freelancer | • Chairman, Mohamay Madrasha and Atimkhana.  
• Ex. Chairman, BDSC  
• Chair-Finance Committee M.M. New Model UC. |
| 15.    | Mr. S.M. Al-Husainy  
Member  
Mobile: 01711523410  
Phone-8114338, 8117711  
husainy@bol-online.com | Rtd. Govt. Officer  
Ex. Chairman, Public Service Commission | • Chairman, Swanirvar Bangladesh  
• Member-MIDAS,  
• Chairman, Governing Council of Independent University etc.  
• Consultant: ADB, World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, Government of Bangladesh etc.  
• Vice President, National Heart Foundation  
• Member Dhaka Ahsania Mission, National Executive Committee  
• Trustee, Independent University Bangladesh |
| 16.    | Advocate Nazrul Islam  
Member  
Mobile: 01715521795 | Legal practice | • EC Member CDD  
• Secretary, HRDC |
| 17.    | Prof. Hafizul Islam  
Member  
Mobile:01712612222 | Retd. Professor, University of Dhaka. | • Honorary Secretary- FDSR  
• Governing body Member-UCEP  
• Member-National Society for the Blind. |
| 18.    | Dr. Mohammad Alauddin  
Member  
Mobile: 01711409393  
mohammadalauddin0272@gmail.com | Former Country Representative  
Pathfinder International | • Trustee Member, University of Asia Pacific,  
• Founder, Shahatan Nesa-Nayebuddin Academy  
• Member, UCEP, FDSR and |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name, Designation and phone number and email address</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Member or service holder of any other NGO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Mr. Shahid Hossain Talukder Member Mobile: 01715103677 <a href="mailto:shahid_talukder@yahoo.com">shahid_talukder@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Freelancer</td>
<td>General Member, Uddipon, CODEC, Nijera Kari and ALRD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Mrs. Salma Ali Member Mobile: 01711595203 <a href="mailto:bnwla@bdonline.com">bnwla@bdonline.com</a></td>
<td>Executive Director Bangladesh Jatiyo Mahila Ainjibi Samity</td>
<td>Member Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Member South Asian Coalition for Human Rights and Democracy Watch, Member, Federation of International Women Lawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Swanirvor Bangladesh Organisational Member Phone-9116808</td>
<td>Social Mobilization, Micro Credit and Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Bangladesh Association for Community Education, Organisational Member Phone-9345173, Mobile: 01712152467 <a href="mailto:bacbd@gmail.com">bacbd@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Non-formal Education, Skill Development &amp; Vocational Training, Social mobilisation, Health Development, Micro-credit, Scholarship etc.</td>
<td>Concil Member, CAMPE, Executive Member, CODEC, Member Secretary, Informal Sector Industrial Skills Council (IS-ISC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Senior Staff Members of VERC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shaikh Abdul Halim</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>01713030863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md. Yakub Hossain</td>
<td>Deputy Executive Director</td>
<td>01713030885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md. Anwarul Islam</td>
<td>Director, Administration and Finance</td>
<td>01711849291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subash Chandra Saha</td>
<td>Director, Training and Communication</td>
<td>01711404538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md. Mainul Islam</td>
<td>Director, Education</td>
<td>01715095711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md. Masud Hassan</td>
<td>Director, WatSan and Technology</td>
<td>01713017064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md. Azmal Khan</td>
<td>Director, Institution Building and Income Generation</td>
<td>01717471479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Md. Quamrul Islam</td>
<td>Director, Research Evaluation and Documentation</td>
<td>01716049018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARI</td>
<td>Acute Respiratory Infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSAF</td>
<td>Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLTS</td>
<td>Community Led Total Sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTC</td>
<td>Child to Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPE</td>
<td>Campaign for Popular Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMC</td>
<td>Disaster Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPHE</td>
<td>Department of Public Health Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAP</td>
<td>Differently Able People/Perso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBIG</td>
<td>Institution Building and Income Generation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGA</td>
<td>Income Generating Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAP</td>
<td>Indoor Air Pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC</td>
<td>Learning Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFMSF</td>
<td>Micro Finance for Marginal and Small Farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>Micro Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPA</td>
<td>National Plan of Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFE</td>
<td>Non Formal Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFPE</td>
<td>Non Formal Primary Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVA</td>
<td>Participatory Vulnerability Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>Pre-Primary Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTPDI</td>
<td>Preschool Teacher Professional Development Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTA</td>
<td>Parents Teachers Association</td>
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<td>PSTF</td>
<td>Pourashava Sanitation Task Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMC</td>
<td>Rural Micro Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSB</td>
<td>Seesame Street Broadcast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMC</td>
<td>School Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USTF</td>
<td>Union Sanitation Task Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP</td>
<td>Ultra Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WaSH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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