

Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project (NJLIP)

Quarterly Progress Report

(April - June 2016)

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ACRONYM

AMT	: Appraisal & Monitoring Team
CDD	: Community Driven Development
CF	: Cluster Facilitator
CO	: Cluster Officer
CAP	: Community Assessment Process
CISF	: Community Infrastructure Support Fund
CIW	: Community Infrastructure Works
COM	: Community Operation Manual
DT	: District Team
GAAP	: Governance and Accountability Action Plan
GP	: Gram Parishad
GS	: Gram Samiti
HCP	: Hardcore Poor
HR	: Human Resource
IEC	: Information, Education and Communication
IDA	: International Development Association
NJG	: Nuton Jibon Group
MD	: Managing Director
MIS	: Management Information System
ME&L	: Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning
O&M	: Operation and Maintenance
OTR	: On Time Recovery
PMA	: Process Monitoring Agency
PRA	: Participatory Rural Appraisal
SAC	: Social Audit Committee
SC	: Sanchay Committee
SDF	: Social Development Foundation
SIPP	: Social Investment Program Project
TOT	: Training of Trainers
UP	: Union Parishad
VCO	: Village Credit Organization
VDF	: Village Development Fund
VDP	: Village Development Plan
VM	: Village Matrix
VO	: Village Organization

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Annex - 1: Result Framework

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The "Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project (NJLIP)" of SDF is being implemented in full swing as per the project cycle. The project has accomplished selection of all 2,500 villages as per plan. The potential beneficiaries of the project have been indentified and are in a process of being mobilized into Nuton Jibon groups. Moreover, a substantial portion of the villages have completed necessary formalities for receiving project funds as per project guidelines. In the mean time some of the villages have received 1st installment of Institutional Development Fund (IDF) of Village Development Fund (VDF).

2. PROJECT SNAPSHOT

2.1 The NJLIP, with a funding envelop of US\$ 220 million, aims at providing support to around 500,000 extreme poor and poor households in 2500 villages of 12 poverty-prone districts of the country. Besides, 3,142 villages (excluding 120 villages from where the project exited) of SIPP-II are also being supported through second-tier institutions - Nuton Jibon Community Society (NJCS), formed at district and cluster levels. Thus, 1,158,661 (including 658,661 HHs of SIPP-2) extreme poor and poor households of 5,642 villages of 88 Upazila in 22 districts are directly benefitting as a result of implementation of NJLIP. What is more important, out of all beneficiaries, 90 percent are turned out to be women that depict a pleasant picture of socio-economic uplifting.

2.2 The Project Development Objective (PDO) of NJLIP is *to improve livelihoods of the poor and extreme poor people in the project areas*. Out of the total funding envelop, US\$ 200 million is provided by the World Bank to meet up the program cost whilst the operational cost of the project (US\$20 million) is funded by the Government of Bangladesh. In addition to 16 districts of SIPP-2, 5 more districts and one Upazila of Gopalganj district has been included to NJLIP coverage. The implementation areas of NJLIP are shown in the Map 1.

2.3 In line with the Government of Bangladesh's 'Vision-2021' where eradication of extreme poverty has been prioritized, the project mainly focuses on improvement of livelihoods of the extreme poor and poor beneficiaries and is delivering its benefits to people who mostly deserve, and empowering and strengthening the skill of self-management of the beneficiaries to foster and expedite further economic growth and so as to overall development. Moreover, NJLIP has incorporated the pivotal determinant of development in third world country like Bangladesh, raising nutrition awareness and improving health and hygiene of the project beneficiaries especially among the poor pregnant, lactating mothers and children under 5 years of age which eventually benefit others with its multiplier effect.

2.4 The project areas specially the districts and Upazilas have been selected in accordance with the HIES Survey 2010 conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics which is well illustrated in Project Appraisal Document.

2.5 The implementation areas of the project are illustrated in table 1 and depicted in Map 1.

Table 1: Implementation area of NJLIP

Region	Phase out districts (NJCS)			SIPP 2 (NJCS) and NJLIP Districts				NJLIP Districts		
	District	Uz	Vill	District	Uz	S-2Vill	N Vill	District	Uz	Vill
Khulna	Kurigram	3	190	Rangpur	7	220	190	Khulna	3	240
	Nilphamari	2	186							
	Dinajpur	4	160							
	Gaibandha	5	417							
	Naogaon	3	180							
	5	17	1133	1	7	220	190	2	8	590
Mymensing	Sirajganj	4	223	Sherpur	4	118	140	Chandpur	5	350
	Jamalpur	7	501	Mymensing	7	179	180	Comilla	3	240
		2	11	724	3	15	357	460	2	8
Barisal	Potua khali	2	100	Barisal	6	90	210	Shariatpur ¹	3	220
	Borguna	3	251	Bagerhat	4	132	120			
		2	5	351	3	14	357			
3	9	33	2,208	7	36	934	1,100	6	19	1,400
SIPP-2: Dist:16, village: 3142				NJLIP Dist: 12, village: 2,500						

Uz: Upazila, S-2: SIPP-2, N: NJLIP, Vill: Village ;

Map 1: Implementation area of NJLIP



¹ Activities in one Upazila of Gopalganj district will be managed from Shariatpur.

Table 2: Region wise implementation areas of NJLIP

Region	District	Upazila	Union	Cluster	Village
Mymensingh	Mymensingh	3	17	6	180
	Comilla	3	24	8	240
	Chandpur	5	33	11	350
	Sherpur	2	12	4	140
	Sylhet	2	10	4	140
Sub-total		15	96	33	1050
Khulna	Khulna	3	17	8	240
	Rangpur	3	16	6	190
	Satkhira	5	34	11	350
Sub-total		11	67	25	780
Barisal	Barisal	3	17	7	210
	Bagerhat	2	10	4	120
	Pirojpur	2	10	4	120
	Shariatpur	3	20	7	220
Sub-total		10	57	22	670
Total		36	220	80	2500

3. PROGRESS IN PDO LEVEL RESULT INDICATORS

3.1 The key indicators of Project Development Objectives (PDO) are as follow:

- a. Livelihoods (increase in household income)
- b. Outreach and coverage (number of direct beneficiaries by gender and outreach per village)
- c. Strengthened self management (index measuring empowerment and gender aspects)

3.2 As on June 2016, the project has included 218,174 beneficiaries in addition to 526,928 (80% of the total as per result framework) beneficiaries of SIPP-2 bringing the total to 745,102 beneficiaries, which is 109% of the outreach estimation of 680,000 for FY 2016 of the result framework of NJLIP.

3.3 In order to measure empowerment of the beneficiary women and gender aspects of project, 10 indicators have been identified primarily for male and female headed households separately and shared with the World Bank. SDF has taken into consideration the experiences of Char Livelihood Project (CLP) to measure women's empowerment, and decided to conduct FGDs to validate and finalize the indicators received from CLP. The indicators for male headed households are: 1) Making decisions in the household jointly with male household member; 2) Having an independent income; 3) Keeping the family's cash; 4) Can spend a portion of her income at her will; 5) Having own savings; 6) Membership of an organization; 7) Ability to resolve conflict in the community; 8) Can express herself freely and boldly at an office; 9) Being asked for advice by other community

members; 10) Being invited to social occasions. In case of female headed households, indicators no. 1, 3 and 4 as mentioned above are replaced by three other indicators i.e. 1) Ability to run her family independently; 2) Ownership of an asset; 3) Giving due importance of her opinion by the family members.

4.0 COMPONENT AND SUB-COMPONENT WISE DETAILED PROGRESS

4.1 The Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project (NJLIP) consists of three major components and corresponding sub-components. These components are as follows:

- A. Community Institutions and Livelihood Development
- B. Business Development and Institutional Strengthening
- C. Project Management, Monitoring and Learning

4.1 Component A - Community Institutions and Livelihood Development

There are three sub-components under component A. The sub-components directly deal with targeted beneficiaries. The objectives of this component are to mobilize the extreme poor and poor through effective village institutions, to provide funds for building small infrastructure, for supporting livelihood improvement, youth employment and raising nutrition awareness among the beneficiaries. Sub-component wise progress is illustrated in the followings.

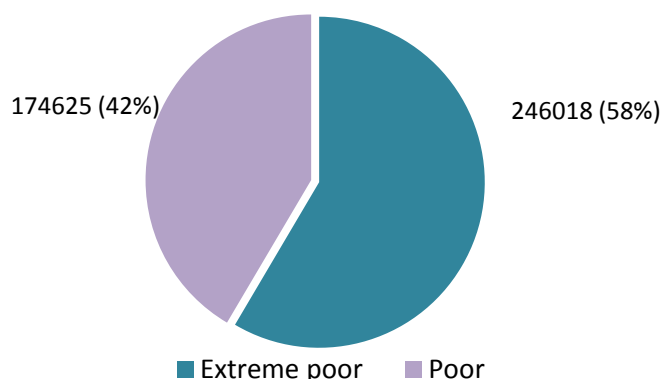
4.1.1 Sub-component A 1 - Development and Strengthening of Community Organization

En route to sustainable community institutions, various activities were implemented during the reporting quarter. Main activities under the sub-component are as follows:

- Finalizing selection of all project villages;
- Identifying and enlisting potential beneficiaries in the project areas by conducting Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP);
- Mobilizing extreme poor, poor, and youths into NJG groups;
- Providing assistance in formation of village institutions (committees);
- Facilitating savings activity;
- Setting-up of GS office;
- Providing assistance in preparing Village Development Plan for utilization of Village Development Fund.

In line with the key activities, the project initiated a massive IEC campaign that ended up with finalization of all 2,500 villages within stipulated time period. As on June 2016, a total of 420,643 extreme poor and poor HHs have been identified in the project villages through PIP. Of the total identified HHs, 58% are extreme poor and the rest are poor.

Pie 1: Share of identified extreme poor and poor HHs



Although the project estimation was 200 HHs per village, the project finds 168 HHs on an average in the project villages. Data relating to region wise identification of potential HHs is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Region wise identification of potential beneficiary HHs

Region	Extreme poor HH	Poor HH	Total HH	Regional target*	Percent of the target	Avg target HHs per village
Mymensingh	103,327	70,652	173,979	210,000	83%	166
Khulna	85,829	46,343	132,172	156,000	85%	169
Barisal	56,862	57,630	114,492	134,000	85%	171
Total	246,018	174,625	420,643	500,000	84%	168

* Number village X 200 HHs

During the reporting quarter, a total of 143,791 members (including youths) from 132,049 HHs have been mobilized into NJGs that brings the total to 218,174 members from 201,214 HHs till June 2016. Up till June 2016, on average, 87.3 members and 80.5 HHs have joined NJGs per village. It is also expected that during the next quarter, the remaining eligible HHs will be joining the NJGs. However, of the 201,214 (48%) HHs mobilized into NJGs, 62% is extreme poor and rest 38% is poor. On the other hand, 51% of the identified extreme poor HHs and 44% of the identified poor HHs mobilized into NJGs [Table 4].

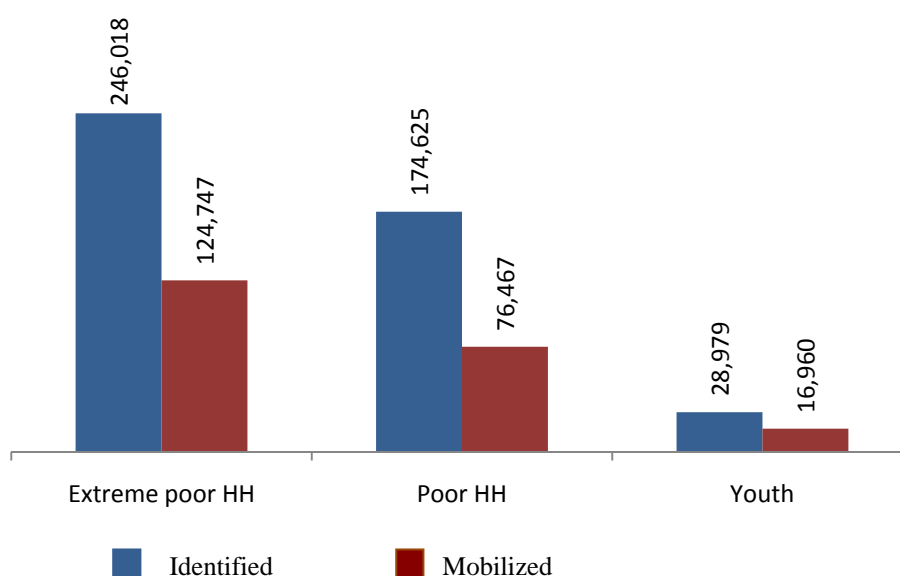
Apart from that, a total of 28,979 potential poor youths have been identified in the project villages of whom, 59% (16,960) have been mobilized into NJGs till June 2016. It is expected that the number of inclusion of the potential youths will increase gradually as the project goes on. Current status of region wise mobilization of potential beneficiaries into NJGs is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Region wise mobilization of beneficiaries into NJGs

Region	Extreme poor HHs	Poor HHs	Total HHs	Youth members	Total members	Percentage of identified HH
Mymensing	47,665	29,562	77,227	6,463	83,690	44%
Khulna	52,123	25,453	77,576	6,363	83,939	59%
Barisal	24,959	21,452	46,411	4,134	50,545	41%
Total	124,747	76,467	201,214	16,960	218,174	48%

A total of 18,167 NJGs (on average 12 members per group) have been formed till June 2016 of which, 55% (10,022) is extreme poor while 35% (6,380) and 10% (1,765) are poor and youths respectively.

Column Chart 1: Identification and mobilization of beneficiaries



Formation of various committees at village level is pivotal to functioning of the project. Data relating to formation of various committees is presented in the table 5.

Table 5: Formation of various VO committees in project villages

Name of committee formed	April-June '16	Cumulative	Percentage
Nuton Jibon Group (NJG)	11,782	18,167	52%
Sanchay Committee (SC)	942	1733	69%
Gram Samiti (GS)	929	1734	69%
Village Credit Organization (VCO)	916	1686	67%
Social Audit Committee (SAC)	917	1687	67%

Taking into account the current trend of NJG formation, it has been assumed that a total of 35,000 NJGs will be formed across the project areas putting an average of 14 NJGs per village. As per this assumption, current achievement of NJG formation is 52%.

Community Finance: As on June 2016, Gram Samiti Office established (on rented houses) in 462 villages although savings activity started in 1,628 (65%) villages. More than 93% (203,664) NJG members are depositing savings on a regular basis. A total of BDT 18.52 million as savings has been accumulated as on June 2016 of which, 87% (BDT 15.89 million) has been deposited during the reporting quarter. Table 6 shows data regarding savings activity.

Table 6: Savings activity

Type of NJG	Members depositing savings	% of members depositing savings	Amount*	Percentage
Extreme Poor	117,119	94%	10.70	57.8%
Poor	71,060	93%	6.46	34.9%
Youth	15,485	91%	1.35	7.3%
Total	203,664	93%	18.52	100%

* BDT in millions

An increasing trend in overall savings is shown in Table 7 below by the NJG members with cumulative status of the reporting quarter along with previous one.

Table 7: Comparison between Q3 and Q4 of savings by the NJG members

Region	As on March 2016			As on June 2016			Increase/decrease in per cent
	Total members	Members deposited savings	%	Total members	Members deposited savings	%	
Mymensingh	29,782	22,525	76	83,690	76,848	92	16%
Khulna	40,616	40,246	99	83,939	82,484	98	-1%
Barisal	3,985	3,413	86	50,545	44,332	88	2%
Total	74,383	66,184	89	218,174	203,664	93	4%

Besides, internal lending activity has also been started by the NJG members. During the reporting quarter (and as on June 2016), a total of 2,979 members have taken loan amounting to BDT 5.92 million from their accumulated savings. The outstanding portfolio against internal lending is BDT 5.22 million. On Time Recovery Rate (OTR) and Cumulative Recovery Rate (CRR) of internal lending are 100 per cent. Table 8 below shows region wise internal lending status.

Table 8: Region wise internal lending status in April-June 2016

Region	Total loans	Total borrowers	Loan amount*	Cumulative loan amount*
Mymensingh	1018	1018	1.91	1.91
Khulna	1436	1436	3.11	3.11
Barisal	525	525	0.90	0.90
Total	2979	2979	5.92	5.92

* BDT in million

Environmental and Technical: During the quarter (as on June 2016 as well), Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) completed in 1,261(50.4%) villages of which, 485 (46%) in Mymensing, 422 (54%) in Khulna, and 354 (53%) in Barisal. A total of 213,502 HHs have

been covered in the project areas through PVA. However, PVA in all 2,500 villages will be accomplished within the next quarter. Village development plans for constructing rural infrastructures have been prepared in 1,261 villages worth approximately BDT 2079.78 million of CISF. Region wise share of estimated CISF and planned infrastructures are shown in Pie 2 and Table 9 respectively.

Pie 2: Region wise share of estimated cost of Community Infrastructure Work (CIW) in BDT

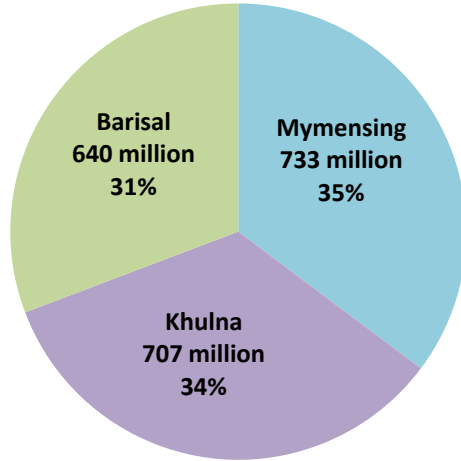


Table 9: Infrastructure development plan prepared till June 2016

Region	District	Infrastructure planned				
		GS office	HBB road (Km)	Culvert	Tube-well	Other
Mymensingh	Mymensingh	88	0	94	97	61
	Sherpur	63	4.05	129	2	8
	Chandpur	158	2.05	30	753	7
	Sylhet	71	4	9	184	0
	Comilla	105	2.79	25	302	16
	Total	485	12.9	287	1,338	92
Khulna	Khulna	135	7	64	589	1071
	Satkhira	149	9.703	75	564	25
	Rangpur	138	4.777	267	12	140
	Total	422	21.5	406	1,165	1,236
Barisal	Barisal	104	3	41	651	6
	Sariatpur	126	1.18	18	815	0
	Pirojpur	61	6.598	84	272	6
	Bagerhat	63	5.155	41	111	20
	Total	354	16	184	1,849	32
Grant Total		1,261	50	877	4,352	1360

Construction of rain water harvesting plants, each for 5-10 HHs (depending on location), have been planned by the NJG members in the villages under five cluster offices of Khulna district aiming to get rid of their shortage of potable water in dry season. For this, the number under the column "Other" infrastructure in Khulna region is higher than that of other two regions.

4.1.2 Sub-component A 2 - Financing of Community Plans

Main objective of this sub-component is to finance community plans through Village Development Fund (VDF) that consists of three sub-funds (i) Institutional Development Fund (IDF); (ii) Shabolombi Fund (SF); (iii) Community Infrastructure Support Fund (CISF).

During the reporting quarter, a total of BDT 563.116 million disbursed to 862 (34.48%) villages as 1st installment of IDF, which is the total share of VDF provided as on June 2016. Region wise funding data is presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Region wise IDF status (BDT in millions)

Region	IDF provided	Number of village	average IDF/village
Mymensing	212.398	346	0.61
Khulna	190.342	301	0.63
Barisal	160.376	215	0.74
Total	563.116	862	0.65

As on June 2016, a total of 12,344 vulnerable people (4.93 per village) were identified in the project areas of whom, 516 received one-time grant. Besides, 120 youths received training on skills development while 675 villages prepared youth database containing information about the young male and female.

4.1.3 Sub-component A 3 - Nutrition Awareness and Support

The sub-component A-3 aims to raise awareness, improve attitudes and practices that enhance nutritional outcomes for targeted beneficiaries and to support them in optimizing their livelihood activities.

Since the activities under this sub-component is going to be implemented by partner NGOs, SDF has been working for finding appropriate NGOs for last couple of months. In this regard, an advertisement for EOI was published in the national dailies on May 16 this year with latest date of submission of EOI on June 13. After the deadline, SDF constituted a five-member committee including nutrition experts from national and international organizations to evaluate the EOIs received from interested NGOs. The evaluation is in the pipeline and report will be shared with the Bank very soon.

A two-day workshop in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was held at SDF head office in the reporting quarter. The main objective of the workshop was to sensitize the target participants to perceive the difference between the nutrition-specific (or direct nutrition) and nutrition-sensitive (or indirect nutrition) interventions and to get an overall understanding/impression about the scopes of nutrition-sensitive interventions within

the IGAs (Income Generating Activities) of NJLIP. SDF's regional and district level concerned staff members along with SDF's head office staffs participated in the workshop. SDF is going to hold similar kind of workshops shortly at regional and district levels to build further awareness of the field staff members.

4.2 Component B – Business Development and Institutional Strengthening

This component aims to increase livelihood opportunities of extreme poor and poor by facilitating their organization into producer groups, cooperatives and societies and by improving their market and business orientation and forward and backward linkages in the market systems. Component B comprises of the following three sub-components. Progress under this component is illustrated in accordance with the sub-components in the followings.

4.2.1 Sub-component B.1- Business Partnership Development and Market Linkages

The sub-component aims at increasing livelihood opportunities of the extreme poor and poor by organizing them into producer groups, cooperatives or federations and improving their market and business orientation as well as forward and backward linkages in the market systems. All investments under this sub-component went to the SIPP-2 areas as no such activity has started yet in the NJLIP area.

During the reporting quarter (and as on June 2016), a total of 42 stakeholders' workshops held, of which 13 workshops held in Mymensingh, 17 in Khulna, and 12 in Barisal regions respectively. These district (30 counts) and Upazila (12 counts) level workshops usually had 25-40 participants each who were the local service providers (public and private organizations) and producer group members. The workshops aimed at exploring livelihood services available at district/Upazila levels and finding ways to avail them. In addition, the workshops elicited strategies to build professional network/rapport with the service providers to leverage their maximum support.

Business development training for the producer groups (PG) held during the reporting quarter in the regions Mymensingh and Barisal where 202 PG members participated. The main objectives of the training were to develop business attitude, marketing skills, and cost-benefit analysis of investment. In addition, 60 producer group members have been oriented on issues relating to Productive Investment Fund (PIF) in Mymensingh region. Some other activities were carried out in SIPP-2 areas during the quarter as shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Livelihood activity in SIPP-2 area under NJLIP

Activity	Regional progress Q-4			Total	Cum.
	Mm	Kh	Br		
Stakeholder workshop at Upazila level (# of workshops)	9	12	9	30	30
Stakeholder workshop at district level (# of workshops)	4	5	3	12	12
Business development training to PG members	144	-	58	202	202
Orientation of producer group on PIF (# of members)	60	-	-	60	60
Refresher training on livelihood development (# of staff)	82	109	105	296	296
Meeting with LSP at district level (# of meeting)	6	6	5	17	17
Special meeting with actors of private sector	-	1	2	3	3
Exposure visit for NJG members (# of members)	96	0	58	154	154

Mm-Mymensing, Kh-Khulna, Br-Barisal

4.2.2 Sub-component B.2- Second-tier Institutional Development Support

The sub-component aims to support the networking of the second tier village-level institutions called Nuton Jibon Community Society (NJCS).

As on June 2016, a total of 139 NJCSs have been established in SIPP-2 area of which, 15 Nuton Jibon District Community Societies (NJDCS) in 15 districts and 124 Nuton Jibon Cluster Community Societies (NJCCS) in 124 clusters. All NJCSs have been formed and are functioning as per project guidelines. All the NJCSs offices have been set-up at the respective districts and clusters on rental basis.

During the reporting quarter, a total of BDT 27.23 million has been disbursed to the NJCSs as second installments of IDF from NJLIP fund. In total, BDT 142.97 million has been disbursed to the NJCSs across the project area as on June 2016 that includes 1st installment of IDF of BDT 115.74 million. Region wise disbursement is shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Region wise disbursement to NJCSs (BDT in millions)

Region	Disbursement		Total disbursement
	1st inst. (SIPP-2)	2nd inst. (NJLIP)	
Mymensingh	34.01	10.81	44.82
Khulna	39.60	4.63	44.23
Barisal	42.13	11.79	53.92
Total	115.74	27.23	142.97

As on June 2016, a total of 2,987 (95%) SIPP-2 villages have obtained membership of NJCS; Mymensingh region - 1044 villages (96.57%), Khulna region - 1235 villages (91.27%), Barisal region - 708 villages (100%). As on June 2016, a total of 2,938 member-villages have paid their NJCS membership fees of Tk. 10,000 each bringing the total BDT 29.38 million. The whole amount has been deposited with the designated bank accounts as per project guidelines. Of the amount disbursed to the NJCSs, an amount of BDT 44.91 million has been deposited as Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) and in the meantime generated BDT 1.87 million interest.

As on June 2016, a total of 5,752 Producer Groups (PG) have been formed, and 326,830 beneficiaries have been supported by the PGs. Besides, a total of 1,985 villages in SIPP-2 areas were supported by NJCSs. NJCSs managed to establish a total of 156 linkages with various organizations/firms by the end of the reporting quarter.

4.2.3 Sub-component B.3- Employment Generation Support

This sub-component aims to provide opportunities for youth in the project villages to gain skills and access to employment opportunities. As on June 2016, a total of 28,979 potential youths have been identified in the project area and 16,960 youths have been mobilized into 1,765 NJGs (on average 9.6 youths per NJG). Couple of facts and figures relating to youth activities is presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Data relating to youth activities (cumulative)

Facts	Mymensingh	Khulna	Barisal	Total
# of youths identified	13,020	7,631	8,328	28,979
# of youths mobilized into NJGs	6,463 (50%)	6,363 (83%)	4,134 (50%)	16,960 (58%)
# of youth NJGs formed	703	635	427	1,765
# of villages created youth database (all in Q4)	74	391	210	675
# of youth trained (all in Q4)	-	112	08	120

During the quarter (and as on June 2016), 76 youths from the Khulna region received BDT 0.495 million as skills development loan. On an average, each youth member took Tk. 6,513.

Besides, as part of SDF's relentless efforts to establishing partnership with various organizations potential for youth skills development and employment, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between SDF and UCEP Bangladesh in Rangpur district. According to the MoU, the counterpart would provide training to and arrange jobs (in various companies on completion of training) for the youth NJG members. Another successful partnership with Khulna Shipyard Technical Training Center (KSTTC) is in the pipeline that will create wider opportunity for the NJG youths. Currently, 21 youths are receiving a 6-month long training at the KSTTC. **Moreover, they are getting Tk. 700 each as monthly stipend. These youths will get certificates from Bangladesh Technical Curriculum Board upon successful completion of their training courses, and jobs at KSTTC. It is expected that the aforesaid organizations will create opportunities for many NJG youths in the coming days.**

During the reporting quarter, 53 meetings were held across the project areas with the NJG youths, where 1,020 youths participated. Those meetings aimed at motivating the youths to get involved with productive ventures and to become self reliant. Besides, five exposure visits to the training center of Bangla German Sampreeti (BGS) located in Tangail took place during the reporting quarter, where 86 youths participated from Mymensingh region.

4.3 Component C - Project Management, Monitoring and Learning

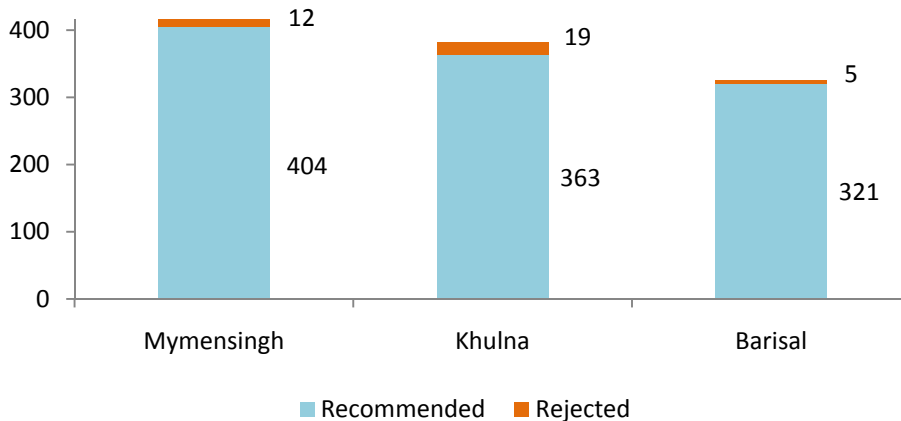
The objective of this component is to provide support to SDF management to ensure proper functioning of the project through the process of monitoring, the project's internal mechanism and deploying third party for external monitoring to ensure transparency and accountability. This component is comprised of three sub-components that are illustrated in the followings.

4.3.1 Sub-component C.1- Project Management

This sub-component supports the operating costs of the project (National, regional, and district levels) e.g. project staff's salary, office operating costs, training and consulting services. The sub-component also supports activities aiming to ensure proper functioning of the project like auditing, appraisal monitoring as well as activities relating to accountability issues.

Appraisal Monitoring: During the reporting quarter, SDF received 1,228 fund proposals of which, 1124 were appraised by the appraisal monitoring team (AMT). On the basis of criteria set out, total 1088 proposals have been qualified and recommended for releasing of fund. AMT appraised 416 proposals from Mymensingh, 382 proposals from Khulna, and 326 proposals from Barisal regions. The overall success rate of the fund proposals is 97 per cent. Region wise recommendation/ rejection of the proposals' data are presented in the Column Chart 1.

Column chart 2: Region wise status for fund proposals



Factors contributed (but not all at a time) to the rejection of fund proposals:

- Fund proposal was not consistent with PIP information;
- Committee leaders did not know their roles and responsibilities;
- Skills development training plan for the youth was not prepare accordingly;
- Ineffective pre-appraisal by operational team.

During the reporting quarter, in total, 51 (4.37% of received) fund proposals were returned after desk appraisal by RAMTs whilst 12 (1.17%) fund proposals were qualified through re-appraisal. The RAMTs shared their field findings and recommendations with the community members in the GP meetings during appraisal so that they could rectify their shortfalls. The same findings are also shared with concerned program teams.

Human Resources: During the reporting period, 39 Cluster Facilitator (CF) and 14 Peon cum guard have been recruited following standard recruiting procedure. In total, 1217 staff members are working at SDF presently at 15 different levels. During this period, a total of 475 staff members were appraised as part of SDF's annual performance appraisal system. Of the appraised staffs, 469 obtained yearly increments due to their satisfactory performances.

Capacity Building Initiatives: In order to develop skills and aptitude of the staff and community members, the project undertook numerous initiatives at both project and village level during the reporting quarter as shown in Table 14.

Table 14: Major training/orientation programs and participants during April-June 2016

Name of Training/Orientation	Participants		
	SDF	Community	Other stakeholder
Orientation on COM	461	-	-
Training on ESMF	220	-	-
Training on implementation of livelihoods development activities	187	-	-
Training on Community Finance	340	-	-
Accounts and book keeping	108	-	-
Training on PVA	150	-	-
Stakeholder workshop: district and Upazila level	-	-	632
Training on COM and various IGAs	-	83,650	-

Other stakeholders include district & Upazila level government officials, business operators, and NGOs representatives.

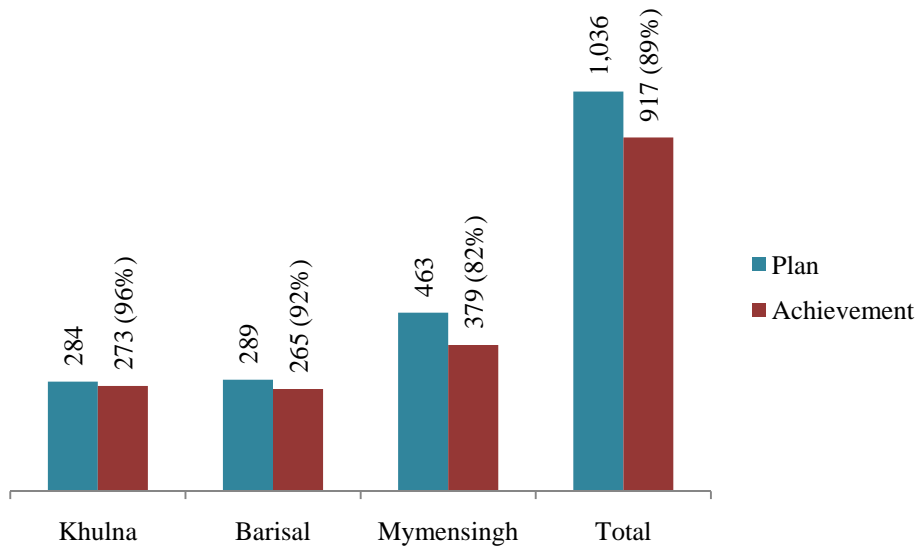
Governance and Accountability: The Governance and Accountability, a cross cutting issue in SDF, plays a pivotal role in establishing integrity and transparency across the programs to a substantial extent. In order to prepare the report all relevant issues considering the achievement of milestones by SDF have been meticulously analyzed for the quarter April-June '16 to take stock of the NJLIP.

Since the inception of NJLIP in August 2015 SDF has been able to pass through the inceptive stage successfully leading to ensuring achievement of independent milestones vis-à-vis governance and accountability that illustrates a favorable results whilst some other milestones are going to be achieved in next quarters as per village development cycle and program design. In terms of constituting the Social Audit Committees (SACs) in the project villages, 89% achievement as a whole is observed in this quarter against a plan in all three regions.

The performance of all three regions demonstrates a satisfactory achievement leaving a niche for some the villages to perform better and catch up quickly. The regions-wise analysis of

achievement showing that both Khulna and Barisal regions turned out with 96% and 92% achievement respectively in forming SACs whilst Mymensingh region is illustrating 82%. The underlying reasons behind the fact are some districts have planned to achieve their target during the next July-September '16 quarter. As soon as the formation of Social Audit Committees (SACs) is completed in all regions as per village development cycle, capacity building trainings will be provided for conducting Governance and Accountability Action Plan (GAAP) and Community Assessment Process (CAP) in order to enable SACs to monitor their activities in all areas. SDF has started conducting GAAP and plan is in place to start CAP as per project design.

Column Chart 3: Region wise status of SAC formation in the April-June '16



Redressing grievance:

We have received two grievance complaints in this quarter on telephone from Satkhira district office which duly have been recorded in the grievance complain book and resolved accordingly. The complaints were collective in nature as two of our peons/guards working in Satkhira district office raised their concern apropos of delay in getting the payment of provident fund and gratuity. As soon as the complaints received from, initiative was taken and resolved the issue instantly.

4.3.2 Sub-component C.2- Monitoring and Learning

Monitoring and Information System (MIS): In order to establish an effective project monitoring system, SDF intended to update its MIS software to a more flexible web based version, which is currently a desktop based version. For this, SDF published advertisement in the national dailies in last April requesting EOI from eligible firms. Subsequently, SDF received 13 EOIs from various firms. An evaluation committee formed in this regard, shortlisted 5 firms by following the criteria which will be shared with the WB.

Loan Management System (LMS): Based on the completion report of ICT piloting carried out in SIPP-2 villages, it has been decided to scale up the ICT model in NJLIP villages to digitize (accessible online) the loan management system (to capture data at VCO level) of the project villages. The budget allocation in the cost table has already been revised. A draft EOI has been prepared which was sent to the World Bank in July 2016 for its comments. Further actions will be taken after receiving feedback from the WB.

Baseline Survey: Advertisement for submission of EOI published in the national dailies in April 2016. A total of 29 EOIs received from which a shortlist of 6 firms prepared by a EOI evaluation committee. A summary report on EOIs of short listed firms and RFP has been prepared for sharing with the World Bank for its comments. Further actions will be taken after receiving feedback from the WB.

Hiring Process Monitoring Agency: Draft REOI for re-advertisement has been prepared for sharing with the World Bank. Further actions will be taken after receiving feedback from the WB.

Scorecard for measuring self-management of beneficiaries: SDF received 10 indicators from the WB that were used in scorecard to measure women's empowerment in Char Livelihood Program (CLP). The indicators were set as per CLP beneficiaries' perception about Women's Empowerment. Taking into account the contextual differences between NJLIP and CLP, SDF decided to conduct field test of the indicators before fitting into its own scorecard.

In order to confirm the indicators, six focus group discussions (FGD) were held in equal number of SIPP-2 villages in the regions Khulna and Barisal. As SDF got to learn from CLP's experience that indicators for male-headed households differ from that of female headed households, two FGDs were conducted with the NJG members from female-headed households. The rest four FGDs were held with NJG members from male-headed households. Based on the output of the FGDs, two sets of indicators 10 in each have been prepared and sent the World Bank for its comments. Further actions will be taken after receiving feedback from the WB.

5.0 PROJECT FINANCING

The total disbursement (IDA) for the period April - June 2016 was BDT 719.886 million (USD 9.11 million). On the other hand, cumulative disbursement for the FY 15-16 was BDT 944.716 million (USD 11.96 million) against FY's budget of BDT 1,002.8 million (USD 12.69 million). Component wise expenditure of IDA is stated in Table 15.

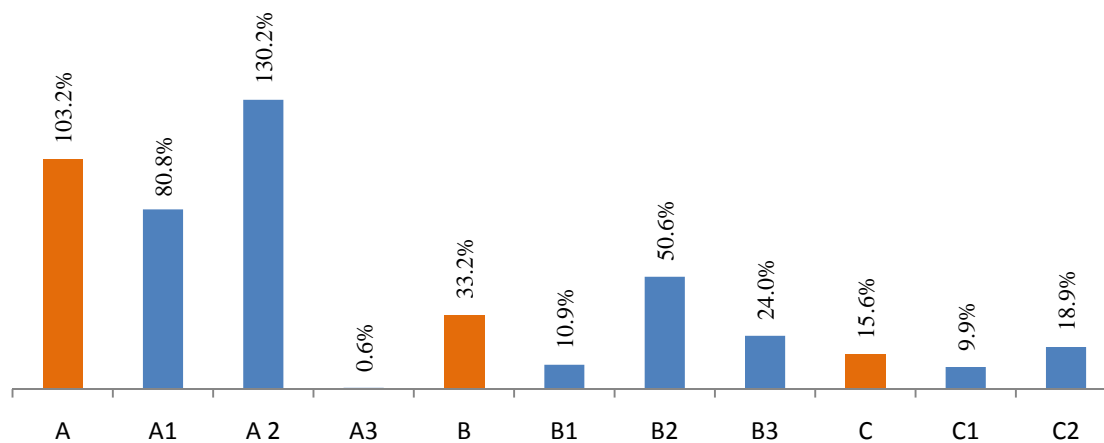
Table 15: Component wise budget and expenditure (figures in '000 Taka)

Component and Sub-component		Budget for FY 15-16	Expenditure for FY 15-16	Expenditure for April-June '16
Component A - Community Institutions and Livelihood Development		879,635	907,942	686,421
A1	Development and Strengthening of Community Organization	426,378	344,703	123,293
A 2	Financing of Community Plans	432,501	563,116	563,117
A3	Nutrition Awareness and Support	20,757	123	10
Component B - Business Development and Institutional Strengthening		100,043	33,177	31,186
B1	Business Partnership Development and Market Linkages	40,095	4,379	2,647
B2	Second-tier Institutional Development Support	54,258	27,434	27,434
B3	Employment Generation Support	5,691	1,364	1,105
Component C- Project Management, Monitoring and Learning		23,122	3,597	2,279
C1	Project Management	8,659	860	130
C2	Monitoring and Learning	14,463	2,737	2,149
Grand Total		1,002,800	944,716	719,886

* USD 1 is equal to BDT 79

A substantial portion, 71.78% of allocated budget of the yearly plan was spent this quarter as the project gained its full momentum. Overall burn rate of the project for FY 15-16 was 94.2%.

Column Chart 3: Component wise cumulative expenditure (in percent) against plan for FY 15-16



Under-expenditure against plan is manifested from Table 15 and Column Chart 2 under the sub-component A3 (0.6%) and Component C (15.6%). Hiring of NGOs for implementing nutrition related activities under sub-component A3 delayed due to some technical difficulties. The initial decision of procuring non-consultancy services through Open Tender Method (OTM) from INGO/NGO/PO was shifted to procuring consultancy services through QCBS method that resulted in a fresh start over and the process delayed. On the other hand, hiring of firms to develop MIS and LMS, to conduct baseline survey, and to carry out third party monitoring delayed for various unavoidable reasons. All these procurement procedures are underway at the moment which will be accomplished soon. For this, unspent budgeted amount is to be carried forward to next fiscal year.

6.0 LESSONS LEARNT

- Holding of regular bi-monthly coordination meetings, which has been introduced in NJLIP, with HQ, region and district level key staff members appears to be very beneficial for the project in terms of ensuring quality of project activities, receiving feedback from the field functionaries, establishing accountability of field level managers, taking vital decisions in participatory ways, putting finger on the exact point of the problems arise time to time, finding solutions to the challenges, and improving coordination between various tiers of the project;
- Timely follow-up of management decisions such as, meeting minutes, office circulars regarding instructions from MoF or feedback from the WB etc. has opened new avenues to find out the way to establish accountability at different level thus helps to improve the quality of the project implementation process.

