



DIRECT AID PROGRAM
ACQUITTAL REPORT No.

PROJECT DETAILS (to be completed by applicant or DAP coordinator in collaboration with the applicant)

Name of project: **Broad-based Coalition and Advocacy for Human Rights Project –BCAHR**
Recipient country: Bangladesh
Location (eg town/province): Sharishabari Upazila under Jamalpur District
Amount of funding: Tk- 4,09,500/-
When was funding sent? April 2006

ACQUITTAL REPORT (to be completed by applicant)

Yes No

Has the project been fully completed as agreed with the Australian mission?

If not, please explain below in the box below.

Please Explain Exactly How Dap Funds Were Spent And Attach Original Receipts And/Or Documentation, Including Photographs If Available (If Not Already Provided To The Embassy/High Commission). What Have Been The Impact And Outcomes Of Dap Funding On Your Organization And Its Work?

Objectives of the BCAHR project

Goal of the project

The project aims at improving human rights situation and reduces the incident of violence against women by means of cooperation with change agents both within civil societies and government institutions.

Specific objectives of the project

(1) To foster awareness of the cross-section people on human rights and position the local Civil Society Organizations into a platform of greater collaboration and broadening their role to achieve influence on policy environment and decision making process to protect denials of human rights

(2) To initiate self-help initiatives of the rural women to safeguard themselves from range of violence against women.

Brief description of the project

Fundamentally, the project intends to widen the scope of civil societies to influence the institutions of government and other rights holders to fulfill their obligations to protect and promote the realizations of human rights by strengthening the collaborations of civil

societies and human rights actors. The basic understanding is all citizens and their institutions and political structures have reversible responsibilities and accountabilities in the context of protecting human rights. Citizens have to play proactive role to realize his/her rights. These responsibilities and accountabilities operate at all levels or sections of society. From the viewpoint project will employ multi-pronged strategies to institute the structure and mechanisms that will allow the citizens to work collectively for protecting across sections violation of human rights particularly violence against women and other systemic denial of human rights. The citizen groups will also employ range of techniques for human rights advocacy to foster responsiveness and hold public officers accountable for fulfilling the rights. In order to realize this strategic objective, the project will take on extensive programs to primarily organize the key actors such as CSO's towards building a platform for fighting against violation of human rights. Thus one of the key thrusts of the project will be to build up coalitions of CSO's to sensitize as well activate their members and member organizations on human rights and violation of human rights within the respective Upazila.

The project also aims to activate the local women, grassroots women groups of DEW and also UP Women Members to fight against violation of women rights and reduce various oppressions, violence or any sorts of brutality against women. Aiming to this it will build up local level women coalition headed by the UP Women Members to deal with all sorts of violence against women and provide legal and other support to the victims. It is hypothesized that strong network of local women in turn will be morale backup and supporting force for the elected women to deal with range of violence against women.

The progressive realization of human rights requires resources and strategic planning for medium and long-term action. Before commencing the intervention for promoting improved human rights situation project will organize CSO's coalitions in the targeted Upazila. Coalitions will undertake a participatory needs-assessment of the human rights situation in the working Upazila so as to identify priority human rights problems of the locality and determine the scope and approach of the human rights initiatives by them. In the process public officers and other socio-political groups whose behavior affect the human rights situations will be involved. The findings of the assessment will lead to a joint plan of action for improving human rights situation.

Planned versus actual accomplishment of activities with explanation of deviation, if any

Sl #	Activities	Planned of activities (Up to Project period)	Achievement (By the project period)	Deviation	Remarks (Or causes of deviation)
01	Human Rights Coalition and Women Rights Committee formation and operation (HRC & WRC)	02	02	00	100% Completed
02	Training on Human Rights and Advocacy	01	01	00	100% Completed

	to member of (HRC & WRC)				
05	Human Rights Situation Review	01	01	00	100% Completed
03	Dialogues of HRC	04	03	01	Due to time constant
04	Training on Human Rights for Government officials of Upazila	01	01	00	100% Completed
06	Citizen dialogue jointly with Public institutions	04	04	00	100% Completed
07	Advocacy meeting with public Institutions	10	08	02	Due to time constant
08	Social Mobilization at Upazila level	05	05	00	100% Completed
08	Grassroots awareness on HR	2000	2150	00	150 grassroots women over awarded on HR
08	Seed capital for activities of WRC to support victims and other mobilization.	100	95	05 no victim support is remaining	Due to time constant

Highlights of the Past 9 Months performed major activities:

Over the 9 months as a final reporting period the project has accomplished a number of activities and advocacy initiatives at local level. Here goes the short summary of these accomplishments:

Training on Human Rights with HRC members & Govt. officials:

03 no training has completed in this period. Two trainings are HRC & WRC Coalition members. The level participant's of HRC & WRC were Journalist, College & Schools teacher, Social Elites, Village Doctors, lawyers & local NGOs leaders. The Training venue was in Sarisabari Upazila HRC & WRC new office room. The training inaugurates session conducted by Chairman of HRC Mr. Bahadur Shah and Closing speech delivered by Secretary Mr. Abdus Sattar. The training schedule was one day-long sessions on the Human rights situation review at Sarisabari, What kinds of service provided by the service providers in this time, what is the role of HRC & WRC coalitions, What kind of Advocacy meeting should conduct, What is the citizens role, The basic concept of Human Rights, Women rights, Child rights & Declaration of UN. There were 15no HRC male & 18no WRC female participants.

The other one training has completed with Sarisabari Upazila service providers as a Govt. officials. The level of participant's were the existing service providers in Sarisabari Upazila in mid level. Participants were in 16no. departments of different Govt. service provider representatives. The Training venue was Shilpakala academy at sharishabari Upazila campus. The training inaugurates session conducted by Upazila Samaj Kallan

officer & Closing speech delivered by Jamalpur Law Association President Mr Shadhak Ali. The training schedule was one daylong session on the Human rights situation of Sarisabari Upazila and The basic concept of Human Rights, Women rights, Child rights & Declaration of UN. There were 05no Female & 12no WRC male participants were executively participate the session.

Advocacy Meeting with public Institutions:

Issue: Dowry, Early marriage and stipend of primary school, Health service & Health complex,

10 no. The HRC of Sarisabari Upazila conducted advocacy meeting. HRC formed by the Human Rights Coalition under BCAHR Project. First Advocacy Meeting with Policy Makers on existing situation of health services at Sarisabari Upazila. The stakeholder were the Human Rights Coalitions (HRC) and Women Rights Committee (WRC) members, including journalists, NGO representatives, service seekers, government officials, academicians exclusively discussed on aforesaid issue with specific recommendations to address existing problems. Following the meeting, representatives of HRC and WRC submitted a memorandum to the designated Sarisabari Upazila THA to some specific demands, i.e. ensure necessary medical equipments including ultra sonogram, x-ray, endoscopies and ambulance for Sarisabari upazila sadar hospital, make Sadar Hospital premise free from drug abusers and brokers, increase the number of doctors and nurse at Sarisabaril sadar hospital Health complex, RMO , x-ray facilities, family planning services, regular attendance of doctors at Sarisabari health Health Complex, ensure quality of food, medicine at Sarisabari sadar hospital
Also, advocacy meeting conducted with the actors of Marriage Registers, Imman, UP Representative, Specially UP female members and local elites to reduce the Dowry, early marriage, illegal divorce and stipend of primary school. A huge number of general people participated the advocacy meeting, they are now well awarded about Dowry, early marriage, illegal divorce and stipend of primary school procedure

Citizen Dialogue with public institutions:

Issue: Dowry, early marriage, illegal divorce. Stipend at primary school

04. no citizen dialogue has completed by the project period. Human Rights Coalitions (HRC) and Women Rights Committee (WRC) at Sarisabari sadar Upazila level organized 04 Citizen Dialogues with concern public officials at their respective Upazila on Dowry, illegal and harmful use of drug and narcotics, khash land, early marriage, illegal divorce and stipend at primary school. These events have created a common ground for public officials, civil society and NGOs to work together on aforesaid areas in order to improve human rights situation. These dialogues participated by public officials, NGOs representatives, journalists, service seekers; community people have not only accelerated the cooperative relations between civil society organizations and public institutions but also increased awareness as well as responsiveness among the participants.

Social Mobilization on Health service & primary education:

Issue: Qualitative of education, stipend at primary school, Illegal divorce. Dowry, early marriage.

05 no. Social Mobilization has completed inn this project period of 9 months. As a Rally and Human chain events were held at Sarisabari upazilla under Jamalpur District. The main objective of Social Mobilization in this quarter was creating a positive pressure on

the concerned duty bearers to render the expected services to the people. The major issues tried to be addressed through social mobilization events were creating accession of poor people to health services, improving quality of health services at local public health complex, reducing the incidence of dowry, early marriage and polygamy. About 730 people from different walks of life including community people, civil society, NGO professionals, journalist, members of HRC and WRC members were participated in 5no social mobilization events. As a part of social mobilization HRCs and WRCs submitted 5 memorandums to respective public departments, e.g. health, land, narcotic control, primary education and UNO.

Bi Monthly Coordination Meeting with HRC:

05 no. bi monthly meeting were conducted by the HRC within 9 months. As per project activity calendar, staffs were working with Development Wheel-DEW under this project are supposed to meet 05 no bi monthly meeting as a coordination meeting with HRC. In order to revise the project trend and find out possible steps in line with the existing problem and prospects, the performed meeting was very effective. It has been observed that bi monthly coordination meeting is very fruitful for project since it always keeps us updated about project activity, accomplishment, problems and prospects.

Bi Monthly Coordination Meeting with WRC:

As per project activity calendar, staffs working with Development Wheel-DEW under this project are supposed to meet 05 bi monthly in a coordination meeting with WRC in order to revised the project trend and find out possible steps in line with the existing problem and prospects. Over the reporting period, 5no bi monthly coordination meetings were held. It has been observed that bi monthly coordination meeting is very fruitful for project since it always keeps us updated about project activity, accomplishment, problems and prospects.

Planned Versus Actual Results and Activities for the last nine months

A comparative narrative analysis of the planned and actual activities and results are given below

Planned Results	Actual Results
Stop illegal and harmful use of drug and alcohol at Sarisabari Upazila	A Drug Prevention Network has been formed at Sarisabari and the representative from BCAHR project and the respective local elites included in this network.
Improve the quality of daily meal to provide the patient at public health complex at Sarisabari Upazila	Following the advocacy initiatives took by HRC & WRC at Sarisabari. Health complex has improved the quality of food recently.
Activate UP standing committee on child and women affairs at selected Upazila at Sarisabari in order to reduce the incidence of violence against women (Dowry, early marriage, polygamy, illegal and divorce)	Over the reporting period just started the awareness raising initiatives by group discussion and personal counseling by bi monthly meeting, Social mobilization, advocacy meeting & citizen dialogue.

Planned Results	Actual Results
Activate potential actors such as marriage registers, imam and religious leaders to work on reducing dowry, early marriage, illegal divorce, and polygamy at selected Upazila at Sharisabari.	All marriage registers of Sarisabari upazila made commitment in advocacy meeting to resist early marriage.
To create awareness among grassroots women about their human rights and legal rights	A big number of grassroots women were provided oriented to women human rights and legal rights through personal counseling, Briefing by UP female member and Maa samabesh of at primary education meeting.
Overall achievement/Impact	The legal service seekers behavior of grassroots women & general community people is changing and they are coming to HRC, WRC office and other human rights organizations to seek legal help.

Challenges, problems encountered and undertaken initiatives:

(1) In BCAHR project, there were not enough victim financial & legal support to provide the victims of violence. But the continuous activities carried out by HRC and WRC have created this new demand among the community people. A great number of legal help seekers, particularly the grassroots women, started coming to respective HRC and WRC and asking for legal aid.

(2) In Sarisabari Upazila road communication is very poor. There are some upazilas where river is the only way to move from one place to another place. During rainy season of every year, the situation gets most terrible which ultimately hinders our project activities.

(3) Sometimes, we had to cancel or postpone our scheduled program like citizen dialogue, advocacy meeting with public officials or policy makers in that the concerned primary audiences, i.e. public officials, requested us at the eleventh hour to shift the program as they became unable to attend the event due to their unexpected involvement in official business. This problem also contributed to hindering our activities over the reporting period.

(4) We have also revised our activity calendar and prepared a comparative statement about planned vs. actual achievements. As per this statement we already accumulated the number of activities remains unimplemented with the activity of this quarter. We are very hopeful that we would be able to accomplish all scheduled tasks within the project time deadline.

(5) Time and fund constant.

Lesson Learned

Giving ownership to HR coalitions & WR committee and civil society organizations is very effective and helpful to promoting human rights and program implantation.

- Identified local issues are more effective to achieve the grassroots vulnerable & general people,s Human rights.
- Selecting the local issues by the different people’s representative through a diagnostic workshop was a very democratic process. All participants were participated proactively.
- Community people and civil society members feel a sense of ownership, which make them active and vibrant, if they are involved in the planning and implementation process in different development initiatives.
- Raising voice from the local community people is more valuable to public officials.
- Cooperative efforts such as dialogue, meeting with public officials are useful to make them responsive in delivering better services to the people.

Overall comments:

- The legal service seekers behavior of grassroots women & general community people is changing and they are coming to HRC, WRC office and other human rights organizations to seek legal help.
- We are trying to provide the technical assistance to HRC & WRC to continue the progress.
- The project was for too short period, to achieve batter and sustainable output project period should be for at list two years.

6. Annexes

- Some images of the project activities as attachment

Annexes

- Images of the different events

	Shah Abdus Salam	Executive Director
Signature:	Name:	Title:
	Aminul Islam	Programme Officer
Witness Signature	Name	Title

Date: October 29, 2007

Human Rights Coalition-HRC Formation Meeting



Mr. Al Amin, TNO Sharishabari Upazila , Chief Guest of the HRC formation meeting and Executive Director of DEW Mr. Shah Abdus Salam deliberating their speech in the meeting



DEW Program officer facilitating the meeting and some participants of the meeting



In open discussion session civil society representatives delivering their views and newly elected Executive committee of the HRC

Women Rights Committee-WRC formation meeting



Inaugural speech by Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Executive Director, DEW and Chief Guest Mr. Al Amin TNO of Sgarishabari Upazila



Women UP member Mrs. Beauty Begum and some participants of the WRC formation meeting



Some participants of the meeting and newly elected WEC Executive Committee with DEW Executive Director



Speech by the newly elected Chair of the WRC and election conducted by Mr. Sayid Alam, Programme Officer, DEW



Thanks giving to newly elected committee by the Chief Guest Mr. Al Amin, UNO, Sharishabari, Jamalpur