

National Development Programme (NDP)

NDP Bhaban, Bagbari, Shahid Nagar, Kamarkhanda, Sirajganj-6703

Project Final Progress Report

Project Period : July 01, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Name/title of the project : Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning REECALL-2021 under Support to Development Project of Oxfam in Bangladesh



Implementing Entity

National Development Programme (NDP)

NDP Bhaban, Bagbari, Shahid Nagar
Kamarkhanda, Sirajganj-6703



Project Supported by

Oxfam in Bangladesh

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1. Background of the project

Over the last decade, Bangladesh has made significant progress in poverty reduction, yet 24.3 per cent of the population live in poverty, and 13 per cent live in extreme poverty. Bangladesh has a climate-dependent economy, where 70 per cent of the rural poor depend on agriculture for their livelihoods - this means that the vast majority of people have fragile livelihoods which are affected by climate change impacts and natural disasters. Poor people are excluded from policy and decision-making processes so they are unable to exercise their rights as citizens and hold duty-bearers accountable for providing essential services.

The REE-CALL 2021 project aims to strengthen community resilience in disaster-prone rural locations to prepare and respond to the risks associated with disasters and climate change by fostering economic empowerment and active citizenship. The project was designed with input from a wide range of stakeholders; evidence and learning from previous phases; and changes in local, regional and global contexts. The programme adopts an integrated approach to build resilience through Oxfam's Resilient Development Framework, including a rights-based approach to risk, a long-term process-orientated approach, a gender justice approach, a systems approach (changing the social systems that create risk, fragility and vulnerability), and an approach that recognises social foundations and environmental limits.

Bangladesh is vulnerable to climate change. Due to climate change the intensity and frequency of the extreme weather has been increased. The farmers are losing their crop production. The project will have developed a sustainable model of insurance that can cover the risk of vulnerable communities. The project will focus on continuing to strengthen and build the capacity of formal and informal institutions to work together to sustainably improve livelihood opportunities, disaster and climate change resilience, women's empowerment and grassroots leadership of vulnerable communities.

In this context to promote the insurance as a risk transfer mechanism for the vulnerable community; to ensure the income security of the farmers by introducing sustainable forms of crop insurance; and to cover the risk of regionalized community by insurance breaking the stereotypic practice of insurance NDP undertook a project name "**Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning REECALL-2021**" under Support to Development Project of Oxfam in Bangladesh. The project developed a sustainable model of insurance that can cover the risk of vulnerable communities.

2. Basic Information of the Project :

Name/title of the project : Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning REECALL-2021 under Support to Development Project of Oxfam in Bangladesh.

Goals of the Project : By June 2022, more resilient women, men and institutions are building together wellbeing and more inclusive and sustainable rural economics.

The Project Objectives are:

- To promote the insurance as a risk transfer mechanism for the vulnerable community;
- To ensure the income security of the farmers by introducing sustainable forms of crop insurance;
- To cover the risk of regionalized community by insurance breaking the stereotypic practice of insurance.

Project Outcomes are :

- Women, men, their families and communities benefitted from sustainable and equitable economic activity;
- Government, communities and civil society have driven sustainable and inclusive climate action and disaster risk reduction through collective effort;
- Duty bearers and lawmakers have developed policies and demonstrated practices that better incorporate the interests and rights of marginalized people and communities.

Duration of the project: July 01, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Working area : REECALL project working area District-Sirajganj, Upazilla-06 (Sirajganj Sadar, Kajipur, Belkuchi, Kamarkhanda, Ullahpara, Raiganj)

Total Budget of the Project : BDT 1,538,000/- (Fifteen Lac Thirty Eight Thousand Only)

3. Project Activities :

3.1 Partnership Agreement : To carry out the assignment a partnership agreement was signed between NDP & Oxfam and to oversee the project progress both parties nominate a focal person at their respective end.

3.2 REECALL Project Management Team : As there was no provision for project personnel under the project so NDP formed a project management team based at head office headed by Director (Programme), including other persons from Program, Finance & Accounts, Training, Monitoring, HR & Admin, Research & Documentation are nominated with Director (Programme) for smooth operation of the project. To implemented field level activities like farmers training, collection of premium from the selected farmers, promotion of insurance scheme the field level staffs of NDP-Microfinance program from selected 12 branches of 12 Unions under 6 Upazillas with their respective supervisors like Branch Managers, Area Managers, Zonal Managers and others senior officials were engaged accordingly as shared responsibility since it's a complementary product together with loan products.



3.3 Farmers training : A total number of 2,880 farmers have been trained through daylong training session in different 96 training batches where the trained staffs of NDP Credit Support Programme (CSP) and related officials of NDP training department and NDP head office were facilitators. Through the training was expected that the farmers will be benefited by the insurance intervention. The training module includes the weather index-based insurance too. By attending the training, the farmers were able to understand the calculation of the insurance premium and payout. Detailed of the training is as described below.

The Training : According to the provision of the project a day long training of the farmers on Crop Insurance was arranged. The staffs of Credit support program-CSP who were trained-up earlier for facilitating to the farmers training. Total 2880 farmers from 12 branches participated in the training sessions in different 06 batches as below list.

Branch wise participants Information

Serial no	Branch Name	Total number of participants
1	Bagbari	Participant 30 × 9 Batches= 270
2	Katakhali	Participant 30 × 8 Batches= 240
3	Saidabad	Participant 30 × 9 Batches= 270
4	Sialkol	Participant 30 × 8 Batches= 240
5	Ghurka	Participant 30 × 8 Batches= 240
6	Ullapara	Participant 30 × 9 Batches= 270
7	Dobirgonj	Participant 30 × 8 Batches= 240
8	Chandaikona	Participant 30 × 8 Batches= 240

9	Doulotpur	Participant 30 × 8 Batches= 240
10	Belkuchichor	Participant 30 × 7 Batches= 210
11	Natuapara	Participant 30 × 7 Batches= 210
12	Maijbari	Participant 30 × 7 Batches= 210
Total		Batches 96; Participant : 2,880

Training content:

- Introduction;
- Training Objective;
- Participants Expectations;
- Organizational Culture, Values and policies;
- Project briefing, vision & mission;
- Discussion on Insurance and weather-based Insurance;
- Climate change, Natural disaster and its effect on crops cultivation;
- Weather indicators;
- Type of insurance product, peril, crops affected by climate change & natural disaster and risk coverage;
- Crops Insurance, Value of Insurance and the Insurance process.
- Accountability, Questions and Answers.

Challenges :

- Farmer had no clear understanding on crop insurance and its process that is why it was more challenging;
- Crop insurance was a new concept to the farmers. So it was very difficult to conduct training and discussion without any training materials. Trainers had tousel the lecture method only. Almost farmers are non educated, if we could be able to use some training materials like flip chart, festoon, video documentary etc then the training will be more effective.

Achievements : After conduction of the training we had achieved the following :

- Farmers became familiar with the weather index based insurance and interested to be involved with weather index based crop insurance policy to reduce climate and disaster induced risk.
- Farmers were ready to pay premium against weather index based crop insurance policy.

Pictures of Farmers Training



Women Farmers at training session



Male Farmers at training session



Training Facilitation

3.4 Capacity development of the staffs : To promote the sustainable model of insurance understanding its detail is essential by the respective personnel of NDP Credit Support Programme (CSP). The objective of the Weather index-based insurance is also action for addressing loss and damage risk. The staff members who were implementing the project have been oriented on the objects in training session.

Training inauguration : The staffs training inaugurated by ED, NDP Mr. Md. Alauddin Khan. In his inauguration speech he said “First, I would like to acknowledge for OXFAM in Bangladesh for taking initiative like this project at Kurigram. We know that Kurigram is the most disaster affected area in Bangladesh. Every year, the char area of this district is flooded. People who are enveloped in agriculture of this area lost their assets every year. GO, NGO works for mitigation the risk of disaster, preparedness and in emergency period. In this project's farming issues will be more effective for this vulnerable community”. He also said “We know that every year farmers and small business man of our village community lost their property in many kinds of disaster. For recover the damage of flood and heavy rain fall affected need more technical support about farming and business. From this project participants will get the technical and loss coverage support”. He expressed his great Thanks to Oxfam in Bangladesh for supporting this project in Sirajganj district



Staff Training Inauguration

The Training : As per REE-CALL project provision day long staff development training for NDP Credit Support Programme (CSP) staffs for smooth operation of the project activities in field level. Total 120 staffs from the respective 12 branches in 4 Batches participated the training.

Branch wise training participants information

Serial no	Name of Branches	Total participants number
1	Bagbari	14
2	Katakhali	11
3	Saidabad	12
4	Sialkol	10
5	Ghurka	11
6	Ullapara	11
7	Dobirgonj	9
8	Chandaikona	9
9	Doulotpur	9
10	Belkuchichor	8
11	Natuapara	8
12	Maijbari	8
Total Staffs		120

Facilitators list

Serial no	Facilitator name	Designation	Base office
01	Md. Sha Azad Iqbal	Director (Programme)	H/O, NDP
02	Md. Sakhawht Hossain Khan	Manager (Training)	H/O, NDP
03	Soma Das	Deputy Manager (Training)	H/O, NDP
04	Tasvir Ahmed	AVP	Green Delta Insurance Company-GDIC
05	Tahamid Araf	EO	

The content of the training

Registration,

- Introduction and ice breaking
- Training Objective
- Expectation of the participants
- Organizations Contacts and Policy
- Discussion on the Project, Vision, Objective
- Discussion about Insurance,
- Monsoon change and its effect
- Weathers indicators
- Crops Insurance, Value of Insurance and the Insurance process.
- Accountability to the affected population
- Project implementation plan development
- Reporting system
- Monitoring and Evaluation on Insurance.



All staffs Participants



Training Facilitation

Conclusion:

All of the participants tried best to learn in detailed from that training; they were very satisfied to join this type of training. Someone hope they need another training related this activities and also they said they need long term training about Insurance specially Weather Index Based Crop Insurance to cover Climate & Natural Disaster induced losses and damages of crops every year.

3.5 Promotion of insurance schemes : Though the insurance for risk transfer is not a new idea but insurance for crops vulnerable to the climate change was a new and exciting initiatives to the people including all community members and marginalized. Under the REE-CALL project NDP implemented promotional activities of weather index based insurance schemes to the targeted farmers through

mass gathering and farmers training based on the documents and feature provided by Green Delta Insurance Company-GDIC and Oxfam in Bangladesh. NDP microfinance staffs disseminated the message on weather index based insurance to the community people at the community gathering of their regular weekly microfinance business. In some cases personnel of GDIC were present on the occasion that added an extra value to the promotional activities. Except training or insurance policy materials with the suggestion, recommendation and due feedback from Oxfam in Bangladesh under the project NDP developed a brochure for promotion of the concept within the larger community.



3.6 Risk coverage initiatives :

To cover climate change induced loss of the farmers of the region under the project NDP communicated to the Green Delta Insurance Company-GDIC to come forward with financial product. With the active involvement of GDIC under REECALL project a weather index based insurance policy open finally for 4,158 farmers.

Type of product : The type of the product was weather index insurance for farmers.

Peril : Unseasonal excessive rainfall.

Crop : Boro rice, Season 2022.

Location : The locations for monitoring the weather condition were Upazillas Kamarkhanda, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Raiganj, Kajipur, Ullapara under Sirajganj District of Rajshahi Division, Bangladesh.

Risk coverage : GDIC was agreed to cover unseasonal excessive rainfall from 14th March 2022 to 15th June 2022 (both days inclusive) that was the duration of the policy. From the 14th March 2022 to 15th June 2022 if the cumulative rainfall over consecutive 3 days is above AAmm, then there is a payout, ranging from 0% of sum insured to a maximum of 40% of the sum insured. The payout increases automatically at a uniform rate of 0.50% for every mm above the trigger level, from 0% to 40% of the sum insured when rainfall increases above the trigger level for the same time period.

Min {Max[{Max [Actual rainfall over any 3 consecutive days – AA mm), 0} x 0.50% x 100], 0%], 40%}

If a payout is triggered but the payout triggered is less than 10% of the sum insured, then the payout made will be 10% of the sum insured. Hence, the minimum payout for this peril is 10% of the sum insured.

In the case of multiple payout events, the highest payout event will be considered for payout, There will be a single payout for this peril, based on the worst event, which takes place during this time period.

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Sum Insured : BDT 10,000 per 100 Decimal of land and **Premium before tax** was 4.025%.

In response to the insurance scheme activities a number of 4,158 farmers were shown their interest to be with insurance policy with a total land of 663.91 acres Boro crops for the period March 14, 2022 to June 15, 2022. Sum of total insured amount was BDT 6,639,140 where before and after tax premium amount was BDT 267,225/- and 307,309/- respectively. And finally on behalf of the farmers NDP opened a

Weather Index Insurance Policy with Green Delta Insurance-GDIC vide Policy # is GDI/PBD/03/2022/WII/P/0013, Dated March 14, 2022.

Insurance policy period already over, we have from NDP end communicated to GDIC but from the part of GDIC end did not disseminated any information regarding payout. Subject to GDIC information the next course of action be taken.

3.7 Workshop for Dissemination of learning and challenges of Insurance : A national level workshop was organized on June 13, 2022 at CIRDAP, Dhaka where the learning, successes and challenges duly discussed.

3.8 Develop and publish of an article on climate and disaster risk finance products by active engagement of journalists : The activity was not completed by June 30, 2022. To accomplish the activity we have published a circular through NDP website on June 01, 2022 but no response received. Then we communicated to some of our known journalists but the advised us to communicate their respective advertisement department. In response to our cell-ponic communication to the assignment from The daily Prothom Alo provide us a price list that showed huge budget than that of our REECALL project budget allocation. In that context we with due approval from Oxfam have provisioned the cost at June 30, 2022 and still trying to complete the work by July 31, 2022.

4. Project Implementation strategies :

The development of the insurance product was community based. The project implication followed the participatory planning and community-based execution. National polices and legislations was guiding the project implementation. The climate change predation and the loss and damage analysis were the key to develop the insurance product.

5. Major Achievement of the Project : Major achievement so far of the project are as bellow.

- a. Created awareness up to certain level among the targeted groups of farmers on weather index based crop insurance;
- b. Staffs capacity of NDP-CSP to implement weather index based insurance increased;
- c. Organizational capacity of NDP to operate weather index based insurance increased;
- d. A number of 4,158 farmers are listed for weather index based crop insurance policy with a total land of 663.91 acres Boro crops for the period March 14, 2022 to June 15, 2022. Sum of total insured amount was BDT 6,639,140 where before and after tax premium amount was BDT 267,225/- and 307,309/- respectively.
- e. NDP opened a Weather Index Insurance Policy with Green Delta Insurance-GDIC vide Policy # is GDI/PBD/03/2022/WII/P/0013, Dated March 14, 202 for the enlisted farmers.

6. Major Challenges faced during the project period :

- a. Lack of knowledge/awareness of farmers about weather index based insurance scheme;
- b. Lack of adequate publicity on weather index based insurance to the farmers;
- c. Almost no insurance of Insurance Company in the community with Weather Index Based Insurance activities;
- d. Negative attitude towards weather index based insurance within the farmers;
- e. Harassment and procrastination in settling insurance claims in general in our country.

7. The Ways how we have overcome the challenges :

- a. Use staffs of NDP-Credit Support Programme for promotional activities;
- b. Reputation of NDP in its existing working area impacted positively;
- c. Organizational commitment of NDP to the assignment;
- d. Collaboration & coordination of Oxfam in Bangladesh office.

8. Way forward : The REECALL a low cost (Only 1.3 Million BDT in one year) huge impacted project which could educated thousands of community people on agriculture insurance and opened a

weather index based insurance policy for above 4 thousand people of Six Upazillas under Sirajganj district with active engagement of a Insurance Company like Green Delta Insurance Company-GDIC. We were really surprised to observe the progress of the initiatives thus we would like to continue the initiatives through the following processes;

- a. Requesting Oxfam in Bangladesh to come forward with more affordable project for more few years;
- b. Based on the learning and experience achieved from the REECALL project search for other donors;
- c. For engagement of more insurance company like GDIC increased our communication and effort;
- d. If no one else come forward by responding our earnest call and if only GDIC be agreed then we would like to continue our journey for the benefit of our community people even if only with GDIC.

9. Recommendation :

Through the entire period of REECALL project we deeply observed that the farmers or common people of the community were not known about effective measures for compensating any loss or damages specially agriculture caused by disaster. For justifiable reason we saw a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement on the issue as every year natural adverse condition caused a huge loss on their agriculture. Thus they were really eager to work with such system which will work for recover the agriculture losses. In this context we would like to recommend the following for further improvement of the system.

- a. To extend such insurance education to the vast community required project like REECALL for few more years;
- b. Required initiatives to engage formal sectors like GDIC in this field with flexible more product;
- c. To remove insurance fear from the common people of the community terms & condition and payout policy should be more understandable and common people/farmers friendly.
- d. Required policy level advocacy to remove agriculture insurance related barrier that actually faced by insurance company to expand this type of product in community level.

10. Conclusion : As a non-governmental development organization NDP's mission is to fostering people's dignity through economic development participation of equality by utilizing available local resources and potentials of the poor, especially women and pwds. Bangladesh is vulnerable to climate change. Due to climate change the intensity and frequency of the extreme weather has been increased. The farmers are losing their crop production. In this context to promote the insurance as a risk transfer mechanism for the vulnerable community; to ensure the income security of the farmers by introducing sustainable forms of crop insurance; and to cover the risk of regionalized community by insurance breaking the stereotypic practice of insurance NDP undertook a project name "**Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning REECALL-2021**" under Support to Development Project of Oxfam in Bangladesh. The project developed a sustainable model of insurance that can cover the risk of vulnerable communities; focused on continuing to strengthen and build the capacity of formal and informal institutions to work together to sustainably improve livelihood opportunities, disaster and climate change resilience, women's empowerment and grassroots leadership of vulnerable communities. Through the challenges of- lack of knowledge/awareness of farmers about weather index based insurance scheme; lack of adequate promotional activities on weather index based insurance to the farmers; almost no insurance of Insurance Company in the community with Weather Index Based Insurance activities; negative attitude towards weather index based insurance within the farmers; and Harassment and procrastination in settling insurance claims in general in our country NDP implementing the project and is able to organize farmers and opened a policy with GDIC. Through the experience gathered from the implementing the project it is required to mention here that to institutionalize the weather index based insurance for vulnerable farmers it is required for affordable intervention to remove negative attitude and create mass awareness with Intermediate and long term intervention with engagement of more Insurance companies and NGOs

The End