About the cover photo:

The cover photo portrays smiling children who are struggling against extreme poverty in their childhood. Their smile aspires for a glowing future.

This photo was taken from the working area of NETZ Bangladesh in Rajshahi during the Socio-economic & Anthropometric Survey (CMS3) conducted during the first quarter in 2013.

Credit: Shiree/Khaled Arafat Ahmed
CONTENTS

List of acronyms and abbreviations ..................................................................................................................... 4

Scope of the Report .................................................................................................................................................. 5

Commentary from Senior Management Team ........................................................................................................ 6

Progress against Outputs .......................................................................................................................................... 8

Output 1 – Proven approaches to improving the livelihoods of the extreme poor taken to scale by large NGOs ........................................................................................................................................... 8

Output 2 – Innovative approaches to improve the livelihoods of the extreme poor tested, evaluated, and successes ready for scaling up ......................................................................................................................................... 14

Output 3 – Increasing consistency in the understanding, sharing and application of approaches to addressing extreme poverty ................................................................................................................................................. 20

Output 4 – Policy and practice at local and national levels shows increasing recognition of the needs of the extreme poor ................................................................................................................................................. 29

Output 5 – Direct Nutrition Support provided to extreme poor mothers, children, adolescent girls and family members ............................................................................................................................................... 32

Human resources ....................................................................................................................................................... 35

Financial review ......................................................................................................................................................... 36

Value for Money ......................................................................................................................................................... 41

Annex 1: district and beneficiary household coverage map ....................................................................................... 43

Annex 2: Hartal affected activities ............................................................................................................................ 44
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BHH</td>
<td>Beneficiary Household</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMS</td>
<td>Change Monitoring System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPK</td>
<td>Community Pushti Karmi (nutrition volunteer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSC</td>
<td>Community Support Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIC</td>
<td>Drop in Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPRG</td>
<td>Extreme Poverty Research Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAP</td>
<td>Independent Assessment panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFR</td>
<td>Innovation Fund Round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGA</td>
<td>Income Generating Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IYCF</td>
<td>Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M and E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>Management Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNGO</td>
<td>Partner Non Governmental Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVET</td>
<td>Technical and Vocational Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YP</td>
<td>Young Professional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This report covers the period from 1st January to 31st March 2013, the first quarter of Year Six of the implementation phase of the Economic Empowerment of the Poorest - Challenge Fund (EEP)/Shiree. After an introductory commentary by the Shiree Senior Management Team, progress against each of the five programme outputs is reported, followed by updates on Management and Finance, with a subsection on Value for Money.

Due to the unprecedented number of political demonstrations and strikes (‘Hartals’) across Bangladesh in the quarter, a separate Annex has been provided outlining the impact on the programme. This situation is ongoing in the second quarter and likely to continue throughout 2013.
The first quarter of 2013 was a challenging one for Bangladesh and for the programme. There was an escalation of political conflict with resultant disruption to activities and about 13 working days were affected by hartals. The challenge was not only the direct impact but also the extreme difficulty in undertaking forward planning of events, meetings and field visits given uncertainty regarding whether travel will be possible. Nevertheless the programme continued with a high level of activity across all 5 outputs and this is a testament to the commitment and flexibility of both shiree team members and partner NGOs. Particular praise is due to the CMS3 survey team who managed to complete extensive field work, surveying over 1,600 households across Bangladesh, despite the extremely challenging conditions.

The programme has by now far exceeded its targets in terms of numbers of direct beneficiary households with the number recruited exceeding 248,000 against a target of 150,000 (120,000 Scale, 30,000 innovation) in the original Programme Memorandum and logframe. Following the recommendation of the 2012 Annual Review the MA team has been working with DFID to revise targets upwards to reflect the outstanding success of the programme. Hence it will be more difficult to over-achieve on numbers in subsequent reviews but, as stated by the 2012 review, this should not be taken as an indication of reduced performance.

A critical continuing challenge over the first quarter, especially for the 6 Scale Fund Round One NGO partners, has been rolling out the Phase 2 programme with over 96,000 new beneficiary households, while continuing to maintain contact with about 83,000 Phase One beneficiaries. These Phase One households are included in the nutrition component and are also being monitored using the mobile phone based CMS2 instrument. The objective is to develop a workable “graduation enhancement strategy” that can help to push up rates beyond the 66% graduation reported during the quarter. There are 4 pillars to this strategy; (1) A dynamic database of current information about the status of all households (the database), (2) an instrument that allows easy identification of beneficiaries that are failing to prosper (individually and in groups) and a first cut analysis of the reasons for lack of progress (the visualisation), (3) A set of tools that NGOs can use as supplementary interventions intended to address problems and push up grad rates and, (4) the supplemental support resources needed to fund this process. At the end of the quarter these 4 pillars are not all fully in place but are all under construction.

Beyond the scale fund activities the quarter saw continued progress in research and advocacy. As excellent EPRG (the 10th) was hosted for the first time at the BRAC Centre and involved an overarching review of methodologies used in researching poverty in Bangladesh. A highlight on the advocacy front has been continuing work towards the launch of a Manifesto for the Extreme Poor with a very high powered small group of local experts now enrolled to work on the finalisation of this document. The second quarter will see an external review of research and advocacy activities.

Apart from the political disruptions there were some other challenges during the quarter including technical delays affecting the roll out of CMS2.

Overall the quarter has been one of consolidation and a great deal of planning activity in order to set up the final 2.5 years of programme implementation. Highlights from the quarter included:
• 10th EPRG – themed on poverty research methodologies
• Roll out of nutrition component with over 1,600 CPKs recruited, trained and starting to work (except Concern where implementation is delayed awaiting independent baseline survey)
• CMS3 survey implementation
• Oxfam hosted lesson learning workshop in Barisal (although field visit element hartal affected)
• Work with BRAC and others on developing a further gender module for possible delivery via CPKs
• Visit by Ecorys MD and Finance Director
• Good progress on CMS1 (baseline) implementation involving an in-house designed web interface for data inputting
• Steady stream of financial audits, fund disbursement, budget reviews and other financial management activity
• An emerging stream of private sector oriented advocacy activity
• The programme working with close to 250,000 households
• Continuing work with DFID on programme wide strategic and funding review
• Development of graduation checklists and submission of graduation assessment
Total Shiree Beneficiary Households Coverage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>BHH Target</th>
<th>Households Selected</th>
<th>January – March 2013</th>
<th>Cumulative Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 1)</td>
<td>82,850</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>82,201</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 2)</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>3,040</td>
<td>96,649</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 2</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>9,651</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 1</td>
<td>6,650</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>6,754</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 2</td>
<td>5,465</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>5,449</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 3</td>
<td>7,160</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>6,740</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 4</td>
<td>7,600</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>7,528</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>248,725</td>
<td>13,041</td>
<td>248,321</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The programme has achieved its target selection for all prior and ongoing projects.

OUTPUT 1 - PROVEN APPROACHES TO IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE EXTREME POOR TAKEN TO SCALE BY LARGE NGOS

During this period Scale Fund Round 1 (SF-R1) projects have continued to monitor and provide support to Phase 1 beneficiaries as well as continuing their regular activities with Phase 2 beneficiaries. CMS2 has been rolled out across the portfolio and SF-R1 partners have been collecting Phase 1 beneficiary data in the last quarter. It is intended that Phase 1 beneficiaries will be re-categorised for the next quarter using the data collected. The process of re-categorisation will entail segregating households that have ‘failed’ in Phase 1. These households will be put onto the regular monitoring plan alongside Phase 2 beneficiary households. Where necessary, and subject to available resources, additional targeted support will be provided.

Scale Fund Round 1 NGOs have continued to make progress in regular project implementation activities. All beneficiary households have been selected, so NGO partners have been busy delivering assets and other direct support to households in Phase 2.

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1 ‘Failed’ households will be determined by selecting an index of key indicators that proxy for non-graduation (i.e. no food security,

2 Additional support may be another IGA (from unspent NGO funds), or could be further training, support for safety nets, or linkage with the private sector. Any additional support will be based strictly on need and further investigation into how and why a beneficiary household has fallen back or failed to emerge from extreme poverty.
The table below highlights progress in beneficiary selection and asset/cash delivery. Large deliveries of inputs were undertaken during this quarter but due to unforeseen countrywide political unrest, input transfers were lower than planned (see Annex 2 for more detail).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>Beneficiary HH</th>
<th>January – March 2013</th>
<th>Cumulative Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 1)</td>
<td>82,201</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 2)</td>
<td>96,649</td>
<td>13,319</td>
<td>21,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 2</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>17,884</td>
<td>7,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 1</td>
<td>6,754</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 2</td>
<td>5,449</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 3</td>
<td>6,740</td>
<td>1,414</td>
<td>1,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 4</td>
<td>7,528</td>
<td>2,440</td>
<td>1,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>248,321</td>
<td>35,057</td>
<td>31,558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(* The number of household trainings – one household may have participated in multiple trainings.)

Key developments from each Scale Fund NGO are highlighted below.

**Scale Fund Round 1: NGO Operational Highlights**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>Beneficiary HH (Phase 2 selected)</th>
<th>January – March 2013</th>
<th>Cumulative Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAB</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>4,460</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETZ</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttaran</td>
<td>15,184</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>4,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>22,465</td>
<td>7,679</td>
<td>6,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSK</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>5,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>96,649</td>
<td>13,319</td>
<td>21,319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(* The number of household trainings – one household may have participated in multiple trainings.)

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3 Programme activities for Scale Fund Round 1 will refer mostly to Phase 2 beneficiary households (BHHs) unless otherwise stipulated.
Uttaran
- 15,000 BHHs selected in total for Phase 2
- CMS1 baseline survey completed for 15,000 households. Data entry for CMS1 completed for 10,440 households.
- CMS2 total registration: 15,603 BHHs from both Phase 1 and 2. Monthly follow-up data: 31,023 only Phase 1 BHHs (Follow-up for Phase 2 BHHs to start in April of second quarter)
- 420 BHHs applied for Khasland in the last quarter. 5,624 BHHs from Phase 2 have applied for Khasland. 3,113 BHHs received Khasland in the last quarter.
- A total of 4,375 BHHs received primary assets from the project. A total of 10,109 BHHs received vegetable seeds for homestead gardening.
- 60 livestock vaccination camps were held with 3,225 livestock animals vaccinated.
- Identified 65 BHHs in Khulna who showed interest to work with Security Company G4S, which interviewed 40 potential candidates and selected 8 suitable for the job. Another 22 candidates are ready for interview and G4S will take their interview soon.
- Established good linkage with Lal Teer Company LTD which supplied good (HYV) seeds to 21,000 BHHs.
- Respective government departments are assisting BHHs and staff, especially the livestock and cooperatives departments. 32 cooperatives have been registered upto March 2013.
- VFM – direct delivery is 62% of total budget

NETZ
- 9,000 BHHs selected in total for Phase 2
- CMS1 baseline survey completed for 8,708 households. Data entry for CMS1 completed for 6,284 households.
- CMS2 - 9,000 Phase 1 BHHs registered. 100% Phase 1 household data (registration and follow-up) collected in the first quarter. CMS2 data collection for Phase 2 to begin April of second quarter.
- 5,432 BHHs received primary assets in the last quarter. 4,300 Phase 1 BHHs identified for extra support and received supplementary assets. 140 BHHs from Phase 1 lost assets and had these replaced.
- 6,119 BHHs received skills training support. A further 2,803 BHHs received vegetable seeds for homestead gardening.
- 342 BHHs have been enrolled onto at least one safety net programme, bringing total under safety net support from Phase 2 to 1,158 BHHs.
- A total deposited savings of BDT 4,712,694 up-to-date from both Phase 1 and 2 BHHs.
- 135 disabled/physically challenged beneficiaries received additional support like assistive devices for hearing, movement etc.

DSK
- 2,196 BHHs have been selected during the quarter owing to huge migration in the project.
- CMS1 baseline survey completed for 2,923 households in the last quarter. Data entry completed for 5,000 households in this quarter.
- CMS2 - total 7,500 BHHs have come under CMS2 coverage (registration) in the last quarter, while 9,875 BHHs from Phase 2 have been registered.
• 15,000 BHHs are under savings programmes and have savings passbooks. A total of BDT 3,867,839 has been deposited as savings during this quarter from Phase 2 BHHs.
• 5,994 BHHs have received assets from the project this quarter. 2,731 have received basic training on Enterprise Development and Business Management. A total of 1,327 BHHs received old age/disability stipend.
• A further 5 water points and 2 community latrines have been installed. 3,832 BHHs received health cards from the project through satellite and static clinics.
• 38 CBOs have been formed this quarter
• Fire incident occurred in two areas: Hazaribagh (13th February) and twice in Kalyanpur Nuton Bazar / Pura Bostee (27th February and 13th March). 40 DSK-Shiree beneficiaries were affected and lost assets. The project provided some emergency support
• The Institute of Development Studies of BRAC University research team conducted FGDs with project participants in different units in this quarter.

Practical Action Bangladesh
• 15,000 BHHs selected in total for Phase 2
• CMS1 baseline survey completed and data entered for 14,924 households
• CMS2 – 6,056 BHHs data from Phase 1 have been collected. High Beneficiary-to-field officer ratio has meant that data collection was restricted.
• PAB have submitted a budget for addition of extra field officers for CMS2 as well as other project activities. Additional manpower needed and PAB have submitted a revised Year 2 budget.
• Input delivery to beneficiaries on track including for agriculture, livestock and small enterprises.
• There was a sandbar crop failure due to cold shock and germination failure of sweet pumpkin. Hailstorms also badly affected a few households in some areas of Gaibandha and need to be rehabilitated with the available project resources.
• Practical Action Bangladesh was selected amongst 3 finalists for the St. Andrews Global Award for the environment.

Care
• 20,000 BHHs selected in total for Phase 2
• CMS1 baseline survey completed and data entered for 14,347 households. The remaining 5,653 BHH data entry will be completed by mid-April.
• CMS2 - during the reporting period, all BHHs under Phase 1 and Phase 2 were registered. Follow-up data was collected for all Phase 1 BHHs except in cases where BHHs had migrated or were no longer living.
• All Phase 2 beneficiaries have received assets; while a further 9,293 Phase 1 households have received supplemental support. 20 cash savings groups were formed involving 389 beneficiaries.
• A total of 64 innovative economic development packages were developed at individual level for a total of 363 BHHs under Phase 2 and 9 BHHs under Phase 1 who were identified as physically challenged. A total of BDT 1,230,694 was provided to them.
• 2 chairmen and 24 UP members of 2 unions engaged with community led analysis and planning under Phase 2.
• A total of 215 BHHs under Phase 1 who did not receive direct input support from the project were given support (total BDT 1,855,081).
- BHHs of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 got access to 32.5 km road side and 6.5 km canal side for cultivating different types of vegetables.
- VFM – Organised CPK training at reduced rate and implemented weekly plan of field movement to reduce fuel costs.

**Save the Children**
- 22,825 BHHs selected in total for Phase 2 (extra 825 HHs to account for drop-out).
- CMS1 baseline survey completed for 21,952 households. Data entry completed for 14,871 households.
- CMS2 – registration completed for 14,037 households (9,123 from Phase 1 and 4,914 households from Phase 2). Follow-up data completed for 8,717 households from Phase 2.
- Exactly 9,000 BHHs have received assets following training. 491 Community Support Groups (CSGs) have been formed where members will receive training on project activities.
- 4,809 BHHs received safety net support from government programmes, including old-age allowance, widow allowance, school stipend, disability allowance, etc.
- A total of 2,525 households from the Shiree project areas (Bagerhat district, Khulna district and Khulna City Corporation) were provided with a package of warm clothes to cover all the members (including children) of recipient households.
- VFM – decision has been made with SCI that no asset will be purchased by PNGO staff in the absence of a SCI representative, so as to prevent leakages.

**Scale Fund Round 2: NGO Operational Highlights**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>Beneficiary HH (selected)</th>
<th>January – March 2013</th>
<th>Cumulative Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caritas</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>11,945</td>
<td>1,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>2,170</td>
<td>2,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxfam</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>3,769</td>
<td>3,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>17,844</td>
<td>7,169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(* The number of household trainings – one household may have participated in multiple trainings.)

**Caritas**
- 10,000 BHHs selected and verified by Shiree.
- CMS1 baseline survey completed and data entered for all 10,000 households. A draft baseline report has been sent to Shiree.
- CMS2 – 9,997 BHHs have been registered and follow-ups are on-going. Caritas have a few technical issues due to inadequate mobile phone coverage in some areas of the Hill Tracts.
- 600 BHHs were supported for livestock rearing (cattle, goat, hog and chicken). 146 BHHs were supported for setting up small businesses for income generation (boat, fishing net, rickshaw, rickshaw van, sewing machine, small business). 2,895 BHHs were provided support for cultivation of cash crop (turmeric, ginger).
• 1,481 BHHs have received cash support for irrigation, while another 2,942 BHHs received cash support for organic fertiliser.
• 4 gravity flow systems are being installed to mitigate water scarcity issues
• Various other additional support was given out this quarter including 405 BHHs receiving support for latrine equipment and 2,331 children of beneficiaries received education materials and stipend.
• VFM - heavy emphasis on beneficiary selection of IGAs.

Oxfam
• 10,500 BHHs selected
• CMS1 baseline survey completed and data entered for all 10,500 households
• CMS2 - 5,163 households have been registered in the last quarter - lower than expected. Monthly follow-up of 9,683 households completed up-to-date. Oxfam have experienced a number of problems related to phone issues and confusion over data collection due to server error.
• In the last quarter 6,155 households developed family development plans. 2,253 HHs received skills training on livestock and poultry. 5,139 HHs received IGA input support for their assets.
• 189 CBOs have been developed of which 56 developed annual development plans. 8 CBOs have opened bank accounts, of which 54 have started depositing savings.
• 1,074 HHs have received government social safety nets.
• Oxfam hosted the Lesson Learning Workshop in Barisal on 4-6th February which was well attended by other Scale and local Innovation Fund partners.

Concern Worldwide
• 22,500 BHHs have been selected and verified by Shiree.
• CMS1 baseline survey has been completed for 15,000 BHHs. Data entry has been completed for 10,011 households.
• The project Logframe and budget has been revised this quarter, and accepted by Shiree. Major changes were brought in for Outputs 1 and 2 in the Logframe. In the revised Logframe the Output 1 target is 5000 BHHs for cropping pattern against the original target of 11,500. This is due to the finding that cropping pattern was not feasible for such a large number of beneficiaries. The revised figure represents the ground level reality.
• CMS2 - registration completed for 5,738 BHHs and follow-up completed for the same number. Concern will increase the number of BHHs on CMS2 data collection over the next two quarters.
• Primary assets have been delivered to 12,849 of the Year 1 BHHs. Supplementary assets have been delivered to 15,604 households. 5,000 BHHs have been engaging sustainably in cultivation of three tested cropping patterns on small lease holdings using new technologies.
• De-worming and vaccination of all distributed livestock (duck, cattle, sheep, goat, geese, and poultry) have been done through local service providers. In the last quarter a total of 16,143 animals were vaccinated and 13,583 animals de-wormed with different vaccines and de-worming tablets.
• The 3 PNGOs have organised more than 1,069 self-help groups where BHHs have deposited savings. A total of BDT 845,426 has been deposited as savings.
The Scale Fund now has 9 mature projects and a well established partnership between the Management Agency and NGO Management. During the quarter the 8th Scale Fund Lesson Learning Workshop took place over 2 days in Barisal hosted by Oxfam. It had a combined theme of “Gender Mainstreaming and Application of Digital Technology”, with the latter coinciding with the roll-out of CMS-2 across the Shiree portfolio.

OUTPUT 2 - INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE EXTREME POOR TESTED, EVALUATED, AND SUCCESSES READY FOR SCALING UP

In the past quarter, only one Innovation Fund project from Rounds 1 and 2 was active. Puamdo from IF Round 2 completed its 3 years of economic empowerment activities in January 2013. Puamdo completed its final self-review workshop in January and project finance and administration was settled with the Shiree finance department. Since all Innovation Round 1 and 2 projects completed their respective projects in the third quarter of 2012, only the activities of IFR 3 and 4 will be mentioned in this report.

The process for determining which of the original Innovation Fund Rounds 1 and 2 NGOs will be scaled up will be completed during the second quarter.

Innovation Fund Round 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>Beneficiary HH (selected)</th>
<th>January - March 2013</th>
<th>Cumulative Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADD</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boss</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern-IF</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUK</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCI-Barisal</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>574</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSS</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,740</td>
<td>1,414</td>
<td>1,501</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(* The number of household trainings – one household may have participated in multiple trainings.)

All IFR 3 NGOs produced CMS4 change reports from their respective participatory group sessions with beneficiaries. Self review workshops were conducted this quarter. The projects have been working closely with core project participants as the projects prepare to close at the end of the calendar year. Key developments from each NGO are highlighted below.

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4 During 2012, Round 1 and 2 projects completed three years of economic empowerment project activities


**Innovation Fund Round 3: NGO Operational Highlights**

**ADD**

- During this quarter, the project team received orientation refreshers for CMS4. The team conducted a total of 10 workshops with groups where 132 BHHs attended.
- CMS2 – all BHHs registered. From February 2013, regular monitoring is going on by the project staff.
- In this quarter, the project provided sewing operation training for batches comprised of 10 beneficiaries and small entrepreneurship for 5 beneficiaries. This was the last formal training for the beneficiaries.
- In this quarter, the project had successful advocacy activities with BGMEA for ensuring their commitment of creation of 5% quota for persons with disabilities and next step of developing a MoU. The process is going on.

**BOSS**

- In this period 4 cattle, 2 heifers, 5 ducks, 15 chickens were transferred, completing the entire asset transfer activity among 400 BHHs. 19 BHHs cultivated homestead vegetables in this quarter and up-to-date a total of 96.3% BHHs are involved in homestead gardening.
- The project organized one annual lesson learning workshop with the BHHs to learn about the present situation and requirements of BHHs and problems they still may be facing.
- In this quarter, project BHHs deposited a total of BDT 598,488 as savings in their Grameen Bank accounts. The savings are managed by groups and the leaders of the group collect savings through group meetings and deposit to the Grameen Bank directly. 25 savings groups have been formed amongst 400 BHHs.
- 7 groups applied for registration with the government cooperatives department

**Concern WorldWide - INVEST**

- In the reporting quarter, 63 days of street food business operations were conducted by 133 beneficiaries (79 Male and 54 female).
- Each of the 24 business groups met at least once a month in each month, and a total of 186 group members attended these.
- The Malibagh central kitchen received orders for food supply in bulk quantities from various institutions (Quantum Foundation, Continental Group, NGOs, Schools, BSMMU)
- In February 2013 over two days police officials seized two mobile vans and arrested the beneficiaries. Project staff visited the police stations and met the officials, explained about the project work and were able to get the beneficiaries released from the police station.
- 9 beneficiaries have moved from street dwelling and have now started living in rented houses in the slums.
- A review has been undertaken with a plan presented that will achieve target BHHs over an extended time period. Concern have prepared a proposal to Shiree in the last quarter (see Finance section for more detail)
GUK

- CMS1 baseline survey completed and data entered for 364 out of 1,160 BHHs. The remainder will be completed by mid-April.
- 116 beneficiaries from who had received training in the previous quarter successfully completed a two-month long internship at Apex garments factory.
- 1,009 Family Development Plans (FDPs) have been completed up to this quarter. 143 BHHs received supplementary assets (goats and chicken) at the household level in this quarter.
- One visit of BGMEA/garments factory was organised in February of this year. GUK are keeping regular coordination with stakeholders in the BGMEA sector.
- A small number of beneficiaries have faced harassment when moving to Dhaka, and others continue to find adjusting to urban life a challenge. GUK is supporting in all cases.

PLAN

- During this period, 356 children were selected. All have been formally registered through profile development and have had CMS1 baseline survey completed.
- A unique CMS2 survey has been developed for Plan’s BEES project. The questions have been changed to better reflect answers coming from children. Software development was completed in-house in the past quarter. Due to hartals, training has not been possible but will take place in the next quarter.
- 63 children attended 10 different vocational trades. Children are enrolled on the following courses: tailoring, mobile servicing, beauty parlour, IPS making & servicing, CNG conversion, furniture making, battery making and motorcycle repairing. Course duration vary from 3 to 6 months.
- 33 Batches of training were conducted where 399 children, (107 boys and 292 girls) attended the training on different modules (tailoring, paper bag making, cake making, etc). It was recognised that the training duration was not sufficient for transferring proper skills to the children, so the training duration was increased by 2 days as well as identifying specific linkages with appropriate small businesses once training completed.
- As no children have graduated from skills training, no assets were disbursed this quarter.
- 2,249 children of BEES project saved BDT 2,080,806 with 13 DICs and non-DIC sources. The average savings was BDT 925 per child.

SCI- Tanisha

- 790 BHHs have received primary IGAs in the past quarter. This includes goat (350 HHs), chicken (5 HHs), ducks (153 HHs), rickshaw van (79 HHs), sewing machine (117 HHs), puffed rice making (1 HH), handicrafts (14 HHs), cloth business (17 HHs), small business (30 HHs) and fishing net (24 HHs).
- 677 adolescent girls were provided with capacity building support to operate the IGAs.
- 114 extra adolescent girls have been selected and verified this quarter owing to drop-out of other beneficiaries, usually because of early marriage.
• Peer educators continued sessions with adolescent girls to develop their skills on selected issues. An additional 67 day long sessions were conducted by the field facilitators to cover the adolescents who live far away from the safe spaces.

**SSS**

• In the last quarter, 140 sets of floating fish enclosure have distributed to 560 BHHs. 14,000 ducks have been distributed among 560 BHHs. Different vegetables seeds have been distributed among 560 BHHs for homestead garden. 200 BHHs have cultivated Boro Rice and beneficiaries are waiting to harvest crop in April. 200 BHHs have cultivated mustard seed and harvested mustard seeds already. 560 BHHs has received cash support at the rate of BDT 1,500 each.

• Training for sugarcane, garlic, duck rearing, fish and boro rice participants have been provided and guidelines have been provided.

• 720 HHs have been registered for CMS2 and follow-up so far conducted with 400 HHs.

**Innovation Fund Round 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>Beneficiary HH (selected)</th>
<th>January – March 2013</th>
<th>Cumulative Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Hill</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarango</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Dev</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDE</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HelpAge</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prip Trust</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCI-IF4</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handicap</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,528</td>
<td>2,440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(* The number of household trainings - one household may have participated in multiple trainings.)

IFR 4 projects have continued to select and verify beneficiaries, baseline surveys are being conducted and in most cases primary project activities have begun to be delivered. CMS4 trainings took place in the past quarter, conducted alongside Programme Managers from Shiree. Self-review workshops will be due in the next quarter.

**Innovation Fund Round 4: NGO Operational Highlights**

**Eco-Dev**

• In the past quarter 350 Year 2 BHHs CMS1 baseline survey was completed. Data entry was completed for 40 of these households.

• During the reporting period a total of 1244 kg of dried Basak leaves; 1,881kg of dried Shimul roots and 505 kg of dried Kalomegh plants were marketed and sold, worth BDT 49,840, BDT
119,765 and BDT 44,187 respectively. Additional stocks are in the Eco-Dev project office and head office for marketing. Medicinal plant products are still being collected. Turmeric is also under processing for collection from the agricultural fields.

- 11 local/national buyers have been contacted for effective marketing of medicinal products, and 2 training workshops have been held with medicinal plant participants on market analysis and promotion.
- A day long field farmer medicinal product display was been held on 20th March 2013 at the premises of Alikadam officers club organized by Eco-Dev in cooperation with the GoB and Shiree.

Green Hill
- The first CCT disbursement to 370 BHHs took place in the last quarter (Bandarban - 47 BHHs, Kaptai and Kawkhali - 323 BHHs). Total distributed amount was BDT 1,868,000. IGA booklets were distributed in this quarter for 650 BHHs of Year 2.
- 1,113 BHHs are involved in Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). The share up to this quarter is BDT 394,326. Loans were distributed to 173 BHHs amounting to BDT 188,500.
- Motivational sessions were conducted for 650 beneficiaries in 30 groups from 19th to 22nd March 2013. The core components of these sessions were: education, immunisation, good parenting skills and preventing malaria.
- Farmer’s field day observed on 26 demonstration plots. Crops on these plots were ginger, turmeric, eggplant, beans, ladies finger, ridge gourd, etc.
- 29 beneficiaries received assistance from government safety net programme under VGD, VGF, 40 days programme, old aged and widow allowance.

Handicap International
- During this quarter 170 BHHs were selected, and verified by Shiree. CMS1 baseline profile has been completed for a further 150 BHHs.
- 200 BHHs received Training on Fund raising and capital management and 150 micro-plans for IGAs have been developed.
- 150 people were educated on facilitating access to mainstream health and social services and social protection scheme. 27 community sessions were organised with beneficiaries and community members to increase awareness of issues of persons with disabilities and their rights.
- 99 people with disabilities received rehabilitation services that include primary rehabilitation therapy, daily living practice and user-and-caregiver education on assistive devise usage and maintenance.

HelpAge International
- During this period 250 BHHs received cash to procure age-friendly IGAs identified through the family development plans.
- Further awareness training on old age complications and maintenance of health were organised in all 20 groups. Group meetings in the CSCs were organised in every month.
- Burial support was provided to all deceased beneficiaries.
IDE

- In the last quarter 520 BHHs were provided training on different technical issues. Cash support was provided among 698 BHHs and they have been utilising the cash for different businesses (livestock rearing, small fishing, business, tailoring business, etc.).
- A total of 57 savings groups have been formed.
- 5 linkage workshops have been conducted to establish linkages between private sector actors and relevant service providers.

PRIP Trust

- 534 BHHs were selected in this quarter, and verified by Shiree. CMS1 baseline profile was completed for this cohort and data entry completed for 350 BHHs. All 1,000 target BHHs have now been selected.
- PRIP Trust undertook an intensive plan for capacity enhancement of targeted beneficiaries through skills development training. 120 Female Construction Workers (FCWs) were trained on masonry and a further 40 FCWs for painting.
- 22 FCW groups were formed in the past quarter. 4 Hubs have been established to each accommodate 5 groups, with a capacity of 100 FCWs.
- 27 batches of thematic course on ‘Constitutional Rights & Labour Rights’ have been conducted during the quarter with 541 FCWs.
- PRIP Trust initiated dialogue with potential insurance companies that can provide micro-insurance for FCWS. The initiative is on-going.

Save the Children - Khulna

- An additional 112 households from the KCC area have been selected jointly by MSSUS and SCI, which will be sent to SHIREE next quarter for verification. This owes to some drop-out from the original target number.
- 703 BHHs have received primary assets after some initial training on IGAs. 347 BHHs have started individual savings, and are depositing savings in the local post office and bank.
- 13 children got admission to TVET providing institutions through project supported linkages and are receiving stipends from the project. 26 children are receiving educational stipends from the project. 700 children have been enrolled in Learning cum Recreational Centres (LRC) as well as other schools for continuous education.

Tarango

- 421 BHHs were selected by the project, and verified by Shiree this past quarter. All BHHs have completed CMS1 baseline profiling.
- A total of 225 BHHs received training on bamboo, waist loom and sewing during the quarter, and also received supplementary IGAs.
- The Craft Emporium in Bandarban has been rented, and interior design work is currently on-going. The Emporium is expected to open later this year.
- A big fire occurred in the Barshilla village of Rowangchari. 17 BHHs were affected by the fire and 9 BHHs lost their inputs for their IGAs.
OUTPUT 3 - INCREASING CONSISTENCY IN THE UNDERSTANDING, SHARING AND APPLICATION OF APPROACHES TO ADDRESSING EXTREME POVERTY

A significant achievement during this quarter has been the roll-out of Shiree’s unique monthly mobile phone monitoring system, CMS2, across the portfolio. Training and distribution of handsets took place in the fourth quarter of 2012, but it has been in this past quarter that NGO partners across Shiree (excluding IF partners from Rounds 1 and 2) have started using the system to collect monthly snapshot data of all households. It is expected that the system will be a central feature over the remaining lifespan of the programme. Shiree has also focused on ensuring continued integration between different CMS components and ensuring the components are embedded well within partner organisations.

Regarding research, four of the Phase 2 working papers have been finalised. The first two are available on Shiree’s website. Another major achievement within research has been the finalisation of 36 life histories and 36 tracking studies (round 2) which are waiting to be uploaded onto the Shiree website. Another well attended Extreme Poverty Research Group (EPRG) was held, with the theme of “Researching the Poorest: approaches and developments in poverty research”.

Change Monitoring System (CMS)
In the last quarter a key emphasis for Shiree has been to work closely with partner organisations in implementing data collection using existing data entry tools and other software, particularly for new partners. A major part of this has been working with partners closely on using effectively the CMS2 application.

Through the second half of the Shiree programme more emphasis will be given on Shiree as a facilitator, providing technical support, while NGOs and projects have more responsibility for data collection, entry, and analysis and reporting. In particular, more emphasis will be placed on using the real time data from CMS2 to guide project interventions and enhance graduation for beneficiaries.

An update of the individual CMS components is presented below:

CMS1: the baseline survey or ‘household profile’
CMS1 provides a detailed assessment of the status of all Shiree households before significant project interventions have taken place. A new web-based data entry system was developed for data processing for NGO staff. A second baseline report will be published later this year, using the revised CMS1 questionnaire, and will assess Scale Fund Round 1 Phase 2, Scale Fund Round 2, and Innovation Fund Rounds 3 and 4 – this will encompass an overall State of Extreme Poverty Baseline Report.
Progress on CMS1 household profile (baseline survey and data entry):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>BHH Selection</th>
<th>Baseline Data entry*</th>
<th>Cumulative Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(January – March 2013)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>Data entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 1)</td>
<td>82,201</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 2)</td>
<td>96,649</td>
<td>55,544</td>
<td>26,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 2</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>2,151</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 1</td>
<td>6,754</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 2</td>
<td>5,449</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 3</td>
<td>6,740</td>
<td>1,609</td>
<td>771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 4</td>
<td>7,528</td>
<td>3115</td>
<td>4,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>248,321</strong></td>
<td><strong>62,419</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,692</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Data entry includes some households from prior quarters’ data collection)*

**CMS2: a monthly snapshot of all BHHs across the entire Shiree portfolio**

During the last quarter field staff from the Scale Fund Rounds and Innovation Fund Rounds (excluding IF Rounds 1 and 2) has been collecting data using the CMS2 application on the smartphone handsets. Due to the high number of beneficiaries in Scale Fund Round 1 (both Phase 1 and Phase 2) the six original Scale Fund partners (DSK, Care, Save, NETZ, PAB and Uttaran) have been collecting only Phase-1 household data in the last quarter. These six NGOs will use the data from the first quarter to filter out ‘failed’ households. From the second quarter, SF-R1 partners will collect Phase 2 BHH data with CMS2, plus, all ‘failed’ households from Phase 1 data collected in the first quarter. Scale Fund Round 2 and IFR 3 and 4 partner NGOs have been registering households since the beginning of the quarter and will continue collecting all beneficiaries’ data in every month.

Shiree has been working closely with its partners, especially its technical partner Mpower, to ensure smooth implementation of CMS2 and to solve technical or operational issues associated with the system. A key part of this partnership has been the development of the CMS2 data visualisation. It is expected that the visualisation will be live and functioning early next quarter, following some unexpected delays in development. Once deployed, the visualisation dashboard will showcase real time data from thousands of beneficiary households across the portfolio and will help inform NGOs to identify struggling households in need of extra support.

In the month of February, Shiree unexpectedly lost one month’s data from the CMS2 database. This resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of BHH follow-up and registration data. Shiree immediately responded by asking partners to cease data collection. Shiree has managed to back-up more than 90% of all the lost data, and over a period of a month, the technical partner Mpower worked on restoring the lost data. Shiree hired an external consultant to help work on this issue and a later report highlighted errors from both the Shiree and Mpower for the data loss. Appropriate measures have been taken to safeguard against any future loss. Partner NGOs, experienced some confusion over the period, but are now on track and starting to see the benefits of the real-time monitoring tool.
The table below shows the number of registered households on CMS2 up to the end of March 2013. The follow-up data will increase over the coming months as registered households are followed up in every month.\(^5\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Follow-Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 1)</td>
<td>60,222</td>
<td>60,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 2)</td>
<td>40,317</td>
<td>40,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Round 2</td>
<td>18,654</td>
<td>26,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 3</td>
<td>3,275</td>
<td>6,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round 4</td>
<td>3,736</td>
<td>7,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>126,476</td>
<td>140,783</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following graphical analyses shows examples of some preliminary data from CMS2 from the first quarter. Once the data visualisation is complete, it will be possible to assess trends in data in real-time as well as assessing trends for specific sub-categories (e.g. all Adivasi BHHs, all BHHs in the CHT, etc).

\(^5\) Scale Fund Round 1 Phase 1 HHs have been followed-up at least once in this quarter. The data will be used to segregate failing households who will then be followed up in every month.
The above screenshot shows a work-in-progress visualisation utilising real-time data from CMS2. This particular screen shot is showing the geographical distributions of Shiree beneficiaries who say they have access to government safety nets (green dots) or do not (red dots).

**CMS3:** a panel survey based on statistically significant sample of all scale fund beneficiaries. It involves an annual socio-economic and anthropometric survey

This survey was undertaken and completed to schedule despite an extremely challenging context of frequent hartals and other disruptions. Furthermore the survey was considerably larger and more complex than in previous years given the expansion of the sample size to allow nutrition component monitoring.

A total of 32 enumerators, 9 Research Assistants from Scale Fund organisations and 4 M&E/MIS/Nutrition personnel under the guidance of partners from Cambridge University carried out data collection over 30 days starting 9th March 2013 for over 1600 beneficiaries of 9 Scale Fund organisations. The entire study was managed by the CMS Implementation Unit, Shiree and for the purposes of smooth implementation, considering travel time, availability of accommodation and accessibility of sample households the study team was divided into two small sub-teams. Data commenced after 14 days of orientation on the questionnaire and methods.

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6 Dr. Rie Goto participated in the pre-survey training phase and undertook randomisation processes
Cambridge University used the results from 2012’s CMS-3 survey to produce preliminary Graduation results, from a criteria developed in-house at Shiree. These Graduation criteria are being adapted, after review and feedback from DFID and others. For this reason, the CMS-3 survey has been adapted and expanded slightly to take into account Graduation analyses. There was also a major expansion of the survey to incorporate monitoring of nutrition component outcomes.

The table below summarises the sample numbers across Scale Fund partners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGO Name</th>
<th>CMS3 Phase I</th>
<th>CMS3 Phase II</th>
<th>CMS3 IYCF</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARE</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAB</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETZ</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttaran</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSK</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxfam</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caritas</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>1,664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A part of the CMS3 team
**CMS4: participatory reflection sessions (Innovation Fund only)**

During this quarter several self-review workshops have been conducted with IFR 3 NGO partners based on respective CMS3 change reports. IFR 4 NGO partners have been trained on how to conduct CMS4 and inducted on the processes of reporting. IFR 4 partners will begin self-review workshops in the next quarter.

**CMS5: qualitative life tracking studies**

Thirty-six life histories and thirty-six tracking studies (round 2) have been finalised and are pending uploading on to the Shiree website.

In preparation for the next phase of tracking studies, Lucia Da Corta (Bath University) conducted a two week-training session for the research officers from the 24th March 2013. The first week of training focused on the ROI3 template for the SF1 NGO researchers, while the second week of training was for the SF2 and IF NGO researchers and introduced the template for ROI1. Field work for these CMS5 tracking studies is expected to take place throughout April, with all reports due by 18th May, with the exception of Concern, iDE and Oxfam who will get a little longer due to delays in recruitment.

Over the past three months the research officers have been working on redrafting their tracking studies with feedback from Shiree. All current life histories and reflection on the intervention (ROI) reports are with Lucia Da Corta and Dr. Joe Devine from the University of Bath who are providing feedback.

**CMS6: NGO Monthly output reporting**

NGOs continued to report monthly data during this period, which is used to meet internal needs and external reporting requirements – including for GoB reporting.

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**Research**

**Extreme Poverty Research Group (EPRG)**

On the 10th of March, the 10th Extreme Poverty Research Group was held at the BRAC centre the theme being “Researching the Poorest: approaches and developments in poverty research” and was chaired by Md. Muzaffar Ahmed from Save the Children. Professor Syed M. Hashemi, Director of BDI, opened the EPRG with a recap on the history and development of poverty research in Bangladesh since the 1960s. A.Mushfiq Mobarak from Yale University then presented his work on Randomized Control Trials in North Bengal, explaining the fundamental reasons behind conducting RCTs and how they can contribute to development research. This was followed by Dr. Peter Davis, a Social Research Consultant from SDRI, who presented on qualitative research methods using in-depth life history interviews to explore poverty dynamics in rural Bangladesh.
The second half of the morning began with a presentation from Dr. Rie Goto from Cambridge University on longitudinal panel survey methods. She highlighted the importance of effectively monitoring changes in health and nutrition in order to fully understand intervention impacts on the socio-economic well-being of the extreme poor households. This was followed by a presentation from Colin Risner, CEO Shiree, and Rubayat Khan from mPower Social Enterprise, on the potential of dynamic monitoring for research and management. They used Shiree’s new monitoring tool – CMS 2 – as an example of real time information for monitoring, management and action research purposes. They explained that such a tool can be used to target interventions to households who are still falling below the lower poverty line, thus enhancing graduation figures of livelihood programmes. The 10th EPRG session closed with a discussion on quantitative and qualitative methods for researching the poorest and how a combined approach is the most effective way forward to ensure a positive impact in eradicating poverty.

Although Dr. Azad has recently left DSK to take up a new position elsewhere, he has agreed to continue his participation in the EPRG and as a member of the panel.
Working Papers

This quarter saw four of the phase 2 papers being finalised - DSK, SCI, NETZ and Care. The first two of these have already been published on the Shiree website, with the other two waiting to be uploaded. The Uttaran and PAB researchers are still working on incorporating academic feedback into their papers. This is extremely challenging for Sonia Kabir, the previous Uttaran RO, as she left Uttaran a year ago and has been working on the paper in her spare time.

The researchers from Uttaran, Oxfam, Caritas, ADD, and Eco-dev all completed their field work for phase 3 and have finalized first drafts for their papers. This process was assisted through a write-shop which was held from the 24th-28th February during which the YPs assisted the researchers with their write-up. Dr. Peter Davis also visited Shiree for a week from the 10th March and he was able to spend a day with each of the ROs in a one-on-one session to help them develop their arguments. These papers will now be edited by a Shiree YP and decisions will then be made as to the level of academic input they still require. Unfortunately Alip Kumar Das, Oxfam research officer, left mid-way through the research process and so the Oxfam paper is being taken forward by Sally Faulkner, Research Focal Point at Shiree.

The departure of Lotifal Bari (iDE) and Moshiur Rahman (Concern) has caused severe delays to their paper. Although their proposals will be used, they will be incorporated into the phase 4 research packages, rather than phase 3.

A new process has been developed for enhancing/streamlining the working papers to achieve more consistent quality and timeliness of outputs.

Recruitment of new research officers

Towards the end of 2012 three research officers left their respective NGOs; Zakir Hossain (NETZ), Lotiful Bari (iDE) and Moshiur Rahman (Concern). In February, Alip Kumar Das (Oxfam) also resigned to move to a position at GIZ. Recruitment for these positions is underway.

Mr. Korban Ali, a former Shiree RA at Uttaran, became the new RO at NETZ and started at the beginning of January. At the end of March Mr. Shammun Islam was hired as the new iDE research officer and was able to start immediately, which meant that he was able to attend the training for CMS5.

Mr. Owasim Akram, the current RO at ADD, applied for the RO position at Oxfam and was successful. He will complete his months notice at ADD, which will give him time to complete the ADD tracking studies, before undertaking research for Oxfam’s CMS5 in May. Concern have yet to hold interviews for their new research officer as the interview was delayed a lot due to hartals. It is hoped that this will take place within the first week of April.

From the 6th-18th January three of the Shiree YPs spent some time in Bath. The first week focused on CMS5, with Sally Faulkner working with Lucia Da Corta on finalisation of the last round of tracking studies whilst getting training for the upcoming Q2 report. In the second week, Kira Galbraith and Sam Beckwith also joined and spent time with both Lucia and Joe Devine developing ideas for future research studies on the topics of disability and adolescent girls.
Sharing and Dissemination of Knowledge

Shiree has been approached by other significant programmes regarding specific extreme poverty related issues. This highlights Shiree’s enhanced position as experts in the field of extreme poverty alleviation, showcased by requests by others for best practice guidelines. In particular, Shiree shared learning documents related to targeting the extreme poor with SDC-funded Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) project in Tanzania whose objective is to improve the health status of Tanzanians in six districts of Dodoma region, with a focus on those at most risk. In addition, two YPs were contacted by a research team at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in London who were looking into Challenge Fund modalities and specifically how they can be used to drive innovation. Also, a specialist trainer in M and E (Julia Smith) visited to learn about the programme CMS system for use as a good practice case study in delivering training courses to participants from diverse countries.

OUTPUT 4 - POLICY AND PRACTICE AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS SHOWS INCREASING RECOGNITION OF THE NEEDS OF THE EXTREME POOR

During this quarter Shiree continued to push forward its revised advocacy strategy for the second half of the programme. This new advocacy strategy has a private sector focus, developed through a series of consultations, including with external stakeholders, our Bath and Cambridge partners and two rounds of facilitated discussions with Shiree staff. A significant on-going movement, and a major part of Shiree’s advocacy strategy is the Manifesto for the Extreme Poor. The three major pillars in the advocacy strategy for 2013 are:

- Manifesto for the Extreme Poor
- Private Sector Engagement
- Engagement with the Government of Bangladesh: focus on provision of safety nets

There will be a review of advocacy (and research) strategy during the second quarter.

The following is a summary of the quarter’s advocacy activities:

- **Manifesto for the Extreme Poor**
  - **Youth:** This quarter Shiree shared the Manifesto with large numbers of varied stakeholders, through sessions with the extreme poor via courtyard sessions and youth groups. Shiree presented to Oxfam’s Youth Volunteers to engage them in the Manifesto process. They are eager to support Shiree in the Manifesto campaign and have offered to host future events at universities around Dhaka to help engage other youth in the fight against extreme poverty.
  - **Recommendations:** Shiree compiled all the recommendations so far (approximately 200) and prepared booklets on each challenge summarising key recommendations received.
  - **Building a coalition:** Shiree approached various experts for each of the challenges highlighted in the Manifesto to further involve them in the drafting of the Manifesto document. This involved requesting their individual and their organisation’s endorsement as experts, as well as their support in analysing and synthesising the peoples’ recommendations into a 4-page document. Shiree has secured the following experts:
1. Shaheen Anam (Manusher Jonno) on the Marginalised Groups challenge,
2. Dr. Abbas (ICDDR,B) on Health and Nutrition challenges,
3. Rounaq Jahan/Fahmida Khatun (CPD) on Gender Inequity challenge,
4. Binayek Sen (BIDS) on the Exclusion from Public Services challenge
5. Dr. Enamul Haque (ERG) on Insufficient Economic Opportunities
6. Dr. Ainun Nishat (BRAC University) on External Shocks

- **Private Sector Engagement**
  - *Disability*: Training Centre for the Disabled discussion underway. A few interested partners have been identified. Over the next few months Shiree will explore what is required to create such a centre so it can facilitate the necessary partnerships.
  - *Far East*: Candidates have been recruited from CARE to participate in the new training centre established through programme efforts with IDLC, ILO-TVET 5 partnership efforts. Far East will take care of the accommodation and a monthly stipend. 10 people from Rangpur have been identified to move to Gazipur for training. The number of extreme poor trainees will increase with each batch (should be 4 batches in total)
  - *G4S*: 9 candidates from Rangpur and 2 candidates from Dhaka have been recruited to participate in training as security guards.
  - Media Monitor 2012: This collection of news related to Manifesto challenges is a resource that will be helpful to those working within the realm of development and extreme poverty. It was circulated to all Manifesto contributors so far and hosted on the Shiree website.
  - WordPress training – An in house training on WordPress (a content management system for website development and maintenance) was held in Shiree office. Shiree staffs and govt staffs attended the 2 day long workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to increase the capacity of staffs to give more dynamic real time input to Shiree website.
  - Policy Advocacy Training – A Policy Advocacy Training was organized by EngenderHealth in Dhaka entitled “Creating an Enabling Environment: An Advocacy Toolkit”. Communications Manager from Shiree attended the 4 day long training. Later the training materials were shared among the staffs and an in-house one day training is scheduled to replicate the lessons learned from the workshop.
  - Op ed campaign continues - Several op eds were printed in Daily Star and an agreement was made to print op eds in Bangla in Prothom Alo/ Ittefaq.

- **Research / Advocacy review has been prepared – to be undertaken in the second quarter.**
- **Hartal disruption** – some local level activities were regularly affected by political disruptions (e.g. cancellation of local workshops on Khasland transfers – a total of 8 days worth of events had to be cancelled).

**Lesson Learning Workshop**
The 8th lesson learning workshop was hosted by Oxfam and took place in Barisal on the 4th-6th February. It had a combined theme of “Gender Mainstreaming and Application of Digital Technology” and was held at Bangladesh Development Society in Barishal. Gender is central to Oxfam’s REE-CALL project, and in recent months Shiree has conducted a gender audit as part of a more in-depth gender mainstreaming initiative. The Oxfam Lesson Learning Workshop was therefore seen as the ideal place to present the findings from this audit, and have a wider discussion about gendered issues within the Shiree
programme as a whole and how interventions could be improved by viewing activities through a “gender lens”.

The CMS2 roll-out was the inspiration for the second theme which was centered on the application of digital technology, with M-Power presenting the CMS2 visualisation. Participating NGOs were also invited to present their own digital innovations. Short presentations on the Manifesto for the Extreme Poor and changes to the Shiree research process were presented at the Lesson Learning Workshop. The event brought together all Scale Fund NGOs, iDE and SCI’s TANISHA project from the Innovation Fund, as well as Shiree representatives. Unfortunately Hartals on the 5th and 6th of February meant that the field visits could not take place and the workshop finished a day early.
During this quarter, all of Shiree’s Scale Fund partners, except Concern Worldwide, have finished the basic six-day training of Community Pushti Karmis (CPKs) on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling. Following on from the training, CPKs have started counselling with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers on the importance of (a) the early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and (b) complimentary feeding from 6 months onwards. Additional messages will cover food hygiene, hand-washing, sanitary practices, family planning, dietary advice and basic health advice. In particular, Shiree has been developing a broader component on gender related issues as part of community counselling on nutrition. The aim will be to make courtyard sessions more gender sensitive and include discussions on gender sensitive topics (e.g. family planning, intra-household decision making and food distribution, early marriage, household division of domestic chores, etc). Shiree has developed a draft proposal, utilising material (training manuals, flip charts, communications material, etc) provided by BRAC, Care and HKI.

In addition, the Nutrition Innovation Fund Round was officially launched with the first part of the process entailing a call for Expressions of Interest (EoI) to be submitted via the Shiree website.

**CARE**
- CARE Bangladesh have rolled out the behaviour change counselling in 25 Unions of 7 Upazilas in the districts Gaibandha, Rangpur, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat
- CARE has completed the six-day basic training of 250 CPKs on IYCF.
- 40,000 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- Monthly work plans for every CPK have been developed during this quarter
- CPKs have completed 11,406 individual counselling of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and children under 2 years old.

**CARITAS**
- Caritas have rolled out the behaviour change counselling in Naikhyangchari, Lama, Alikadam, Ruma and Thanchi Upazila of Bandarban District in Chittagong Division.
- During this period, Caritas has completed the six-day basic training of 180 CPKs on IYCF.
- 10,000 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- Monthly work plans for every CPK have been developed during this quarter
- CPKs have completed 3,024 individual counselling of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and children under 2 years old.
**Concern Worldwide:**
- Concern Worldwide have recruited 215 CPKs to work in Sunamgonj and Habigonj districts of Sylhet Division; Kishoregonj district of Dhaka Division.
- During this period, Concern has sent 6 staff to attend 6 days ToT on IYCF at ICMH, Matuail; who will later act as the master trainers during the basic CPK training on IYCF.
- 22,500 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- Concern has trained only 15 CPKs (1 batch) on IYCF counselling. The remaining trainings have been suspended until the DFID’s independent impact evaluation team has finished baseline data collection.
- In agreement with DFID, no individual counselling or other nutrition interventions took place in Concern working areas by the project staff / CPKs – pending the independent baseline study.

**Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK):**
- DSK have rolled out the behaviour change counselling in Dhaka urban slums situated in Kamrangirchar and Korail.
- During this period, DSK has completed the six-day basic training of 86 CPKs on IYCF.
- 25,000 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- Monthly work plans for every CPK has been developed during this quarter.
- CPKs have completed 6,566 individual counselling of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and children under 2 years old.

**NETZ Bangladesh:**
- NETZ have rolled out the behaviour change counselling in four districts of north-western Bangladesh: Naogaon, Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabgonj and Dinajpur.
- During this period, NETZ completed the six-day basic training of 150 CPKs on IYCF.
- 9,900 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- Monthly work plans for every CPK have been developed during this quarter.
- CPKs have completed 2,372 individual counselling sessions of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and families with children under 2 years old.
- NETZ has conducted 3 batches of social mobilisation sessions for TBAs, where 45 TBAs had attended the sessions.
Practical Action Bangladesh (PAB):
- PAB have rolled out the behaviour change counselling component in four vulnerable districts of north-western Bangladesh: Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari.
- During this period, PAB completed the six-day basic training of 200 CPKs on IYCF. In total 13 batches of training was organised by five implementing partners of PAB.
- 31,850 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- Monthly work plans for every CPK has been developed during this quarter.
- CPKs have completed 5,368 individual counselling sessions for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and families with children under 2 years old.

Save the Children (SCI):
- Save the Children have rolled out the behaviour change counselling component in south-western Bangladesh in the Khulna and Bagherhat districts.
- During this period, SCI has completed the six days basic training of 250 CPKs on IYCF.
- 37,000 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- Monthly work plans for every CPKs have been developed during this quarter
- CPKs have completed 6,001 individual counselling sessions of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and families with children under 2 years old.

Oxfam GB:
- During this period, Oxfam has completed the six-day basic training of 120 CPKs IYCF.
- 37,000 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- 20 management staff received three days training.
- 14,783 BCC counselling sessions were conducted at the household level. An additional 103 courtyard meetings were organised and facilitated this quarter. 302 TBAs received orientation on maternal and child nutrition.
- 108 village doctors and 78 UP members participated in orientation sessions and 125 local religious leaders also received nutrition information.
- Monthly work plans for every CPKs have been developed during this quarter.
UTTARAN:
- Uttaran has rolled out the behaviour change counselling in Khulna, Satkhira and Jassore districts of Bangladesh.
- During this period, UTTARAN completed the six-day basic training of 170 CPKs on IYCF.
- 26,816 BHHs have been visited by CPKs for identifying the nutrition target groups and listing of all households with pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, children under 5 years old and adolescent girls of 10-16 years has been completed.
- Monthly work plans for every CPK have been developed during this quarter.
- CPKs have completed 6,083 individual counselling sessions of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, and families with children under 2 years old.

NUTRITION INNOVATION FUND

During March of this reporting quarter Shiree called for Expression of Interests (EoI) for projects under a Nutrition Innovation fund focused on increasing protein intake among extreme poor pregnant women and infants aged 6-23 months. A total of 372 project concepts have been received from over 200 organisations.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- **Volunteer/Intern contract**: Existing volunteer/intern is continuing beyond February 2013 based on her interest in the Finance Department.
- **Listed leave cancellation**: A listed day of leave for Easter Sunday 31st March was cancelled to help recover fragmented working programme due to strikes and other political demonstrations affecting Shiree during this quarter.
- **Short term MIS consultancy service contract**: A short term consultant was hired in the period of February this past quarter for 20 man-days. A key deliverable for the consultant was to investigate the root causes of the CMS2 data loss and limitation of existing back-up and recovery system (see note on CMS2). The consultant assisted Shiree’s technology manager for planning, scheduling and supervising the CMS2 rollout and implementation plan including support on delivering the data visualisation. This input also helped fill a temporary capacity gap as 3 of the 4 person CMS Implementation Team were involved in the CMS3 field survey activities during this quarter.
- There was a visit by the Ecorys Managing Director and Finance Director as well as John Woolner, the Project Director of Harewell.
**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Fund disbursement**
During this quarter the finance team disbursed a total of GBP 3,471,206. This included GBP 3,192,086 to nine Scale Fund Round 1 and Scale Fund Round 2 partners including funds for the Nutrition component. A total of GBP 279,120 was disbursed to thirteen Innovation Fund Round 1, 3 and 4 grantee NGOs. Finally GBP 388,412 was disbursed as Management, GBP 73,700.37 for Lesson Learning and Nutrition costs.

The monthly accounts of EEP/Shiree were checked and prepared by the finance team and the final versions forwarded to Harewell International Ltd.

**Internal Audits**
A number of internal audits were conducted by the Shiree internal audit team with grantee NGOs during this period (see table below).

Shiree’s CFO reviewed the draft internal audit reports of the grantee NGOs after submission from the Finance team. The draft report was circulated to the respective NGOs for comments/ Management responses. As per the usual practice, after receiving the management responses from the grantee NGOs face-to-face discussions took place. An internal audit feedback sharing meeting was also organised with Tarango (IFR4 grantee) and ADD (IFR3 grantee) at the Shiree office on specific financial issues raised. Based on the discussions, both grantee NGOs were re-visited for further review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SF-R1 Grantee NGOs</th>
<th>First Year Internal Audit for Phase 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uttaran</td>
<td>6th January 2013 to 10th January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children International</td>
<td>5th to 10th January, 23rd January and 11th February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Action</td>
<td>26th – 31th January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARE Bangladesh</td>
<td>26th January 2013 to 2nd February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK)</td>
<td>10th to 23rd February 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SF-R2 Grantee NGOs</th>
<th>First Year Internal Audit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFR 3 Grantee NGOs</th>
<th>Second Year Internal Audit – 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action for Disability and Development (ADD)</td>
<td>27-28 January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gono Unnayan Kendra (GUK)</td>
<td>5th to 10th January, 23rd January and 11th February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh Organisation for Social Service (BOSS)</td>
<td>16 January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha (SSS)</td>
<td>January 15 and 17, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IFR 4 Grantee NGOs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prip Trust</td>
<td>31st December 2012-2nd January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children International</td>
<td>16th-17th March 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### External Audits

**Scale Fund Round 1 Phase 1 Grantee NGOs:** The final external audit report of third year closing of Phase 1 was reviewed by the finance team and feedback provided to the external auditors.

**Scale Fund Round 2 Grantee NGOs:** The External Auditor submitted a draft report for review for CARITAS and Oxfam GB before final submission. The External Audit Committee approved and appointed Nurul Faruk Hasan and Co. (Nufhas) for Concern Worldwide’s first year external audit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee NGOs</th>
<th>First Year External Audit – Round 1 – 2012-13</th>
<th>Audit Firms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARITAS Bangladesh</td>
<td>18th December 2012 to 6th January 2013</td>
<td>Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury (AHKC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxfam GB</td>
<td>18th December to 13th January 2013</td>
<td>ACNABIN CA &amp; Co.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Innovation Fund Round 1 and 2 Grantee NGOs:** The Third year (closing year) external audit report of ten IFR1 and IFR2 projects have been reviewed and finalised for the closure of the project year. As mentioned in the External Audit ToR, any unspent funds shall be refunded by the Grantee to the Grantor as indicated under the Accountable Grant Agreement. This process is ongoing.

ACNABIN, Chartered Accountants was appointed for IFR 2 partner Panchbibib Upazila Adibashi Multipurpose Development Organisation (PUAMDO) for conducting the external audit of the third year (closing year – January 2013). Draft third year closing report is under review.

**Innovation Fund Round 4 Grantee NGOs:** External Auditors are appointed based on the approval of the EEP/Shiree external audit committee. According to the following time plan, respective audit firms are progressing with their assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFR 4 Grantee NGOs</th>
<th>First Year External Audit 2012</th>
<th>Audit Firms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Community Development Organization (Eco-Development)</td>
<td>23rd March – 4th April 2013</td>
<td>Nurul Faruk Hasan &amp; Co. (Nufhas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HelpAge International Bangladesh</td>
<td>10th - 25th March 2013</td>
<td>A. Wahab &amp; Co., Chartered Accountants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handicap International</td>
<td>18th March - 7th April 2013.</td>
<td>Masih Muhith Haque and CO. Chartered Accountants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarango</td>
<td></td>
<td>S. F. AHMED &amp; CO, Chartered Accountants7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Development Enterprises (iDE)</td>
<td>10th - 25th March 2013</td>
<td>Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury (AHKC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prip Trust</td>
<td>10th - 25th March 2013</td>
<td>S. F. AHMED &amp; CO, Chartered Accountants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children International</td>
<td>31st March – 15th April 2013</td>
<td>Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury (AHKC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 The commencement date has delayed. This will commence based on the decision of Shiree SMT.
EEP/Shiree External Audit appointment: Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the external audit of EEP for the year 2012 was submitted to DFID for review and approval with a proposed list of audit firms.

Invitation to submit technical and financial proposal (External Audit) - EEP from 1st January - 31st December 2012 was sent to the following proposed list of audit firms:

- Rahman and Rahman Huq and Co.
- Acnabin Chartered Accountants
- Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co
- A Qasem and Co
- Nufhfas
- Howlader Yunus and Co

EEP evaluation committee evaluated the technical and financial proposal for the following audit firms:

- Acnabin Chartered Accountants
- Howlader Yunus and Co
- Rahman and Rahman Huq and Co.

EEP evaluation committee selected Howlader Yunus and Co. as the external auditor for the period from January – December 2012. This was reported to DFID accordingly. The evaluation sheet/score and recommendation and report of the EEP committee member were shared with DFID. DFID also reviewed the evaluation and proposals received from the auditors and approval was given to EEP to issue a letter of appointment to Howlader Yunus and Co. as the EEP external auditor for the period of January – December 2012. PMTC Bangladesh, the representative of Harewelle International Limited issued the Letter of Appointment to Howlader Yunus and Co with the DFID approved ToR. The external audit is currently in progress.

DFID UK Internal Auditor's Team: DFID UK Internal Auditor Mr. Chris Taylor visited Bangladesh during the month of February 2013. One of the agendas on the schedule was to visit the EEP programme. He visited EEP office on 25th February and had a meeting with the EEP finance team, CEO and Project Director. They had also visited EEP partner NGOs: ADD International (IFR3) and Practical Action Bangladesh (SF-RI) offices.

GoB reporting: During this period the finance team communicated with the Project Director and submitted reports required by GoB. The GoB Quarterly reports were submitted by the MIS and administrative office of EEP/Shiree.

Updated Asset Register: EEP/Shiree finance team provided DFID with an updated consolidated asset register list as of 31st December 2012 for 24 grantee projects on 23rd February 2013.

Procurement: The following items were purchased by Shiree, the first three of which were purchased in collaboration with the implementing PNGOs under nutrition project for the CPKs. The hiring vehicle refers to car hire required for the CMS3 survey team.
Physical Inventory: The EEP/Shiree physical inventory was held between 2nd and 8th January 2013 (as of 31st Dec 2012). The Inventory team consisted of six members including inventory focal person and an intern. A report was published on 13th January 2013 and approved by the CFO. Actions were taken accordingly based on recommendations.

Budget Reviews

Scale Fund Round 1 Phase 2: Phase 2 grantee NGO CARE Bangladesh completed its first year of project implementation on 28th February 2013 and submitted its Year 2 revised budget in February 2013 for approval. Shiree finance, operations and contract teams reviewed the budget and submitted to CFO with comments for review.

Scale Fund Round 2: Shiree finance, operations and contract teams reviewed the second year revised budget for Concern Worldwide. Approval has been provided.

Innovation Fund Round 3: During the period, the Shiree finance team reviewed 4 Innovation Fund budgets for third year approval for the following grantee NGOs:

- Plan Bangladesh - 20th January 2013
- Action for Disability and Development (ADD) - 24th January 2013
- Save the Children International - 10th February 2013
- Bangladesh Organisation for Social Service (BOSS) - 18th March 2013

Concern-Invest (IFR 3 project) - The Shiree finance and operations team reviewed Concern Worldwide’s (CWW) Invest project from IFR3 for Year 3. The project strategy and budget was revised for the third year. CWW had requested a “No Cost Extension” for this project as they will continue this project into a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Suppliers</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Value in BDT</th>
<th>Value in GBP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training Bag</td>
<td>Yena Enterprise</td>
<td>1,629</td>
<td>456,120.00</td>
<td>3,536.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Umbrella</td>
<td>Easy Traders</td>
<td>1,629</td>
<td>371,412.00</td>
<td>2,879.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>Taj melamine</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>61,200.00</td>
<td>474.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiring vehicle&lt;sup&gt;8&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Swades Rent-A-Car</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,646,629.00</td>
<td>13,722.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>8</sup> Each of the 8 hiring vehicles required for field transport of the CMS3 survey team (plus enumerators) were used for 50 days each.
Year 4. Shiree management approved the extension of the project until 2014 with an additional contribution from Concern Worldwide. Under this agreement, unspent funds from the original budget (Shiree contribution) will be used, and Concern will contribute an additional GBP 29,957 in Year 4. The operations team have worked closely with Concern to prepare a realistic revised strategy. Justification for a ‘No Cost Extension’ arose from the duty of care to existing beneficiaries as well as the remaining beneficiaries still to be selected.

**Innovation Fund Round 4 -Second year budget approved:** During this period, the Shiree finance team reviewed two IFR4 budgets for second year budget approval. An email approval was provided by the CFO to Prip Trust on 14th January and Save the Children on 28th January 2013.

**Finance Director:** Ms. Daniella Marunovic, Finance Director of Ecorys International Limited visited Bangladesh during 21-27 March 2013. Her visit schedule included visits to DFID, Shiree and PMTC Bangladesh.

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### VALUE FOR MONEY

Value for Money (VfM) is a guiding principle for Shiree’s operations, management and finance teams. Shiree follows DFID’s “Best Practice” policy in procurement.

The Shiree internal audit has proved to be an effective tool in relation to following up with the financial and implementation status of grantee NGOs. Through this mechanism, the Shiree programme is extensively monitoring all on-going Scale and Innovation Fund projects. This has given Shiree the opportunity to explore the capacity of grantee NGOs in financial management and also to evaluate the utilisation of the programme money – the delivery mechanism. Based on a request from the Public Accounts Committee in DFID UK, a VFM analysis report has been submitted to DFID by the Shiree Finance team.

**Applying Best Practice in Procurement**

Driven by VFM, Shiree has created a competitive environment in which companies compete to supply inputs to the EEP/SHIREE. This has resulted in the procurement of the same quality goods at lower costs. The competitive quotation and comparative statement process has seen cost savings of between 20-25% on many items such as various items procured for the nutrition component, printings, vehicle servicing, hiring vehicles for the CMS3 survey, materials purchase for office maintenance, servicing of equipment and field trips in working areas. Some evidence of cost savings is provided in the table below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl no.</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Suppliers</th>
<th>Comparative price</th>
<th>Actual price</th>
<th>Savings</th>
<th>Savings in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Training Bag</td>
<td>Yena Enterprise</td>
<td>650,557.00</td>
<td>456,120.00</td>
<td>194,437.00</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Umbrella</td>
<td>EasyTraders</td>
<td>413,766.00</td>
<td>371,412.00</td>
<td>42,354.00</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hiring vehicle</td>
<td>Swadesh Rent-A-Car</td>
<td>2,205,717.00</td>
<td>1,646,629.00</td>
<td>559,088.00</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3,270,040.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,474,161</strong></td>
<td><strong>795,879</strong></td>
<td><strong>24%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Prices quoted in BDT)

Enhanced Financial Monitoring
When Shiree approves its budget for the next year, a monitoring process has been established to control and compare performance against it during the year. Shiree is conducting an annual internal audit feedback secession with its partner NGOs highlighting the issue focused on the best use of the projects resources and assets transfer to beneficiaries. Most of the internal audit conducted during the first quarter was focused on checking the best uses of the project resources, identifying idle capacity and to check the transparency and authenticity of asset transfers to beneficiaries.

Applying Best Practice in budget negotiation
To capture and document the savings amount during budget negotiations Shiree has developed a budget review format which will be practiced from 2013 onward. The principle that VFM should not be equated to budget cuts will be maintained. This format is being reviewed by the CEO and will be made available for official use from the second quarter.
ANNEX 1: DISTRICT AND BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLD COVERAGE MAP

Data source: MIS unit, EEP/shiree, March 2013
Due to an unprecedented number of countrywide disruptions caused by Hartals (general strikes) by opposition political parties and other political disturbances, this Annex has been compiled to list activities (NGO and Shiree) that have been affected in the period between January and March 2013. A total of 13 working days during February and March were affected by Hartals.

The Shiree office in Baridhara was kept open for normal work hours and most Shiree staff were able to attend with precautionary measures. Therefore internal office work and planning took place as usual. Respective department’s description of Hartal affected activities are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hartal Affected Event</th>
<th>Number of Events Cancelled or Rescheduled</th>
<th>Number of Working Days Lost or Postponed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy Khasland Workshop</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Learning Workshop</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audits</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund Coordination Meeting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing WorkShop for Research Officers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMS3 Survey</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Advocacy**

- A three person team was forced to cancel a visit to the south of Bangladesh focusing on Khasland transfers. The visit would have entailed visiting both Save the Children and Uttaran where 2 Khaland transfer events were due to take place with District government officials. Four working days were allocated to each event, all of which were lost due to restrictions on movements by the Hartals.
- The Lesson Learning Workshop, hosted by Oxfam in Barisal in early February, was shortened by one day. This meant that scheduled field visits had to be cancelled.

2. **Accounts**

Audits at the field level were hampered as the audit team from finance were unable to move and were forced to cancel or postpone programme visits to different partner NGOs. Shiree experienced a delay to the introductory meeting with the external audit company Howlader Yunus and Co which was deferred from 18th March to 25th March. In the last quarter the following internal audits were directly affected:
• Care (SF-R1) – Internal audit was originally scheduled from 26th January – 31st January. This was rescheduled for 26th January – 2nd February. Two days were lost to Hartals, so the internal audit was extended by 2 working days. Since Care does not open offices on Hartal days, the Shiree finance team had difficulties on obtaining monthly returns, budget review and fund requests.

• SSS (IFR3) – Internal audit was scheduled on 15th January but was postponed to the 17th January (1 postponed day)

• Tarango (IFR4) – Second review of internal audit scheduled 27th February – 2nd March. This was reduced by one day. The Tarango Head Office audit was scheduled on 4th February but held on 9th February, a Saturday, to avoid Hartal.

3. Scale Fund Coordination Meeting

A Scale Fund Coordination meeting was cancelled due to a Hartal being called on the scheduled day. As it is complicated to bring together all Scale Fund partners in one location (Dhaka) at one time, it has been difficult to reschedule an appropriate time and place. Hence there have been lost opportunities to push forward key strategic agendas (e.g. momentum on CMS2, etc) and the new DFID portfolio leader has been unable to meet and discuss with Scale Fund partners.

4. Programme Management

The Management Agency’s frequent liaison with NGO partners was constantly disrupted. Shiree Programme Managers field visits to the north, south and CHT were affected by the Hartal days, with frequent shifting of dates and postponement of visits hampering the normal monitoring activities of asset transfers, different CMS activities, and verification of BHHs. In some cases where Programme Managers were already at project sites during a Hartal announcement, many were forced to cancel field visits and forced to stay in their hotels. In other cases, Programme Managers had to leave the field site earlier than planned to avoid further complications due to Hartal activities.

Attendance of staff at shire offices was dependent partly on local circumstances and impact on home/work transport availability. While most staff attended on Hartal days some also took leave or worked from home with the prior agreement of their line manager. The programme policy during Hartals has been to keep the office open, but all staff are advised not to take any risks to attend and this policy is under constant review.

5. Disruptions to Partners NGOs’ Project Implementation

Shiree partner NGOs also faced severe disruptions at the local project level. Political disruptions had varying effects on project partners’ ability to proceed with regular project activities. Some areas of Bangladesh were not affected as badly by countrywide Hartals, for example in parts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and in the Haor region, and in these places it was possible for field staff to carry out regular project activities. However, in more volatile areas, particularly in the north of Bangladesh, frequent Hartals meant that some activities were limited (e.g. limitation to number of asset transfers versus monthly target) and other activities had to be postponed or cancelled.

Some specific partner affected activities are given below:
• **NETZ:** Sale and purchase of assets were stopped because markets were closed. Therefore the purchase and distribution of IGAs inputs/Asset to BHHs was delayed across project, particularly where asset purchasing was on-going. Around 30% of planned livestock vaccinations were cancelled. NETZ noted that beneficiaries that rely on driving vans, rickshaw pulling and small businesses were made more vulnerable during Hartals and their income decreased markedly.

• **Uttaran:** Only 4,375 BHHs received assets versus target of 7,000 (62% achievement) due to shut down of local markets. Only 1,527 BHHs received Khasland versus 2,500 (61% achievement) due to restrictions on movement. Uttaran were not able to conduct around 50% of field and office based training (where beneficiaries congregate in one location).

• **Care:** Local project offices in Rangpur were shut on Hartal days (13 working days in total). Care was unable to maintain its target for CMS1 data entry, listing of eligible nutrition intervention households in the project, and input support distribution. Monitoring and technical follow-up support to beneficiaries within community bodies/groups (e.g. savings groups, EKATA,) were reduced.

• **Save the Children:** On Hartal days, distribution of assets was limited due to Save the Children’s decision that no assets would be procured and distributed by PNGO staff in the absence of SCI representatives. Hartals also affected CMS1 data entry process as the data entry staff were sometimes unable to reach to the office.

• **Oxfam:** Purchase and distribution of IGA inputs/assets to BHHs was delayed due to market closure as well as high risk of carrying cash to procure inputs at available open markets. Local level trainings to BHHs were also postponed and had to be rescheduled as field staff movements were restricted. Some staff reported harassment from local police at police checks, further deterring field staff from carrying out project activities.

A specific list of all disrupted activities for Oxfam and its 3 PNGOs is given below. The table shows the extent to which Hartals and political disruptions affected partner NGOs activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events disrupted</th>
<th>PNGO: Wave Foundation</th>
<th>PNGO: Jago Nari</th>
<th>PNGO: Dake Dye Jai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Procurement process and assets purchases disrupted</td>
<td>12 days</td>
<td>8 days</td>
<td>16 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash withdrawn from Bank</td>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>1 days</td>
<td>4 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal assets distribution events</td>
<td>4 events</td>
<td>7 events</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Mobilisation events (nutrition)</td>
<td>6 events</td>
<td>7 events</td>
<td>10 events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Union Parishad</td>
<td>2 meetings</td>
<td>1 meeting</td>
<td>3 meetings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Social Awareness Events Through Cultural Shows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social awareness events through Cultural shows</td>
<td>4 shows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Payment Delayed to Beneficiaries Under Cash for Work

- 2 times
- 4 times
- 12 times

### Skill Training for BHHs

- 10 events

### Office Closed

- 2 (half day)
- 2 (full days)

### Cancelled Field Visit All Staff

- 4 days

### Assets Supply Schedule Deferred by Supplier/Vendors

- 18 times

Considering the frequency of Hartals, many of the project partners, including Care and Save the Children, prepared contingency plans to counter the effects of the Hartals. The following plans were considered by most project partners:

- Office hours were extended by 2 hours on working days for all staff.
- Project offices opened early from 7:30 a.m. instead of 9 a.m.
- Offices were opened on Saturdays for any staff that wanted to work
- Some projects considered allowing renting local vehicles for field movement where it was not possible to use official vehicles.
- Some regional office staff planned for more night-stays at their respective field-based team offices to avoid travel risks.
- Allowing quarterly-basis advance pay and adjustment for PNGOs
- Working with more efficiency (e.g. completing reports)

### 6. CMS3 Survey

This survey was undertaken and completed but there was need for some rescheduling due to an extremely challenging context of frequent Hartals and other disruptions. The survey team were constantly aware of the threat of Hartals and changed their schedules whenever any Hartal was announced. Furthermore the survey was considerably larger and more complex than in previous years given the expansion of the sample size to allow nutrition component monitoring. As the survey process required extensive travel around the country. The survey team also worked on some weekend days to make up for lost days from political disruptions. A total of 8 working days were affected by Hartals which led to one survey team having to postpone and reschedule on these days. Extra days were allocated to finish all samples. The survey team had to cancel the survey for Oxfam with 32 households (half of the sample set) and plan to complete this pending element in the second quarter.
7. Liaison Meetings with Mpower

A number of liaison meetings with suppliers of other CMS elements were affected. Mpower, Shiree’s technical partner for CMS2, were affected by Hartals as many of their staff were unable to reach the office in Dhaka due to high risk of danger in commuting. This meant that software development for Shiree’s CMS2 was affected. In addition, Mpower had to cancel important meetings with Shiree during Hartal days.

8. Research

There were some issues with the Research Officers (ROs) from Uttaran and PAB getting to Dhaka for meetings concerning their working paper write ups. The RO of Uttaran was not able to attend a writing workshop at the Shiree office due to Hartal resulting in 6 days of lost time. Similarly the RO of PAB was also unable to attend part of the same event due to Hartal resulting in 3 days of lost time.

In summary the political disruption had a considerable cost in terms of lost days and delayed activity. The potential impact was however significantly mitigated through the commitment of both the shiree team and NGO partner staff who were willing to work flexibly and to be very opportunistic in utilising the gaps between hartals to maximum effect. Many staff showed particular commitment in terms of their journey to work – making use of multiple rickshaws, walking or using other methods to get to their office despite the absence of motorised transport.