Scope of the Report

This report covers the period from 1st July to 30th September 2011, the third quarter of Year Four 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 four programme outputs is reported, followed by updates in three further sections; Management Information Systems, Management and Finance.
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i. Commentary from Senior Management Team

The 3rd Quarter of 2011 coincided with the holy month Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, the peak monsoon season and the re-emergence of disruptive hartals. Nevertheless it was a period during which the programme reached maturity. DSK was the only Scale Fund partner to add more beneficiary households and all 6 Round One Scale Fund projects had by the end of the quarter reached or exceeded their logframe target numbers, with most households engaged in economic empowerment activities. Furthermore with the finalisation of contracts for three additional Scale Fund Round Two projects the challenge funds have now reached the limit of their reach as all remaining funds will be committed to existing partners, either through Scale Fund Round 1- Phase 2 or limited scale up of existing Innovation Fund projects. By the end of Innovation Fund Round 4 contracting the Programme will have 36 projects (9 Scale, 27 Innovation) with 32 partner NGOs. The projects are, with a couple of exceptions (Aid Comilla, Handicap Intl) concentrated in 5 geographical zones; the NW, the NE Haors, the Southern Coastal Belt, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Dhaka Urban.

The quarter saw intense preparatory activity for three significant processes that will take place during the 4th quarter. That is; (a) there was an independent review leading into intense negotiations with 6 Scale Fund partners concerning the parameters of a Phase 2 follow on contract to be formally agreed next quarter, (b) preparations for Extreme Poverty Day to be held on October 25th and, (c) build up to the Mid Term Review due in Oct/Nov.

The shiree Change Management System (CMS) continued to consolidate and mature during the quarter. CMS1 was rolled out with several IF 3 NGOs, data from the CMS2 mobile phone monitoring pilot started to appear on the web, a further CMS3 survey took place and the results of the first year on year CMS3 data analysis were produced, a second consolidated CMS4/5(I) report was published, while life histories from the in depth qualitative tracking studies (CMS5 (S)) have also started to be featured on the shiree website. The 2 new M & E specialists in the DSU team are becoming established and visited partner NGOs several times during the quarter. The programme is thus well set up for an increasing emphasis on monitoring, research and impact evaluation over coming quarters as individual contracts start to enter their later stages.

The programme research agenda also gathered momentum principally through the activities of Scale Fund research officers under the umbrella of the EPRG and with support from Bath University. The 4th EPRG saw a significantly increased presence of external stakeholders and included a useful presentation by CLP.

On the advocacy front the big event will be October 25th but activity continued during the quarter including 2 discussion forums, an MPs (APPG) advocacy visit
to the South and a continuing Op-Ed campaign. The team has managed to secure a very high level line up for EP Day which is eagerly anticipated and will be reported in the next quarter. The project supported visits by GOB officials from the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) to various project sites and also a study tour to the UK by the Project Director and the Joint Secretary (Development) RDCD. The team was accompanied throughout by the Harewelle Chairman and visited DFID and Save UK offices in London, Harewelle HQ, Cambridge and Bath Universities as well as attending a major development conference in York during an intensive 10 day programme.

The programme team continued to put considerable time and effort into the development of a direct nutritional programme enhancement. A proposal has been submitted to DFID and it is hoped that this effort will reap reward during 2012 providing the opportunity to significantly enhance the package of support to households, especially targeting pregnant and lactating women, young children and adolescent girls through counselling and nutritional supplements. Furthermore the programme has increased the level of activity on the issue of Climate Change during the quarter with an internal workshop, followed by a survey of NGO current activities and ideas to enhance their programmes with CC related interventions. A proposal will be developed and submitted next quarter. This will principally involve Climate Change Adaptation enhancements, with the submission following a similar structure to the nutrition proposal – that is mimicking the overall structure of the programme to add value to the existing Scale Fund interventions while also containing smaller innovation, research and advocacy elements.

With an ever increasing number of contracts meaning more budgets to review and monitor, more disbursements, more internal and external audits, added complexity to financial forecasting and generally much increased transactions volume, the work of the finance and administration team is expanding rapidly. Not only for finance, but also for operations, monitoring and all programme processes where the number of contracts is the main activity driver, the workload is intense. The team is continuing to perform excellently but further review, streamlining and systematisation of processes will be needed to sustain quality.

Looking forward, the final quarter will, through the MTR and the conclusion of Phase 2 contracting, set the tone for the second half of the programme. With increasing programme complexity and workload the focus of the team in the immediate post MTR period will be on getting out to the field, maintaining hands on engagement with NGO partners and consolidating learning into interesting and impactful research and advocacy outputs.

Finally the end of 2011 will be a transition point as the programme will lose 3 brilliant young professionals who will have been with us for 2 years (Hannah, Mac and Jon). During the quarter a successful recruitment process went on to find replacements and it is hoped that, through a reasonable period of overlap during the last quarter, a level of continuity of tasks will be maintained.
1. Progress against Outputs

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

Overview

The six Scale Fund NGOs have now selected all of their initial 82,850 target beneficiary households (BHHs). In fact, the figure of selected BHHs in the Scale Fund now stands at 85,111 due to some over-selection by DSK in this quarter, addressing the higher project drop-out (or ‘attrition’) rates among urban BHHs. Across the Scale Fund portfolio, NGOs have begun activities with the vast majority of those households selected.

During the quarter, NGOs under the Scale Fund continued with a diverse range of economic empowerment activities both direct (e.g. asset transfer) and indirect (e.g. training). An indication of the numbers of beneficiary households (BHHs) involved during this quarter only is provided by the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale Fund NGO</th>
<th>HH selected and verified</th>
<th>HH received cash/asset for IGA</th>
<th>HH received training/IGA support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSK</td>
<td>3,907</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETZ</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>5,652</td>
<td>1,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAB</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>3,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-UK</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,129</td>
<td>2,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTTARAN</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>11,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,138</td>
<td>11,390</td>
<td>22,126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights during this quarter across the Scale Fund included:

**Care**

- Nejera Cottage Village and Industry (NCVI) - a collective of beneficiary producers – participated at a trade fair in Bangalore, India where they sold products worth around 800,000 BDT.
- A linkage between Fisheries department and a beneficiary community was established, with the community receiving training on fish culture as well as fish seed for further production. Meanwhile other beneficiaries in the Polashbari cluster also established a meaningful linkage with the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and Agriculture Information Service Department to extend better information and technical support.
- There was collaboration with a BRAC WASH program for provision of sanitary latrines to beneficiaries in Polashbari union of Lalmonirhat, while GBK (a CARE partner) sat with Lezering Mission (a local NGO) for extending health support to CARE beneficiaries.
DSK

- A final cohort of almost 4,000 beneficiary households was selected, with initial trainings, group formation and asset transfer activities beginning with the new cohort.
- A number of community latrines and community water points were established in the slum areas in order to improve water and sanitation for beneficiary communities.
- There were a small number of DSK households (3) affected by slum eviction in this quarter. The project worked with their shiree Programme Manager to assist the affected BHHs.

NETZ

- Adivasi beneficiaries of the project observed ‘World Indigenous Day’ on August 11 in association with Upazila administration, like-minded NGOs, human rights and adivasi organizations and the local Member of Parliament.
- A permanent chain was established between project beneficiaries and local market committees and broker communities, ensuring higher profit in sale of beneficiary cattle.
- The project faced problems sourcing particular livestock vaccine, resulting in some loss of livestock and poultry among households.
- A coordination meeting was held between Upazila administration, Union Parishad and beneficiary groups on the provision of safety net support and other Government of Bangladesh (GoB) services to extreme poor households.

PAB

- The project conducted an impact assessment on cage aquaculture and sandbar pumpkin production interventions and found BHHs to be making an average monthly profit of around 1,000 BDT and 2,600 BDT respectively.
- 98 BHHs lost pumpkin crops after severe hailstorms in the area. Alternative livelihood options were provided to those affected BHHs after a joint assessment by shiree and PAB.
- Meetings were held to address working area overlap among PAB, the Char Livelihoods Project (CLP) and the CARE/SHOUHARDO project. These issues have now been resolved with the help of the shiree Operations Team.
- Success stories of PAB beneficiaries have been published in four national and local newspapers concerning sandbar pumpkin production, fish production, and working with disabilities.
- The project participated with a stall at the ‘Fish Fortnight’ event organised by Department of Fisheries.

SCUK

- A team from the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) consisting of four GoB MPs visited the project office and households in Bagerhat.
- Incessant rainfall affected BHH livelihoods in the project areas. The intensity of rainfall partially damaged assets and disrupted regular incomes. A damage assessment was conducted by SCUK, PNGOs and shiree.
- The CEO and CFO of shiree as well as the Head of Finance of Harewelle International Ltd. visited both field offices and shared audit findings.
Utaran

- A team from the APPG visited project sites in July. During the visit they met with BHHs, civil society organizations, and local Pani and Bhumi Committees. The members of the APPG committed to BHHs that they will work to enhance the khas land transfer process.
- The project was visited by the CEO and CFO of shiree as well as the Head of Finance of Harewelle International Ltd who saw field offices and held discussions with the project team.

**External evaluation of Phase 2 proposals**

In line with the shiree strategic vision for protecting and consolidating the initial gains made by beneficiaries in the Scale Fund, a three-member external evaluation team visited all Scale Fund Round 1 NGOs in this quarter. They conducted a comprehensive review of project activities, assessing current progress as well as feasibility of proposals for potential extensions into a second phase. The team, comprising an international and local consultant as well as shiree’s GoB Project Director; visited lead and implementing NGO offices, holding discussions with project staff as well as visiting field locations to talk with existing project BHHs. A detailed report was submitted to shiree and the planning for a Phase 2 of existing project activities has begun on the basis of the report recommendations.

**Scale Fund Round 2 contract signings**

This quarter also saw completion of the development phase for the second round of shiree’s Scale Fund (launched simultaneously with Innovation Fund Round 4) with the contracting of three new NGOs – Caritas, Concern Worldwide and Oxfam. The three selected NGOs, drawing extensively on the expertise of the shiree Operations and Finance Teams, designed detailed Project Memoranda and budgets as the foundations for the next three years of project activities. On the basis of these documents, contracts were drawn up by the shiree Contracts Team and signed by shiree and the NGOs.

**Guidance documents**

Members of the shiree Operations and Decision Support Unit have been developing a number of guidance documents in this quarter; drawing on experience from shiree partners in implementation and best practise from other extreme poverty programmes in Bangladesh. These documents are designed to support and improve existing project activities as well as provide guidance based on real experience to new partners who have recently joined the shiree portfolio. They will also be disseminated in the wider extreme poverty policy arena once finalised. The areas shiree has been working to strengthen include:

- Gender-sensitive programming;
- Mainstreaming climate change in extreme poverty projects;
- Developing market linkages for the extreme poor;
- Working with less physically capable beneficiaries, and;
- NGO engagement with social protection mechanisms.
These topics reflect the movement of shiree partner activities through the project implementation cycle and towards maturity. In particular, they focus on the need to improve mechanisms to protect the initial gains made by beneficiaries so far as well as the phasing out of intensive project support of beneficiaries. They are designed to draw on and consolidate the core work of the Operations team in implementation support, problem resolution and working with NGOs to continually monitor and enhance project impact.

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

Overview

The 19 implementing Innovation Fund (IF) NGOs (Rounds 1, 2, and 3) have selected 69% of their target beneficiary households (BHHs) - 13,178 out of a target of 19,220 - and apart from the newer Round 3 NGOs, have begun activities with the vast majority of those selected.

Following the recommendations of a comprehensive external evaluation of the six Innovation Fund Round 2 projects conducted in the last quarter, all IF Round 2 contracts (due to end this year) were extended by one year. The evaluation report had recommended that the extensions should be made in order to protect and build on the gains made by beneficiary households across the Round, and safeguard their graduation from extreme poverty following longer-than-expected inception periods with the initially 2-year projects.

During the quarter, NGOs under the Innovation Fund have continued with a diverse range of innovative economic empowerment activities both direct (e.g. asset and cash transfer) and indirect (e.g. training). An indication of the numbers of beneficiary households (BHHs) involved in project activities in the different Innovation Fund Rounds during this quarter only are provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovation Fund NGO</th>
<th>HH selected and verified</th>
<th>HH received cash/asset for IGA</th>
<th>HH received training/IGA support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aid Comilla</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNRS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Hill</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HKI</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC (Sunamganj)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shushilan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,446</td>
<td>3,087</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights during this quarter across the Innovation Fund Round 1 included:
CNRS
- An advocacy meeting was organised, with attendance by the Member of Parliament for Sunamgonj-1, the UNO and OC for Jamalgonj, the Upazilla Parishad Representative as well as five newly elected UP Chairmen. The project sought cooperation to facilitate transfer of khas land to the extreme poor.
- Also the AC-Land and UNO both visited the CNRS project office at different times in the quarter, sharing views with staff and management regarding land transfer process.

IC-Sunamgonj
- Two satellite health clinics were established in collaboration with Sacred Welfare Foundation (SWF), leading to the provision of medical treatment for 10 BHH groups.
- Project activities received coverage in electronic media, including Channel 1, Rtv, Ntv, Somoy TV, and Mohona TV, as well as some coverage in print media.
- The project received a visit from GoB team consisting of Assistant Chief (RDCD) and Deputy Chief (Planning Commission).

Round 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovation Fund NGO</th>
<th>HH selected and verified</th>
<th>HH received cash/asset for IGA</th>
<th>HH received training/IGA support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ActionAid</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC (Rangpur)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MJ SKS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUAMDO</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>203</strong></td>
<td><strong>724</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights during this quarter across the Innovation Fund Round 2 included:

AAB
- 18 Action Aid team members from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal and India visited the shiree-supported project areas in September.

Intercooperation
- A conflict among beneficiaries and local mastaan occurred in the project area. IC and shiree worked together to implement a rehabilitation plan for affected BHHs.
- The project participated in ‘Tree Fairs’ organised by Department for Agricultural Extension (DAE) at upazila level. The event was attended by the local MP, and a beneficiary of the project received First Price for their efforts in strawberry cultivation.
- Beneficiary strawberry stocks were hampered by incessant rain in the area. This may continue to be a problem during the next planting season.
Round 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovation Fund NGO</th>
<th>HH selected and verified</th>
<th>HH received cash/asset for IGA</th>
<th>HH received training/IGA support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADD</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOSS</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUK</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Bangladesh</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCF-USA</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSS</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,295</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>112</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights during this quarter across the Innovation Fund Round 3 included:

**ADD**
- Organised a Project Launching Workshop, with attendance by the DG of Youth and Development as well as the CEO of shiree.
- The project team also visited another shiree partner (GUK) for exposure on garments vocational training techniques.

**BOSS**
- Two Project Launching Workshops were organized, with attendance by the Upazila chairman, UNO, Upazila-level government officers, Union Parishad chairs, members, and other local elite persons. Representatives from print and electronic media as well as BHHs and shiree staff members were also in attendance.
- Project beneficiaries performed at a local event for ‘World Indigenous Day’ with respective UP chairman and members, teachers, and other community leaders present.
- The project also sought to strengthen linkages with the Union Parishad by submitting lists of extreme poor in the project area eligible for safety net and other government support.

**Concern**
- The project has established a central kitchen for their street-food vending project and started activities with 10 mobile food carts.

**GUK**
- Union-level Project Launching Workshops were organized in six Unions.

**Plan Bangladesh**
- The project has begun activities with selected street children beneficiaries, after holding their Project Launching Workshop.
**BHHs affected by flood**

Heavy monsoon rains in the Bay of Bengal hit a number of shiree partner project areas. Satkhira saw more cumulative rainfall in the first nine days of August than the normal total monthly average. A similar trend was also observed in Khulna and Jessore districts. An estimated 7,000 shiree BHHs were affected by the heavy rains, while damage to housing and some loss of assets.

**DFID team in the CHT**

During this quarter, a team from DFID (as well as the shiree Chief Operating Officer and the Head of Advocacy and Comms) visited shiree-supported partners in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Green Hill and HKI hosted the team, showcasing project progress and discussing future activities.

**Innovation Fund Round 4**

The shiree Operations and Finance Teams were also working closely in this quarter, with the eight newly selected Round 4 NGOs to develop detailed Project Memorandums and budgets. The development of the documents have progressed at varying speeds with different NGOs; but as of 30 September contracts were signed with Eco-Development, HelpAge International, and International Development Enterprises (IDE), on the basis of their completed project documents.
Figure 1: Beneficiary Household Coverage from Scale and Innovation Funds (up to September 2011)

![Map showing household coverage from Scale and Innovation Funds]

Source: MIS Unit, EEP/shiree, September 2011
1.3 Output 3 - Increasing consistency in the understanding, sharing and application of approaches to addressing extreme poverty

EPRG

August 18th saw the 4th meeting of the Extreme Poverty Research Group (EPRG) at the Asia Pacific Blossom Hotel in Baridhara. There was a high level of participation from shiree Scale and Innovation Fund partners, DFID, and other DFID-funded extreme poverty programmes (including CLP, BRAC, and UPPR).

During the session, Zulfiqar Ali (BIDS/Unnayan Shammanay) presented his final findings from shiree-funded research on reassessing and revalidating quantitative indicators of extreme poverty. This was followed by an overview of the preliminary HIES 2010 findings, and a break-out session facilitated by Colin Risner (CEO, shiree) on planning for a “State of Extreme Poverty Report”. shiree Young Professionals Christopher Maclay and Hannah Marsden then presented a paper “Short-term needs and long-term aspirations of the extreme poor: Irrational behaviour, agency and cash transfers in Bangladesh”. This was followed by Stewart Kenwood from CLP sharing findings from a recent sustainability study of CLP phase 1. DSK and Uttaran research staff then talked through the CMS 5(S) methodology and some of the emerging findings. Finally, NGO research staff received feedback on their research proposals for Phase 2. From this discussion, shiree has initiated some early work on developing graduation criteria, with possible collaboration with CLP on the issue.

Working papers

Zakir Hossain, NETZ Research Officer, is scheduled to present the Phase 1 working paper “Extreme Poor Adivasis and the Problem of Accessing Social Safety Nets” at UNDP and University of Manchester conference on “Scaling up Social Protection in Bangladesh”. Earlier, Uttaran’s findings on “Making Productive Use of Khas Land” were presented by Sonia Kabeer (Uttaran Research Officer) in a sharing session and policy dialogue on khas land at shiree in mid-July, facilitated by Dr. Joe Devine of Bath University. In addition to this, working papers from Phase 1 have been undergoing a peer review, involving colleagues from CLP, UPPR and BRAC. The comments and feedback are currently being incorporated.

The ideas for research Phase 2 received feedback in a workshop with Professor Geof Wood (Bath University) in late July. Two of these are looking at health and income-generating activities (IGA) (from DSK and NETZ), one on multiple-versus-single IGA options (PAB), two on IGA/project options for the elderly and mentally and physically challenged (SCUK and Uttaran), and one on the effectiveness of participatory approaches (Care). The Phase 2 research ideas are currently going through a process of feedback from Bath University, the shiree team and Dr Munir Ahmed (Save the Children).
Tracking studies/CMS5 (S)

Building upon the foundation of earlier completed ‘Life Histories’; NGO researchers have been busy this quarter undertaking interviews for CMS5(S) – a unique tracking methodology. They are designed as reflections on the shiree interventions and will yield a series of in-depth accounts of the dynamics of extreme poverty and experiences of households trying to climb out of extreme poverty.

International conference

This quarter, shiree Young Professionals Christopher Maclay and Hannah Marsden travelled to University of York in the UK to deliver a presentation on “Short-term needs and long-term aspirations of the extreme poor: Irrational behaviour, agency and cash transfers in Bangladesh” and joined a variety of plenary discussions at the conference. They were accompanied by John Woolner (Harewelle International) shiree Project Director Asadul Islam and AHM Abdullah, GoB Joint Secretary (Development).

GIS and SPSS workshop

In September, PAB researchers organised a training workshop at PAB offices on GIS Mapping and SPSS for NGO researchers and shiree staff.

Seasonal socioeconomic impact survey (July 2011)

shiree and its NGO researchers undertook the seasonal socio-economic impact survey (CMS3) in July to monitor and evaluate socio-economic empowerment and the seasonal change in randomly selected panel households covering all six scale fund NGOs. A total of 512 representative households were visited between 4th July and 1st August. Data collection sites included 16 Upazilas of the following 11 Districts: Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Lalmonihaat, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Dhaka slums, Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira.

Data entry and cleaning has been finished, and now the data is now being analysed by Dr. Rie Goto and Professor Nick Mascie-Taylor of the University of Cambridge.

Annual nutrition & socio-economic survey report (March 2011)

A draft report on the annual nutrition & socio-economic survey (March 2011) was produced by Professor Nick Mascie-Taylor, University of Cambridge during this quarter. Work is ongoing to supplement the results with the outputs from households tracking study reports conducted by Scale Fund NGO research staff under the supervision of University of Bath. The goal is a ‘Q2’ output bringing both quantitative and qualitative data from across the portfolio together in one report.
NDP-shiree nutrition impact study

A draft report on shiree’s experience with providing direct nutritional supplements to the extreme poor households and its impact on the health and nutritional status of mothers and under-5 children is being produced, based on the findings of NDP-shiree nutrition impact survey. The report by shiree Nutritional Focal Point, Md Masud Rana, will also reflect the output of in-depth qualitative interviews at household level conducted by Lucia Da Corta from Bath with shiree Programme Manager Abdus Salam. The draft report is expected by mid-October.

Nutrition intervention for shiree beneficiaries

Building on last quarter’s workshop entitled Integrating Direct Nutrition Interventions in DFID Supported Extreme Poverty Programmes, shiree organised a programme of planning meetings with DFID, nutrition experts from Cambridge, other extreme poverty programmes (CLP and UPPR), and with shiree Scale Fund partners on issues including; management and resourcing, logframes, monitoring and evaluation, and planning implementation. Through these meetings, members were able to review, discuss and forge a consensus on the following:

- Finalising the treatment regimen
- Different modes of identifying target groups for direct nutrition support
- Identifying additional staffing requirements at; the managing agencies (shiree, CLP and UPPR), the implementing partner and community levels, as well as location suggestions for a potential training facility.
- Operational plan template
- Logframe, monitoring and evaluation system for the upcoming programme.

A revised proposal has been submitted to DFID with budget for feedback and approval.

Owner of S K Knit Composite Ltd., a garments factory in Ashulia, Dhaka, is speaking at an inaugural ceremony for the internship for participants of GUK, a shiree funded NGO working in Gaibandha.
1.4 Output 4 - Policy and practice at local and national levels shows increasing recognition of the needs of the extreme poor

Advocacy strategy building workshops

To foster collaboration and learning among partner NGOs, two advocacy strategy building workshops were conducted on khas land and on private sector engagement in this quarter. These workshops helped build consensus around areas where shiree may advocate for change on behalf of the extreme poor. Based on these discussions, two policy briefs were prepared and validated by the group.

Media

The Daily Star Op-Ed campaign continued, with three articles published this quarter. A translation team was set up so these articles may be shared through Prothom Alo with a wider, Bangla-reading audience. The Daily Star weekend magazine also featured a section covering the trip by Members of Parliament to shiree partner field areas in the south.

Media monitoring conducted by shiree continued to highlight stories covered by leading newspapers on extreme poor issues. This document will be shared quarterly with the wider group of portfolio partners to keep all informed on national movements in key areas of advocacy.

National-level advocacy

shiree took four Members of Parliament to visit shiree partner projects Uttaran and Save the Children in the south. The MPs participated in discussions and exposure visits highlighting extreme poverty challenges and were encouraged to advocate on behalf of the extreme poor.

Government services

In this quarter, shiree initiated discussions with the Director of Field Services (Department of Agricultural Extension) to explore how to increase recognition of extreme poor needs within the work of the DAE. The discussion was fruitful and further talks are expected.

Private sector engagement

GUK signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Apex Footwear in July. This MoU commits Apex to employing 800 shiree-GUK beneficiary climate change refugees from Gaibandha in their footwear factories and is a major step forward for the IF Round 3 project.
Extreme Poverty Day planning

Planning for Extreme Poverty Day (October 25, 2011) got underway in this quarter, assisted by two new short-term national Young Professionals (see section 3). Two important partnerships have been formed – with BRAC and British Council – for this event. The theme, ‘Eradicating Extreme Poverty: Whose Responsibility Is It?’, will give shiree an opportunity to explore the roles of various stakeholders in pursuit of this overall goal. Key speakers for the day have been selected and a series of ten documentaries are being prepared to highlight how ‘champions’ in various sectors (non-NGO) have supported the extreme poor. Finally, two briefing sessions with shiree partner NGOs also took place in this quarter, sharing ideas for the event including setting up stalls by the NGOs.

Members of Parliament in a discussion session with extreme poor people while visiting a shiree partner project Uttaran in the South-West region of Bangladesh
2. Management Information Systems (MIS)

**MIS database on BHH records**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>BHH Target</th>
<th>Q3 2011</th>
<th>Cumulative Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scale Fund</td>
<td>82,850</td>
<td>4,138</td>
<td>85,111*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round I</td>
<td>6,650</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round II</td>
<td>5,410</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation Round III</td>
<td>7,160</td>
<td>1,295</td>
<td>1,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>102,070</td>
<td>5,433</td>
<td>98,289*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[* DSK selected more than target due to high drop-out rate among urban BHHs]

**Extreme Poverty Monitor**

During this quarter, the MIS team developed a dynamic web link on shiree website called the ‘Extreme Poverty Monitor’. This link is a public domain representing different up-to-date outputs of the five components of shiree’s Change Monitoring System (CMS). It includes data and analysis regarding the dynamics of extreme poverty in Bangladesh and the effectiveness of interventions intended to address extreme poverty by different NGO partners. Examples of the kind of data available can be seen in Annex 1.

**CMS1 orientation for Innovation Fund Round 3 partners**

MIS team members visited Plan Bangladesh, SCF-USA, BOSS, GUK and ADD to finalize their beneficiary household profile (CMS1) questionnaire. These visits also included developing the CMS1 database software applications and providing orientation to data entry staff. As part of staff orientation, CMS and MIS-related documentation was shared, including: (i) beneficiary household profile (ii) MIS code book (iii) shiree MIS web interface (iv) general guidelines on using mobile handset for data collection and (v) national geo code etc.

**CMS2 Pilot Phase Extension**

After completion of the second phase of piloting for CMS2 – the mobile-based tool tracking changes in livelihoods conditions at the beneficiary level – the decision was made to extend the existing pilot till December 2011, pending decision on full rollout of the system. Meanwhile, the data and analysis will still be presented on the shiree website, encouraging a constant exploration of the uses of this dynamic and exciting new technology. The next priority for the MIS team is to start identifying trends, and presenting disaggregated data (by geographical location, sex and other demographics). The team is also working to improve the existing data accessibility and encourage partners NGOs to access their own data frequently.
3. Management

shiree retreat 2011

The shiree team held their annual retreat on 28-29 July, at the BCDM campus in Raajendrapur. At this busy time in the life cycle of the shiree programme, the retreat aimed to consolidate recent developments across the portfolio and set out a clear plan for the following year which includes an upcoming mid-term review (MTR) by DFID and others. Specific sessions at the retreat included; a review of finance and administration, an overview of operational progress and issues, planning for the upcoming MTR, reviewing current programme M&E status through the use of the shiree website, planning for the Extreme Poverty Day 2011, and a review of selected findings from the Change Monitoring System. Outstanding HR issues including number of staff working days and maternity leave were also discussed.

English-language training

This quarter saw a start to formal English-language training sessions for shiree staff provided by the British Council at shiree head office. This new initiative from shiree senior management includes a range of professional language skills such as; formal reporting, e-mail/letter writing, English for meetings, interpersonal communication skills, and presentation skills development. The training will support staff to consolidate and build upon their existing knowledge of English and consists of 54 hours of instruction, divided to 18 separate classes. The classes began in early September and will run until mid-November. Concurrently there are improved comprehension and speaking classes running for support staff and drivers, consisting of 32 hours in 16 separate classes.

Recruitment

During this quarter, shiree appointed a new international Young Professional to join the Operations Team as an Associate Programme Manager (APM). The new staff member, Vishal Gadhavi, is the first of several new Young Professionals joining shiree in the coming months to replace the current batch of YPs who are leaving shiree after two years with the programme. As a member of the Operations Team, the APM will support the development and implementation of shiree project support and oversight activities.

To meet the contract management requirements of the expanding shiree programme, a national Young Professional, Ms. Helen Kujur, was recruited in the Finance and Accounts Team. The position includes grantee NGOs budget monitoring. The Finance Team has also started the recruitment process for a Senior Accounts Manager.

Finally, to address the current demands on the Advocacy and Communications Team two short-term (4-month) appointments were made. These national Young Professionals are supporting the roll-out of the Extreme Poverty Day event by coordinating logistics, preparing guest lists, contributing to case studies, press releases, and translations.
4. Finance

**Fund disbursement**

During this quarter the shiree Finance Team disbursed a total of **GBP 2,048,098**. This included **GBP 1,266,584** to eight Scale Fund Round 1 and 2 NGOs and **GBP 401,034** to 25 Innovation Fund Round 1, 2 and 3 NGOs. Finally **GBP 380,480** was disbursed as Management and Lesson Learning costs: including **GBP 4,034** disbursed to support the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). The monthly accounts of shiree were checked and prepared by the finance team and the final versions forwarded to Harewelle International Ltd.

**External audits of Scale Fund**

The shiree Finance Team has been working in this quarter to finalise the external audit report of six Scale Fund NGOs for the second year. The external audits for the different NGOs were completed by the following firms:
- ACNABIN, Chartered Accountants: DSK and NETZ
- Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co, Chartered Accountant: CARE and Uttaran
- NUFHAS, Chartered Accountants: SCUK and PAB

The shiree team monitored and assisted these audit firms in relation to documents and information regarding partner NGOs.

**Internal audits**

During the reporting period, the finance team conducted internal audits of Intercooperation-I, CNRS and Shushilan.

**Review of Scale Fund budgets**

As part of the external evaluation of Phase 2 proposals (see section 1), the shiree Finance Team participated in a review of the budgets for all six existing Scale Fund projects in this quarter. During finalisation of all Year 3 budgets in February, it was assumed that the processes for Phase 2 extension of Scale Fund projects would be completed by the end of August. However, given the range of issues raised by the external review and the depth of subsequent discussion it has not been possible to achieve the timetable, meaning that approval for Quarter Three budgets of the NGOs was required. shiree has now communicated with the NGOs to clarify the funding status for the next quarter (relating to budgets, revised work plans and quarterly cash flows) and is expecting that the necessary formalities and processes for the preparation of Phase 2 of all six projects will be completed by the end of October.
**Innovation Fund Round 1 budget reviews**

During this quarter, the shiree Finance Team reviewed four Innovation Fund Round 1 budgets – Aid Comilla, CNRS, Intercorporation I and Shushilan – and organised meetings with them on the basis of the review. Furthermore, a meeting was organized with HKI in order to resolve issues related to the programme implementation and budget approval was subsequently provided.

**Innovation Fund Round 2 extensions**

shiree arranged a day-long workshop in July with Innovation Fund Round 2 NGOs entitled “An Overview of Budgetary Processes for Third Year Extension”. Third year revised budgets and implementation strategies were subsequently submitted and reviewed by the shiree Finance and Operations Teams. Budget approval has so far been given to IC-2, MJ SKS, NDP and SKS, with contract amendments signed by these NGOs and the shiree CEO and Managing Director of PMTC.

**Innovation Fund Round 3**

All Innovation Fund Round 3 NGOs completed their inception periods. The six-month budget of BOSS was revised under year 1 and approval was provided in September, based on the submission of the revised budget and revised implementation strategy.

**Scale Fund Round 2 contract signing**

In this quarter, the shiree Finance, Contracts and Operations Teams reviewed the three new Round 3 NGO budgets, programme memoranda and logframes. After negotiating various contractual clauses, contracts were eventually signed with:

1. Caritas Bangladesh
2. Oxfam GB, Bangladesh
3. Concern Worldwide

**Innovation Fund Round 4 contract signing**

Budgets, programme memoranda and logframe were reviewed for the following Innovation Fund Round 4 NGOs:

1. HelpAge International
2. Eco Development
3. Handicap International
4. PRIP Trust
5. International Development Enterprise (IDE), Bangladesh
6. Save the Children UK
7. Tarango
8. Green Hill
By the end of the quarter, shiree had signed contracts with HelpAge, Eco Development and IDE, with the other signings expected in October.

**Procurement**

In this quarter, four new laptop and two new UPS were purchased for shiree by their procurement firm Crown Agents. In addition a digital SLR camera was purchased for use mainly by the Communications team as part of a general strategy of upping the role of the website.

**Fund management manual reviewed**

Will Skinner, Accounts Manager with the British Council in Edinburgh, this quarter submitted a report for streamlining shiree’s contract and fund management practices. Based on this report, the shiree Finance and Contracts Teams met with Mark Johnston, Finance Director of Harewelle International Ltd. Minutes were prepared and circulated for approval and subsequently some Clauses under the Accountable Grant Agreement were amended.

**Reporting to GoB**

During this period, the shiree Finance Team submitted reports required to the shiree Project Director. The FAPAD report for the year ending 30th June 2011 also submitted in early July 2011.
Annex 1: Example findings from the Change Monitoring System

Examples of findings from various elements of the shire Change Monitoring System available on the ‘Extreme Poverty Monitor’ section of the shiree website:

From CMS1: Percentage distribution of households according to food taking status and frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food intake status</th>
<th>0 month</th>
<th>1 month</th>
<th>2-3 month</th>
<th>4-5 months</th>
<th>6+ months</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mostly one meal/day</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>67.4</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly two meals/day</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three meals/day some difficulties</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difficulty, but three meals/day</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From CMS2: Household income changes over the last one month (Jul'11 vs. Sep'11)