## Shiree Q2 Research on Extreme Poverty in Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Author</strong></th>
<th>Nikhil Chakma</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution</strong></td>
<td>Caritas Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interviewee name</strong></td>
<td>Riti Ching Marma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td>Marma, Buddhist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Union, Upazilla and Zilla</strong></td>
<td>Before the Intervention: Ruma District: Bandarban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates of Interview</strong></td>
<td>16.04.2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wellbeing status</strong></td>
<td>Working extreme poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Livelihood before and after the intervention</strong></td>
<td>Riti Ching Marma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Agricultural labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Husband: Thouai Thouai Mong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Occasional Agriculture labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital status and household composition</strong></td>
<td>Married, Lives with husband and two children (but during April-July 2012, husband was went out elsewhere without inform her)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords</strong></td>
<td>Increased productive assets, bonded labour, health shocks, land access</td>
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End of ROI1: 24.05.2015
End of ROI2: May 2015

Before the intervention: April 2012
April 2013
May 2015

Working extreme poor
Working extreme poor
Moderate poor
INTRODUCTION

This is the second reflection of intervention of Riti Ching family. She was unable to improve her family livelihoods conditions due to various challenges and factors particularly death of pigs, chickens and inaccessibility of land for income generating activities. Apart from these she became pregnant while asset transfer to the beneficiary. That’s why she again enlisted as a less beneficiary and received livelihood support 2nd time during the period of 2014-2015. She has been increased productive assets after 2nd time project support. On the other hand her husband got permanent paid work to his employer and received regular income and can able to afford 3 meals in a day with nutritious foods. More importantly, she has been savings money at local savings groups and got land access for income generating activities.

1. WELLBEING STATUS AT ENDLINE

The wellbeing of Riti Ching has been changed moderately after intervention of the project. Although Riti ching failed to graduate after first time intervention due to various challenges and factors still particularly death of pigs and chickens and limited land access for income generating activities.

Become a less capable beneficiary, Caritas again provided livelihood support with a view graduate extreme poverty. She received goats to rear and other vegetables seeds for income generating activities as well as food security. Now all the income generating activities are running well. Further she bought again chickens and got a cow with conditions to rear in the household. Apart from these, her husband got permanent paid work near the household which provide them regular income. Although their household is increased, however, Riti ching family has been able to afford 3 meals in days accompanied with vegetables. Fish, eggs or meats are taken once fortnightly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Just before the shiree intervention</th>
<th>After Intervention Support</th>
<th>End line CMS5 survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-being category</td>
<td>Working</td>
<td>Working</td>
<td>Moderate poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extreme Poor</td>
<td>Extreme Poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diets</td>
<td>Two meals a day consisting of rice with</td>
<td>Two meals a day consisting of rice with</td>
<td>Three meals and reduced during the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. IDENTIFICATION OF VULNERABILITY SOURCES AND LEVEL OF EXPOSURE TO/PREPAREDNESS FOR HAZARDS

Received NGO help due to less capable beneficiary

Riti Ching is a less capable beneficiary among other Caritas beneficiaries so that she received 4 goats in the month of May 2015 as recovery. To rear the goats Riti constructed a goat house for rearing with the support of the project. Now all the...
goats are alive. Further, she received a variety of vegetables crops from the project for income generating activities.

However, Riti has been able to buy 2 chickens for rearing as she had vast experience to rear the chicken. Last year she lost the chicken due to infectious diseases. Riti rears the poultry without permanent poultry house but kept in a bamboo made basket inside the house.

**Born new baby: increase family member**

Riti became happy when new family member joined in their family in the last year. But there family income has been decreased due to irregularity of Riti’s work. Her husband did hard work for maintaining 5 family members consumption.

**Rearing cow with conditions: Son helps for cow rearing**

Riti Ching has been rearing a cow in the house with conditions in the last year. The conditions were to feed the cow and received one after giving birth. She got the cow from her friend living in Ruma sadar. Now the cow is 5 months pregnant and her elder son look after the cow. Her son has been helped in different income generating activities including cow rearing.

**Access to hilly land for Jhum cultivation**

Last year Riti could not cultivate Jhum due to new born baby. However, her husband cultivated mixed vegetables garden where they got access to land from the employer. This year Riti has been planning to do Jhum cultivation at the nearby house so that she has already been able to get 2 acres of hilly land Headman for Jhum cultivation. The jhum plot has already ready for cultivation.

**Access to plain land for mixed vegetables gardening**

Riti ching has strong linkage with the employer where she got access 40 decimals of land from the Bengali community without any conditions. She has already prepared the land for mixed vegetables cultivation. She will cultivate bringel, beans, leafy vegetables and other crops in the field for household consumption as well as receiving income.

**Selling of firewood: mitigate household basic needs**

Riti and her husband went to forest for collection of firewood. They received 1000 Taka fortnightly by selling the firewood during the dry season. They bought salt, shrimp paste, dry fish and oil income received from firewood. The upcoming couple of months they would not able to sell firewood due to rain.
Husband got paid work

This is one of the positive trends for wellbeing of the Riti ching family livelihoods. Her husband got a paid work from the employer at the nearby house. Her husband has been doing paid work for five months average 5000-6000 Taka per month. Moreover, her husband helps own household works as well as income generating activities whenever he is able to manage time.

Children continue schooling without interruption

Children have been continuing school without any interruption. Occasionally her elder son helps households work as well as grazing of cow after schooling. On the other hand Riti looks after 2 years old baby. Her younger daughter also goes to school regularly at nearby school and got stipend from the government.

Loss of productive assets: income decrease

Riti has been lost their productive assets in the last year amounting 10,000 Taka. All the pigs were died of due to what reason they did not know. Death of pigs is the common scenario in the Bandarban district. Farmers always claim the necessity of pig vaccine. It was found the pigs were not vaccinated and rear in open space without pig house.

Son fever and hospitalized

Her elder son had been afflicted fever in the last year. The fever remained stable i.e. unable to cure in the house so that they went to hospital. Her son stayed 3 days in the hospital and come back in the house after curing. Riti ching spent 500 Taka for son treatment.

Dim/blurry vision of Riti ching

Riti ching eyesight is getting dim due to what reason she did not know. She has suffered dim vision for 2-6 days in the last year. She did not take any medicine to cure the dim vision or did not consult any doctors.

Included VGD programme

Riti ching family has included VGD programme in the last year. This inclusion helps them for short-term household food security. However, Riti ching sells labour in advance during the emergency period or mitigating the shocks. For example, her elder son has fallen into fever for 7 days and hospitalized. There was no savings in the household and forced to sell in advance for accessing the credit.
Abstain from rearing pigs due to superstitions

Riti ching has been abstained from rearing pigs in the household due to superstition. She was motivated through local traditional healer’s foresight that not to rear pigs in the household. Since then Riti Ching stopped to rear pig in the households. During discussion it was found that majority of the Marma community people are believed in superstitions. For example they do not cultivate white gourd in the household.

Savings at local savings groups

Riti Ching has been involved in savings group at UNDP-CHTDF designated programme. However they did not received any assets or kind from this programme. She has been savings 10 Taka per month for five to six years, but she could not tell exactly how much money present there. It is one of the positive trends in her household livelihood resilience.

3. PROGNOSIS FOR FUTURE RESILIENCE

Bad events are not forecasted

Ritiching was reluctant to say something about prognosis for future resilience due to superstition. Basically Marma community people did not forecast what will happen in life and household livelihoods. Interviewed with Riti ching says “if they forecast bad things it will occur in the family. That’s why they did not forecast bad things. However they expect good things in the household”.

Landslides resultant from heavy rain may destroy the crop fields

Riti Ching has been experiencing crop loss several times in her livelihood due to heavy rain. Sometimes she had experienced crop lost due to landslides. Majority of the hill tracts community people especially remote areas rely on traditional agricultural technology i.e. shifting cultivation for subsistence livelihood. On the other hand they are reluctant to get quality seeds due to inadequate supply to adopt improved agricultural knowledge. However, recently Riti ching has been cultivating high breed agricultural crops in the field after intervention of the project.

Stealing of livestock’s

Riti Ching lives near the road side. And she keeps the cows in front of the house. So, there is a probability of stealing cows and goats at night from then. Although she never had experienced about stealing of cows, however it is a threat of livestock’s
rearing due to road side. To protect the cows and goats she had already informed community people especially local leader (Karbari) about rearing of livestock’s and protect from stealing.

Dilapidated house condition and resilience

The house condition remained same after intervention. She had already experienced house damaged due to heavy wind during the monsoon season. To avoid the house damaged she has been planning to repair the house before rainy season start with the help of husband income.

Continuation of Children education

Despite of shocks (husband left the house) Riti has been able to educate children or continue schooling regularly. However she has been fearing children drop out from the school. Riti did not manage enough time to care the children for education. On the other hand, her elder son is forced to rear livestock’s after schooling. This year her son will sit for Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination so that continuous study is required. More importantly Riti had to sell advance labour for children education. She was able to manage 1000 Taka from her employer for children tuition fee. To avoid children drop out from the school, she will manage time for livestock’s rearing and not to engage children in income generating activities. It is mentionable that her daughter receive stipend for education so that her daughter have a bank account to receive the stipend.

Dreams and aspirations for the future

Sustainable livelihood i.e. without taking loans from other is the main dreams and aspirations for the future. Improving productive assets is another aspiration on their family so they can maintain family livelihoods long term and manage children education. Apart from these, building a new house for well being of the family is the first and foremost dreams and aspiration of Riti ching.

Capacity to cope with future hazard/shock/event

Riti ching family had low capacity to cope with future hazards and shocks. Now Riti has medium level capacity to cope with after receiving 2nd time project support. Currently she has cow, goats, chickens and a variety of crops for income generating as well as food security. She faced different types of hazards in the last year which are as follows
### Types of hazards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of hazards</th>
<th>Likelihood/Frequency*</th>
<th>Impact*</th>
<th>Strategy used to avoid/moderate impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of land access</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Strong linkage with Headman and Karbari and local leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry disease</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Not to buy poultry from market, sell in advance before disease outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of pigs</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Building pig house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medical treatment at hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dim vision</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Consult with doctors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop loss due to rain</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Drainage system at the hill slopes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House damage due to heavy wind</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Repaired house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*high, moderate, low

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**4. ANALYSIS**

**Riti Ching households’ well-being ascents and descents**

Riti ching was unable to graduate her extreme poverty after first intervention due to low working members as well as husband left from the house. However 2nd time Riti Ching has been changed significantly her family well-being status in the last year. More importantly her husband returned home and has been working for family income generating activities. Moreover, her husband has been able to get paid work in his employer. Now Riti ching has a cow, 4 goats and 5 chickens as productive assets. Apart from these she cultivated mixed vegetables crops in the land as well as permitted Jhum cultivated from the local leader Headman.

Riti ching livelihood deteriorated when her all pigs are died equivalent more than 10000 BDT. On the other hand, she was reluctant to access land for Jhum cultivation. Moreover, children fever and blurry eyesight was the descents livelihood in their family.
Household resilience of Riti Ching’s family

Riti ching has moderate resilience capacity to cope with future hazards and shocks. Productive assets like cow, goats and chickens have made her strong household resilience. More over her husband got permanent paid work at the nearby employer. Access to traditional land and plain land from the employer is one of the major positives trends of Riti Ching livelihoods. Apart from these, Riti Ching has been savings money at the UNDP operated savings groups.

Vulnerability within the households

The house condition is not good to tackle the monsoonal heavy wind. Although her husband returned to home but he did not take initiative to repair the house. Currently they have limited savings in the house so that Riti’s family is unable to hire labour to repair the house. Her elder son has been helping grazing the cow after schooling and possibility to stop schooling if not found enough care for education. On the other hand, Riti ching cannot work regularly due to young baby as well as husbands engaged with bonded labour. Although they did not quarrel with each other after returning the home, however her husband had experienced to left the house. Riti ching did not have permanent land to rely on. They are dependent to others for accessing land.

SWOT analysis of Riti’s family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Productive assets-cows, chickens, pigs, vegetables garden</td>
<td>• Limited savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Working capacity</td>
<td>• Superstition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Land access</td>
<td>• No permanent productive land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Children education</td>
<td>• Dilapidated house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Income generation activities</td>
<td>• Death of chickens and pigs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Savings at bank</td>
<td>• Crop loss due to heavy rain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NGO Intervention effect on Riti Ching family

Riti ching is a less capable beneficiary of Caritas intervention. Therefore she received again support from the project. At the first installment she received direct input worth a total of 17950 taka. The major income generating activities were 3 pigs, 7 chickens, vegetables seeds and maintenance cost. However she was unable to improve her livelihood condition through the project intervention. The main reason was death of pigs and chickens due to infectious diseases although she vaccinated the chickens. Pigs were remained non-vaccinated due to lack of pig vaccine.

During 2014-15 she received again support from Caritas with a view to graduate extreme poverty. Similarly she received goats the major income generating activities and other vegetable for food security. Up to interview period, the income generation activities are good and have been expecting higher production from vegetables and goats. Riti ching has been anticipating that she will overcome extreme poverty invested present productive asset in various income generating activities.
INTERVENTION MAP FOR RITI CHING (34 YEARS OLD) FROM DATE OF INTERVENTION TO MAY 2015

- Born into working extreme poor family
  - Riti got married to a destitute but able man. They moved in with her father as a separate household

- Become involved in Jhum cultivation and contributes to households income
  - Husband stopped working, gambled more and rarely contributed to household income
  - Discovered husband has two other wives

- Feb, 12 - enlisted as project beneficiaries
  - Feb – Sold pig to pay for treatment and returned to work

- Aug - Gets first support – 3 Pig & 7 chickens
  - Dec – Death of one pig and six chickens
  - April – Gets second support - 3 pigs and 3 chickens
  - April – Rainstorm destroyed roof
  - Dec - Began suffering pain in hand and couldn’t work
  - Son fever and hospitalized. Spent 500 Taka for treatment
  - Health shocks - blurry vision

- Aug - Husband returns and both working (income 3000 taka per month)
  - Riti become pregnant
  - April - rainstorm destroyed roof

- Aug - Riti works as an agricultural day labourer
  - Received VGD card
  - First child born
  - 2nd child born and died

- March – Gets support – 3 goats and mixed vegetables seeds
  - First child born
  - Second child born and died

- April – rainstorm destroyed roof
  - Son fever and hospitalized. Spent 500 Taka for treatment
  - Health shocks - blurry vision

- April – rainstorm destroyed roof
  - Son fever and hospitalized. Spent 500 Taka for treatment
  - Health shocks - blurry vision

- Feb – Sold pig to pay for treatment and returned to work
  - Access to hilly land for shifting cultivation

- September – Gets support – 3 goats and mixed vegetables seeds
  - Access to plain land for mixed vegetable gardening

- Oct – rainstorm destroyed roof
  - Son fever and hospitalized. Spent 500 Taka for treatment
  - Health shocks - blurry vision

- Dec – Death of one pig and six chickens
  - Health shocks - blurry vision

- Feb, 12 – enlisted as project beneficiaries
  - Feb – Sold pig to pay for treatment and returned to work

- Apr’12
  - Aug
  - Oct
  - Dec
  - Apr’13
  - 2014
  - May’15