

EEP/shiree Quarterly Report

2016

January - March



An EEP/Shiree beneficiary, working on her newly acquired sewing machine, received as an asset transfer from EEP/Shiree



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



EEP/Shiree

Quarterly Report 2016

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Economic Empowerment of the Poorest (EEP)
Stimulating Household Improvements Resulting in Economic Empowerment (SHIREE)

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANC	Antenatal Care
BHH	Beneficiary Household
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CGF	Contributory Group Fund
CMS	Change Monitoring System
CPK	Community Pushti Kormi
CSG	Community Support Group
CU2	Children Under 2 years of age
CWW	Concern Worldwide
DFID	Department for International Development
ECNEC	Executive Committee of the National Economic Council
EEP	Economic Empowerment of the Poorest
EPI	Extended Programme on Immunisation
FAPAD	Foreign Aided Project Audit Directorate
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HKI	Helen Keller International
HSI	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
IAP	Independent Assessment Panel
IF	Innovation Fund
IFA	Iron and Folic Acid
LGRD	Local Government and Rural Development
MNP	Micronutrient Powder
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PNC	Post Natal Care
PNGO	Partner Non-Government Organisation
QR	Quarterly Report
RDCD	Rural Development and Cooperative Division
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SF	Scale Fund
Shiree	Stimulating Household Improvements Resulting in Economic Empowerment
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
UPL	University Press Limited

EEP/Shiree in numbers

QR1 2016 (January – March 2016)

EEP submits its results to DFID twice annually, in March and September. The results submitted in March are as given below, taking into account any adjustments.

Table 1: EEP/Shiree graduation statistics (based on 2015 CMS3 survey, using average PNGOs household size of 3.86)

Fund Type	Beneficiary enrollment vs graduation					
	No. beneficiaries enrolled			No. beneficiaries graduated		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 1)	289,595	134,749	154,846	272,769	126,919	145,849
Scale Fund Round 1 (Phase 2)	371,777	172,988	198,789	364,686	169,689	194,998
Scale Fund Round 2	182,990	85,145	97,845	177,541	82,610	94,931
Scale Fund Round 3	47,060	21,897	25,163	46,808	21,780	25,028
Scale out	191,766	89,229	102,537	191,151	88,942	102,209
Sub Total SF	1,083,188	504,007	579,181	1,052,955	489,939	563,016
Innovation Round 1	27,535	12,812	14,723	15,165	7,056	8,109
Innovation Round 2	19,423	9,038	10,386	12,697	5,908	6,789
Innovation Round 3	30,289	14,093	16,195	29,828	13,879	15,949
Innovation Round 4	33,333	15,510	17,823	32,633	15,184	17,449
Sub Total IF	110,579	51,452	59,127	90,323	42,027	48,296
Grand Total	1,193,767	555,460	638,307	1,143,278	531,967	611,311
Percentage graduated	N/A			95.8%		

Note: Based on 2015 CMS1 and CMS3 survey, using average PNGOs household size of 3.86

Table 2: Cumulative progress against all components up to March 2016

All Cumulative		Progress up to March 2016		
		Male	Female	Total
Number of People lifted out of extreme poverty	Target/Milestone	357,037	410,289	767,326
	Achieved	531,967	611,311	1,143,278
Number of People achieving food security	Target/Milestone	357,037	410,289	767,326
	Achieved	548,273	630,048	1,178,321
Number of beneficiaries of extreme poverty programme	Target/Milestone	535,526	615,400	1,150,926
	Achieved	555,460	638,307	1,193,767
Number of people benefitting from cash transfer programme	Target/Milestone	41,042	47,163	88,205
	Achieved	71,292	81,925	153,217
Number of people supported to improve their rights to land and property	Target/Milestone	49,204	56,543	105,747
	Achieved	44,627	51,283	95,910
Number of children Under 5 and pregnant women reached	Target/Milestone	97,712	135,826	233,538
	Achieved	107,888	151,934	259,822

 Exceeded Target

 ¹Missed Target

¹ The GoB's Department of Land Records and Survey provides Khasland to landless people. Transferring land is a complicated process of application, registration etc., and takes a long time to conclude. The project period did not allow EEP to achieve or exceed the target/milestone.

Outline of the EEP/Shiree programme

The Economic Empowerment of the Poorest (EEP) programme started in 2008. It was planned to end in March 2016 but was given a six month No Cost Extension from April to September 2016.

EEP/Shiree is a partnership between the [UK Department for International Development \(DFID\)](#), the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation \(SDC\)](#) and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) under the leadership of the [Rural Development and Cooperative Division \(RDCCD\)](#) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD).

The total programme budget is GBP 83.53 million. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) contributes approximately £79.53 million, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributed £4 million.

Summary of EEP/Shiree Programme Objectives

Output One:	<i>Scale Fund</i> - proven approaches to improving the livelihoods of the extreme poor taken to scale;
Output Two:	<i>Innovation Fund</i> - innovative approaches to improve the livelihoods of the extreme poor tested, evaluated and successes are ready for scaling up;
Output Three:	<i>Lesson Learning and Research</i> - to increase consistency in the understanding, sharing and application of approaches in addressing extreme poverty;
Output Four:	<i>Advocacy</i> - needs of the extreme poor are recognised in policy and practice at national and local levels; and
Output Five:	<i>Nutrition</i> - direct nutritional support provided to extreme poor mothers, children, adolescent girls and family members.

Over its lifecycle, EEP/Shiree established two challenge funds to provide resources to address extreme poverty. National and international NGOs prepared bids for projects to be funded by the funds, and the successful candidates were chosen by an Independent Assessment Panel. The first fund - the Scale Fund - used tried and tested methods to assist large numbers of people out of extreme poverty. The second - the Innovation Fund - challenged NGOs to design and implement innovative approaches based on selected themes to reduce extreme poverty in urban and rural areas.

Additionally, EEP/Shiree also implemented two nutrition funds from 2012. [The Scale Fund Nutrition Component](#) provided direct nutrition support to pregnant and breastfeeding

women, adolescent girls, and children through existing EEP/Shiree Scale Fund partners. The Nutrition Innovation Fund tested new and unproven approaches to increasing protein intake among women, adolescent girls and children.

Overall, EEP/Shiree funded 43 projects with its partner NGOs under the Scale and Innovation Funds. As of December 2015, all asset transfers have now concluded, and most of the projects have now closed. In 2016, EEP continues to support its Scale Fund partners to improve the sustainability of interventions through supporting savings and loans schemes, contributory group funds, and providing links to service providers.

These direct delivery components (Outputs 1, 2 and 5) are complemented by research (Outputs 3) and advocacy (Output 4) to improve the understanding of the causes and effects of extreme poverty, the effectiveness of the measures taken to address it, and, through using the evidence created, aims to increase the recognition of the extreme poor in government policy and planning.

EEP/Shiree has a low key but strategic advocacy role to ensure the needs of the Extreme Poor are recognised in policy and practice. Initially networking with other relevant actors in Bangladesh to develop learning platforms on extreme poverty, EEP/Shiree with DFID support, assisted the Planning Commission to frame policies on extreme poverty which are now included in the Government's 7th Five Year Plan (2016 - 2020) approved in October 2015.

EEP/Shiree is subject to rigorous DFID Annual Reviews and consistently scores above the testing expectations set by GoB and donors. It scored at A+ in both 2014 and 2015.

EEP/Shiree is managed by [Ecorys UK Ltd](#) and [PMTC Bangladesh Ltd](#) with their consortium partners, the [Centre for Development Studies \(CDS\)](#) at [Bath University](#), the [British Council](#) and [Unnayan Shamannay](#).

Scope of this report

This is the First Quarterly Report (QR1) of 2016 for EEP/Shiree for the period 1 January to 31 March in Year Eight - the final year - of the project.

Executive Summary

Scale Fund: following approval of the No Cost Extension, EEP/Shiree concluded Accountable Grant Agreements with its 14 Partner NGOs to extend the Scale Fund (SF) projects to August 2016. The aim is to support weaker beneficiaries and enhance project sustainability through provision of Contributory Group Funds (CGF). This will reinforce EEP/Shiree's graduation enhancement strategy for households before project closure in September 2016.

Major accomplishments of the SF projects in QR1 were capacity building of PNGO staff and local service providers, training of savings group leaders, CGF to support weak and vulnerable BHHs, distribution of khasland and water bodies, and private sector job placement. Additionally, all partner projects underwent an end of project evaluation.

Nutrition: 19,425 households and their family members received nutritional support during the quarter. Of them, 3,021 households are included as new nutrition beneficiaries.

Lesson Learning - Scale Fund Synthesis Report: all fourteen of EEP/Shiree's PNGOs participated in a Lesson Learning Workshop. The aim was both to share experiences among PNGOs and to validate and contribute to a synthesis report of the Scale Fund evaluation reports that was submitted to DFID.

Research: CMS 3 Socio-economic and Anthropometric Survey 2016 was commenced, and will inform the final EEP graduation results in September. EEP started its ambitious research plan for 2016, which includes an additional survey to augment the data from CMS 3, and understand some of the key challenges affecting graduation, as well as completion of policy briefs.

Policy influencing: there was a round table discussion with Honourable Parliamentarians to review action to operationalise the ECNEC approved 7th Five Year Plan with its policy emphasis on extreme poverty.

Finance: Quarter 1 saw total disbursement of £2.62 million. As of 31 March, overall expenditure of the programme was £81.95 million - 98.11% of the total budget. There remains £1.58 million for the remaining six 6 months of the project's no cost extension.

Staffing

Six employees left EEP/Shiree at the end of their contracts on 31 March 2016. All other staff extended their contracts to September 2016. Two employees were promoted.

Annual Review and Logframe

The report of the 2015 Annual Review was received from DFID on 1 March. An Action Plan to address the recommendations of that review was prepared, and has been shared with DFID. 27 actions from the agreed work plan (including some to address Annual Review recommendations) were completed this quarter, including the submission of a draft Scale Fund Synthesis report submitted in March, and a Lesson Learning Workshop held on 20 March with EEP/Shiree's PNGOs. Other actions are in progress. Additionally, proposed revisions to the Logframe targets to account for the no-cost extension period were submitted to DFID for approval on 15 March before the no-cost extension commenced.

Output 1:

Proven approaches to improving the livelihoods of the extreme poor taken to scale

Following approval of the EEP/Shiree no-cost extension, all Scale Fund (SF) Projects were extended to August 2016 with the aim of enhancing sustainability of the project results. Major accomplishments of the SF projects this quarter were:

Capacity building of PNGO staff: 514 project staff of 14 SF PNGOs were trained on Savings Management, Group leadership and Contributory Group Fund Management.

Training of Savings Group Leaders: 15,697 group leaders of 8,478 savings groups were trained on group leadership and savings management. Of them, 5,917 are male and 9,780 are female.

Capacity building of local service providers: 189 Paravets from the SCI and NETZ project areas and 915 women from the HKI project area were given further training in livestock management and poultry vaccination by the GoB Livestock Officers.

Contributory Group Fund (CGF) to support weak and vulnerable beneficiary households: CGFs were introduced to support weak beneficiaries to re-start or expand their income enterprises. The CGF being implemented by EEP/Shiree is a group based approach, whereby the group takes full control of CGF management including identification of weak members, providing technical and other support as necessary and regular monitoring. In this quarter some 13,000 BHHs from 4,208 groups were selected by the groups for CGF assistance.

Khasland: Khasland and available water bodies play a significant role in the economic activities by the extreme poor. In this quarter, 94 BHHs received permanent leases (99 years) of 27.3 acres of lands and 641 received temporary access to water bodies, details in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Access to Khasland and Water body

NGOs	Permanent Khasland		Temporary Khasland		Total	
	# BHHs received Khasland	Quantity (Acre) of land received	# BHHs received Khasland	Quantity of land (Acre) Received	# BHHs received Khasland	Quantity of land (Acre) Received
NETZ	16	6.86	0	0	16	6.86
Shushilan	0	0	641	39.47	641	39.47
Uttaran	78	20.37	0	0	78	20.37
Total	94	27.23	641	39.47	735	66.7

End project Evaluation: End Project Reviews of 14 scale fund projects were completed in the last quarter of 2015; the 10 remaining reports were finalised in this quarter.

Private sector job placement: with EEP/Shiree's initiative and support, 1,868 beneficiaries secured jobs in the private sector, mainly in garment factories and with security companies.

Table 4: Number of beneficiaries received jobs by PNGOs

NGOs	Number of beneficiaries secured jobs		
	No. of BHHs	No. of Male	No. of Female
CARE	510	81	429
CWW	785	25	760
MJSKS	149	102	47
PAB	77	65	12
SCiBD	1	1	-
Shushilan	69	4	65
Uttaran	256	156	100
Green Hill	21	16	5
Total	1,868	450	1,418

Savings: As of 31 March 2016, the savings of 8,478 savings groups totalled BDT 986 million (£8.57 million²). Within these groups, the total number of active savings members is 182,867, comprising 73,147 (40%) males and 109,720 (60%) females.

Uttaran transferred group members' savings to concerned groups or to group bank accounts, and handed over savings management responsibility to the groups. Not all groups wanted to continue with group savings. In that event, savings were distributed to individual members. As a result, Uttaran's overall number of saving groups reduced from 1,641 to 876.

² Exchange rate: £1 = BDT 115.00

Output 2:

Innovative approaches to improve the livelihoods of the extreme poor tested, evaluated, and successes ready for scaling up (Innovation Fund)

The Innovation Fund is now closed. A total of 27 projects were carried out in four rounds of the EEP/Shiree Innovation Fund. All 27 Innovation Fund projects are now completed and closed. Details can be found at:

- i. Innovation Fund (Round I): <http://www.shiree.org/project-partner/innovation-fund-round-1/>
- ii. Innovation Fund (Round II): <http://www.shiree.org/project-partner/innovation-fund-round-2/>
- iii. Innovation Fund (Round III): <http://www.shiree.org/project-partner/innovation-fund-round-3/>
- iv. Innovation Fund (Round IV): <http://www.shiree.org/project-partner/innovation-fund-round-4/>

Innovation Fund report under preparation

A synthesis report of all the lessons learned reports from all of the Innovation Fund projects is under preparation. A draft report has been shared, and comments from EEP/Shiree have been provided.

Output 3:

Research into the causes and effects of extreme poverty and the effectiveness of measures taken to address extreme poverty is undertaken and results disseminated

The Research team have undertaken the following work this quarter.

Working Papers Published in the Website

Working Paper 30: "Revisiting Extreme Poverty and Marginality in Bangladesh: How Successful are the Policies and Programs in Reaching the Extreme Poor?" by Zulfiqar Ali and Mustafa K. Mujeri.

Research Books: EEP/Shiree plans to publish two volumes of research papers at its concluding conference in September. Work is in hand, as follows.

First Book: Papers Edited and Accepted

Four more papers have been edited and accepted for the first book to be published by Practical Action Publishing in the UK:

1. Introduction- Extreme Poverty, Growth and Inequality in Bangladesh by Joe Devine and Geof Wood
2. Agricultural Commercialization and Employment Generation: Implication for the Extreme Poor by K.A.S. Murshid
3. Feminization of Extreme Poverty by Mathilde Maitrot
4. Conclusion- Sharing the Well by Zulfiqar Ali and Geof Wood

Second Book: Working Papers Edited as Book Chapters

A total of 16 EEP/Shiree working papers have been selected for the book to be published by the University Press Limited (UPL). Those working papers have also been edited by Geof Wood, Joe Devine, Zulfiqar Ali and Mathilde Maitrot.

Policy Brief in Progress

Work for the preparation of a policy brief on Khasland is in progress.

Preparation of Final EEP Research Report on EEP Lessons

The Concept note for the preparation was finalised, and design of the supplementary qualitative survey instruments was completed, following which it was piloted using the enumerators who will collect the data. Additionally, sites for conducting the research were selected, and fieldwork will be conducted in April.

Working Papers in Progress

There are two working papers currently under development:

1. "Intergenerational Reproduction of Extreme Poverty and Child Sensitive Policy", Zulfiqar Ali and Joe Devine
2. "Poverty Threshold Revisited" by Zulfiqar Ali and Joe Devine

CMS 3 Annual Survey

The CMS 3 Socio-economic and Anthropometric Survey 2016 is underway. It started on 25 February 2016, and is expected to complete in April. This final survey (number 11) will be used to prepare the final graduation results for reporting to DFID in September, as well as to continue to illustrate the performance of the cohorts against the indicators.

Output 4:

Needs of the extreme poor are recognised in policy and practice

EEP/Shiree participated in the 5th National Knowledge Convention

Dr. S M Zulfiqar Ali, Head of Research and Advocacy, EEP/Shiree participated as the Discussant in the 5th National Knowledge Convention on “Poverty and Development: Realities of the Grassroots” on 20 January 2016. The convention was led by 7 NGOs including Action Aid Bangladesh, Practical Action Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh, Concern Worldwide, Oxfam in Bangladesh, VSO Bangladesh and HEKS/EPER.

The 5th Knowledge Convention presented three policy notes which captured grass roots evidence from the outcome of two Regional Knowledge Conventions held in the Rangpur and Khulna division on:

1. Climate change
2. Food security and
3. Child rights issues and practices

Development practitioners shared their policy recommendations based on research findings and credible alternative models to facilitate discussions and the “way forward” among policy stakeholders. The knowledge convention is a yearly event that provides a space for knowledge collaboration, mutual learning and influence through researching, discussing, and debating on grassroots issues, innovations, solutions, and replications, thereby offering the development actors to undertake rights based work to bring about changes in the lives of the poor and marginalised.

Lawmakers’ Meeting on 7th Five Year Plan and Extreme Poverty Free Bangladesh

A Parliamentarians Round-table Session on “7th Five Year Plan and Extreme Poverty Free Bangladesh” held on 16 February 2016 was organised by Unnayan Shamannay in cooperation with EEP/Shiree. The objective was to further sensitize the Honorable Parliamentarians to the special emphasis on extreme poverty given in the 7th Five Year Plan and to discuss the role Honorable Parliamentarians can play to help the implement and operationalise strategies to eradicate extreme poverty outlined in the Plan.

Ten of the esteemed lawmakers attended including: Zabunnasa Afroz of Barisal-5, Begum Akhtar Jahan of Reserved-5, Chhabi Biswas of Netrokona-1, Farhad Hossain, Meherpur-1, Sagufta Yasmin of Munshiganj-2, Golam Faruk Khandakar Prince of Pabna-5, Md. Israfil Alam of Naogaon-6, Md. Ayeen Uddin of Rajshahi-3, Tipu Sultan of Barisal-3, and Md. Nurul Islam of Omar – Bogra-6.

Two key civil society representatives also participated - Miss Aroma Dutta (Executive Director, PRIP Trust) and Dr. A.K.M. Musha (Country Director, Concern Worldwide Bangladesh). The Honorable Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament Mr. Fazle Rabbi Miah, MP, graced the session as the Chief Guest. Dr. S. M. Zulfiqar Ali (Senior Research Fellow, BIDS and Head of Research and Advocacy, EEP/Shiree) presented the issue paper on behalf of the organisers, while Khondker Ibrahim Khaled (former Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank) moderated the event.



EEP Lessons Learning Workshop

EEP/Shiree held a lessons learning workshop on 20 March 2016 for its 14 Scale fund NGO partners. The objective was to share lessons on what works and to validate and feed information into the Scale Fund synthesis report. There were two sessions: group work and group presentation followed by fruitful discussions in plenary.



Output 5:

Direct nutrition support to target households in the *Haor* areas

Whilst mainstream interventions concluded in December, Direct Nutrition Interventions (DNIs) were continued during the reporting period in the *Haors* at Sunamgonj, Habigonj and Kishorgonj, as these areas were identified as being the areas most vulnerable. 19,425 households and their family members received nutritional support. Furthermore, the DNI was extended to 3,021 additional households which were part of a control group for the IFPRI study, and had not received any nutritional support as part of their EEP interventions. Major achievements in the quarter are:

Behavioral Change Counselling

1. 19,425 households received the regular, monthly counseling visit
2. 144 fathers of children under 2 years, and husbands of pregnant women, received orientation training on children and maternal nutrition.
3. 908 adolescent girls attended orientation session on adolescent nutrition and personal hygiene.
4. 61,091 beneficiaries received nutritional group educational session through 3,724 BHH group meetings.

Distribution of nutrition drugs/supplements

1. IFA tablets were given to 16,368 pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and adolescent girls
2. Micro Nutrient Powder (MNP) was provided for 1,578 children of 7-60 months old
3. Distribution of Fish Powder among selected children of under 2 years old
4. De-worming tablets/suspension were given to 26,433 beneficiaries

Social mobilization and Coordination

1. 565 key stakeholders including Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA), Religious leaders, School Teachers and Union council members attended day long orientation sessions on nutrition and project activities.
2. 11 meetings held with community support groups (CSG) to discuss improving services provided by community clinics;

3. Concern Worldwide (CWW) and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HSI) attended 18 GoB and NGO health/coordination meetings at Upazila and district level;
4. 12 Rallies and 100 courtyard session were organized to observe International Women's Day 2016. More than 1,785 community people participated in these events.

Linkage with existing health facilities

In accordance with making project linkage and with support from Community Pushti Kormis (CPKs), more than 3,000 beneficiaries received nutritional and health services from local GoB health facilities in this quarter. The services include: Antenatal care (ANC) check-up, Postnatal Care (PNC) check-up, Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI) and provision of nutritional drugs like vitamin A, Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) and Calcium tablets.

Financial management

During January to March 2016, total disbursement by EEP/Shiree was £2.62 million. Overall project expenditure at 31 March 2016 is £81.95 million - 98.11% of the total budget. Remaining project funds total £1.58 million for the 6 months No Cost Extension to September 2016.

Figure - 1: Breakdown of Total Expenditure of **£81,948,580** (December 2007 - March 2016)

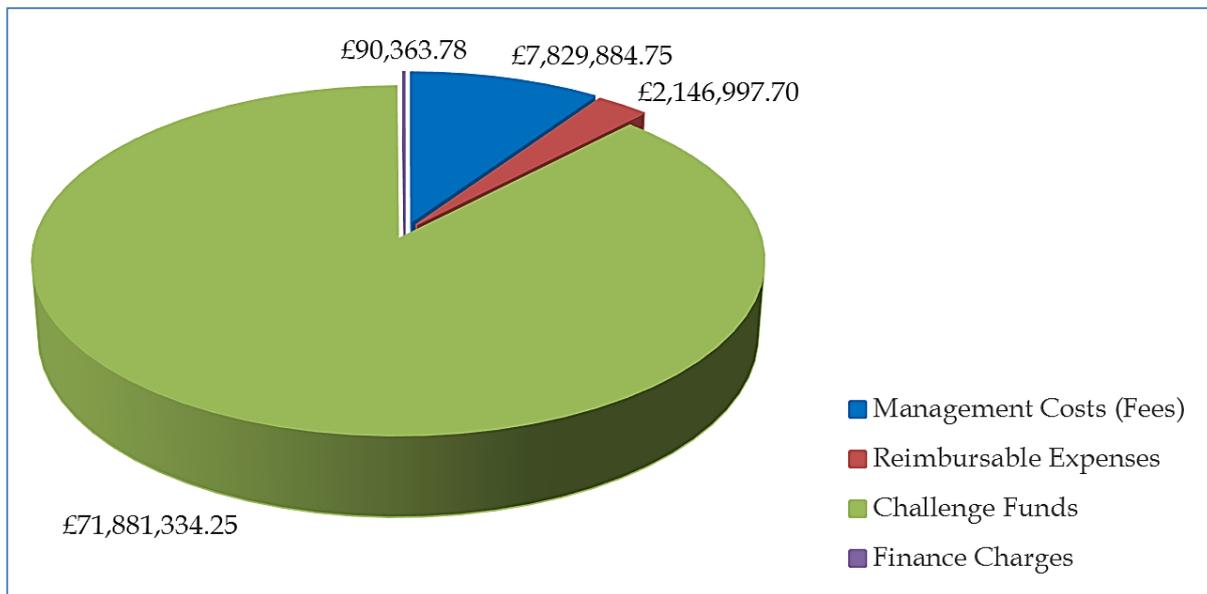
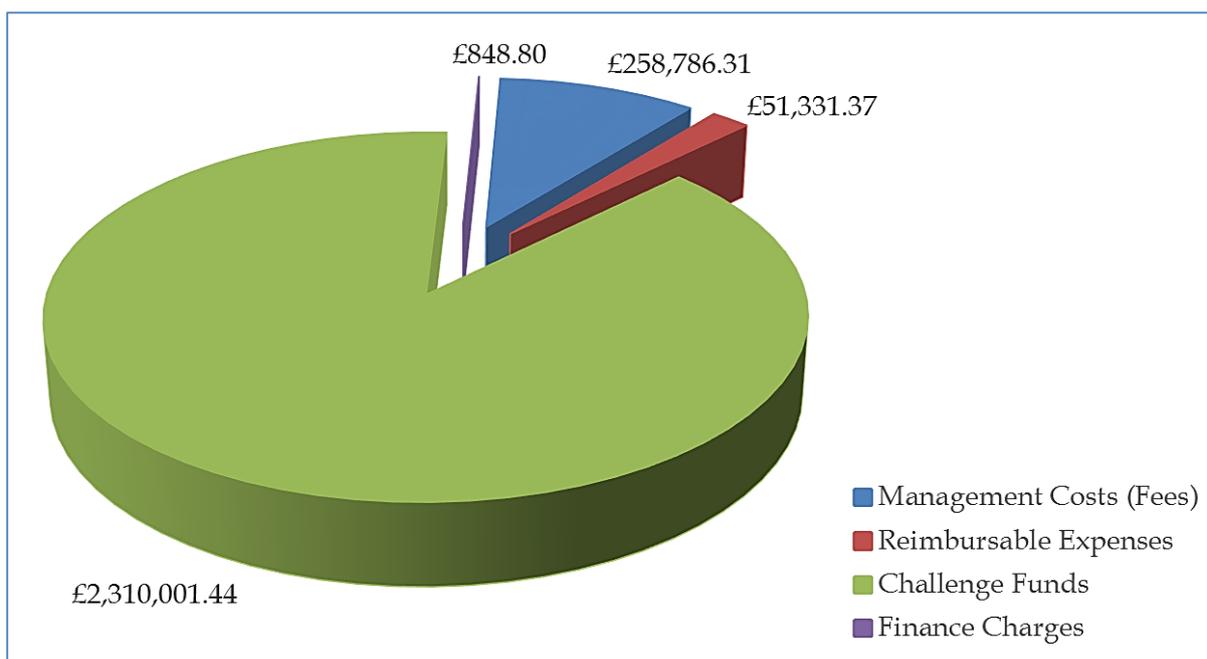


Figure - 2: Breakdown of quarterly Expenditure of **£2,620,968** (January 2016 -- March 2016)



Forecasting January - August 2016:

EEP/Shiree submitted its NGO disbursement plan to the British Council in Manchester on 14 January 2016. Subsequently, on 15 March 2016, a revised NGO disbursement plan for January to September 2016 was communicated to the British Council and to Ecorys UK.

Budget revisions and amendments:

Following the approval of the extension of all 14 Scale Fund projects to August 2016, Accountable Grant Agreements for the extension were signed with partner NGOs to cover: agreed priority activities, the HR plan, a work plan and budget for the period January 2016-August 2016.

Further to the PNGO extension agreements signed in January 2016, EEP/Shiree facilitated approval of additional sums for the contributory savings funds. 80% of the additional funds were allocated to the Contributory Group Fund (CGF) to support weak beneficiaries. The remaining 20% financed the necessary PNGO staffing and overhead costs. Subsequently, based on these additional allocations, each P NGOs signed a further contract amendment in March 2016.

EEP External Audit:

Draft ToR was prepared for the annual external audit of EEP from April 2015 to March 2016. The appointment of the external auditors will be finalised in April to conduct the audit in May-June 2016.

FAPAD (Foreign Aided Project Audit Directorate) Audit:

The FAPAD annual audit is due for the Bangladesh financial year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. EEP/Shiree has sent a written request to FAPAD to commence the audit in April - May 2016. The FAPAD team, in association with EEP/Shiree, is collecting the necessary information to complete the audit by 31 May 2016.

EEP Internal Audit:

EEP internal auditors conducted an internal audit of six PNGOs. Six draft reports were shared with PNGOs for them to respond to recommendations. Four final internal audit reports were circulated among NGO partners for management action on recommendations. The financial review report on CARE's SETU project was circulated for management action in accordance with recommendations.

A joint visit by EEP/Shiree's finance and programme teams undertook a financial review of the disbursement of CGF funds. The Deputy Team Leader/CFO reviewed CARE, MJSKS, Practical Action and NETZ to ensure the process and the planning for disbursement of the CGF funds in March 2016.

NGO Independent External Audit:

Closing external audits, starting in December 2015, of all 14 SF PNGOs, and three Nutrition Innovation funds, were completed by January 2015. The next external audit for PNGOs will be undertaken in July-August 2016 in accordance with the agreed Exit Strategy.

Assets Management and Resource Control:

An updated fixed asset register of the 14 Scale Fund PNGO's has been prepared by the EEP/Shiree assets management team. PNGOs are requested to arrange a physical inventory of assets in line with the EEP/Shiree external audit as of 31 March 2016.

An assets disposal proposal - prepared in consultation with DFID, and awaiting DFID approval - has been prepared for reallocation of EEP/Shiree assets before project closure in September 2016.

Fraud Management:

During the quarter, two fraud investigations were conducted. The first, concerning the change of Project Director for the PNGO, DSK, saw a report published and necessary action taken to prove that there was no loss of DFID funds. A second investigation was conducted by the PNGO Practical Action Bangladesh into alleged malfeasance by a subsidiary NGO. An external audit is underway for reporting in April.

Workshop on Financial Management Systems and Procedures

A workshop on Financial Management Systems and procedures was conducted with the 14 Scale Fund Partners on 3 March 2016. Each PNGO was represented by its Chief Accountant/CFO, and respective Finance Managers and accounts staff working directly with EEP/Shiree. The workshop addressed necessary closing activities: book closure, assets disposal, finalisation of external audit and accurate and timely forecasting.

Human resource management

Promotion

1. Samiul Ahsan, Communication Manager was promoted to Senior Communication Manager from 1 April 2016
2. Md. Shahtabul Islam, Assistant. Manager, Risk Analysis was promoted to Programme Manager from 1 April 2016.

Staff Departures

The No Cost extension called for a reduced EEP/Shiree team to conclude the programme. The following staff left the programme in March, either through resignation or through contracts ending.

1. Saidur Rahman, Senior Programme Manager, March 2016
2. Tareq Salahuddin, Senior Communications Manager, March 2016
3. Shamsul Alam, Programme Manager, February 2016
4. Faria Shabnam, Nutrition Coordinator and Gender Focal Point, February 2016
5. Shafkat Hassan, Accounts Officer, March 2016
6. Tushar Sangma, Support Staff, March 2016

ANNEXES

Annex-1: Progress against Annual LogFrame Targets

Outcome Indicator 1	Milestone 2016	Quarter 1, 2016 (Jan - Mar)	Cumulative Progress till March 2016
Number of people graduated from extreme poverty (gender segregated)	229,071 BHH, 852,816 people (F: 436,001, M: 416,815).	No target	294,945 BHH, 1142,350 People (F: 610,815, M: 531,535)
Outcome Indicator 2	Milestone 2016	Quarter 1, 2016 (Jan - Mar)	Cumulative Progress till March 2016
2.1. Improved nutritional status of target groups for the Accelerated Improved Nutrition for Extreme Poor in Bangladesh project - under 2 children	3 % point reduction in stunting and 5 % point reduction in anaemia.	No target	7.5% Reduction in stunting (from 40.8% in 2013 to 33.3% in 2015). 0.5 % reduction in anaemia (from 71.7% in 2013 to 71.2% in 2015)
2.2. Improved nutritional status of target groups for the Accelerated Improved Nutrition for Extreme Poor in Bangladesh project - pregnant and breast feeding mothers and adolescent girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 % point reduction in anaemia in pregnant and breast feeding women and adolescent. • 5% point reduction in thinness in adolescent girls. 	No target	8% Reduction in anaemia in pregnant and breast feeding women and adolescent, and 1.2% reduction in thinness in adolescent girls.
Outcome Indicator 3	Milestone 2016	Quarter 1, 2016 (Jan - Mar)	Cumulative Progress till March 2016
Actions, attributable to EEP advocacy effort, taken by government, donors, private sector and non-state actors that impact on the key livelihood constraints faced by the extreme poor.	Target 2016 (Ext)-40 (cum) significant local or national actions attributable to EEP interventions	No Target	30 independent actions attributable to EEP interventions
Output Indicator 1	Milestone 2016	Quarter 1, 2016 (Jan - Mar)	Cumulative Progress till March 2016
1.1 Extreme Poor Direct beneficiary households (people) that have received first intervention of livelihood support (cash transfer or asset transfer/training) for	281,850 BHH 1,047,269 people F: 559,975, M: 487,294.	No target	282,650 BHH (1193767 people)

Scale Fund activities (cum)			
1.2 Extreme Poor Direct beneficiary households (people) that have received supplementary support for Scale Fund activities (cum) based on CMS 2 census snapshot monitoring data	14,666 BHH 54,949 people F: 29,381, M: 25,568	No target	14,725 BHHs
1.3 Proportion of direct transfer cost in NGO budget	Average value 56%	No target	57.5%
Output Indicator 2	Milestone 2016	Quarter 1, 2016 (Jan - Mar)	Cumulative Progress till March 2016
2.1 Extreme Poor Households (people) that have received first intervention of livelihood support (asset transfer, cash transfer, training) for Innovation Fund activities	26,963 BHH 103,657 people F: 55,425, M: 48,232	No target	26,859 BHH 103345 people F: 55259, M: 48086
2.2 Innovation fund lesson learning reports produced	100% of projects at end of cycle (within 3 months of close = 27 reports)	No target	27 reports
2.3 Innovations that progress to Scale	4 (cum) (no annual target)	No target	5
Output Indicator 3	Milestone 2016	Quarter 1, 2016 (Jan - Mar)	Cumulative Progress till March 2016
3.1 Findings of extreme poverty relevant research disseminated among EP actors in Bangladesh through publication	32 (cum) working papers and/or policy briefs published via website.	Target-3	41 (cum working paper and policy brief)
3.2 Thematic reports and web-based visualisation based on CMS data disseminated among EP actors in Bangladesh	11 CMS based reports	No Target	11 CMS based report
3.3 Participation in EEP facilitated research forums (meetings or online) from a diverse set of relevant organisations that contribute to dialogue and increased understanding of extreme poverty and	400 (cum) participants across 5 categories of participants (donor agency, NGO, research/academic organisations, government bodies, projects, other).	No Target	890 (cum) participants across five categories

ways of reducing extreme poverty			
Output Indicator 4	Milestone 2016	Quarter 1, 2016 (Jan - Mar)	Cumulative Progress till March 2016
4.1 National and subnational fora at which the challenges faced by the extreme poor are presented and discussed	At least 7 national and 14 sub national advocacy events /campaigns (cum). (Annual target 1 national and 2 sub national advocacy events)	No target	21 national, 23 regional/district level workshops (cum).
4.2 Public Media coverage of the challenges faced by the extreme poor	60 (cum) national newspaper pieces (>500 words, >30% in Bangla) or radio interviews or TV bulletins.	1 Op-Ed	86 (cum) national newspaper pieces/ supplements; and 5 radio discussion (cum)
4.3 Level of awareness of entitlements to safety nets	3% report don't know. (no annual target)	No target	3% do not know.
Output Indicator 5	Milestone 2016	Quarter 1, 2016 (Jan - Mar)	Cumulative Progress till March 2016
5.1 Number of households receiving regular visits from nutrition volunteers	Annual Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% mothers =2537 out of total 2819 • 90% < 2 year old children =5382 out of total 5981. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mothers = 2537 out of total 2988 • < 2years old children = 5382 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mothers = 2868 out of total 2988 • < 2years old children = 6271
5.2 Targeted beneficiaries receiving either Iron and folic acid tablets or multiple micronutrient supplements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% pregnant and breast feeding women Receiving IFA =2156 out of total 2537 • 85% adolescent girls receiving IFA =8099 out of total 9529 • 85% children 6-23 months old receiving MNS (n=3558) out of total 4188. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2156 pregnant and breast feeding women received IFA tablets • 8099 adolescent girls received IFA • 1578 children 6-23 months old received MNS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2696 pregnant and breast feeding women received IFA tablets • 9558 adolescent girls received IFA • 4343 children 6-23 months old received MNS
5.3 Innovation for increasing access to high quality diet and diversity for the extreme poor tested, evaluated and lessons shared	At 4 innovations that increased access to household high quality diet and diversity tested and evidence shared (no annual target)	No Target	4

Notes:

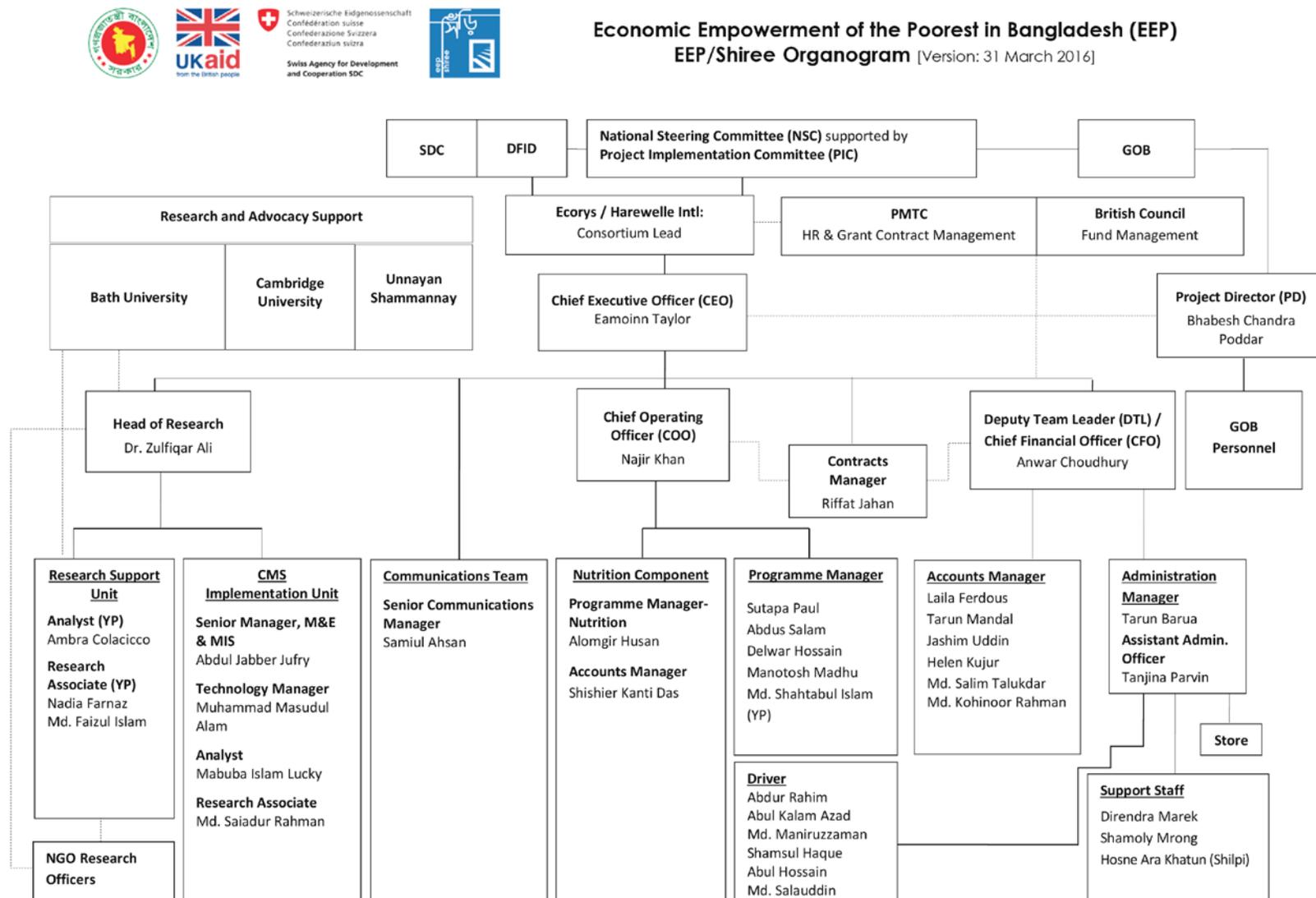
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|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 96% mothers = 2868 out of total 2988• 96% < 2years old children = 6271 out of total 6532 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 94% pregnant and breast feeding women received IFA = 2696 out of total 2868• 95% adolescent girls received IFA = 9558 out of total 10061• 36% children 6-23 months old received MNS = 1578 out of 4343 |

Annex-2: Financial Summary (January 2016 – March 2016)

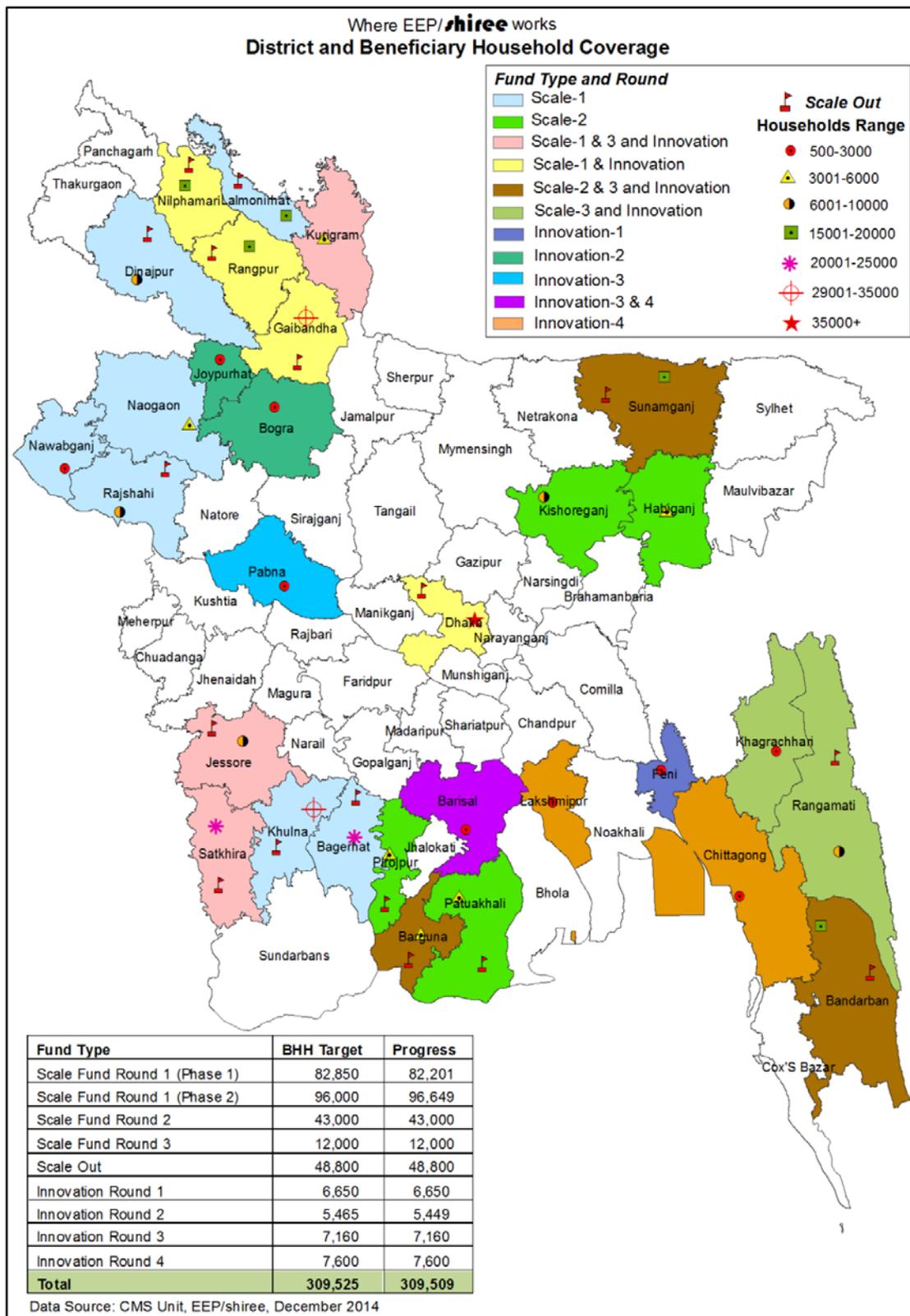
Amount in GBP

Particulars	Overall Contract Budget (as per CA-9)	Accumulate up to 31 Dec 2015	Disbursement in January 2016	Disbursement in February 2016	Disbursement in March 2016	Quarter 1 total disbursement (Jan to Mar 2016)	Accumulated disbursement as of 31 March 2016	Remaining Balance as on 31 March 2016
Management	6,585,112	6,035,595	45,012	41,420	47,672	134,105	6,169,699	415,412.79
Lesson learning & Advocacy	1,509,395	1,297,573	22,702	32,176	38,274	93,151	1,390,724	118,671.30
Nutrition	283,087	237,931	13,133	11,573	6,826	31,531	269,462	13,625.16
Total Management Costs (Fees)	8,377,594	7,571,098	80,846	85,168	92,771	258,786	7,829,885	547,709
Management	1,600,620	1,445,156	10,669	10,204	12,160	33,033	1,478,190	122,430.32
TA	251,050	264,944	1,071	941	760	2,772	267,716	(16,666.27)
Lesson Learning & Advocacy	457,950	373,234	4,109	5,857	3,935	13,901	387,136	70,814.49
Nutrition	17,891	12,331	1,237	291	97	1,625	13,956	3,934.76
Sub-total of Reimbursable Expenses	2,327,511	2,095,666	17,086	17,294	16,952	51,331	2,146,998	180,513
Lesson learning & advocacy	1,598,051	1,235,138	9,692	21,017	92,490	123,199	1,358,337	239,713.95
Scale Fund	56,815,750	54,306,643	536,832	48,742	1,400,241	1,985,815	56,292,459	523,291.35
Innovation Fund	10,035,231	9,881,030	-	-	-	-	9,881,030	154,201.00
Nutrition Element	4,286,808	4,148,522	66,332	1,550	133,105	200,987	4,349,509	(62,700.55)
Management Funds	72,735,840	69,571,333	612,856	71,309	1,625,836	2,310,001	71,881,334	854,506
Finance Charges	90,357	89,515	-	782	66	849	90,364	(6.78)
Total	83,531,302	79,327,613	710,788	174,554	1,735,626	2,620,968	81,948,580	1,582,722

Annex-3: EEP/Shiree Organogram as of 31 March 2016



Annex-4: EEP/Shiree District and Beneficiary Household Coverage



EEP/Shiree

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