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Local Level Poverty Monitoring System in Bangladesh

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1. Introduction

Within the Poverty Monitoring System (PMS) component of MIMAP-Bangladesh, the major activity relates to *‘operational design and pilot testing of a poverty monitoring system at the village/upazila level for use in local level planning and development with focus on gender, microcredit, and environment related variables.’* The expected outputs from the activity are the following:

- i) Design of a regular mechanism, along with specific indicators, to collect and process poverty data at the local level in a participatory manner;
- ii) Reports on pilot testing and implementation of the design in an area purposively selected for the purpose; and
- iii) Reports on methodology and application of poverty statistics in initiating local level plans and development programs and tested methodologies to create and sustain effective linkages with government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations.

2. Basic Features of the LLPMS

The local level poverty monitoring system (LLPMS) in Bangladesh has three major components:

- Participatory Poverty and Development Monitoring (PPDM)
- Resource Profile Monitoring (RPM)
- Village Development Planning (VDP)

The first two components generate the data base and the third one utilizes the information in preparing local development plans and programs.

Participatory Poverty and Development Monitoring (PPDM)

The PPDM monitors poverty and socio-economic changes with selected indicators. The indicators, chosen in a participatory manner, cover priority areas. The indicators have been specified to ensure that these are simple to collect, easy to interpret and preclude subjective interpretations. Specific indicators have been included to cover the chosen areas e.g. village/household characteristics; income/expenditure; nutrition and sanitation; employment, labour and wages; assets and credit; women and children; education and health; trade, commerce and nonfarm activities; agriculture and environment; information and communication; and others. The information are collected at the village/household level using the local people. Technical and other assistance are provided through the project to

develop local capacity to sustain data collection, processing and dissemination on a regular basis and to undertake periodic updating of the information. The local people are involved in all activities and the information are shared with them (e.g. through displaying on board at the *Union Parishad* office). Participatory techniques are employed to elicit the required information.

Resource Profile Monitoring (RPM)

The PPDM information largely cater to need identification at the local level while RPM data provide resource and potential analysis. Using similar methodology as in PPDM, RPM indicators provide the inventory of available resources and potential for development. The profile includes all village resources e.g. availability and utilization of land, population, agriculture, livestock and fisheries resources, forests, water resources, infrastructure and marketing, education and health, nonfarm and small/cottage industries, education and health services, transport and communication services, social activities and others.

Village Development Plan (VDP)

For preparing VDP, the information from PPDM and RPM are combined with explicit need assessment and priority ranking by the communities through adopting participatory techniques. The programs are designed on a sectoral basis with specific targeting to underdeveloped areas and poor groups.

The set of indicators of the LLPMS is given at Annex-1.

3. Implementation Mechanism: Pilot Testing and Information Collection

At the pilot stage, the system is being implemented in collaboration with the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), the national training and research/action research institution on rural development under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. The pilot testing of the system is being done in four villages in one *Union Parishad* in Comilla district of the country.

A. Outcome

The main outcome will be the capacity building of the selected *Union Parishad* to collect poverty related data and incorporate the information in preparing and implementing local level/Upazila plan.

B. Methodology

For information collection, both household survey method and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques are being used. The researchers from MIMAP and BARD are involved in providing guidance at the village level. Selected young people from the villages have been trained to collect and process the household level data. The members of the *Union Parishad* are actively involved in the process so that the process can continue in a sustained manner. Several participatory techniques are being combined as appropriate, to collect the relevant information on poverty and development/resource profile monitoring indicators. These include: village transect (geographical and physical characteristics), social mapping (village/household characteristics), resource mapping (social/natural resources identification), venn diagram (social sector program identification), wealth ranking (household wealth and poverty status), seasonality exercise (seasonal vulnerability and disease profile), problem ranking (priorities and prospects) and focused group discussion/household survey (individual household and related information).

C. Information Flow and Utilization

The implementation of the system collectively with the *Union Parishad* will make the information available directly to the local representatives and the local officials of the line ministries for their use in planning and implementation of programs/projects. Similarly, these will be available to the NGOs, CBOs, and other agents who are involved in local-level development activities. The comprehensive Village Plan Book will contribute towards ensuring greater coordination among various agencies at the local level.

4. Follow-up Actions and Prospects

After the pilot-test and with successful validation of the results and outcomes of the system through refinement and necessary adjustments, the replication of the system over wider areas would be pursued with support from the government and interested agencies, and through devising appropriate strategies so that interested communities can operationalize the system in a cost-effective manner. Moreover, advocacy efforts under the MIMAP will continue to highlight the potential benefit of the system to encourage the relevant government agencies to institutionalize the system as a means of poverty monitoring and initiating effective anti-poverty programs at the local level.

LLPMS Indicators

- **PPDM Indicators**
 - i) **Village/Household Characteristics**
 - No. of households
 - No. of population
 - Male
 - Female
 - Migration
 - Out-migration
 - In-migration
 - Religious status
 - No. of female headed households
 - Distance from nearest *pucca* road
 - Distance from nearest (i) Primary school; (ii) Secondary school; (iii) College.
 - No. of households with access to electricity
 - No. of households with
 - 0-2 members
 - 3-6 members
 - 6 and more members
 - Population age group
 - 0-5 years
 - 6-15 years
 - 16-49 years
 - 50 and more years.
 - No. of widows
 - No. of working children
 - No. of houses having *pucca, kutcha and jhupri* roof.
 - ii) **Education**
 - No. of illiterate adults
 - Male
 - Female
 - No. of children not going to schools
 - Primary level (Male, Female)
 - Secondary level (Male, Female)
 - No. of schools and school enrolment
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - No. of persons attained literacy through adult literacy programs
 - Male
 - Female
 - iii) **Health and Sanitation**
 - For drinking purposes, no. of households using tubewell/tap water and other sources
 - For other household needs, no. of households using tubewell/tap water and other sources
 - Presence of arsenic contamination in tubewell water (no. of tubewells detected)
 - No. of households using
 - Sanitary/slab latrines
 - Kutcha*/nonsanitary latrines
 - Open space
 - iv) **Mortality and Morbidity**
 - No. of deaths over last 12 months and causes
 - Male
 - Female
 - Children (0-5 years), Male, Female
 - No. of death due to pregnancy complications
 - No. of disabled persons
 - Male
 - Female
 - Incidence of major diseases by age groups and male/female
 - Treatment facilities
 - Location of health centres
 - Public/Private facilities available

- v) **Participation in local level institutions**
 - No. of members in *Union Parishad*
 - Male
 - Female
 - No. of members in NGOs (Male, Female)
 - No. of members in different committees (school/*bazar*/religious institutions) by sex
- vi) **Agriculture and Environment**
 - Land ownership
 - No. of households with
 - No homestead land
 - Homestead land only
 - Small farmers
 - Medium farmers
 - Large farmers
 - Total area
 - Cultivated area
 - Fallow area
 - Forest area
 - Water bodies
 - Area cultivated more than once
 - Irrigated area
 - No. of livestock animals (bovine animals, goat/sheep, poultry)
 - No. of animal deaths
 - No. of households selling surplus crop and animal products
 - No. of households owning productive assets (cycle/motor cycle, power tiller, shallow tubewell, *rickshaw/van*, boat, etc.)
- vii) **Labour and Wages**
 - No. of wage labourers (Male, Female, Children)
 - Major occupation (Male, Female)
 - Wage rate (Male, Female)
 - Non-farm activities
- viii) **Access to Credit**
 - No. of borrowers (Male/Female)
 - Banks/Government sources
 - NGOs
 - Non-institutional sources
- ix) **Food Security**
 - No. of households with adequate access to food
 - for -- 12 months
 - 9-12 months
 - 6-9 months
 - 3-6 months
 - 0-3 months
- x) **Access to Market**
 - List of commodities for sale in markets (village market, nearby markets, households) and buyers (traders, *aratdars*, consumers).
- xi) **Crisis and Crisis Coping Capacity**
 - Type of crisis faced by households and mitigating measures adopted (floods, droughts, death of income earners, accidents, litigation/police harassment, unexpected business losses, *mastani*, theft/dacoity etc.)
- xii) **Perception of Poverty**
 - No. of households
 - Very poor
 - Poor
 - Non-poor
 - Economic/social characteristics of different groups.
- **RPM Indicators**
 - i) **Geographical Characteristics**
 - Physical conditions
 - Land characteristics

- ii) **Land and Population**
 - Economically active population
 - Seasonal migration
 - Un- and under employment rates
 - Farm and non-farm employment
 - Land utilization
 - Crop cycle
 - Adoption of modern technology
 - Land holding characteristics
 - Rented in and rented out lands
 - Access to modern inputs and credit
 - Population by sex and age groups
 - Land ownership pattern
 - Wage rates by sex
- iii) **Livestock, Forests and Water Resources**
 - Livestock population and productivity
 - Animal feed and vaccination
 - Animal mortality
 - Area under types of forests
 - Afforestation programme
 - No. of households benefiting from forest resources
 - Sources of water and water use for different purposes
- iv) **Non-agricultural Activities**
 - Small/cottage industries
 - Sources of raw materials
 - Resource base and its utilization
- v) **Education, Health and Social Sector Development**
 - Literacy rate
 - Enrolment and drop out rates at different levels
 - No. of health centres and no. of persons by sex receiving treatment (outdoor, indoor)
 - No. of trained doctors
 - In hospitals/clinics
 - Private practitioners
 - Special social development programmes(e.g. women, youth and other target groups)
 - Government sponsored
 - NGOs
 - CBOs
- vi) **Infrastructure and Communications**
 - Availability of post, telephone and other facilities
 - Transportation facilities
 - No. of households with television and radio.
- vii) **Marketing Linkages**
 - Market centres and vertical linkages
 - Nature of commodity flows and marketing intermediaries
 - Storage facilities
 - Cooperatives
 - Prices of major commodities
- viii) **Development Priorities and Prospects**
 - Agriculture
 - Food/nonfood crops
 - Irrigation
 - Adoption of new technologies
 - Training and market development
 - Horticulture/vegetables production
 - Livestock
 - Feed, breed improvements
 - Animal health, vaccination
 - Marketing

- Forestry
 - Community forests
 - Demand management
- Infrastructure
 - Rural electrification
 - Road construction/maintenance
 - Water supply and sanitation
 - Communication and information net working
- Education
 - Literacy programmes
 - Schooling facilities
 - Motivation programmes
- Health
 - Health/nutrition education
 - Health facilities
 - Health/population training
- Income Generation
 - Farm activities
 - Non-farm activities
 - Skill development/training
 - Credit facilities
- Women and Social Development
 - Social/human rights
 - NGO/Community development
 - Skill/awareness training
 - Credit and marketing support
- Information and Communication
 - Information centre
 - Access to communication facilities