

PROFILE OF SDVC

ABSTRACT

The Bangladeshi dairy value chain has been found to have disproportionate potential to positively impact the livelihoods of poor women in North and North Western Bangladesh. Funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CARE Bangladesh's *Strengthening the Dairy Value Chain in Bangladesh* project (SDVC) has engaged 21384 women in income generating activities spanning the dairy value chain in Bangladesh.

About 80% of Bangladesh's population of 147 million lives in rural areas. Milk production is a significant employer of rural poor people, accounting for 20 per cent of fulltime employment nationally. Small-scale mixed farms and landless households (owning two to three local-breed cows) contribute 90 per cent of all milk produced in Bangladesh. The formal dairy sector has, however, failed to integrate or benefit smallholding and landless producers, giving them little incentive to increase production and resulting in a net deficit in domestic milk production, sales and income. Furthermore, while cattle rearing is typically bundled into the housework conducted by rural women, the Bangladeshi dairy value chain has failed to deliver social and economic benefits to its female participants. Due to socio-cultural gender norms, women in these contexts are highly immobile and therefore their access to quality agricultural inputs and fair markets is limited, limiting their productive and profit-raising capacities.

The SDVC project grapples with the challenges presented to female milk producers and has designed interventions to optimize female participation in the value chain as milk producers (farmers), livestock health workers (paravets), feed sellers, service center entrepreneurs and milk collectors. These interventions fill voids where government sponsored extension services (such as training and veterinary care) are not available, generally the rural and remote locations to which women's mobility is curtailed. CARE works to mobilize groups of local farmers, with a concerted effort to attract female farmers. Currently, the project has 27068 farmers engaged, with 79 per cent being female. The farmers are mobilized into 863 farmer groups with approximately 25-30 farmers in each group. Thirty seven per cent of these farmer groups are exclusively female. The SDVC project has trained 2184 peer-appointed farmer group leaders, 67 per cent of whom are female. Farmer leaders educate their group members about aspects of cattle rearing including vaccinations, feeding, milking techniques and artificial insemination. These groups are successfully leveraging savings plans, with group monies used to support farmers requiring access to funds in emergency and other situations. On average, participating farmers have increased their milk production and household dairy-related incomes by 42 percent. The SDVC program has trained 168 LHWs, 25 per cent of whom are female. These LHWs receive subsidized training and are supported to conduct business in discrete geographical areas within the SDVC catchment. LHWs are encouraged to establish information service centres, where farmers can access quality feed, medicines and receive advice. Currently, 147 service centres have been established, 27% (39) of which are run by female.

¹ Donor & Project is thinking about at least 1 year no cost extension of this project. Decision to be found shortly.

With limited mobility and the inability to compare prices across markets, remote dairy farmers were subject to significant price vulnerability when supplying milk to the commercial market. Two hundred and seven CARE-trained milk collectors now service SDVC communities. Ten per cent of these milk collectors are female. Milk collection duties have been particularly challenging of female stereotypes as the role necessitates mobility and transport on push- and motor- bikes. CARE has innovated in building custom-made bicycles designed for female bodies with the capacity to carry four large milk canisters. Whilst milk collection has been one of the more challenging areas for female participation, CARE efforts to enhance collection methods (including education about hygienic storage and the provision of lactometers to measure milk quality) has had positive impacts on these producers' integration into the formal market, as well as reducing wastage and spoilage, with implications for health and food security where the informal market operates. Significantly, these efforts to mobilize milk collectors to service remote communities has seen a shift in the point of transaction from the market to the homestead, essentially shifting economic power from a male domain (the market) into a classically female domain (the homestead).

This project exemplifies CARE's efforts to experiment and innovate to maximize female participation and to empower women socially and economically. CARE International is guided by a women's empowerment framework that tracks women's empowerment measured in terms of agency, structure and relationships (pertaining to women's self-determination, connectedness and situation relative to legitimate, powerful institutions, respectively). Routine monitoring and evaluation evidences the project's positive impacts women's empowerment as per the CARE framework: women's mobility, assets and financial decision making authority are all increasing, with more monies diverted to household nutrition and education. Furthermore, women are increasingly seen as decision makers and leaders in their communities and households. Planned, future research will interrogate women's empowerment holistically in these communities, including the effects of their increased interconnectedness, financial and other mobility.

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FORMATIVE PROFILE OF SDVC PROJECT (CARE BANGLADESH)

Questions	Answer
Name of project:	STRENGTHENING THE DAIRY VALUE CHAIN (SDVC)
Donor:	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Implementing organization:	CARE Bangladesh
M&E organization:	International Food Policy Research Institute
Project start date:	1-Oct'2007
Project end date:	30-Sep'2011
Geographic coverage: (countries)	Bangladesh
Status of impact assessment (when are/were baselines to be conducted, what quantitative or qualitative assessments have been done, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HH Quantitative Baseline Ended : Aug'2008 • Qualitative Baseline Ended : Feb'2009 • Non-HH Quantitative Baseline ended : Dec'2009 • Midterm Evaluation : Oct'2010-Jan'2011 • End Evaluation : Sep'2011¹
To what extent is the project targeted to women?	<p>Producer groups is women focused as 79% members are women as SDVC has 37% totally women groups and 62% mixed group and only 1% Male group.</p> <p>On the other hand, 67% women lead the total 883 SDVC producer groups show the capacity of SDVC in gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>To ensure quality livestock health care support, project is giving training and capacity building support to Livestock Health Worker (LHW). So far project trained 168 LHWs with 22% women coverage. Input shops are supporting SDVC producers through supplying feed, medicine, livestock health care, AI & information. Here, 147 shops are identified and upgraded through SDVC support, where 27% shops are run by women.</p> <p>Milk Collectors are key cadre of SDVC; here project trained 207 milk collectors, whereas 7% collectors are women.</p>
Does this project aim to directly build assets, or would increases in assets be a secondary effect (e.g. project aims to increase incomes, but people might then invest in assets)?	SDVC actually facilitates the process of strengthening the enhancement of the skill and assets of women. There is no cash or kind support for SDVC producer and other entrepreneurs like collectors, Livestock Health Worker (LHW), Input shops etc.
What kinds of assets might have observable changes (for men or women)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cow valuation • Cow number • Fodder land • Input Shops capital, ownership, client base, linkages with buyer and supplier • Bargaining & leadership skill • LHW, Milk collector & Group leaders social & Business linkages
(For each type of capital below that you think your project may affect, please mention the kinds of assets that may be affected)	

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Questions	Answer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural capital (e.g. land, water): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadside land, pond, govt. lands for fodder cultivation. Besides, SDVC producers are using their cultivable and fallow land for fodder cultivation and finding feed from crop residue (byproduct) Water bodies (pond, river, canal, ditch) for cow bathing Open Water bodies, underground water for drinking water. Contamination of water is also crucial issue for SDVC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical capital (e.g. housing, equipment, cell phones): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cow shed for housing Lactometer for milk quality measurement Milk handling utensils (bucket/container)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial capital (savings, credit, remittances): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group savings as source of finance for dairying Project trying to facilitate the linkage of groups with financing organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social capital (e.g. group membership, connections, either within communities or with outsiders): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linkages with group Linkages with milk buyers, input supplier, Govt. (DLS),
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human capital (e.g. education, skills, health, nutritional status): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm management skill Bargaining & leadership skill Milk measurement, handling & collection system for Collectors Primary health care for Livestock Health Worker (LHW)

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