

# **A Visit to OXFAM livelihood project in Teknaf**

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## A visit to the OXFAM livelihood project in Teknaf

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DFAT AHP Consortium

### Introduction:

*This joint monitoring visit was conducted in the Oxfam- MUKTI implemented project, part of the DFAT AHP III consortium. As per the agreed decision of the MEAL Working Group (MWG), the visit date was 27 February 2022. The activity was covered: 1) Homestead Gardening & Pit Composting, 2) Tailoring, 3) Goat Rearing, and 4) IGA of People with Disabilities. The visit location was Rasullabad, Dargapara, and Lichuaprang villages. A convenient sample was used in this visit, so generalizing is a limitation.*

## Observation related to IGA

### Beneficiary Selection

#### Best practice

To select the Beneficiary of the project, a systematic approach has been followed such as-

- Transect walk for selecting the area for livelihood interventions;
- Conduct CCM (Community consultation meeting) to collect Beneficiary name;
- Scoring the poor and near-poor households based on criteria;
- Publicize the scores;
- Pre-selecting beneficiaries;
- Community meeting;
- Submit the proposed list to the project;
- Verify and approve beneficiaries;
- Publicized approved beneficiaries.

#### Challenges faced

UNO has recommended including the specific Beneficiary. Therefore, the project has included the 20 recommended beneficiaries to avoid future threats.

## IGA selection

### Best practice

The ownership of the Beneficiary regarding the IGA has been developed. In this connection, the project followed the below process-

- To emphasize the Beneficiary's interest;
- To provide cash support instead of in-kind support;
- To give the scope to the Beneficiary to purchase their IGA's materials as per their own choices;
- To emphasize the Beneficiary's previous experience;
- To prioritize the Beneficiary's capacity rather than economic viability;
- To consider the local market demand rather than national.

### Challenges faced

The Beneficiary's interest vs. selection criteria somewhat was mismatched. For example, one is interested in vegetable cultivation, but they have no own land.

## Pre IGA Transfer

### Best practice

To ensure the IGA establishment and sustainability, the project initiative was-

- To provide related IGA training before transferring the cash grant; It helps the Beneficiary to run the IGA more effective and efficient way;
- To provide market linkage training; It helps the Beneficiary to sell their production;
- To provide training allowance to the participants; For the long-term training, that allowance helps the Beneficiary purchase the IGA before getting the 1<sup>st</sup> installment. For example, Tailoring training- at the time of visit, it was found that the Beneficiary had purchased her tailoring machine by her training conveyance. (21-day conveyance X 200 BDT = 4200 BDT).

### Challenges faced

The gap between training received and full installment interrupts catch the seasonality.

## IGA Transfer

### Best practice

To keep the Beneficiary on track, the project initiative was-

- To provide cash through 2-installments; It makes the Beneficiary accountable for proper usage of money and makes more interested in getting the next installment.
- To provide close monitoring from the project staff to purchase the eligible items of the Beneficiary;
- To invest the Beneficiary's money to purchase the whole item/establish the IGAs; This helps to develop more ownership of the Beneficiary;
- To ensure proper germination, the project has checked the seed-germination capacity.

### Challenges faced

To be more interested in establishing the IGA, the Beneficiary has arranged money from different sources, but the 2nd installment is yet to start.

## IGA Establish

### Best practice

To establish the IGA, the project initiative was-

- To make the continuous follow-up;
- To create market linkage to sell their produced items in the local market; getting money from the produced items makes the beneficiary motive to the expansion of their IGAs;
- To organize the joint visit; to see the visitors, the Beneficiary has influenced; Also, visitor's feedback helps the project keep on track.

### Challenges faced

A strong linkage between the Beneficiary and LSP (local service provider) is yet to establish. Even all are not equally aware of where and how to seek support when facing the IGA related problem.

## Observation related to Documentation

### Best practice

- Visibility board/Information board
  - The office has a visibility board that reflects the accountability;
  - For a new visitor, it is easy to catch information about the project activity;
- Newspaper cutting
  - The project has preserved the locally published paper cutting, which indicates the influence strength of the project management;
  - It is the evidence or MOV for the monitoring personnel;
- Seasonal calendar
  - The project has developed a seasonal calendar which is a reminder for the staff to start the procurement process to catch the seasonality;
  - The seasonal calendar also helps the project to keep on track;
- Beneficiary and IGA selection festoon
  - This festoon indicates the impartiality to select the Beneficiary;

### Development Area

- Need to tag IGA visibility boards in the beneficiary house;
- Need a dedicated Feedback and Complaint Receive number. There has a mobile number but owned to project manager;
- Need to establish a complete CFRM (Complaint and Feedback Response Mechanism) where a neutral person will handle the complaint number;
- The project has provided an IGA card to the Beneficiary, which needs to translate into Bangla;
- Need to develop an IGA tracking sheet.
- Need to adjust the figure for Female-Headed Household. It would be better to hear Female-Lead IGA household;
- Need to include the common message like Protection, CoVID awareness in the training session;
- Need to hand project work plan as like as an information board.