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<b>Programme Title:</b>	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO)
<b>Country:</b>	Bangladesh

## I. Joint Programme Information

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### Joint Programme Information

**Programme title:**

Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO)

**Sectorial area of intervention and policy objectives**

Inclusive economic growth for poverty eradication

    Create opportunities for decent jobs and secure livelihoods.

    Create better government policies and fair and accountable public institutions.

    Promote inclusive and sustainable business practices.

**UN Lead Agency:**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**UN Participating Organizations:**

International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Local Partners:**

Local Government Division, Union Councils (lowest tier of local government), Sub-district Councils, Partner NGOs (yet to be selected), local Small and Medium Enterprises, National Institute of Local Government

### Report submitted by

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**Reporting Period Ending:**

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

## II. Contact Information

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Joint programme coordinator

JP communications and advocacy focal point

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JP monitoring and evaluation focal point

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## Agency contact points

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Contact 2

Contact 3

Contact 4

Contact 5

## III. Financial information

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### Detailed Financial Report:

 [JP Work Plan and Budget-SWAPNO FR as of 31 May 16.xlsx](#)

### SDG-F Funds

UN Agency	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	3,019,000.00	3,019,000.00	3,019,000.00	1,452,427.00
International Labour Organization (ILO)	94,000.00	94,000.00	94,000.00	32,834.00

<b>Total</b>	3,113,000.00	3,113,000.00	3,113,000.00	1,485,261.00
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### Matching Funds

Name of source	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
SDGF	1,500,000.00	750,000.00	750,000.00	750,000.00

<b>Total</b>	1,500,000.00	750,000.00	750,000.00	750,000.00
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## IV. Beneficiaries

### Total number of direct beneficiaries to date:

2592

### Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children	2,724	1,302	1,422	Household members of beneficiary women
Youth				
Adults	2,460	1,211	1,249	Household members of beneficiary women
Beneficiary women	2,592	2,592		Rural extreme poor women
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,776</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>2,671</b>	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations	72.00	Union Council - Lowest administrative body of Local Government in Bangladesh
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs		
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	

### Indirect Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children	714,228	356,972.00	357,256.00	Children of the community members
Youth				
Community members (Adults)	1,126,565	563,291.00	563,274.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,840,793</b>	<b>920,263.00</b>	<b>920,530.00</b>	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs		
<b>Total</b>		

## V. Joint Programme Progress

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Outcome 1: Economic growth is achieved in a more inclusive manner, with economic opportunities reaching the rural and urban poor and the protection of vulnerable groups against shocks</p>	<p>In total of 2,592 rural extreme poor women, who are the sole breadwinner of their family, have been selected in the SWAPNO project. The Programme is implemented in 72 Union Parishads of Kurigram district, with beneficiaries being chosen through an open lottery that followed a rigorous, accountable and transparent selection process. The women received 18 month contracts to be employed in the maintenance of important economic infrastructure, such as key rural farm to market roads, embankments, irrigation canals, flood shelters and plantation in their respective Union Parishads. The aforementioned economic infrastructure contributes heavily to the economy of the rural area.</p> <p>In baseline 96% of beneficiary households found below lower poverty line with 62% poverty gap, the poverty situation of beneficiary households are improved substantially through regular wage earning. Market driven livelihood support in post project will help them to sustainable escape from extreme poverty.</p>	<p>Right targeting of beneficiaries in safety-net projects in Bangladesh is a major bottleneck. SWAPNO pursued some eligibility criteria and followed an open, transparent, and participatory lottery process to ensure free and fair selection of most deserving poor women in the project. In many cases, Union Parishad's Chairperson and other responsible representatives and officials tried to take bribe from intended candidates and select beneficiaries of their own choice; bypassing the selection process and criteria. This has created a huge challenge from the local power structure to ensure free and fair selection of right beneficiary. Through community engagement, led by local government institutions in coordination with local administration, under the auspices Local Government Division of Ministry of LGRD&amp;C. SWAPNO has mitigated the challenge and ensured right targeting of project beneficiaries where about 96% households are extreme poor.</p>	<p>Engagement of public and private institutions is very crucial for providing sustainable market driven self and wage employment opportunities to rural poor women.</p> <p>To establish a pilfer proof payment system in social transfer project enhancing transparency, accountability and easy access of women beneficiaries to their financial entitlements (G2P), the project will introduce e-payment for wage disbursement.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.1: Beneficiary households are able to protect their food security and livelihoods post-project</p>	<p>The 2,592 beneficiary women of SWAPNO had no or very little scope of employment to earn a living for their family. They used to work as maids in peoples' home or day laborer irregularly and earn minimal wage. Around five months of the year, during agricultural lean season, they remained fully unemployed. Now, they are employed for 18 months for public asset maintenance in their respective Union Council. Each poor woman receives a daily wage of BDT 200, out of which they get BDT 150 as cash wage and BDT 50 is deposited in their individual ESCROW bank account as mandatory savings. During 18 months tenure each beneficiary women will receive cash wage of BDT 67500 and at the end a mandatory savings of BDT 22,500 with interest. They started Rotating Savings and Credit Association (ROSCA) within the beneficiary women group of respective ward. They are utilizing savings from ROSCA in livelihood and household assets accumulation. In total of 216 Rotating Savings and Credit Association (ROSCA) is formed in Kurigram among 2,592 Women Beneficiary. In total BDT 1,788,000 savings accumulated as of March 2016 and 745 women received BDT 2400 each from the accumulated savings. Utilizing ROSCA and others savings from cash wage in total 2,499 (96%) Women Beneficiary started different Income Generating Activities (IGAs) along with their regular employment in public assets maintenance work. Women beneficiary works for public asset maintenance from 8 am to 2 pm daily. After their work they run their IGAs and sometimes they also take help from their family members in IGA operation. The most frequently operated IGAs are livestock rearing, poultry rearing, rice business, land lease for agriculture, tailoring, grocery shop, beef fattening, bettle leaf and nut, and puffed rice. Most of the women around 82% operate single IGAs and around 18% women operate multiple IGAs. The overall average IGA capital per women is BDT 4930. The average capital of women having multiple IGA is BDT 6430 and average capital women having single IGA is BDT 4592. About 49% women started earnings from their IGAs. The average monthly income of those have started earning is BDT 813 per month.</p>	<p>Due to late approval of the Government project document (DPP), women beneficiaries were employed from 16 August 2015. Planned life skill and livelihood training were deferred accordingly. As a result expected employability of women beneficiaries will not be achieved as planned and will be deferred by six months. It caused programme activities to be rescheduled and realigned accordingly to attain the stipulated project results. Other challenge is Identifying suitable market driven livelihoods for women beneficiary creates huge challenge for program. To address the challenge SWAPNO has a Market Opportunity Survey to map the available economic opportunity in the community. In consultation with beneficiaries suitable trades will be identified and necessary livelihood skill training will be imparted to beneficiary so that they take up market driven livelihood in post project.</p>	<p>SWAPNO is in the process of engaging local chambers of commerce and business associations at the sub district level to provide market driven livelihoods support, focusing on entrepreneurship and wage employment for rural poor women. Market Opportunity Survey (MOS) has been conducted to identify potential trade for beneficiaries. A day long workshop is planned to organize on findings of MOS in July 2016 with Kurigram chamber of commerce, including district and sub-district chapters to identify joint work modalities and develop an action plan. Subsequently, training needs assessment for technical and vocational skills will be conducted to enhance employability of rural poor women. The project will also work with national and international organizations for job placement of SWAPNO women beneficiary after 18 months tenure. Finally, livelihoods training combined with vocational and entrepreneurship skills will enhance their ability to develop micro-enterprises and access to market driven employment.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.2: Core beneficiaries and their dependents have improved their human capital in terms of nutrition, health, education and voice</p>	<p>Beneficiaries have been trained on Financial Literacy, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, and Gender and Development. Financial literacy will help them to keep account of their income generating activities. Knowledge on disaster risk will help them to protect lives and livelihoods from natural disaster and eventually they will be able to minimize the loss induced by natural disaster. Knowledge on gender and development will encourage them to realize their right as a citizen and leads them to engage in mainstream of the society.</p>	<p>Delayed approval of DPP resulted in differed life skill and livelihood training. It has also delayed expected development of women beneficiaries' capacity in terms of nutrition, health and education by couple of months. It caused programme activities to be rescheduled and realigned accordingly to attain the stipulated project results. It is expected the life skill trainings will be completed by June. In addition, livelihood training is planned to be imparted by October.</p>	<p>Conduct nutrition campaign in joint collaboration with National Nutrition Program (NNP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Food Programme (WFP).</p>
<p>JP Output 1.3: Beneficiary households have access to public services essential for their livelihood activities and family wellbeing</p>	<p>Individual ESCROW bank account for 2592 women has been opened in scheduled bank of Bangladesh Bank (central bank). After 18 months tenure the beneficiaries women will be able use this account for all financial service including credit, deposit and insurance essential.</p>	<p>Considering the testbed project of the National Social Security Strategy, SWAPNO will pilot e-payment to strengthen national G2P payment mechanism to social safety beneficiaries of the country under the broader objective of financial inclusion. Since, e-payment for safety-net beneficiaries is evolving in Bangladesh, the project has taken special measures to review backward and forward linkage related threats and opportunities particularly identifying the suitable payment mechanism for beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Activities for basic service schemes to support 360,000 poor community members of 72 UPs will start from July 2016. The project will invite all 72 UPs to submit innovative proposal for livelihood service delivery for poor households. Apprising the submitted proposals of UP 52 innovative service delivery schemes involving Union Parishad and government service offices (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, health, technical and vocational training etc.) situated at Upazila (sub-district) level will be implemented for poor rural households. Identifying the needs of poor community, the project will conduct special meetings with service providing offices at district and sub district levels and also with community representatives.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.4: Public assets promoting local economic regeneration, improving social conditions and enhancing environmental conditions are maintained and developed for the benefit of the poor of the participating rural communities</p>	<p>The 2,592 female beneficiaries of SWAPNO have been employed for year round maintenance of important around 4500 public assets schemes i.e. important rural farm to market roads, embankments, irrigation canals, flood shelters and plantation in their respective Union Parishads. Rural roads facilitate transportation of agricultural produce from farms to markets, communication to educational institutions, access to health centers, while other social institutions generate social and economic benefit with a better flow of citizens. Around 300 other socio-economic infrastructures like irrigation canals, embankments, and flood shelters support agriculture production and protect lives and livelihoods from natural disasters, and contribute to economic regeneration in rural areas. Around 1.8 million community members of the 72 Union Councils in Kurigram District are benefitting from public asset maintenance schemes.</p>		<p>Year round maintenance of 4,814 public asset by 2592 SWAPNO women beneficiaries.</p>
<p>JP Output 1.5: Local government has capacity to implement social transfer projects with accountability, transparency, gender sensitivity and pro-poor approach</p>	<p>The SWAPNO project is being implemented and managed by the Union Council at the grass-roots level. The Standing Committee (SC) on "Family Dispute Resolution, Women and Children Welfare (FDRWCW)" bear the responsibility for management and supervision of the project along with Union Council Chairmen and Secretaries. Effective implementation, as well as success of the project largely depends on the knowledge and skills of representatives of Union Councils, particularly knowledge pertaining to pro-poor development and the social safety-net project of FDRWCW members. A training on SWAPNO approach has been imparted to Union Council Chairman, Union Council Secretary and Standing Committee Members with a view to provide sufficient knowledge about SWAPNO project's principle, policy, rules and regulation. Particular focus has been given in the training to ensure appropriate targeting of project beneficiaries and right identification of schemes for public works to ensure pro-poor investment. In total, 504 Union parishad's representatives including 70 UC Chairmen, 70 UC Secretaries, and 364 SC Members of Kurigram district have been trained under this programme. There are 146 (29%) female participants among the UP representatives.</p>		<p>Pro-poor development training will be conducted by September for in total 504 participants including 72 Union Parishad Chairperson, 72 Secretary and 360 Standing Committee Members; Peer learning and on the job training on financial management and record keeping will be conducted by July for the selected UP Chairperson, UP Secretary and Standing Committee Members; Cross visit among the selected participating UPs for exchanging best practices by September.</p>



## Cross-cutting issues

How has the JP addressed during the reporting period (please provide concrete actions):

### 1) The **sustainability** of the JP work. (200 words)

The enhanced capacity of the government, precisely 72 Union Parishads, to manage and supervise pro-poor and gender sensitive services enable them to implement further pro-poor development programmes, specifically safety-net programmes. This will contribute to inclusive economic growth, with economic opportunities reaching the rural poor and protect the vulnerable groups against shocks. The women of this programme and their family members will have greater human capital and sustainable livelihoods, resilient against socio-economic and natural shocks.

The Government of Bangladesh has committed to share 25% of the total cost of SWAPNO. A total of US\$ 3.07 million is allocated by the Government of Bangladesh to pay the total wages and bonuses of 2016 for SWAPNO women beneficiaries.

### 2) The promotion of **women's empowerment and gender equality**. (200 words)

SWAPNO is designed to address strategic and practical needs of rural extreme poor women. The SWAPNO pillars stand upon productive economic opportunities for the female beneficiaries, and leadership development to overcome gender barriers within their community. Extreme poor women are provided with scopes to interact with local power structures and to build social capital. 2592 extreme poor women, who are the sole breadwinner for their family, have been employed for year round maintenance of important rural roads, embankments, irrigation canals, flood shelters and plantations for 18 months in their respective Union Parishads. Each poor woman receives daily wage of BDT 200 for maintenance work. Of the BDT 200, they get 150 as cash wage, with BDT 50 as mandatory savings in their individual ESCROW account. During their 18 months' tenure, each woman will receive a cash wage of BDT 67500, and end with a savings of BDT 22,500.

During this reporting period 2592 women beneficiaries received training on financial literacy, gender and development and climate change and disaster risk reduction training to develop their capacity to enhances their employment opportunities for a sustainable livelihood. Apart from the life skill training skill based vocational training will also be provided to these beneficiaries by October.

### 3) The engagement in **public-private partnerships**. (200 words)

SWAPNO is in process of engaging local chamber of commerce and its sub districts chapters and business organizations to provide market driven livelihoods support including entrepreneurship and wage employment to 2592 women beneficiaries. A day long workshop is planned to organize in July 2016 with Kurigram business chamber, including district and sub-district chapters to identify joint work modalities and establish public private partnerships. The project is also exploring the avenues to engage women with skill based alternative public works that will lead to future employability.

## Communication and Advocacy

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**Has the JP articulated an advocacy & communication actions that helps advance its policy objectives and development outcomes?:**

Yes

**Please describe communication activities developed as part of the JP. :**

SWAPNO has developed a fact sheet, infographics of project results, website and Facebook pages containing updated news and events, training manuals on 6 life skills trainings, a preparatory micro-entrepreneurship training module and leaflets on project activities to promote SDG issues, all of which are distributed among stakeholders. The visibility of SDG is ensured in all events of SWAPNO at the district and central level.

**Please provide concrete gains on how the the JP communication and advocacy efforts have increased awareness on SDGs.:**

Sensitized Union Councils on right targeting of extreme poor beneficiaries. SWAPNO baseline survey revealed that 96% of the beneficiaries are extreme poor which is linked with Goal 1 of SDG. All women beneficiary women are trained on rights and entitlements, gender and leadership which is linked with Goal 5 of SDG. Capacity on health and nutrition, sanitation is also enhanced. 936 Union Councils representatives and officials are made aware on SDGs through a daylong advocacy workshops.

**JP website URL:**

[www.bd.undp.org/swapno](http://www.bd.undp.org/swapno); [swapno-bd.org](http://swapno-bd.org)

**JP website URL:**

[www.bd.undp.org/swapno](http://www.bd.undp.org/swapno); [swapno-bd.org](http://swapno-bd.org)

**JP twitter handle:**

@

**JP Facebook page:**

[swapnoproject](#); [rinaspuffedrice](#)

**JP Facebook page:**

[swapnoproject](#); [rinaspuffedrice](#)

Other social media channels managed by joint programme (Instagram, Google+, You Tube...):

**One UN Coordination and Delivering as One**

The SDG-F is based on the principles of effective development cooperation, inclusion and participation and One UN coordination.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Description</b>
Managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc.) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	UNDP and ILO jointly identified and selected Livelihood Specialist for SWAPNO. ILO appointed NACOM, an NGO, to conduct training on CBTREE method. ILO also engaged MIDAS another NGO to train SWAPNO PNGO staffs on Entrepreneurship Development.
Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	Baseline, Advocacy and Communication Strategy, Fact Sheet on CBTREE, infographics, Market Opportunity Survey (MOS) and Livelihoods.
Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	Training on CBTREE and Entrepreneurship Development.

Actions	Description
Other, please specify:	SWAPNO and ILO joint meeting have decided that SWAPNO will explore avenues to ensure better employability for SWAPNO women beneficiaries through collaborating with relevant ILO projects such as Decent Work for Women etc. in line with JP.

### What types of coordination mechanisms and decisions have been taken to ensure joint delivery? :

The project and ILO has established a technical team represented by the Livelihoods Skills Development Specialist of SWAPNO and the Programme Specialist of TVET of ILO. The team is supported by the Training Specialist and the National Programme Manager of SWAPNO as well as expatriate Advisers from ILO. The committee has met twice to discuss modalities of beneficiary training needs assessment, a market opportunity survey and the training of SWAPNO and Partner NGO (PNGO) staff on CB-TREE (Community Based Training on Rural Economic Empowerment).

In accordance with the decisions, ILO has provided a two-day orientation for the SWAPNO programme staff and Project Coordinators of PNGO. In two batches, ILO has also provided a 10-day training to Project Officers (PO) and selected number of champion Union Workers. The training has helped the participants fully understand the operational aspects of CB-TREE and what is expected from them to make the intervention a success.

### National Ownership: Paris, Accra and Busan Commitments

The SDG-F strengthens the UN system's ability to deliver results in an integrated and multi-dimensional manner by supporting the Joint Programme modality and by bringing together United Nations Agencies and national counterparts in a collective effort to ensure ownership and sustainability of results of JPs and advance towards the SDGs.

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Government (specify national/local)	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Budget Service Provision	Project board meetings are chaired by Secretary of Local Government Division of the GoB. Government share 25% of SWAPNO project cost. In 2016 GoB provided USD 3.07 million for wages and bonus.
Private Sector	Fairly involved		Not yet started, activities are planned in September 2016 and job placement of women beneficiary will continue up to February 2017.
Civil Society	Fully involved	Service Provision	Partner NGO is on board and providing required administrative, technical and follow-up support to 2592 women beneficiaries and Union Councils.
Academia	Fairly involved	Policy-decision making	Not yet started, activities are planned in 2016 and 2017. The project's result on women beneficiary progress towards graduating from extreme poverty and findings on e-payments will be shared with academicians at national level from October 16 to February 17.

\* Implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs

### Please briefly describe the current situation of the government, private sector and civil society on regards of ownership, align:

The Government of Bangladesh, represented by the Local Government Division (LGD), has expressed keen

interest on the joint programme and has provided great support during the beneficiary selection in implementing other field level activities. The Government also appointed a National Project Director and other government officials to take part in the project. Furthermore, they have principally agreed to mobilize government funds for project cost sharing, which demonstrates government ownership for the JP. The private sector will be engaged after a market survey with the use of organizational mapping to impart vocational skills and engage women for apprenticeships. A consulting firm has conducted the baseline of the project whilst another firm is working to develop online MIS which will be launched in June 16. Another private organization will be hired to impart vocational skill training to women beneficiaries in October 16.

**Please briefly provide an overall assessment of the governance and managerial structures :**

In order to clear the backlog arised from the delay in project approval, SWAPNO Project has been fully busy in completing field activities. The senior management of UNDP, ILO and LGD had met and discussed project issues, time to time, informally but the formal meeting through Project Steering Committee couldn't take place which is due to arrange by third Quarter of 2016.

## VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 1	2592 female headed ultra-poor household are employed for 18 months tenure. This has ensured ending multidimensional poverty of 7776 persons.
Goal 3	Capacity of 2592 women beneficiaries on health and nutrition is enhanced and cash is transferred to them as wages which will ensure healthy lives and promote well-being of the families.
Goal 5	Public works employment of 2592 women facilitates achieving gender equality in the districts and empowered them through training on gender and leadership and altogether 5105 women and girls are empowered through education, training and financial inclusion.
Goal 10	Targeting 2592 ultra-poor women as beneficiaries will reduce socio economic inequality within and among countries.

## VII. Additional Information

**Additional Comments:**

As SWAPNO is a test bed for innovation to provide inputs in the National Security Strategy of Bangladesh to devise sustainable models of poverty eradication, the project will try out different innovative approaches in line with JP following local and international best practices.

### Attachments