

The expected outcomes for Phase IV are:

- Citizens demonstrate more effective participation in decision-making and more effectively hold Union Parishads to account in the selected (2) districts.
- Union Parishads in the selected (6) districts demonstrate more effective, accountable and inclusive local governance and apply efficiently public management systems.
- National actors use and institutionalise tested Sharique capacity development tools for strengthening Union Parishad governance.

The overall impact hypothesis of Sharique is that capacity building for promoting citizens' empowerment and enabling good-quality public management, and establishing sound Union Parishad training curricula and capacities of national training institutions, will result in better functioning of Union Parishads, better quality of services to citizens with more accountable and legitimate Union Parishads, and will lead to a changed mind-set, and subsequent improvements in the quality of life of citizens. Empowered citizens play a key role as they make and implement inclusive, gender sensitive and pro-poor collective choices about their lives and livelihoods.

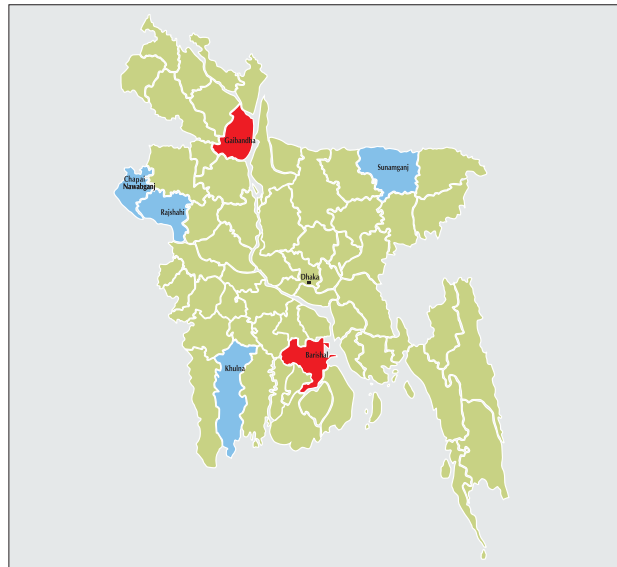
In two new districts, Barisal and Gaibandha, Sharique will deliver the tested capacity-building package to all selected Unions over a two-year cycle, covering an additional 4.8 million citizens. Sharique will also develop a case for a district based, decentralised capacity building model which might be taken up by the Government in the future.

Sharique will put its focus on institutionalisation on two levels; (1) institutionalisation of

districts and (2) institutionalisation of tested capacity development tools for improving democratic local governance within national institutions charged with a respective capacity development mandate.

Sharique will focus strongly on working with national and local partners from government institutions including NILG, IPF, NAPD and BRDB as well as NGOs. The Project will encourage and support models for delegated training delivery at sub-national level that will allow training to be delivered by different accredited organisations at district level.

Overall implementation responsibility lies with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation.



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Local Governance Programme - Sharique



Sharique Phase IV

The modern basis for local government is affirmed in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. In 2009, the laws governing Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad functioning were revised, strengthening the local governing mechanisms of UPs and citizens' rights to information and participation. The Government's main strategic policy document, the Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020), confirms the commitment of the Bangladesh government to establish strong local government institutions through a focus on planning, budgeting, revenue allocation, local governments' accountability, citizen participation and community based implementation and monitoring mechanisms.

Sharique, which started in 2006 (Phase I: 2006-09, Phase II: 2009-13, Phase III: 2013-16: Phase 4: 2017-19), is a mandated project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Sharique aims to contribute to the empowerment of local citizens to make inclusive, gender sensitive and pro-poor collective choices about their lives and livelihoods through more democratic, transparent, inclusive and effective local government systems.

Sharique has successfully facilitated change at the level of local government; all of the targeted 207 Union Parishads in the four

project districts demonstrate significantly improved practices related to effective, accountable and inclusive governance. A large majority of them succeeded to institutionalise these good practices as newly elected UP chairmen or members and UP Secretaries are continuing with the improved practices.

Key achievements so far include:

- All 207 of Sharique's partner UPs organize ward shava and open budget meetings;
- In 2016, a total of 479,822 citizens participated in ward shava and 117,924 citizens in open budget meetings;
- 95% of Sharique partner UPs conducted Union Development Coordination Committee meetings regularly;
- 100% of Sharique partner UPs regularly conduct council meetings;
- UPs' have increased their own source revenues (from 2012/13): 19% increase in 2013/14; and 66% in 2014/15; and 45% in 2015/16 as a result of the stronger link between UPs and their citizens.

Sharique has also developed a strong reputation for developing and testing methods, tools and mechanisms which include:

Local government tools and methodologies:

Sharique developed effective methodologies and tools for optimizing the effectiveness of local government laws, regulatory

frameworks and systems by applying the principles of good local governance such as participatory decision making in favour of consensual, multi-dimensional and inclusive local governance.

Capacity building programs for LGIs and Civil Society:

Sharique developed a comprehensive capacity building package to strengthen the capacity of local governance actors in effectively implementing government provisions pertaining to the annual planning and budget cycle and strengthening citizens' participation and right to information.

Local government system analysis and assessment for greater functionality:

Through practice, Sharique identified a range of constraints in key local governance systems which might hinder the effective and transparent functioning of LGIs. For example, that public procurement laws for UPs require strengthening to ensure the essential principle of transparency; that improved vertical alignment in the planning process can lead to better integrated service delivery; and that a comprehensive sub-system of local government public finance management can lead to more efficient resource allocation.

Strategic approach for Sharique Phase IV

Sharique's final phase (2017-2019) builds on the Project's learning with a strong focus on the institutionalisation of its tools and approaches.