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Project Title	Women's Rights to Sustainable Livelihoods 2
Activity Number	28317
Period Covered	January - June 2016
Country	Bangladesh, Ghana, Pakistan, Rwanda
Partners:	ActionAid Ghana, ActionAid Rwanda, ActionAid Bangladesh and ActionAid Pakistan with implementing partners - SONGTABA, BONATADU, Widows and Orphans Movement (WOM), Community Aid for Rural Development (CARD), Global Action for Women Empowerment (GLOWA) and Social Development and Improvement Agency (SODIA) in Ghana; Duhozanye Association, Faith Victory Association (FVA) and TUBUBE AMAHORO in Rwanda; SKS Foundation in Bangladesh; SAIBAN Development Organization and SUNGI Development Foundation in Pakistan.
Target group:	21,000 rural women smallholder farmers and producers, 1000 men in Bangladesh, 3,000 Ghana local authorities, Government ministries, FAO, African Union
Location:	Two districts in Bangladesh (Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat Districts); Ghana (Nanumba North and South Districts, Talensi, Nabdam, Jirapa, Asutifi South, Tain and Adaklu , in Rwanda Nyaruguru, Gisagara, Musanze, Karongi and Nyanza Districts/LRPs districts) and 2 districts (Mansehra and Muzaffarabad Districts) in Pakistan
Long-term objective:	To contribute to the increased economic empowerment of women in Bangladesh, Ghana, Pakistan, Rwanda
Specific objectives:	21,000 women in Bangladesh, Ghana, Pakistan, Rwanda have increased income and ability to control their income, through practicing CRSA, accessing markets and reducing, recognising and redistributing unpaid care work.

1. Project Start Up Activities

MoUs signed with Bangladesh, Rwanda and Ghana

ActionAid UK has signed MoUs with ActionAid Bangladesh, AA Rwanda and AA Ghana. Funds have been disbursed as per the MoUs and in turn countries have signed MoUs with local partners.

Staff recruitment

Recruitment of all project staff has been completed apart from the recruitment for the project Communication and Documentation Officer and the Finance Officer in Pakistan both of which are in process.

Community Entry

Identification of project communities and preliminary entry processes have been undertaken in Ghana,



Community launch event in Karongi, Rwanda

Rwanda, Bangladesh and are planned for Pakistan in the next quarter.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The priority has been to undertake the baseline for the project and the development of the appropriate tools and processes. After a competitive tendering process, the international consultancy firm for the project baseline was hired in April 2016 and has since submitted an inception report for conducting the baseline survey. Bangladesh, Ghana, Rwanda and Pakistan all contributed to the baseline terms of reference and were involved in advertising for the national consultants to support the baseline. The selection process will be completed by end of August 2016. The consultancy firm selected, ISG, has reviewed all the relevant document for the project including the theory of change, project proposal, logical framework and monitoring framework and other ActionAid policies. The tools for conducting the baseline were discussed by all implementing partners and include household survey, interviews, focus group discussions and review of policy documents. At national level, terms of reference for national consultants have been discussed and Rwanda has now hired the national consultants while plans are underway to hire consultants in Ghana, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

2. Activities that contribute to Output 1.1: 690 women's groups are set up and/or strengthened in their community by December 2016

1.1.1 Support 690 women groups with a total membership of 21,000 members (rural women, farmers and processors) to meet at least once a month by providing stipends for group facilitators/mobilisers.

600 women's groups have been formed in Rwanda, Ghana, Pakistan and Bangladesh and work is underway to strengthen the groups. An additional 90 women's groups will be formed in Pakistan which faced challenges as a result of changes in partners for this project. New partners have since been identified with approval from donor and the groups will be set up by the end of 2016,

The 600 women's groups have been supported to meet at least once per month. The facilitators are provided with stipends and training to mobilise and support their members. The total members of the women's groups to date is 18,000 rural women including farmers and processors.

In Bangladesh, a total of 200 women groups (106 new ones and 94 existing) supported by 39 community mobilisers are working to support 5,000 women in 10 unions. The beneficiaries were carefully selected through a participatory process which involved Union Parishads and community people. Based on 12 indicators and specific criteria, the families belonging to the lowest social strata of each village were selected to participate in the project.

1.1.2 Train 140 community facilitators, management committee members, community mobilisers and partner staff in HRBA and REFLECT facilitation methodologies (through 8 district workshops of 10 days)

To date 40 community facilitators have been trained on HRBA and reflect methodologies in Bangladesh, while this is yet to be done in Rwanda, Ghana and Pakistan.



Bangladesh Lalmonirhat Team in HRBA and Reflection-Action methodologies



TOT on women's rights, unpaid care work and violence against women Bangladesh

1.1.4 Five Training of Trainers workshop for 100 representatives from the women's groups on women's rights, including UCW, violence and economic participation (representatives supported by community facilitators/community mobilisers to disseminate learning)

In Bangladesh 8 partner staff and 39 Community Mobilizers have received Training of Trainers for 3 days to build their conceptual understanding about Rights, Women Rights, Gender, Unpaid Care Work-UCW and VAW.

3. Activities that contribute to Output 1.2: *21,000 rural women are trained about their rights and how to report and respond to cases of VAW by December 2017*

1.2.2 A minimum of one monthly REFLECT meeting to sensitise 21,000 women about their rights (using existing Reflection-Action tools such as women rights analysis, power analysis, daily activity chart of women, income and expenditure matrix)

One partner in Rwanda (Tubibe Amahoro in Karongi District) has supported women's groups with stationary so they can keep meeting notes on the key areas discussed during their bimonthly meetings. Groups were also visited while in their REFLECT circle meeting.

4. Activities that contribute to Output 2.3 *Interventions aimed at reducing unpaid care work (child care initiatives, water harvesting technologies, energy saving cooking stoves, solar cookers, fodder trees, cutters and woodlots) are tested and scaled up in communities and evidence documented by 2020.*

2.3.1 Establish 42 child care initiatives as models for learning and advocacy

Preparatory work is underway with child care centres in Rwanda and Ghana. In Rwanda, identification of childcare centres has taken place and renovations are in progress. In Ghana the communities in which the child care centres will be have been identified and terms of reference developed to identify a service provider to do the renovations for the buildings to be used as child care centres. In Bangladesh, the project has been facilitating 7 child day care centres.

Currently the project is documenting the impact of the child care centres on reducing unpaid care work. In Bangladesh and Rwanda women have reported saving more than 4 hours on child care as a result of the child care centres. Other types of interventions such as energy saving cooking stoves, water harvesting technologies will be implemented in quarters 3 and 4.

5. Activities that contribute to Output 3.2: *690 women's groups provided with and supported to access productive resources by 2020*

3.2.10 Train 200 women volunteers on extension service providers in Rwanda

70 volunteers have been trained to date in Rwanda to provide agricultural extension services.

6. Challenges and Lessons Learnt

- In Pakistan challenges with the two local organisations, initially selected to be part of the project, instigated the need to identify two new local partners to work with. Following diligence in the selection process, has had an impact on the start of implementation of activities to date. The new partners are in place and assessments are underway as how to address any delays to date and get back on track

- In Pakistan and Bangladesh official NGO registration procedures and annual approval of plans by the authorities does cause delays, we are putting in place strategies to overcome these in future.
- In Pakistan the first round of recruitment for the Finance Officer did not prove successful and so the post was re-advertised and the final selection is underway.
- The rainy season is an important factor considered when planning the timing of activities, any delays such as the ones mentioned above can also further affect implementation of activities and the need to avoid the rainy season. The project is reviewing the Year 1 activity schedule to accommodate and address these delays,
- A lesson learnt is the need to ensure proposal factor in enough time for start-up activities in the first year of a project, especially taking into account country specific policies for NGO compliance with the authorities that can often cause delays.