



Annexure I. DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT DARJEELING

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014 - 15



Summary

During this financial year 2014-15 DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT Darjeeling continued addressing the issues of Water Sanitation Hygiene and Livelihood in various rural communities of Darjeeling through projects funded by various donors.

Various Projects during the financial year 2014-15			
Name of the Project	Program	Community/Cluster	
Community Health and Advancement Initiative	WASH and Livelihood	Singell TE, Marybong TE and Aduk Cluster	
Comprehensive Health and Hygiene Improvement Program	Hygiene Promotion in Schools	Maneydara, Marybong and Lingten	
Market DLR Prerna CHAI Project n Intervention for Spice Farmers	Livelihood	Sittong and Pulungdung Cluster	
Market DLR Prerna CHAI Project n Intervention for Dairy	Livelihood	Rimbick and Tukdah Cluster	

Farmers		
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A total of 3275 people were reached through the hygiene promotion program, 1138 farmers through the spice program and 968 farmers were reached through the dairy program. A total of 542 students were reached through the CHHIP program.

PROGRESS IN NUMBERS:

DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT Darjeeling	Progress this FY 2014-15
# of Latrines Constructed	584
# of Catchment improved	9
# of Water System Costructed	7
Total # of People reached through Hygiene promotion	3275
Village Primary Schools Implementing Hygiene Program	17
School Children Participating in Hygiene Program	542
# of School children referred for medical support	104
# of International events observed	5
# of Ginger Farmers supported	239
# of Farmers Trained on Spice management	1138
# of Farmers Trained on Dairy management	968
# of Dairy Farmers Supported	93
# of SMVG established	172
# of Vermi compost unit established	73

LATRINES



A total of 584 latrines were conducted in this reporting period. One major outcome during this phase was establishing the partnership with Singell Tea Estate Fair trade joint body and leverage funds to construct 168 latrines for tea estate families costing INR 7,71,240/- and also garner financial support of INR 70,000/- for the honorarium of 5 WATSAN Animators who play a key role in raising awareness in the communities and monitoring the project. Out of the total 330 Latrines constructed in

Singell Tea estate Tea Action Trust Executive Committee (TATEC), a Fair Trade Joint Body of Singell Tea Estate, contributed financially for 168 latrines and DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT on its part

contributed for 162 Latrines This partnership has created a precedent for future partnerships with local companies in other areas where DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT programs are implemented. The beneficiaries contributed 53% of the total expense with locally available materials like stone boulders, stone chips, sand, wood and labor for the latrine construction. This was much higher than the aimed 40% contribution from beneficiaries.

Similarly at Salu, Marybong Tea Estate, the tea management supported by providing shuttering wood worth INR 69,720/- as contribution towards latrine construction. 112 latrines are completed at three villages of Salu division of Marybong Tea Estate. The communities of Marybong Tea Estate contributed an average of 54% of the total expense.

Community	Latrines Constructed	Project
Singell TE	330	DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT
Marybong	112	DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT
Aduk	142	DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT
Total	584	

WATER SYSTEMS & CATCHMENT DEVELOPMENT

In this reporting period , DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT successfully completed seven water systems for seven communities in Singell and Marybong Tea Estate and neighboring agricultural communities of Aduk Cluster. During these three year 4685 people were reached through the initiative.



The non-availability of potable water had been a crucial problem for the people in these communities. Households in agricultural villages are far from one another, making it more challenging to tap water from a single source and equally distribute it to the community. Several meetings were conducted with the beneficiaries and the WATSAN (water and sanitation) Committee to develop a system that will provide access to water for all families. The WATSAN Committee played a

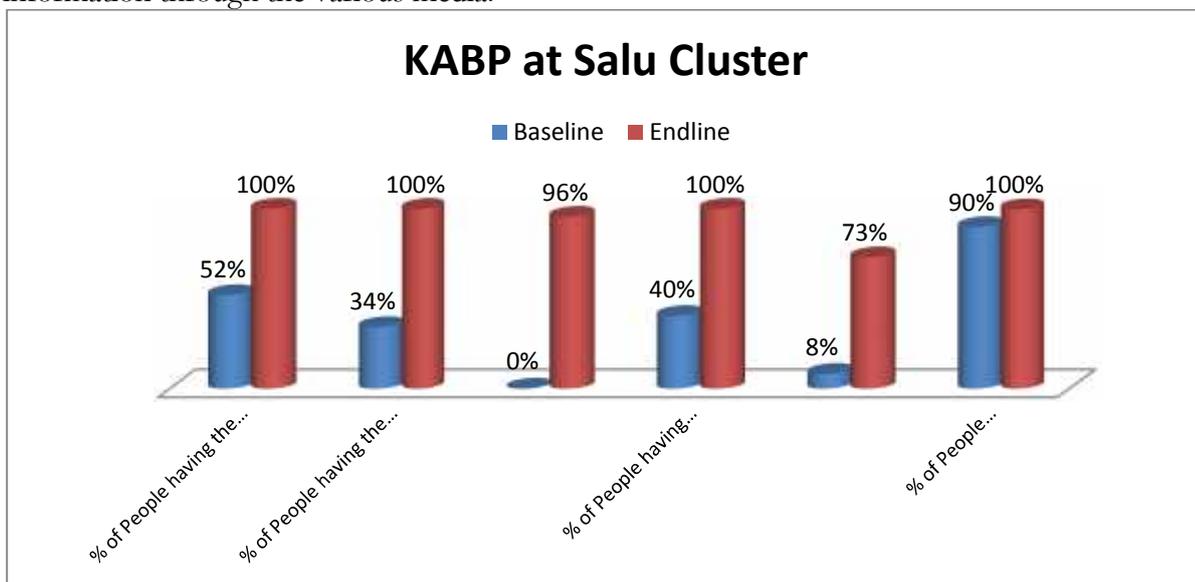
pivotal role in mobilizing the local resources and also took an active participation in developing an operation and maintenance plan. Traditionally, every community in Darjeeling Hills has a community based organisation known as ‘Samaj’. However, the ‘Samaj’ was not very active in the overall community development. So DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT formed WATSAN Committee to be actively be a part of the project at various stages like planning, implementation ,monitoring evaluation. Most of the WATSAN Committees comprises of members from the existing ‘Samaj’ though in cases where there is



low representation of women and youth in the ‘Samaj’, more women and youth from the community are encouraged to be a part of the WATSAN committee.

3. Increased awareness on hygiene

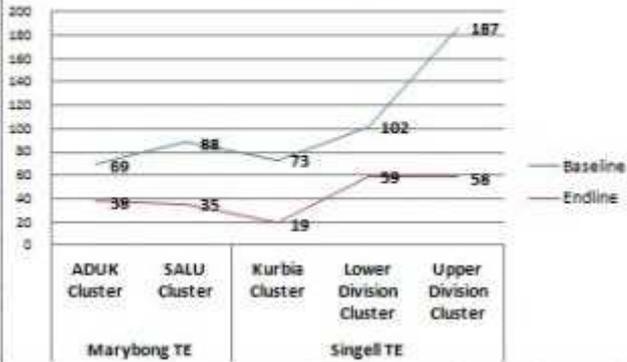
The community appreciated these initiatives and started to bring changes in their lives by adopting healthy and hygienic habits. The baseline survey found that only 52% of the total population knew about water borne diseases. This number rose to a full 100% in the end line survey. Similar impact can be seen on awareness of prevention and cure of these water borne diseases as well where all 100% of the respondents were aware of it in the end line study as compared to only 34% in the baseline. Prior to the project intervention, the practice of proper hand washing was non-existent in the community but after the project intervention, 96% of the people practice it. During the baseline survey only 40% of the people knew how to purify water whereas the end line survey found all 100% respondents purified their water to protect themselves from various diseases that arise from the impure water. 100% of the people prefer to drink only boiled water which definitely marks the difference the project intervention has made. Only 8% of the people had access to information on health and hygiene through medium like TV, newspaper, pamphlets, brochures, awareness campaigns and health centers during the baseline survey. In the end line survey, it was found that over 73% of the people were access health and hygiene related information through the various media.



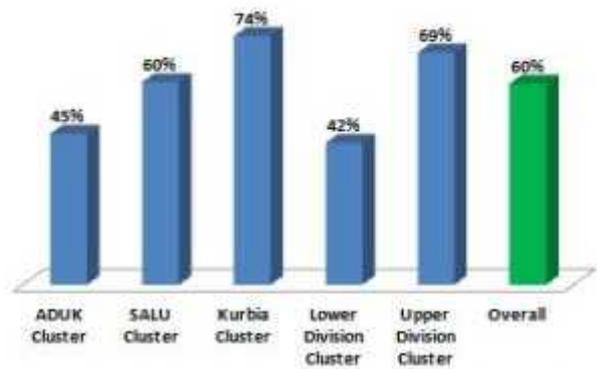
END LINE EVALUATION

At the end of phase IV, a sample end line survey was conducted in communities where latrines and water intervention was carried out. During this assessment it was learnt that there has been significant reduction in the prevalent water borne diseases in families with the improvement of water and sanitation amenities. This has resulted in lower absenteeism in work and school. It was also observed that the time spent on fetching water has substantially reduced as the households now have access to water at their doorsteps. This has resulted in more time for education, income activities and leisure, specially for women and girls as they were primarily responsible for collecting water.

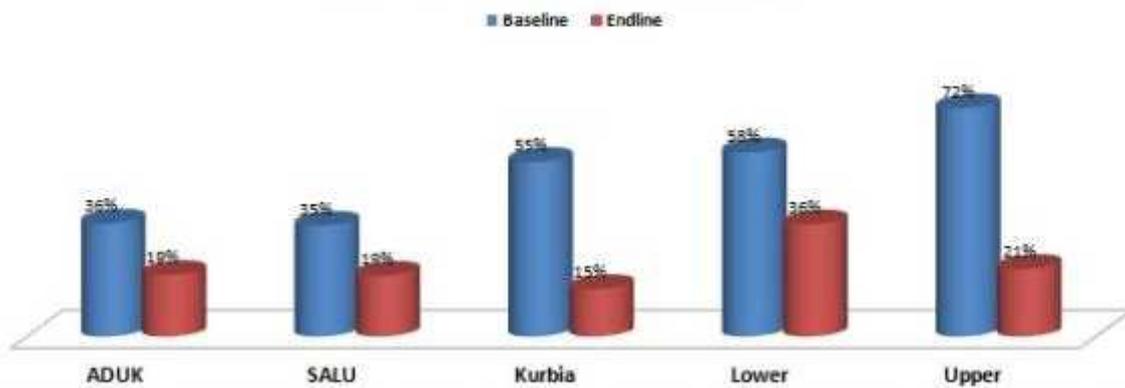
Total Cases of GI Disease reported in the last 6 months



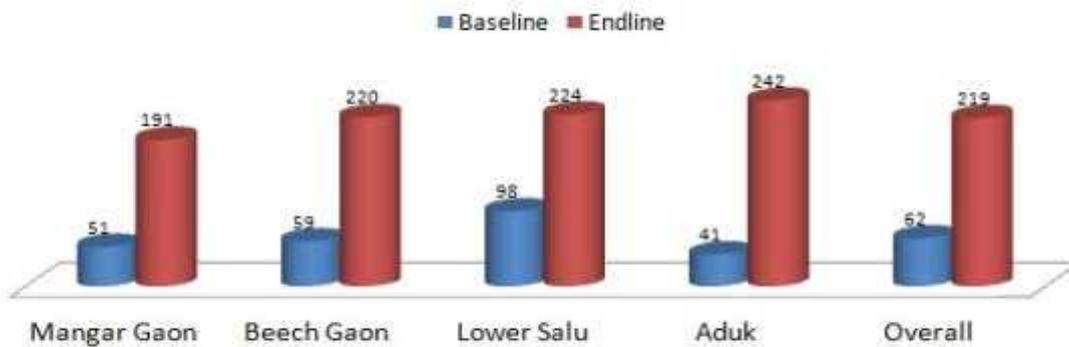
% Reduction in GI Disease



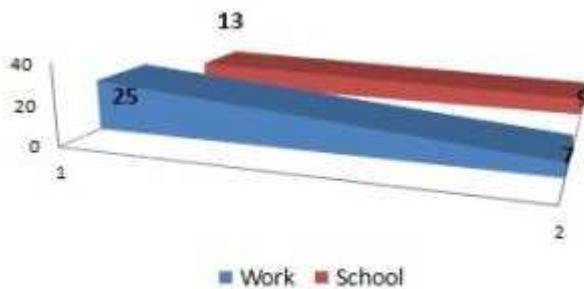
% of household suffering From GI Disease



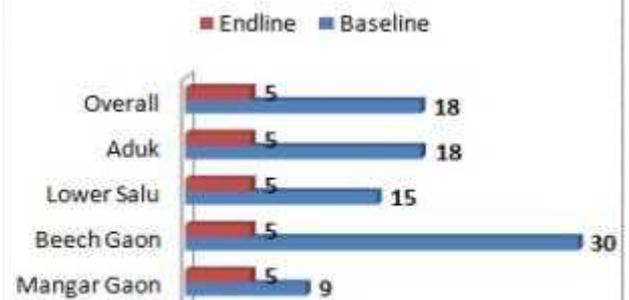
Water Availability Litres per Family per Day



Average Reduction in Absentism per year



Reduction in Time taken to Fetch water in Minutes



CASE STUDY

Objective 2: Create employment or income generation activities
Adding Income through SMVG and Vermi Compost



Economic development project started with one square meter vegetable garden (SMVG) and vermi compost with the objective to create additional income generation for community members.

The farmers grew common vegetables grown by beneficiaries all year round are tomatoes, coriander, round chilies, and spinach. These vegetables produced are used for their own household consumption or sold within the community. Each beneficiary has a written account of the production and sales of their vegetables. During this reporting period there is increase in the number of 70 SMVG and 57 vermi compost beneficiaries in the existing and new communities. Till date 172 of SMVG and

73 of vermi-composts have been built in the target communities benefitting 245 household (1225 people). An average monthly income for a family working in the tea garden is INR 2900(\$50) and with SMVG and Vermi Compost as an additional income opportunity this monthly income for a family has increased by \$12 at an average which is roughly 24% increase in monthly income.

PROJECT TITLE: COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHHIP)

Objective 1: To build the capacity of 5 communities to address the health needs of targeted children (children in Nursery-Class IV) by increasing the skills of 4 community health workers.

The four CHHIP SHAs have attended the following trainings for the CHHIP health interventions:

Oral Health Screening Training on 12th September, 2014

Skin Disease and Screening Training on 10th October, 2014

These trainings took place in the DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT office and were led by the CHHIP Project Officers. Training on Oral Health screening for the SHA's was partly facilitated by a dentist in Darjeeling Dr. Zsangmu Tshering.

Objective 2: To improve the health and education status of 459 targeted children through the delivery of health education, basic primary health services, an efficient referral network to professional services, and an improved school health environment.

Health Education: From September to March 2015, The SHAs have delivered lessons 1 – 99 of the CHHIP Health Curriculum in CHHIP partner schools. Project funds were used to print new Student Workbooks and other IEC/teaching aid materials.

At the end of the school year, two post-tests were administered to students in the partner and control group schools to gauge the students' knowledge, behavior, and attitudes regarding health. These tests were the Student Health Knowledge Test and the Student Attitude and Behavior Test.

Water Borne Disease Survey Second and Third Round: Water borne disease surveys are conducted by the CHHIP SHAs three times during the year. These surveys are done at both the partner and control group

schools and are of the points of comparison used between the two groups. The second round of the survey was conducted in July and August of 2014, while the third round of the survey was conducted in October and November of 2014 at the partner and control group schools.

Growth Monitoring Round Two: Growth monitoring is conducted twice a year at the CHHIP partner schools. During these monitoring sessions, the children are weighed and measured for height and weight and their Body Mass Index (BMI) is calculated. These numbers are then charted on a standard World Health Organization growth chart. If children are found to be underweight, short for their age, or overweight, they are sent referred to a PHC or local clinic for assessment to determine what the reason for this growth problem could be. The second round of growth monitoring took place in the CHHIP partner schools in November 2014 for students aged below 8 years.

During the second growth monitoring, 72% of the students (aged below 8 years) were assessed for growth issues. The SHAs referred 28 students, having < 3 percentile on height to PHCs and local clinics for further assessment. The SHAs also visited the referred student's parents and gave them an overview on balanced meal and importance of nutritious diet.

Iron Supplementation: The CHHIP Iron Supplementation Intervention is a preventative measure for reducing rates of moderate iron deficiency and anemia in children and adults associated with CHHIP.

In 2014, the second phase of iron supplementation implementation began in September, 2014 and continued through December 2014. Out of 446 students enrolled in CHHIP (nursery – Class IV) according to SHA registers, 399 students received treatment, for a coverage rate of 89%. The coverage rate for eligible students including Class V+ was 91% (495 out of 542 students).

Oral Health Screening: Children at CHHIP partner schools are screened for potential oral problems. In addition, the SHAs examine the children's teeth and gums for any obvious infections, injuries, or other issues that could indicate the need for a referral. During this year's oral screening, 99.11% of the students were screened for oral problems by the SHAs in partner schools. A total of 97 students were referred for further assessment. After a follow up with the students later in the school year it was reported 55 students completed referral (56.7%).

Skin Disease and Screening: Skin Disease Screening is conducted at CHHIP partner schools; during this screening the SHAs examine the children's skin for any obvious common skin disorders, or other issues that could indicate the need for a referral. Referrals are made to a Pediatrician, General Physician, or Skin Specialist in the case of skin disorders, or a community-level PHC in the case of eye infection or injury. This year, the skin disease and screening occurred in October and November after training on 10th October, 2014.

During this year's vision screening, 99.77% of the students were screened for skin problems by the SHAs in partner schools. A total of 42 students were referred for further assessment, 38 students completed referral (90%).

Referral Network: Any child identified by the SHAs with a potential health challenge is referred to the nearest government health facility (PHC, dispensary, or sub-centre). CHHIP tries to strengthen the public health system by making community members aware of existing health services within Darjeeling District, and of facilitating access to public sector doctors. During the September – March 2015 period, the SHAs have referred 104 students to various government health facilities. CHHIP has continued to use the Individual Child Record Form for each CHHIP student. These forms record each child's medical history and the services received from CHHIP. The students' parents can then take these forms to the doctor to share the child's medical history or for any reference.

Improvements to the School Health Environment

Infrastructure: This year, CHHIP will be undertook one major infrastructure project: a new hand washing point and latrines at Sahara Academy in Nezi. Project funds were spent on purchasing construction

materials for these infrastructure projects. The community itself provided in-kind costs such as labor and local materials as a part of their contribution. In August 2014, the budgets and supplies for this project were determined and the project was built in November 2014.

School Health Index: The School Health Index was created by CHHIP to determine the health-related strengths and areas for improvement with the school community. CHHIP has also used the SHI to track the impact of CHHIP on the school health environment as evaluated by stakeholders. Community members are asked to rate the health of the school environment along physical, psychological, and social dimensions. The survey was distributed to the community stakeholders in the partner schools and the control group schools in December to use as a post-test.

PROJECT TITLE: MARKET DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT N INTERVENTIONS FOR DARJEELING SPICE PRODUCERS

In this reporting quarter, trainings focusing on bed preparation, land management and the use of IMOs were conducted. The team also distributed ready-made IMOs and jaggery to the farmers to convert the trainings into practice.

Training on the production of herbicide and insecticide using local medicinal plants were also conducted for the farmers. The method is simple and easy to implement, whereby farmers cook and crush the local medicinal plants and extract the juice. The juice is then diluted in water and sprayed on the affected plants.

Farmers were also taught about land and water management, which is essential before and after the sowing of ginger to avoid pests and diseases caused by water logging and lack of weeding. On the topic of land and water management, farmers were taught the importance of bio-diversity, multi-cropping and crop rotation to maintain healthy soil. The importance of proper drainage to avoid bacterial wilt in ginger was also imparted in the training.

Farmers trained on improved ginger management practices			
	Farmers trained this quarter	Total Farmers Trained during project period	
Male	123	796	
Female	73	342	
Total	196	1,138	



Ginger Seed being distributed amongst the seed farmers

and application forms have been submitted by 60 farmers for revolving funds for seed. The objective is to provide the seed banks with a seed grant, which can be rotated sustainably among the farmers that will extend the seed bank rotation and seed saving system beyond the life of the project.

Strengthening Seed Banks: Trainings on the seed storage system was imparted to the farmers of the seed banks. The farmers noted that the spoilage in the low cost storage unit adapted was much less than in typical storage units. Less than 500 (0.25%) grams of ginger were spoiled, whereas a minimum of 10-15% of the total seed stored gets spoiled in traditional storage systems.

Several awareness meetings for increasing the participation of farmers in seed banks have already been completed

Objective 2: Increased income through value addition of spice

In this reporting period, the production and marketing of spices continued. The procurement of Dalle was completed, as the Dalle producing season is over. Similarly, ginger procurement has stopped, as ginger has entered its sowing season and only seeds are now available. Additionally, ginger production rates have increased and thus ginger procurements have been stopped.

A total of 724 kg of raw dalle, 300 kg of raw ginger and 300 kg of raw turmeric was procured in the last season, which is enough to sustain the production of spices until the next season.

PROJECT TITLE: MARKET DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT N INTERVENTIONS FOR DARJEELING DAIRY FARMERS

During this reporting period, the team, in collaboration with the Block Livestock Department and Veterinary Department, continued to train farmers on dairy management, cowshed management, feed and fodder management, veterinary services, and disease control. An awareness program on dairy management was also conducted in all three prioritized Phase I clusters. Posters, placards and audio visual media were used to make the trainings effective and informative. A total of farmers benefitted



from project-run trainings during this quarter. Dairy management trainings covered topics such as the purpose of animal rearing, proper breeding practices, feed and fodder management, cowshed management, health and hygiene practices, diseases, prevention and cure, pre and post reproduction care and management, new born calf care, first aid and vaccinations.

The trained farmers have started adopting the new practices and are continuing to practice better dairy management techniques and focus further on the importance of health and hygiene of their cows. During the monitoring process, an increase in their milk yield was noted as a positive outcome of the

regular trainings being held by the team. During this quarter, the farmers of Turuk cluster were also trained on fodder plantation, its preservation and on the preparation of concentrated feed mixture.

Sl. No	Training On	Progress to date		
		# of Participants	Male	Female
1	Training on Animal Husbandry (Vet Services)	38	31	7
2	Training on Dairy Management	425	279	146
3	Training on Vaccination	55	34	21
4	Training on Cow Shed Management	117	65	52
5	Training on Participatory Planning & Need Identification	81	62	19
6	Awareness on Dairy Program & Management	225	168	57
7	Training Feed & Fodder Management	27	11	16
TOTAL		968	650	318



The MCI Dairy project has continued to motivate farmers to improve and upgrade their cowsheds. Awareness on the importance of upgrading a cowshed and improving the overall health of the cows is repeatedly emphasized by the program. The financial assistance

component has been designed in such a way that farmers who wish to buy new or additional cows with support from the project first must apply for support to upgrade and improve their existing cowshed. This is to ensure that their existing and newly added cows are housed in a facility that will improve their overall health. will then conduct regular monitoring of the progress made by each farmer through field visits. During these visits, the farmers get an opportunity to clarify any doubts regarding the upgrades to their cowshed.

There has been an increase in the interest level of the dairy farmers in upgrading their cow-sheds using the standards developed by an expert team of veterinarians, engineers and progressive dairy farmers. standard practices for cowsheds emphasizes the health and hygiene of the cow in terms of flooring, roofing, urine pit, manure pit and ventilation for proper air and light flow and protection from wild animals.

Financial Support to Spice and Dairy Farmers:

Financial Support through the Revolving Fund has been continued to Spice and Dairy farmers where farmers have been formed into JLGs (Joint Liability Groups). A total of 332 farmers comprising of 239 Spice farmers and 93 dairy farmers were provided financial support for improvement in dairy and spice management.

CONCLUSION:

Overall there has been good progress in the implementation of the projects where the project targets are being met according to the proposed timelines.

In terms of the upcoming activities CHHIP dairy and spice projects will be continued while new phases viz. DLR PRERNA CHAI PROJECT phase V and Twinnings phase 3 will be kickstarted in the upcoming year.