

MANIKGANJ PROJECT REPORT, PHASE III  
April, 1982 to June, 1983

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Bangladesh Rural  
Advancement Committee  
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The aim of the Manikganj Integrated Project (MIP) is to involve the disadvantaged in developing their own potentialities while engaging in self-reliant activities. In order to facilitate their activities BRAC provides technical and financial assistance. The disadvantaged who constitute BRAC's target people are those who have no control over the means of production and distribution, and, as such, possess nothing to sell other than their manual labour. The disadvantaged or landless who fall into this category make up 50% of Bangladesh's rural population. Specifically, this includes: the landless or marginal farmers with no assets; fishermen with no nets or boats; artisans lacking working capital, tools and/or raw materials; and families whose members sell their manual labour for survival.

MIP's target was to cover 150 villages, but 182 villages were covered, henceforth, there will be no further expansion of MIP's activities into more villages, rather consolidation of the existing activities. The project works with approximately 60,000 villagers, most of whom are engaged in irrigation and agriculture oriented schemes, while the women are primarily involved in activities such as poultry rearing, block-printing, eri and seri-culture.

According to a Manikganj Baseline Survey conducted by BRAC in 1977, 89% of the population are Muslims, the remainder being Hindus, and "Landlessness was higher among the Hindus". 44% of the population are under 15 years of age. The landless comprise approximately 38% of the population and their predominant economic activity is agricultural. The average landholding is 0.55 acres.

This report covers the first year of MIP Phase III, and 3 months of the second year, April 1982 - June 1983. The report is based on data and information from: the Manikganj Project staff, interviews with the target group members; and BRAC's Research and Evaluation Division (RED).

### Functional Education Courses (FEC)

BRAC's FEC programme is not only geared to provide numeracy and literacy, but also to meet the immediate and basic needs of the learners. It assists the learners <sup>to</sup> develop their self-awareness and optimize their utilization of local resources. FEC's methodology is participatory and is based on extensive classroom discussions and dialogue.

FEC classes are the first step in the conscientization of the target groups, once they have been identified and formed. Volunteer Group members are trained by BRAC to involve more people in FEC. The course is directed to adult group members who have had no exposure to formal education, and the classes are held bi-annually in January to March and in October - December.

#### FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION

April '82 - June '83

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. New Centres opened	36	30	66
2. Centres carried over from Phase II	5	4	9
3. Total Centres Operating	-	-	75
4. Centres completed	34	31	65
5. Centres Operating	-	-	-
6. Centres Discontinued	8	1	9
7. Learners Enrolled	720	633	1,353
8. Learners Graduated	542	503	1,045
9. Learners Dropped out	178	130	308
10. % of Graduates (on total enrolment - Male & Female)	40.05	37.17	77.23
11. Enrolment (4/81 - 3/82)	2,480	1,800	4,280
12. Graduation (4/81 - 3/82)	1,376	938	2,314
13. % of Graduates (4/81 - 3/82) (on total enrolment-male & female)	32.15	21.91	54.06
14. Sebok/Sebikas Trained	70	62	132
15. Sebok/Sebikas Trained (4/81 - 3/82)	243	159	402

In 1982 - 83, 66 new FEC centres were opened out of a targeted 100. 77.23% of the FEC learners graduated from the Course, up 23.23% from 54% in Phase II. In total 480 centres have been opened of which 389 (81%) have completed the course, graduating 6,548 men and women.

### Group Formation

FEC graduates, form male and female groups (composed of 20-25 members each) the nuclei of the Manikganj Programme. Each individual group engages in economic activities of their choice, and occasionally several cooperate in joint economic activities. Gradually the group's cohesion develops strengthening and increasing their capacity for concerted action. From these cadres primary level health care (Para-medics), and family planning workers, leaders, and committee members are provided human development and skills training by MIP.

At the end of Phase II, 329 groups had been formed and 169 villages were covered. In Phase III an additional 39 groups were to be formed. However, in the first year of Phase III, the policy was changed from developing small individual groups, into creating<sup>a</sup> large village level organisation, called Village Organization (VO). The groups have therefore been consolidated in two VO's, one male and one female for each village. The decision to create VOs in place of the individual group was made because: 1) the large number of groups were often unwieldy and difficult to coordinate and; 2) the existence of many groups hampered the development of inter-group solidarity.

In the first year of Phase III, the newly formed groups were merged into the VOs, and as such the below table shows only 3 new groups in this period.



Groups Formed and Target People Covered

Unions	Village In which BRAC is working	Groups	Group Members	Total Savings (Taka)
Betila Mitora	19	33	784	15,975
Putail	13	19	564	5,913
Krishnapur	30	37	750	17,368
Bhararia	16	38	889	32,175
Hatipara	17	35	1,000	55,778
Novogram	18	41	915	36,668
Pouroshova	18	26	648	16,669
Jagir	19	40	976	30,171
Gorpara	18	38	801	37,412
Dighi	14	25	569	8,535
Total:-	182	332	7,896	256,664

Village Organisations (VO)

Once the people/groups involved in MIP activities constitute 50% of the landless in a village, a VO is formed. The VO meets monthly to discuss socio-economic issues (e.g. dowry, divorce, irrigation problems and food for work programmes, etc.), plan and evaluate their activities. In MIP 51 VOs have been formed, and to date 101 groups have been merged into the 51 VOs leaving 231 groups to be consolidated. The highest number of amalgamations have occurred in Jagir, Hatipara and Krishnapur Unions. The ultimate goal is to link all the VOs into a central thana level federation.

Representatives (one male and one female) from the VOs and the groups are selected to form separate male and female Union Co-ordination Committees (UCC) at the union level. The male and female UCCs have separate monthly meetings and combined quarterly meetings. It is envisaged that eventually the two committees will merge into one union level organisation.

UCC meetings are held on a rotating basis between a different village each month, and a member of the host village VO presides over the meeting. A MIP staff member also attends the meetings, usually the P.O. who works in the area.

The function of the UCC is to discuss those issues which cannot be resolved by the VOs, e.g. wages, political representation, food for work programmes, decisions on concerted social action, and to press for proper utilization of local government services. Presently there are 9 UCCs in Manikganj Thana.

### Economic Schemes

Economic support forms the **crux** of BRAC's programme to stimulate self-reliance amongst the target groups. Groups having completed at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the FEC course are eligible to engage in collective economic activities. MIP staff works with the groups, providing encouragement and assistance in planning and the implementation of their schemes. Once the MIP staff approves the schemes' feasibility, MIP extends loans at the rate of 15% interest/annum. Along with the loans and the F.O.'s supervision, BRAC's Training and Resource Centre (TARC) provides specific scheme by scheme occupational skills and management training.

Repayment in 1982 - 83 for loan disbursed during the entire MIP project (1976 - 83) period was Tk.398,802. During the first year of Phase III loans amounting to Tk.569,254 were disbursed, and the net outstanding MIP loan amount is Tk.1,435,683.

### Agriculture

Agriculture is the primary area in which the target groups seek employment. The groups use a combination of personal and MIP loans to operate their agricultural schemes. Group members, being landless, lease land for cultivation. During Phase II, 96 groups (approximately 2,000 members) were engaged in the cultivation of 343 acres of land.

This year the acreage, including irrigation, increased to 446 acres, a 30% increase. The irrigated sector had the highest yield per acre, while employing the second highest number of people; the highest being in mulberry plantations. The Irrigation Schemes required the largest amount of capital, an investment of Tk.382,251, the major portion of which came from NIP loans. Sweet potato cultivation was undertaken entirely through personal savings.

Agriculture Schemes

Schemes	Groups involved	Members directly involved	Total land covered under the scheme (acre)	Total investment (Taka)	BRAC Loan (Taka)
Sugarcane	17	298	46.99	214,760	193,360
Irrigation	21	316	302.65	382,251	326,571
HYV Paddy	7	71	9.00	21,200	16,600
LYV Paddy	11	93	16.60	36,500	27,000
Potato	2	18	1.50	2,000	-
Sweet potato	1	10	1.50	2,500	-
Tobacco	3	32	12.50	14,500	5,000
Rabi (Spring) Crop	7	50	4.50	7,200	4,589
Onion	2	25	1.70	5,300	3,000
Peanut	4	45	7.00	19,000	5,000
Wheat	3	39	7.20	16,000	9,375
Mulberry Plantation	44	285	31.06	252,510	-
Vegetable	3	34	3.00	2,700	1,000
Jute	1	8	.60	3,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2,324</b>	<b>445.90</b>	<b>979,421</b>	<b>591,495</b>



## A. Irrigation

MIP has introduced and implemented a new practice in Bangladesh - the landless taking control over a primary input in modern agricultural production, water. In rural Bangladesh, the traditional agricultural assets are land and capital, of which the landless do not possess or control either. It is imperative that the one remaining asset, water, does not pass into the hands of the rural elite. MIP assists the groups in acquiring irrigation units like low lift pumps, shallow and deep tube-wells. Group members then sell the water to the landed farmers who repay in cash or kind. For the past 5 years the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) and the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) have provided assistance in the form of loans to the project. Between April 1982 - June 1983, 6 new shallow tube-wells and 1 deep tubewell were sunk. Cumulatively for Phase II and III, 22 irrigation schemes are operating and the target for Phase III is 35 more irrigation groups.

A major problem during the initial stage of the irrigation programme was the lack of confidence on the part of the landed farmers in the group members' ability to successfully operate the tubewells. Once the tubewells were sunk, transactions began, but the delay caused setbacks in the loan repayment schedule. The other major problem is the constant escalating cost of fuel.

Early estimates show the possibility of a Tk.5,000 profit/scheme/year. This average however was not obtained in the first few cycles of operation due to the problems above.

## B. Eri-culture

To reduce the dependence on agriculture, off-farm occupation for disadvantaged women are being developed. Eri-culture (the cultivation of silk worms that feed on castor leaves) is one such alternative. With a minimum of investment (25 trees/bushes minimum



space for rearing, and a Tk.400 spinning wheel), a woman who rears and spins 2,500 cocoons per rearing cycle (45 days) can earn approximately Tk.200 per month. BRAC now operates a women's training centre at Manikganj at which the women are taught skills to work in their villages. Inputs (spinning wheels, worms) are provided by the centre, along with technical supervision and marketing services. Formerly, 50% of the yarn was sold to the Government but from Phase III the yarn is used by the Manikganj weavers to weave 'endi' silk. Eri-culture, a relatively new concept, has become a major off farm employment scheme. In Phase II a total of 47 villages were covered by this programme, the figure now stands at 60. Presently, 75 groups are involved in the eri-culture schemes.

#### C. Seri-culture

Seri-culture is the cultivation of silk worms that feed on mulberry leaves. The number of rearers in Phase II was 74, and currently numbers 95. During 1981 - 82 a total of 564 kahons (one kahon = 1,280 cocoons) were produced, in 1982 - 83 1,328 kahons were produced, an increase of 135%.

The seri-culture schemes receive assistance from the Bangladesh Seri-culture Board which buys cocoons from BRAC and provides subsidies to mulberry growers. At the moment the Manikganj centres produce both thread and woven silk. The yardage and garments made from this silk is marketed through Aarong and other retail outlets.

#### D. Poultry Farming

Like animal husbandry, poultry rearing in Bangladesh has never been done under scientific principles. Consequently, the poultry (hens, ducks and geese) in rural areas scavenging on domestic waste and available grains are poor layers and are susceptible to diseases like cholera and smallpox.

The approach to poultry rearing in Manikganj is an example of IFAC's integrated approach to development. For example the procurement of vaccines is useless unless there are proper storage facilities and ways to transport the vaccines. Thus, the necessary infrastructure must be in place before techniques are introduced. To meet the infrastructure demands IFAC and the group members ingeniously fashion indigenous resources to meet the requirements. An example of this innovation is in the manner in which vaccines are carried from the centre to the homesteads inside a banana, which serves as the cold chain as it preserves the vaccines.

Poultry rearing is encouraged and introduced by two methods: 1) Distribution of poultry and HVT eggs and loans; 2) Training in rearing, and the vaccination of traditional breeds.

The total number of members trained and engaged in poultry rearing is 225, of which 145 were trained in Phase III.

Among the trained rearers, those who have done very well (i.e. produced the highest number of healthy fawns a year) are selected to be trained as "Key Rearers". The key rearers are given up intensive training of 3-7 days in advanced principles of poultry rearing. These key rearers on returning to their respective villages/<sup>at</sup> model rearers, disseminating their knowledge to neighbours and friends. The number of key rearers in Manikganj is 200.

Poultry rearing is quite lucrative for the villagers, since proper breeding, feeding, housing and vaccine patterns have been established. Average income is about Tk. 150 per month which is a good supplementary income.

The goods and services offered under this programme were cocks, hens, chicks, vaccines, HVT, BMDV, Fowl-pox medicine, Fowl cholera medicine and loans. The goods were procured by IFAC and sold at cost

price and the vaccines were obtained free of charges from the Government. This year, 12,370 eggs were distributed (10,000 the previous year), 53 cocks, 100 hens and Tk.7,900 was disbursed as loans.

In Phase III the target coverage<sup>is</sup> 180 villages under this scheme. From April 1982 - June 1983, 114 villages i.e. 133 groups, have been covered and the total coverage to date is 142 villages.

#### E. Pisci-culture

Pisci-culture, like poultry, can both enrich the diet and generate income for the target households. Ideally, a ½ acre pond will yield Tk.10,000 of fish per annum. Group members organised and supported by MIP staff lease, re-excavate and stock ponds with varieties of sweet water fish like Ruhi, Katla (Carp), Nailotica and Magur (catfish). MIP initiated pisci-culture operations have been undertaken in 3 out of 5 camps, viz. Gorpara, Betila and Manikganj. Presently 39 groups cultivating an equal number of ponds and a total of 31,150 fish fry have been distributed. In the previous phase 8,000 fish fry were distributed.

#### Children's Programme

An education programme for children was addressed in the proposal for Phase III. The Information and Education Section in BRAC's Head Office has designed a 3-year primary education course for the children of the landless. It was proposed that 100 village schools (of 25 students) would be opened in Phase III for children between 8 - 12 years. MIP staff, under the Information and Education section's guidance, would implement this programme. However, a policy change has occurred as the Government has declared an elaborate primary education programme for rural children, as such BRAC's effort is now diverted to encouraging the children to enroll in the Government schools.



Currently 54% of the children in Manikganj Thana between the ages of 8 - 12 are attending Government schools. Five out of the nine BRAC initiated primary school centres are operating, and the Information and Education section feels that the five operating centres should continue to run as experimental centres.

The four centres closed because: 1. The change in the Government's education policy, and 2. The motivation of the centres teachers. To rectify the teachers motivation they have been provided additional training, and it was decided that they would be given an incentive in the form of a loan.

### Women's Employment

Special emphasis has been given to the employment of women in Phase III, as the disadvantaged women comprise the poorest section of the population in Bangladesh. In Phase II, 90 female groups were involved in income generating activities; though many of their activities were not stated in the previous reports as they were functioning on too small a scale. In the table below these activities have been marked N.M. signifying 'Not Mentioned' and new income generating activities that have been introduced are marked N.E. for 'New Entry'.

MIP has taken Tk.150/month as the income base for women's employment generating activities, as it represents a good income. A survey of the women engaged in different schemes was taken to ascertain if their monthly earnings were higher or lower than Tk.150.

In Gorpara camp 100% of the key poultry rearers earn more than Tk.150/month and 60% of the combined category of key rearers and workers earn more than Tk.150/month. In the eri-culture programme a little less than 50% of the women involved earn Tk.150 or more per month.

In Betila camp 32% of the women are earning over Tk.150/month and in seri and eri-culture 11 out of 48 women (22%) earn Tk.150/month.

The data from Krishnapur camp combines the activities of eri-culture, embroidery and poultry to show that 50% of the workers earn Tk. 150/month. For some of the women their monthly incomes were over Tk.300/month.

In Balirtek camp 20 out of 22 of the women (91%) are engaged in spinning and earn Tk.150/month, most of them earning above Tk. 200.

For many, these incomes are subsidiary while for others it is the major source of subsistence and employment. In such female-headed households it is natural that greater hardships are experienced, whereas in households where the money is an additional income, it is used to buy more food and cloth, and create a modest savings.

#### WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

Programmes	Groups involved	Group members involved	Total Investment (BRAC Loan)
Animal Husbandry	29	338	113,000
Paddy Husking	17	297	79,287
Block Printing	23	53	70,000
Weaving	13	66	30,000
Embroidery (ERI)	9	14	5,000
Embroidery (Needle)	19	102	10,000
Sericulture (rearing spinning)	9	91	-
Eri-culture (rearing spinning)	75	472	-
Pickle making	2	12	9,100
Spices grinding	1	15	9,500
Chanachoor making	1	14	8,000
Net making	2	46	35,000
Jute abrus	2	24	-

Programmes	Groups involved	Group members involved	Total Investment (BRAC Loan)
Bamboo/Cane works.	2	8	-
Seed oil/Pulse Crushing (NM)	4	71	9,000
Bidi making	4	69	65,000
Tailoring (NM)	7	10	10,000
Poultry (NE)	110	192	79,000
Agriculture (NE)	3	44	28,000
Horticulture	5	21	-
<u>Service Delivery</u>			
A. Health/F.P. Worker	39	39	-
B. Birth Attendants	27	27	-
C. Poultry Workers	83	108	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>Tk. 559,887</b>

### Training

As the landless have no assets other than their labour, it is imperative therefore that they develop their occupational skills and capabilities. To this end MIP organises training programmes for the group members and the training is imparted either at BRAC's Training and Resource Centre (TARC), Savar, or at the specific MIP camp. Two types of training are imparted, human infrastructure development, and occupational skills.

The total number of groups trained in conscientization (basic orientation) was 355 for April '82 - June '83. In the previous year it was 262, and 479 workshops were held.

The tables below show the distribution of groups having received training. New areas of training were in irrigation and vegetable-dyeing.

### HUMAN RELATIONS TRAINING

Training	Groups			Group Members			Sponsored by
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	
Basic Orientation	27	19	46	201	154	355	TARC, Savar & MIP.
Leadership	24	17	41	93	43	136	-do-
Management	25	31	56	101	113	214	-do-
Workshop	30	34	64	272	207	479	MIP



SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (FARMING)

Types	Groups			Group Members			Sponsored by
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	
Irrigation (Pump Management)	10	-	10	32	-	32	Government and TARC
Sugarcane	1	1	2	3	2	5	Government
Paddy Cultivation	8	-	8	16	-	16	BRAC Manikganj TARC Savar and Government.
Papaya Cultivation	8	41	49	12	168	180	BRAC Manikganj TARC Savar.
Pisci-culture	10	1	11	18	2	20	TARC Savar.
Mulberry Plantation	14	3	17	24	6	30	BRAC Manikganj Sericulture Board.
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>283</b>	

SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (NON-FARMING)

Types	Groups			Group Members			Sponsored by
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	
Block Printing	-	12	12	-	25	25	Srenajibi Mahila Shakti & BRAC Manikganj
Weaving	4	8	12	10	62	72	-do-
Tailoring	1	5	6	1	8	9	-do-
Embroidery (ERI)	-	7	7	-	11	11	-do-
Embroidery (Needle)	-	12	12	-	41	41	-do-
Pickle making	-	2	2	8	4	12	-do-
Seri-culture	14	3	17	24	6	30	Sericulture Board.
Eri-culture	-	28	28	2	180	182	-do-
Vegetable Dyes	1	4	5	1	8	9	Government and BRAC.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>391</b>	

## Health and Family Planning

Health is an area of prime need and concern for development in Bangladesh. Malnutrition and ill health are common phenomena of poverty. As sophisticated medical care is not only not feasible, it is not a priority where primary health care is yet to be adequate. Over the years BRAC has developed a three level health care and family planning system:-

Doctor - 1 per project

Paramedics - 1 for every 2 villages

Health auxiliaries - 1 per group.

BRAC trains primary level health workers (Sebok/Sebikas) selected from the groups. They are given basic training and basic medical information about 10 basic diseases. Their training comprises preventive and curative health care, and family planning. Upto 1981, 124 health workers were trained, an evaluation of their performance revealed that motivation was not high enough. To overcome the motivational problems the health policy was revised and the motivated workers were retained. 98 health workers were trained by the doctor and paramedics between April 1982 - June 1983.

The following table shows the number of patients treated and the disease prevalence. Diarrhoea, worms and fever were the highest in occurrence. Treatment for the diseases consists of all locally available medicines that can be dispensed health without risk to the patient. For example: Aspirin for fever, Vitamin A for night blindness, Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORS, Lobon-gur) for diarrhoea, multi-vitamin, etc.

CURATIVE HEALTH SERVICE

Diseases	Patients								Total
	Inside Group				Outside Group				
	Male	Female	Child	Total	Male	Female	Child	Total	
Diarrhoea	117	122	152	391	105	115	130	350	741
Worms	873	781	1,841	3,495	553	365	522	1,440	4,935
Scabies	367	293	305	965	313	225	224	762	1,727
Anaemia	43	459	24	526	61	294	11	366	892
Dysentery	163	167	166	496	169	108	102	379	875
Blood Dysentery	88	91	146	325	68	54	65	187	512
Fever	862	601	508	1,971	505	291	265	1,061	3,032
Night Blindness	27	28	158	213	43	14	97	154	367
Pneumonia	3	3	11	17	4	-	5	9	26
Ringworm	4	1	1	6	2	1	-	3	9
Threadworm	3	1	-	4	2	1	-	3	7
Conjunctivitis	2	8	2	12	3	2	-	5	17
Mouth disease	86	93	45	224	29	43	27	99	323
Others	151	115	83	349	94	90	70	254	603
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,789</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>3,442</b>	<b>8,994</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>5,072</b>	<b>14,066</b>

Under the preventive health care programme the villages are immunized with DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus) and all the pregnant mothers and women of child-bearing age receive immunization. Children receiving DPT are divided into three categories - less than one year, less than two years and between 2 and 10 years and the immunizations are given in three instalments. The expansion of the vaccination programme is in keeping with the projected target of increasing DPT coverage during Phase III.

The Nutrition Centre: The project runs a small nutrition centre in Bati where severely malnourished children - may be brought for care and treatment.



The clinic does not always operate at full capacity, although there is no dearth of malnourished children in Manikganj. The reason for this is that the mothers are often engaged in agricultural or some other economic activity which does not allow them the time to bring their children to the centre. The clinic operates at full capacity during the monsoon season when agricultural activities are at their lowest ebb.

### Family Planning

The present population of Bangladesh is approximately 94 million, increasing at the rate of 2½ annually or over 1 million people every six months. As half of the population is under 15 years of age, the current increase in the population will continue well into the century. Therefore, BRAC considers family planning to be one of the pivotal elements in addressing the economic future of the people it works with.

In MIP, family planning is an integral part of the Health Care programme, as each Health Care Worker is also a family planning worker. They are given motivational training so that they can, in turn motivate people to plan their family by use/<sup>of</sup>contraceptives and sterilizations.

### Dai (Midwife) Training

In rural Bangladesh babies are delivered at home with the help of a 'dai' the traditional village midwife. Unfortunately, the dais are not trained and often lack even rudimentary knowledge of scientific and hygienic child-delivery, pre-natal and post-natal care. MIP has a training programme for the traditional midwives taught by BRAC's doctor and paramedics. The dais are given lessons on delivery, mother and child care. From time to time refresher courses are given.

Figures given in the previous report state that 96 dais were trained in 47 villages throughout Manikganj. From April '82 to June '83 an additional 137 dais were trained. On the average every village has one trained dai, except in Dettla camp area where 1 dai serves two villages. A total of 61 'Midwife Kits' (Dai-kits) were distributed between April '82 - June '83.

### Group Solidarity and Social Action

A vital indicator of success of the Manikganj Integrated Project is the extent to which group solidarity has been built up. An increase in income or new job opportunities by themselves do not testify the success of this project.

There are many indications that qualitative changes have occurred in the lives of many men and women. Women who are employed in economic schemes receive better treatment than previously i.e. there are fewer divorces for them, less abuse and more respect. When necessary women organise for concerted action to improve their conditions, group members organise to bargain for equitable wages, to have a voice in the communities' political issues, and to fight for greater social justice. The three case studies cited below will illustrate these points.

#### 1. Challenging the Village Leaders (Mastors)

Each village has one or more Mastors, usually members of the rural elite who often come into conflict with the landless. One such incident occurred in January 1983.

Mitra Samajhi Parishad Bhakti (MSPB) is a landless organisation, organised by SWA Manikganj in late 1980. MSPB has been actively concerned with issues relating to the lives of the working people, employment and wages.

The Matbor and other influential members of the rural elite were closely watching MSPS's activities. Feeling that in course of time it might threaten their own status and power, they started a campaign of slandering the MSPS members by spreading rumours that they were atheists. This created an unpleasant sensation in the villages, and the MSPS members demanded an apology which was refused. The conflict intensified.

As the Matbor had helped in building a mosque in the village, the landless group members stopped attending or praying at this mosque and built a humble mosque of their own with bamboo and cane.

Once the Matbor realized that the landless were united and that the situation could deteriorate against him, he mellowed and apologized. JPP 23

This case study illustrates the effectiveness of solidarity and it was a lesson that raised the awareness of all the group members as well as the rural elite.

## 2. Protection of Women's Rights

Borial Sramjibi Mohila Shakti (BSMS) was formed in mid-1978 with 21 earth cutters, landless women who cut earth for the food for work programmes. The majority of members of the BSMS were divorced, separated or widowed. The organisation looked after the issues of social justice, employment, dowry and unjust laws affecting women.

Sreemati, a young widow, is one of BSMS's leaders. Her husband died 6 years ago and she now lives with her two daughters (aged 8 and 6) in a small hut in the village of Borial. She earns a livelihood by cutting earth at the rate of Tk.6 to 7 a day. In July, 1982, Sreemati lodged a complaint with the Union Coordination Committee that she was being disturbed by an unknown prowler at night. Sreemati was somewhat hesitant and secretive as she realized that in a chauvi-



nistic society, 'blaming the female victim' is not uncommon. When the U.C.C. heard her complaint, all the groups were adamant in demanding that measures be taken for Sreemati's security.

Accordingly, one night, 5 to 6 watchmen posted themselves outside Sreemati's home. Around mid-night, the prowler came upon the scene and the watchmen caught him. The man was identified as a noted ruffian who had already molested other women.

The next day, a general meeting was held and all the group members of the neighbouring villages congregated at Borial. Some matbor and Union Council members were also present, and the group members empowered them to conduct the inquiry and give the verdict. There were attempts to favour the accused, but the group members' united front won a fair verdict. The accused was fined Tk.200 and given a good beating, according to village custom.

### 3. Occupation of Khas (State) Land

Throughout Bangladesh there are plots of unused 'Khas' land or lands which are state-owned, lying fallow. Traditionally, these lands were meant to serve the poor, but in many areas these lands are occupied and used by the elite. As such, occupation of Khas land has been an area of concerted social action by the landless.

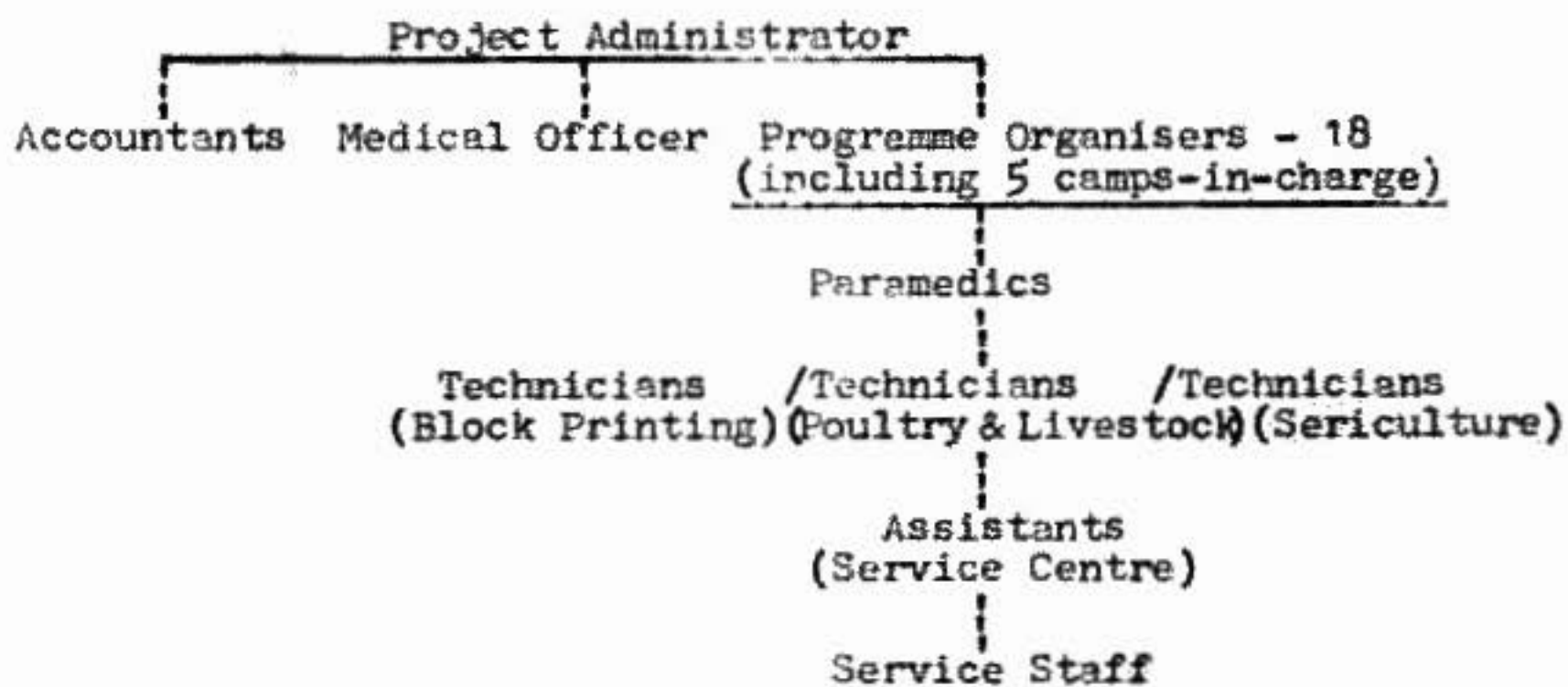
In the village of Dautia, two plots of khas land were being used by the landed elite. The landless groups discussed the matter with groups from adjacent areas and decided that they would act together and re-occupy the land. With this in mind the landless harvested the paddy that had been cultivated in these plots. The landed occupants sensing the united strength of the landless and the illegality of their occupation, did not put up any resistance and the plots were peacefully occupied by the landless groups.

This case study, once more, reveals that the landless though apparently powerless, can tap certain sources of power once they are united. And the strength that comes from group solidarity can go a long way in the fight for social justice, while having profound effects in bringing out social changes.

### Field Organisation and Personnel

A field staff consisting of Programme Organisers (POs) and Paramedics living in camps report to a Project Administrator who lives in the central camp in Manikganj town.

At present the administration and check up personnel in Manikganj is organised as follows:-



Conclusion:

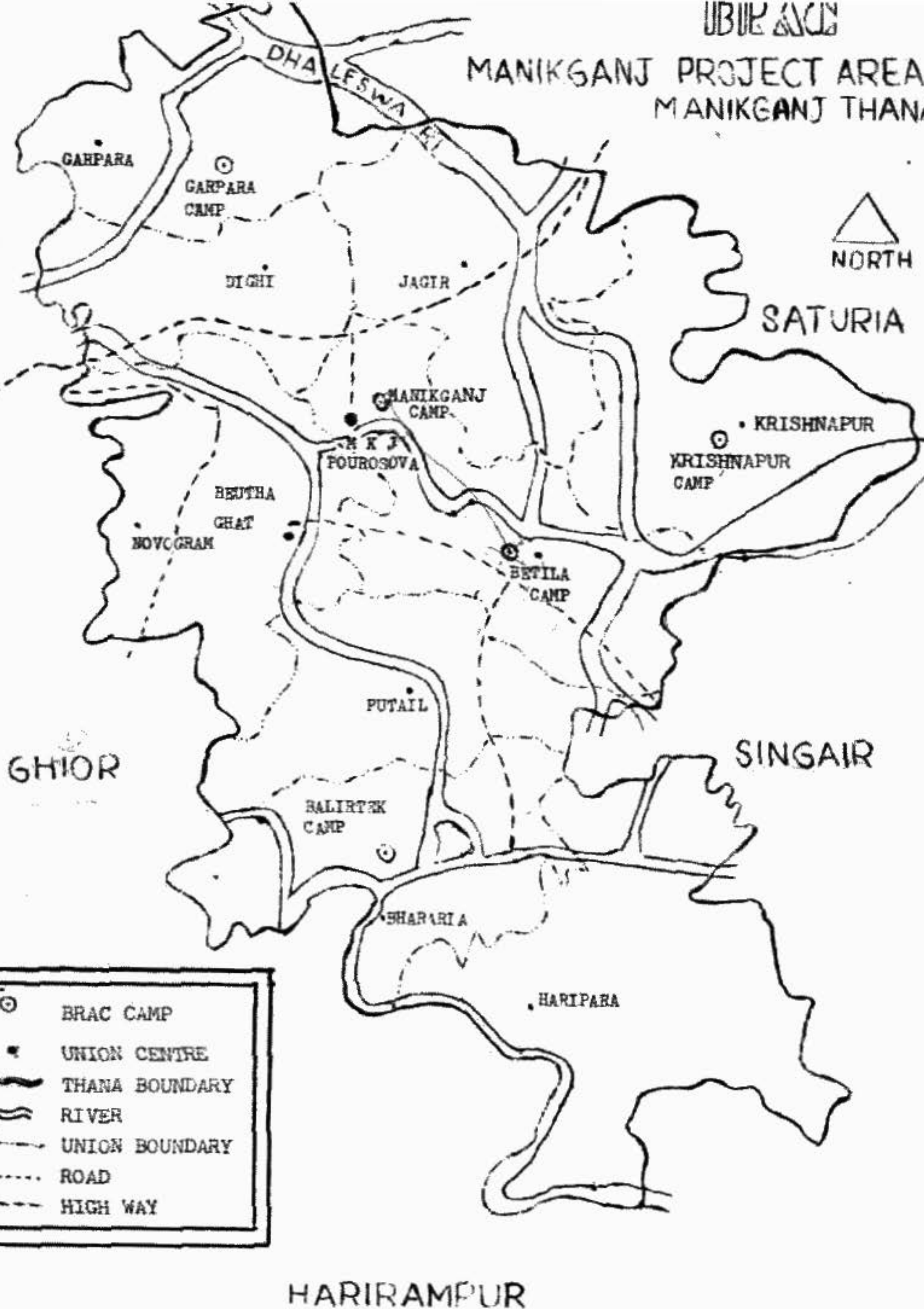
The Manikganj Integrated Project has completed the first year of Phase III. There were no major setbacks this year in the form of natural disasters i.e. flood, cyclone. In many areas the work progressed according to schedule and whenever setbacks were encountered, policies, goals or operational measures were revised.

At this stage it is difficult to produce an evaluation of the programme in the context of "How has the project changed the lives of the target groups?" For this the requisite data is lacking to enable valid quantitative and qualitative analyses, but future reports should provide a more tangible assessment.

A programme like the one in Manikganj is undertaken with a certain target in mind - that given the necessary training and support, the landless will be able to work towards their own upliftment. The various indicators of progress will certainly give BRAC substantial encouragement. However, it must be borne in mind that there are constant limitations to all achievements in the development field, and any success should be both a stimulating and sobering thought.



# MANIKGANJ PROJECT AREA MANIKGANJ THANA



	BRAC CAMP
	UNION CENTRE
	THANA BOUNDARY
	RIVER
	UNION BOUNDARY
	ROAD
	HIGH WAY

ORGANISATIONS

Camp	Unions	Village Organisations formed			Union Co-ordination Committee formed			Groups merged in to village Organisation		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Pourashava	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	2	4
nikganj	Navogram	4	3	7	1	1	2	9	5	14
	Jagir	6	6	12	1	1	2	12	12	24
	Gorpara	2	3	5	1	-	1	3	4	7
rpapa	Dighi	3	2	5	-	-	-	5	4	9
	Betila	2	1	3	1	1	2	4	3	7
	Futail	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	2	4
	Bhararia	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	6	6
lirtek	Hatipara	3	3	6	1	1	2	6	8	14
ishnapur	Krishnapur	4	4	8	-	-	-	6	6	12
al		26	26	52	5	4	9	49	52	101

IRRIGATION

Schemes	Upto March 1982	April '82 to June '83	Total	Groups involved upto June 1982	Groups involved April '82 to June '83	Total	Group members involved upto June 1982	Group members involved April '82 to June '83	Total	Total land covered (in Acre)
Shallow Tubewell	12	6	18	12	5	17	247	129	376	196.25
Deep Tubewell	1	1	2	1	1	2	25	43	68	63.25
Lowlift Pump	2	0	2	2	-	2	54	12	66	43.15
Total	15	7	22	15	6	21	326	184	510	302.65



SERICULTURE PROGRAMME

Camps	Total Plots	Total Land (in acre)	Total rearers	Cocoons produced in April '82 - March '83 (in kahon)	Silk threads produced in reeling machine (in pounds)
Gorpara	17	5.52	17	232	-
Manikganj	49	16.20	49	718	30 lb.
Krishnapur	4	1.24	4	42	-
Betila	11	3.48	11	134	-
Balirtek	14	4.62	14	202	-
Total	95	31.06	95	1,328	30 lb.

Note: Sericultural term indogy one Kahon = 1,280 cocoon.

ERICULTURE PROGRAMME

Camps	Villages	Groups involved	Chorkas distributed to spinners and rearers	Rearers (not involved in spinning)	Quantity of cocoon produced (in kahon)			Hanks produced
					Service Centres	Villages	Total	
Gorpara	7	8	51	17	37	282	319	24,100
Krishnapur	12	12	52	14		298	298	25,288
Betila	7	9	48	12	36	157	193	13,400
Balirtek	8	10	49	11	42	115	157	9,600
Manikganj	26	36	169	49	36	612	648	57,200
Total	60	75	369	103	151	1,464	1,615	1,39,588

POULTRY PROGRAMME

Services	Villages	Groups			Group members			Total distribution		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Inside	Outside	Total
Cock	20	5	15	20	8	41	49	49	4	53
Hen	7	-	7	7	-	43	43	95	5	100
Chicks	1	-	1	1	-	9	9	9	12	21
Eggs	172	116	144	260	338	916	1,254	7,933	4,437	12,370
Vaccination										
RDV	148	105	126	231	1,123	2,159	3,282	31,176	25,396	56,572
BCRDV	162	110	135	245	4,001	1,976	5,977	14,595	6,481	21,076
Fowl Pox	24	6	20	26	100	503	603	7,080	673	7,753
Fowl Cholera	26	9	21	30	104	402	506	2,600	500	3,100
Loan	2	-	2	2	-	22	22	Tk.7,900/-	-	Tk.7,900/-



POULTRY WORKERS PER CAMP.

Camp	Villages	Groups involved *			Workers			Workers Trained			Key Workers		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Betila	19	1	18	19	1	24	25	1	14	15	-	13	13
Balirtek	20	6	17	23	4	17	21	4	17	21	-	50	50
Gorpara	22	2	25	27	3	38	41	3	38	41	-	30	30
Krishnapur	16	3	13	16	6	33	39	5	12	17	1	10	11
Manikganj	37	11	37	48	18	82	100	17	37	54	7	89	96
Total	114	23	110	133	32	194	226	30	118	148	8	192	200

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Camp	Centres Opened	Enrollment			Present position of the Centres	
		Boy	Girl	Total	Centres transferred to Government	Ongoing
Gorpara	2	32	18	50	-	2
Manikganj	4	69	21	90	1	3
Krishnapur	1	14	4	18	-	-
Balirtek	2	28	17	45	2	-
Total	9	143	60	203	3	5

CHILDREN OF TARGET GROUP SENT TO GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

Camp	Villa- Nos.	Groups	Children between age group(5-9)			School going children between age group(5-9)			Children between age group(9-12)			School going children between age group(9-12)		
			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Manikpooj	50	98	731	527	1,258	385	206	591	302	204	506	183	93	276
Gorpara	27	45	306	301	607	198	141	339	200	123	323	120	55	175
Krishnapur	15	22	192	132	324	89	58	147	184	111	295	78	34	112
Balirtek	23	56	396	314	710	279	189	468	217	176	393	135	106	241
Betila	30	41	216	178	394	115	86	201	179	146	325	124	88	212
Total	145	262	1,841	1,452	3,293	1,066	680	1,746	1,082	760	1,842	640	376	1,016

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMMEApril '82 to '83

Camps	Contraception				Clients Dropped			Present position				Workers		
	Pill	Esko/ condom	Liga- tion	Total	Pill	Esko/ condom	Total	Pill	Esko/ condom	Liga- tion	Total	Male	Female	Total
Manikganj	49	10	45	104	13	4	17	135	24	290	449	-	27	27
Gorpara	49	12	42	103	32	2	34	125	25	298	448	3	28	31
Erishnapur	33	-	31	64	2	2	4	45	-	32	77	2	12	14
Betila	75	-	18	93	45	-	45	131	-	121	252	1	29	30
Balirtek	55	8	19	82	40	8	48	63	8	199	270	4	10	14
Total	261	30	155	446	132	16	148	499	57	940	1,496	10	106	116



VILLAGES AND HEALTH WORKERS

Camps	Total Health Villages			Health Worker						Worker Dropped out			Present		
	Up to Phase-II	April '82 to June '83	Total	Up to Phase-I			April '82 to June '83			Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.
				Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total						
Balirtek	15	4	19	6	24	30	6	5	11	41	3	5	8	9	24
Batila	9	6	15	1	10	11	3	15	18	29	1	4	5	3	21
Gorpara	24	4	28	1	24	25	1	25	26	51	-	1	1	2	48
Manikranj	19	5	24	5	19	24	6	14	20	44	-	6	6	11	27
Krishnapur	5	9	14	3	5	8	3	18	21	29	-	4	4	6	19
Total	72	28	100	16	82	98	19	77	36	194	4	20	24	31	139

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME

Shot	Age Group Less than one year			Age Group Less than two years			Age Group Above 2 years, less than 10 years			Pregnant Upto Phase II	Mothers April '82 Total to June '83		Non-pregnant Mothers Upto Apr '82 Phase II to June '83	
	Upto Phase II	April '82 to June '83	Total	Upto Phase II	April '82 to June '83	Total	Upto Phase II	April '82 to June '83	Total					
1st	-	189	189	553	198	751								
2nd	-	155	155	497	154	651								
3rd	-	97	97	228	126	354								
1st	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	683	683					
2nd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	481	481					
1st	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	179	179	1,362	1,431 2
2nd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	149	149	900	1,173 2

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Period	Patients				Discharge after Treatment				Referrals				Deaths		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Mothers	Boys	Girls	Total	Mothers	Boys	Girls	Total	Mothers	Boys	Girls	Total
April '78 to March '82	277	264	541	429	262	243	505	422	1	2	3	1	9	15	24
April '82 to March '83	119	79	198	166	111	77	188	160	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Total	396	343	739	595	373	320	693	582	1	2	3	1	10	17	27

- Note: 1. All children are under five years of age  
 2. Patients are required to stay in the centre from 2 to 4 weeks  
 3. All mothers undergo a health education course conducted by BRAC's paramedics  
 4. All mothers prepare the food consumed in the centre themselves. The cost of the food and medicine is borne by BRAC.

DAIS IN VILLAGES  
(BIRTH ATTENDANTS)

Camps	Working villages	Identified Dais	Dais Trained			Dai Kits Distributed	Delivery Services after Training	Deaths
			Upto Phase II	April '82 to March '83	Total			
Manikganj	29	93	28	-	28	21	175	8
Gorpara	28	52	20	-	20	15	257	21
Betila	30	66	16	-	16	-	84	5
Krishnapur	22	59	7	22	29	10	-	-
Balirtek	31	65	21	23	44	15	105	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>41</b>



BRAC MANIKGANJ PROJECTMedicine consumption & total cost of Medicine sold

Medicines	Medicines consumed			Rate of Medicines sold	Price (Taka)
	Free of cost	Sold	Total quantity		
1. Piperazine Syrup	659 oz.	1,951 oz.	2,610 oz.	2.00	3,902.00
2. Piperazine Tablet	68	3,251	3,319	0.10	325.00
3. Sulphatride Tablet	1,799	15,599	17,398	0.10	1,559.90
4. Benzyl Bantoate	74 oz.	335.75 oz.	409.75 oz.	1.50	503.63
5. Iron Tablet	837	15,217	16,104	0.05	760.85
6. Quixaline Tablet	336	4,116	4,452	0.30	1,234.80
7. Tetracycline Capsule	420	2,375	2,795	0.75	1,781.25
8. Tetracycline Syrup	109 oz.	295.25 oz.	404.25	4.00	1,181.00
9. Aspirin Tablet	794	10,259	11,053	0.10	1,025.90
10. Paracetamol Tablet	550	3,534	4,084	0.30	1,060.20
11. Penicillin Tablet	-	96	96	0.50	48.00
12. Penicillin Syrup	-	30.5 oz.	30.5 oz.	4.50	137.25
13. Tetracycline Eye Ointment	-	8 Tube	8 Tube	2.50	20.00
14. Paracetamol Tablet	-	87 oz.	87 oz.	3.00	261.00
15. Capsule AD.	393	617	1,010	0.05	30.85
16. Vitamine D-2	731	2,489	3,220	0.05	124.45
17. Metronydazol Tablet	753	2,663	3,416	0.40	932.05
18. Sulphathiazol Tablet	-	876	876	0.10	87.60
19. Calcium Tablet	558	3,492	4,070	0.05	174.50
20. Dhole & Co.	-	9 Pack	9 pack	1.50	13.50
21. Sulphur Ointment	-	1.5 gm.	1.5 gm.	1.00	1.50
22. Multivitamin Tablet	12	3,685	3,697	0.10	368.50
23. Sulphaguanidine	206	1,241	1,447	0.10	124.10
total					15,658.38

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
April 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983

	Taka	Taka
<b><u>RECEIPTS:</u></b>		
Surplus Fund from Phase II		400,076
Donation Received from BREAD FOR THE WORLD		<u>1,900,000</u>
		<u>2,300,076</u>
 <b><u>PAYMENTS:</u></b>		
<b>A. <u>Medical Programme:</u></b>		
Salaries & Benefits	176,491	
Travelling & Transportation	<u>28,687</u>	
Total Medical		205,178
 <b><u>Training:</u></b>		
Village Health Worker & Dais	87,460	
Medical Supplies	50,997	
Equipment for Village Health Workers	10,444	
Child Welfare Centre running Cost	<u>83,709</u>	
Total Training		232,610
 <b>B. <u>Functional Education:</u></b>		
Material Cost	5,857	
Teacher's Training	6,213	
Follow-up Materials	<u>6,072</u>	
Total Functional Education		18,152
 <b>C. <u>Primary Education:</u></b>		
Material Cost	1,944	
Teacher's Training	<u>940</u>	
Total Primary Education		2,884
 <b>D. <u>Employment Generation:</u></b>		
<b>i) <u>Poultry &amp; Livestock:</u></b>		
a) Salary of Technicians	3,217	
b) Supplies of Medicine	16,486	
c) Training of Village level Livestock workers	<u>25,016</u>	
Total Poultry & Livestock		44,719
 <b>ii) <u>Ericulture:</u></b>		
a) Salary of Technicians	64,842	
b) Training	55,766	
c) Spinning Wheel	43,996	
d) Service Centre Supplies	<u>43,009</u>	
Total Ericulture		207,613

	Taka	Taka
iii) <u>Block Printing</u>		
a) Salary of Technicians	7,650	
b) Village Workshop	10,364	
c) Working Capital	<u>20,961</u>	
		38,975
iv) <u>Weaving Training:</u>		
a) Salary of Technicians	5,770	
b) Training	6,131	
c) Supplies	<u>20,700</u>	
Total of Weaving Training		32,601
v) Other Skills Training		10,890
E. <u>Irrigation Schemes:</u>		
Co-operative Loan to Landless	1,131,521	
Less: Revolving Fund	<u>765,231</u>	
Total Irrigation Schemes		366,290
F. <u>Field Recurring Expenses</u>		
1. Salaries & Benefits	634,712	
2. Travelling & Transportation	134,982	
3. Stationery & Supplies	52,372	
4. Rent & Utilities	98,225	
5. General Maintenance Expenses	<u>76,213</u>	
Total Field Recurring Expenses		996,504
G. <u>Field Non-Recurring Expenses</u>		
Motor Cycle	18,600	
Bi-cycle	25,970	
Furniture, Fixture & Office Equipment	<u>22,760</u>	
		67,330
H. Head Office Support		248,500
Sub Total		<u>2,472,246</u>
Deficit fund from EGAC.		172,170
Total		<u>2,300,076</u> =====