Sharique

**Domain of intervention:** Democratic Governance  
**Implementation period:** 01.03.2017 – 31.12.2019  
**Implementing partner:** Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation  
**SDC contribution:** CHF 5.65 million  
**Modality:** Mandate

**General description**  
Sharique is a three years programme which provides capacity building training to Union Councils (also known as Union Parishads) and citizens in two districts of Bangladesh in order to ensure more effective, participatory and inclusive local governance. Sharique further supports Union Parishads (UP) of another four districts where learning of the best practices from their peers is facilitated. Sharique tools used in the projects raises awareness of these citizen groups and also empowers them through different training.

**Objectives**  
Sharique contributes 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. The target beneficiaries in two new districts are the 169 Union Parishad Chairpersons and 169 secretaries, 2028 members, and 1521 citizen groups. In two districts, Sharique delivers the tested capacity-building package to 169 Union Parishads over a two-year cycle.

**Lines of action / components**
- Capacity development of national Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) by Sharique to deliver training to citizens.
- Raising awareness and empowering of citizens by providing training through the CSOs.
- National Institute of Local Government (NILG), Institute of Public Finance (IPF), National Academy for Planning and Development (NAPD) train the Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) trainers.
- Capacity development of Union Parishads by providing training through BRDB.
- Revising and updating the national local government training curricula of NILG based on Sharique tools.

**Intended impact in terms of systemic change**
Sharique works for strengthening Union Parishad governance in Bangladesh. It aims to ensure that Local Government training curricula of NILG is revised and updated following training modules of Sharique. In two districts, Union Parishads are being trained by BRDB trainers. The successful implementation of this district based, decentralized training model can be used by NILG for making Union Parishads better functioning and delivering more effective services.

**Results as of December 2018:**
- A total 1512 citizen groups (44% women) were mobilized in a forum called 'ward platform', and in two districts, they were trained in three modules - Local Government Self-Assessment, Ward Shava (ward meetings) and Open Budget Meeting and Roles and Responsibilities of the Union Parishads.
- Around 53% - 58% women participants received training in the modules of Participatory Gender Analysis and Social Safety Net.
- BRDB have trained 169 UP chairpersons and secretaries on Ward Shava and Open Budget Meeting, from which 82 were also trained on Roles and Responsibilities of Union Parishads and Union Development Coordination Committees.
- Out of the total, 109 UP chairpersons received training on Budget Cycle Management and 75 Chairpersons, members and secretaries were trained on standing committees by BRDB trainers.
- Exchange visits were organized for 203 members of the UP of six districts. In total, 751 chairpersons, members and secretaries participated in these visits.