



## Journey for Advancement in Transparency, Representation and Accountability (JATRA)

CARE Bangladesh is implementing the Journey for Advancement in Transparency, Representation and Accountability (JATRA) project. The project aims to strengthen the Union Parishads' (Lowest tier of local government) public finance management systems so that they are more transparent and aligned with the Local Government Act 2009. The project endeavors to ensure active participation of the community leaders, especially women, in key decision making spaces and bodies. Moreover, JATRA strives to allow the wider community to play an active role in social accountability mechanisms to ensure inclusive democratic processes, equal access to quality services and access to accurate information at all levels of Union Parishad.



### Fostering Responsive Local Government through Self Evaluation of Elected Representatives

Changing the mindset of local government representatives on inclusive governance processes is always challenging. The JATRA project has adopted a tool developed by CARE Bangladesh to facilitate a six month performance self-evaluation of Union Parishads elected representatives with an objective to foster self-responsibility and accountability. The tested participatory process of self evaluation was employed in the working unions of JATRA project by which the elected representatives assess their activities over a certain period by themselves. This process is very effective as the UP is able to clearly link this with a 5 year vision for development set by themselves.

Self-assessment is conducted every six months during the monthly coordination meeting of UPs. The highest 10 marks is allocated for each of the representatives. Each elected representative gives themselves a mark after evaluating his or her own performance of the last six months. The evaluation session is held in presence of other participants of the meeting and representatives have to justify their evaluation. This process creates an opportunity for elected representatives to reflect on their own activities.

The assessment of Natural leaders (Local leaders emerged from community mobilization process) from different paras (hamlets) is incorporated to make the

process more accountable. Just before the meeting of self-assessment, the natural leaders from every ward (constitutional unit of Union Parishad member) evaluate respective UP member contribution in local poverty alleviation processes for which they are already committed to. The result of the assessment is disclosed in a very simple manner. The 'green card' is given to the members whose performance is very satisfactory. The 'yellow card' is given to the members whose performance is moderately satisfactory but there is scope of further improvement. The 'red card' is given to the members whose performance is not satisfactory. This assessment of natural leaders is disclosed after self-assessment of the UP Chairman and UP members. So, the elected representatives remain cautious about exaggeration during their self-assessment as any exaggeration could be challenged by the assessment of natural leaders.

Result: This activity has led to: enhanced positive competition amongst UP representatives; developed a positive mindset among UP chairmen and members to ensure accountability; fostered responsiveness for implementation of planned activities within the stipulated time and increased participation of the leaders from the poorest and marginalized communities.