

Annual Progress Report

Support to Host Communities Affected by Rohingya Influx Project (SHARIP)

(January to December 2020)



**Agriculture Growth and Employment Programme under Denmark's Bangladesh
Country Programme 2016-2021**

Prepared for Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA)

Prepared by Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)

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Prepared by Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)

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1. PROJECT SUMMARY¹

Project No:	000111449
Project Title:	Support to Host Communities affected by Rohingya Influx project, Bangladesh (SHARIP)
Project Start Date:	1 July 2018
Project End Date:	30 June 2021
Reporting Period:	January – June 2020
Project Budget:	DKK 38 Million (USD 5.64 Million)
Executing Agency:	Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT), UNDP Bangladesh
Responsible Ministry:	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA)
Project Area	3 Upazilas of Bandarban and 3 Upazilas of Cox's Bazar
Beneficiaries covered:	912 communities (540 communities in Bandarban and 372 communities in Cox's Bazar) covering a total of 27,360 households ²
Project Objective:	To strengthen the socio-economic conditions of poor households of the host communities affected by the Rohingya Influx in six Upazilas of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar
Project Outcomes	Outcome 1: Agricultural production increased and diversified in targeted communities Outcome 2: Agroforestry production increased sustainably Outcome 3: Social cohesion increased
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¹ The project summary reflects the DED signed in July 2019 and targets agreed on before the extension of SHARIP was formalized and signed in February 2021.

² The original target was 36,000 HHs and 1,200 communities. However, the targets for Cox's Bazar were revised in agreement with Danida in connection with the approval of SHARIP's COVID-19 response. The target for Cox' Bazar is now 11,160 HHs and 372 communities.

2. INTRODUCTION

In February 2021, a revised DED was signed by Danida and UNDP extending the Support to Host Communities Affected by Rohingya Influx Project (SHARIP) until December 2022 and involving broadening both the substantive and geographical scope of the project. In agreement with Danida the progress of the project in 2020 is, however, reported against the Results Framework in the DED signed in July 2019.

The SHARIP project aims at improving the socio-economic conditions of 29,160 poor and vulnerable farmers by increasing agricultural and agroforestry production through 972 Integrated Farm Management – Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS) and enhancing knowledge and skills of project participants to strengthen social cohesion in Naikkhyongchari, Lama and Alikadam Upazilas of Bandarban Hill District and in Teknaf, Ukhiya and Ramu Upazilas of Cox’s Bazar District.

The relevance of the project is accentuated by covering Upazilas in Bandarban and Cox’s Bazar districts of Bangladesh, which are severely impacted by the large number of Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar. As of January 2021, the Rohingya population is almost 872,000 with the vast majority living in 34 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of Cox’s Bazar.³ People from the host communities are facing various social, environmental, and economic problems due to this sudden influx. Increased pressure on natural resources, and agricultural land being repurposed for camps and settlements are other major causes of concern. Deforestation linked to the influx have deprived or reduced host communities’ access to firewood, timber and bamboo for housing as well as forest fruits and other non-timber forest products, and communities are extremely worried about the depleting water table and the potential effects of this situation on their livelihoods. The host communities are also anxious about being outnumbered, impacted on their mobility, feeling of deprivation as main attention is focused on the Rohingyas, pressure on basic services and livelihood support etc. Preliminary findings from UNDP assessments suggest that livelihood destabilization is a major driver of social tension between host communities and the Rohingya refugees.

During the reporting period, solid progress was made, but implementation was heavily impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic that hit Bangladesh in earnest in March 2020 and the restrictions imposed on mobility and gatherings. In agreement with Danida, part of the project funds was re-purposed to provide direct support to the project beneficiaries and those most severely affected by COVID-19, and where possible project activities related to social cohesion were re-organized from physical gatherings to make use of community radio, miking/loudspeaker announcements etc.

Like elsewhere in Bangladesh, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact in Bandarban and Cox’s Bazar in the form of loss of income and trade flow disruptions of essential food and non-food items. This further stretched the capacities of communities in both districts to make a decent living and of the local government agencies to cover basic needs. The vast majority of people in Cox’s Bazar and Bandarban are engaged in the agriculture and agroforestry sector and with no or limited possibility to sell the agricultural produce, many farming households lost or had their source of income drastically reduced during the lockdown period. The re-allocation of funds to provide beneficiaries as well as other of the most vulnerable households with cash support, food items and farming input therefore helped households in the project areas to cope with the COVID-19 crisis.

³ Rohingya Refugee Response/Bangladesh: Population Factsheet, Government of Bangladesh & UNHCR, 31 January 2021

In July, project activities slowly resumed with many activities having to be modified to comply with government COVID-19 regulations. Despite the need to split up of trainings, government officials and locally elected leaders being occupied with addressing the COVID-19 situation, closure of educational institutions etc., the project managed to meet many of the agreed targets (see overview in Annex 1) and ensured significant results as detailed in the next sections.

3. OVERALL PROGRESS OF SHARIP

After experiencing delays in the start up of the project, all implementing partners were onboard by January 2020 and partner staff and Master Trainers were trained on project activities, implementation modalities, guidelines and IFM-FFS including agroforestry. In Bandarban the implementing partners are Bandarban Hill District Council (outcome 1 and 2) and GRAUS (outcome 3), and in Cox's Bazar the implementing partners are Practical Action (outcome 1 and 2) and ACLAB (outcome 3).

Despite restrictions on mobility and physical gatherings imposed by the Government, which resulted in halting of almost all the planned field-level activities from March until June, significant results were observed in 2020 (please also refer to overview of achievements of targets in Annex 1). In this section, we highlight the more overall strategic achievements and in Section 4 we detail the progress against the outcome, outputs and indicators.

- ***Livelihood improvement through IFM-FFS:***

- The application of new knowledge and skills, particularly vermicomposting and farmyard manure, hazol (chicken hatching pan) and hand pollination are adopted in almost all IFM-FFS and is seen as important not only for increasing production but also for income generation, saving money on chemical fertilizers and producing more safe food.
- The project extends benefits to farmers beyond the project beneficiaries. After seeing the improvements as a result of implementing IFM-FFS technologies such as Hazol, vermicomposting, homestead agroforestry, the Farmer Facilitators report that many neighboring farmers have also started replicating these technologies and they get requests for starting up new IFM-FFS.
- The involvement of local government line agencies as technical experts and in monitoring the IFM-FFS work plays an instrumental role in identification of quality local resources persons (Farmers Facilitators, Community Livestock Workers and nursery growers), in linking up farmers (for many farmers for the first time) with government support services, and in linking farmers with local input service providers and buyers (one example is in Ramu where the Upazila Agricultural Officer facilitated a group of IFM-FFS farmers to sell vermicompost to the Ramu Cantonment). However, it remains a challenge to secure relevant and timely support to small-scale farmers. Department of Agriculture Extension and other government line departments focus mainly on larger-scale farmers who produce in larger volume. The SHARIP project focuses on marginalized small farmers where farming options are relatively limited. For these farmers, the learnings on improved/new small-scale farming techniques through IFM-FFS makes a big difference in the absence of other support initiatives.
- IFM-FFS farmers are now more aware and want to vaccinate their cattle and poultry after getting knowledge from IFM-FFS. Vaccination campaigns and Community Livestock Workers (CLWs) play an important role to fulfil the increasing demand for vaccinations, and thereby increase production and decrease the animal mortality rate. In Cox's Bazar for example, 58% of the farmers interviewed for the annual outcome assessment (see further on the assessment in the next section) are now vaccinating their poultry/cattle whereas previously only 25% farmers vaccinated their animals. Hence, the CLWs trained by the project play an important role and they are treated as the supporting hand of GoB officials to provide vaccine in rural areas.

- **Strengthened social cohesion:**

- The complementarity of the agriculture/agroforestry and social cohesion components through the courtyard sessions provided to the IFM-FFS members is providing a holistic approach to strengthening social cohesion. Many of the IFM-FFS members report that they feel more confident and respected through contributing to their family's food production and income and this confidence is further boosted through the courtyard sessions on leadership, gender and conflict mediating. Particularly the courtyard sessions on conflict and conflict management have proved effectful with 81% of the IFM-FFS members interviewed for the annual outcome assessment reporting that they have been able to solve or mediate minor, and mainly, domestic and family/neighbor disputes in their community.
- Multi-stakeholder involvement (Upazila Administration, Union Parishad, educational institutions and members of Local Volunteer Mediator's Forums and youth forums) created a wider scope to promote social cohesion interventions in the project working areas. This, for example, enabled the implementing partners to organize events involving students despite the schools remaining closed and the guardians of especially female youth in many cases does not encourage girls to go outside and participate in public programs due to social security concerns.
- Both in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar youth who have participated in the youth camps and youth campaigns have been observed to be actively working on promoting social cohesion related issues in the communities such as raising awareness about the danger of drugs and child marriage and signing up as volunteers e.g. in connection with natural disasters.

- **Contribution to women empowerment:**

- A number of the Farmer Facilitators report how they have become respected persons in the community and neighborhood (some of them report being encouraged to run in next local elections), their confidence increases and they start introducing new methods beyond the IFM-FFS learnings such as roof top gardening and using tablet when conducting the IFM-FFS sessions.
- The women-friendly IFM-FFS approach provides scope for women to improve their and their family's livelihood situation. This is especially observed in Cox's Bazar which is a conservative district where women have limited opportunities to engage in livelihood and income generating activities. The fact that IFM-FFS is focusing on homestead production means that women have been very keen to join (more than 90% of the 11,160 IFM-FFS members are women). The application of new knowledge and techniques, which leads to visible results in terms of increased and improved production, for many farmers also increased income and being linked to government line department officials increase the women's status in the households and sometimes also in the community. Many of the women interviewed report that they are allowed to either alone or jointly with their husband decide what the income they earn should be spent on. In an interview with a Forest Department official in Ukhiya he shared that *"After being a member of IFM-FFS, the women of these communities are now empowered more than before as they are now directly engaging themselves in agricultural production and can earn some money and also contribute to the household income. They are now more interested in agricultural work through which they are empowering themselves."*

- In the Local Volunteer Mediator's Forums and the youth forums, women's participation is remarkable for the local context. They are an inspiration to other women especially when they take part in the different activities at the community level and deliver messages about women empowerment.
- ***Contribution to recovering from the impact of COVID-19 on beneficiary livelihood:***
 - All the IFS-FFS visited after distribution of solidarity packages expressed great appreciation of the COVID-19 response, and for some it meant that they did not have to borrow money to buy farming input after facing economic hardship as a result of the lockdown. The high quality of the seeds provided in the solidarity package means that many farmers have already been able to sell the surplus produce. In fact, access to quality seeds is one of the most frequently highlighted challenges of the IFM-FFS farmers. Through the quality seeds distributed farmers were introduced to quality seeds and the benefits of quality seeds by getting very good production in the field. Farmers are now searching for quality seeds when making their purchase, and they have requested the project to include an IFM-FFS module on how to produce seeds themselves.
 - 93% of the beneficiaries interviewed for the annual assessment could mention relevant COVID-19 preventive measures which is an indication that the project's awareness sessions and initiatives on COVID-19 were effective.
 - UNDP covered very remote communities which were not covered by other safety net initiatives such as indigenous communities and beneficiaries on Saint Martin, Teknaf.
 - The COVID-19 response strengthened institutional linkages and coordination with Upazila Administration, Union Parishad, government line department and other stakeholders which has boosted the image of and trust in UNDP and implementing partners.

4. DETAILED PROGRESS OF SHARIP

From February to March 2021, an annual assessment was carried out to assess the progress of the project, thereby complementing the data collection through regular monitoring visits to the field by UNDP and implementing partner staff.

The annual outcome assessment was carried with 810 of 8,124 beneficiaries (agriculture/agroforestry component: 501 beneficiaries; social cohesion component: 309 beneficiaries)⁴, using systematic random selection techniques while ensuring a gender balanced sample size. Both quantitative (household questionnaire) and qualitative (Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)) methods were applied. An initiative to collect data with app-based tools and using Farmer Facilitator as data collectors were piloted in Cox's Bazar for this annual assessment.

A total of 278 IFM-FFS were covered in the assessment. The sample was identified separately for the IFM-FFS and social cohesion components and also for individual districts and Upazilas. For the agriculture/agroforestry component, the interviews were conducted with IFM-FFS members, government line department officials and Upazila and Union Parishad members. For the social cohesion component, we interviewed IFM-FFS members, Local Volunteer Mediators' Forum (LVMF) members, educational institution representatives and locally elected leaders. The social cohesion part of the assessment specifically reviewed the outcomes of the courtyard sessions and the work of the LVMFs in relation to conflict mediation.

Below is a summary of the annual outcome assessment sample size:

District	Component	Upazila	Union	IFM-FFS	Sex			
					Male	Female	Total	Female %
Bandarban	Agriculture/agroforestry	3	19	200	102	156	258	60%
Cox's Bazar	Agriculture/agroforestry	3	17	78	96	147	243	60%
Total		6	36	278	198	303	501	60%

District	Project	Upazila	Union	IFM-FFS	Sex			
					Male	Female	Total	Female %
Bandarban	Social cohesion	3	19	200	41	25	66	38%
Cox's Bazar	Social cohesion	3	17	78	96	147	243	60%
Total		6	36	278	137	172	309	56%

In the following, we analyze the outcomes based on the annual assessment data and detail the progress of SHARIP in relation to each of the outputs and indicators in alignment with the agreed Results Framework in the DED signed in July 2019. Annex 1 provides an overview of the progress in achieving the agreed targets.

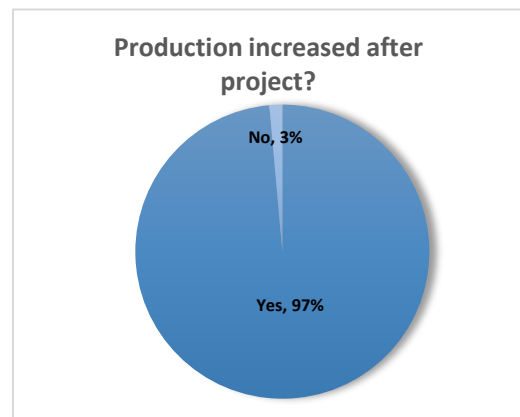
⁴ The actual number of beneficiaries in the project is higher but for the data to be meaningful, only farmers from the 278 IFM-FFS who have completed their IFM-FFS sessions were included in the sample size for the agriculture/agroforestry component.

OUTCOME 1: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION INCREASED AND DIVERSIFIED IN TARGETED COMMUNITIES

The IFM-FFS approach of facilitating learning and sharing of experiences on easily applicable techniques and methods for small-scale marginalized farmers with limited available land means that the interest in joining and following IFM-FFS sessions is very high in all the project areas. The results observed through engagement in IFM-FFS activities and monitoring visits to the field by project and partner staff clearly confirm this, as does the data from the annual outcome: almost all farmers report an increase in productivity and having applied new farming components after joining the IFM-FFS. These results and contributing factors are further elaborated on below.

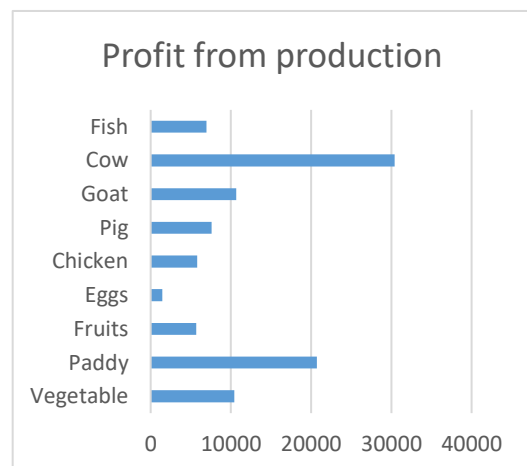
Indicator 1.1: % increase in productivity (hen eggs, chicken meat, vegetables, fish and fruits)

The annual outcome survey measured the increase in the productivity of different agricultural items, and the findings show that about 97% of the project participants have increased their agricultural production in 2020. This is a significant finding, particularly in light of COVID-19, which has generally impacted most sections of the population and the agricultural sector negatively. The findings confirm the importance and potential of the IFM-FFS model for vulnerable households in a time of crisis, such as COVID-19, particularly in relation to food security. The percentage of increase in the different agricultural items requires measuring reported increase against baseline data for the individual farmer. A separate survey of progress in relation to the outcome and outcome indicators will be carried by mid-2021.



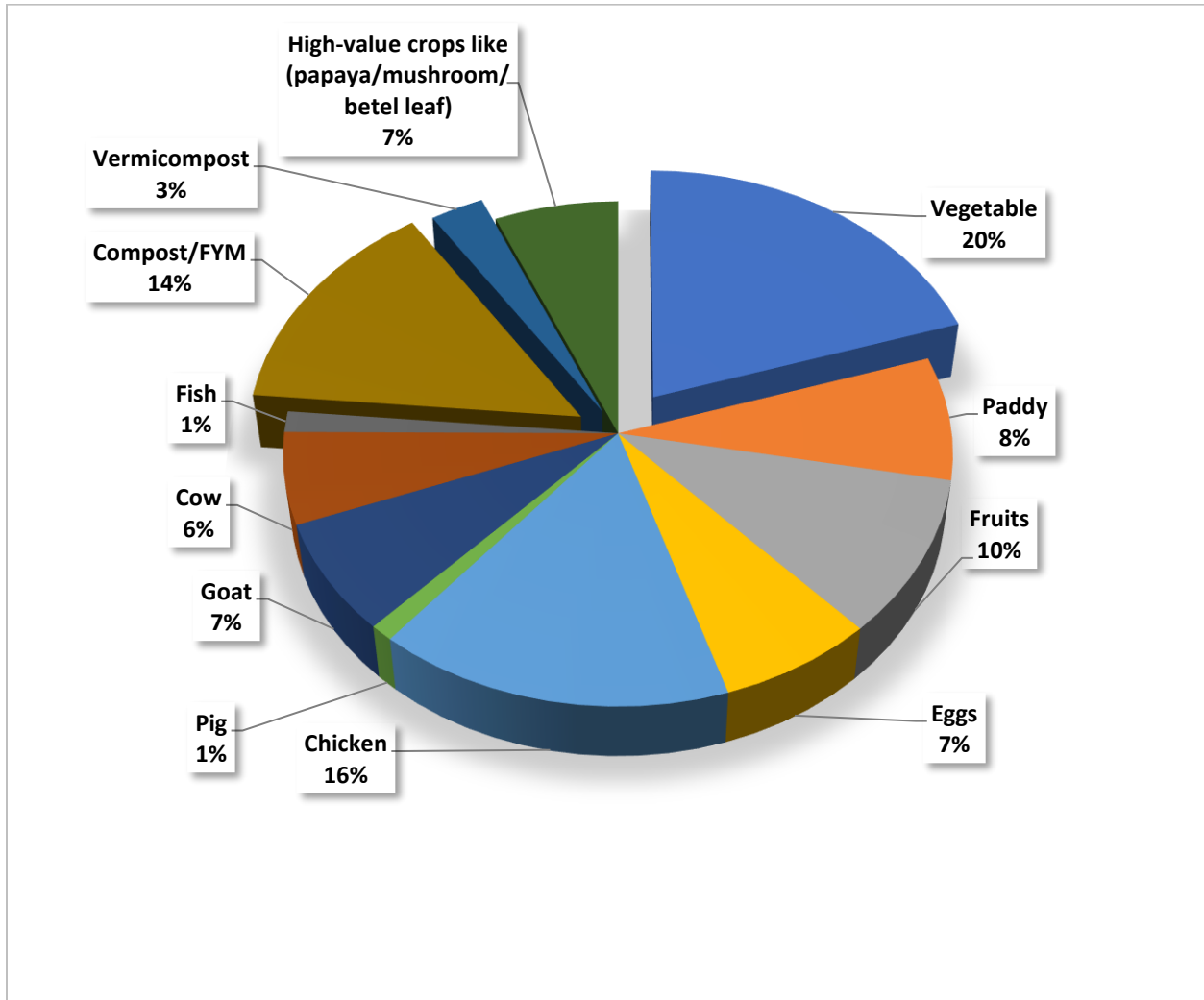
When asked about the most important factors contributing to the increase in productivity, 97% mentioned participation in IFM-FFS sessions, 35% mentioned having access to deworming and vaccination services, 32% mentioned proper input selection and use, and 30% mentioned technical support from government line agencies. Other factors mentioned were access to market (17%), collection point establishment (13%) and support from Upazila/Union Parishads (7%).

The increase in production is not only contributing to improved food security but has also contributed to in household income. Data shows that the highest average profit is from cow rearing with an average earning of 30,000 BDT per household, followed by paddy production with a per household profit of around BDT 21,000. The third highest return is from goat rearing and vegetable cultivation with an average profit of BDT 11,000. Apart from the abovementioned agricultural produces, significant profit is also gained from selling fish, pigs, chicken, and fruits.



Indicator 1.2: % of beneficiary households applying at least one additional farming component

In terms of diversification in agricultural production, the annual outcome assessment revealed that about 96% of the beneficiary households have added at least one or more farming components in their household. Among the added household farming components, 20% farmers added new types (species) of vegetable cultivation, 16% added poultry rearing, 14% produce farmyard manure and 3 % produce vermicompost (see details in figure below). It is also noted that 94% farmer are now using their fallow land, especially homestead fallow land, for agroforestry production system, with an increase rate of per capita fallow land being on average 9 decimal.



In response to how the farmers managed to add new vegetable varieties while the supply was interrupted throughout the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most participants replied that they have received seed packages from the project during the COVID-19 pandemic which they have used.

Output 1.1: Enhanced knowledge and skills of communities, farmers, Farmer Facilitators, local service providers, and monitors on improved agricultural practices

The project aims to run 912 IFM-FFS comprising 27,360 farmers. IFM-FFS introduces low-cost demand-driven agricultural technologies to marginalized farmers, especially women. The farmers can, therefore, easily apply these technologies. As described above, the data from the annual assessment confirms that the farmers are learning and adopting new technologies including composting, vermicomposting, chicken egg hatching (Hazol), hand pollination, homestead agroforestry, etc. The enhanced knowledge and skills result in improved production for own consumption and many of the farmers are able to initiate income-generating activities with the surplus production (see case story 1 in Annex 3). Moreover, neighboring farmers are also observing, learning and adopting these technologies, with the project having a noticeable spill-over effect to community members who are not directly participating in the project. These agricultural technologies are environment friendly and also help to increase agro-ecological knowledge of the smallholder farmers in the host communities. These findings were confirmed in KIIs with government line department officials who all noted that the IFM-FFS farmers they have visited have implemented the technologies mentioned above, which they believe has the potential to enhance the agricultural production in the communities and in the country at large. Some officials also noted that the IFM-FFS approach of teaching farmers about agriculture, livestock and agroforestry in an integrated manner is helping farmers to increase their production as well as its quality. Also the utilization and cultivation in fallow land was noted as having great potential to bring significant changes for the farmers.

The project is directly working with government line departments such as the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Department of Fisheries, Forest Department, etc. The monitoring visits and technical support provided by the government line departments have been very beneficial to the IFM-FFS farmers to implement field demonstrations and it has also attracted neighboring farmers. The project has thereby contributed to creating a functional linkage between farmers and government officials.

The training and involvement of local service providers (Community Livestock Workers, nursery growers and input sellers) has also proven to be strategic and beneficial to the farmers in the project areas; on the one hand it has increased the awareness of the farmers about the benefits of quality seeds/samplings and livestock vaccination/deworming and thereby the demand for these services in areas, which did not earlier have easy access to these services. On the other hand, the increased demand is creating livelihood opportunities for the local service providers.

Indicator 1.1.1: Number of farmers who have completed the IFM-FFS and/or agroforestry sessions, at least 50% women

In the reporting period, 8,157 farmers, of which 77% were female, from 278 IFM-FFS groups completed IFM-FFS sessions, including agroforestry sessions. Due to restrictions on mobility and gatherings from March to June, the IFM-FFS sessions were stopped in this period. Hence, the target set for 2020 could not be fully met. The last IFM-FFS were formed between September and November 2020, and the farmers are in various stages of completing the sessions. All farmers will have completed the sessions by April 2021.

The target of 50% female participation in the IFM-FFS has, however, been achieved. In Bandarban the percentage of female farmers is 72% whereas in Cox's Bazar it is as high as 91%. The IFM-FFS is a woman-friendly approach, and the female involvement is very high because women in the project areas are very interested and diligent in participating in initiatives that strengthen a home-based economy such as hazol technology (chicken egg hatching), improved chicken rearing, goat rearing, homestead vegetable

cultivation, homestead agroforestry, etc. On the other hand, men are usually involved with daily income-generating activities like day labor, rickshaw puller, agricultural field work, non-farm activities, etc.

Indicator 1.1.2: Number of Master Trainers developed and running ToF, at least 30% women

In this reporting period, 10 project staff received ToT as Master Trainers in Cox's Bazar (this training was conducted in Bandarban in 2019). Out of these, six staff were designated as Master Trainers, three as Upazila Organizers and one as Market Development Facilitator. The Master Trainers acquired technical knowledge related to Integrated Farm Management on crops, livestock, fisheries, and agroforestry. They clearly understood the IFM-FFS approach, study plots and agroforestry development plans. All of the Master Trainers are male because it was not possible to attract female candidates. Extensive field visits, occasional travelling at nighttime, and working in remote areas caused the female candidates to disagree to take on the position as Master Trainer.

The Master Trainers in both Bandarban and Cox's Bazar conducted training programs for Farmer Facilitators, followed up on IFM-FFS sessions conducted by the Farmer Facilitators, provided backstopping support to the farmers, conducted agroforestry and nursery development activities etc. The Master Trainers play a vital role in enhancing the sustainability of the project; they work directly with the Farmers Facilitators to build their capacity on integrated farming and agroforestry development, and they are providing backstopping support and technological advisory services to the farmers as well assisting them in establishing study plots, securing quality farming input and establishing linkages with the market.

Indicator 1.1.3: Number of Farmer Facilitators developed and conducting IFM-FFS sessions, at least 40% women

113 Farmer Facilitators were developed in the reporting period to start conducting the IFM-FFS sessions in their communities. Out of 131 Farmers Facilitators, 12 were in Bandarban (of which 57% female) and 101 were in Cox's Bazar (of which 71% were female) who conducted IFM-FFS sessions at community level.

The Farmers Facilitators conducted a total of 9,225 IFM-FFS sessions (6,086 sessions in Bandarban and 3,139 sessions in Cox's Bazar). Similar to the Master Trainers, the Farmer Facilitators play a key role in ensuring a conducive learning environment where the farmers not only learn new/improved skills and techniques but also learn from each other. Many of the Farmer Facilitators report feeling more respected in the communities when the IFM-FFS farmers experience improved production and increased income. Many also report getting requests from non-IFM-FFS farmers to take part in the trainings, assist them with technical support or starting up new IFM-FFS. The philosophy of the IFM-FFS concept is that the Farmer Facilitators will act as model farmers as the physical display of the techniques and results in terms of improved production further inspire and instill confidence among the members. Through our field level monitoring we find a high number of Farmer Facilitators who have managed to apply many of the IFM-FFS components (see case story 2 in Annex 3), but this is an area of the work, which will receive additional attention in 2021.

Indicator 1.1.4: Number of local service providers (Community Livestock Workers) providing support to communities

30 Community Livestock Workers (CLWs) were trained through trainings in the three Upazilas of Cox's Bazar District. Master Trainers facilitated the training programs while Upazila Livestock Officers or Veterinary Surgeons from the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) were also present as resource persons. The participants were mainly trained on primary healthcare of the livestock and poultry, i.e.,

vaccination, deworming, feeding, housing, management, etc. The 30 CLWs in Bandarban were trained in 2019.

After receiving the training, the CLWs are providing technical support/advisory services for goat rearing, poultry rearing, disease prevention and control measures, livestock rearing and its management practice, etc. in the host communities. In many of the project areas, the IFM-FFS farmers have not previously had knowledge about how to keep livestock healthy, and access to vaccination services is very limited, particularly in remote areas and for small-scale farmers. In Cox's Bazar, the eight planned vaccination/deworming campaigns were delayed first due to COVID-19 restrictions and then by the unavailability of government vaccines. A few of the trained CLW workers, however, managed vaccines on their own and are already providing support to farmers in their respective communities. In Bandarban, the vaccination/deworming campaigns planned for the last quarter of 2020 also had to be postponed to early 2021. Despite not being able to initiate all the planned campaigns, 29% of the farmers in the annual outcome assessment reported getting support from the CLWs for vaccinating their cattle and poultry. There is, however, a high unfulfilled demand for the services of the CLWs, particularly in the rural areas.

Indicator 1.1.5: Number of monitoring visits (DAE, DLS, DoF) and follow up support made to communities

In the reporting period 473 (241 in Bandarban and 232 in Cox's Bazar) monitoring visits were conducted by government line departments to improve the Farmer Facilitators' performance and provide technical advice to the IFM-FFS members. In these visits, the government officials shared their opinions and provided technical advice on IFM-FFS and other issues. They observed project activities such as, technical sessions, FFs performance, demonstrations, etc. As noted earlier, very few small-scale farmers, particularly in remote areas, had previously access to agricultural support services. For many of the project beneficiaries it is therefore the first time that they are linked to these services.

General observations about the positive aspects of the IFM-FFS work made by the government line department officials include high attendance of members in the sessions and a sense of unity among the members and the majority of Farmer Facilitators have sufficient confidence to facilitate the sessions and they have good relation with members which is a positive sign for better learning. Among the improvement areas the following were highlighted: IFM-FFS registers to be updated regularly, ensuring timely provision of learning support to the IFM-FFS to establish study plots and implement learnings and providing Farmer Facilitators with more technical knowledge about diseases, insects and vaccination.

In the annual assessment KIIs, government line department officials noted that through this project, their relationship with the farmers has enhanced. Very few small-scale farmers make use of the technical services available. Now, the IFM-FFS farmers are often expressing their problems to the government officials when they meet in person and ask for assistance. Some advanced IFM-FFS farmers also often call them for assistance. One Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers who after visiting Miyazi para IFM-FFS in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar returned to the IFM-FFS and provided 20 of the most enthusiastic IFM-FFS farmers with seeds as part of the government project "Safe vegetable village" (*Bish Mukto Sajbi Gram*). Furthermore, a number of officials (Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers, Upazila Agriculture Officers, Forest Range Officers) expressed their interest in collaborating more closely with the project, including by conducting some sessions at IFM-FFS level as well as in the training of Farmer Facilitators to further enhance the project sustainability.

Indicator 1.1.6: Number of monitoring visits organized to support communities by local Government Institutions (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad)

Only nine monitoring visits were organized involving Union Parishads in Bandarban. The majority of visits in Bandarban and all the visits in Cox's Bazar had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 situation and for Cox's Bazar the local elections in the last two months of 2020. The target will be achieved by April 2021.

In Bandarban the Union Parishad representatives carrying out monitoring visits noted the good facilitation skills of the Farmer Facilitators and found that farmers were particularly interested in broody hen management and fruit gardening. They however also noted that attendance in the sessions could be improved and that more attention should be paid to the study plots and the practice of learning-by-doing.

Indicator 1.1.7: Number of functional groups

In 2020, 534 IFM-FFS groups were established and thereby all 912 IFM-FFS groups (372 in Cox's Bazar and 540 in Bandarban) were functional by the end of 2020 with Farmer Facilitators organizing regular sessions in the communities and providing follow up and technical support. The total members of the 912 IFM-FFS are 26,588 (77% are women) with the district-wise distribution being 15,428 (66% are women) in Bandarban and 11,160 (92% are women) in Cox's Bazar.

The 912 groups are in various stages of completing all the sessions following the IFM-FFS approach. Each group consists of an average of 30 farmers. The farmers continuously apply the learnings and are implementing improved homestead vegetable production, producing farmyard manure, compost and vermicompost, and using the compost in their vegetable gardens. Some groups are rearing poultry and goats (see case story 3 in Annex 3). Many of the farmers have been consuming their products and some of them are selling in the adjacent markets or to the neighbors. These income generating activities have brought economic solvency and many IFM-FFS members report feeling increased respected by family members and by the surrounding society. Being an IFM-FFS member is also observed to be contributing to empowerment and increased decision making power in the family, especially for women, in relation to how to spend money earned from selling their produce and more freely sharing opinions.

Indicator 1.1.8: Number of IFM-FFS modules printed

Under this indicator, a total of 12 IFM-FFS modules were developed covering 43 sessions/topics, and this year they were printed in 320 copies and used in Cox's Bazar. These modules are used as living documents and updated following the Training of Farmer Facilitators and Master Trainer ToT. The modules are being printed and shared with Farmer Facilitators after each training and are shared with Master Trainers and implementing partner staff in an electronic version.

Output 1.2: Market linkage and access to quality farming

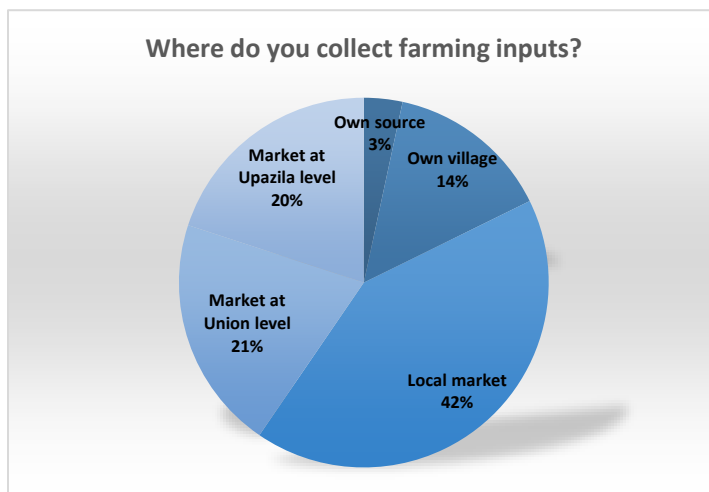
In Bandarban, market linkages increased through establishment of 10 collection points and connecting 350 IFM-FFS with these collection points. In relation to this three Agri-Business Network (ABN) committees have been formed in three Upazilas comprising 27 members (nine members in each committee) of farmers and agricultural input dealers. The collection points are considered as key locations for IFM-FFS farmers and buyers/traders, benefitting both actors with storage facilities and bulking agricultural products, thereby ensuring a demand-supply chain. The collection points will continuously be improved and better functional, hence in future attracting more traders/buyers. The improved market linkages will ultimately benefit farmers to get a better price for their produces.

In Cox’s Bazar, focus after the COVID-19 lockdown was on finalizing trainings of Farmer Facilitators and establishing all 372 IFM-FFS. Hence, in 2020 it was mainly preparatory work which was done in relation to this output, including developing guidelines, identifying sites for the collection points and training of input sellers and nursery growers. By the end of 2020, a few potential marketing possibilities came up, e.g. interest shown from a company in being linked up to the IFM-FFS and initial exploration of WFP in buying produce from the IFM-FFS and/or collection points. This will be further explored in 2021, along with possibilities for marketing of vegetables and chickens, which was mentioned in all the FGDs carried out for the annual assessment as a way to improve the marketing system of the farmers’ produce and reduce the hassle of doing marketing by the individual farmer.

Indicator 1.2.1: Access of participating farmers to high quality farming inputs (including agroforestry)

Many of the IFM-FFSs, particularly in remote areas, occasionally experience crop failure or low yield because the poor accessibility of quality seeds. To ensure the accessibility of the farmers to high-quality farming inputs, three trainings were carried out for 36 agricultural input sellers, and three trainings were carried out for 25 nursery growers in the three Upazilas of Cox’s Bazar. These trainings were carried out in 2019 in Bandarban. The participants were trained on several topics, i.e. how to identify high-quality farming inputs like quality seeds, quality fertilizers, bio-pesticides, pheromone trap, day-old chicks, quality feeds, etc. The participants also received training on nursery management, grafting, quality saplings, etc.

After the training, the input sellers cooperate with Farmer Facilitators and farmers to provide quality agricultural inputs for better production. The work of the nursery growers is covered under indicator 1.2.3. The annual assessment survey shows that around 85% of the IFM-FFS households have access to high-quality farming inputs. 59% of the respondents came to know about the quality inputs from IFM-FFS sessions while 31% received information from government officials, and 10% received information from input sellers. Data on purchasing high-quality farming inputs shows that about 42% of the farmers buying these inputs from the local market, followed by 21% from the market at the Union level and 14% from their own villages. Only 20% of the respondents mentioned that they have to go to Upazila *sadar* to purchase quality inputs.



In 2021, the project will continue working on creating/strengthening the linkage between farmers and input sellers. The collection points can be a helpful platform by inviting sellers with high quality input to sell their input to the farmers from the collection points. The input sellers also want to get access to such kind of bulk market where the demand is much higher. Besides, farmers need easy access to buy quality inputs for farming. We are therefore emphasizing market development to strengthen income-generating activities. Input related coordination meetings at Union-level between farmers and input sellers would be helpful to promote the services and enhancing their relationship.

Indicator 1.2.2: % of new collection points operated (bulking and trading) on an average twice in a week, with at least 30% percent women in leadership roles

In Bandarban, 10 collection points were established with 350 IFM-FFS being linked to these collection points. All of them are operating on average twice a week. The monthly sales record was 4,165 kg of different types of fruits (banana, papaya, grapefruit, jackfruit, lemon, tamarind etc.), vegetables (e.g. sweet gourd, brinjal, tomato, cucumber) and spices (e.g. ginger). In Noya Para Collection Point in Alikadam Upazila the farmers already have a savings of 100,000 BDT. In another collection point, Dordori Hospital Para Collection Point in Lama Upazila, women farmers are fully in charge of the operation of the collection point.

In Cox's Bazar, the project has selected 11 locations for establishing the collection points and have already formed management committees and prepared agreements with landowners of the selected locations in the three Upazilas. Out of 11, two collection points are going to be inaugurated in January 2021, the remaining will be inaugurated by end of March. All collection points are linked to the 372 IFM-FFS. To enhance capacity, three technical sessions have been conducted on collection points and market linkage for the IFM-FFS farmers, and meetings with the representatives of IFM-FFS were successfully conducted for the establishment of collection points. Moreover, the project oriented Farmer Facilitators to submit at least one production plan for each IFM-FFS farmer following the given format. The formats will be collected and analyzed in January/February 2021.

Indicator 1.2.3: Increase in number of agroforestry-based small enterprise (e.g. nursery growers) providing support to communities

The project trained 50 nursery growers with each their own agroforestry-based small enterprise. These community nurseries provide support to the communities in the project areas. 50% of the farmers in the annual outcome assessment reported that they are now getting support from the community nursery growers for collecting samplings. In Cox's Bazar, the nursery growers have furthermore started the process of raising seedlings in their land. The process includes land selection, soil preparation, bagging, seed or planting material collection, seeding or planting in bags, and management of the seedlings. The trained nursery growers in Bandarban are participating in Upazila Bi-monthly meetings, interacting with the Farmer Facilitators, becoming aware on seedlings demand and are accordingly raising seedlings such as mango, jackfruit, orange, coconut, banana, litchi, and guava as per community need.

OUTCOME 2: AGROFORESTRY PRODUCTIONS INCREASED SUSTAINABLY

Agroforestry is being considered as one of the key elements of the project, along with IFM-FFS. Different activities such as training on agroforestry issues for key stakeholders, staff, Master Trainers, Farmer Facilitators and IFM-FFS farmers contributed to achieving this outcome. The trained participants became aware and knowledgeable about agroforestry concepts, importance, models, planning and management of agroforestry. Out of the four agroforestry models/systems (agri-silviculture, silvo-pastoral, agro-silvo-pastoral, and agro-silvo-fishery), agri-silviculture and agro-silvo-pastoral model/systems are the preferred model/system by the communities. In the coming years, the project will upscale efforts to engage IFM-FFS farmers in developing their site-specific Agroforestry Development Plans (ADPs) in a participatory way, prioritising actions, and implementing their preferred agroforestry systems at community level. Hence, more results are expected as IFM-FFS farmers gradually utilize their knowledge on agroforestry and start implementing their ADPs.

Indicator 2.1: Increase in area of land (in hector) under firewood, bamboo, vegetation coverage

Due to the technical nature of this indicator, it will be measured in a separate survey to be carried out by mid-2021.

Output 2.1: Improved knowledge and skills of community people on agroforestry systems

Many farmers in the project areas are facing problems in terms of agroforestry planning and management practice. Government departments and other organizations have very limited programs or activities on agroforestry compared to agriculture. Hence, interested small-holder farmers are not getting the necessary support. But agroforestry can be a potential income generating source for the host communities and can play a significant role for improving livelihood (see case story 4 in Annex 3). In this regard, technological and financial assistance, proper planning and designing, quality inputs and positive initiatives are needed.

Through stakeholder workshops on agroforestry involving the government line departments, members of the Upazila and Union Parishads, Farmer Facilitators, nursery growers and input suppliers as well as the IFM-FFS sessions on agroforestry and assistance provided to the farmers to develop Agroforestry Development Plans, the project contributed to improving the understanding of agroforestry and its potential for improving livelihoods and the environment. In KILs, some government line department officials expressed that the agroforestry sessions are increasing the interest of the famers to do agroforestry as well as enhancing their agroforestry related knowledge. They further saw the potential of these sessions to significantly reduce deforestation and hill raze.

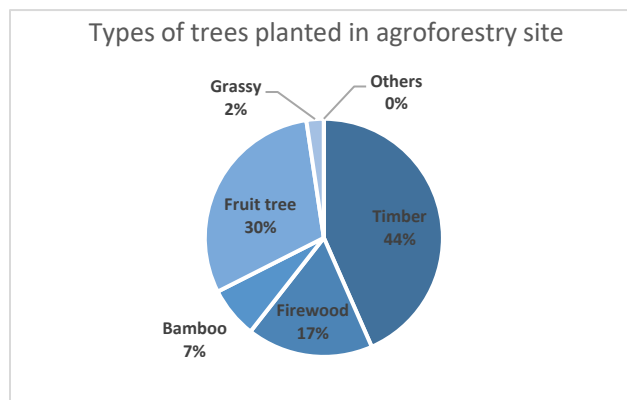
Indicator 2.1.1: Number of communities with Agroforestry Development Plans

In 2020, a total of 78 communities in Cox's Bazar developed agroforestry plans through regular IFM-FFS sessions. The Homestead Agroforestry Format and Community Based Agroforestry Format have already been distributed among 78 IFM-FFS members. In 2020, the Farmers Facilitators assisted 2,340 individual households to develop their agroforestry plan. The agroforestry plans for the remaining 294 IFM-FFS will be developed by April 2021. In Bandarban, a total of 4,704 farmers from 168 IFM-FFS were trained on improved agroforestry system including agroforestry development plans and management which they utilized or will be utilizing with support of Farmer Facilitators in their homestead. 165 of the farmers have prepared their ADP. The remaining plans will be prepared in 2021.

Indicator 2.1.2: % of trained farmers implementing improved agroforestry systems

A total of 7,041 farmers were trained on improved agroforestry system, including development of ADPs and management which they implemented or will be implementing with support of Farmer Facilitators in their homestead. The farmers gained knowledge from the IFM-FFS on agroforestry management practices and how they can effectively use the homestead areas as well as common community areas for agroforestry. It is observed that the farmers have taken very positively to implement agroforestry in the homestead areas. Some of the farmers have already started agroforestry management practices. They are now preparing raised bed, practicing hand pollination, and planning to utilize unused land in the homestead area. Moreover, they are planning to plant tree seedlings in the upcoming rainy season.

Although the agroforestry work will only start in earnest when the rainy season starts in 2021, the 2020 annual assessment shows that about 85% of the respondents have already started implementing their ADPs by planting trees. In agroforestry sites nearby their homesteads, project participants have planted several types of trees. Among them, 44% of the farmers have planted timber while 30% have planted fruit trees. Only 17% and 7% farmers planted firewood and bamboo respectively.



OUTCOME 3: SOCIAL COHESION INCREASED

With both implementing partners on board, the project made good progress on the social cohesion component in 2020. Overall, the project works with three target groups in promoting social cohesion: youth, IFM-FFS farmers, and Local Volunteer Mediators' Forums (LVMFs) comprising locally elected leaders and influential members of the community in the project areas.

Through youth camps, youth campaigns, debating competitions and sports events organized in 2020 youth were sensitized on issues such as natural resource conservation, early child marriage, gender-based violence, drug abuse and human trafficking. Through follow up interviews and during field monitoring in both districts it was observed that a number of youth who have participated in the various youth events actively work on promoting social cohesion related issues in the communities such as raising awareness about the danger of drugs and child marriage and signing up as volunteers e.g. in connection with natural disasters (see case story 5 in Annex 3). In Cox's Bazar, these youth organize in youth forums which also enables the project to easily involve the youth in other activities under this outcome.

Also the interventions providing knowledge and skills enhancement of IFM-FFS members and LVMFs to promote social cohesion are yielding results. The module of courtyard sessions is designed in such way that it facilitates the community to learn about conflicts, types of local conflicts, dealing with conflict resolution and social capital and utilizing this knowledge for conflict management and cohesion promotion. In all the FGDs conducted as part of the annual assessment IFM-FFS members reported having solved or mediated minor, and mainly, domestic and family/neighbor disputes in their community after attending the courtyard sessions.

In the courtyard sessions, community mobilizers encourage the community to seek assistance from the trained LVMF members for mediating conflicts. By the end of 2020, the project worked with all the targeted six LVMFs (three in Cox's Bazar and 3 in Bandarban), who mediated a total of 240 conflicts. The main types of conflicts, which the LVMFs deal with are gender related (gender-based violence, early marriage, divorce and dowry), family matters (wife and husband conflicts), land issues and to a lesser extent local political affairs.

A number of the original targets under the social cohesion component were re-adjusted to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for raising awareness about COVID-19 preventive measures and the potential impact of the pandemic on social cohesion in the project areas. In Cox's Bazar, the project made strategic use of the implementing partner running a community radio, Radio NAF. Hence, through radio

programs, miking events and messaging on local dish TV approx. 500,000 people in the host communities and Rohingya camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya were reached. Through these activities, the awareness of host community members were raised on issues such as the risk of increased child and gender-based violence and stigmatization, how to provide assistance to community members impacted by COVID-19 and the importance of home-based gardening to improve food security. The feedback from Radio NAF's listeners' clubs and community members encountered during the miking events was highly positive with an appreciation of both the messages on COVID-19 preventive measures in themselves but also how the messages and discussions linked the effects of COVID-19 with social cohesion.

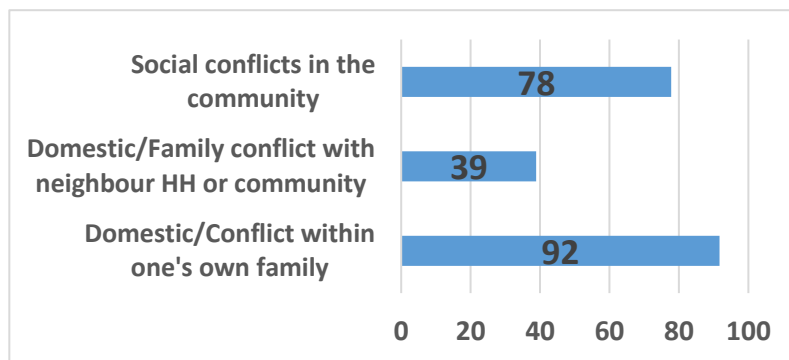
In Bandarban, the COVID-19 situation led to the postponement of a number of activities, but the situation did allow for the continuation of courtyard sessions and work with the LVMFs. At the same time COVID-19 awareness raising activities were carried out and included public service announcement miking and distribution of leaflets and posters. Similar to Cox's Bazar, positive feedback was received from beneficiaries in the target areas about the usefulness of the activities in raising awareness about COVID-19 preventive measures.

Indicator 3.1: Number of disputes/conflicts resolved as consequence of the project

This indicator is measured by the disputes or conflicts resolved by both the LVMF members and the IFM-FFS members participating in the courtyard sessions on conflict and conflict management.

The LVMFs documented having mediated a total of 240 conflicts, of which 89 conflicts mediated were in Bandarban. In Cox's Bazar, the formation of new and reactivation of existing LVMFs only took place in the last months of 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation (see further under Indicator 3.1.2). Trainings for two of the LVMFs were conducted in December with the last training scheduled for January 2021. Despite this, the LVMF members documented having mediated in 151 conflicts since the formation/reactivation of the LVMFs.

With respect to conflicts or disputes resolved by IFM-FFS members, all the FGDs conducted as part of the annual assessment IFM-FFS members reported having solved or mediated minor, and mainly, domestic and family/neighbor disputes in their community after attending the courtyard sessions (see case story 6 in Annex 3). This was confirmed by the data from the annual outcome



assessment which shows that IFM-FFS members helped to mitigate/mediate 208 conflicts/disputes. The table shows the most common types of conflicts/disputes dealt with. Respondents noted that these issues were resolved because of the following project-related interventions: LVMF-related activity (97), conflict management training (75), inter-religious dialogue (53), leader & leadership knowledge (78), conflict management knowledge (75), training on gender (97), and participation in youth campaign (22). Other factors playing a role mitigating or diffusing conflicts were also mentioned: social events (33%), regular religious meetings (19%), cultural events (14%) and sports events (3%).

Output 3.1: Improved community skills in conflict resolution, gender and youth engagement contributing to limiting negative effects of Rohingya influx

During the implementation of project activities and from the feedback of different participants it was observed that the project beneficiaries and the community people are more aware and conscious about the various topics that have been covered in the various activities.

In the courtyard sessions attended by the IFM-FFS members, there was discussions on leadership, communication, conflict management, gender, social capital and COVID-19. Through these sessions, the participants have strengthened their knowledge about what constitutes a good leader and how good leadership facilitates proper decision making. They know that anyone can be a good communicator and how to become a good communicator but also how negative communication can hamper their daily life and relationship. Both the female and male IFM-FFS members increased their awareness about why empowerment is necessary for women and how women can contribute on par with men to agriculture, livelihood, education and other social issues. The participants of the courtyard sessions also noted increasing their knowledge about how a conflict can be solved in a peaceful way. In the annual outcome survey, 84% of respondents reported having applied knowledge on leader and leadership, 77% have applied social capital knowledge, and 60% have applied conflict management knowledge at household and community levels. Finally, as part of SHARIP's COVID-19 response, COVID-19 awareness was added as a topic to the courtyard sessions, which has been an effective tool to reach the community level with COVID-19 messaging.

Through the activities targeting youth, the attending youth are conscious about the various problems that exist in their society and which has a negative impact on social cohesion, like drug addiction and trafficking, human trafficking, child marriage etc. They have also become more conscious about their role in promoting social peace, harmony, and gender equity showing respect towards indigenous people and other vulnerable communities, countering social stigma in relation to COVID-19, as well as the best way to use social media and internet. They have further made a commitment to saving nature and biodiversity as their awareness on the importance of natural resource conservation has enhanced. A number of the youths participating in these events have become active in different Union-level youth forums and report to have carried out various awareness sessions at the local level, e.g. in the mosques, on for example early marriage, drop out of children from school and COVID-19 awareness raising.

Training for five out of the six LVMFs were conducted in 2020 (the training for the remaining LVMF is scheduled for January 2021). Through the trainings the LVMF members enhanced their knowledge on the reasons for conflicts to arise, the best possible way of early conflict identification and mitigation as well as the linkage and referral of conflicts to relevant authorities.

Indicator 3.1.1: % of participating households engaged in various community groups/ forums

In 2020, 48% of participating households were engaged in IFM-FFS groups involved in social cohesion activities (52% in Bandarban involving 59 IFM-FFS groups and 44% in Cox's Bazar involving 71 IFM-FFS groups).⁵ In Bandarban, the implementing partner additionally formed six community based organizations (CBOs) in Lama, Alikadam and Naikhyangchari Upazilas with a total of 171 members (103 women and 68 men). The CBOs were involved in disseminating knowledge to community people about what they learned in the courtyard sessions, assisting the LVMFs in dispute mediation, organizing international day

⁵ The calculation of percentage of participating households is based on the involvement of IFM-FFS households in the regular courtyard sessions against the total number of households in the IFM-FFS.

observations, disseminating COVID-19 awareness messages, and generally doing various types of social works as volunteers in their community as and when required.

Participants in the other social cohesion activities are identified by or in consultation with various external stakeholders (local administration, NGOs/CBOs, sports clubs etc.), and it is therefore not possible to calculate a percentage. For example, in the case of the student's engagement, communication is made with the educational institutions and the teachers. More than 4,920 households were engaged in the project's other social cohesion activities (youth camps, youth campaigns, inter-religious dialogues, day observations, football tournament, LVMF activities etc.)

Indicator 3.1.2: Number of "Local Volunteer Mediators Forum" operational at Upazila level

The targeted six LVMFs are currently functional in the project areas (three in Bandarban and three in Cox's Bazar) with in total of 172 LVMF and 29 advisory board members. All LVMFs are actively involved in mediating disputes in the project areas.

It was originally the plan to form or work with LVMFs at Upazila level but after thorough discussions with UNDP's C2RP project which formed six Union-level LVMFs in Ukhiya and Teknaf, Cox's Bazar in 2019, it was decided rather than forming new LVMFs to strengthen the existing LVMFs at Union-level (Haladiapalong and Whykong), which is where many of the conflicts are happening. No LVMF existed in Ramu, hence an Upazila level LVMF was formed in Ramu in October. While there is almost a gender balance in the membership of the LVMF in Ramu (44% are women), the existing LVMFs have very few female members (in Haladiapalong LVMF 9% are women, and in Whykong LVMF 7% are women). We will look at ways to strengthen women's participation in these LVMFs in 2021.

Indicator 3.1.3: Number of community groups that are participating in decision making in dispute resolution process at Union and Upazila level

In the project areas, many conflicts arise within a family and due to a minor issue between two or three families and gradually it becomes a community issue. So the project works at the family level where the beneficiaries of IFM-FFS who got training on the conflict management are able to address the early warning of the conflict and it is resolved with a better understanding and before it escalates.

As mentioned above, two groups of project participants receive training on conflict/dispute mediation: LVMF members and IFM-FFS members through the courtyard sessions on conflict and conflict management.

All three LVMFs in Bandarban were very active in dispute resolution processes with 89 conflicts being mediated. In Cox's Bazar the Haladiapalong and Whykong LVMFs were reactivated in November and reported having mediated 151 disputes in November and December 2020. While the Ramu LVMF were formed in October, the training will only take place in January 2021.

94 IFM-FFS groups (51 groups in Bandarban and 43 groups in Cox's Bazar) received training on conflict and conflict management in 2020, with a total of 8,369 IFM-FFS members participating, amongst these 6,568 were women (78%) and 1,801 were men (22%). The session on conflict and conflict management is one of the last sessions in the series of courtyard sessions, and therefore many of the IFM-FFSs will receive this training in the first quarter of 2021. As noted above, many of the IFM-FFS members attending courtyard sessions on conflict management report having applied the knowledge and have actively helped to solve or mediate smaller disputes.

Indicator 3.1.4: Number of initiatives taken by the community groups/ forums (World Environment Day, International Women’s Day, World Peace Day, World Water Day, Human Rights Day) at Upazila level observed with engagement of all relevant stakeholders

A total of 63 international day observance events were carried out in the two districts, both at Upazila and Union levels. In Cox’s Bazar 21 events were physically carried out and the remaining 10 events were re-adjusted for COVID-19 awareness activities (20 community radio programs involving interviews and discussions and PSA-public service announcements in 21 Unions).

The project provided support to IFM-FFS and LVMF members to organize these events. The local beneficiaries, especially women, elderly people, traditional and religious leaders, Union Parishad members, chairmen, teachers and other stakeholders, were involved.

The international days celebrated included World Environment Day, International Women’s Day and International Water Day. The observance of these days is important. In many cases, the people in the project areas do not know the importance of natural resource conservation, keeping the environment clean or keeping the water clean and unpolluted, and the importance of gender equality and equity, stopping violence against women and children and so on. Specifically for the target groups we work with, the LVMF members attending benefited in the sense that the topic discussed in the day observation program will help them to resolve conflicts as they are now more sensitized about some of the root causes of conflicts. The youth have also become more aware of their responsibility to protect nature, save water or respect the rights of human beings with a particular attention to gender equality. The IFM-FFS farmers have enhanced their knowledge about how natural resource conservation and saving and storing natural water will help in their cultivation.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In agreement with Danida, funds were repurposed to respond to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic and assist project beneficiaries and other highly marginalized communities to recover from the crisis. Solidarity packages were distributed comprising agricultural input and food and hygiene items, and numerous COVID-19 awareness raising activities were carried out. The indicators listed below have been included in the revised DED for the extension period but included here as the response was primarily carried out in 2020.

Number of farming households affected by COVID-19 have received quality farming input to restore their agricultural production

In Cox’s Bazar, a total of 3,300 small-scale disadvantaged farmers in Teknaf, Ukhiya and Ramu received solidarity packages with farming inputs. Farming inputs consisted of various types of summer and vegetable seeds and farming equipment. About 2,600 of the 3,300 beneficiaries were IFM-FFS members whereas about 700 beneficiaries were from ethnic communities to realize the principle of Leaving No One Behind. Out of the 3,300 beneficiaries, 2,603 were women. In Bandarban, a total of 49,300 beneficiaries received solidarity packages with farming inputs of various types of summer and winter vegetable seeds. Beneficiaries included both indigenous and Bengali communities from different Upazilas and locations covering remote areas as well. The households who received this support were very happy and thanked UNDP for such support which was considered essential. Various government counterparts, including Hill District Council, Union/Upazila Parishad leaders and government line department officials, were present

in the distribution events. They also expressed that the support given to the households will help them to reduce shocks derived from the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

As mentioned in Section 3, the high quality of the seeds provided in the solidarity package means that farmers have been able to restore their agricultural production and many have already been able to sell the surplus produce. Access to quality seeds is one of the most frequently highlighted challenges of the IFM-FFS farmers, and through the quality seeds distributed farmers have become sensitized about the importance of having access to quality seeds.

Number of households who have received direct livelihood support to cope with the COVID-19 crisis

Apart from farming input, SHARIP's COVID-19 solidarity support consisted of hygiene items, essential food items (Bandarban) and cash support (Cox's Bazar). A total of 52,600 beneficiaries received livelihood support in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar. Additionally in Cox's Bazar, and as part of a mainstreamed COVID-19 response approach across UNDP projects in Cox's Bazar, 2,813 of the 3,300 beneficiaries⁶ will also be provided with cash support (BDT 3,500). Of these, more than 1,700 beneficiaries have been assisted to purchase sim cards and set up Bkash accounts, which will make them less dependent on husbands or relatives when receiving support or doing business in the future.

Number of households who have received information on COVID-19 on the potential negative impact of COVID-19 on social cohesion with number of awareness raising activities

From April onwards, a number of COVID-19 awareness raising activities were carried out raising awareness about COVID-19 preventive measures and the potential impact of the pandemic on social cohesion in the project areas

As many of the COVID-19 awareness raising activities involved the use of community radio, public service announcement miking, local dish TV channels, social media etc. it is not possible to give a precise number of households reached. All the 52,600 beneficiary households of the project's solidarity package distribution received COVID-19 awareness raising messages. In addition to this, the community radio used in Cox's Bazar has an estimated 500,000 listeners and in Bandarban an estimated 323,630 beneficiaries were reached through the various COVID-19 awareness raising activities.

A total of 505 activities contributed to increasing awareness in the project areas about COVID-19 precautionary measures and the link between the pandemic and social cohesion:

- 306 courtyard sessions on COVID-19 awareness with IFM-FFS members
- 20 radio programs, two courtyard sessions and one drama aired through community radio, Radio Naf, which has an estimated 5-600,000 listeners. Five programs were organized through the Facebook page of a national TV channel, Channel-I, focusing on the issue of COVID-19 in relation to social cohesion. The view of the page is 40,000
- Public service announcements (PSAs) aired on Radio Naf and other 15 community radio stations throughout Bangladesh and through miking events in 43 Unions in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar
- Poster/leaflet distribution in all Unions in the two districts

⁶ A number of beneficiaries had received cash support from other projects and were in agreement with ISCG excluded from the list of beneficiaries to receive cash from SHARIP.

- COVID-19 awareness messages broadcasted through local Dish TV channels of 3 Upazilas in Cox's Bazar and carried out in connection with regular activities such as street drama events and youth camps

5. LESSONS LEARNED, CHALLENGES AND ACTION TAKEN

The major lessons learned from project implementation in 2020 include:

- Female farmers are very interested to get involved in the IFM-FFS as the approach and focus on the homestead area, vegetable gardening, poultry rearing, goat rearing, etc. takes into account the situation, and in many cases restricted mobility, of women in the project areas. In many families, the male members engage in regular income-generating activities such as, field level work, daily labor, rickshaw pulling, fishing, etc. and they are less interested in homestead activities that can be easily managed by their family members.
- Providing physical technical back stopping support to Farmer Facilitators and farmers is crucial in the initial stages of the IFM-FFS to ensure that sessions are conducted properly, study plots set up and learnings implemented. During COVID-19 lockdown period, only mobile communication with Farmer Facilitators was possible. Without physical presence in the field, a number of farmers struggled to clearly understand the technical issues in establishing study plots, demonstrations, etc. Another lesson prompted by the need to adjust activities to the COVID-19 situation is that residential trainings are far more effective for capacity building of Farmer Facilitators compared to non-residential trainings.
- The organization of Farmer Field Days has proven to be an effective way to inspire neighboring farmers (non-IFM-FFS members) to adopt improved agroforestry practices.
- The project is involving many different local institutions like local government and administration, law and enforcement, journalists, CSOs, teachers, youth leaders, women activists, religious leaders in the various activities. The participation of these stakeholders in the activities has created good relations with and the acceptance of the project among the local actors and the local community also.
- For the project beneficiaries, one of the results of the COVID-19 lockdown and restricted movements was that the farmers were not able to fetch a good (or even minimum) price for their harvest. This increased the risk of SHARIP's project beneficiaries not being able to invest in farming input for the new season without taking (additional) loans. The distribution of solidarity packages, including agriculture input, helped to alleviate the worst effects of the COVID-19 on project beneficiaries. It also raised the awareness of the IFM-FFS of the importance of quality seeds, which has prompted a decision to include seed management in the IFM-FFS curriculum.
- Needs-based adjustments of the project activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to make use of e.g. community radio and miking announcements as well as the distribution of solidarity packages further boosted not only the participants' but also government partners and the local administration's confidence in the project.
- Using local media was a good alternative to implementation of activities requiring physical gatherings during the COVID-19 lockdown period. Although the use of local media limits the possibility for more in-depth discussions and interactions with the project beneficiaries, it was possible to reach a much larger group of people with important information on the relation between COVID-19 and social cohesion.

During 2020 the project faced a number of challenges, and accordingly actions were taken to overcome those challenges:

- The global pandemic of COVID-19 was the major challenge to implement the project activities in 2020. Due to the local administration and local government's restriction and due to lockdown for a long period, the field level activity was restricted for several months. Consequently, some targets were reduced, activities were re-adjusted to carry out COVID-19 awareness raising and funds were repurposed to provide COVID-19 solidarity packages to 52,600 beneficiaries.
- Due to delay in starting up the project and COVID-19 lockdown, the training and follow-up support cycle for the last batch of Farmer Facilitators in Cox's Bazar had to be shortened. The capacity of some of these Farmer Facilitators is therefore comparatively lower than previous batches. We will try to make up for this by providing more field-based technical backstopping support in 2021 and by organizing a refresher ToT for those Farmer Facilitators who will be engaged in the extension phase.
- Working in communities where the participants are speaking up to five different languages (Bengali, Marma, Mro, Tanchangya and Tripura) makes it difficult to deliver the messages. To mitigate this, the Master Trainers tried to use two languages (Bengali and Marma) and also the Farmer Facilitators play an important role in transferring knowledge and messages for all the language groups.
- Often it was difficult to ensure the participation of and assistance from government line departments and Upazila and Union Parishads due to their busy schedule, the unavailability of services in remote areas and limited resource such as livestock vaccinations. This is particularly a challenge in Ukhiya and Teknaf where the number of development actors is high due to the Rohingya response.
- Ensuring quality inputs in remote areas is a big challenge. There are no traders/input sellers in these remote areas. Some local input sellers are available there, but quality inputs could not be ensured.
- It is generally a challenge to ensure gender balance in many of the social cohesion activities. According to the local context and village culture and also considering the culture of the locality, the guardian of the female youth in many cases does not encourage girls to go outside and participate in any public program like campaign due to social security. Another reason is the remote location and underdeveloped transportation system which is not women-friendly. Another reason is that most of the youth females are married and their husbands and the in-law's family are not very supportive to allow them to participate in any public gathering. Efforts were put into establishing good collaboration with educational institutions, local administration, CSOs etc. who could assist with securing female participants.
- Engaging students in the youth related social cohesion activities was challenging due to closure of educational institutions and reluctance of the guardians to let the students attend events, in some cases far from their homes. This was mitigated by closely involving the management of the educational institutions in the planning of the activities.

6. VISIBILITY & COMMUNICATION

Visibility and communication are a key part of the project. A detailed visibility and communication guideline has been included with partner agreements to ensure visibility and communication. During the reporting period, different banners were used in meetings, workshops and observation events, e.g. the International Women's Day and World Environment Day, containing project messages along with Danida, UNDP and GoB logos. The organization of Farmer Field Days is another way to increase visibility of the project as these events are attended by neighboring communities, government officials and local elected representatives.

Similarly, posters and leaflets were developed and widely distributed with social cohesion-related COVID-19 messages. The reorganizing of activities under the social cohesion component also provided an opportunity to ensure visibility and communicate about the project in community radios, Facebook, local dish TV etc. Finally, a number of the regular project events, especially the social cohesion events, were covered by local media.

7. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

SHARIP is managed by the SID-CHT project of UNDP with the Ministry of CHT Affairs. The project is managed through the National Execution (NEX) Modality where the GoB takes the lead role in implementation and monitoring. From MoCHTA, a National Project Director (NPD) directly oversees the project activities along with a National Project Manager (NPM) engaged to implement the project from UNDP's side. Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC) is the key implementing partner for this project in Bandarban. In Cox's Bazar, the NGO Practical Action is the implementing partner for the IFM-FFS and agroforestry components. For the social cohesion component, UNDP has entered into contract with GRAUS (Gram Unnayan Sangathan) in Bandarban and ACLAB (Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh) in Cox's Bazar from 1 January 2020.

A dedicated team of SID-CHT, UNDP led by the Chief-Livelihoods and NRM as well as the Chief-Gender and Community Cohesion are fully involved in supporting implementation, monitoring and guiding the field activities. Other team members based in Rangamati also provide support to SHARIP, including a Programme Officer-Livelihoods, a Programme Officer-Monitoring and Evaluation and a Technical Coordinator-FFS training and quality. In Bandarban the District Manager and District FFS Expert of SID-CHT, and in Cox's Bazar a District FFS Officer, a Livelihoods and IFM Expert and an Upazila Facilitator under the overall guidance of the Advisor on Women and Youth Resilience in CHT carry out technical backstopping support to implementing partners as well as the day-to-day supervision and monitoring of field activities in the districts.

The district project team in BHDC consists of 12 full time dedicated staff and Practical Action has 19 full time dedicated staff (Master Trainers, Market Development Officers and Upazila FFS Coordinators/Mobilizers, M&E Officers etc.) working on the agriculture/agroforestry component. GRAUS and ACLAB also have dedicated teams of eight and 19 staff members (Project Coordinators, Community Mobilizers, M&E Officers etc.) respectively implementing the social cohesion component and assisting in monitoring learning support to the IFM-FFS (the latter is applicable for ACLAB only).

UNDP team in the districts and implementing partners have a very close collaboration on everything from planning, activity implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Monthly coordination meetings are

held with the partners and almost daily communication ensures smooth collaboration and timely backstopping support.

8. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The project has initiated a systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanism in all places i.e. community level through monthly reports of the Farmer Facilitators, Upazila and District level through implementing partners' M&E mechanisms and finally at SID-CHT District and regional level. As soon as the implementing partners were on board, a household baseline of the individual IFM-FFS members was initiated, and a capacity development training was organized with all core staffs of implementing partners and SID-CHT on the monitoring and reporting tools, techniques, data collection, validation and database maintenance.

In October, a follow up M&E workshop was held with the partner Practical Action in Cox's Bazar. The workshop resulted in a better understanding of the staff of the outcomes, outputs and indicators, which concretely has translated into better quality reporting. Another outcome of the workshop was the adjustment of the IFM-FFS household survey (baseline data) to collect data that will allow to assess progress of all the indicators in the Results Framework. The Farmer Facilitators were trained as data collectors, including the use of app-based data collection tools, which has further strengthened their role in project implementation. Similar workshops are planned for other implementing partners once the revised Results Framework for the extension period takes effect.

Throughout the year and as part of the monitoring process, project staff of implementing partners, government line departments, Union and Upazila Parishad representatives and SID-CHT, UNDP staff monitored progress of the project through site visits. The National Project Director from MoCHTA visited project sites several times in 2020 and provided suggestions for further strengthening the livelihood component. Financial monitoring visits were carried out by SID-CHT's Operations and M&E team with the implementing partners in Cox's Bazar and recommendations for further strengthening financial management were made. In late 2020, the Cox's Bazar team piloted qualitative results-oriented monitoring, which will be continued in 2021. Finally, monthly coordination meetings between UNDP and implementing partners also serve as an important monitoring instrument.

9. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

Major outputs	Actual expenditure (January to December 2020)	
	DKK	USD
Output 1.1: Enhanced knowledge and skills of communities, farmers, farmer facilitators, local service providers, and monitors on improved agriculture practices	2,153,734	327,017
Output 1.2: Market linkage and access to quality farming (including agroforestry) inputs enhanced	192,341	29,205
Output 2.1: Improved knowledge and skills of Community People on agroforestry systems	67,075	10,184
Output 3.1: Improved community skills in conflict resolution, gender and youth engagement contributing to limiting negative effects of influx	599,683	91,054
Covid-19 expenditure as of 31 December 2020	6,422,850	975,228
Sub-total outputs	9,435,683	1,432,688
Implementation		
NGOs	3,393,830	515,310
Communication, planning, M&E	36,909	5,604
Technical advisory	58,336	8,858
SID-CHT operations and management (UNDP)	6,331,306	961,328
Sub-total implementation	9,820,381	1,491,099
GMS	1,540,211	233,861
Total expenditure	20,796,275	3,157,649

ANNEX 1: OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF TARGETS

Overview of achievements of targets					
Indicator	Cumulative targets in RF* by 2020	Targets achieved			Remarks
		2018-2019	2020	Cumulative targets achieved by 2020	
Outcome 1: Agricultural productions increased and diversified in targeted communities					
1.1: % increase in productivity (20% hen eggs, 30% chicken meat, 25% vegetables, 30% fish, 20% fruits)					Due to the technical nature of this indicator (involving measurement against baseline data for the IFM-FFS households), it will be measured in a separate survey later by mid-2021.
1.2: % of beneficiary households applying at least one additional farming component	70%**	68%	96%	82%	According to annual outcome survey data.
Output 1.1: Enhanced knowledge and skills of communities, farmers, Farmer Facilitators, local service providers, and monitors on improved agricultural practices					
1.1.1: Number of farmers who have completed the IFM-FFS and/or agroforestry sessions, at least 50% women	27,360 (50% women)	1,613 (63% women)	8,157 (77% women)	3,945 (77% women)	Due to COVID-19, the IFM-FFS sessions had to be put on hold from March to June. All 27,360 farmers were enrolled in the IFM-FFS by end-2020 and will complete the training no later than May 2021.
1.1.2: Number of Master Trainers developed and running ToF, at least 30% women	12	7 (29% women)	6 (0% women)	13	Extensive field visits, occasional travelling at nighttime, and working in remote areas caused the female candidates to disagree to take on the position as Master Trainer in Cox's Bazar.
1.1.3: Number of Farmer Facilitators developed and conducting IFM-FFS sessions, at least 40% women	267***	154	113	267 (62% women)	
1.1.4: Number of local service providers (Community Livestock Workers) providing support to communities	90	30	30	60	The remaining 30 Community Livestock Workers will be developed in 2021.
1.1.5: Number of monitoring visits (DAE, DLS, DoF) and follow up support made to communities	1,600	146	473	619	In Cox's Bazar, the number of visits was reduced from 1,200 to 744 visits as the number of IFM-FFS was reduced as part of the agreed repurposing of SHARIP funds to COVID-19 response. In addition to this, it was difficult for the govt line departments to allocate time for monitoring visits due to COVID-19 recovery work. It is expected that all remaining monitoring visits will be accomplished in 2021.
1.1.6: Number of monitoring visits organized to support communities by local Government Institutions (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad)	159	126	9	135	It was difficult for local administration to allocate time for monitoring visits due to COVID-19 recovery work. It is expected that all remaining monitoring visits will be accomplished in 2021.

Overview of achievements of targets					
Indicator	Cumulative targets in RF* by 2020	Targets achieved			Remarks
		2018-2019	2020	Cumulative targets achieved by 2020	
1.1.7: Number of functional IFM-FFS groups	912	378	534	912	
1.1.8: Number of IFM-FFS modules printed	6	10	2	12	12 IFM-FFS modules were developed and shared with Master Trainers and Farmer Facilitators.
Output 1.2: Market linkage and access to quality farming (including agroforestry) inputs enhanced					
1.2.1: Access of participating farmers to high quality farming inputs (including agroforestry)	40%	81%	85%	83%	According to annual outcome survey data.
1.2.2: % of new collection points operated (bulking and trading) on an average twice in a week, with at least 30% percent women in leadership roles	80% of 25 new collection points	0%	100% of 10 collection points	100% of 10 collection points	In Cox's Bazar, the number of collection points was reduced from 22 to 11 as the number of IFM-FFS was reduced as part of the agreed repurposing of SHARIP funds to COVID-19 response. The establishment of the 11 collection points in Cox's Bazar was delayed due to COVID-19. All 11 sites have been selected and the collection points will all be inaugurated by end of March 2021.
1.2.3: Increase in number of agroforestry-based small enterprise (nursery growers) providing support to communities	35	0	50 (10% female)	50 (10% female)	
Outcome 2: Agroforestry productions increased sustainably					
2.1: Increase in area of land (in hector) under firewood, bamboo, vegetation coverage	600**	0			Due to the technical nature of this indicator (involving measurement against baseline data for the IFM-FFS households), it will be measured in a separate survey later by mid-2021.
Output 2.1: Improved knowledge and skills of community people on agroforestry systems					
2.1.1: Number of communities with Agroforestry Development Plans	720	0	243	243	Master Trainers received ToT on IFM-FFS and agroforestry in two spells following which Farmer Facilitators (FFs) were trained. The FFs, however, struggle to understand the session Agroforestry Development Planning (both community level and individual HH level). Refresher trainings for both Master Trainers and FFs will therefore be conducted in the first half of 2021.
2.1.2: % of trained farmers implementing improved agroforestry systems	80% of 27,360	0%	89%	89%	89% of the 810 respondents participating in the annual outcome survey data who represent a sample size of a total of 8,124 IFM-FFS farmers.
Outcome 3: Social Cohesion Increased					

Overview of achievements of targets					
Indicator	Cumulative targets in RF* by 2020	Targets achieved			Remarks
		2018-2019	2020	Cumulative targets achieved by 2020	
3.1: Number of disputes/conflicts resolved as consequence of the project	600**	0	448	448	240 disputes were reported solved by LVMFs and 208 disputes were reported in the annual outcome survey data.
Output 3.1.: Improved community skills in conflict resolution, gender and youth engagement contributing to limiting negative effects of influx					
3.1.1: % of participating households engaged in various community groups/ forums	40%	0	48%	48%	
3.1.2: Number of "Local Volunteer Mediators Forum" operational at Upazila level	6	0	6 (24% female)	6 (24% female)	
3.1.3: Number of community groups that are participating in decision making in dispute resolution process at Union and Upazila level	200	0	100	100	6 LVMFs, 43 IFM-FFS groups in Cox's Bazar and 51 groups in Bandarban. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was not possible to carry out all the planned courtyard sessions on conflict and conflict management. Hence, the lower achievement for this target.
3.1.4: Number of initiatives taken by the community groups/ forums at Upazila level observed with engagement of all relevant stakeholders	70	0	63 initiatives (69% female)	63	Targets were re-adjusted to carry out COVID-19 awareness raising activities.
COVID-19 response					
0.1: Number of farming households affected by COVID-19 have received quality farming input to restore their agricultural production	48,300	N/A	52,600	52,600	49,300 beneficiaries in Bandarban and 3,300 beneficiaries in Cox's Bazar.
0.2: Number of households who have received direct livelihood support to cope with the COVID-19 crisis	48,300	N/A	52,600	52,600	
0.3: Number of households who have received information on COVID-19 on the potential negative impact of COVID-19 on social cohesion with number of awareness raising activities	96,600	N/A	823,630	823,630	Apart from the direct beneficiaries who participated in the courtyard sessions on COVID-19 awareness and the beneficiaries of the COVID-19 solidarity packages accompanied by COVID-19 messaging, the COVID-19 awareness activities reached a wide section of the population in the 6 Upazilas through the use of community radio and miking events. In Cox's Bazar the activities reached an estimated 500,000 community people in the project areas, including the Rohingya population, and in Bandarban an estimated 323,630 beneficiaries.

Overview of achievements of targets					
Indicator	Cumulative targets in RF* by 2020	Targets achieved			Remarks
		2018-2019	2020	Cumulative targets achieved by 2020	
0.3.1: Courtyard sessions on COVID-19 awareness		N/A	306	306	Courtyard sessions carried out in IFM-FFS.
0.3.2: Broader COVID-19 awareness raising activities		N/A	199	199	Includes radio programs, distribution of leaflets and poster, miking and PSA announcements, messages broadcasted through local Dish TV channels.

* In agreement with Danida some of the targets (e.g. number of IFM-FFS) were reduced due to COVID-19 and reallocation of funds to COVID-19 response

** In the RF, the target is to be reached by 2021

*** The original target was 333, but field level implementation has shown that only 267 Farmer Facilitators are needed to cover 912 IFM-FFS

ANNEX 2: WORK PLAN FOR 2021

Output	Indicator	Activities for 2021 (as per Annual Work Plan)	Activity target 2021	Timeframe			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
UNDP Output 1: Strengthened community land, resource and livelihood management	<p>Indicator 1.1: Percentage of small and marginal farm households in target communities improved food security through agricultural production, Baseline: TBD, Target: 80% (in 2021)</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Percentage increase in yield and production (crops, livestock and fish) of beneficiary households in target communities Baseline: TBD, Target: 25% crops & 30% livestock (in 2021)</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: Percentage of small and marginal farm households in target communities that have improved farming skills, Baseline: TBD, Target: 90% (in 2021) ,</p> <p>Indicator 1.4: Percentage of poor households in target communities that have improved their living condition benefiting from community development projects, Baseline: TBD, Target: 80% (in 2021)</p> <p>Custom indicator: 1.1.1: Number of FFS formed/established, Baseline: 2490, Target: 1200 (in 2021).</p> <p>Custom indicator: 1.1.2: Number of farmers graduated through participation in IFM FFS (male and female) Baseline: Target: 90% (in 2021)</p> <p>Custom indicator: 1.2.1: Number of PDC EC members and community leaders trained on IFM-FFS implementation process, monitoring (male and female), Baseline: 2,770, Target: 1200 (in 2021)</p> <p>Custom indicator: 1.3.1: Number of FFs trained to</p>	Cost for NGO hired to support implementation of IFM-FFS and Agroforestry Activities in Cox's Bazar	1 NGO contract	X	X	X	X
		Conducting mobilization meetings and workshops for key stakeholders (district)	1 workshop	X			
		Organize monthly coordination meetings with BHDC staffs	12 meetings	X	X	X	X
		Support to organize Union Development Coordination Committee meetings (bi-monthly)	33 UDCC, 5 meetings each	X	X	X	X
		Support or organize bi-monthly FF Coordination Committee Meetings in 7 Upazilas of Bandarban	38 FF Coord. Mtg;	X	X	X	X
		Training for Input Suppliers/Input sellers	3 batches	X	X	X	X
		Learning visit to other areas to study well-functioning marketing facilities for farmers	1 visit	X	X	X	
		Support to communities through seedling distribution to implement Agroforestry Development Plans (ADPs in 888 IFM-FFS, 30 HHs, each HH 5 seedlings)	447 ADPs, 30 HHs, 5 seedlings	X	X	X	X
		Training for selected youth on nursery (fruits, vegetables and forest species) raising and management	1 batch (30 persons)	X	X	X	X
		Organize consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders on Agroforestry Development Issues	4 workshops	X	X	X	X
		Training for key stakeholders (Union and Upazila) on Agroforestry concept, it's importance, principles	1 batch	X	X	X	X
		Organize exchange visits to observe and learn best practices on Agroforestry systems	1 visit	X	X	X	X
		Selection of Communities and formation of clusters through stakeholder engagement	4 workshops	X	X	X	X
		Training for PDC EC/para members on SHARIP including FFS implementation process and role of PDCs/para members in Lama, Kaikhyongchari and Alikadam Upazila	30 batches 894 participants	X	X	X	X
Organize Farmer Field Days - one event per Union/year	33 FFD Events	X	X	X	X		
ToT for Farmer Facilitators on SHARIP IFM-FFS including promotional materials (T-shirt, caps and bags)	6 batches	X	X	X	X		

<p>conduct FFS sessions at communities (male and female), Baseline: 436, Target: 120 (in 2021)</p> <p>Custom indicator: 1.4.1: Number of monitoring visits conducted by GoB officers and other stakeholders in the FFS, Baseline 12,644, Target: 159 (in 2021),</p> <p>Custom indicator: 1.4.2: Number of collection points supported to connect traders and buyers, Baseline: 09 Target: 80% (in 2021)</p>	Experience Sharing workshop at Upazila/Union level on agricultural services	7 workshops	X	X	X	X
	HR, Ops & Management Support cost to Bandarban Hill District Council	Lumpsum	X	X	X	X
	Conduct FFS sessions at community level (FF Allowances)	149 FF for 11 months (average)	X	X	X	X
	Organize Monitoring visit by GoB officers (DAE, DLS, DOF) and other stakeholders, and Support to the technical sessions of the FFS in Bandarban	447 Visits	X	X	X	X
	Organize Monitoring visit by Union and Upazila stakeholders to IFM-FFS communities in 7 Upazilas of Bandarban	33 UDCC, 7 Upz DCC visits	X	X	X	X
	Support community managed collection Points for improving market facilities in newly identified areas of Bandarban	19 Collection points	X	X	X	X
	Training (new batch/refreshers) for potential youth to develop as Community Livestock Worker in 3 Upazilas Naikhyongchari, Lama, Alikdadam	1 batch (30 Participants)	X	X	X	X
	Observe days related to environment, water, forest etc. at Upazila level	Day observation at 7 Upazila	X	X		
	Organise livestock vaccination/deworming campaign at union level	33 x 2 campaigns	X	X	X	X
	Organize IFM-FFS learning sharing workshop at district level	1				X
	Conducting FGDs to capture farmer's learning and needs to incorporate in the IFM-FFS curriculum	20 FGDs	x			
	Organising consultative workshops to develop and update IFM-FFS curriculum	2 workshops	x			
	Conducting ToT for Master Trainers	1 batch (30 persons)	X	X	X	X
	Conducting training for the staff of the project on new aspects of IFM-FFS and agroforestry (per training 30 participants)	1 batch (30 persons)	X	X	X	X
	Support to community groups for IFM-FFS learning in 3 Upazilas Cox's Bazar	579 groups	X	X	X	X
	Support to targeted HHs to utilize IFM-FFS learnings under SHARIP in Cox's Bazar	579 groups x 30HHs	X	X	X	X
Organize exchange visits on IFM-FFS experiences and learning	1 Batch	X	X	X	X	

		Basic training for project Staffs on Agroforestry concept, its importance, principles including monitoring and reporting	2 batches	X	X	X	X
		Develop and print awareness raising materials (posters, flipcharts, flipbook, banners, festoons etc.) on Agroforestry System	Lumpsum	X	X	X	X
		Organize consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders on Agroforestry Development Issues at regional level	1 workshop	X	X	X	X
		Consultative workshop to review and update IFM-FFS curriculum including Agroforestry in Cox's Bazar	1 workshop	X	X	X	X
		Finalizing and printing of IFM-FFS Modules and Registers	(7 modules, 900 FFS registers)	X	X	X	X
		Cost for hired NGO to support implementation of Social Cohesion activities in Cox's Bazar district	1	X	X	X	X
		Cost for hired NGO to support implementation of Social Cohesion activities in Bandarban district	1	X	X	X	X
		Hire Consultant (Agroforestry)	1	X	X	X	X
		Support to community groups for IFM-FFS learning in 7 Upazilas of Bandarban	444 groups	X	X	X	X
		Support to targeted HHHs to utilize IFM-FFS learnings under SHARIP in 7 Upazilas of Bandarban	444 groups x 30 HHHs	X	X	X	X
		Skills development training on honey bee keeping with input support (queen bee, honey bee box etc.)	3 batches, 90 persons		X	X	
		Skills development training on promising high value, high demand agroforestry products (e.g. dragon fruit/avocado/rambutan/mushroom)	3 batches, 90 persons		X	X	
		Training for farmers on vermicompost production	2 batches, 60 persons	X	X	X	
		Training for selected members from IFM-FFS groups (women only) or FF on value addition through branding, packaging, processing (e.g. dried fruits and vegetables, making banana chips etc.) - needs based (5 trainings, each training 30 participants, total 150 participants)	3		X	X	X
		Support to develop Community Aquaculture Resource Persons (CARP) - 1 training, 25 persons, 7 days training	1		X	X	

	Developing a data base of Farmer Facilitators/IFM-FFS groups and create a social media or similar platform to benefit farmers	1			X	
	Linking farmers/IFM-FFS groups with buyers through social enterprises and collection centres	1				X
	Contingency reserved for IFM-FFS implementation	1	X	X	X	X
	Organize IFM-FFS learning sharing workshop at regional level	1				X
	Developing visibility and promotional materials and publications	1		X	X	
	Project M&E activities (designing, data collection, orientation etc.)	1	X	X	X	X
	Quarterly Planning and Review Meetings/Workshop	4 meetings/workshops	X	X	X	X
	Baseline survey /Assessment/Mid-term evaluation (3rd/4th qtr of 2021)	1 Survey	X	X		
	HR-SID-CHT	staff salary	X	X	X	X
	Travel and DSA		X	X	X	X
	Equipment and Supplies		X	X	X	X
	Office Rent and Other Common Services Cost		X	X	X	X
	Visibility & Communication		X	X	X	X
	General Management Services (GMS @ 8%)		X	X	X	X

ANNEX 3: CASE STORIES

Case story 1: IFM-FFS approach brings changes in the Rakhine community

“I had to buy manure from the market before joining this IFM-FFS (Integrated Farm Management-Farmer Field School), but now I am using my own produced manure in my vegetable plots which is helping us to save money and producing organic vegetable ” said Hlachennu, a 43 years old Rakhine women from Eidgar of Ramu Upazila in Cox’s Bazar District and a member of Boiddopara IFM-FFS. Now Hlachennu rears cows and has been producing farmyard manure in her homestead regularly after attending classes of FFS. Before joining the IFM-FFS, she used to leave cow dung as garbage.



Hlachennu not only uses the manure in her own farm, she also sells the manure at BDT 10 /kg in their village and sometimes she also provides it to her relatives. She has already earned around BDT 400 by selling the manure since joining the IFM-FFS. Producing her own manure also saves Hlachennu money as she no longer has to buy chemical fertilizers which cost about BDT 1,000.

Before joining the IFM-FFS, Hlachennu could only meet her family's vegetable needs. After increasing her production, she has earned around BDT 1,000 by selling eggplants, radishes, and gourds. Besides, she distributed some vegetables to her relatives. From her current production of potato, pumpkin, green chilies etc., she is expecting to earn around BDT 5,700. In addition to this, she planted 15 pieces of a fruit tree from Myanmar named “Yangchi”. Each fruit consists of five beans and a single bean is sold for BDT 5.

As a member of Boiddopara IFM-FFS, Hlachennu has already attended a total of 25 IFM-FFS sessions, including vegetable cultivation, farmyard manure production, chicken and duck raising, making hazol (chicken egg hatching), and hand pollination. Among these sessions, she liked the vegetable cultivation sessions the most. She is now cultivating vegetables i.e. potato, eggplant, pumpkin, chilies, corn, and spinach, which is supporting her family well. Before joining the IFM-FFS, she used to cultivate following the traditional method, but now she is utilizing the IFM-FFS approach in her plots, and this has increased her production. She has, for example, used hand pollination on eggplant and pumpkin plots, which she estimates has increased the production fivefold. Mada and bed following IFM methods were also found in her homestead.

“My family is leading a better life now”, Hlachennu stated, because of her tremendous effort to improve and increase her agriculture activities using IFM-FFS approaches. Her acceptance in the family has also increased and if she can continue this practice, she is hopeful that it will lead to a stronger say in household economic decision making in the future. She has a plan to produce more vegetables and even have a plan to produce maize commercially in the upcoming rainy season. Now, her husband is also spending comparatively more time, helping her with farming as well as showing an intense appreciation of her work and knowledge. Her neighboring farmers are also inspired by her activities and show an interest in the IFM-FFS approaches.

Hlachennu’s family comprises five members: a husband who is a carpenter and three children. She was motivated by Memaching, the Farmer Facilitator responsible for that IFM-FFS, who convinced her about

the benefits of being a member of an IFM-FFS. Usually, the social bonding is very strong in the Rakhine community, they trust each other so Hlachennu readily accepted Memaching's invitation.

The community of Hlachennu is facing difficulties in marketing their products. They usually do not get a good price for their products as local brokers buy their products at a low price. Another major problem for the community is that they do not get good input like



quality seeds and fertilizers in the local market. Hlachennu explained, *"We do not get good seeds and fertilizers in our area, and this sometimes causes great loss in our production"*. Hlachennu expects that these problems will be solved when the planned collection point is opening in the area in early 2021. She also highly appreciated the good quality vegetable seeds she got from UNDP as part of SHARIP's COVID-19 emergency support. She, and other IFM-FFS members, also highly appreciated the good quality vegetable seeds received from UNDP as part of SHARIP's COVID-19 emergency support, as many members otherwise would have to buy seeds by borrowing money from others.

In Boiddopara, the Rohingya influx has affected the day-to-day life in various ways. The process of getting birth certification has become more complex, and local transport fares have almost doubled. The demand for vegetable has increased substantially but so has the price of food items. Hlachennu hopes that she can grow more crops and vegetables and further benefit from being part of the IFM-FFS by selling the surplus produce.

Case story 2: Farming that transforms lives: a story of a successful Farmer Facilitator

"This month, I have earned around BDT 45,000, while before 2018, the average monthly income was only BDT 5-7,000 by which we could only partially meet our basic family needs."

26-year-old Joynab Begum from Ramu, Cox's Bazar, shared her journey to become a successful Farmer Facilitator.

Joynab has been working as a Farmer Facilitator under the SHARIP project since November 2019. It has significantly changed her life and she is now a role model in the eyes of her neighbours.



She described her situation before becoming a Farmer Facilitator as:

"Before, my husband only used to do vegetable cultivation in traditional way and I seldom helped him out. We had no serious problem to run our family, however, we often feared whether we would be able to feed the family in the long run. Without savings, it was also a forthcoming challenge to educate our children."

Her husband and Joynab had almost no knowledge of modern scientific farming techniques, and they knew nothing about government services. They often experienced losses on crops/vegetables due to insects and diseases, as it lowers the production rate and quality. Her husband could barely earn about BDT 5-7,000 per month and that was not enough for meeting the basic family needs.

What is more, the Rohingya influx made their life more tough, even though her village is not in the immediate vicinity of the Rohingya camps.

“The food demand has increased enormously because of the Rohingyas and this has caused price hike. A few people like me who do farming partially benefited by selling products, but in fact, many people have suffered a lot.”

As a Farmer Facilitator, Joynab has received comprehensive training on integrated farm management and agroforestry, and she devoted herself to expand her crop/vegetable cultivation and raising livestock to a large extent, as well as facilitating learnings to other farmers in her community. She made an improved two-stored chicken house and increased the number of birds from 6 to 28 and the number of cows from one to five. Now, she embraces the importance of proper vaccination after being a Farmer Facilitator.

Joynab and her husband have expanded the leased land from 80 to 140 decimals. From cultivating only four types of crops, they started cultivating 13 types of crops and vegetables e.g. radish, eggplant, ladies' finger, sugarcane cauliflower, cabbage, lemon, high-value pepper, tomatoes, onions, and garlic. They are also producing the high-value crop squash, a very new vegetable in the community. They have been applying Mada, bed, and drainage techniques, resulting in higher production rate with high quality. Furthermore, they are doing relay cropping, a sustainable multi-cropping approach, that increases soil quality, net return, control of weeds and pest infestation. Besides, she is also using cow dung as fertilizer whereas it was before considered as garbage.

Joynab has started producing vermicompost, which is entirely new for her. She invested BDT 1,050 for one ring about 14 months ago and has, so far, earned around BDT 6,200 from worms and about BDT 27,800 by selling fertilizer to neighbours and the government agriculture office. As a result, the average monthly income increased to nearly BDT 45,000. She has a plan to produce vermicompost commercially soon with four additional rings and expects to make around BDT 2,000-10,000 per month by selling worms and fertilizer. Besides, she also dreams of expanding her vegetable cultivation and livestock farming further. This all could support her desire to educate her two children.

Joynab is not only committed to improving her own livelihood, but also the lives of the 90 members of the three IFM-FFS she is facilitating. Some members of a the phased-out IFM-FFS and other community people often come to Joynab Begum to get advice on farming. Her success, helping mind-set and facilitation skills has made her a public figure in the community and enhanced her social acceptance. She has also been empowered in her family. She believes that she can now speak very well and considers it a major achievement brought about by the SHARIP project.

“I have gradually become a popular person in our community and even at Upazila level over the last couple of years. Many call me “Khrishok (Farmer) Madam” and some people are suggesting that I take part in the upcoming Union Parishad election”

Case story 3: IFM-FFS learnings help overcome COVID-19 challenges

Fatema Begum (25) is a member of Silbunia Para IFM-FFS, Noyara Union, Alikadam Upazila, Bandarban. She lives with her husband, two daughters and one son. Her husband Md. Amin is a farmer by profession. The main income source of her family is farming. Fatema Begum enrolled in Silbunia Para IFM-FFS in January 2020. Recently she attended an agroforestry session in Silbunia IFM-FFS, and she decided to plant various saplings around her homestead. She wants more security in terms of saving, so she started planning her household agroforestry plantation and identify unused land for plantation.

Fatema attended classes regularly and learned important information about harmful insects of vegetables and proper lining to avoid undesired loss. Now she is practicing it with the help of her family and is hopeful that she will earn a good profit from selling various vegetables, particularly long yard bean. She is producing it because of her learning from the IFM-FFS sessions.

Fatema Begum and her family are also involved in goat and poultry rearing. Last year, she lost a number of goat kids because she sought assistance with from an untrained livestock worker. She hopes that the project's trained Community Livestock Workers will provide good technical support to her and the villagers. Fatema Begum also explained that poultry rearing management knowledge was advantageous to her. Both the fertility rate of eggs and weight of hen sustained due to this knowledge gained from IFM-FFS sessions. Also, the mortality rate decreased due to proper management.



Case story 4: Reaping the benefits of enhanced knowledge on agroforestry during COVID Pandemic

The beneficiaries of the SHARIP project are marginalized farmers with a small annual income. The approach of IFM-FFS is not to impose anything that farmers feel uneasy to accept. We just added something new that they can easily apply to their farming techniques which will be economically viable and which in turn may contribute to their family income. We therefore put a lot of effort into enhancing decision making ability among our beneficiaries and we are feeling happy to see their positive endeavor towards our learning strategy.

In our fruit module our Farmer Facilitators share information on disease and pest management, fertilizers and water management techniques with the IFM-FFS farmers through learning and sharing techniques. As an output of that strategy, farmers of Bagher Jhiri IFM-FFS in Alikadam Upazila, Bandarban have

witnessed a better production than the last year. They have earned a good amount from fruit selling, even during the COVID-19 lockdown, and this assisted them to support their families during a very difficult period.



Nogochoron Tripura and Hnareru Tripura are members of the Bagher Jhiri Tripura Para IFM-FFS, and they are both engaged in fruit production. They have sold mango and jackfruits in May and June amounting to approx. 20,000-30,000 BDT. Through the IFM-FFS session, the farmers learned about fruit sorting and grading system, and the application of IFM-FFS knowledge also helped to decrease pest problems of fruits. With the fruit production improved and increased, the farmers hope that the marketing system will further improve so that they will benefit even more.

Case story 5: Youth as change agents

Members of the Youth Forum of Holdiapalong Union in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar have participated in youth related campaign programs under SHARIP. The Youth Forum comprise 41 members and was formed in 2019.

In the youth programs, the youth received awareness sessions on various issues such as anti-drugs, gender-based violence, human trafficking and COVID-19, all topics which they found relevant to their context.

After attending the social cohesion events, the Youth Forum used the knowledge gained and conducted awareness sessions on abuse of drugs and eve-teasing in the Muktizudda Shrity Girls High School in Holdiapalong Union under Ukhiya Upazila.

The youths explained: *“When we conducted the awareness session in Holdiapalong Girl’s School we became familiar with the students. One girl from grade-8 had been exposed to eve-teasing for a long time on her way to school. The students informed the youth forum and we supported her to identify the boy who was regularly disturbing the girls. The boy was from our locality and we met with him. We explained*



to him the bad effect of eve-teasing and finally we were able to support the girl to travel to school without any hassle by the particular boy.”

Case story 6: From housewife to mediator

“By attending regular courtyard sessions and engaging in other social cohesion programs of SHARIP, I can mediate my local having conflicts” said, Sajeda Begum (32 years) from Kumirapara of Fasiakhali Union in Lama Upazila, Bandarban. She said *“Frankly speaking, I am a housewife and I have to do my daily household chores myself. Like many others, I am one of the deprived women in our community. Even after getting married I didn’t have the ability to speak in a proper way as I didn’t get the opportunity to involve in mass gathering programs and events despite having completed my SSC in 1996 on Humanity group from Ramu Girls High School”*.



In June 2020, Sajeda Begum was enlisted in the IFM-FFS after taking consent from her husband, and she was elected as Chairperson. Since then, she started to get involved in arranging courtyard session, day observations and other project relevant tasks. She now plays her role as a communicator among the group members which improved her skills on leadership and troubleshooting among the group.

As a result, she has developed herself from a skilled presenter to a counselor. Moreover, she prepared herself to maintain peace, discipline and most importantly to reduce conflicts in the community. As a result, she can help others by being a mediator.

“Now, I think that I am a successful mediator. I try to solve many issues and problems among the common folks within my community. The courtyard sessions helped me to come out of myself and helped to boost my confidence. Moreover, from these five sessions I learned about conflicts and sources of conflicts, conflict management, roles and responsibilities of a leader, characteristics of a qualified leader, social values, and gender-based differences and issues. I have developed myself as a skilled decision maker, advisor and most importantly I have presented myself as a skilled counselor. And I would like to continue such good task and cross the limit from my village to other villages”

Sajeda Begum gave three examples of conflicts she helped mediate in her community:

- A couple had a lack of understanding and could not compromise with each other. As a result, they were on the verge of separating. *“Right at that moment, I decided to act and solve the conflict. I called both of them to my house where I listened to both of them and tried to find out the sources of the conflict. Moreover, I made them understand by talking to them and also presented them the gender-based problems and ill effects of marriage failure. Thus, I was able to make them understand and save their marriage.”*
- Two families were having long term conflicts related to a land dispute. They were having disagreements over their domestic animals and cattle trespassing in each other’s property. *“I was*

able to make them understand and also make them reach a compromise by saying that all of us are different and we need to be tolerant and exist peacefully in the community.”

- Two young men had a serious quarrel while playing games. The conflict took a serious turn when both of them ended up exchanging blows with each other and both families ended up engaging in the conflict. At one point both parties had to visit the Upazila Health Complex, and the matter took a serious turn when both the families tried to sue each other and take each other to police station. *“With my utmost effort I tried to solve the conflict and I diverted the situation by taking both the families to the Union Parishad and solved the conflict with the help of the Union Council Chairman.”*