

**United Nations Development Programme, Bangladesh**  
**Progress Report**

**Title of Project: Support to Host Communities affected by Rohingya Influx project  
(SHARIP), Bangladesh**  
**(January to June 2020)**

**Title of Programme: 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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## 1. PROJECT SUMMARY:

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:	The target for Bandarban and Cox's Bazar has been revised from 1,200 to 912 communities (540 communities in Bandarban and 372 communities in Cox's Bazar (total beneficiaries reduced from 36,000 HH to 27,360 HHs).
Project Objective:	To strengthen the socio-economic conditions of poor households of the Rohingya host communities affected by 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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## 2. INTRODUCTION

Six Upazilas in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts of Bangladesh are severely impacted by the large number of Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar. As of May 2020, the Rohingya population is more than 860,000 with the vast majority living in 35 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of Cox's Bazar.<sup>1</sup> 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 is another major cause 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.

It is against this backdrop that the Support to Host Communities Affected by Rohingya Influx Project (SHARIP) is being implemented with the overall aim of improving the socio-economic conditions of 29,160 poor and vulnerable farmers through 972 Integrated Farm Management – Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS)<sup>2</sup> and strengthening social cohesion in Naikkhyongchari, Lama and Alikadam Upazilas of Bandarban Hill District and in Teknaf, Ukhiya and Ramu Upazilas of Cox's Bazar District.

During the reporting period, solid progress was made in the first few months, 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 devastating effect in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar. The COVID-19 crisis is still unfolding, and its full impact is therefore not yet clear. It is evident, however, that loss of income and trade flow disruptions of essential food and non-food items will even further stretch the capacities of communities in both districts to make a decent living and of the local government agencies to cover basic needs. COVID-19 is likely to further deepen inequalities, place considerable strains on social cohesion and place women and girls at higher risk of intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence due to heightened tensions in the household.

The vast majority of people in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban are engaged in the agriculture and agro-forestry sector and with no or limited possibility to sell the agricultural produce, many farming households have lost or had their source of income drastically reduced. The decision to re-allocate funds to provide beneficiaries as well as other of the most vulnerable households with cash support, food items and farming input to cope with the COVID-19 crisis was therefore timely.

However, while the general picture for host communities is that of loss of income, livelihood and food insecurity as a result of COVID-19, a rapid assessment carried out in the project areas followed up by in-depth focus group discussions in Cox's Bazar showed that many of the farmers interviewed did not face food shortage and farmers were able to sustain on their own production. As further elaborated

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<sup>1</sup> Rohingya Refuge Response/Bangladesh: Population Factsheet, Government of Bangladesh & UNHCR, 31 May 2020

<sup>2</sup> The original target was 38,000 HHs and 600 IFM-FFS. 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 IFM-FFS.

on below, this is an indication of 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. What is a major concern in relation to project outcomes is the fact that many farmers have not been able to sell their produce and that many households had no other income-generating possibilities, which will make it difficult for many farmers to buy farming input for the new season without taking (additional) loans. There is also a risk that landowners and (former) affluent farmers pressed economically by COVID-19 may seek to take back their land, displacing small-scale producers including tenant farmers and sharecroppers.

Apart from the risk of pushing vulnerable famers further into poverty, this situation also has the potential to ignite tension and conflict. Hence, intensified implementation of all components of the project is needed in the months ahead. UNDP project team and implementing partners have used the lockdown period to make detailed planning to ensure that all activities can be initiated as soon as the situation allows, including where this requires modifying activities to comply with a limit on number of people which can attend activities.

**Data collection methodology:**

The regular monitoring and evaluation system and its associated tools were used for tracking and reporting on the activities and outputs of the project. Both field and regional level M&E Officers were intensively involved in collecting, verifying and analyzing project data. The data collected through different sources during this reporting period were verified and assessed by the respective project focal persons and field-level staff to ensure data quality.

For measuring outcome progress from January-June 2020, we received detailed data from the implementing partners, which is verified through spot-checks by UNDP staff. However, as field-level movement was not possible in July and August we had to design an internal rapid assessment conducted with the engagement of SHARIP staff of Hill District Councils (HDCs), SID-CHT, UNDP and NGOs (GRAUS and Practical Action). The repaid assessment was carried out by telephone interviews with 137 beneficiaries (73 farmers of IFM-FFS communities in Cox’s Bazar and Bandarban and 64 members of the Local Volunteer Mediators’ Forum (LVMF) committees in Bandarban), using systematic random selection techniques. As the start-up of the originally planned social cohesion activities in Cox’s Bazar was delayed due to the COVID-19 situation, only LVMF committee members from Bandarban were included in the rapid assessment survey.

The gender distribution in the sample distribution was as follows:

<b>SHARIP Agro-forestry</b>						
District	Upazila	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female %	
Bandarban Total		3	19	18	37	51
Cox’s Bazar Total		3	33	3	36	92
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>52</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>71</b>	

<b>SHARIP Social cohesion</b>						
District	Upazila	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female %	
<b>Bandarban Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>25</b>

### 3. PROGRESS OF SHARIP

Until March, the project made good progress. Two partner NGOs have been hired and required staffs made onboard during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020. The NGOs were GRAUS in Bandarban and ACLAB in Cox's Bazar those were responsible for Outcome 3. All the staffs under Practical ACTION, responsible for Outcome 1 and Outcome 2, were onboard. The project staffs and Master Trainers were oriented /trained on project activities, implementation modalities, guidelines, IFM-FFS including Agroforestry. The reporting period was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that hit Bangladesh in earnest in March. Restrictions on mobility and physical gatherings were imposed by the Government, which meant halting of all the planned field-level activities.

The reporting period was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that hit Bangladesh in earnest in March. Restrictions on mobility and physical gatherings were imposed by the Government, which meant halting of all the planned field-level activities for the remainder of the reporting period. While progress was made in relation component 1 (increasing agricultural production) and component 3 (social cohesion), almost all the planned activities under component 2 (agroforestry) had to be postponed.

In relation to component 1, a total of 173 new IFM-FFS groups have been formed in the reporting period, and 8,178 farmers from 282 IFM-FFS groups completed the IFM-FFS sessions. With 70% of the beneficiaries being women in Bandarban and 90% in Cox's Bazar, the target of half of the graduating farmers being women is reached in this period. The rapid survey carried out shows that almost three quarter of the beneficiaries added new additional production components, and 86% of the respondents reported that their last six month's production was higher than before they joined the project. The project's contribution to improving the livelihood situation through increased agricultural production, higher income and presumably also increased food security for a large number of poor farming households is thereby starting to show. These preliminary results indicate that the investment in thorough capacity building of Master Trainers and Farmer Facilitators and the methodology of facilitating field-based learning and sharing of experiences is providing the farmers with knowledge and confidence to invest in the development of their homestead agricultural production. The fact that the rapid assessment covers months of the COVID-19 pandemic further indicates the potential of the IFM-FFS model in time of crisis, such as COVIC-19, which has generally impacted the agricultural sector negatively.

While the start-up of the originally designed social cohesion component was delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19, particularly in Cox's Bazar, relevant activities were modified to make use of existing opportunities to broadly reach the host communities with combined social cohesion and COVID awareness raising activities. Through amongst other community radio programs and miking events, more than 500,000 people in Cox's Bazar were reached. In Bandarban, the Local Volunteer Mediators' Forums (LVMF) have started to play a vital role in conflict resolution. In the last six months, 63 out of 64 LVMF members helped to resolve 162 conflict cases fully and 198 partially. LVMF members have also been active in organizing events such as the World Environment Day celebration.

In the following, we detail the progress of SHARIP in relation to each of the outcomes, outputs, indicators and activities in alignment with the agreed Results Framework.

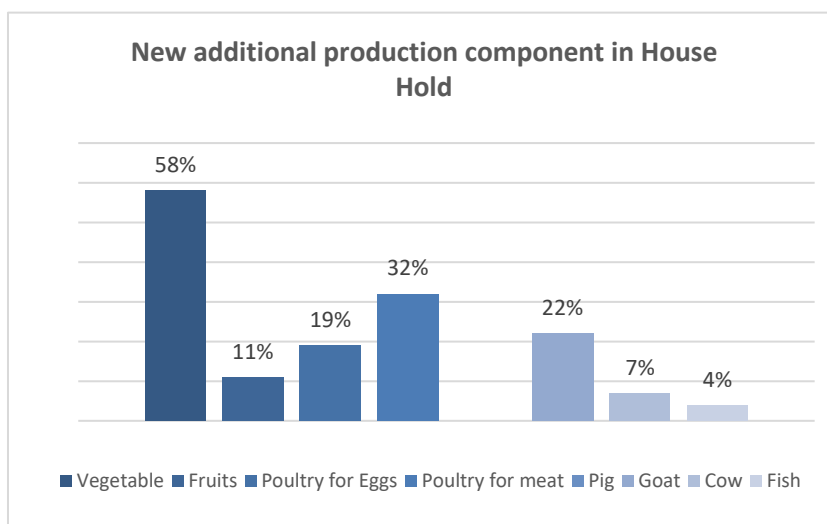
In the following, we detail the progress of SHARIP in relation to each of the outcomes, outputs, indicators and activities in alignment with the agreed Results Framework.

## Outcome 1: Agricultural production increased and diversified in targeted communities

As noted above, the project is making progress in terms of increasing and diversifying agricultural production of poor farming households in the project areas. Data from the rapid assessment survey shows the following:

### Household Production:

74% of the respondent beneficiaries added new agricultural production components, with 58% of the beneficiaries adding vegetables as an additional component in their production. Moreover, poultry for meat also shows significant interest at household level (32%).



100% of the beneficiaries produced vegetables, 93% rear poultry for meat, 73% poultry for egg, 66% fruits, 41% cows, and 38% rear goats.

### Production and causes of increase production:

The production in the HH was 99% from HH intake and IGA. The assessment participants measured their production status in the last six months. About 39% of the beneficiaries said that the production/harvest was as they expected was same in their last six-month while 41% said it was more than their expectation. They also identified the causes of low and high production; 18% reported diseases of crops/fruits/cattle/birds as the cause and 14% attributed it to natural disasters. On the other hand, 50% said that the IFM-FFS sessions for project participants were the determining factor for their increased production. 86% of respondents said that their last six month's production was higher than before they joined the project.

### Linkage with GoB Services:

Over 45% of households received services from DAE (Department of Agricultural Extension). 32% said that they communicated with the local-level GoB service providers on agriculture, fisheries and livestock related problems and received technical services. Participants reported that after GoB officials visited diseases and pest management system of crops/fruits improved.

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

The rapid assessment data shows that all beneficiaries produced their natural products such as 100% vegetable, 93% chicken, 73% chicken for egg, 66% fruits, 41% cow, 38% goat, 9% fish, and 3% pig. The assessment result also shows that about 41% beneficiaries reported that their harvest was more than

the expected, while 50% of them assessed that this was due to their participation in the IFM-FFS sessions.

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

SHARIP targets 972 IFM-FFS communities with the engagement of 29,160 beneficiaries. The project already covered all targeted recipients and have been running the IFM-FFS sessions. According to the Rapid Assessment (Jan-June 2020) data, about 58% of the beneficiaries have added additional components in their HHS production in the last six months, e.g. 57% vegetable, 32% chicken, 16% goat, 14% chicken for egg and 8% fruits.

**Inspired by the production of vermicompost**

Abdul Malek is a 35-year-old Farmer Facilitator who is a local resident of South Bichamara para under Sadar Union of Naikhongchari Upazila. Before working as a Farmer Facilitator, Abdul Malek used to cultivate seasonal vegetables and fruits on his land, which were his main source of income. Abdul Malek was appointed as a Farmer Facilitator at the IFM-FFS field level in August 2018. After being recruited, he received training (ToF) from the project, according to IFM- FFS curriculums. As a Farmer Facilitator he started the IFM-FFS activities in his own Dokhing Bichamara para.



He has seen and realized that the technique of making vermicompost is straightforward and beneficial for farmers. So, he decided to make vermicompost. Later he bought two compost rings for making compost pit from the market and started making vermicompost. After two months, he got about 50 kgs of vermicompost manure from the two rings and 1.5 kgs of worms. He cultivates various vegetables on his land and using vermicompost manure to increase the yield, reduce diseases and pest, and reduce the cost of crop production.



Abdul Malek thought that if vermicompost can be made in large compost rings, it will be possible to earn an income in addition to using organic manure on his own land. So, he placed additional four vermicompost rings on his farm. From these six rings, he has collected 120 kgs vermicompost. He sold the remaining compost manure to local farmers and NGO people at TK 15 per kg and earned a total of TK 7,200 by selling 480 kgs. Abdul Malek also earned TK 11,700 by selling a total of 9 kg vermicompost worms at TK 1,300 per kg. He is proud to be able to produce vermicompost manure. He thinks that the demand for vermicompost manure will increase in the future.



### Benefiting from IFM-FFS knowledge in the COVID-19 crisis

Alam Ara, age 40, is a member of the Rumkha Borobil IFM-FFS of Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. The main income sources of her household over the past year were rice cultivation, chicken and duck rearing, and vegetable cultivation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, her family could not go outside frequently, and this disrupted their livelihood activities. Fortunately, until now, her family have not had to take any loan from financial institutions to get through the crisis as Alam Ara was able to secure some income from selling her farming produce.

Being an IFM-FFS member, Alam Ara has gained technical knowledge on good seed selection, soil preparation, seed sowing, intercultural operation, hand pollination, integrated pest management, proper harvesting and post-harvest handling of gourd, okra and ridge gourd. Thus, she gained advanced knowledge from IFM-FFS, which she applied when cultivating okra, ridge gourd and teasel gourd at her household farm in the current season. Due to the pandemic, her household had less scope to work in the field and the production and harvesting of vegetables is therefore less compared to last year. Alam Ara has sold okra and teasel gourd in the local market and generally got a good price, although she at times had to sell to a lower price when there was less customer in the market. At other times she and her family members were not able to access the market to sell their products due to COVID-19 restrictions. During this period her family used many products for their own family consumption which they would usually sell to get an income. In this way, the homestead gardening vegetable in particular helped Alam Ara and her family during the COVID-19 crisis.



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

The achievements in relation to Output 1.1 is assessed through the progress of the eight related indicators analyzed below.

### ***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, 8,178 farmers of which 70% female in Bandarban and 90% female in Cox's Bazar from 282 IFM-FFS groups completed IFM-FFS sessions including agroforestry sessions.

Under this output level indicator, a set of activities have been planned and significant progress has been made during this reporting period even in nCOVID19pandemic situation. Below are the detailed activities and measurable progress.

### **Activity 1.1.1.1 Community groups and stakeholders mobilized through establishment of IFM-FFS including agroforestry indicatives**

This activity is linked to Activity 1.1.1.2. Based on the progress made during last year 2019, through below Activity 1.1.1.2, the primarily selected communities have been mobilized through training in Bandarban and mobilization meetings in Cox's Bazar. A total of 282 communities have been mobilized through active involvement of project staffs, Farmer Facilitators, during the reporting quarter. These groups will help in the establishment of IFM-FFS and improve the agroforestry system.

#### **Activity 1.1.1.2 Conducting mobilization meetings/workshops with key stakeholders**

This activity has been organized during 2019 through different meetings/workshops where different key upazila, union level stakeholders actively participated. 1200 communities/PDCs/Villages (600 in Bandarban and 600 in Cox's Bazar) have been primarily selected based on which project team mobilized communities in the field.

#### **Activity 1.1.1.3 Selection of communities and formation of clusters through stakeholder engagement**

This activity is linked to above Activity 1.1.1.1 and Activity 1.1.1.2. The primary selected 1,200 communities have been divided into 240 clusters covering 5 IFM-FFS groups in each cluster with active engagement of the field team in consultation with union parishad, Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer, Farmer Facilitators. A total of 240 clusters have been formed during the reporting period.

#### **Activity 1.1.1.4 Organize Farmer Field Days - one event per Union/year**

A total of 16 Farmer Field Days have been organized in Bandarban where a total of 488 (male:292; female:196) farmers from IFM-FFS (who showed their learning) and neighboring farmers (from nearby villages who came to learn) joined to learn on improved farming practices.

#### **Activity 1.1.1.5 Support or organize bi-monthly Union Development Coordination Committee Meetings, Farmer Facilitator Coordination meetings, monthly district coordination**

A total of 07 (seven) bi-monthly Farmer Facilitators Coordination meetings (3 in Bandarban and 4 in Cox's Bazar) have been organized during the reporting quarter 1 where 220 participants (male: 112, female: 108) from project staffs, upazila DAE office, Farmer Facilitators joined. The major issues discussed in these meetings were:

- Committee has to do regular follow up on field activities,
- FFs have to update their registers regularly,
- Study plots must be established according to session,
- Next month's session topics must to submitted as part of the monthly reports,
- At least one IFM-FFS will cover mass vaccination,
- All field activity reports must be submitted on time.
- Build a good relationship with all the IFM-FFS to improve the qualitative learning,
- Encouraging all FFs to use modern technology which they learned during the training.
- Make the HH profiling data collection process and techniques to reduce data error,
- Sessions should be arranged with materials mentioned in the relevant session module,
- Identification cards must be provided to all the FFs for security reason.

#### **Activity 1.1.1.6 Training for PDC EC/para members on SHARIP including FFS implementation process and role of PDCs/para members in Lama, Naikhyongchari and Alikadam Upazila**

This activity is linked to Activity 1.1.1.1. A total of 13 batches training have been organized so far where 408 participants from 204 PDCs/or communities have joined and gained knowledge on IFM-FFS implementation process. After the training, the participants played a vital role in their communities to mobilize the farmers and they were supported to select 30 IFM-FFS members in each group following the selection criteria. They also play an important role in relation to monitoring.



#### **Activity 1.1.1.7 Management support to FFS Implementation - operational cost for HDCs**

This activity is linked to operation and management of planned activities under the Letter of Agreement with Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC). A total of 4 staffs (2 Master Trainers and 2 Upazila FFS Coordinators) were engaged to manage and support field activities under SHARIP. However, the District Officer-AFSP III, Senior Master Trainer, Monitoring and Reporting Officer, Finance and Admin Assistant of BHDC also extended their support to the team in the form of capacity development, monitoring, reporting, supervision, decision making etc. In this way, the quality of IFM-FFS have been maintained.

#### **Activity 1.1.1.8: Conduct IFM-FFS sessions at community level**

1642 IFM-FFS sessions (654 sessions in Cox's Bazar and 988 sessions in Bandarban) at community level were conducted during this reporting period. 30 different topics were discussed in the sessions, including:

- FFS formation meeting
- Needs assessment and prioritization of needs
- Integration and Integrated Farm Management
- Functions of different fertilizers and preparation of farm yard manure
- IFM exercise, vermicompost and green manure preparation and use
- Farm Management Analysis (FMA)
- Module introduction, year-round vegetables production planning
- Quality seed, seed bed and pit preparation
- Weed, fertilizer and water management
- Hand pollination of cucurbits



#### **Activity 1.1.1.9: Experience sharing workshop at Upazila level on agricultural service provisions**

Experience sharing was planned but could not be organized due to mass gathering restriction.

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

15 (fifteen) Master Trainers were developed in the reporting period, all of them are male.

### Activity 1.1.2.1 Conducting ToT for Master Trainers



From 16 to 27 February 2020, the first ToT on IFM-FFS and Agroforestry was arranged with the participation of 15 Master Trainers (10 from Cox's Bazar, 1 from Khagrachari HDC, 1 from Rangamati HDC and 3 from Bandarban HDC). All of them were male. The ToT was organized in a venue with residential facilities at Hill Cotton Research Station, Cotton Development Board, Bandarban where participants learned theoretical sessions at the venue and practical sessions in community farming fields. Through the training, the Master Trainers gained confidence to run relevant sessions in the ToF course for Farmer Facilitators and

they enhanced their skills on:

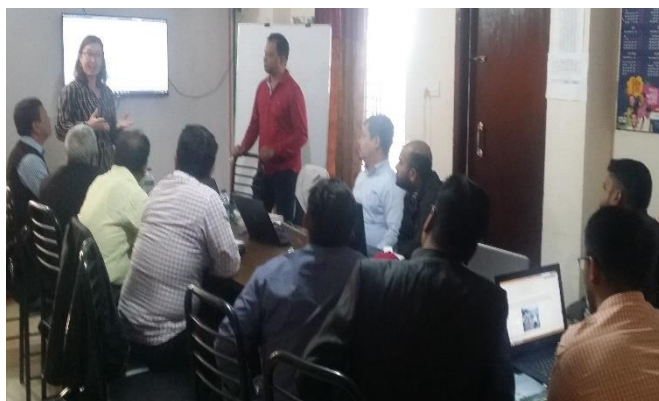
- IFM-FFS learning approaches including principles to follow while organizing similar activities in the field.
- Facilitation skills on IFM-FFS curricula sessions so that they can run ToF courses for Farmer Facilitators confidently.
- How to develop capacities of Farmer Facilitators and provide backstopping support in relation to IFM-FFS implementation.

A detailed report on the ToT for Master Trainers is attached to this report as Annex 3.

The second spell ToT for Master Trainers was planned for 29 March to 8 April 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and declared lockdown. The training has been rescheduled to October 2020.

### Activity 1.1.2.2 Training for staff of the project in Cox's Bazar on SHARIP and IFM-FFS implementation

The basic training for the project staff of the Partner NGO, Practical Action in Cox's Bazar was organized on 11-12 February 2020 in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar. A total of 17 staff, including UNDP's Cox's Bazar team, joined the training. The objective of the training was to orient staff on SHARIP, implementation guidelines, including IFM-FFS approach and principles, different training plans, IFM-



FFS plans, monitoring and reporting formats etc. As an immediate outcome of the training, the participants expressed that they are confident about SHARIP project implementation issues and are now able to play their respective roles in the field with a common understanding.

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

178 Farmer Facilitators were developed to start conducting the IFM-FFS sessions in their communities. Out of 178 Farmers Facilitators, 100 were in Bandarban (of which 47% female) and 78 were in Cox's Bazar (of which 79 % were female) who conducted targeted IFM-FFS sessions at community level.

**Activity 1.1.3.1 ToT for Farmer Facilitators on SHARIP IFM-FFS in Cox's Bazar**

8 batches of ToT for Farmer Facilitators on IFM-FFS were organized with a total of 178 participants from Bandarban and Cox's Bazar. The ToT was organized by the project trained Master Trainers with technical backstopping support being provided by the SID-CHT, UNDP. The training was organized in residential mode as indicated in Activity 1.1.2.1. The Farmer Facilitators obtained knowledge and skills on the following issues:



- facilitation skills of participants
- sessions on preparatory activities
- Integrated farm management, approach and principles
- IFM-FFS curriculum
- Agroforestry Development Plans
- vegetables gardening
- fruit gardening
- poultry rearing

At the end of the training, the Farmer Facilitators have been found confident on the topics they have been oriented on and have become capable to organize IFM-FFS groups and conduct sessions following the IFM-FFS curriculum.

All the planned ToFs could not be completed due to COVID-19 lockdown situation and movement restrictions. 2 batches of ToF had to be postponed in this reporting period and will be resumed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**Activity 1.1.3.2 Conduct FFS sessions at community level (FF Remuneration)**

Farmer Facilitators are directly engaged in facilitating the IFM-FFS sessions as per the guidelines following IFM-FFS curricula. In this reporting period, a total of 178 Farmer Facilitators conducted 1,190 sessions and established 441 study plots at community level through a learning-by-doing approach of the farmers.



### **Activity 1.1.3.3 Selection of Farmer Facilitators and deployment in the IFM-FFS clusters**

In the reporting period, 69 Farmer Facilitators were selected and deployed for the IFM-FFS clusters. The priority was given to persons with previous experience in farming and who are educated enough to maintain the register properly. Master Trainers, Upazila organizers and line department staff (mainly Department of Agriculture Extension) were directly involved in the selection process and based on UNDP's guidelines for selecting Farmer Facilitators.

### **Activity 1.1.3.4 Refreshers ToT for Farmer Facilitators on SHARIP IFM-FFS including promotional materials (T-shirt, caps and bags)**

The activity was planned during 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.

#### ***Indicator 1.1.4 Number of local service providers (Livestock workers) providing support to communities***

The indicator will be measured in the next reporting period.

### **Activity 1.1.4.1 Training for potential youth to develop as community livestock worker**

The activity could not be organized in the reporting period due to COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Activity 1.1.4.2 Organize livestock vaccination/deworming campaign at union level (at least 3 campaigns for poultry, cattle, goat, pig etc.)**

The activity could not be organized in the reporting period due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

Monitoring visits are key to improving the Farmer Facilitators' performance. They are also a key indicator to measure the relationships between farmers and line departments' support at field level. 32 monitoring visits were made in the reporting period. The monitoring visits were mostly done by the Department of Agriculture Extension who provided technical backstopping and follow up support to the communities. These visits helped to ensure backstopping support to the Farmer Facilitators and the IFM-FFS groups as well as build effective linkages between Farmer Facilitators, IFM-FFS farmers and GoB line departments. However, this mostly happened in Bandarban and less in Cox's Bazar due to delay in implementation arrangement and COVID-19.

### **Activity 1.1.5.1 Training for GoB line department officers (DAE, DLS, DOF etc.) in Cox's Bazar on SHARIP and IFM-FFS implementation**

The activity in Bandarban has been achieved and reported during 2019. However, the planned training in Cox's Bazar could not be organized in the reporting period due to COVID-19 restrictions. The trainings are scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.

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

4 monitoring visits were organized involving Union Parishads in Bandarban. The monitoring visits in Cox's Bazar had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 situation and are re-scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

#### **Activity 1.1.6.1 Organize Monitoring visit by GoB officers (DAE, DLS, DoF) and other Union, Upazila and district stakeholders to IFM-FFS and agroforestry activities**

Community mobilization meetings and monitoring visits in relation to formation of IFM-FFS groups were mostly carried out during the first quarter. The total number of visits is 120; 32 visits were made by the GoB line departments like DAE, DLS and DoF, 6 visits were made by the Master Trainers, 4 visits were made by the Union Development Coordination Committee and 78 visits were made by the SHARIP and AFSP III staffs as well as the Master Trainers.

#### **Activity 1.1.6.2 Project M&E activities (designing, data collection, orientation etc.)**

This activity is also linked to Activity 1.1.2.2 (training for staff of the project in Cox's Bazar on SHARIP and IFM-FFS implementation). During the reporting period, the monthly and quarterly reporting formats, database, and M&E data flow diagram have been reviewed, finalized and shared with project team through orientation. Additionally, the project team designed a rapid assessment including preparation of a questionnaire, transcription sheet and staff orientation on quarterly reporting template. The total number of participants were 25 in the quarterly reporting template orientation and 16 in the Rapid assessment orientation, with 8% and 12% female participants respectively. After the orientation on the rapid assessment, 11 people collected the assessment data over phone (due to COVID-situation) and submitted the assessment data transcription sheet on 24 July 2020.

#### **Indicator 1.1.7 Number of functional groups**

During the reporting period a total of 181 functional groups have been active in the field where FF, LVMFs who organized sessions in the communities and provided follow up and technical support.

#### **Activity 1.1.7.1 Community mobilization meetings and formation of IFM-FFS groups (maximum 30 members in each group)**

This activity is linked to Activity 1.1.1.1. Farmer Facilitators with support of Upazila FFS coordinator/organizers and Master Trainers play key role in mobilizing farmers in the selected communities and form IFM-FFS groups with maximum 30 farmers as member in each group. During the reporting period a total of 173 IFM-FFS groups have been formed.

#### **Activity 1.1.7.2 Experience Sharing workshop at Upazila level on agricultural service provisions**

An experience sharing workshop at Upazila level in Bandarban was organized in the reporting period with 35 participants, 12% (4) female. Through the workshop, Upazila stakeholders like DAE, DoF and DLS were informed that the IFM-FFS program of SID-CHT, UNDP is being implementing by the BHDC. In the sharing meeting it was decided that project has to arrange various awareness programs and monitoring visits at Upazila and Union level with the engagement of GoB officers to ensure support channeling/linkage development between farmers and GoB support provider departments.

#### **Activity 1.1.7.3 Support to community groups for IFM-FFS learning in 3 upazilas Cox's Bazar**

Each IFM-FFS is to receive a learning grant of 22,000 BDT to cover IFM-FFS running costs. Opening of bank accounts and collection of documents was initiated for the 78 running IFM-FFSs in the reporting period. The grants will be transferred in quarter 4. Similarly, bank account opening will be done for new IFM-FFS and grants transferred in the next reporting period.

#### **Activity 1.1.7.4 Support to targeted HHs to utilize IFM-FFS Learnings under SHARIP in Cox's Bazar**

Each IFM-FFS member who have completed 12 sessions will receive a post-learning grant of 2,000 BDT. Similar to Activity 1.1.7.3, opening of bank accounts and collection of documents was initiated for the 833 farmers enrolled in the 78 IFM-FFS in the reporting period. The grants will be transferred in quarter 4.

#### **Activity 1.1.7.5 Organize exchange visits on IFM-FFS experiences and learning**

No exchange visit was scheduled for this reporting period.

#### ***Indicator 1.1.8 Number of IFM-FFS modules printed***

Under this indicator, a total of 12 IFM-FFS modules developed covering 43 Sessions/topics. These modules will be used as living documents and updated following the ToF and MT ToT (remaining). However, these modules are being printed and shared with Farmer Facilitators after each training. The modules are being shared with project Master Trainers/staffs in the form of electronic version.

#### **Activity 1.1.8.1 Visibility & promotional materials and publication**

During the reporting period a total of 11 banners, 160 T-shirts and 160 caps have been produced using key messages and donor logos. This has enhanced donor visibility and messages to the wider communities. A project fact sheet on SHARIP has been prepared and finalized during the reporting period.

#### **Activity 1.1.8.2 Finalizing and printing of IFM-FFS Modules and Registers**

As discussed above a total of 12 IFM-FFS modules covering 43 sessions have been developed and used by the project staffs including Master Trainers and Farmer Facilitators in the form of electric version for the staffs and photocopy for the Farmer Facilitators. An IFM-FFS register also prepared and shared in the field. However, printing of the IFM-FFS modules and registers will be completed during 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.

## **Output 1.2: Market linkage and access to quality farming (including agroforestry) inputs enhanced**

Under this output a series of consultation meetings and focus group discussions (FGDs) took place with farmers and other stakeholders last year. The existing IFM-FFS including agroforestry curriculum was reviewed and finalised and reported last year in 2019. During the reporting period, the planned activities under this output could not be implemented due to the COVID-19 crisis. Instead, different guidelines have been developed and preparatory work carried out to ensure that the activities under this output can start as soon as the COVID-19 situation allows.

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

The indicator could not be measured in the reporting period (see above)

#### **Activity 1.2.1.1 Training for Input Suppliers/Input sellers**

This activity could not be implemented due to nCOVID19 situation and planned in upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.



***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***

The indicator could not be measured in the reporting period (see above)

**Activity 1.2.2.1 Support community managed collection Points for improving market facilities**

The project developed a guideline to support collective marketing through producers group linked to collection points operated and managed by community initiatives at union level. It is planned to set one collection point in each union, thus targeting a total of 35 collection points in 35 Unions in the project target area.

Based on the identified selection criteria, FFs of respective Unions will identify the suitable place for collection points, which will subsequently be verified by the Market Development Specialist. Out of a target of 10, six new (60%) community managed collection point's market facility were improved through adding storehouse. The storehouse will add value to the collection point as seller and buyer can use the facility to store their products safely.

In Cox's Bazar, 22 collection points were identified but are not yet functional due to the COVID-19 situation. It is estimated that on a yearly basis more than 800 IFM-FFS farmers will benefit directly from each collection point.

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

The planned activities could not be implemented during the reporting period hence no achievement.

**Activity 1.2.3.1 Training for selected youth on nursery (fruits, vegetables and forest species) raising and management**

Training for a total of 45 nursery growers (25 in Cox's Bazar and 20 in Bandarban) was planned during the reporting period involving Department of Agricultural Extension Services and Horticulture Development Centres. These Nursery Growers will later support their communities to set up community level nurseries. The training had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis and is re-scheduled for second half of 2020.

## **Outcome 2: Agroforestry productions increased sustainably**

Under this outcome the project will enhance awareness and develop skills and knowledge of communities and relevant stakeholders (including project personnel) on relevant agroforestry concepts, systems, models, principles, symbiotic and complementary relations between forestry and agriculture, ecological and socio-economic importance as well as participatory agroforestry development planning. Homestead specific agroforestry development plans (ADP) will be developed by selected IFM-FFS groups. While IFM-FFS members will study, observe and learn about existing agroforestry systems during IFM-FFS sessions under Output 1.1, the project will further concentrate efforts to engage community people to develop their site-specific ADPs in a participatory way, prioritise actions, and implement their preferred agroforestry systems at community level.

The field staff with support from Farmer Facilitators will provide technical support to trained community people in developing their ADPs. For this, different trainings were planned to develop capacity of staff, community people, members of Union/Upazila Parishads and other stakeholders on agroforestry systems. Exchange visits and day observations were also planned to gain experiences and learn about best agroforestry practices. Apart from training project staff and Master Trainers on agroforestry, the project could not implement most of the planned activities during the reporting period due to the COVID-19 situation. The start-up of the activities related to this outcome will be priorities in the second half of 2020.

The rapid assessment found that 32% of the survey respondents in Bandarban were involved in developing the local agroforestry plan and 31% had selected sites for the agroforestry system. The selected land size was minimum 1 decimal and maximum 8 decimal. Beneficiary will plant fruit tree saplings in these selected sites.

#### ***Indicator 2.1 increase in area of land (in hector) under firewood, bamboo, vegetation coverage***

The indicator could not be measured in the reporting period (see above)

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

The achievements in relation to Output 2.1 will be measured in the next reporting period as the Master Trainers trained on agroforestry have not yet been able to provide training to farmers (see above).

#### ***Indicator 2.1.1: Number of communities with Agroforestry Development Plans.***

282 Agroforestry Development Plans were developed during the reporting period by 282 IFM-FFS groups.

#### ***Indicator 2.1.2: % of trained farmers implementing improved agroforestry systems***

The indicator could not be measured in the reporting period.

#### **Activity 2.1.2.1 Basic training for project staffs on Agroforestry concept, its importance, principles including monitoring and reporting**

During the reporting period, the Master Trainers and project staff have been trained on Agroforestry concept and principles, its importance, and their monitoring and reporting role in relation to the agroforestry component. This session was covered during the Master Trainer ToT in Bandarban where participants obtained clear concept and understanding on the agroforestry module. The training also covered development of Agroforestry Development Plans, models etc. The project staff are now capable to organize similar training with other stakeholders including Farmer Facilitators in the ToF.

#### **Activity 2.1.2.2 Develop and print awareness raising materials (posters, flipcharts, flipbook, banners, festoons etc.) on Agroforestry System**

This activity was not planned during the reporting period and will be implemented during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020.

#### **Activity 2.1.2.3 Organize consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders on Agroforestry Development Issues**

This activity could not be implemented during the reporting period due to nCOVID19 crisis and will be implemented during 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2020.

#### **Activity 2.1.2.4 Organize exchange visits to observe and learn best practices on Agroforestry systems**

This activity could not be implemented during the reporting period due to nCOVID19 crisis and will be implemented during 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2020.

### **Outcome 3: Social cohesion increased**

Similarly to Outcome 1 and 2, the social cohesion component was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on mobility and social gatherings. Consequently, many of the activities had to be postponed or re-organized. On the other hand, the devastating impact of COVID-19 on peoples' livelihoods in two of poorest districts in the country has accentuated the need for activities which address social cohesion as a sense of desperation that can easily lead to an escalation of tension and conflict, particularly if the perception of the Rohingya refugees receiving more assistance than the host population intensifies.

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 LVMF (Local Volunteer Mediators' Forum). 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 capitals and utilizing this knowledge for conflict management and cohesion promotion. In the courtyard sessions community mobilizers encourage the community to seek assistance from the trained LVM and the LVM Forums for conflict resolution. Data from the rapid assessment showed that in the reporting period LVMF members helped to solve on average 27 conflicts per month, 45% of which were resolved fully and 55% were partially resolved.

In Cox's Bazar, the implementing partner ACLAB was on board from January and project orientation and joint planning was conducted just before the breakout of COVID-19. As ACLAB is running a community radio, Radio NAF, covering approx. 500,000 people in the host communities and Rohingya camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya, a number of the originally planned activities was strategically redesigned to create awareness about COVID-19 and its potential impacts on social cohesion using community radio, miking/loudspeaker events and various (social) media platforms. 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.

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

Interviews conducted as part of the rapid assessment showed that LVMF members in Bandarban play a vital role in conflict resolution. In the last six months, 63 out of 64 LVMF members helped to resolve 162 conflict cases fully and 198 partially. This means that the average fully resolved cases of conflict are 3.52 per LVM. In the last six months, the assessment also showed that LVMF members helped to resolve many cases of which 52 cases related to land disputes, 7 cases to SGBV, 3 cases to loan credit installments and 1 to illegal use of other people's forest resources. During the LVMF meetings, 53% said that male members were more vocal than the female members. However, 52% of LVMF members said the women's recommendations were generally accepted in the meetings. All the LVMF members said that they get a chance to talk and have their opinions heard in the meetings. The 64 LVMF

members assessed that their proposals for how to resolve conflicts were well accepted in the conflict resolution meetings.

As explained above, the originally planned activities in Cox's Bazar were re-organized due to COVID-19.

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

The achievements in relation to Output 3.1 is assessed through the progress of the four related indicators analyzed below.

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

In Bandarban around 1,086 households were involved through 40 groups of IFM-FFS under the targeted Upazilas during the reporting period. A total of 86% of female members participated in the 40 groups. The partner NGO GRAUS conducted and facilitated 26 courtyard sessions on conflict management to these 40 groups of IFM-FFS under the three Upazilas. Among the targeted 100 community groups along with IFM-FFSs, 2-3 Community based Organization (CBOs) in each Upazila will be included within the project period.

In Cox's Bazar, six IFM-FFS members were engaged with community groups and forums through community radio programs organized under the project. As field-level activities like courtyard sessions were not possible due to the COVID-19 situation, two 25-minutes discussion programs were aired on community Radio NAF involving IFM-FFS members (17% male, 83% female). The IFM-FFS members shared how they work, with whom they work, and how they are working in this COVID-19 situation. Through the radio programs listeners came to know about the initiatives of the project. Radio NAF has around 5 lac listeners in Teknaf and Ukhiya. In addition to this, a number of FFs in Cox's Bazar were also engaged in distributing emergency support provided by other UNDP projects to poor and vulnerable households affected by COVID-19.



### **Activity 3.1.1.1 Cost for hired NGO to support implementation of Social Cohesion activities in Cox's Bazar & Bandarban district**

The implementing NGOs hiring processes was done following UNDP's standard procurement rules, policy and practices. All partner NGOs were selected following the procurement process i.e. announcement in the UNDP website, email invitation to all NGOs/ CSOs enlisted in UNDP to submit proposal, pre-bid meeting, internal and external evaluation of all received proposals based on the set criteria, etc. Based on the standard evaluation process, the implementing NGOs were finally selected for partnership. For Bandarban, the contract with GRAUS was signed on 1 January 2020 and for Cox's Bazar, the contract with ACLAB was signed on 6 January 2020.

### **Activity 3.1.1.2 Community based courtyard sessions to selective members of FFS and existing community based and co-management organizations on social cohesion and conflict resolution integrated with NRM and conservation**

Prior to initiating courtyard sessions, UNDP organized a 3-days long intensive ToT for staff of implementing partners following the courtyard session training module.

In the reporting period, the activity was implemented in two different ways considering the COVID-19 situation. In Bandarban, courtyard sessions were done physically in community gatherings because some areas of the district were out of COVID-19 restriction. A total of 28 community-based courtyard sessions were organized with active participation of 737 (93% women community members linked with the IFM-FFSs. The participants of these courtyard sessions were coming from 26 IFM-FFS (Lama upazila: 16, Alikadam: 5 and Naikhyongchari Upazila: 5) in the working areas and from different communities including mainstream Bengali and local ethnic groups. Different issues were discussed in the sessions, including financial management, local leadership, organizational management, natural resource management and conservation, community-owned forest, social cohesion, disputes resolution etc. Considering the age of participants, different easy learning methods like games, pictorial presentation, group sharing, experience sharing etc. were used in the sessions.

In Cox's Bazar, the courtyard sessions were reorganized to account for the lockdown of the whole district. With a focus on COVID-19 awareness messages and how the situation can affect social cohesion, including stigmatization, gender-based violence, isolation etc., ACLAB carried out 15 Public Service Announcements through community Radio Naf with around 500,000 listeners in Teknaf and Ukhiya involving UNOs, health personnel and religious leaders. Additionally, miking or loudspeaker messaging were carried out in 20 unions of Teknaf, Ukhiya and Ramu Upazila with a population of approx. 400,000 people, awareness messages through TV scrolling were displayed in local dish TV channels in Ramu, Ukniya and Teknaf Upazila, and live Facebook discussions with, amongst other, Chair of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) were held and aired through Channel I. Finally, discussion programmes were aired on Radio Naf, including a programme where six IFM-FFS members shared about their work with ensuring food security.

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

3 LVMFs are currently functional at the Upazila level in Bandarban.

In Cox's Bazar, the COVID-19 outbreak and government restrictions on public gatherings meant that the LVMFs in the three Upazilas could not be formed as planned. However, all essential steps and groundwork for formation were done, i.e. approval from Upazila administration, verbal communication with the elected public representatives, finalizing the operational guideline, management procedures and constitution etc. Therefore, when the situation has improved, we will be able to reform and where needed form the LVMF committees in all respective Upazilas in Cox's Bazar district within a short period of time.

#### **Activity 3.1.2.1: Support to LVMF with organizing street drama at selective Upazilas and unions**

Following the government restriction on public gatherings, the project did not organize street dramas in the selected project areas during this reporting period. However, all preparatory work was done, i.e. operational guideline, drafting scripts, performer selection, purchasing necessary items for dramas, selection of local music/songs, theme of the street dramas, location selection, communication with local administration and public representatives etc. We will therefore be able to organize the street dramas as soon as the local administration allows public gatherings.

### **Activity 3.1.2.2: Meeting and activation of LVMF for ensuring social cohesion in the local areas**

During this reporting period, two meetings were held on 3 and 4 March resulting in the formation of LVMF committees in two Upazilas of Bandarban namely Lama and Alikadam. The committee members were elected following the democratic processes and supported by local elected public representatives through a formal formation meeting where also the main objectives and expected results of the formation of LVMF and future plan were shared and the effective processes and operational guideline were approved. Beside the committee members, there is an “Advisory Committee” formed in combination with the local government official and locally respected personnel to advise the LVMF committee. Total committee members of these two committees are: Alikadam Upazila LVMF Committee has 32 members (24 men, 8 women) and Lama Upazila LVMF committee has 25 members (14 men, 11 women). Local elected public representatives i.e. Upazila Chairman, Vice Chairman, Union Parishad chairman & members, traditional leaders i.e. Headman & Karbari and Upazila Level high official Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Upazila In-Charge of local police force, Upazila level Anser & VDP officer, Head Teacher from local high school etc. were present in the formation meeting.

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all field-level programs, i.e. meeting, workshops, etc., had to be postponed as per government instruction. The community group members could therefore not organize and attend any programs in the field as per planned schedule. But within the groups, members have an effective working relationship and regular communication on different issues in their local areas. They also keep a close functional relationship with the local administration and local public representatives.

### **Activity 3.1.3.1: Formation of LVMFs to ensure early warning of conflict, peaceful conflict mediation and promotion of social cohesion**

See under Activity 3.1.2.2: Meeting and activation of LVMF for ensuring social cohesion in the local areas

### ***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***

In the reporting period, GRAUS and ACLAB observed the World Environment Day in 15 Unions. GRAUS, the implementing partner in Bandarban district, organized 14 events in different locations and provided support to IFM-FFS and Local Volunteer Mediator Forums (LVMFs) to organize the Environment Day celebration. The local beneficiaries, specially women, elderly people, traditional and religious leaders, Union Parishad members, chairmen and other stakeholders, were involved.



In Cox’s Bazar, ACLAB organized rallies, a discussion meetings involving the Department of Women Affairs and a radio program in connection with the International Women’s Day and International Water Day. ACLAB also celebrated the World Environment Day through miking events by airing loud-speaker recorded messages from

Tomtom (rented electric tricycle) in of Ramu, Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas covering an estimated 5.2 lac community people. The vehicle was decorated with banner and poster containing messages on COVID-19 and social cohesion. Leaflets were also distributed among the local community for awareness. Another form of observation was a magazine program through community radio program and another live radio program engaging forest officials of Teknaf and community journalists. The programs are broadcasted to around 5 lac listeners and the messages conveyed related to deforestation and the importance to save the nature.

**Activity 3.1.4.1: Day observance at Upazila and Union level by CBOs and FFS**

As mentioned under indicator 3.1.4, a number of day observance events were organized. For the World Environment Day the objective was to sensitize community people and key stakeholders on ecosystem restoration, conservation of wild animals and plants and be respectful by inhibiting hunting and over-exploitation. The main target of the celebration of this World Environment Day in the project areas was to improve the knowledge of local community people about the environmental impact in our daily life and livelihood as well as to improve the relation among the local community people for establishing cohesion.



In Bandarban, GRAUS provided support to LVMFs and IFM-FFSs in organizing day observation programs where representative from Local Government institution of Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad, local traditional and religious leaders and project beneficiaries including local communities were engaged. The participants were selected through LVMFs and IFM-FFSs. A total of 867 local people was covered in the 14 events where 399 were male and 468 were female. During day observation, medicinal and fruit plants were distributed, and each participant received seven varieties of medicinal and fruit plants.

In Cox’s Bazar, ACLAB organized International Women’s Day, International Water Day and World Environment Day through rallies, community radio programs and local community miking events with recorded messages to reach as many people as possible during the lockdown.



As for other activities, the COVID-19 situation did not allow for mass gathering programs to be organize and more recently the rainy season made outdoor gatherings difficult.

## 4. 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 World Environment Day, containing project messages along with Danida, UNDP and GoB logos. 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.

## 5. 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 National Execution (NEX) Modality where the Government 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 agro-forestry components. For the Social Cohesion part of the SCHARIP project, UNDP has entered into contract with GRAUS (Gram Unnayon Sangathon) 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 Chief-Livelihoods and NRM is fully involved in supporting implementation, monitoring and guiding the field activities. The other team members who are based in Rangamati and provide support to SHARIP are 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 Livelihoods and IFM Expert under the overall guidance of the District Manager support day-to-day supervision and monitoring of field activities in the districts.

The District project team in BHDC consists of 8 full time dedicated staff who are Master Trainers and Upazila FFS Coordinators. Similarly, 14 full time staff work under Practical Action to implement IFM-FFS and agro-forestry activities in the Cox's Bazar district. GRAUS and ACLAB also have dedicated teams of Project Coordinators, Community Mobilizers, M&E staff etc.

## 6. Monitoring and Reporting

The project has initiated a systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanism in all places i.e. Para level committee at community, Upazila, District (at HDC) levels and finally at SID-CHT District and regional levels. 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. As part of the monitoring process, project staff of implementing partners, Union and Upazila Parishad representatives, committee members and finally SID-CHT, UNDP undertook monitoring through site visits. The project staff of implementing partners and SID-CHT, UNDP participated in staff planning and coordination meetings with the stakeholders to identify key successes and areas for further improvement.

## 7. Lessons Learned, Challenges and Action Taken

During the first half of 2020 the project faced a number of challenges and identified learned lessons, and accordingly actions have been taken to overcome those challenges:

- Several project activities could not be carried out in quarter two due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The project management team identified those activities, reallocated funds to COVID-19 support and identified ways to implement activities through alternative means, e.g. community radio. For example for the World Environment Day celebration the partner NGOs arranged local vehicles (Tomtom) decorated with banner and messages and campaigned using mike and loudspeakers at Union level. They also arranged live Radio programs by engaging forest officials



of Teknaf and community journalists using community radio facility. The program managed to cover about 5.2 lacs community people of the working areas.

- With restrictions on movement in the field alternative learning, sharing and supporting mechanisms were adopted to support the IFM-FFS farmers. Master Trainers and Uzpazila Farmer Facilitator Coordinators have for example used smartphone to support communities and provide technical information through audio and video calls. In many cases, however, the IFM-FFS farmers do not have a mobile phone and in these cases it was possible to use the Farmer Facilitators as go-betweens.
- The project team held online meetings more frequently. As a result, project staffs' capacity on virtual communications (Zoom, Team, etc.) has increased. Moreover, the hired consultants also adapted a new way of working. As such, their consultation meetings were held using various virtual communication tools like zoom, skype, telephonic meeting etc.
- For the project beneficiaries, the result of the lockdown and restricted movements is that the farmers have not been able to fetch a good (or even minimum) price for their harvest. This increases 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 solidary packages, including agriculture input, will help to alleviate the worst effects of the COVID-19 on project beneficiaries.
- It is convenient to find that more community people that belong to religion are available on Sundays for prayer. Project activity plan had been modified in this community location accordingly.
- It is challenging to find well-educated farmers who are willing to be Farmer Facilitators as the remuneration is low.
- In some cases, local government representatives try to push for people they know to be selected as Farmer Facilitators.

## 8. Budget and Expenditure:

Total financial delivery of this project is **USD 868,493** during January to June 2020.

Major outputs	Expenditure Report ( Jan-June'2020)	
	DKK	USD
Outcome 1: Agriculture productions increased and diversified in targeted communities	4,037,755	597,832
Outcome 2: Agroforestry productions increased sustainably	1,117,457	165,451
Outcome 3: Social cohesion increased	676,820	100,210
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,832,032</b>	<b>863,493</b>

## ANNEX 1: PROGRESS OVERVIEW

Sl.	Indicators	Project target Y2020	Project Achievement Y2020	Remarks
Outcome 1: Agricultural production increased and diversified in targeted communities				
	<i>Indicator 1.1: % increase in productivity (hen eggs, chicken meat, vegetables, fish and fruits)</i>		100% vegetable, 93% chicken, 73% chicken for egg, 66% fruits, 41% cow, 38% goat, 9% fish and 3% pig. 41% beneficiary claimed that their harvest was more than expected.	
	<i>Indicator 1.2: % of beneficiary households applying at least one additional farming component.</i>		58% (57% vegetable, 32% chicken, 16% goat, 14% chicken for egg and 8% fruits)	
	1.1.1 Number of farmers who have completed the IFM-FFS and/or agroforestry sessions, at least 50% women	3,000 farmers	8,178 (70% in Bandarban and 90% in Cox's Bazar)	
	1.1.2 Number of Master Trainers developed and running ToF, at least 30% women	12 MT	15 MTs (10 in Cox's Bazar, 3 in Bandarban and 2 from Khagrachari and Rangamati, wll men )	
	1.1.3 Number of Farmer Facilitators developed and conducting IFM-FFS sessions, at least 40% women	333 FS	178 (47% female in Bandarban and 79%	

			female in Cox's Bazar)	
	1.1.4 Number of local service providers (Livestock workers) providing support to communities	90 LSP	0	Will be measured in Q4
	1.1.5 Number of monitoring visits (DAE, DLS, DoF) and follow up support made to communities	1,600 visits	32	
	1.1.6 Number of monitoring visits organized to support communities by local Government Institutions (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad)	159 visits	4	
	1.1.7 Number of functional groups	1,200 groups	284	
	1.1.8 Number of IFM-FFS modules printed	6 modules	12 modules (electronic version)	
	1.2.1 Access of participating farmers to high quality farming inputs (including agroforestry)	40%	0	Will be measured in Q4
	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	60% of 10 new collection points	60% (6)	
	1.2.3 Increase in number of agroforestry-based small enterprise (e.g. nursery growers) providing support to communities	35 nursery groups	0	Will be measured in Q4
	<i>Indicator 2.1: Increase in area of lands (in ha) under firewood, bamboo on agroforestry systems</i>		Will be measured in last quarter	
	2.1.1 Number of communities with Agroforestry Development Plans.	1,200 plans	282	
	2.1.2 % of trained farmers implementing improved agroforestry systems;	80% of 36,000	13%	
	<i>Indicator 3.1: Number of disputes/conflicts resolved as consequence of the project</i>			
	3.1.1 % of participating households engaged in various community groups/ forums;	40%	17%	
	3.1.2 Number of "Local Volunteer Mediators Forum" operational at Upazila level;	6 LVMF	3	
	3.1.3 Number of community groups that are participating in decision making in dispute resolution process at Union and Upazila level;	200 groups	0	Will be measured in Q4
	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, 3.1.4 Human Rights Day) at Upazila level observed with engagement of all relevant stakeholders.	70 events	15	

## ANNEX 2: WORK PLAN FOR 2020 (Jul-Dec)

Output	Indicator	Activities for 2020 (As per AWP)	Activity Target 2020	Timeframe				Remarks
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
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	1.1.1.1 Community groups and stakeholders mobilised through establishment of IFM-FFS including agroforestry indicatives	1 workshop, 7 batch training,	X				
		1.1.1.2 Conducting mobilisation meetings/workshops with key stakeholders from 3 upazilas of Cox's Bazar	3 workshops	X				
		1.1.1.3 Selection of communities and formation of clusters through stakeholder engagement	3 meetings	X				
		1.1.1.4 Organise Farmer Field Days - one event per Union/year	40 events		X	X	X	
		1.1.1.5 Support or organize bi-monthly Union Development Coordination Committee Meetings, Farmer Facilitator Coordination meetings, monthly district coordination meetings in Cox's Bazar district	132 UDCC; 36 FF Coord. Mtg; 12 Dist. Coord. Mtgs	X	X	X	X	
		1.1.1.6 Training for PDC EC/para members on SHARIP including FFS implementation process and role of PDCs/para members in Lama, Kaikhyongchari and Alikadam upazila	7 batches 210 participants	X	X			
		1.1.1.7 Management support to FFS Implementation - operational cost for HDCs	12 months	X	X	X	X	

	1.1.2 Number of Master Trainers developed and running ToF, at least 30% women	1.1.2.1 Conducting ToT for Master Trainers	2 batches	X	X			
		1.1.2.2 Training for staffs of the project in Cox's Bazar on SHARIP and IFM-FFS implementation	1 batch	X				
	1.1.3 Number of Farmer Facilitators developed and conducting IFM-FFS sessions, at least 40% women	1.1.3.1 ToT for Farmer Facilitators on SHARIP IFM-FFS in Cox's Bazar	14 batches	X	X			
		1.1.3.2 Conduct FFS sessions at community level (FF Remuneration)	240 FFs, 12 months	X	X	X	X	
		1.1.3.3 Selection of Farmer Facilitators and deployment in the IFM-FFS clusters	3 section meetings in 3 upazilas	X				
		1.1.3.4 Refreshers ToT for Farmer Facilitators on SHARIP IFM-FFS including promotional materials (T-shirt, caps and bags)	2 batches		X	X		
	1.1.4 Number of local service providers (Livestock workers) providing support to communities	1.1.4.1 Training for potential youth to develop as community livestock worker	2 batch	X	X			
		1.1.4.2 Organize livestock vaccination/deworming campaign at union level (at least 3 campaigns for poultry, cattle, goat, pig etc.)	112 campaign		X	X	X	
	1.1.5 Number of monitoring visits (DAE, DLS, DoF) and follow up support made to communities	1.1.5.1 Training for GoB line department officers (DAE, DLS, DOF etc.) in Cox's Bazar on SHARIP and IFM-FFS implementation	1 batch	X	X			

	1.1.6 Number of monitoring visits organized to support communities by local Government Institutions (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad)	1.1.6.1 Organize Monitoring visit by GoB officers (DAE,DLS, DOF)and other Union, Upazila and district stakeholders to IFM-FFS and agroforestry activities	1625 Visits by GoB line dept.; 41 visits by union, 6 upazila, 2 district stakeholders		X	X	X	
		1.1.6.2 Project M&E activities (designing, data collection, orientation etc.)	Lumpsum			X	X	
	1.1.7 Number of functional groups	1.1.7.1 Community mobilisation meetings and formation of IFM-FFS groups (maximum 30 members in each group)	600 meetings	X	X	X		
		1.1.7.2 Experience Sharing workshop at upazila level on agricultural service provisions	6 workshops			X	X	
		1.1.7.3 Support to community groups for IFM-FFS learning in 3 upazilas Cox's Bazar	546 groups in Cox's & 299 in BBN	X	X	X		
		1.1.7.4 Support to targeted HHs to utilize IFM-FFS Learnings under SHARIP in Cox's Bazar	600 groups X 30 HHs in Cox's & 299 X 30 HHs in BBN		X	X	X	
		1.1.7.5 Organize exchange visits on IFM-FFS experiences and learning	1 batch			X	X	
	1.1.8 Number of IFM-FFS modules printed	1.1.8.1 Visibility & promotional materials and publication	1	X	X	X		
		1.1.8.2 Finalising and printing of IFM-FFS Modules and Registers	1 workshop, 650 IFM-FFS modules, 650 IFM-FFS registers	X	X			
	Output 1.2: Market linkage and access to quality farming	1.2.1 Access of participating farmers to high quality farming	1.2.1.1 Training for Input Suppliers/Input sellers	6 batches	X	X		

(including agroforestry) inputs enhanced	inputs (including agroforestry)							
	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	1.2.2.1 Support community managed collection Points for improving market facilities	35 collection points		X	X	X	
	1.2.3 Increase in number of agroforestry-based small enterprise (e.g. nursery growers) providing support to communities	1.2.3.1 Training for selected youth on nursery (fruits, vegetables and forest species) raising and management	6 batches	X	X			
Output 2.1: Improved knowledge and skills of community people on agroforestry systems	2.1.1 Number of communities with Agroforestry Development Plans.	2.1.1.1 Cost for NGO hired to support implementation of IFM-FFS and Agroforestry Activities in Cox's Bazar	1	X	X	X	X	
		2.1.1.2 Training on safeguarding issue, strategic quality assurance and risk management support in Cox's Bazar	1	X	X	X	X	
		2.1.1.3 Training for key stakeholders (Union and Upazila) on Agroforestry concept, it's importance, principles	3 batches	X	X	X		



		2.1.1.4 Day observation-World Environment Day/Forest Day and award giving to best performing communities	6 events in 6 upazilas	X	X			
		2.1.1.5 Hire Consultant (Agro-forestry)	1 consultant	X	X	X		
	2.1.2 % of trained farmers implementing improved agroforestry systems;	2.1.2.1 Basic training for project staffs on Agroforestry concept, it's importance, principles including monitoring and reporting	1 batch	X	X			
		2.1.2.2 Develop and print awareness raising materials (posters, flipcharts, flipbook, banners, festoons etc.) on Agroforestry System	Lumpsum	X	X			
		2.1.2.3 Organise consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders on Agroforestry Development Issues	3 workshops	X	X			
		2.1.2.4 Organize exchange visits to observe and learn best practices on Agroforestry systems	4 visits		X	X		
Output 3.1: Improved community skills in conflict resolution,	3.1.1 % of participating households engaged in various community	3.1.1.1 Cost for hired NGO to support implementation of Social Cohesion activities in Cox's Bazar & Bandarban district	2 NGOs	X	X	X	X	

gender and youth engagement contributing to limiting negative effects of influx	groups/ forums;	3.1.1.2 Community based courtyard sessions to selective members of FFS and existing community based and co-management organizations on social cohesion and conflict resolution integrated with NRM and conservation	1,000	X	X	X	X	
	3.1.2 Number of “Local Volunteer Mediators Forum” operational at Upazila level;	Support to LVMF with organizing street drama at selective upazilas and unions	22	X	X	X	X	
		Meeting/activation of LVMFs for ensuring social cohesion in the local areas	42	X	X	X		
	3.1.3 Number of community groups that are participating in decision making in dispute resolution process at Union and Upazila level;	Formation of LVMFs to ensure early warning of conflict, peaceful conflict mediation and promotion of social cohesion	1	X	X	X		
	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	Day observance at Upazila and Union level by CBOs and FFS	78	X	X	X	X	

	with engagement of all relevant stakeholders.							
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