

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



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2018**



**EMBASSY
OF DENMARK**
Danida



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Resilient nations.



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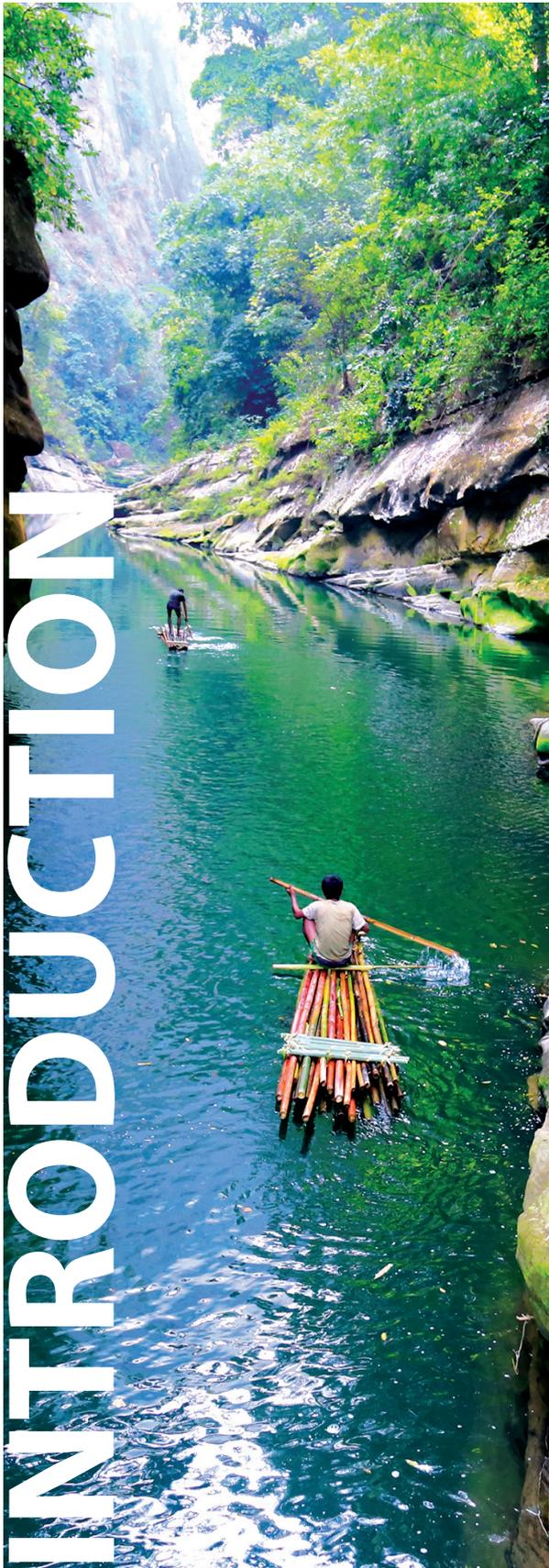
Md Moniruzzaman

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFSP	Agriculture and Food Security Project
ANR	Assisted Natural Regeneration
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHTDF	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility
CHTRC	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
CHTWCA	CHT Watershed Co-Management Activity
EU	European Union
FD	Forest Department
FF	Farmer Facilitator
HDC	Hill District Council
IFM-FFS	Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field School
IWMP	Integrated Watershed Management Plan
LVMF	Local Volunteer Mediators Forum
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PDC	Para Development Committee
PNDG	Para Nari Development Group
RF	Reserved Forest
RHDC	Rangamati Hill District Council
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SID-CHT	Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCF	Village Common Forest



The Chittagong Hill Tracts is located in the south east of Bangladesh and consists of 3 Hill Districts: Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati. The region is home to 11 different ethnic groups, in addition to the Bengali community, and has a population of 1.6 million. Each ethnic group retains a distinct language, culture, and tradition. Furthermore, the Hill Tracts are geographically distinct from most parts of plain land of Bangladesh, characterized by very steep, rugged mountainous terrain and dense jungle in many areas.

Since 2003, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility has been supporting the Government of Bangladesh to promote sustainable development and confidence building in the post-conflict region, as guided by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord.

Our work is focused on capacity strengthening of Chittagong Hill Tract institutions to effectively manage services, and to encourage communities to take charge of their own development, based on the principles of local participation and decentralized development. Indeed, as a result of our support over 3,500 communities are now managing their own development affairs, increasing their livelihoods options, and Chittagong Hill Tract institutions are delivering for development and confidence building.

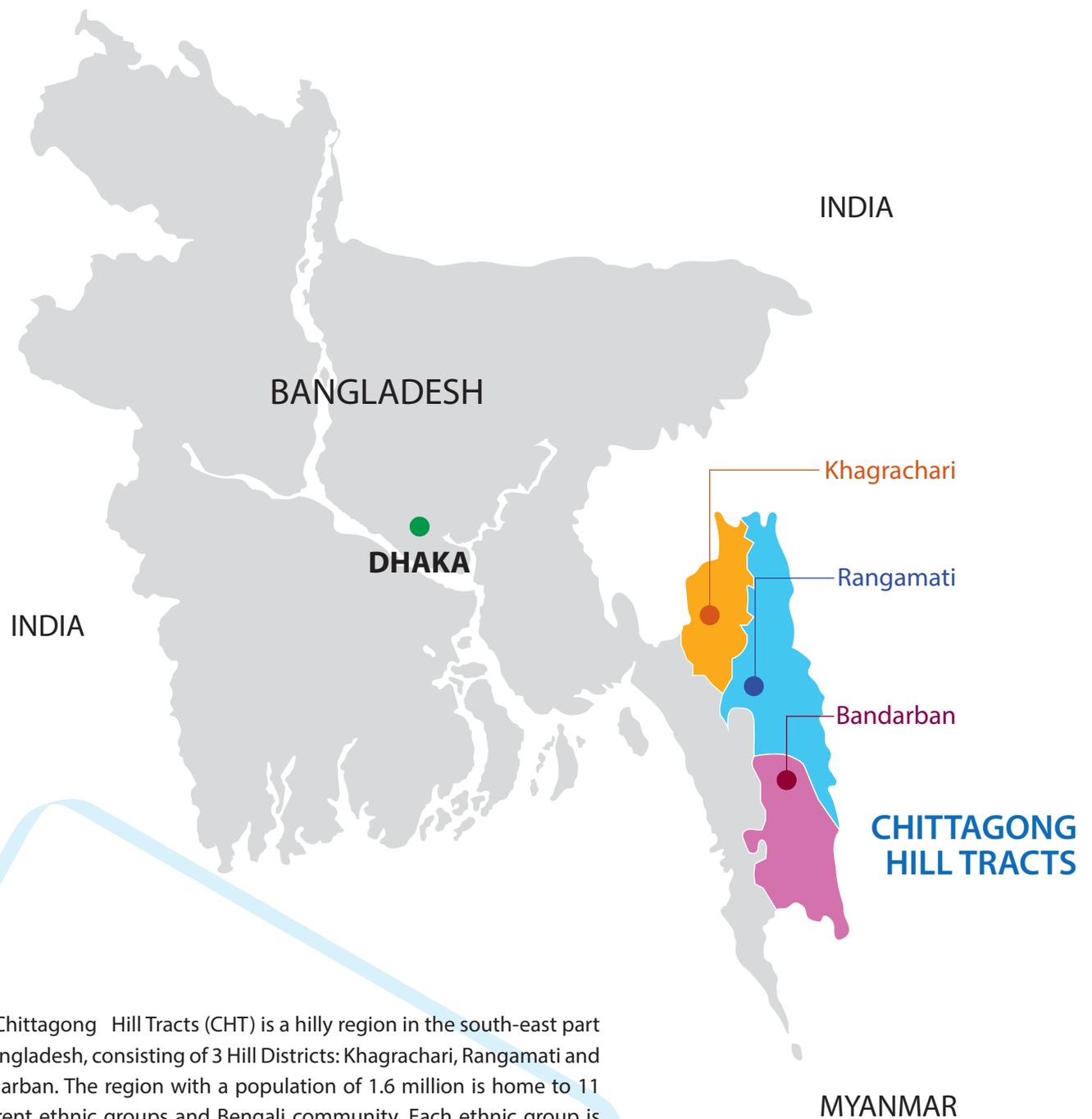
The main outcome of this project is “Citizen expectations for voice, development and accountability are met by strengthened institutions to progressively deliver universal access to basic services”. This outcome will be achieved through the three outputs below:

- Output 1 - strengthened community land, resource and livelihood management
- Output 2 - increased participation and influence to shape decision-making
- Output 3 - democratic governance strengthened with responsive institutions and effective services.

This 2018 Annual Report highlights our work and impact across the priority areas of policy advocacy and confidence building; capacity development and service delivery; community empowerment, economic development, agriculture, gender equality, social inclusion and empowering people for harmony.

Looking forward, the SID-CHT in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, is committed to continue promoting development and confidence building in the region, engaging with key stakeholders at national, regional and local levels along the way.

3 Hill Districts Making Up the Hill Tracts Region



The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is a hilly region in the south-east part of Bangladesh, consisting of 3 Hill Districts: Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban. The region with a population of 1.6 million is home to 11 different ethnic groups and Bengali community. Each ethnic group is enriched with distinct language, culture and tradition. Being the only extensive hilly area, it is geographically distinct from most of other parts of the country, characterized by steep, rugged mountainous terrain and natural resources including forests and water.

Foreward



Chittagong Hill Tracts is a green wonderful place where a diversified community consisting of eleven different tribal groups as well as Bengali people resides. It is also one of the most challenging areas in which UNDP works. Due to its geographical location, CHT faces a host of development challenges in which Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF)-UNDP under the project Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT) is working to address and overcome those challenges by implementing different development interventions.

UNDP remains committed to continue this important development initiative to the people of the CHT. UNDP works in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh and implements programme through local partners.

The project in 2018, made significant progress and successfully supported the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) in implementing different programme activities for improving the well-being of CHT people. Besides capacity building support, the project facilitated development of long-term vision and strategies of its partner organizations such as the CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) and the three Hill District Councils.

It is more than 15 years since UNDP Bangladesh is working in the CHT region to ensure a better future for all the residents. In doing so, SID-CHT project, UNDP in partnership with MoCHTA, has made considerable progress towards implementation of the 1997 Peace Accord while contributing to building confidence and creating trust amongst the communities, and between the communities and different CHT institutions and leaders. However, more efforts will be required to consolidate and sustain the peace gains. With only a decade left to implement Agenda 2030, the CHT will require more concerted efforts from all stakeholders to ensure that no one is left behind.

UNDP is grateful for the partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, MoCHTA, and the CHT institutions and communities which led the progress in the CHT and made a peaceful environment. We are also grateful to our development partners for their continued financial aid and technical guidance.

I am pleased to present this progress report on the outcomes that UNDP has successfully delivered in 2018 and look forward to another successful year in 2019.

Sudipto Mukerjee

UNDP Resident Representative
Bangladesh



I am happy to know that United Nations Development Programme-Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (UNDP- SID CHT) is publishing its Annual Report for 2018 focusing on key achievements and progress made. UNDP is playing a vibrant role in bringing a positive change in the field of development in CHT by taking initiatives through implementing various activities with the financial assistance from different development partners and Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

2018 is another successful year with many significant achievements of the project. The Government of Bangladesh is making inexorable efforts to uphold the peace and harmony among all the communities, tribal and non-tribal, inhabiting in CHT through implementing development programmes in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since the inception of the project in 2003 UNDP-CHTDF contributed significantly in achieving the objective of the government. A crucial advancement has been made in socio-economic development for strengthening the governance in CHT.

It is notable that UNDP supported to MoCHTA in order to create opportunities for youths to gain valuable skills for advancement, networking, and knowledge sharing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts through interactive youth camps. We believe that youths are the next generation leaders and there is still a room to involve youth as our partners in development, innovation and social change as their enthusiasm, knowledge and expectations shape our future.

We hope that the partnership between the MoCHTA and the Facility will continue for the socio-economic welfare of our people through sustainable natural resource management with different capacity development initiatives in CHT.

I believe that the Annual Report will be a vital source of information for all stakeholders regarding the key activities achieved from the project.

I wish another successful year for the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing'.

Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, MP

Minister

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

In 2018, another successful year completed where UNDP-SID CHT and three Hill District Councils worked together to advocate for the full implementation of the CHT Accord with the Government of Bangladesh. The project has been implementing various activities in CHT in collaboration with different stakeholders to improve the socio-economic condition of community people and enhance the capacity of CHT institutions towards sustainable development in the CHT region.

It is mentionable that the CHT region as well as the people always remained more or less outside the mainstream of development programme. But after signing the Peace Accord, the people of this region were looking forward for the intervention of the donor agencies for development. Afterwards, the initiative started implementing by the donor agencies through UNDP-CHTDF project which turned a hope among people of this region.

Since the project started working, UNDP is whole heartedly trying to play a supportive role in the development of this region through its several components. Moreover, CHTRC has played a vital role in project monitoring provided guidance and advices for smooth execution of project activities. CHTRC is committed to supporting more in project implementation whenever needed.

We believe that UNDP along with GoB is fully committed to promoting sustainable development in Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma'.

Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma

Chairman,
Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council



It is my pleasure to share with you the 2018 Annual Report of the project 'Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)'. SID-CHT project is a joint programme of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and UNDP in cooperation with development partners in Bangladesh which is implementing programmes in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari Hill Districts. This is the third year of SID-CHT project which is planned to be completed by 2021. The report summarizes main achievements that we achieved in 2018 as a result of strong collaboration and partnerships among all key stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of the results going forward.

I had the opportunity to sit and talk to the beneficiaries of the UNDP project area including different number of stakeholders and activists from the partner NGOs. I can see how the people are benefitting out of this project. Their daily lifestyle and living standard have been changed through different activities such as Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS) and other key components of this project.

While celebrating the achievements we have made so far, we have to, however, be mindful of what still remains to be done to ensure that the development in the CHT is sustainable. As we have initiated joint implementation of this project, I would like to express our gratitude and good will to UNDP, and other development partners who have come forward with us in delivering positive outcomes for the people of the CHT.

I strongly believe that we would be able to bring more positive changes in the area through partnership with UNDP. I request all concerned to provide necessary support for smooth implementation of the project.



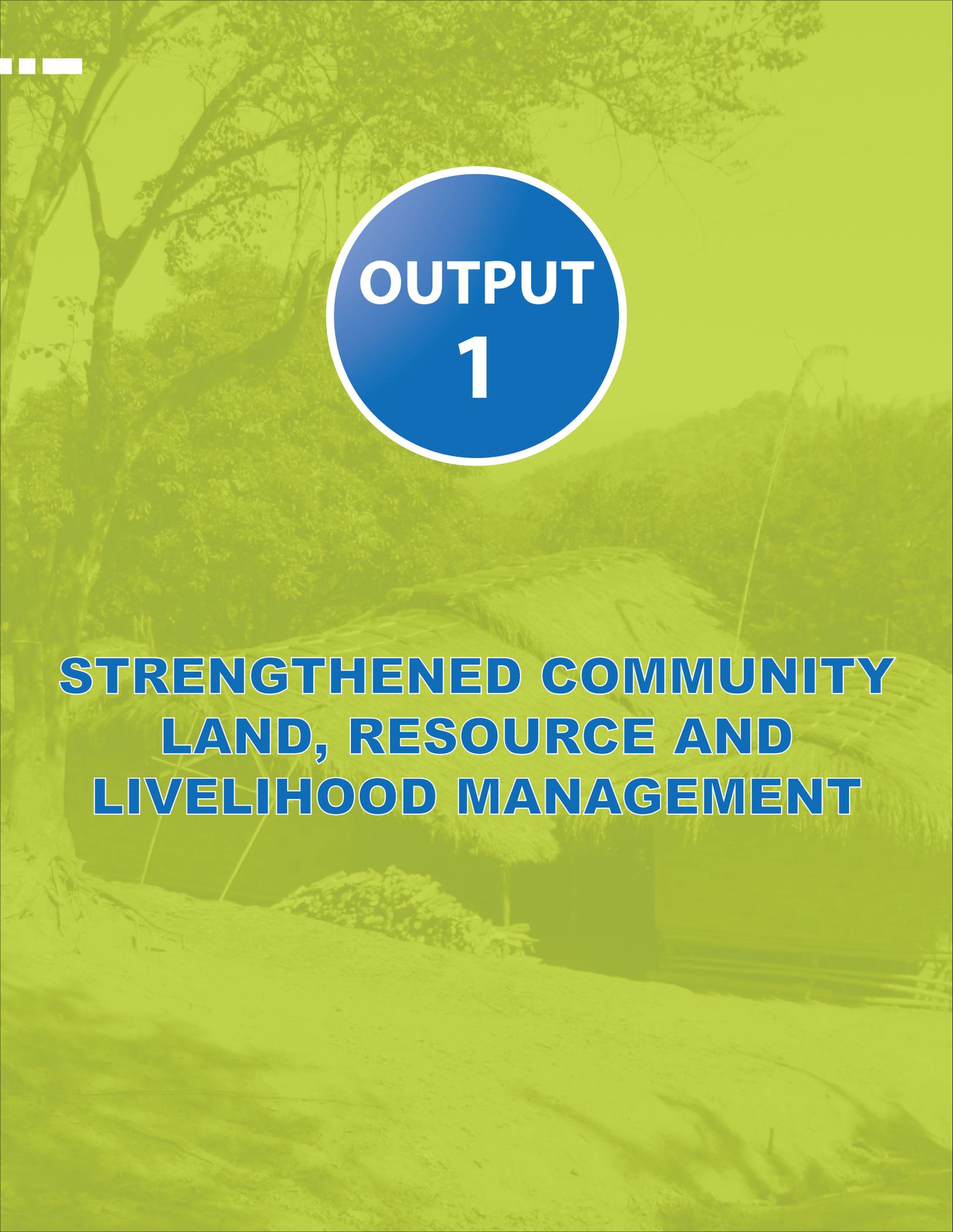
Sudatta Chakma

National Project Director, SID-CHT and
Additional Secretary (Development)
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



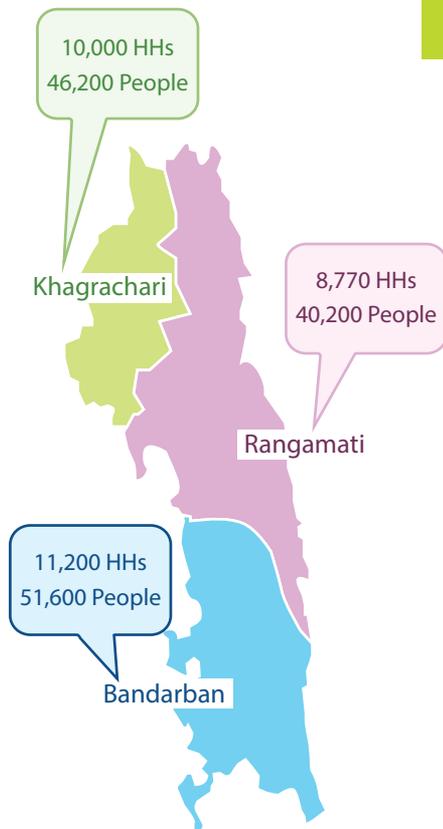
OUTPUT

1



**STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY
LAND, RESOURCE AND
LIVELIHOOD MANAGEMENT**

Key achievements under AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY interventions



SID-CHT, UNDP supported Agriculture and Food Security Project in Chittagong Hill Tracts (AFSP III) from February 2017 till September 2021 aiming to increase pro-poor inclusive agricultural growth and sustainable employment creation for marginal and small farm households with enhanced food security and increased Hill District Councils (HDCs) capacity to manage transferred agricultural services in line with the CHT's Peace Accord. The project started in February 2018, is being rolled out over a 4 year duration in partnership with 3 HDCs, and with support by the Danish Government. The project directly targets 30,000 poor and marginalized households through Integrated Farm Management - Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS) approach by establishing 1,200 new Farmer Field Schools gradually in 26 Upazilas of 3 Hill Districts by June 2021.

At the end of year 2018, AFSP III reached a total of 7,130 poor and marginalized farmers (62% women) who learned and practiced better farming techniques¹ through learning by doing approach at the 270 IFM-FFSs established in 3 Hill Districts. The project newly developed 270 Field School Facilitators (34% female) who are engaged in intervention's communities for supporting their improved agricultural cultivation and farming production. As a result, 27,000 IFM-FFS learning sessions were conducted at village/para level with average 23 farmer's participation in each session. This, in turn, is expected to increase household level food production and diversified sources of income of the targeted farmers overtime.

KEY RESULTS 2018

AFSP III Key Results

- 270 Farmer Field Facilitators have been newly engaged, which are being supported as local resource persons. These facilitators conducted around 27,000 IFM-FFS sessions on different agricultural learning issues. Because of these sessions, 7,130 poor and marginalized farmers (with 62% women) treated as direct beneficiaries and around 1,000 neighboring farmers treated as indirect beneficiaries were trained on different improved agricultural techniques through Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS) which were improved household food security, product marketing followed by income;
- The major training and learning in this component include vegetable cultivation, local chicken rearing with improved techniques, livestock rearing, fisheries, fruit-trees management, hand pollinations techniques of cucurbits, production of composed fertilizer, agricultural marketing etc;

¹ The AFSP III delivered different agricultural techniques on vegetable cultivation, fruit gardening, poultry rearing, cattle rearing, high value crop cultivation, fish cultivation, etc through IFM-FFS for the poor and marginalized farmers in CHT.

KEY RESULTS 2018

- 2,012 Executive Committee members (29% female) of Para Development Committee (PDC) were trained on IFM-FFS implementation process and monitoring. Currently they are technically supporting to IFM-FFS implementation in their local communities;
- 45 youth farmers developed newly as Community Livestock Workers (CLWs) and engaged as local resource person in their localities. Around 3,000 animals vaccinated by GoB line department and Community Livestock Workers (CLWs) reducing animal mortality;
- Market linkage training conducted as per curriculum and relevant modules through which 25 IFM-FFS communities have been organized and they are selling their produces. The major products of group marketing are banana, vegetables and local fruits;
- Over 4,720 joint monitoring visits made to the IFM-FFS communities by GoB line departments, Union/Upazila parishad representatives and Master Trainers. As a result, community people have been receiving proactive technical advice and suggestion for their farming practices;

270 IFM-FFS

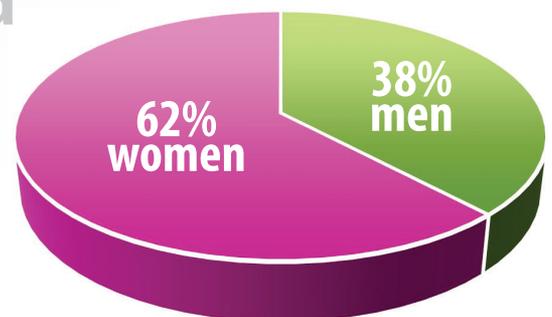
27,000 IFM-FFS sessions

7,130 farmers benefitted

additionally

1,000 neighbouring farmers

2,012 PDC



An Ordinary Farmer to a Model Farmer

This story is all about Mr. Deborshi Chakma who is a 25-year old man and son of late Amullyo Bikash Chakma from Joy Kumar Karbari para, Kabakhali union, Dighinala Upazila, Khagrachari Hill District.

His father passed away 5 years ago, hence he had to take responsibility of his family. To manage his family's living cost he had to go to Chottogram two years ago for earning income. Since his educational qualification was poor he could not manage a better job and due to this reason he did not provide proper financial support to his family as per their needs. After one year, he came back to his own village and engaged himself as day-laborer for his daily income. But for his own interest he started watching special agricultural programmes on YouTube, Channel I and DIPTA TV.

His life started a new momentum at the time when he got an opportunity to work as a Farmer Facilitator (FF) through AFSP-III intervention in Khagrachari Hill District. He received a "ToT for Farmer Facilitators on IFM-FFS" where he successfully completed three spells training in June 2018. He started agricultural farming in his own land which in turn gradually changed his knowledge on applied agriculture as well as family situation. Now he has started sharing his empirical knowledge and hands-on practices of his overall farm management with other IFM-FFS members and villagers. He has started producing vermicompost, banana, papaya, beans and fish in his farm. He has already started utilizing vermicompost in his homestead gardening and water melon cultivation for ensuring organic farming system.



I want to increase crop production gradually by using integrated farming approach following the training knowledge in order to be a model farmer and change agent of livelihood for myself and my communities. My future plan is to increase vermi-compost production and its business, to increase large scale Banana and Papaya gardening and to establish a sales center in Dighinala bazar in order to sell my organic farm products."

More return from homestead garden

"I never properly used my homestead place and fallow lands before involving myself with IFM-FFS. But now I'm getting more income from it"- expressed by a 45-year old female farmer Miz. Sandhya Rani Chakma, one of the IFM-FFS beneficiaries of Baitta para IFM-FFS. The IFM-FFS is located in Longadu sadar union of Longadu Upazila of Rangamati Hill District. She has made herself a IFM-FFS member after formation of IFM-FFS on 19 August 2018. Her family with 8 members faces problems when her cultivable land submersed under Kaptai lake water and could not even cultivate vegetable and Boro rice properly during winter season. She often cannot harvest rice like other members of her closest IFM-FFS due to sudden rise of water level. She could not even use her 30 decimal homestead lands for vegetable gardening.



In the last winter season, primarily I got 2,500 BDT after selling coriander, spinach, red amaranth and radishes. I've brought every corner of my homestead places under vegetable cultivation"

After taking sessions of homestead space planning from IFM-FFS, she planned to cultivate vegetables on 5 decimal lands in 2018. She used ideal pit and bed mixed method with cow dung following hand pollination and sex pheromone trap techniques for quality production. *"I think these techniques helped me in getting quality product. I'll continue these activities and will also use upgraded hatching pan for my broody hen"* -she again quoted.

As a good learning of this cultivation, she is planning to plant summer vegetables in her homestead garden to cope with the water scarcity during dry season. She thanked to the project Farmer Facilitator's and RHDC for implementing the IFM-FFS activities in her village for improving local food security and economic development.

Key achievements under **NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** interventions

SID-CHT supported to implement Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA) since 2014 to sustain natural resources, biodiversity, and local environment in order to promote resilient livelihoods in CHT areas. Project activities are gradually strengthening community-based management of Village Common Forests (VCFs), small streams and associated micro-watersheds to function effectively through 117 target VCFs across Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari Hill Districts. In 2018, this project made a number of significant key achievements with the strong participation of community people, traditional leaders and implementing partners particularly local NGOs and Forest Department (FD).

CHTWCA has targeted 117 VCFs of which 102 VCF management plans have been prepared and approved by the VCF members and Management Committees respectively. As a result of these management plans, participatory forest management is being implemented and mainstreamed both in VCFs and RFs through selection of suitable institutions, hiring of trained field staff and involving of local communities. Finally this project successfully piloted in 5,884 ha of VCFs and 625 ha of headwater which RFs are presently under improved forest management. A draft of Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) was submitted to Forest Department (FD) on 29 March 2018 for its finalization. An Action Plan based on the draft IWMP which was approved by the GOB on 29 May 2017 is being implemented by the Forest Department with a special focus on Natural Regeneration.

CHTWCA interventions increased the economic opportunities for the poor and marginalized population in Chittagong Hill Tracts. VCF dependent community people received input grants and engaged with small scale income generating activities. In return, over 4,188 people (49% female) gained income generating opportunities and made their climate resilient livelihoods through attainment of new skills and small grants.

KEY RESULTS
2018

NRM Key Results

- 102 VCF management committees are managing their VCFs in participation of local communities from 104 paras/villages. Total 6,509 hectares of VCFs and headwater RFs is under improved Natural Resource Management (NRM);
- Over 4,188 people (including 49% female) benefited through livelihood development support. Those households are presently engaged with alternative income generating activities i.e. vegetable cultivation, poultry rearing, goat rearing, pig rearing, seasonal small business, etc. at the community level;

KEY RESULTS 2018

- 1,686 local people with 54% female participants (cumulative: 4,881 people) were trained on climate change adaptation. The trained participants have been sharing their learnings and experiences in their regular VCF meetings. This has resulted in enhancing community awareness on climate change adaptation issues and implementation at community level;
- 4 VCF Networks established and operationalized with their by-laws and processes;
- 102 VCFs boundary maps produced which were finalized and printed after validation workshop represented by each VCF;

102

VCF Management Committees

6,509

Hectares of VCFs and Headwater RFs

**29%
Female**

2,012

Executive Committee Members of PDC Were Trained

4,188

People Benefited Through Livelihood Development Support

**49%
Female**

3,000

Animals Vaccinated

4,720+

Monitoring Visits Made to the IFM-FFS Communities

Participatory Management of Reserved Forests (RFs) in the CHT

The forests in the Chattogram Hill Tracts cover more than 40% of the country's forests and comprise significant biodiversity as part of tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forest types. The Reserved Forests, constituting nearly one-quarter of the total CHT area and many of them declared as RFs during British period, are sources of important small rivers and waters for sustaining local ecosystem and biodiversity. However, over the years, most of the RFs have degraded mainly due to biotic pressure and prevailing mistrust between local community and Forest Department, with declining ecosystem services and products, that jeopardized ecological balance and food security.

This mistrust started reducing since 2017 under the USAID supported CHTWCA project where Forest Department and UNDP developed an Action Plan on integrated watershed management of headwater RFs with a focus on Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR). The Plan was approved in two high level meetings convened by the Prime Minister Office. During 2018 the Forest Department in partnership UNDP along with local people successfully implemented the Action Plan in over 625 ha of headwater RFs in the CHT South and Lama Forest Divisions.

The watershed management activities in the South Forest Division, Rangamati covered two Forest Ranges: Allekhyong and Kaptai Ranges. During 2018, the project covered a total of 425 hectares of denuded forests under ANR and improved participatory silvicultural practices in the CHT South Forest Division. More than 170,000 seedlings have been planted under enrichment plantations, including indigenous plant species such as Gorjon, Chapalish, Boilam, Dhakijam, Koroi, Kathal, Tetul, Amloki, Horitoki, Bohera, Nim, Gamar, and Bamboo. The ANR and enrichment plantation activities were carried out by the local communities who were also entrusted with the ownership of regular monitoring.



Together with Forest Department we identified the ANR forest area. My community members did the enrichment plantation works and other field activities. We see good benefits in protecting the forests and biodiversity in our area"

- local Headman of Cisha Para, Farua.



**OUTPUT
2**

**INCREASED PARTICIPATION
AND INFLUENCE TO SHAPE
DECISION-MAKING**



As per the approved program document of SID-CHT, UNDP, the project seeks to create positive environment and to facilitate practical processes that enable people and institutions in order to work together in resolving issues, finding and applying solutions for their common goods. Under this output, communities are bringing together to build connections between neighboring and distant communities to act as catalyst for wider community engagement networks to strengthen different forms of social harmony including bonding and bridging social capital. Networks across the region are supported to work at Upazila and Union Parishad levels, which in turn supported community actions for further strengthening ties among groups. Volunteer networks are formed under the management of the committees for community welfare and covering enhanced social harmony and early warning systems as well as a comprehensive set of civic action-based schemes. The following activities were part of this initiatives which were implemented during the reporting period.



Orientation and Coordination meeting of Local Volunteer Mediators' Forum

It is evident from various researches that all communities in CHT are in fact keen to actively contribute to improving the security and safety of their communities. Generally, it has been recognized that an effective strategy in countering the human insecurity and threat lies in a collaborative approach through engaging all stakeholders, government authorities, law enforcement agencies, civil societies, the media, families, communities and the general public. In relation to the statement above, the SID-CHT, UNDP helps to form "**Local Volunteer Mediators Forum (LVMF)**" at Upazilla level in conflict-prone Upazillas. The project aims to engage public representatives of locally elected bodies (i.e. Chairman and Member of Union Parisad, Chairman-Vice Chairmen of Upazila

Parisad, Mayor and Councilors of Municipalities etc.) and traditional leaders as local conflict mediators. Therefore, with this vision in mind the LVMFs were formed for covering 3 hill districts. The members of this LVMF's were trained intensively on conflict mediation, community cohesion, technical processes of dispute resolution, reconciliation steps, conflict and actor analysis, role and responsibilities of mediators and so on.

During the reporting period as per the approved plan, the Orientation and Coordination Meetings of Local Volunteer Mediators' Forums (LVMF) were held successfully in the following dates and places:



Md. Nurul Amin, Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) inaugurated as the Chief Guest in a day long orientation & coordination meeting of LVMF, Mohalchari Upazila.

Mohalchari Upazila
 under the Khagrachari Hill
 District on 23rd June 2018
 at the Rega Club,
 Milonpur, Khagrachari
 Sadar, Khagrachari

Longadu Upazila
 under Rangamati Hill
 District on 29th May 2018
 in Upazila Parisad
 Meeting Room, Langadu,
 Rangamati



Coordination meeting, LVMF of Langadu Upazila, Rangamati Hill District

All members of the Local Volunteer Mediators' Forum and the members of advisory committee had participated in these meetings actively. The purpose of the meetings was to re-emphasize on the objectives of forming the LVMF and responsibilities of its members for common understanding and increase coordination among them. The LVMF members also shared information on number and types of conflicts mediated through them since formation of the LVMF and how

they have been benefitted with the training skills on conflict mediation. Through the meeting, they have also prepared achievable work plans for future intervention in consultation with all members and advisory committee members. This coordination meeting was an open forum among the members to share all LVMF related information and challenges being faced in their own locality.

Innovative Youth Campaign for Promotion of Peace and Volunteerism

Two batches of 2 day long trainings on *“Innovative Youth Campaign for Promotion of Peace and Volunteerism”* was organized in association with Kawkhali Government Degree College, Rangamati Hill District on (14-15 November 2018) and Dighinala Government Degree College, Khagarachari Hill District (24-25th November 2018) where more than 450 youths and local stakeholders were involved. The main campaign issues were *“Sustainable Waste Management”* and *“Traffic Management”* in which campaigners were engaged local administration, public representatives, shop owners’ association, traffic police etc. in making the event more fruitful and effective. In Khagrachari, Mr. Naba Kamal Chakma, Upazila Chairman of Dighinala Upazila, had inaugurated the program with a grand rally while Mr. Abdul Khaleque Talukder, Principal of Kawkhali Degree College, Kawkhali had inaugurated the Kawkhali Upazila Programme. The main objective of these programs had to promote cultural appreciation and diversity, tolerance and volunteerism through support to existing youth groups and networks as well as development of peer support networks in the 3 hill districts.

The students of both colleges had actively participated in various activities like distributing leaflets about road safety to the vehicle drivers, coloring the zebra crossing-speed breakers, cleaning outer college areas and hospitals, performing issue based short drama on environmental degradation, diversified cultural promotion with local traditional cultures and focus group discussion on volunteerism. Raising awareness of the values of peace and non-violence is essential for prevention of conflict between communities, extremism, political manipulation and it should be at the core of any conflict prevention and conflict transformation effort. Considering this in mind youth in CHT should be sensitized and consulted on peace building so that they are able to create bridges among communities, cultures and social groups based on the principle of peace. The positive point was the volunteers and students were directly involved in designing & planning the programs, staging drama, budgeting, drafting poster & festoons, etc. with great enthusiasm. To make the program more productive and to achieve results, the volunteers & students ensured active involvement of public representatives and government officials at their own localities.

2

batch trainings on “Innovative Youth Campaign for Promotion of Peace and Volunteerism”

450

youths involved directly

Innovative Youth Campaign for Promotion of Peace and Volunteerism

Team discussion before starting off the campaign by Dighinala Govt. Degree College students



Tree plantation to mark the UN Day-2018 in Khagrachari



Voluntary cleaning of hospital area during campaign by Kawkhali Govt. College students



শ্রী-আবর্জনার সুষ্ঠু ব্যবস্থাপনা ও পরিবেশ দূষণ রোধ, সচেতনতামূলক প্রচারাভিযান



Staging of street drama by students of Kawkhali Government College

UN day was celebrated to build Awareness on SDGs

Globally 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. This year the United Nations in Bangladesh celebrated the 73rd anniversary under the theme of “leaving no one behind.” The United Nations in Bangladesh reached out young students, teachers and common people in six divisions to build awareness on UN’s work in Bangladesh and worldwide. In view of this initiative, Khagrachari Hill District was selected for UN day celebration and the event took place at Dighinala Govt. Degree College premise. The UN day creates an opportunity to showcase the UN’s work around the SDG goals and principles of the United Nations.

In line with this initiative, the SID-CHT, UNDP project organized an outreach event in CHT following the guidelines that shared by the UN Resident Coordinators’ Office. To know about the UN programmes, its functions and contributions for well-being of human across the globe, a college based event was conducted where young and promising students participated.

The program started with a warm welcome speech by Ms. Jhuma Dewan, Chief, Gender and Community Cohesion, SID-CHT and she presented a brief power point presentation on the United Nations mainly highlighting the SDGs. After her effective presentation, a short video on the United Nations was displayed to the targeted audiences for clear and better understanding. An interactive session was also conducted responding to the queries raised from the participants (Students and Teachers) by UNDP team.

After the interactive session, a collection of video footage on spontaneous response of students and teachers on ‘*What is the United Nations for?*’ was arranged in the college premises and outside the auditorium room. All students enjoyed this session. Finally, teachers and students planted two trees at the college premise to mark the UN Day-2018. Finally the celebration was concluded by a closing remarks from the principal of the Dighinala Government Degree College.



UN Day 2018 celebration in Khagrachari Hill District





**OUTPUT
3**

**DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE
STRENGTHENED WITH
RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS
AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES**

Activities on improved social cohesion and forest conservation kicked off in host communities of Bandarban

On 31st October 2018, 3 local implementing partners (NGOs) have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) under Micro Capital Grants (MCGs) modality for implementation of a sub-component on CHT Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA) funded by USAID. Geographically, Bandarban Hill District, adjacent to Cox's Bazar and Rakhine state of Myanmar, comprises steep hills with narrow valleys having limited potential for cultivation. Because of being a frontier district, Bandarban is particularly prone to inter-country migration from Myanmar through land and rivers. During the recent Rohingya influx, over

350,000 Rohingya refugees first crossed into the country via Naikkyhongchari Upazila of Bandarban Hill District and later moved to the camps in Cox's Bazar District. These 3 Upazilas in Bandarban Hill District were economically and politically affected by the recent Rohingya influx. This has cost considerable challenges to local social cohesion, natural resource and ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation. Being adjacent to Myanmar border, Naikkyhongchari, Lama and Alikadam Upazilas in Bandarban Hill District have been particularly affected which came out as the key result from local

consultation assessment by UNDP. The SID-CHT, UNDP has started working with Tahzingdong in Lama Upazila, Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity (BNKS) in Alikadam Upazila and Ananya Kallyan Sangathon (AKS) in Naikhyangchari Upazila under Bandarban Hill District with an objective to create an opportunity to intensify efforts to improve the quality and inclusivity of local governance, improve social cohesion and enhance forest conservation.

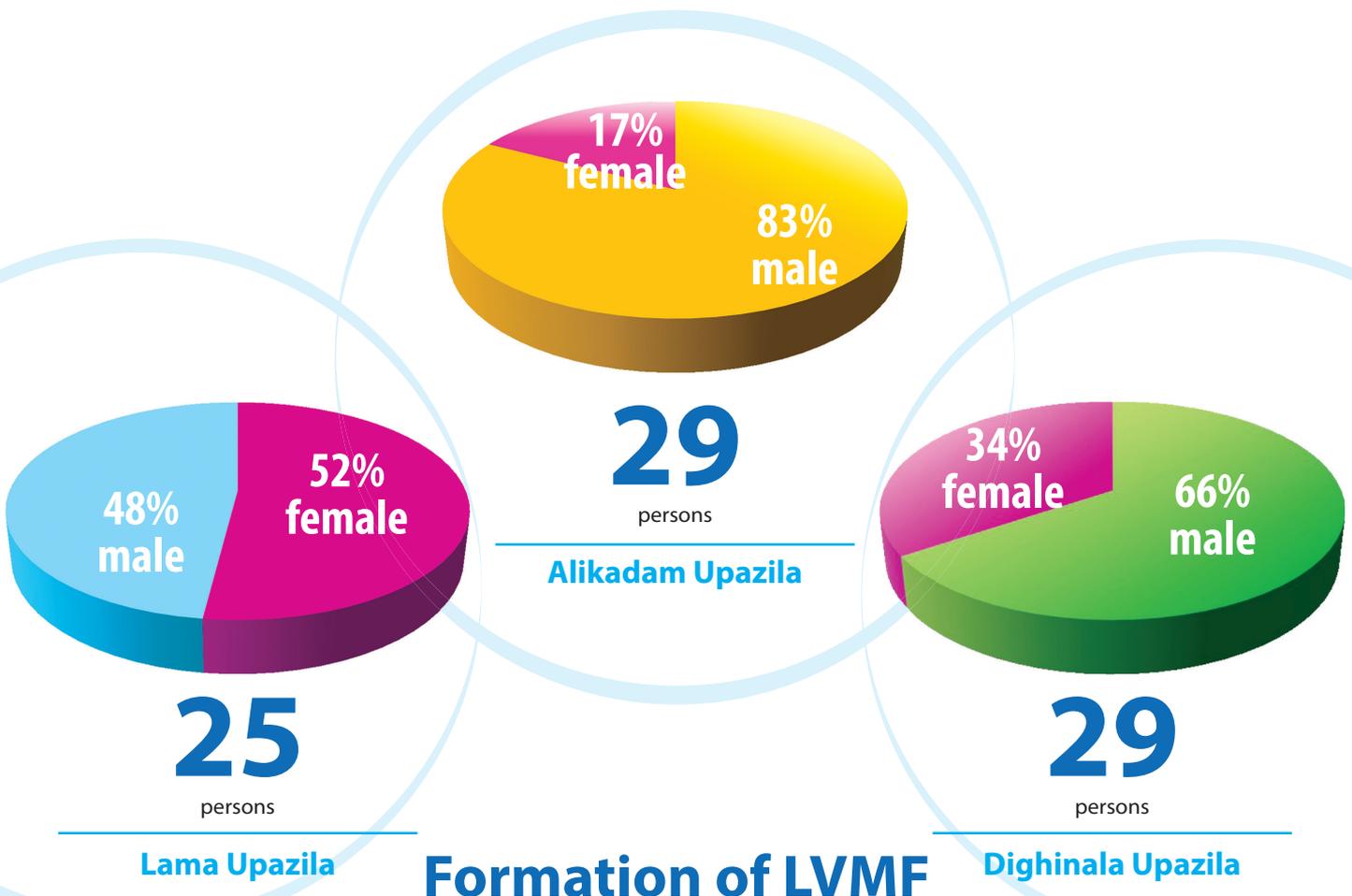


Formed 3 Upazila committees of Local Volunteer Mediators' Forum (LVMF)

In 2018, Local Volunteer Mediators' Forum (LVMF) committees were formed in Lama Upazila (25 committee members, Male-13, Female-12) and in Alikadam Upazila (29 committee members, Male-24, Female-5) of Bandarban Hill District. LVMF was formed in Dighinala Upazila (29 members, Male- 19, Female- 10). All members of the 3 committees are locally elected and traditional representatives (i.e. Union Parisad

Chairman and Members, Upazila Vice Chairman, Headman and Karbaries who have mandated responsibilities for conflict resolution at the local level. Till December 2018, 6 Local Volunteer Mediators' Forums (Dighinala and Mohalchari under Khagrachari Hill District, Naikhyongchari, Alikadam and Lama under Bandarban Hill District and Langadu under Rangamati Hill District) have been formed following the LVMF formation strategies. All these LVMF

committees were formed and endorsed by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of the respective Upazila where all public representatives (Upazila Parisad, Union Parisad and traditional leaders etc.) and law enforcement agencies attended during its formation session. All committees are functioning well in their respective jurisdiction and managing local small-scale disputes/conflicts through effective mediation as they are trained by SID-CHT, UNDP.



Formation of LVMF

Intensive Training for members of Local Volunteer Mediators` Forum



A training session during training of LVMF members of Dighinala Upazila on Conflict Management & Mediation

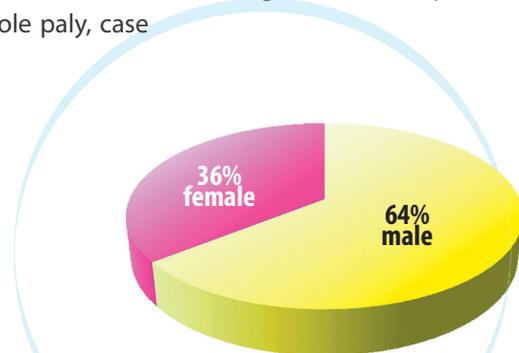
As a part of the capacity development initiative of LVMF members, a 3-day long intensive training on the **“Conflict Management and Mediation Processes”** for the newly formed LVMF committee of Dighinala Upazila under Khagrachari Hill District was held from 10-12 December 2018 at the Rega Club, Milonpur, Khagrachari Hill District. A total of 28 participants (Male-18, Female-10) was attended in this training, which was

conducted by an internationally renowned Conflict Management Expert. The main training content of the module was understanding the theory of conflict, actors mapping, analyzing position, needs and interest of the actors involved with conflict, mediation skills and techniques, conflict management and conflict transformation process. Participants practically learned on these subject matters through role play, case

studies, discussion, group work, various games and interaction with each other. The participants were from diverse ethnic groups and political ideologies however, during the training such trusted environment inside the venue was created which inspired them to freely discuss on many burning local conflicts for learning analysis and management techniques.

28

participants



CASE STORY

A young promising youth leader with passion for advancement of community and social cohesion

Foyez Saad, a young promising higher secondary level student of Kawkhali Degree College, lives in a remote village under Kawkhali Upazila of Rangamati Hill District. He seems to be a natural young community leader who always wants to be involved with different social initiatives and contributes to bringing positive changes in his local communities.

Ethnically, Kawkhali is a diverse Upazila with presence of

different ethnic groups and politically volatile with anecdotal friction and fractions. Due to lack of trust among communities, local tension turning to violent conflict is very common in this Upazila along with many incidences of gender-based violence, regional political conflicts and conflict among the student's groups. The scopes for young leadership development and other forms of interactive activities are entirely limited in this college

due to remoteness and lack of creative facilities.

After attaching with the CHT project, he was greatly motivated and purposefully engaged himself with many local organizations i.e. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Rover Scouts, Bisho Sahiyta Kendra, RHSTEP, Bondhu and many more at community level.



No youth club, no debate club, no student's union, no career development guidance or cultural practice in our college- how could we develop ourselves for making our future with confidence"

- Foyez Saad.



“

UNDP's youth engagement campaign program is making a real difference for those working in the young leadership and cultural sectors. It is really a great opportunity and scope for many of us who are living in the remote area which encourages us to get involved with many organizations those promote volunteerism.”



Foyez with his fellow volunteers taking lead in youth engagement campaign in Kawkhali Upazila of Rangamati Hill District



Alikadam Upazila Football Championship June-2019
SID-CHT, a project of NHTA
implemented by IDP

সৌজন্যে : উপজেলা প্রশাসন
অলিকদম, কামরাঙ্গা



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