



Progress Status Report on Sustainable Management of Community Development for Chittagong Hill Tracts

Reporting period: July 2019 to 29 February 2020

Funded By:

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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

A Project of Ministry of CHT Affairs and UNDP

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1. Project Background

An Administrative Arrangement (AA) between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been signed on 23 October 2018 for implementing a TA project titled: “Sustainable management of community development for Chittagong Hill Tracts”. The original completion date for this TA was 30 June 2019. Later following a request from UNDP dated 25 June 2019, ADB agreed to the Amendment of this Administrative Arrangement on 25 August 2019. Finally, its completion date was extended up to 30 June 2020. The purpose of this TA is to support a number of development activities under the following 2 Outputs:

- Capacity of Para Development Committees (PDCs) on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Subprojects Strengthened;
- Capacity and awareness of Para Development Committees (PDCs) on planning of local development and service delivery strengthened.

The key interventions of this project are to cover a total of 300 PDCs under CHTRDP I & II to manage the community assets and to maintain linkages with local government including developing Asset-user funds for them. Moreover, 125 unemployed youths have been targeted to develop as Skilled-Resource pool to support community people sustainably manage their community assets/infrastructure. Capacity and awareness of these community people on the planning of local development and service delivery were also targeted under this AA. This report provides a progress update from July 2019 to 29 February 2020.

2. Progress of Activities

From July 2019 to 29 February 2020, the project has been achieved a number of remarkable achievements. The progress and achievements of targeted activities under each output is explained below:

Output 1: Capacity of Para Development Committees (PDCs) on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Subprojects Strengthened:

Partner NGO Hiring and getting the required field staff:

During the reporting period, 3 partner NGOs have been hired following the organizational competitive bidding process for implementing major activities in 3 hill districts. The selected NGOs are (i) Assistance for the Livelihood of the Origins (ALO) for Khagrachari, the contract was signed on 26 June 2019, (ii) Ashika Manobik Unnayan Kendra (ASHIKA) for Rangamati, the contract was signed on 25 June 2019, and (iii) Graus Shadharon Tahobil (GRAUS) for Bandarban, the contract was signed on 23 June 2019. After signing the contract with these 3 NGOs, an introductory meeting was conducted on 23 September 2019 to review the work plans with specific timeline and to finalize the implementation strategy for each output. The meeting was also covered some administrative and finance-related issues in terms of implementation of the project.

A total of 38 staff (female: 13; male: 25) have been recruited by the 3 NGOs those are supporting the implementation of project activities as per their responsibilities. The implementation activities which were very slow earlier, but now activities running with full swing in the field.

Amendment of the Administrative Arrangement:

An Amendment of the Administrative Arrangement was signed by ADB on 25 August 2019, and its details has been mentioned in the background section of the report.

Coordination Meetings Organized:

A total of 2 regional level coordination meetings have been organized on 2 July 2019 and 23 September 2019 with the participation of 26 participants in Rangamati. The meeting notes are attached in **Annex I**. Apart from these regional meetings, 24 district level coordination meetings have been organized with the participation of all NGO staff, CHTRDP II district representative, and SID-CHT, UNDP in order to review project progress, challenges faced and take necessary corrective measures accordingly. Details of the district level coordination meeting are attached in **Annex II**.



Photo: Regional level coordination meeting with 3 NGOs in Rangamati district

Hiring National Consultant (Civil Engineer):

During the reporting period, a national consultant (Civil Engineer) has been hired on 22 December 2019 following the organizational procedure and engaged to review and finalize the training modules. The consultant reviewed 3 modules prepared by ALO, GRAUS, and ASHIKA then finalized. Following the modules, he provided necessary supports to Partner NGOs to organize the skill development trainings for the selected youth as per project requirement. Ensuring backstopping and technical support to the field is also part of his assignment.

Activity (i) Review O&M status of subprojects:

A total of 200 subprojects (PDCs) under CHTRDP I and 100 PDCs from CHTRDP II were planned to be selected. However, a number of community sub-projects have been reassessed jointly by the team with participation of PMO of CHTRDP II, NGOs and SID-CHT, UNDP considering the practical scenario and challenges experienced in the field having a series of discussions with ADB. As a result of this joint project review, a few numbers of communities' subprojects have been found non-functional or needed higher cost for repairing. The consultant engaged by ADB who conducted 3 consultation meetings in 3 hill districts separately on 15 September 2019 in Rangamati, 16



Photo: ADB consultant was physically visiting community assets (water projects) supported by CHTRDP

September 2019 in Khagrachari and 17 September 2019 in Bandarban, also visited few of sub-project under CHTRDP I & II projects for taking pragmatic and realistic decision. The participation lists of those consultation meetings are attached in **Annex III**.

During the reporting period, a total of 300 PDCs/communities have been finally selected and which helped to form the 126 clusters. The status of district wise PDCs and cluster are mentioned in **Table 1-**



Table 1: District wise overview on coverage of PDCs, Unions, Clusters, and Youths under the intervention:

Name of District	Number of Upazila	Number of Unions covered	Number of PDCs		Number of Clusters	Number of Youth	Number of Community Mobiliser
			CHTRDP I	CHTRDP II			
Bandarban	7	33	50	50	42	42	9
Khagrachari	9	32	50	50	42	42	8
Rangamati	10	26	50	50	42	42	10
TOTAL	26	91	150	150	126	126	27

Activity (ii) Formation and reformation of O&M groups:

Till February 2020, a total of 126 (42%) Operation and Maintenance (O&M) groups (out of 300 O&M groups) have been formed by PDCs with adding around 50% female participants who will maintain community assets. The list of O&M groups is attached in **Annex IV**. Formation/reformation of remaining O&M groups is ongoing in the field and will be reported in upcoming reports.



Photo: O&M Group reformation at Anil Chakma Para,

Activity (iii) Training for 900 PDC leaders on Leadership, organization and Financial Management:

The training module on leadership, organization development and financial management have been developed. Following this module, a total of 895 PDC leaders (male: 621, female: 274) from 300 selected PDCs from 3 hill districts Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati have been trained on leadership, organizational and financial management, and the list of the PDC leaders is attached as **Annex V**.



Kaptai, Rangamati



Barkal, Rangamati



Baghaichari, Rangamati



Matiranga, Khagrachari



Panchari, Khagrachari



Bandarban

Photo: Training for PDC Leaders on Leadership, Organizational and Financial Management in 3 Hill districts

Table 2: District wise male female ratio of training participants given in below table:

District	Total Participants		Grand Total
	Female	Male	
Bandarban	96	199	295
Khagrachari	84	216	300
Rangamati	94	206	300
Grand Total	274	621	895

Activity (iv-1) Selection of unemployed 125 youths to be trained on R&M of community assets:

A total of 126 (against the target of 125) potential youths have been primarily selected from the cluster PDC's who will be trained on different life skill trainings. Following a set of criteria, local communities/PDCs with active involvement of O&M groups (where groups are formed/reformed) were selected these youths from the cluster communities. The list of 126 youths is attached in **Annex VI**. The criteria used to select youth were as below:

- S/he must be permanent resident in one of the cluster PDCs/Communities;
- S/he is currently self-employed or unemployed.
- S/he must be interested to receive skills training and serve for the communities as a technical person;
- Minimum capacity to read and write;
- Persons having previous minimum experiences on repairing of Agricultural equipment's and water access machineries, will be given priority;
- Age between 20-40 years and physically fit to move and provide services on repairing and maintenance of community assets after the training;
- Women candidates will get priority.

However, the project will engage only those who will successfully complete the planned skill development training in the field to provide supports.

Activity (iv-2) Training for 125 unemployed youths on R&M of community assets:

Till February 2020, the project developed the skill of 66 youths (male: 62, female: 4) on (a). repairing and maintenance of agricultural machineries and equipment's; (b). repairing and maintenance of rural HBB road, RCC stairs works; (c). repairing and maintenance of water technologies and (d). basic repairing and maintenance of home solar or electric power system. 3 (three) training modules on above mentioned subjects have been primarily developed by 3 NGOs which has been further reviewed and finalized by the National Consultant (Civil Engineer).



Photo: Practical session involving participants during youth skill development training

The consultant also developed the 4th training modules on basic repairing and maintenance of home solar or electric power system. These training modules have been followed for 8 days skill development trainings for the selected youths. The training designed as 30-40 percent theory and 60-70 percent practical in the field and mostly involved by the participants to do hands-on practice. During the training they repaired tube wells, ring wells, HBB Road, power tiller, pump machine etc. Apart from the key facilitators the selected experienced mechanics or mesons were also involved to show practically. Thus, the project was able to create a very good learning environment for the participants following which they have learned a lot. At the end of the training post training evaluation has also been conducted where 80% participants have been found confident to utilize their knowledge and skills in their Community Assets repairing and maintenance. The trained youth received 66 toolboxes to enable them functioning as mechanics and or mesons.

3 (three) days refreshers training for these 66 youths from Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati districts will be organized during March-April 2020. Moreover, the remaining 60 youths from 3 hill districts will be trained on similar topics during March-April 2020.

Activity (v) Creation of Asset user fund in targeted 300 communities

This activity is planned to be delivered during March 2020.



Photo: Tools provided to the trained youths in Rangamati training by ASHIKA

Output 2: Capacity and awareness of Para Development Committees (PDCs) on planning of local development and service delivery strengthened.

Activity (i) Training for 600 PDC leaders on negotiation skills to mobilize resources and services from local government (union and upazila):

This activity is linked to Activity i, Activity ii and Activity iii and planned to be delivered from March 2020 and onward.

Activity (ii) Developing and implementation of 300 joint-plans for operation and maintenance of public infrastructures:

This activity is planned to be delivered during March 2020 and onward.

Activity (iii) Organize quarterly coordination meetings between PDCs and UDCCs:

This activity is linked to Activity i and Activity ii, and planned to be delivered during March 2020 and onwards.

3. Project Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism:

SID-CHT, UNDP is primarily responsible for ADB funded project monitoring and reporting. The hired NGOs have dedicated Monitoring and Reporting Officer who is responsible to play a vital role in monitoring and reporting. The SID-CHT M&E focal person is in the lead of overall Monitoring and reporting mechanism of this project. SID-CHT, UNDP has a systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place for other components – Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP III), CHT Climate Resilience Project (CCRP), CHT Watershed co-management activities in every layer of community, upazila, district and regional levels which will also be operationalized for this ADB TA project. The ADB funded project monitoring and reporting mechanism is linked with the SID-CHT existing monitoring and reporting mechanism with help of partner NGOs and other stakeholders. PNGO field teams under the guidance of M&E focal persons of SID-CHT are regularly conducting

process and progress monitoring and reporting, routine data flow diagram, data collection tools, techniques, data validation and database management for this project. Different report formats and training tracker has been introduced and are being used to prepare the reports and provide updates.

Presently, the SID-CHT, UNDP district team particularly the District Managers, District Livelihoods and Community Mobilisers have been working on the process and progress monitoring tools and relevant database of this project. It is expected to implement a systematic offline data management system to track the process and progress of ADB funded activities and its ongoing process. As part of this process, community people – particularly Para Development Committee (PDCs), field team Partner NGOs, union and upazila parishad representatives will be engaged with monitoring, feedbacks and follow-up mechanism process. The field team of Partner NGOs and SID-CHT, UNDP will participate in staff planning and coordination meetings with the stakeholders to identify key successes and areas for further improvement as ongoing process to keep the activities in the right tracks.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned:

During the reporting period the project faced following challenges and learned few lessons:

- As a result of several field visits, it was noticed that in some communities the community assets are non-functional and needed higher cost for repairing. However, this challenge will be addressed by mobilizing and engaging community resources in consultation with ADB as needed.
- Obtaining information from PDCs has been found difficult since few of the activities such as; CHTRDP I completed 5-8 years ago. However, it was overcome by making better coordination between ADB, CHTRDP II and UNDP team. The list of CHTRDP I subprojects has been received to select 300 communities covering 50% from CHTRDP I and 50% from CHTRDP II.
- A number of social and political unforeseen developments in the Chittagong Hill Tracts have caused the delay in project implementation.
- Obtaining the national consultants have been found a challenge. With all effort, only 1 (national consultant-civil engineer) out of 3 desired consultants (mechanical engineer and water facility expert) have been able to get onboard. This has hampered to finalize the technical training modules for youth skill development.
- The project learned that a better coordination among all the parties is beneficial to get the job done in smooth manner.