

Annual Progress Report

(30 Aug 2018 – 15 Nov 2019)

Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activity



Prepared for

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**Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chattogram Hill Tracts
Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Facility**

United Nations Development Programme, Bangladesh

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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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ACRONYMS

AWP	Annual Work Plan
CCF	Chief Conservator of Forests
CF	Conservator of Forests
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHTDB	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board
CHTDF	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility
CHTRC	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
CHTWCA	Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activity
CMC	Co-management Council and Committee
CMOs	Co-Management Organizations
CO ₂	Carbon di oxide
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
FD	Forest Department
FFS	Farmers Field School
FMP	Forestry Master Plan
GHG	Green House Gases
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GPS	Global Positioning System
HDC	Hill District Council
IFESCU	Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science of Chattogram University
IFM-FFS	Integrated Farm Management-Farmer Field Schools
IPAC	Integrated Protected Area Co-Management Project
IRs	Immediate Results
IWMP	Integrated Watershed Management Plan
KNP	Kaptai National Park

LOA	Letter of Agreement
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MOCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
MOEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
PA	Protected Area
PC	Project Coordinator
PDC	Para Development Committee
PDT	Project Data Table
PNDC	Para Nari Development Committee
PMO	Prime Minister Office
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
REDD	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RF	Reserved Forest
SALT	Sloping Agricultural Land Technology
SID-CHT	Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts
Sub-IR	Sub-Interim Result
TOT	Training of Trainers
UDCC	Union Development Coordination Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCF	Village Common Forest

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

USAID Grant Number	AID-388-IO-00003
Activity Title	Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activity
Activity Start Date	30 August 2013
Activity End Date	15 January 2020
Reporting Period	30 August 2018 – 15 November 2019 (year 6)
Activity Budget	Total contract amount: USD 8,002,800 Total obligated amount: USD 7,068,083.17 (as on 14 November 2019)
Executing Agency	Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts, CHTDF, UNDP, Bangladesh
Responsible Ministry	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Government of Bangladesh
Activity Area	Hill Districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh
Beneficiaries	Watershed- and forest-dependent communities in and around the targeted Village Common Forests and Headwater Reserved Forests
Activity Goal	Improved climate resiliency and ecosystems in the Chittagong Hill Tracts
Strategic Institutions	Working with Forest Department, the CHT institutions and leaders, and forest-dependent communities towards establishing participatory forest management and decentralized forest governance
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Progress Report (APR) compiles and analyzes the progress of planned outcomes, outputs and activities under the Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA) for the activity's year 6 (30 Aug 2018 – 15 Nov 2019). UNDP Bangladesh through Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) is implementing partner under the Government of Bangladesh's Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT) project (1 Oct 2016 to 30 Sep 2021). The CHTWCA, funded by USAID, presently has an implementation timeframe of six years and four and half months (Aug 30, 2013 – Jan 15, 2020). The UNDP, working with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MOCHTA), is implementing the CHTWCA with the following three participatory forestry and watershed management objectives:

- Sustainable management of village common forests (VCFs), small streams and associated watersheds for livelihood improvements,
- Support for the Forest Department (FD) in headwater Reserved Forests (RFs) management activities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), and
- Promotion of sustainable land-use practices for resilient ecosystems and livelihoods

Apart from consolidating the activity gains during year 6, notable progress was made in achieving key results by carrying various activities for meeting the activity objectives and outputs. Successful implementation of the CHTWCA is marked with forest conservation and positive changes, both at the community level and forest ecosystem level, leading to community trust building for social cohesion in and around forest ecosystems with reduced forest-use conflicts. Participatory forest management is implemented and mainstreamed both for VCFs and headwater RFs of the CHT by developing suitable institutions; trained field staff of FD and partner NGOs, and local communities; required guidelines and frameworks; and relevant management planning and tools.

Integrated ecosystem management can be upscaled in the three districts of the CHT under an extended period of the activity, when decided, based on the implementation models developed and lessons learned while implementing participatory management of 7,978 ha of VCFs and 1,445 ha of headwater RFs. This is possible as strong foundation has been laid under the CHTWCA by providing a framework mechanism under which different stakeholders with historical remorse and conflicts have come together by building consensus on developing select VCFs and headwater RFs. Significant progress was achieved during year 6 for completing planned field activities with key results: improved community-based management of VCFs and participatory management of headwater RFs for biodiversity conservation with improved forest governance and resilient livelihoods. During year 6 in total 2,914 ha of forests (2,094 ha of VCFs and 820 ha of RFs) were newly brought under improved, participatory forest management.

A draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) prepared under the CHTWCA was presented for finalization in a national workshop held on 12 June 2019 at Ban Bhaban Conference Hall. Additional Secretary, MOEF&CC was the Chief Guest and over 70 senior officials of Forest Department actively participated in the workshop by giving useful comments

and suggestions. The draft IWMP is revised after taking on board relevant suggestions as made by the participants. In another national FD workshop held at Ban Bhaban on 17 September 2019 and chaired by the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) and attended by nearly 75 senior FD officials, it was agreed that FD will continue working for participatory management of headwater RFs including PAs.

The GOB approved Action Plan, prepared based on the draft IWMP, was implemented by FD during the reporting period by covering 820 ha of headwater RFs in the CHT (South), CHT (North) and Lama Forest Divisions. The FD field staff were technically supported for field implementation of integrated watershed management in partnership of local community. Technical training imparted to 204 FD field staff during year 5 on integrated watershed management and climate change resulted in improved field implementation of the Action Plan in year 6 in the three Forest Divisions. Enhanced capacity of FD field staff has helped in participatory management of degraded headwater RFs with focus on assisted natural regeneration (ANR) interventions for restoring degraded forests in identified watersheds.

Successful field implementation of the Action Plan over the last two years has instilled renewed confidence and capacity amongst the FD field staff with practical experience and lessons gained over the period. Technical training, and mobilization of local community and leaders have enabled FD to successfully implement improved participatory forest management and biodiversity conservation by enhancing partnerships with the CHT communities and leaders. The co-management of Kaptai National Park (KNP), re-established by strengthening existing co-management organizations continued its focus on protected area (PA) conservation during the reporting period. The success of such field pilots has empowered FD to upscale participatory forest management in the headwater RFs after over 20 years. The breakthrough achieved by FD in upscaling field implementation of participatory watershed management in year 6 is indeed a milestone achievement that will help in designing, developing and implementing future participatory forestry projects in the CHT. In the process the FD, while agreeing to and initiating participatory forest management in the headwater RFs, has adopted and implemented a paradigm shift in the CHT forest governance.

Community management of the 117 VCFs has been formalized for the first time by forming and operationalizing VCF management committees in the three CHT districts. The four VCF networks (one each for the three districts and one at regional level), governed and managed based on their written constitution, are engaged in techno-managerial dialogues with local stakeholders for resolving VCF related conflicts and disputes. As federating institutions, they take responsibility for the network governance and are indeed providing valuable guidance and support to their member VCF management committees on forest conservation and management. Ten Headmen (head of a *mauza* comprising villages/paras) and many Karbaries (head of a para/village) and other traditional leaders are members of the VCF networks and so VCF related issues including forest land protection and biodiversity conservation are discussed and resolved amicably in the VCF management committee and network meetings.

VCF mainstreaming is strengthened through social mobilization and organization of local communities in terms of VCF management committees formed in year 6 for 35 new VCFs, apart from 82 VCFs covered up to year 5. Unparalleled in the CHT history and as implemented under the activity for the first time, VCF demarcation, survey, mapping and management

planning of 117 VCFs, and the assessment of VCF flora and fauna are important outcomes achieved under the leadership of VCF management committees and networks. A VCF policy workshop was organized at Chattogram on 19 June 2019 with the objectives: i) to review the existing legal and policy framework for mainstreaming of village common forests, and ii) to suggest an outline for mainstreaming of VCFs in consultation with key stakeholders. The Secretary, MoCHTA was the chief guest and Mr. Tom Pope, Director, Economic Growth Office, USAID was Special Guest. Many important recommendations were made by the participants who included USAID officials, the CHT leaders, members of VCF management committees and networks, civil society representatives and journalists, HDC and FD officials, and others. Hill District level VCF workshops were held with HDCs and VCF management committees and networks to deliberate on relevant VCF issues and their resolution.

Management planning of the 35 new VCFs after survey, mapping and resolution of VCF boundary disputes is achieved by adopting a participatory dispute resolution platform in the form of VCF management committees and networks. The identification, demarcation and survey of 35 VCFs was completed as part of management planning by local communities as members of VCF management committees. Similarly, participatory management planning and field implementation for old 82 VCFs was consolidated in year 6 through community-driven consultations and with technical assistance as provided under the CHTWCA. The achievement of this key result for putting in place a suitable framework with relevant models for field implementing community-based management of VCFs was possible through extensive consultations taken for resolving VCF related land conflicts through community consensus. The continued field implementation of the management plans by management committees under the guidance of respective VCF networks has resulted in sustained community development and empowerment.

Capacity building support to VCF management committees was provided by six partner NGOs selected each for the three districts and the three-influx affected upazilas of Bandarban. The capacity of grassroots stakeholders was enhanced through training imparted on climate change by partner NGOs whose technical staff were trained by the SID-CHT staff as part of Training of Trainers. During the reporting period 1,823 VCF dependent people were trained on climate change adaptation for their engagement with participatory management of VCFs and their own homesteads. This resulted in their empowerment and ownership for efficient preparation and implementation of the VCF management plans. The members of management committees worked together with forest dependent communities for improved VCF management by implementing VCF management plans.

Community and FD field interventions such as controlling *jhum* and illicit felling, developing fire control lines, women involvement through monthly discussions and meetings, and forest and biodiversity monitoring have had positive impact on forest health as seen from regenerating forests with abundant ground flora. The enhanced technological knowledge base of local community and leaders, and FD field staff is proving helpful in preparing and implementing management plans efficiently. The key findings of the study and biodiversity monitoring manual were disseminated amongst key stakeholders by organizing a workshop and field consultations.

The organized communities are conserving the forest micro-watersheds encompassing biodiversity and water sources. Not only they themselves have stopped unregulated forest

extraction and *jhum* in the activity VCF and RF areas, they also are obstructing outsiders engaged in illicit forest felling and forestland encroachment activities. Participatory forest management and community development achievements, unprecedented in the CHT, have instilled community empowerment and improved forest governance as evident from regenerating forests and reduced conflicts in and around the activity VCFs.

Although no formal assessment is done under the activity, growing VCFs and headwater RFs under the CHTWCA, as protected by local community, are increasingly sequestering carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere, thereby mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gases (GHG). These forests are sequestering, storing and enhancing carbon through avoided deforestation/degradation because of protection and improved management by local community and FD staff. Additionally, the activity is generating forest-based alternative livelihoods options for local communities and conserving biodiversity.

Diverse VCFs and RFs are contributing positively in enhanced ecosystem resilience and increased adaptive capacity of local community through co-benefits. Local communities in many VCF and RF areas are receiving perennial and/or semi-perennial supply of water for their household use and for small scale irrigation through streams and rivers that are rejuvenated as consequence of regenerating forest ecosystems. The activity has in fact taken advantage of rejuvenated water streams in some VCF paras/villages by putting improved household water supply through gravity flow systems as part of livelihood activities. Enhanced supply of bamboo, medicinal plants and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are being equitably shared by local community under the supervision of VCF management committees. These results, though yet to be quantified based on a survey, are contributing in achieving the activity objective of improving climate resilience and ecosystem.

Resilient livelihood skill development interventions were leveraged and implemented during year 6 by using DANIDA funds for select villages around the activity VCFs and RFs. Skill development training imparted through trained Facilitators included: vegetable cultivation, poultry rearing, goat rearing, pig rearing, honey-bee keeping, tailoring for women and seasonal small businesses. Under CHTWCA livelihood skill development training in year 6 was imparted by partner NGOs to 1,829 forest-dependent people around 15 VCFs in the three-influx upazilas of Bandarban. During the reporting period 4,183 households, covering 18,332 participants implemented small scale livelihood development activities, thereby reducing their forest dependency.

As observed during staff field visits, some families, who earlier used to collect fuelwood from neighboring VCFs, reduced their forest dependency by earning income from livelihood support provided under the project. Resilient livelihoods, implemented by trained staff and local community, have contributed in peoples' asset development (for example, their livestock and land including homesteads), enhanced community cohesion and climate change adaptive capacity. Strong focus is given on high female participation in resilient livelihoods and skill development. As a result, more women are participating in the protection and management of VCFs.

Capacity development of local community created trained resources locally, which will continue to be available even beyond the activity period. For instance, many trained Facilitators

are providing services such as animal vaccination, sometimes on payment, to local community even though the activity supported livelihood support have been completed. These achievements made under the activity are contributing in meeting the IR 2 on improved, resilient livelihoods.

Conflict prevention and resolution initiatives were supported, and social cohesion promoted for building community cohesion amongst the local communities in and around the 15 VCFs in the three-influx affected upazilas of Bandarban. For improved governance three Local Volunteer Mediation Forums in Alikadam, Lama and Naikkhonchori upazilas were formed and operationalized. Their capacity for conflict resolution and social cohesion was developed through training and orientations. The capacity of other key stakeholders was enhanced through training imparted to community people and traditional leaders on governance, conflict prevention and peace building, conflict mediation and resolution, and resilient livelihoods.

Initiatives were taken in the three-influx affected upazilas for improving forest governance and enhancing social cohesion by preventing and resolving conflicts locally. These included conflict management training and orientations, youth camps and tournaments, awareness raising sessions, cultural programmes by engaging diverse youth groups, martial art training for girls, support to schools and colleges for improved social cohesion through organizing debate competitions and sports equipment distribution, upazila level championship football tournament for girls and boys, organizing drama/theatre and inter-religious dialogues on improved social cohesion and reducing gender-based violence, women rehabilitation and counselling support, communication and awareness raising, and livelihood training and support for youth with focus on girls and members of VCF management committees.

Participatory forest management achievements have instilled community empowerment while contributing in improved forest governance in the CHT. As a plausible exit strategy, the sustainability of RF and VCF interventions is being ensured through technically empowered FD field staff, and the VCF management committees and networks respectively. Several cross-cutting activities (gender sensitization, communication and outreach, public awareness and youth motivation, with special attention to indigenous community) were implemented as per the plans. Key challenges faced during the activity implementation were successfully resolved during year 6. The CHTWCA has been successful in improving sustainable and equitable watershed management that will sustain biodiversity conservation and resilient livelihoods for ecosystem conservation and increased income of local communities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 LAND-USE ANALYSIS

Bangladesh is the world's biggest delta landscape situated between the foothills of the Himalayan massif and the Bay of Bengal and developed by the large amount of sediments deposited in their estuaries by three big rivers, namely the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. The country in general and the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in particular are vulnerable to natural disasters due to its geographical location, monsoon, and hydrology. Nearly 90% of the country's total area is lowland, and the highlands including the CHT are in the foothills of Shillong Plateau with the world's highest rainfall. The CHT drains out extensive amounts of rainwater to the Bay of Bengal, thereby creating water-induced disasters such as landslides and floods.

Flash floods occur due mainly to heavy rainfall and unplanned development. But the slope gradients of the landscape and vicinity to the Bay of Bengal favor a rapid disposal of flood water. Rivers and heavy rains erode soft beds of the CHT hills and resulting landslides cause severe damage to local community and the ecology. Heavy and sustained rainfall leads to increased risk to erosion due mainly to continuing forest degradation and deforestation. The disaster situation has of late been aggravated by deforestation, watershed and other land-use degradation, and unplanned and unsustainable human settlements developed by hill cutting, encroachments of waterbodies and other public lands, and leasing out of forest lands for monoculture of commercial crops and trees.

The CHT is in the south-eastern Bangladesh, comprising of the three Hill Districts: Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban. It has a total area of 13,344 km² with an estimated population of 1.6 million¹. The region is geographically distinct from plain land of Bangladesh and is formed from steep and rough terrain. The remoteness of villages/paras along with poor infrastructure and facilities have impeded the socio-economic development of the region. In addition to Bengali population, there are eleven main tribal communities in the CHT, including Bawm, Chak, Chakma, Khyang, Khumi, Lushai, Marma, Mro, Pangkhua, Tangchangya and Tripura. These communities speak their own distinct languages. The Chakmas, Marmas and Tripuras represent approximately 90 percent of the tribal people in the CHT.

As the CHT is mainly hilly, it is interspersed with plain lands in the valleys, particularly along rivers and drainage channels. Of the three districts, Bandarban is the hilliest with comparatively more natural resources, followed by Rangamati and Khagrachari. The region is characterized by numerous rivers and streams, cultivated valleys, degraded forests and *jhum* (shifting cultivation). Upland hydrology is regulated by local rainfall and surface run-off through intricate networks of drainage valleys and channels. The region's economy is mainly agrarian and land-based primary sectors such as agriculture including *jhum*, forestry, homesteads, orchards and fisheries contribute substantially to the rural economy. The CHT land-use systems are multipurpose with various land-use patterns evolved due to favorable soil and hydrological conditions, rainfall and flooding, lack of capital and cultivable land, and surplus family labor.

¹ Bangladesh Population and Housing Census, 2011

The CHT forests support multi-story biodiversity as part of evergreen and semi-evergreen forests. However, the forests have become severely degraded mainly due to biotic pressure and poor land-use policies and management. These forests formed as important watersheds/catchments of rivers and were so named as headwater Reserved Forests (RFs) after the river names (for example, Kassalong, Reinkheong, Matamuhuri and Sangu RFs). Key significance of these forests lies in fulfilling the function of keeping the river/stream water at a steady level, of protecting the soils, and regulating the climate locally. Village Common Forests (VCFs) and other categories of non-Reserved Forests, in addition to their ecological functions, are important particularly for meeting the demands of local people and the region's economy. Homestead forestry is another important land use in the CHT, and local people grow trees in their homesteads.

There are currently two main practices for forest resource management, which operate in the CHT in parallel. The first, comprising RFs, is the responsibility of Forest Department (FD) whereas the second one is traditionally practiced by tribal people as forest commons, often referred to as *mouza* reserves or VCFs. According to the CHT Regulation of 1900, VCFs or *mouza reserves* are under the management of the CHT traditional institutions—Circle Chiefs, Headmen and *Karbaries*, whereas according to the Hill District Council Act 1989 all forests except RFs come under the mandate of the three Hill District Councils (HDCs) for improved forest protection and management.

VCFs are community-managed forests, traditionally held and treated as forest commons. They serve as important ecosystems, rich in both flora and fauna as evident from the findings of Flora and Fauna Study conducted by Chittagong University under the Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA). They are significant providers of forest products and services to neighboring communities. However, due to overexploitation of forest resources and insecure land tenure, the quantity and quality of VCFs have declined as their resources have degraded over time, in turn adversely impacting the livelihoods of dependent communities and decreasing ecosystem services including water supply for household uses. Forest degradation has created a major threat to sustaining natural ecosystems and biodiversity, including water scarcity, siltation of streams/rivers, and increased run-off causing flash floods and other water-induced disasters.

Tribal communities have traditionally practiced *jhum* cultivation, a local form of 'shifting' or 'rotational' slash and burn cultivation. There has been poor use of appropriate farming practices for a range of reasons including lack of knowledge and skills, supply constraints, land shortage, financial limitations and poor access to markets. As a result, most of the communities located in the remotest parts of the CHT live in chronic poverty and with restricted access to services. Other development problems include a high degree of under-employment, low literacy rate and limited economic opportunities. The 2013 Household Survey (UNDP, 2014) found that 74 percent households of the CHT live below the upper poverty line and 52.4 percent households live below the lower poverty line.

An important objective of forest management in the CHT will be the conservation of soil and water so that the region's land use remains productive, maintaining a perennial vegetative cover, necessary for fulfilling various environmental and socio-economic functions, besides reducing risk of water-induced disasters such as landslides and floods. Not only do remaining

headwater RFs will be managed based on sound silvicultural principles, but also degraded forests will be restored with co-benefits to the local community participating in forest restoration based on a forest ecosystem approach. In addition, appropriate settlement and land-use conservation guidelines need to be formulated and implemented by gainfully involving local people. This will require leases of forest lands be stopped and hill cutting be controlled and banned finally. The monoculture of trees including teak plantations will be controlled and *jhum* practices will be rationalized in the rapidly changing socio-ecological context.

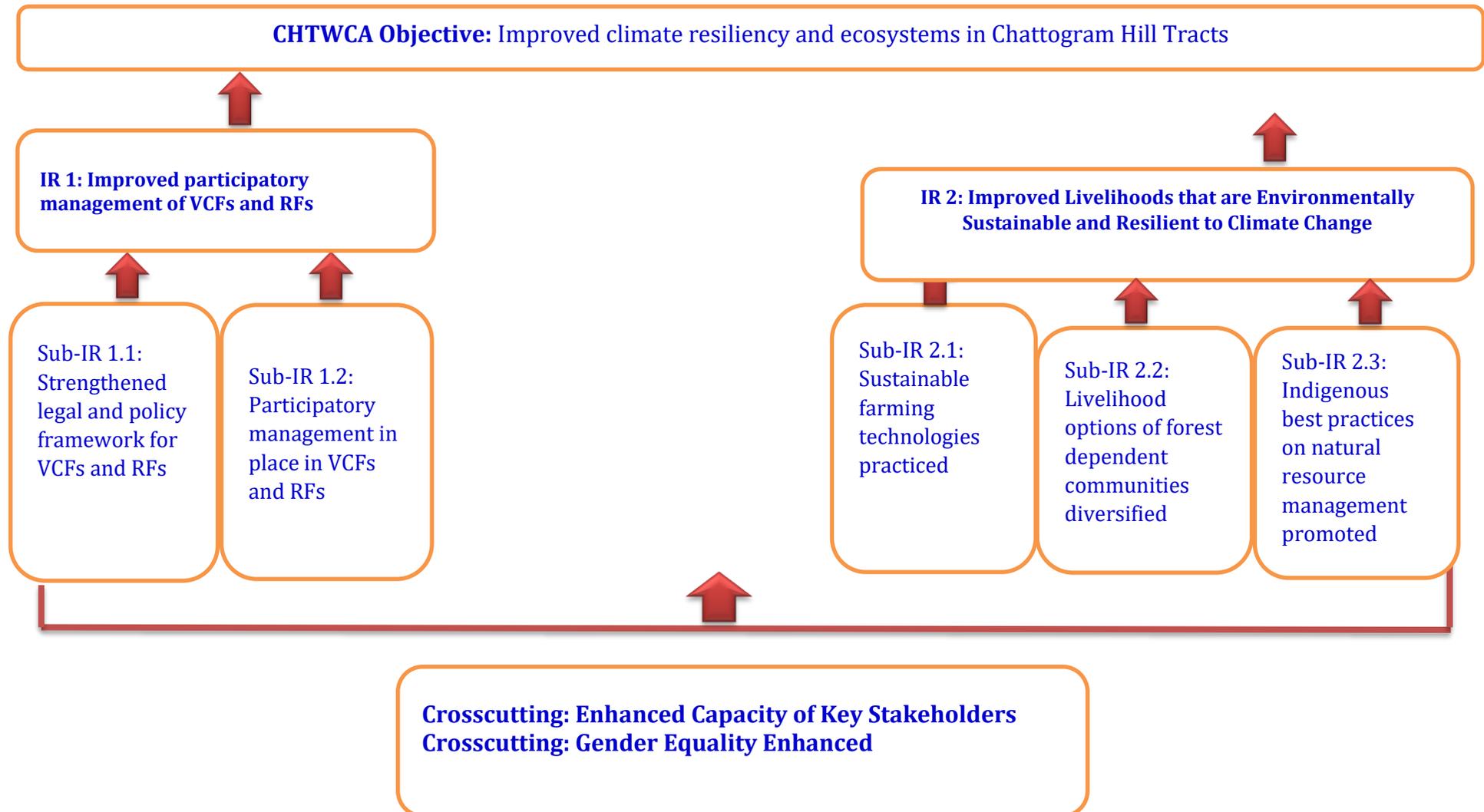
Reduction of disasters is multifarious and active community participation is a must in controlling water-induced disasters mainly through low-cost but labor-intensive vegetative measures. For this to happen local community should get co-benefits of their active participation in forest collaborative management activity. In addition to livelihood activities and local employment opportunities generated during vegetative interventions, it is necessary to provide for land-based benefits to local participants responsible for the protection and improved management of identified watersheds.

The identified watersheds can be regenerated and managed by following selection-cum-improvement silvicultural system applied with the objective of ensuring natural regeneration with co-benefits to local participants. Intermediate yields in terms of non-timber forest products and water yield because of participatory watershed management can be allocated amongst the participants. Additionally, conservation awareness and outreach campaign may be taken up for local people to follow sustainable hill land use practices, including sustainable farming, with active participation of local community.

1.2 ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

The results framework of CHTWCA is reproduced from the approved Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan as below:

Figure 1: CHTWCA Result Framework



As stated above in Figure 1 the overall objective of the CHTWCA is to improve climate resiliency and ecosystems in the CHT. This objective is being achieved through the following two Intermediate Results (IRs) and two crosscutting results:

IR 1: Improved participatory management of Village Common Forests and Reserved Forests
IR 2: Improved livelihoods that are environmentally sustainable and resilient to climate change
Crosscutting: Enhanced capacity of key stakeholders
Crosscutting: Gender equality enhanced

1.3 ACTIVITY AREA

The activity intervention areas of the CHTWCA include three Hill Districts (see Figure 2 below), namely Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari that traditionally come under the three Circles namely Chakma Circle, Mong Circle and Bohmong Circle respectively. Within these three districts, the activity has carried out activities in 117 VCFs which fall under the following upazilas: (i) Bandarban: Alikadam, Lama, Naikhyongchari, Rowangchhari, Ruma, and Thanchi (ii) Rangamati: Belaichari, Barkal, Juraichari, Langadu, Nanniarchar, Rajosthali, Rangamati Sadar, and Kaptai (iii) Khagrachari: Dighinala, Guimara, Khagrachari Sadar, Mahalchari, Laxmichari, Matrianga, Panchari and Ramgarh. During year six, 35 new VCFs are covered whereas old 82 VCFs continued their activities in the three Hill Districts (see Figure 3 below).

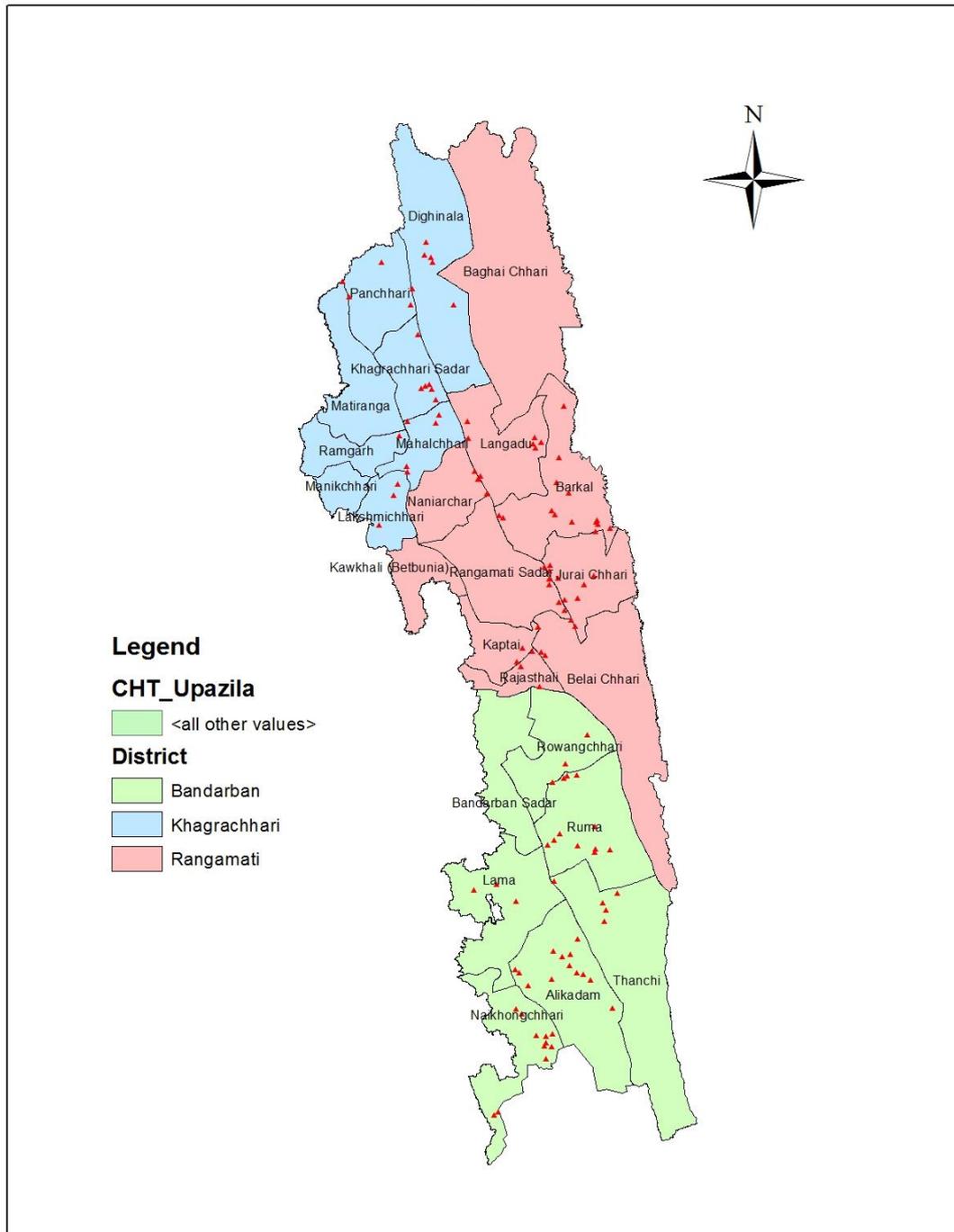
Headwater RFs in three Forest Divisions (CHT South and CHT North Forest Divisions in Rangamati district and Lama Forest Division in Bandarban district) are covered by including Reinkheong, Sitapahar/Rampahar, and Kassalong headwater RFs in Rangamati district, and Matamuhuri headwater RF in Bandarban district.

Figure 2: Three Districts covered under the CHTWCA



Figure 3: Three Districts 117 VCFs locations

District wise VCF location of CHTWCA



2. KEY RESULTS ACHIEVED WITH MAJOR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

After mobilizing and organizing local communities and their capacity building, management plans were prepared by VCF management committees for 35 new VCFs taken up during year 6. In total 117 management plans are now under field implementation by the VCF management committees of 117 VCFs covered under the CHTWCA so far. The identification, demarcation and survey of 35 new VCFs have been completed as part of management planning by local communities. Based on the capacity developed and main lessons learned during six years of the CHTWCA implementation the existing VCF networks and management committees comprising community local representatives and leaders are now available for identification, demarcation and management planning of future VCFs to be covered during extended period, if any.

Capacity development of the 35 VCF management committees and 4 networks continued through wide consultations, training and workshops. The field implementation of the 117 VCF management plans by management committees under the guidance of respective networks helped sustain the community development and empowerment. Four VCF networks continued their activities for strengthening VCF management by imparting guidance to their member VCF management committees. A workshop was organized during year 6 for dissemination of key findings of the Floral and Faunal Stocktaking Study amongst local leaders and community. Technical training on climate change adaptation was completed for 1,823 VCF dependent people and traditional leaders.

The GoB approved Action Plan was implemented over 820 ha of headwater RFs in year 6 by trained FD field staff for participatory management of the headwater RFs in three Forest Divisions of the CHT. The focus of field intervention in the headwater RFs was on integrated watershed management with low cost natural regeneration technology implemented in partnerships of local community. Local community was mobilized in identified micro-watersheds for forest protection and silvicultural operations including cleaning, stump dressing, weeding, soil and moisture conservation, and seeds spraying. Enrichment planting of indigenous species (see Annex 1 for a list of indigenous species) in identified gaps was carried out by FD field staff as part of assisted natural regeneration (ANR) by involving local participants. Naturally occurring local species selected in consultation with the participants were included while raising nurseries for enrichment planting in identified gaps of degraded forests.

In year 6 FD has achieved an important milestone by re-establishing participatory management over 820 ha of headwater RFs as demonstrated through watershed management interventions in three of the four Forest Divisions of the CHT. The breakthrough achieved formally under the USAID's CHTWCA in terms of all key stakeholders coming together to agree on and field implement the GoB approved Action Plan for integrated watershed management is indeed very significant. The trained field staff of FD, who implemented the Plan, stand ready for implementing integrated watershed management in future. They are willing to extend their expertise and learning to other FD field staff of the CHT and beyond.

Key stakeholders' consensus building for integrated watershed co-management in the headwater RFs was achieved by FD by consulting key CHT institutions, leaders and

communities. Their suggestions and concerns (for instance, focus on natural regeneration, use of indigenous species and access to water sources) were taken on board while carrying out planned field interventions in the selected headwater RFs. Field implementation of the approved Action Plan was thus smoothly done by trained field staff of FD with technical assistance provided under the CHTWCA. The sustainability of headwater RF and VCF interventions was ensured through technically empowered FD, and the VCF management committees and networks respectively.

Resilient livelihood activities along with skill development training were implemented around select VCFs by leveraging funds from DANIDA. As part of Integrated Farm Management-Farmer Field Schools (IFM-FFS), Training of Trainers was imparted from on resilient livelihood to the field staff (as Master Trainers) of the three HDCs. The trained Master Trainers in turn provided livelihood skill development training to Facilitators selected from communities. They finally trained local community people who were identified the villages around the activity VCFs. New skills thus acquired for practicing improved livelihood activities will continue to be useful locally even beyond the activity period.

During year 6 the CHTWCA continued to focus on social cohesion and peace building in the CHT by laying strong foundation by providing a framework mechanism under which different stakeholders with historical remorse and conflicts have come together by building consensus on restoring select headwater RFs and VCFs. Several cross-cutting activities (gender sensitization, communication and outreach, public awareness and youth motivation, with special attention to indigenous community) have been implemented as per the approved work plans for year 6 and the revised MEL plan.

As discussed below with details, significant achievements were made under each of the two Intermediate Results (IRs) and five Sub-Interim Results (Sub-IRs).

2.1 IR 1: IMPROVED, PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF VCFs AND RFs

New 35 VCFs covering 1,469 ha (900 ha for 20 new VCFs in the three districts, and 569 ha for 15 new VCFs in the three-influx upazilas of Bandarban) were included under the CHTWCA in year 6, apart from the continuation of improved management of the erstwhile 82 VCFs. Management committees were formed, capacitated and operationalized for 35 new VCFs after

117 VCF management committees are managing their VCFs covering 7,978 ha with active participation of 219 dependent paras/villages.

In total over 57,754 local people are benefited (18,332 in year 6), resulting in their reduced forest dependency.

mobilizing, organizing and training local communities around the selected VCFs.

Partner NGOs imparted capacity development training to the management committees of new 35 VCFs. They focused on the preparation and implementation of management plans, organization and financial management, and implementation of resilient income generation activities. The VCF management committees ensured that the plan implementation followed a participatory approach focusing on community empowerment and improved forest governance. Based on the recommendations of the VCF management plans, the community people demarcated and surveyed the VCF

boundaries, installed boundary pillars, protected their VCFs and mitigated forest related conflicts locally. A GIS consultant helped in the preparation of GIS mapping of the VCFs as part of VCF management planning.

VCF boundary demarcation was carried out for 35 new VCFs through forest land conflict resolution by involving community leaders for enforcing community forest protection, and control of forest fires and *jhum*. Because of strong social mobilization and organization, not only the VCF members themselves restrained their community people from uncontrolled forest use, they also obstructed outsiders from entering the demarcated VCFs for extracting unauthorized forest produce. As a result, local communities are better organized, more aware and are protecting their VCFs against illicit removals, forest fires, grazing and *jhum*. The positive result is seen from regenerating forests and improved community cohesion in the activity VCF areas.

Simultaneously, the existing management committees continued to strengthen management of 82 VCFs by enhancing their management capacity through learning by doing as part of management plan implementation. Community mobilization and organization of 117 VCFs was strengthened by holding regular monthly meetings and discussions in the regular monthly meetings of 117 VCF management committees. Members of VCF dependent communities/villages/paras were actively involved with participatory forest management practices implemented in their communities as part of field implementation of the VCF management plans.

Training was conducted for capacity development of 1,823 traditional leaders including VCF management committee members (with 47% women participants) on climate change adaptation. The trained community stakeholders are implementing the management plans for improved VCF management. Livelihood skill development training was imparted to community stakeholders through trained Facilitators as part of FFS activities implemented by leveraging DANIDA funds.

In total 1,823 local people were trained on climate change adaptation.

Four VCF networks in operation with their bylaws and processes.

Conflict prevention and transformation initiatives were supported, and social cohesion was promoted for improved forest governance around the 15 VCFs identified in the three-conflict prone upazilas (Lama, Alikadam and Naikkhonchori) of Bandarban. Three Local Volunteer Mediators Forums (LVMFs) were established and training and refresher sessions were organized on their roles and responsibilities, conflict prevention and resolution, peace building, and conflict mediation and transformation.

Main initiatives taken to improve forest governance and enhance social cohesion around 15 VCFs in the three upazilas included: conflict management training and workshops, youth camps and tournaments, awareness raising, cultural programmes for youths, martial art training for girls, support to schools and colleges for improved social cohesion through sports equipment distribution, upazila level championship football tournament for girl and boys, upazila level debate competitions, women rehabilitation and counselling support, organizing drama/theatre and inter-religion dialogues, reduction of gender-based violence, livelihood

skill development training for youth with focus on girls, and communication and awareness raising.

Main findings of the study entitled "Floral and Faunal Diversity Baseline Assessment in the VCFs of Chittagong Hill Tracts" and biodiversity monitoring manual as prepared by the IFESCU of Chittagong University were disseminated for wider field use in workshops and local consultations conducted for the stakeholders. The findings of the study and the monitoring manual were used in preparing VCF management plans. Trained representatives of the VCFs are employing biodiversity monitoring tools for assessing biodiversity health of their VCFs as part of their constitution and management guidelines, drafted by management committees after holding wide discussions with the stakeholders.

Specific activities carried out and key results achieved thereof under each of the two Sub-IRs are discussed further as below:

2.1.1 Sub-IR 1.1: Strengthened legal and policy framework for Village Common Forests and Reserved Forests

Regular meetings were held with the MOCHTA, FD, CHTRC, HDCs, Circles and other key institutional stakeholders on strengthening legal and policy framework for the participatory management of the VCFs and RFs in the CHT. During the reporting period, 25 policy consultations/meetings were conducted with VCF representatives, traditional leaders, and local stakeholders to reach consensus and strengthen VCF management committees and networks. Main purpose of the VCF policy consultations was to strengthen sustainable management of VCFs by resolving VCF land related conflicts and improving their community management.

Four VCF networks are operating efficiently in active participation of traditional leaders and communities and by following the written constitution. They are providing techno-managerial guidance and support to local communities and the VCF management committees on improved forest management and governance. Main aims of the VCF networks are to demarcate and protect the VCFs as managed by local communities, and to provide support to the VCF management committees in biodiversity conservation, environmental amelioration and good forest governance in the CHT. As a result, 117 VCFs have written and approved VCF management guidelines.

Many meetings were held with senior officials of the Forest Department, including the CCF, the Project Coordinator, and the Conservators and Divisional Forest Officers of the CHT and beyond. Technical meetings and consultations were arranged with FD for the field implementation of the GoB approved Action Plan. Discussions were held with local stakeholders for building consensus on technical approaches suitable for participatory forest management in the CHT. The consensus building was necessary on sound technical practices and approaches to be implemented in the headwater RFs as part of the field implementation of the approved Action Plan.

A half-day workshop on draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) was held on 12 June 2019 at the Forest Department Conference Hall with Additional Secretary Mujahidul

Islam, MOEFCC as the Chief Guest. More than 75 senior officials of FD actively participated in the workshop by providing their valuable comments and suggestions on the draft IWMP, a summary along with main recommendations of which was circulated and presented in the workshop. The draft IWMP is revised by incorporating relevant suggestions as made by FD officials.



IWMP consultation workshop held at the conference Hall, Bon Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka

2.1.2 Sub-IR 1.2: Participatory management in place in Village Common Forests and Reserved Forests

Improved management of the VCFs through 117 VCF management committees and four networks is ensuring the sustainability of community forests and encompassing water bodies. This is vital for enhanced productivity of neighboring agriculture lands and homesteads. VCF management committees are effective in controlling illicit felling in the VCFs by controlling their access from outsiders but also convincing fellow villagers about co-benefits of forest conservation (example: such as *choras* and *jhuris* originating from VCFs).

The demarcation, pillar posting and mapping of the VCF boundaries, completed after resolving



VCF dependent community people interact with Honorable Secretary, MoCHTA at one of the VCF site in Rangamati Hill District.

conflicts through wide consultations, have helped build sense of strong community ownership thereby protecting forests from illicit felling by outsiders. In addition, the management committees are monitoring the use of forest resources by forest-dependent villagers/paras by following the rules and guidelines to improve and sustain forests. Such rules include: ban on hunting for wildlife and cutting live trees, conservation of medicinal plants, harvest bamboo only as per decision of the committee with maximum of 150 bamboos supplied per family, and at minimum waiting for 3 years after the harvest to let the bamboo stock regenerate naturally and replenish. VCFs have started regenerating and water streams originating thereof have more flow of water which local people are using for their domestic use. Biodiversity monitoring guidelines for assessing forest health are disseminated amongst the members of VCF management committees by organizing a regional workshop. The trained VCF members continue monitoring the forest health of their VCFs.

Climate change adaptation training was implemented by partner NGOs for capacity development of 1,823 VCF stakeholders including management committee members and traditional leaders. The acquired skills and knowledge are being used by community people in improved management of the VCFs, but also in managing assets in their own homesteads and surroundings. The training on climate change adaptation contributed in improved knowledge and skills on adaptation and mitigation, disaster management, climate vulnerability, weather and climate, impact of climate change, climate change and gender, watersheds and forests, and relation of climate change and disasters.

The trained community people are using their skills in livelihood implementation in their homesteads and farms. In total 1,829 VCF dependent farmers received training under DANIDA support leveraged through (Agriculture Food Security Project (AFSP) on sustainable farming and as a result were involved with improved land-based farming practices such as broody hen management, farmyard manure preparation and use, improved management of fruit trees with high productivity, and improved pig rearing practices with good returns. With capacity development through training, 117 VCF management committees are implementing their VCF management plans, covering 7,978 ha of forests under improved VCF management. The trained participants have shared their learning and skills in their regular VCF meetings and raising community awareness on climate change and adaptation issues.

Success Story: 1

Community-based management of Village Common Forests

The CHT's forests provide both tangible (food, timber, fuelwood, NTFPs including bamboo, medicinal plants, wild animals, insects, birds, water, etc.) and intangible benefits (ecosystem functions and services including recreation, cultural values, fertile soils) to the ethnic communities who have traditionally been managing small patches of neighboring forests known as Village Common Forests. In most of the villages/paras the tribal culture, lifestyle and livelihood are closely associated with forests and encompassing water bodies. The loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems are now being addressed by local communities mobilized and organized as VCF management committees to take up forest survey, boundary demarcation, pillar posting, mapping and management planning after resolution of boundary conflicts and disputes in VCFs.

Jarulchari VCF of 240 acres, located in Babuchara union under Dighinala upazila of Khagrachari Hill District is one such VCF which is located 24 km away from Dighinala upazila Headquarter.

The two villages in its catchment area consist of around 126 households of Chakma community. Prior to the formation of VCF management committee, no effective community management and by-laws for VCF conservation existed and as a result the forests and encompassing water bodies were degrading in the absence of community protection.

Community mobilization and organization of local communities in terms of VCF management committee was taken up under CHTWCA through a local NGO (Zabrang Kalyan Samity) by involving local people from the two villages. With technical support from Zabrang and traditional leaders including Headman and Karbaries, the VCF management committee organized biweekly community meetings and resolved VCF related conflicts and completed survey, boundary demarcation, boundary pillar installation, mapping, signboard and bill board installation, capacity development training, and management plan preparation and implementation. They formed a forest health monitoring committee and engaged local community including youth for forest protection.



Members of VCF management committee and CHTWCA on VCF field inspection



Signboard with conservation message and information



VCF boundary pillar posting by community people

The organized community people are now protecting their VCF, are aware on climate change and adaptation, know the importance of women's participation in VCF decision-making process, manage VCF related documents including the management plan, established saving practices among VCF community members, and are taking part in livelihood activities for increased

income and reducing VCF dependency. Consequently, nobody enters to the VCF for collection of wood, fuelwood and NTFPs including bamboo and wild animals without prior permission of the VCF management committee. As a result of effective community forest protection and monitoring, the forests and encompassing streams have started regenerating with ground flora and birds, and water. The VCF management committee has formed bamboo harvesting practices for distribution of bamboo culms to the members of VCF management committee.

Local villagers use water flowing from the VCF for their consumption and other community use.

The Forest Department field staff have implemented ANR activities over 820 ha in select headwater RFs of CHT (South), CHT (North) and Lama Forest Divisions by employing watershed management skills as learned during their training. The existing Kaptai co-management organizations comprising co-management councils and committees carried out their routine activities for the conservation of Kaptai National Park. The draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan was revised after taking on board relevant suggestions as made by senior officials of FD and other institutions in a national workshop organized by FD on 19 June 2019.

2.2 IR 2: IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS THAT ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

117 VCF management committees are managing their VCFs in participation of local people from 219 communities.

7,978 ha of VCFs and 820 ha of RFs are under improved NRM.

Cumulatively over 57,754 (including 18,332 in year 6) forest dependent people are brought under livelihood development initiatives in and around the VCFs and RFs.

During the reporting period, resilient livelihood support and skill development training were implemented in the three Hill Districts by leveraging financial support from DANIDA under AFSP III. Relevant skill development training was imparted through trained Facilitators as part of Integrated Farm Management-Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS). The field staff of the three HDCs were engaged in on-farm livelihood activities through FFS implemented in and around the VCFs with DANIDA funds. They were trained on on-farm activities as part of Training of Trainers (TOT) imparted to Master Trainers who provided need-based skill development training to Facilitators selected from the local community. Finally, community people were trained by Facilitators with focus on increasing farm production, thereby enhancing income earning opportunities of the CHT communities.

A special livelihood package was implemented in the three-influx upazilas of Bandarban. A total of 719 participants trained on various livelihood skills including year-round vegetable cultivation, poultry rearing (with vaccination), fruit tree management, goat/pig rearing, honey bee keeping and tailoring training for youth girls. Community discussions have revealed increased income and favorable impact on family wellbeing. For example, the community previously used a traditional method of poultry rearing, but with use of hatching pan they have reported receiving more production which they use for their subsistence consumption but also for sale with higher family income.



Key results as achieved under each of the three Sub-IRs are further discussed below.

2.2.1 SUB-IR 2.1: SUSTAINABLE FARMING TECHNOLOGIES PRACTICED

TOTs were imparted to the HDC staff on sustainable farming technologies as part of IFM-FFS. In total 1,892 farmers were trained by Facilitators on sustainable farming technologies. The trained farmers are applying the learning while practicing cultivation in their farms around the activity VCFs and RFs. They are also sharing their learnings with other people from their neighboring communities. Some of the applied farm practices include preparation and application of farmyard manure in their homesteads and farms, vaccination of livestock, insect control, hand hold breeding practices for vegetable cultivation, and better harvesting and storage methods. Improved farming practices are contributing in the conservation of neighboring forests by reducing forest dependency.

2.2.2 SUB-IR 2.2: LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS OF FOREST DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES DIVERSIFIED

The VCF dependent communities/paras were covered under the livelihood development initiatives as per the livelihood implementation guidelines. In this reporting period, 35 VCF dependent communities have received livelihood training support under FFS. In the three-conflict prone upazilas of Bandarban, a total of 719 participants were trained on various livelihood skills: year-round vegetable cultivation, poultry rearing (with vaccination), fruit tree management, goat/pig rearing, honey-bee keeping and tailoring training for youth girls.

The beneficiary and activity details available as part of household level trackers and community focus group discussions indicate positive impact on the peoples' lives and livelihoods. The training imparted to the beneficiaries by the trained Facilitators has built sustainability as the learned knowledge, aptitude and skills will continue to be used even after the livelihood activity is completed.

Volunteers and Farmer Facilitators trained under the CHTWCA as local resource base continue to make positive impact in the lives of the VCF communities by imparting hands on livelihood skill development training and related demonstrations. Currently, there are 350 Facilitators who have been trained under DANIDA supported projects. The assigned Volunteers/Farmer Facilitators in VCF communities continue to provide training and relevant services to farmers in VCF communities of CHTWCA.

2.2.3 SUB-IR 2.3: INDIGENOUS BEST PRACTICES ON NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROMOTED

Over 7,092 people were reached out (including 54% females) at different levels through awareness raising activities including observing the World Environment Day, organizing rallies and discussions, and engaging children and stakeholders in forestry, climate change and watershed issues. Several NRM promotion activities were organized under the activity for the CHT institutions, VCF communities and their networks, traditional leaders and community people through various awareness development events. This included World Environment Day, National Tree Fair and distribution of printing materials with messages on biodiversity conservation for livelihoods. With the activity support, 7,178 printing materials and displays were developed and distributed/installed in the activity areas. In total 7,092 people were

reached out directly whereas around 34,042 people benefited indirectly as reported by the partner NGOs in their progress reports and maintained in the project trackers.



Indigenous best NRM practices as promoted by the activity included earmarking and conserving at least one VCF in each *mauza*, improved farming technologies, convincing Karbaries and Headmen to designate more forest areas as VCFs for community use, forest land conflict resolution through participatory approach, water conservation through improved management of VCFs, community use of water originating from VCFs and other forests, improved bamboo culm and clump management, gap planting, bamboo rhizome collection and planting along streams and *charas*, community patrolling and obstructing entry of outsiders in their neighboring forests and farming fields, and sustainable management of non-timber forest products.

Success Story: 2

Martial Art Training for Girls

Shafkat Shofique a 14 years old girl student of class ten from Master para under Alikadam Sadar union is the only child of a couple engaged in teaching profession. Shafkat participated in a Martial art training for girls organized with the objective of conflict prevention and promotion of social cohesion in Alikadam upazila.

After participating twenty-five days training program by skillful and experienced teachers, Shafkat became confident and commented that she has learned a lot of practical self-defense techniques. In her own words *'Since my childhood I have always felt insecure while learning from news and media about frequent unfortunate incidences of rape, sexual assault, harassment and physical abuse against girls and women across our country. Being a girl this in fact motivated me to grab the opportunity to take part in Martial art training program. This course has contributed immensely in improving my self-confidence level through learning and practicing self-defense techniques.'*

She said that initially it was quite hard for the girls to continue the practice session of the training but after attending few days all of them adopted with the training program. At present, she can practice Martial art by herself as much as she wishes. Through the regular practice of self-defense techniques, it helped her to increase her self-confidence level and also keep her body and mind fresh. She commented that Martial art is my favorite game because it is quite different from other games. Before she used to think that Martial art means fighting between two persons or a war between two opposite teams. But after participating in the training program, she learnt the true meaning of Martial art gained a completely different perspective. She has realized that Martial art means self-defense which helped her to develop both physical and mental conditions.

Shafkat is thankful to USAID and CHTWCA in the CHT for giving the disadvantaged girls of Bandarban the opportunity to be a part of the Martial art training program. She admits that she is more confident than earlier and able to take care of herself in an unwanted situation because of THE self-defense techniques that she learned in the training program. After the completion of the training she participated in a SID-CHT organized inter-upazila Martial Art Competition and achieved a medal. Now she is planning to encourage local girls to learn and practice Martial art in their villages.

3. ANALYSES OF KEY RESULTS, OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

3.1 Key Results

Based on the following forestry development hypotheses developed for the CHTWCA, the positive achievements are contributing in meeting the activity results and objectives: *If degrading watersheds of the CHT, comprising forests and protected areas and their encompassing biodiversity, agriculture including jhum, and water bodies are restored by gainfully involving FD field staff, and local people through resilient economic opportunities and skill development; resulting in restored forest and water ecosystems with improved productivity, resilient livelihoods, and skilled local people and FD staff; then the ecosystem products and services will be available to skilled local people to improve their lives and livelihoods, that increase peoples' income and also reduce their dependency on forest resources; this will in turn promote resilient, sustainable and equitable natural resource management that is improving watersheds, forests and biodiversity, and diversified livelihoods with increased income for socio-economic well-being of local people.*

Notable progress was made during year 6 in meeting the activity objectives by achieving the intended results and outputs. Forest management has not been sustainably practiced in the CHT for more than two decades due mainly to continuation of land-use conflicts even after the Peace Accord was signed in 1998 and partially implemented thereafter. Successful implementation of the CHTWCA with financial support from USAID has resulted in positive changes both at the community and FD levels, leading to community trust building with reduced forest related conflicts. Over the period of 6 years of the CHTWCA implementation, participatory forest management has been initiated and mainstreamed both for the CHT VCFs and RFs by developing suitable institutions, trained field staff and communities, required guidelines and frameworks, management planning and tools, and successful field pilots. After making and consolidating the gains, participatory forest management can now be upscaled in the CHT as demonstrated under the CHTWCA.

Institutional coordination on participatory forest management has improved as a result of two high level inter-ministerial as convened by the PMO and the CHT institutions meetings. Forest Department presented the Action Plan in these meetings for reaching stakeholders consensus and accordingly the Actions Plan, as prepared based on the draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan, was approved by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB). Technical training imparted to 204 forest officials on integrated watershed management and climate change has resulted in their enhanced capacity to implement integrated watershed management including assisted natural regeneration interventions for restoring degraded headwater RFs. Successful field implementation of the Action Plan focusing on participatory watershed management with ANR has instilled renewed confidence and capacity amongst the FD field staff with practical experience and lessons.

FD initially implemented the Action Plan in year 5 and successfully upscaled in year 6 in select headwater RFs of the CHT. FD while agreeing to and initiating participatory forest management in the headwater RFs has adopted a paradigm shift in the CHT forest governance. For this the activity technical staff held several intensive discussions with the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) and other senior FD officials, both at the headquarters and at field levels, in addition to

holding extensive consultations with the CHT leaders and institutions. The strengthened co-management organizations (CMOs) of Kaptai are playing active role in biodiversity conservation by carrying out assigned responsibilities. Relevant aspects of participatory watershed management have been included in the updated 20-year forestry master plan as developed by FD during 2017-18.

VCF mainstreaming is strengthened further by holding a national level workshop on the mainstreaming of VCFs at Chattogram on 19 June 2019. The Secretary, MOCHTA inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest and National Project Director and Additional Secretary, MOCHTA chaired it. A high-level delegation of USAID headed by Director Economic Growth Office participated along with key stakeholders including representatives of GOB, USAID, HDCs, FD, civil society, and VCF networks and management committees. Unparalleled in the CHT history as implemented under the activity for the first time, VCF demarcation, survey, mapping and management planning, and the assessment of flora and fauna are important outcomes achieved under the leadership of the VCF management committees and networks. Possible outputs and activities were identified by the participants who actively participated in the workshop.



Consultative workshop held at Chattogram on Mainstreaming of Village Common Forests

The organized communities represented by VCF management committees and networks are helping in the conservation of the micro-watersheds encompassing forests, biodiversity and water bodies. Not only they themselves have stopped unregulated forest extraction and *jhum* in the activity VCF areas, they are successfully obstructing outsiders engaged in illicit forest felling and forestland encroachment activities. Natural regeneration in the CHT forests including RFs and VCFs, as characterized by good rainfall and suitable edaphic conditions, comes up rather well, but does not get established (seedlings/saplings above breast height) due mainly to heavy biotic interference. With improved RF and VCF management as brought by the organized communities in terms of VCF management committees and networks, the adverse situation has started changing in some forest areas as evident from profuse ground flora that has come up of late in the forests covered under CHTWCA. With enhanced forest protection the established natural regeneration will over the period graduate to middle story and then finally forming top canopy with valuable forests and biodiversity including wildlife.

Improved silvicultural management of the forests protected by local community will be needed after natural regeneration is established in the form of saplings, poles and trees. This will involve carrying out silvicultural operations including cleaning, stump dressing, coppicing, stool thinning, forest fire control measures, and selective thinning for canopy opening needed for further encouraging natural regeneration. All the harvests of forest produce so obtained as

by-product of assisted natural regeneration will be equitably distributed amongst the community rendering their free labor for forest conservation.

Growing VCFs and RFs under the CHTWCA, as managed by local community, are increasingly sequestering carbon di oxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere, thereby mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gases (GHG). Although no GHG assessments have been done under the activity, the approximations of GHG reductions can be taken as proxy from the nearby forests for which detailed study was done under USAID supported Integrated Protected Area Co-Management Project (IPAC). The activity VCFs and RFs will sequester, store and enhance carbon in the growing forests through avoided deforestation and forests degradation as a result of protection and improved management by organized communities and field staff. Additionally, the activity will generate alternative livelihoods options for local communities and conserve biodiversity.

Indeed climate change mitigation potential of the improved VCF and RF management is quite substantial : Under USAID supported IPAC, a study (Bangladesh REDD + ARR Protected Areas Project) was conducted during 2012-13 to estimate carbon mitigation potential in the neighboring forests of Dudupukria-Dhopachari, Fasiakhali, Medhkachpia, Sitakunda and Teknaf protected areas (PAs) which being nearby located have evergreen and semi-evergreen forests similar to the CHT. Annual carbon dioxide stock change per ha was estimated as 6,462 tCO₂e based on the estimations of additionality and baseline carbon stocks: This figure when multiplied by the forest area coverage brought so far under the project interventions gives a substantial estimate.

Success Story: 3

Participatory Management of Headwater Reserved Forests in the CHT

In 2017, for the first time, CHTWCA supported by USAID successfully brokered an Action Plan on integrated watershed management of headwater RFs with focus on assisted natural regeneration. The Plan was approved in two high level meetings convened by the Prime Minister Office and attended by key CHT institutions and leaders, and high officials of the MOCHTA, MOEFCC and Forest Department. During 2018 the FD in partnership with local people successfully implemented the Action Plan over 625 ha of headwater RFs. Building on this success, during 2019, watershed management activities expanded in additional 820 ha of headwater RFs in addition to maintaining 625 ha of headwater RFs. Building on the lessons learned from 2018 activities, the FD continued to engage surrounding communities in FD interventions including site selection, local species selection, nursery raising, enrichment plantation and soil and water conservation activities. The communities were also engaged by FD with the responsibility of nursing enrichment plantations including other ANR activities like guarding of the forest from illegal harvests or encroachments and community monitoring activities.

Ms. Mui Sa Chi Marma & Ms. Pusa Si Marma, Kolabunia Para were engaged with ANR under Karnafully Sadar Beat as participants in the restoration of headwater RFs. They commented as ".....we have been working with the ANR activity including plantation of the seedlings in identified gaps, carrying out nursing and weeding activities, and guarding the new plantations and natural regeneration against grazing and hacking. Creepers and weeds are the main enemy

for planted seedlings, as they grow much faster and entirely cover up the planted and naturally coming up seedlings within weeks. We have been removing the weeds/creepers regularly and in the process, we have been getting some forest usufructs on daily basis from the FD while carrying out forestry operations and monitoring activities. We are contributing through our field work to protect the forests and enhancing vegetation coverage, and we are very happy to do this work as we get local employment and forest-based benefits.

"Through the financial support of USAID, the field interventions under CHTWCA have been contributing significantly to restore the degraded forests through ANR as well as in water conservation in the CHT. It is also helping to create good relations with the local communities who are engaged with alternative income generating activities and contributing to their household livelihoods development. They are helping in forest conservation as well. The community people even are aware on planting local species, non-timber and wild fruit bearing species including Chalta, Tetul, and Horitoki with benefits to local communities, stated Md. Shaheen, Beat Officer, Karnafully Range".





Assisted
Natural
Regeneration
in Headwater
RFs



Assisted Natural Regeneration in Headwater RFs

Regenerating forests are contributing positively in enhanced ecosystem resilience and increased adaptive capacity of local community through co-benefits to neighboring communities. For instance, local communities in many VCF and headwater RF areas are receiving perennial supply of water for their household use and for agriculture through streams and rivers that are rejuvenated as a result of regenerating forest ecosystems. The activity has in fact taken advantage of rejuvenated water streams by putting improved water supply through gravity flow systems (GFS) as part of livelihood activities. Enhanced supply of bamboo, medicinal plants and other NTFPs is being equitably shared by local community. These results are contributing in achieving the activity objective of improving climate resilience and ecosystem.

Strong focus is given on resilient livelihoods and skill development with high female participation. Resilient livelihoods, implemented by trained local community, have contributed in peoples' asset development and enhanced community cohesion and climate adaptive capacity. Capacity development of local community and FD field staff has created trained resources locally, which will continue to be available even beyond the project period. For instance, many Livelihood Facilitators trained under the project are providing services to local community even though livelihood activities have been completed. These achievements made under the activity are contributing in meeting the IR 2 on improved, resilient livelihoods.

Social cohesion was enhanced in the three upazilas of Bandarban where the local communities in and around 15 VCFs worked together for improved forest management. Conflict prevention and resolution initiatives were taken up for promoting social cohesion through LVMFs operationalized in the three upazilas. Participatory forest management achievements have instilled community empowerment while contributing improved social cohesion. The capacity of key grassroot stakeholders was enhanced through training imparted to traditional leaders on conflict resolution and peace building, climate change and resilient livelihoods. As a plausible exit strategy, the sustainability of RF and VCF interventions is being ensured through technically empowered FD and the VCF networks respectively. The CHTWCA has been successful in improving sustainable and equitable watershed management that will sustain biodiversity conservation and resilient livelihoods for increased income of local communities.



Cultural activities enhanced social cohesion in three-influx upazilas of Bandarban.



3.2 Meeting the SID-CHT Objectives

Working within the Joint United Nations Programmatic Framework (2015-20) the overall objective of the SID-CHT is to strengthen the capacity of the CHT population to shape and make decisions that impact on their lives. Within this overall objective three specific objectives which are being achieved by implementing the SID-CHT are to:

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

Improved participatory management of VCFs and RFs as being achieved under the CHTWCA under IR 1 has contributed in strengthening community-based village common forestland management, and participatory forest resource management in the activity VCFs and headwater RFs and their associated watersheds. Improved resilient livelihoods as implemented under IR 2 in the villages/paras located in and around the activity RFs and VCFs has contributed in income generation of local people and thereby reducing community dependency on nearby forests for exploitative and unsustainable harvesting of forest produce. Participatory management of VCFs and RFs in partnerships of the CHT institutions, leaders and communities is resulting in strengthening of democratic governance with increased peoples' participation and shared decision-making on natural resource management in the CHT.

3.3 Challenges and Risks

The post conflict situation of the CHT and the presence of multiple institutions and leaders, often with overlapping roles and responsibilities, sometimes give rise to risks and uncertainties. In recent past there have been some untoward law and order situations including killings. Some political incidents including different political factions engaged in serious rivalry and fighting are reported from the region. Natural disasters such as floods and landslides to which the CHT is particularly exposed are reported particularly from Bandarban during the recent monsoon season.

4. VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

The activity continued to utilize the communications and visibility materials to promote sustainable forestry and integrated watershed management while raising simultaneously the USAID visibility. The UNDP and CHTDF media platforms were used for wider circulation and sharing of the activity achievements. This was done in accordance with the recent CHTWCA draft Communications Strategy, which sets out a pathway for utilizing communication as a platform for supporting the activity outcomes and outputs. In this reporting period different kinds of visibility materials were produced: In total 7,178 promotional materials, including t-shirts and caps, VCF maps, Newsletter, training and workshops banners/materials, were printed. USAID branding and marking guidelines are being followed meticulously. Samples of some of the promotional materials are reproduced and the activity in future will ensure that standard USAID branding and marking guidelines are followed meticulously.




USAID
 FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE




UNDP
 Empowering People
 Resilient Societies

Consultation Workshop on Village Common Forest

Chief Guest: Mr. Kongjari Chowdhury
 Honorable Chairman, Khagrachari Hill District Council, Khagrachari,
 Chaired by: Mr. Titan Khisa
 Executive Officer, Khagrachari Hill District Council, Khagrachari,

Date: 15th October, Tuesday, 2019
 Venue: Khagrachari Hill District Council Conference Room.

Organized by: Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chattogram Hill Tract,
 (SID-CHT), A Project of Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA)

5. CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES

Gender Strategy was drafted for the CHTWCA and submitted to USAID for their comments and suggestions. A revised draft of Gender Strategy, prepared after taking on board the comments and suggestions, has been submitted for USAID approval.

Many women are now functioning as Karbaries, particularly in Rangamati district, and they get invited and actively participate in the VCF related meetings and consultations. Some of them are active as office bearers of VCF management committees and networks. Women in CHT are generally visible in economic activities and hardworking. They are in many cases responsible for household chores and decision-making.

Women's unique needs are considered while deciding venues for the activity events and activities. Indeed, the SID-CHT project has a Chief, Gender and Social Cohesion who is involved closely while making gender related decisions under the CHTWCA. Male participants of VCF management committees and networks are made aware about women needs and affirmative actions taken for their effective and enhanced participation.

Various VCF management committees have been giving priority to women participation while arranging different meetings, workshops and training locally. Gender sensitization focusing on women, girls, and men was achieved while imparting training and arranging various meetings and workshops of the VCF management committees and networks. In the workshops and meetings women participants were specially invited and encouraged to speak and participate actively in the activity deliberations.

Special focus is given to women participation while making livelihood support including imparting skill development training. For instance, out of total training courses on climate change and integrated watershed management, 47% were women. The activity gave special attention to the women headed households while identifying participants for livelihood development activities: Out of the total population benefited under livelihood programs, 49% were women that took advantage of small-scale income generating activities. Gender disaggregated data are collected and compiled for reporting.

6. ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

6.1 ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT

The SID-CHT is managed overall by the National Project Manager with the main project office located at Rangamati. Individual projects within SID-CHT funded by different donors have separate managers. The USAID supported CHTWCA is managed by Chief Technical Specialist, Forest and Watershed Management. In addition to a Programme Officer, Forestry and support staff at Rangamati and Dhaka offices, there are three district offices under SID-CHT with District Managers supported by staff located at Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari.

6.2 PARTNERSHIPS

With the aim to achieve the CHTWCA's objectives, strong partnerships were established with key stakeholders and implementing partners. For efficient implementation of the VCF and RF related activities, productive relationships continued with the GOB ministries and agencies, development partners, partner NGOs, and other key stakeholders including the CHT institutions and leaders. Livelihood support to local community was leveraged in and around the activity VCFs and RFs through funds from DANIDA. Partner NGOs were engaged in the activity implementation, especially in VCF management planning, skill development and livelihood activities implemented in and around the VCFs. Letter of Agreement (LOA) for implementing watershed management interventions in select headwater RFs was signed with FD after taking approvals from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC).

Strategic partnerships were established with the GOB counterparts, including the MOCHTA, MoEFCC, CHTRC, HDCs and the FD, and with traditional institutions particularly Circles to support the field and policy level outcomes with respect to the VCFs and headwater RFs. The partnership developed with the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences of the Chittagong University for conducting Flora and Fauna Study continued during the period. Informal partnerships were established with civil society and NGOs to resolve specific issues and assessments. To support livelihood activities at the field level, partnerships were forged with existing Para Development Committees (PDCs) and Para Nari Development Groups (PNDGs).

6.3 PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEES

The National Steering Committee (NSC) and the Project Implementation Committee (PIC), headed by the MOCHTA Minister and Secretary respectively continued their responsibility by providing overall policy guidance and advice on the project implementation. The NSC comprises amongst others the Secretary of MOCHTA; Joint/Additional Secretary (Development), MOCHTA (Member Secretary); Chair of the CHTRC; HDC Chairs; a representative from the CHT Development Board; a Circle Chief (based on annual rotation among the three Circle Chiefs), and others.

The 2nd and 3rd NSC meetings were held on 1 October 2018 and 10 December 2019 in the conference room of the MOCHTA under the chairmanship of the Minister Mr. Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, MP. Of many decisions as made by the 2nd NSC meeting about the SID-CHT implementation, key issues regarding VCF mainstreaming including the decision number 5 and the decision number 7 were resolved in this meeting. Follow up meetings were also held with the National Project Director and the Secretary, MOCHTA on providing management guidance and technical support to VCF management committees through the Hill District Councils (HDCs) and traditional institutions. A national workshop on mainstreaming of VCFs was organized at Chattogram on 19 November 2019 with the Secretary, MOCHTA as the Chief Guest.

The PIC conducted periodical progress reviews of the project implementation. The MOCHTA conducted monthly reviews as part of the development meetings convened regularly for reviewing all development projects under the ministry. Additionally, the project participated regularly in the meetings of the Parliament Standing Committee on the CHT Affairs.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A comprehensive revision of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan was made in year 6 and was approved by the USAID. A systematic monitoring mechanism is in place based on the data quality assessment (DQA) findings, ensuring monitoring with evidence-based system and data collection. Periodical monitoring and assessment activities are regularly taken by working closely with Implementing Partner organizations as per guiding suggestion/recommendation by ACME and USAID. The periodical MEL related activities include collection and progress assessment, cross checking and validation of data, and compilation of success stories on a continuous basis.

At the field level, dedicated M&E focal points/assigned people collected and verified data, minimized data errors, and updated the database for sending to Planning, Monitoring and Reporting unit of the SID-CHT for consolidation and reporting. The Quarterly Progress Reporting system is in place and focuses on outputs/immediate results for reporting within UNDP. The annual progress reports capture the performance and custom indicators of the activity for reporting to USAID and UNDP.

At the field level, the staff of the activity and implementing partners undertook regular monitoring visits and participated in staff planning and coordination meetings with the stakeholders to identify key successes and areas for further improvement. This information is collected and analyzed by the CHTWCA, before making clear recommendations for addressing challenges observed in the field. This reflective approach is practiced ensuring that the activity progress is as per the identified objectives and goals, and ever evolving to meet the needs on the ground. Biodiversity monitoring guidelines with necessary tools are under field implementation to monitor the biodiversity of the activity VCFs by their management committees. Overall, the existence systematic monitoring and reporting mechanism, Periodic Data Quality Assessment (DQA) supported to ensure the quality of reporting data of CHTWCA.



Periodic Data Quality Assessment done under CHTWCA

(left: Desk review at Implementing Partner's office and right: validation through field DQA)

8. STATUS OF EXPENDITURE (30 AUG 2018 – 15 NOVEMBER 2019)

Table 1 : Project expenditure (during 30 August 2018 to 15 November 2019)

Grant Activity	Expenditure in USD
CHT Watershed Co-Management Activity	916,605
Operation and Management	411,696
Admin & Oversight (GMS)	92,981
Annual Expenditure	1,421,282
Total Contribution as obligated by USAID since inception to 15 November' 2019	7,068,083.17

Annex 1: List of tree species planted by Forest Department

SL	Local Name	Scientific Name	Local Use
1.	Dhakijam	<i>Syzygium firmum</i>	Food, timber, fuelwood
2.	Bohera	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Astringent, laxative, cough, diarrhea
3.	Amaloki	<i>Phyllanthus emblica Linn</i>	Spice, stomachic, jaundice, diarrhoea, dysentery, hair tonic
4.	Garjan	<i>Dipterocarpus turbinatus</i>	Oil, timber
5.	Telia Garjan	<i>Dipterocarpus turbinatus Gaetn</i>	Oil, timber
6.	Jarulul	<i>Lagerstroemia speciose</i>	Timber, ornamental
7.	Boilam	<i>Anisoptera scaphula</i>	Fruits as medicine, timber
8.	Chapalish	<i>Artocarpus chapalish</i>	Food for wildlife, timber
9.	Horitaki	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Constipation, laxative, fever, cough, asthma, skin diseases
10.	Bamboo (mitinga, dolo, parbua, bodum)	<i>Bambusa species</i>	House construction, shoots used for vegetable
11.	Chikrasshi	<i>Chukrasia tabularis</i>	Medicine, food, medicine, timber
12.	Gamar	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Medicine, timber, fodder
13.	Borta	<i>Artocarpus lacucha</i>	Food, medicine, timber
14.	Tentul	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Medicine, house construction
15.	Bel	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Medicine, fruits, leaves, barks

Annex 2: Main process and criteria used to form VCF management committees

Neighboring forest-dependent para(s)/village(s) informally/traditionally conserving VCF patch(s) are identified after holding informal discussions with local communities. A meeting of all willing households of identified para(s)/village(s) is called to form a general committee through a participatory approach. A VCF management committee is formed by the members of general committee through consensus or general voting (generally with raising hands by the members of general committee). There shall be at least 30% female members in a management committee and at least one office bearer position will be assigned to a women member.

VCF management committee decides about the office bearers either through consensus or election. The following office bearers are decided by a management committee:

- President: 1
- Vice President: 1
- General Secretary: 1
- Treasurer: 1(female given a priority)
- Executive Members: 5-7 (ensuring representatives from all participating para(s)/village(s))

The concerned village head or headman of the mouza generally gets a priority to be the president of a VCF management committee. Attempts are made to form an inclusive management committee by considering different groups, youths and marginalized sections dependent on forests. Advisory positions may be created by a management committee to take on board local elites who may not be included in the management committee. The names and addresses of the members of general committee and management committee are recoded as meeting minutes and entered subsequently in a register preserved at the project office and with office bearers of VCF management committee.

Annex 3: Project Data Table

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
<p>USAID DO4 objective: Responsiveness to climate change improved</p> <p>CHTWCA Objective: Improved climate resiliency and ecosystems in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)</p>																	
Custom Indicator	Indicator 1 (Custom, old II EG. 13-6): Number of VCF management plans prepared and implemented by community stakeholders and managed VCF with focus on sustainable forest landscapes supported by USG assistance	No. of VCF management plans prepared by community stakeholders	0	117	0	0	29	29	54	54	55	54	75	82	95	117	1 st phase: 54, 2 nd phase: 48 & new upazila (under social cohesion): 15 VCFs
		No. of VCF management plans implemented by community stakeholders	0	117	0	0	0	0	54	54	55	54	75	82	95	117	
<p>IR 1: Improved participatory management of Village Common Forests (VCFs) and Reserved Forests (RFs)</p>																	

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark	
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI			
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement		
USAID Standard F indicator	Indicator 2 (old 3 & 11): EG.10.2-2: Number of hectares (ha) of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved NRM as a result of USG assistance	Hectares (VCF & RF ha)	0	10,755	0	0	4,200	4,196	4,200	4,196	4,200	4,196	6,450	6,509	10,755	9,423	VCF: 7,978 ha & RF: 1,445 (ha)	
Sub-IR 1.1 Strengthened legal and policy framework for VCFs and RFs																		
USAID Standard F indicator	Indicator 3 (old 4 & 12) EG.13-3: Number of laws, policies, regulation or standards addressing sustainable landscapes formally	No. of Strategy/Plans/Policy/Agreements/Regulations/Policy	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1 VCF Guidelines/Regulations implemented at sub-national level and 1 Action Plan adapted by the GOB for Headwater

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
	proposed, adapted or implemented as supported by USG assistance																RFs of the CHT at subnational level.
Custom Indicator	Indicator 4 (Custom & old 5 & 13): Number of policy dialogues, workshops, consultation meetings held at national and regional levels on forest management	No. of Meetings/Consultations/ Workshops on VCF & RF management	0	53	1	1	6	6	12	8	24	33	29	45	53	70	
Sub-IR 1.2: Participatory management in place in Village Common Forests and Reserved Forests in place																	

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
USAID Standard F indicator	Indicator 5 (old 6 & 14) new i EG 11-1: Number of people trained in climate change adaptation supported by USG assistance	No. of community people, traditional leaders and staff	0	5,806 (Male : 4064 & female (1742)	0	0	300 (Male:210 & female: 90)	300 (202 & 98)	732 (Male: 512 & female: 220)	732 (515 & 217)	3254 (Male: 2278 & female: 976)	3195 (Male:2082 & female: 1113)	4236 (Male: 2965 & female: 1271)	4,881 (Male: 2866 & female: 2015)	5,806 (Male : 4064 & female: (1742)	6,704 (Male : 3,828 & female: (2,876)	
	iii) EG 13-1: Number of people trained in sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance	No. of FD staff	0	203	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	94	203	204	203	204	Cumulative achievement till Y6.
Custom indicator	Indicator 6 (Custom & old 9): Number of CMOs that are managing	No. of VCF management committees	0	117	0	0	35	54	54	54	55	54	75	82	117	117	

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
	VCF management plans successfully																
Custom indicator	Indicator 7 (Custom & old 10): Number of comanagement network established and functional	No. of VCF Networks	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Custom indicator	Indicator 8 (Custom & old 16): Number of communities that are participating in VCF and/or RF management	No. of communities engaged in VCF management	0	253	0	0	52	52	52	52	107	104	140	156	253	219	
		No. of communities engaged in RF management	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23	23	23
IR 2: Improved Livelihoods that are Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient to Climate Change																	

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
USAID Standard F indicator	Indicator 9 (old 17): Number of people receiving livelihood cobenefits (monetary or nonmonetary) associated with the implementation of USG sustainable landscapes activities	Number of People	0	60,300 (Male: 30,753 & female: 29,547)	0	0	0	0	12,000 (Male: 6,120 & female: 5,880)	10,550 (Male: 5,381 & female: 5,169)	35,000 (Male: 17,850 & female: 17,150)	35,234 (Male: 17,979 & female: 17,255)	39,800 (Male: 20,298 & female: 19,502)	39,422 (Male: 20,105 & female: 19,317)	60,300 (Male: 30,753 & female: 29,547)	57,754 (Male: 29,459 & female: 28,295)	
Sub-IR 2.1 Sustainable farming technologies practiced																	
Sub-IR 2.2 Livelihood options of forest dependent communities diversified																	
Custom indicator	Indicator 10 (Custom & old 18): Number of farmers	Number of farmers	0	2,125 (Male: 1,084 & Female)	0	0	0	0	0	0	635 (Male: 324 & Female: 311)	707 (Male: 588 & Female: 119)	985 (Male: 502 & Female: 483)	1,015 (Male: 767 & Female: 248)	2,125 (Male: 1,084 & Female: 1,041)	2,844 (Male: 1,451 & Female)	It is done through IFM-FFS interventions in the VCF communiti

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark	
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI			
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement		
	receiving training on sustainable farming ²			le:1,041)													le:1,393)	es, a total of 158 VCF dependent para/community and around 18 people recieved FFS sessions on improved farming practices in their communiti es.
Sub-IR 2.3 Indigenous best practices on natural resource management promoted																		
Custom indicator	Indicator 11 (Custom & old 20):	Number of People	0	18,000 (Male	0	0	6,900	6,818 (4280	9,300	9,314 (5969	15,000	10,788	16,500	11,953	18,000 (Male	19,045 (Male		

² Any type of land based farming irrespective of crop/fruits/vegetables/spices cultivation, livestock rearing, fish culture which are socially acceptable, do not pose threat (current and/or future) to local environment, and economically profitable.

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
	Number of people participating in awareness raising activities on the indigenous NRM practices5			: 12,600 & Female: 5400)			(Male: 4,830 & Female: 2,070)	& 2538)	(Male: 6510 & Female: 2790)	& 3345)	(Male: 10500 & Female: 4500)	(Male: 6707 & Female: 4081)	(Male: 11550 & Female: 4,491)	: 12,600 & Female: 5400)	: 10,738 & Female: 8,307)		
Custom indicator	Indicator 12 (Custom & old 21): Number of people receiving printed materials	Number of people	0	47,500	0	0	17,000	17,000	33,700	33,704	39,996	35,331	40,796	37,241	47,500	44,419	
Custom indicator	Indicator 13 (New Custom): Number of people trained in the project management and finance related issues	Number of people	0	1,167	0	0	0	300	0	667	0	667	0	717	1,167	1,208	New custom indicator added in PY 6

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
	supported by USG assistance																
Custom indicator	Indicator 14 (New Custom): i) Number of VCF dependent people who received revolving funds ii) Percentage (%) of VCF dependent people who returned back the revolving funds to VCF management committees	i) Number of people ii) % of household	i) 0 ii) 0%	3,171 60%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3,171 0%	3,171 0%	3,171 0%	3,171 0%	3,171 60%	3,171 60%	These two indicators selected newly in Y6 TBD TBD

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
USAID Standard F Indicator	Indicator 15: (PS.6.2-1) Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of conflict	Number of groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	43	New Standard Indicator added in PY 6
Custom indicator	Indicator 16 (New Custom): Number of people trained in peacebuilding and resolution of conflicts or the drivers of conflict in the three-conflict prone upazilas of Bandarban	Number of people trained	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	180	81 (male: 55 & female :26)	New custom indicator added in PY 6

Indicator Ref.	CHTWCA performance Indicators	Unit of measure	Baseline	Total Target	Year wise target & achievement (cumulative)												Remark
					Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Year V		Year VI		
					Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
	through USG funding dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of conflict																
Custom Indicator	Indicator 17 (New Custom): Percentage (%) of trainees who increased their knowledge and skills after receiving training through USG funding activities	% of trainees	0 %	60%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60%	TBD	This indicator selected newly in Y6

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