



PALLI
KARMA-SAHAYAK
FOUNDATION (PKSF)



GREEN
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RESILIENCE

AN ECCCP-FLOOD BULLETIN

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T Floods in Bangladesh, particularly in the north of the country, affect millions of people in various ways and cause enormous economic loss and destruction every year. These floods have also become more intense, frequent and unpredictable. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), as a Direct Access Entity (DAE) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has been implementing the project entitled "Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood)" in Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, and Jamalpur districts. In addition to the co-financing of PKSF, GCF, established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is financing the project. With an aim to build the resilience of the flood-vulnerable people, the ECCCP-Flood has been raising homestead plinths, installing tubewells and climate-resilient sanitary latrines and providing support to rear goat and sheep in slatted sheds. As of June 2022, the project had raised the plinths of 5574 homesteads, provided access to a safe water source for 11720 people through the installation of 241 tube-wells, installed 1415 climate-resilient sanitary latrines, assisted 5224 households in rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds, extended high-value agricultural technology (flood-tolerant rice and wheat cultivation and cultivation in sandbars) among 8001 households and provided training on various issues related to addressing climate change among 15675 project participants (about 85% female) in the flood-prone selected five districts of Bangladesh.

UPDATES ON PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

CCAG Exchange Visit: A Community-based Sharing and Learning Platform



For those who live in the Brahmaputra Basin and its surrounding areas, flooding is one of the most frequent natural events. Over the years, they have dealt with floods using their conventional knowledge and practices, also known as indigenous knowledge. Indigenous knowledge and practices have been passed down from generation to generation. Although some of these techniques and knowledge are quite innovative and beneficial in the local context, a large portion of them lack formal acknowledgment. By providing information through training and on-site educational sessions as well as by raising their homestead plinths, installing tubewells and climate-resilient sanitary facilities, supporting the rearing of goats and sheep in slatted sheds, and extending high-value agricultural technologies, the ECCCP-Flood has been working to improve the knowledge and practices of these flood-vulnerable people. Climate Change Adaptation Groups (CCAGs), which are community groups created as a result of the project, offer these services and educational programs. The same kinds of activities are implemented in every CCAG. The project has organized exchange visits among CCAG members to share and learn their project knowledge and best practices. In total, 80 members of the four CCAGs - 20 from each participated in the exchange visits at Gobindi and Koalikandi on February 22 and 23, 2022. Gobindi is a village in the Saghata union of the Gaibandha district, while Koalikandi is in the Charpakerdha union of the Madarganj upazila of Jamalpur. The visits were exchanged between the CCAGs of TMSS and the Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO) in Gaibandha and the Society for Social Services (SSS) and the ESDO in Jamalpur.

The CCAG members observed homestead gardening and seedbeds on raised plinths, the installation of tubewells and climate-resilient sanitary facilities, the rearing of goats and sheep in slatted sheds, the cultivation of high-value crops, the activities of the CCAGs, and shared best practices among themselves. They enquired as to how the CCAG monthly meetings were run as well as what was discussed and learned at the gatherings. The members of the CCAG also contrasted the project activities carried out in their individual regions. By growing trees on the premises, maintaining the cleanliness of the slatted sheds, tubewell platforms, and sanitary latrines, planting seeds and growing vegetables on raised plinths, among other things, the CCAG members have learnt how to make raised plinths stronger. In addition to the request for continuing this type of visit, the CCAG members acknowledged PKSF and the IEs for organizing such a lesson-learning program by involving the project participants at the grass-roots level. The field employees from TMSS, ESDO, and SSS had also participated in the exchange visits.



During the Floods of 2022, Raised Plinths Kept People Free from Fear

Sabina Khatun (30) lives at Nayarhat union, which is located at Chilmari upazila in Kurigram district. The adverse effects of climate change are evident here. Every year, house-to-house displacement in riverbeds, floating in flood waters, loss of crops, loss of life, loss of property, sinking of boats, storms, and sandstorms are their daily companions. Sabina lives with four sons, one daughter, and her husband, Shafiqul Islam, in the south Khauria village of Nayarhat Union. In the needy world of her parents, education did not reach her forehead. In her life of 30 years, she had to lose everything, including her home, five times due to river bank erosion. In her words, "Birds also have nests, we didn't have that."

She said, in her words, that during the flood of 2019, I lost everything, including housing, and took shelter in someone else's house. As the year goes by, the host asks to vacate the house in 2020 for minor reasons. This thought perplexed me as to what to do and where to go. Just in time, the staff of the Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood), managed with the financial support of PKSF and implemented through the "National Development Program (NDP)," appeared with a heavenly message. I thought I would raise my house. But due to floods in 2021, raising the homestead was stopped. I was disappointed again. Finally, in March 2022, I raised my residence above flood level. My dreams are becoming more and more vivid.

She said, while was interviewed, that floods would once more affect our fields in June 2022. In my feeling, she added, I have now evolved into a sturdy tree with deep roots rather than a leafy leaf. Now I could use my high-rise homestead as a shelter. I sowed vegetable seeds, and now there are sponge gourds and hanging pumpkins. Yardlong beans (barabati) and spinach (poishak) have climbed the loft. In addition, I received BDT 4,700 when I sold it in the market, after providing for the family's vegetable requirements and sharing it with family members and neighbors.

She also added that the June 2022 flood inundated all around and that river damage has become evident again. Like me, many families, including Kulsum Apa, became homeless due to the flood as well as the river collapse. I remembered my unfortunate days. Kulsum Apa and her family were placed in my high residence after I hugged them. I mentioned them, as she mentioned happily, this house is not mine alone; you own it too. Flooding may no longer be a curse for Sabina's family. But Kulsum's life is no longer free from fear. Everyone hopes that, like Sabina, Kulsum's life will be free of the flood curse.

Stress-tolerant Crops to Adapt with Climate-induced Hazards

Despite being exposed to significant risk from catastrophic climate events such as floods, char-people choose to live in char areas for better livelihoods, leading them to become risk-averse crop producers. Their erroneous decision to live in burned-out areas was motivated by their strong desire to increase the return on their farm's output. Every year, the floods along the Brahmaputra River and their



severity disrupt the lives of the locals, but they still choose to stay in these climate-vulnerable regions because of their cultural affinity and the abundant food production there. Flood-resistant crops will help farmers adapt to flooding. According to Mahmuda Begum, a char inhabitant of Dakshin Khauria in Kurigram, there is no lack of crops in the chars, as plenty of crops are being produced here in 12 months (a year). She claimed that they can grow more crops on the fertile char land during the dry season, but the char residents do not want to evacuate their homes during floods. Due to the regular inundation of their homesteads, even during a typical flood, the char-people are extremely vulnerable to catastrophic climate events, particularly floods. Due to their reliance on agriculture and agricultural labor, the people of char are extremely vulnerable to flooding in terms of their livelihoods. Every year, the flood wreaks havoc on the lives of the impoverished and defenseless char-dwellers, but it also offers them luck. Floodwater from upstream regions transports a significant amount of silt, which settles on the char land and increases its fertility. According to Mahmuda, "the ECCCP-Flood has taught us how to grow a variety of crop varieties, including heat-resistant wheat and flood-tolerant rice, as well as high-value agricultural crops, allowing us to continue our agricultural operations even during the flood."



Shahinur Begum Found Happiness through Homestead Gardening on Raised Plinths

Hatbari, where Shahinur Begum lives, is a village in Saghata Union of Saghata Upazila in Gaibandha District. The people of this village are usually poor and destitute. She lives with her husband and children in this less-developed village. Her husband works as day labor; she

spends only on the income earned by the husband, and the debt burden continues to increase day by day. She was selected as a member of the ECCCP-Flood project implemented by PKSf's PO, TMSS. She participated in all the activities of the project, attended every meeting, and got the housing elevation facility as a member. As a member of the CCAG, she attends monthly discussion meetings and receives and gives feedback. She suggested that something be done in the small space behind the home of her high-rise residence during the CCAG discussion meeting. "But I was unable to achieve it due to my family's poverty, and I would be grateful if you could assist me with the project," she asked project personnel. If you give me papaya seedlings, I'll make a papaya garden. I can fill part of my family's needs by doing this. After a discussion in the office, she was persuaded to plant papaya saplings based on a suggestion. She nurtured a garden and planted 42 papaya saplings there. She carefully cultivates the papaya plants by working tirelessly. Currently, she occasionally sells papaya in the market. She also occasionally sells it at home. With the proceeds from the sale of papaya, she pays for his son and daughter's education as well as the family's smaller requirements.

She expresses gratitude to PKSf and TMSS for making such an outstanding effort for her and her family.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING



The Project Management Unit (PMU) organized a three-day-long training entitled "Refresher Training for the Implementing Entities' (IEs) Staff" from May 24–26, 2022. The main purpose of the training was to enhance the capacity of the project staffs of the IEs on the sustainability of ECCCP-Flood activities, for example online database management, training and communication management, gender action planning, structural management, and grievance redress mechanisms. The participants in the training were selected purposefully. All the project coordinators (PCs), technical officers (TOs), and field facilitators (FFs) of the IEs (NDP, TMSS, ESDO, POPI, PMUK, SHARP, NAZIR, GBK, and SSS) working for the ECCCP-Flood attended the training. The training has 77 (seventy-seven) participants, all of whom are working in difficult-to-reach areas.

Apart from the inaugural and closing sessions, there were thirteen sessions in the training program. The participants were provided lectures on sustainability of ECCCP-Flood activities, online database management, documentation and preservation of socio-economic profiles, training and communication management, challenges and ways forward for the activities, a gender action plan, environmental management of the project activities, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems, flood-tolerant crop cultivation, structural management of the project, reimbursement and financial management, grievance redress mechanisms, community engagement, and feedback mechanisms for the project. Mr. Md. Fazlul Kader, Additional Managing Director, PKSf, inaugurated the training program. He thanked all the trainees as well as Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK) for supporting PKSf in arranging this training program. Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director (Environment and Climate Change), PKSf, delivered the training program's welcome address.

Dr. Nomita Halder ndc, the Managing Director of PKSf, attended the closing ceremony of the three-day training. In addition, Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director (Environment and Climate Change), PKSf, and Mr. Md. Shahjahan Majumder, Secretary (Retd.) and Adviser, Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK) were present in the closing ceremony. Dr. Ahmed briefly described the discussions and interactions of the three-day training and explained the emphasis of the ECCCP-Flood as a first project funded by the GCF in Bangladesh. Dr. Halder thanked all the participants for attending and actively participating in the training. She asked the participants to practice and apply what they had learned during the training. She also thanked the PMU of the ECCCP-Flood for organizing such an important training program where all the project staff got a chance to share their expectations and challenges for successfully implementing the project. In addition, the project has provided training for the project participants (at the grass-roots level) on various issues.



PMU Reviews Work Progress of Implementing Entities (IEs)

The IEs adopted the PMU-recommended template to present their progress as of May 2022 as part of the ongoing ECCCP-Flood project monitoring. Every field employee of the IEs attended the sessions. All of the IEs were found to fall short in several areas based on their presentations, notably when it comes to financing the construction of new, climate-resistant dwellings on elevated plinths and the provision of funding or loans for the purchase of goats and sheep. Building sanitary latrines with climate-resilient designs, constructing tubewells, raising homestead plinths in groups, cultivating a rice variety with flood resistance, and other initiatives are all making good progress. According to the PCs, it was challenging for them to provide the loan-related operations because of the distance between the project region and the organization's nearest branch. All PCs were advised to overcome the obstacles and complete the activities by the end of the third year of the project.



MD of PKSF Visited The Hard-to-reach Areas of ECCCP-Flood

According to residents, Shildaha char, an island of the Jamuna river, has endured roughly 10–15 floods as a result of the dynamics of river erosion and accretion, finally developing into a human habitat but lacking any form of communication infrastructure, healthcare services, or even a barely functional educational institution. There, the only form of transportation is a few horse-drawn carts. There are no official financial services available. One of the



places that PKSF Managing Director Dr. Nomita Halder ndc visited on a three-day official tour in the area from May 28 to 30, 2022, was this isolated, difficult-to-reach charland in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur district.

She was in charge of a PKSF team that included the general manager Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman, the deputy general manager (Human Resource) Ms. Salina Sharif, the manager Mr. Suhas Shankar Chowdhury, the deputy managers Mr. Mamun Ur Rashid and Mr. Md. Mahmuduzzaman, as well as other representatives from IEs. They were welcomed by a group of joyful, applauding women living in this char. This was one of the numerous clusters of residences whose plinths had been raised above the historically highest flood level as part of the Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood), which launched the PKSF project and was sponsored by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The Managing Director of PKSF walked around the charland in the sweltering heat to see firsthand the excellent results of ECCCP-Flood interventions. She spoke with the initiative's participants there and expressed her satisfaction with what the effort has already achieved.

The Managing Director also visited Kodalkati, a charland in the Char Rajibpur upazila of Kurgiram district. According to a recent research by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, this upazila has lately made news for having the highest prevalence of poverty, with about 79 percent of the population there living below the poverty line. One of the recently developed charlands in the Jamuna basin where people have begun to live is Kodalkati. Even though the majority of the char's residents struggle every day to make ends meet, they were all smiles when they greeted the PKSF group. With the plinth-raising interventions made possible by ECCCP-Flood, they were relieved that they no longer had to be concerned about floodwaters ruining their properties and their belongings and forcing them to relocate. Following a discussion with a group of ladies in the Adarshapara neighborhood, Dr. Halder expressed her satisfaction at witnessing a surge of self-assurance among the female participants. As her boat headed for the mainland, Dr. Halder remarked, *"They are impoverished, but their eyes were glittering with dreams of a better tomorrow."* She was looking at the charland as it faded into the distance.

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES' SUCCESSES

In the five flood-prone districts, PKSF has been implementing the ECCCP-Flood project through nine IEs. The primary task of the IEs is to carry out the ECCCP-Flood activities at the field level under the active guidance of the PMU. The activities have been carried out in accordance with the PMU's declared guidelines. The IEs have been assisting with logistics, establishing CCAGs, facilitating CCAG monthly meetings, raising homestead plinths, installing tubewells with platforms, testing the water quality of installed tubewells, building climate-resilient latrines, supporting the rearing of goats and sheep in slatted sheds, supporting the reconstruction of climate-resilient houses, and extending climate-resilient and high-value crops in the flood-vulnerable communities. They have also been conducting training workshops for the project participants on topics such as leadership abilities, goat rearing and management, flood-tolerant rice cultivation, disease-resistant wheat cultivation, and high-value crop cultivation.



Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO)

At the Pogoldigha and Maderganj unions of the Sarishabari upazila, the Balijuri and Charpakerdaha unions of the Maderganj upazila in the Jamalpur district, and the Erendabari, Fazlupur, and Udakhali unions of the Fulchari upazila in the Gaibandha district, ESDO has been carrying out this project. From April to June 2022, ESDO raised the

plinths for 146 homesteads in clusters. They also contributed financially to the reconstruction of climate-resistant homes on raised plinths among the 386 project participants, all of whom are women. ESDO provided support to 512 households for rearing goats or sheep in slatted sheds. In addition, during this quarter, ESDO installed 26 flood-resilient tube wells and 187 climate-resilient sanitary latrines. ESDO organized 757 group meetings during the quarter, while the total achievement is 2629 up to June 2022. In addition, 11447 goats of 3302 project participants were vaccinated through 28 vaccination campaigns at Madarganj, Shorishabari, and Fulchari upazilas, and training was provided to 633 project participants on goat and sheep rearing, management, and leadership skills development from April to June 2022.

TMSS

The ECCCP-Flood project is being carried out by TMSS in the Gaibandha district's Saghata upazila. In this quarter, 88 homestead plinths have been raised by TMSS. They also installed 15 tube wells and 59 climate-resilient sanitary latrines from April to June 2022. On the other hand, they supported 117 households between April and June 2022 by raising goats in slatted sheds. Additionally, they organized 360 CCAG sessions where project participants talked about many emerging development issues, such as homestead gardening, safe drinking water, personal cleanliness, and growing rice and wheat that can withstand flooding.



Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK)

Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra PMUK) has been implementing the project at Rowmari upazila in the district of Kurigram. PMUK raised the plinths of 256 homesteads during this quarter. They also provided financial support among the 39 project participants (all women) for the reconstruction of climate-resilient houses on raised plinths. In addition, PMUK installed 21 flood-resilient tube-wells, 107 climate-resilient sanitary latrines, and arranged 1370 CCAG meetings from April to June 2022. In addition, they arranged training sessions for 1370 project participants (98.8% women) on goat rearing and management and leadership skills, provided support to the households for preparing slatted sheds for rearing goats and sheep, and demonstrated flood-tolerant rice and short-duration and disease protective wheat cultivation among the farmers at Rowmari.



National Development Program (NDP)

The ECCCP-Flood project is being carried out by the National Development Program (NDP) at Chilmari Sadar, Ramna, and Nayarhat unions of Chilmari Upazila and Kodalkathi Union of Char Rajibpur Upazila in Kurigram district. From April to June 2022, NDP raised plinths on 199 homesteads. Additionally, they organized 510 CCAG meetings. In addition, they built 568 families with assistance for raising goats and sheep in slatted sheds, and 143 climate-resilient sanitary latrines. In the flood-prone areas, 1046 project participants begun climate-resilient farming during this quarter with the help of the NDP and the Upazila Agricultural Office. In the

Nayarhat, Chilmari, and Kodalkati unions of Kurigram district, the NDP organized their immunization campaign and vaccinated 5354 goats belonging to 1294 project participants.

NAZIR (Natun Zibon Rochi)

The project operations have been carried out by NAZIR in the Khuniagach and Rajpur unions of the Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila in the Lalmonirhat district. In the period from April to June 2022, NAZIR organized 246 CCAG meetings. In this quarter, 119 homestead plinths of local project participants were raised by them. NAZIR also installed 8 tubewells and constructed 43 climate-resilient sanitary latrines during this quarter. Throughout the quarter, NAZIR provided support to 89 people to rebuild their climate-resilient homes and 132 females for rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds.





People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI)

POPI, an IE of ECCCP-Flood, has been carrying out the project activities at Mogalhat and Kulaghat unions in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila in the district of Lalmonirhat. Due to their geographical locations, the unions are more vulnerable to floods and climate stresses. POPI raised the plinths of 7 homesteads and constructed 42 climate-resilient sanitary latrines from April to June 2022. They also demonstrated flood-tolerant rice and short-duration, disease-protective wheat among the farmers in the project areas. POPI organized 150 CCAG group meetings during this quarter.



Gram Bikash Kendra (GBK)

Gram Bikash Kendra (GBK), an IE working at Dimla upazila of the Nilphamari district, organized 170 group meetings of the CCAGs from April to June 2022. In addition, they raised plinths for 82 homesteads, installed 12 tubewells, and constructed 59 flood-resistant sanitary latrines during this quarter. GBK also provided support to 102 project participants for rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds in the same upazila. GBK provided climate-related trainings to 814 females this quarter in order to improve their knowledge of addressing the impacts of climate change. GBK also helped 101 farmers extend high-value agricultural technology, such as flood-tolerant rice and disease-resistant wheat cultivation, as well as pumpkin and other crop cultivation on flood-prone sandbars.



Society for Social Services (SSS)

The Society for Social Services (SSS) has been working in Islampur and Melandah upazilas of Jamapur district. In the chosen regions of Jamalpur, they have raised the plinths for 191 homesteads. On the other hand, SSS has helped 260 people prepare slatted sheds for goat and sheep rearing between April and June 2022. In this quarter, they have also put in 18 climate-resistant sanitary latrines and 21 tubewells. Additionally, SSS organized 325 CCAG group meetings during the quarter.



Self-Help and Rehabilitation Programme (SHARP)

At the Khogakhoribari and Pashchim Chatnai unions of Dimla upazila in Nilphamari district, SHARP has been carrying out the project. They constructed 47 climate-resilient sanitary latrines, installed 12 tubewells, raised 15 homestead plinths and trained 228 project participants on how to breed goats in slatted huts from April to June 2022. Additionally, SHARP has demonstrated wheat production among farmers at the field level that is disease-resistant, short-duration, and flood-tolerant. In addition, SHARP organized 150 group sessions between April and June 2022, bringing the total number of meetings held up until that point to 628.

Advisors

Dr. Nomita Halder ndc and Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed

Editorial Panel

Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman, K.M. Marufuzzaman, Md. Rabi Uzzaman
Md. Mahmuduzzaman, Md. Shamiul Huque

CONTACT ADDRESS

Project Management Unit (PMU)

Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood)

PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area,

Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Tel: +880-2-8181658-61, Fax No. +880-2-8181678

E-mail: ecccpflood.pksf@gmail.com

Website: www.pksf.org.bd, www.facebook.com/PKSF.org