

# RESILIENCE

## AN ECCCP-FLOOD BULLETIN

Issue 11 | March 2024



*Morjina Begum is now resilient by rearing goats in slatted sheds in flood-prone char areas*

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

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*Farmers cultivate flood-tolerant crops in the most flood vulnerable char lands*

The dynamic nature of the delta exacerbates the impact of floods, making the communities vulnerable to regular inundation and the associated consequences on housing, agriculture, and overall well-being. Among the most affected are women and children, who possess limited capacities to cope with such shocks. The marginalized communities residing in flood-prone regions rely heavily on subsistence agriculture and agricultural wage labor, both highly sensitive to flooding, resulting in crop losses almost every alternate year. Women in the char areas, in particular, face heightened vulnerability due to the multifaceted responsibilities of caring for children and elderly family members, alongside managing essential tasks such as collecting drinking water, cooking,

tending to poultry and livestock, and other household activities. The flood situation also exposes adolescent girls and women to increased risk of sexual harassment as they must stay on embankments or in flood shelters. The daily struggle to secure essential commodities exacerbates the challenges faced by these impoverished communities. ECCCP-Flood, the project under consideration, aims to enhance the resilience of these vulnerable communities by providing climate-resilient shelter, livelihood support, improved drinking water sources, and enhanced sanitation systems, addressing the multifaceted impact of climate-induced disasters on housing, water availability, and sanitation system. The project updates from January to March 2024 are covered in this issue of the newsletter.

# UPDATES ON THE PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

## “Adapting to Climate Change is an Endless Journey”, Says PKSF Managing Director

Due to geographical location, Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Considering the climate risks, PKSF has been implementing the project titled “Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood)” at 37 unions of 11 upazilas in the districts of Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Jamalpur. It is the first GCF funded project in climate change adaptation implemented by PKSF. This four-year project is in its final year started in 2020. In this circumstance, exploring the sustainability of the project activities beyond the project duration, the project management unit organized a workshop titled “Exit Meeting and Strategic Consultation on ECCCP-Flood” from February 27-28, 2024 at Ocean Paradise Hotel and Resort in Cox’s Bazar. In total, 120 participants attended the workshop including Executive Directors, Focal Person and ECCCP-Flood project staff of the Implementing Entities and the officers of Environment and Climate Change Unit of PKSF. Mr. AKM Soheli, Joint Secretary and Chief, UN Wing, ERD, Ministry of Finance was present as the Chief Guest in the event. Mr. Soheli praised a lot about the activities of PKSF on climate change adaptation nationally and globally. He requested to disseminate the success stories to through a proper documentation.

Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director, PKSF requested all the participants to share their valuable suggestions on the sustainability of the project activities in his welcome speech. Dr. Nomita Halder ndc, Managing Director, PKSF was present as the Chief Guest in the closing ceremony of the workshop. Before the closing ceremony, Dr. Halder attended the open discussion session and listened the suggestions and recommendations on the sustainability of the ECCCP-Flood project activities. Dr Halder said, “Climate Change has become a part and parcel of our lives and livelihoods. Hence, adapting to climate change is an endless journey for us. We have to conceive it, adapt it and go ahead with changing climate.” She also said that the suggestions from this workshop will not only help to ECCCP-Flood but also implementing other projects of PKSF on climate change.



Panel Discussion of the Exit Meeting

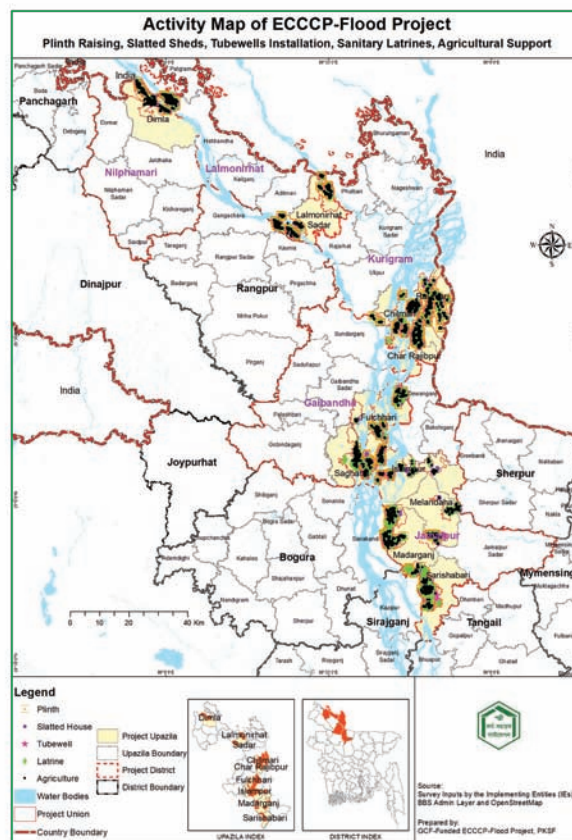


ECCU Officials with PKSF Managing Director in Cox’s Bazar



# Spatial Distribution of ECCCP-Flood Activities Reveals Climate Vulnerabilities Truly

Due to its location inside the vast Jamuna-Brahmaputra River delta, the project operates in an area with distinctive morphological and dynamic features. The network of char areas created by the complex interactions of river channels, estuaries, and low-lying floodplains characterizes the deltaic landscape. These chars' form is constantly changing as a result of sedimentation, erosion, and river dynamics. The ECCCP-Flood initiative sought to carry out its operations while taking into account the vulnerability and nature of char regions. Project management unit (PMU) of the ECCCP-Flood, PKSF brings the visualization of climate vulnerabilities using GPS and GIS tools and techniques. GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude) of all the activities were collected by the PMU. The coordinates have been used in preparing the maps showing the spatial distribution of activities in the project areas.



GPS Data Collection by SHARP Representative



GPS Data Collection by GBK Representative

Spatial distribution of the project interventions show that the major rivers of the country crossed the project areas. The complex network of the rivers is also visualized in the map. It indicates the vulnerabilities of the people living there to water induced hazards and disasters.



## Knowledge Exchanged: People Living in the North Gain Knowledge from the Southern Part of Bangladesh

Geographical location makes difference of the nature of different parts of Bangladesh. Life and livelihoods are also linked with the variations of these regions. As the Ganges-Brahmaputra basin passes through the northern part of the country, this region is more vulnerable to water induced disasters, such as, riverine floods, river bank erosion, storm surges, etc. People living in these regions also mostly depend on agricultural crop production, livestock rearing and some of seasonal activities. On the other hand, the coastal people always face with many difficulties due to climate change and its impacts, such as, salinity intrusion, tidal surges, cyclones, etc. Livelihoods are also different from the northern part of the country.



**PKSF Managing Director visits climate-smart activities in Cox's Bazar**



**Crab Culture in a Hatchery in Cox's Bazar**



**Knowledge Sharing Session on  
Safe Dry Fish Production**

Staff of the ECCCP-Flood implementing entities, work in Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Jamalpur districts visited crab culture in hatchery and safe dry fish production carried out by COAST Foundation in Cox's Bazar and learned the pros and cons of these activities.



## Milestone: Flood Vulnerable Char Dwellers Learn Japanese Language

Char areas of Bangladesh have poor access to life and livelihoods. People living in these areas don't have advanced educational, medical and other facilities. They are busy with coping to natural hazards and disasters for day after day. So, the people, especially the girls and women



**Japanese Language Course Trainees**

always lag behind from education. ECCCP-Flood has created a great opportunity for these women. It has created started Japanese Language Learning Course (Level-N5 and N4) for them. TMSS has been providing the service under the Japanese Language Trainer as a partner organization of PKSf. The trainees are also certified by the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA) on Caregiving trade. Doors will be opened for the trainees to get a job as a caregiver in Japan once they have passed the Japanese Language course (level-N5 and N4).



**Japanese trainer is delivering in-house class lecture**



## The Project has Made Significant Achievement to Ensure Security during Floods

In December 2022, CEGIS was awarded the responsibility of conducting the Final evaluation of the ECCCP-Flood project to assess its effectiveness from GCF guidelines-based impact indicators. The Final evaluation survey was conducted in one upazila from each of the 5 project districts. Both quantitative and qualitative surveys were carried out for this survey. For the quantitative survey, the study interviewed 651 beneficiary's household members (97.27% female and 2.73% male) and 327 control group household members (91.82% female and 8.18% male) with a pre-designed questionnaire relevant to the Terms of Reference. The final evaluation reveals:

**Institutional capacity of Implementing Entities (IEs), which revealed improved indicators of high capacity**

**100% of the beneficiaries now have highly increased community awareness which ensures implementing climate-resilient farming practices for all the farmers**

**Household capacity to apply climate change adaptation solutions has demonstrated notable improvement, with 36% high, 49% moderate and the remaining 15% of households showing slight improvement**

**The project has significantly reduced economic loss in terms of rearing of animal husbandry, with a 94% loss recorded instead of the anticipated 90% loss**

**The project has made significant achievement in improving women's security during floods, with 33% (15,069) feeling fully secure, 52% (23,502) feeling moderately secure and 14% (6,429) feeling slightly secure**

**Access to safe water has improved in the targeted areas as about 100% of the beneficiaries now have access to it, exceeds the Final target of 90%.**

**The monthly income of the households targeted by GCF-funded livelihood technologies has witnessed a remarkable increase of 82%, surpassing by a significant margin**



Focus group discussion with female participants



Data collection through key informant interview



## Monowara's Struggle: Overcoming Sanitation Challenges during Floods

Charkhanjanmara, a village within the Bandaber union of Rowmari upazila, has long been plagued by annual flooding, which inundates homes, tube-wells, and latrines, causing immense distress to its residents. Among them is Manowara Begum, a 65-year-old woman who resides with her family in this flood-prone area. Before settling in Baishpara within Charkhanjanmara due to recurring river erosion, Manowara experienced displacement multiple times. However, even in her new settlement, the threat of floods persisted, significantly impacting their daily lives. During floods, the most pressing issue faced by Manowara and her family, especially the women and children, was the lack of suitable sanitation facilities. With floodwaters submerging their surroundings, finding a dry place for defecation became increasingly difficult.

They resorted to makeshift boats crafted from banana trees, venturing to secluded spots to relieve themselves, all the while fearing being observed by others. The unavailability of high ground compounded their challenges, forcing them to defecate directly into floodwaters or resort to makeshift solutions like polythene bags inside their elevated homes. Moreover, communal toilets shared by multiple families during floods exacerbated hygiene issues, leading to the spread of waterborne diseases.



**Monowara with her Flood-resilient Sanitary Latrine**

The absence of medical facilities in the village further intensified their suffering, necessitating expensive treatments and medical expenses. However, relief came in the form of the Climate Resilience Sanitary Latrine provided by PKSF through the ECCCP-Flood project. This intervention significantly alleviated the family's hardships during floods, offering them a safe and hygienic sanitation solution. With access to sanitary latrines, the family no longer faced the distress of finding suitable defecation spots during floods, and their health improved as a result. Furthermore, the provision of latrines not only eradicated the insecurity felt by women but also fostered health awareness within the community. The implementation of safe toilet practices, such as handwashing with soap and regular cleaning, further bolstered hygiene standards. Consequently, women like Manowara and her family no longer had to resort to using neighbors' facilities during floods, enhancing their dignity and status within the community. The newfound accessibility to safe sanitation facilities not only transformed the lives of Manowara's family but also extended its benefits to the broader community, ensuring a healthier and more dignified living environment for all.



## REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES' SUCCESS

The ECCCP-Flood project is being carried out by PKSF through nine Implementing Entities (IEs) in five climate vulnerable districts. The main responsibilities of the IEs are to execute ECCCP-Flood project activities at the field level. The implementation of the project activities has been done in accordance with the project documents and guidelines. The Project Management Unit of ECCCP-Flood looks after and supervises the field-level quality implementation of the IEs. The IEs provide logistic support at the field level to capacitate and create awareness of CCAGs, facilitate CCAG monthly meetings, raise homestead plinths, install tube-wells with platforms, test the water quality of installed tube-wells, build climate-resilient sanitary latrines, support the rearing of goats and sheep in slatted sheds, provide financial support for the reconstruction of climate-resilient houses, and extend climate-resilient and high-value crops in the flood-vulnerable communities. On issues like CCAG leadership skills, goat management and rearing, flood-tolerant rice cultivation, disease-resistant wheat cultivation, and high-value crop cultivation, they have also been holding training sessions for the project participants.

### Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO)

ESDO has been implementing the ECCCP-Flood at Madarganj and Sharishabari upazilas of Jamalpur district and Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha district. ESDO has raised plinths of 102 homesteads, installed 12 tube-wells, constructed 21 climate-resilient sanitary latrines, provided support to 122 households for rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds, and extended high-value agricultural crops among 243 farmers from January to March 2024. In addition, ESDO has organized 325 CCAG meetings in the project areas.



Goat rearing in slatted sheds in Jamalpur

### TMSS

TMSS has been implementing the ECCCP-Flood activities at Shaghata upazila in Gaibandha district. TMSS has raised plinths of 100 homesteads, installed 34 tube-wells, constructed 55 climate-resilient sanitary latrines, provided support to 44 households for rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds, and extended high-value agricultural crops among 260 farmers from January to March 2024. They have also organized 300 CCAG meetings during the quarter.



Cluster-based homestead plinth raised in Gaibandha

## Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra

Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra has been implementing the project at Rowmari upazila in Kurigram district. They have organized 375 CCAG meetings from January to March 2024. In addition, they have raised plinths of 20 homesteads, installed five tube-wells, constructed 26 climate-resilient sanitary latrines, provided support to 40 households for rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds and extended high-value agricultural crops among 431 farmers from January to March 2024.



CCAG monthly meeting in Kurigram

## National Development Program (NDP)

NDP has been implementing the ECCCCP-Flood at Chilmari and Char Rajibpur upazilas of Kurigram district. They have raised plinths of 35 homesteads, installed ten tube-wells, constructed 29 climate-resilient sanitary latrines from January to March 2024. They have also provided support among 50 households for rearing goat/sheep in slatted sheds in this quarter. In addition, NDP has organized 489 CCAG meetings from January to March 2024.



Goat rearing in slatted sheds in Kurigram

## NAZIR (Natun Zibon Rochi)

NAZIR, IE of the ECCCCP-Flood, has been executing its activities at Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila in Lalmonirhat district. They have provided training on "Goat Rearing and Management" from January to March 2024. They have also organized 150 CCAG monthly meetings in this quarter. In addition, NAZIR has raised plinths of 12 homesteads, constructed three climate-resilient sanitary latrines, provided support to 36 households for rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds in this quarter.



Flood-tolerant rice cultivation in Lalmonirhat



## People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI)

POPI has been implementing the project at Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila in Lalmonirhat district. They have provided agricultural support to climate-vulnerable 130 farmers from January to March 2024. They have also organized 95 CCAG meetings in this quarter. In addition, POPI has raised plinths of 11 homesteads and extended high-value agricultural crops among 77 farmers from January to March 2024.



Raised homestead plinth in Lalmonirhat

## Gram Bikash Kendra (GBK)

GBK has been implementing the project at Dimla upazila of Nilphamari district. GBK has vaccinated 400 goats and sheep in two different campaigns from January to March 2024. In addition, GBK has raised plinths of 13 homesteads, constructed 20 climate-resilient sanitary latrines, provided support to 12 households for rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds and extended high-value agricultural crops among 250 farmers. GBK has also organized 110 CCAG meetings from January to March 2024.



Livestock vaccination in Nilphamari

## Society for Social Service (SSS)

SSS has been implementing the project at Islampur and Melandah upazila of Jamalpur district. SSS has organized 911 CCAG meetings where more than 16,000 women participated from January to March 2024. In addition, SSS has raised plinths of 34 homesteads, constructed 45 climate-resilient sanitary latrines and extended flood-resilient agricultural crops among 100 farmers from January to March 2024.



Flood-resilient crop cultivation in Jamalpur



## Self-Help and Rehabilitation Programme (SHARP)

SHARP, IE of the ECCCP-Flood, has been implementing its activities at Dimla upazila of Nilphamari district. SHARP has raised plinths of 10 homesteads, installed one tube-well, constructed 22 climate-resilient sanitary latrines and provided support to 44 households for rearing goats and sheep in slatted sheds from January to March 2024. They have also organized 198 CCAG meetings in this quarter.



**Flood-resilient Sanitary latrine at Dimla in Nilphamari**



***ECCU of PKSF and IE Officials visit climate vulnerable coastal areas under ECCCP-Flood Project***

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