

# Transforming Coastal Lives

Quarterly Newsletter of the RHL Project



## Volume No. 1

Special Edition - Updates from  
Project Signing to September 2024

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We are delighted to present this special edition of the "Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL)" Project Newsletter, which consolidates updates and highlights from signing of the project to September 2024. The RHL project focuses on enhancing the climate resilience of coastal communities in seven of Bangladesh's most climate-vulnerable districts through innovative climate-adaptive technologies and sustainable livelihood practices.

As we embark on this important journey to strengthen the resilience of Bangladesh's most vulnerable coastal communities, we are committed to sharing the progress, challenges, and inspiring stories that reflect our collective efforts. This special edition comprises the project's key updates during the inception period conducted by the RHL project and its implementing Entities (IE) on the ground.

While we initially planned quarterly publications, we preferred to compile this year's progress and achievements into a single comprehensive volume to provide a holistic overview of the project's inception phase. The regular quarterly newsletter will resume starting with the October–December 2024 edition. We invite you to join us in this shared mission and continue to support these communities as they rise above the challenges posed by climate change.

Thank you for being a part of this transformative journey. Happy Reading!



*Henry Gonzalez, Executive Director (a.i.), GCF and Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director, PKSF after signing the RHL project agreement. PC: GCF website*

## PKSF and GCF signs RHL project

To reduce the climate-induced vulnerability of the most vulnerable coastal communities of Bangladesh and to enhance their resilience along with alternative livelihoods, PKSF and Green Climate Fund (GCF) signed the agreement on July 14, 2023 for implementing the Resilient Homestead and Livelihood support to the vulnerable coastal people of Bangladesh (RHL) project in Bangladesh. The Funding Activity Agreements (FAAs) was signed on the margins of GCF's 36<sup>th</sup> board meeting held on 10-13 July 2023. Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director of PKSF, signed the agreement on behalf of PKSF, while Henry Gonzalez, Executive Director (a.i.) of GCF, represented GCF in the signing.

The five-year RHL project aims to directly benefit over 350,000 people residing in seven of Bangladesh's most vulnerable coastal districts: Cox's Bazar, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, and Khulna. With a total budget of USD 49.9 million, the project includes a USD 42.2 million grant from GCF and USD 7.78 million in

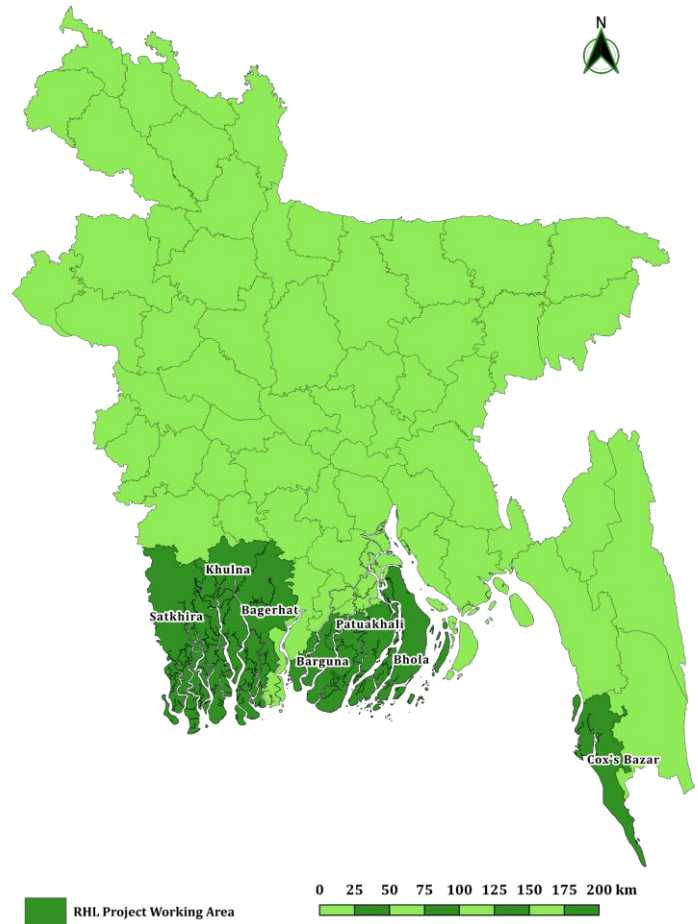
co-financing (comprising loans and in-kind contributions) from PKSF. Highlighting the goals of the RHL project, GCF stated on its website, "The primary goal of the RHL project is to enhance the climate resilience of the vulnerable coastal communities of Bangladesh. The project will attain this goal by financing the development of climate-resilient housing and livelihood technologies while raising knowledge and awareness about the impacts of climate change. The project will build climate-resilient homesteads through the establishment of new, climate-resilient building codes."

In addition to the RHL project, PKSF also signed the Extended Community Climate Change Project-Drought (ECCCP-Drought) during the same event. Speaking about both the RHL and ECCCP-Drought projects, Henry Gonzalez said, "These two funding proposals are focused on the livelihoods of vulnerable people in Bangladesh. We have a huge opportunity to enhance the resilience of local communities, develop climate-resilient housing, address water-scarcity, and benefit women-headed households. I am inspired by the possibilities of these projects."

## RHL project at a glance

Bangladesh ranks seventh on the Global Climate Risk Index (CRI), 2021. This indicates that Bangladesh is on the list of countries most vulnerable to climate change. Around 22% of the country's population living in 19 coastal districts is at the highest level of climate risk. The vulnerability of coastal people is characterized in three ways: 1) poor human settlement in low-lying areas, 2) climate-sensitive livelihood, and 3) scarcity of safe drinking water. The poor coastal community builds houses in low-lying areas subject to coastal flooding. Most houses are built with mud and *goal pata* (leaves of an indigenous coastal plant), severely affected by cyclones, storm surges, and high tides. These people have to spend a significant amount of their earnings repairing houses each year. Besides, the coastal communities primarily depend on seasonal subsistence agriculture and agricultural wage labor, which are highly climate-sensitive.

Against this backdrop, to reduce the climate-induced vulnerability of the most vulnerable coastal communities of Bangladesh and to enhance their resilience along with alternative livelihoods, PKSF initiated the "Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL)" project to implement in the most vulnerable seven coastal districts. These districts were selected based on the exposure, vulnerability, and feasibility of crab hatchery. Green Climate Fund approved the project at GCF's 36th Board meeting (10-13 July 2023) and signed the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) on 14 July 2023. It may be mentioned that the Project is being implemented over a five (5) year period, and PKSF acts as the Accredited Entity and as the single Executing Entity of the Project.



The project's primary goal is to develop climate-adaptive coastal communities in Bangladesh through adapting climate-resilient housing and livelihood technologies. The project will also enhance the capacity of communities and organizations to address climate change impacts in their localities. The adaptation practices proposed under the RHL project are climate-resilient homesteads (not only the houses but also the homestead, sanitation, solar-based electricity, and safe drinking water), saline-resilient livelihood practices including integrated fruit-fish-fibre (crab farming) farming, slatted houses for goats or sheep rearing, saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation, and storm-resilient tree plantations. These interventions will create multiple adaptation benefits under different results areas of the GCF for the target communities.

The project became effective on 17 August 2023. The theory of change (ToC) of the project is developed considering the assumption that target coastal communities in Bangladesh employ weather-proof construction, have access to resources and capacity to implement climate-adaptive livelihoods, and communities with the support of institutions are knowledgeable of adaptive strategies and planning and can coordinate responses.

**Project Period:**

Five years (From September 2023 to August 2028)

**Budget:**

50 million USD (GFC Grant 43 million USD and PKSF, Co-financier 7 million USD)

**Specific objectives:**

1. To develop climate-resilient homesteads for marginal, vulnerable communities in the southwest coastal zone of Bangladesh;
2. To develop climate adaptive livelihoods for coastal vulnerable communities; and
3. To enhance knowledge and awareness of climate change issues in vulnerable coastal communities.

**Project expected outcomes/results:**

1. decreased risk of loss of assets and lives from extreme weather events;
2. livelihood resilience to SLR / storm surge and salinity, and
3. improved climate planning and implementation by communities and local-level institutions.

**RHL project Working Area:**

The project is being implemented in seven coastal districts, namely Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola and Cox's Bazar, that are particularly vulnerable due to sea level rise, salinity intrusion, coastal flooding,

cyclones, and storm surges because of their low elevation, ranging about 1-2 meters above average sea level.

**Target Group**

The project will support around 0.3 million climate-vulnerable people living in selected coastal areas in Bangladesh to become climate resilient. The project will also address the specific needs of often excluded people, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, elderly people, and widows. RHL is inclusive in selecting beneficiaries.

**Major Activities****Climate-resilient housing**

- Homestead plinth raise
- House construction/reconstruction
- Sanitary latrine construction/reconstruction
- Installation of rainwater harvesting system
- Installation/upgrade of solar power system

**Climate Adaptive Livelihood**

- Sustainable development of the crab supply chain
- Goat/sheep rearing at the slatted house
- Saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation
- Mangrove tree plantation.

**Capacity development of local communities and local institutions**

- Capacity development of Climate Change Adaptation Groups (CCAG)
- Capacity building of implementing entity and local institutions
- Capacity building of beneficiaries and stakeholders, and
- Research capacity enhancement of universities established in coastal areas.

## Project Output (Physical)

Activities	Deliverables /Output
Design and building of homesteads	3,000 climate-proof houses will be constructed
Homestead tree plantation	400,000 windbreak trees (or 20 saplings per HH on average) will be planted
Construction of slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing	20,000 HHs (90,000 beneficiaries) will be supported through sheep/goat rearing in slatted houses
Introduce the cultivation of saline-tolerant vegetables within homestead areas	20,000 beneficiary HH will cultivate saline-tolerant vegetables
Development of crab hatcheries (1 <sup>st</sup> stage)	Establish 50 micro crab hatcheries
Technical and financial support for “crab nurseries” (2 <sup>nd</sup> stage)	A least 500 entrepreneurs will engage in crab nursery
Provide technical and financial support to crab farmers (3 <sup>rd</sup> stage)	20,000 beneficiary households

During the first year, the project carried out preliminary activities such as the formation of a Project Management Unit (PMU), selection of Implementing Entities (IEs), selection of project areas, community engagements and sensitization interventions among sectors at the national and local levels, and carry out the necessary studies, especially for civil infrastructures (housing and crab hatchery) to ensure timely and efficient completion of the project ensuring technical quality standards.

## Inception Workshop of RHL project held

The RHL project’s Inception Workshop was held in Khulna on January 29, 2024. The aim was to reorient all stakeholders to the project activities and reaffirm their support and commitment to implementing the project within the stipulated timeline.

Dr Nomita Halder ndc, former Managing Director, PKSf, was present as the Chief Guest in the workshop while Md Helal Mahmud Sharif, Divisional Commissioner, Khulna, presided over the event. Representatives of the implementing entities, i.e., the Partner Organization of PKSf, the responsible parties to the project,



*Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director of PKSf speaks at the Inception Workshop*

participants from the various government departments, division and district-level officials, University teachers, civil society organizations, the media, and representation from development partners, i.e., UNDP, FAO, and representatives from other GCF-Funded projects, participated in the workshop.

In the workshop, Dr Nomita Halder said, “Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries when it comes to climate change. To prevent the hazards caused by climate-change, the government has already formulated various strategies and policies.” She added, “Through this project, PKSF is playing a leading role in protecting the poor and ultra-poor communities who are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.” She expressed optimism that success in dealing with climate change risks can only be achieved if we ensure the active participation of all.

### Objectives of the Inception Workshop

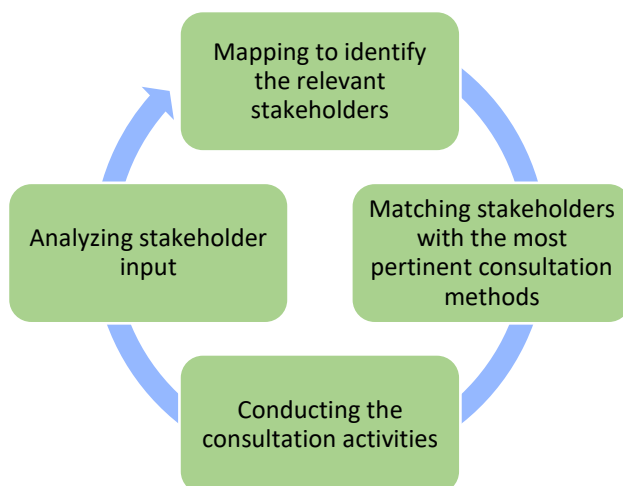
- Orient and re-orient project stakeholders to the project strategy and discuss changes in the overall context that influence project strategy and implementation;
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including communication lines and conflict resolution mechanisms;
- Review the results framework and finalize the indicators, means of verification and monitoring plan;
- Discuss reporting, monitoring, and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project M&E;
- Update and review responsibilities for monitoring the various project plans and strategies, including the risk log, Environmental and Social Management Plan and other safeguard requirements; the gender action plan; and other relevant strategies.

In his speech, Md Helal Mahmud Sharif said, “The government and private enterprises are contributing to combating the impact of climate change.” He expressed sincere thanks to the development agencies and gratitude to PKSF for playing a leading role in this sector.

PKSF Deputy Managing Director Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmad said, “The main objective of the project is to reduce the risk to life and property of the most vulnerable people living in Bangladesh's coastal areas and to provide them with improved and sustainable alternative livelihoods to cope with the risks of climate change.”

## RHL Project conducts Stakeholder Consultations

The RHL project conducted stakeholder consultations from October to December 2023 to systematically engage stakeholders in project implementation and monitoring using a range of tools and activities. The main objectives of the stakeholder consultation were to identify needs and concerns relating to historical climate change events, socioeconomic concerns, and effective adaptation options in the RHL project area.



Stakeholder consultation was conducted in 4 phases

## Consultation program detail



*FGD with community people*

### **Community Workshop/ Consultation Meeting at Field level:**

Community workshops and Consultation Meetings were conducted within the project implementation areas during October-December 2023. The objective of the consultations was to engage with diverse representatives from the community.

### **Key Informant Interviews and FGD:**

A range of professionals and development workers including Fisheries Officer, Agriculture Officer, Project Implementation Officer, and DPHE officer were interviewed on climate change related issues, including their adaptation, housing, water supply and quality, vulnerabilities, and livelihood options during October- December 2023.

### **Stakeholder Workshop/ Consultation Meeting on climate resilient housing at Dhaka:**

The project organized a Stakeholder Workshop/ Consultation Meeting on climate resilient housing at Dhaka on 21 November 2023 at the PKSF Bhaban. Independent architects, subject matter experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), and Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB), and representatives from the PKSF's Partner Organization attended the meeting.

### **A series of consultation meetings with potential IEs is held in Dhaka.**

The project held a series of consultation meetings with potential IEs from December 3-10, 2023, to gather information about the proposed areas, including climate change impacts, the capacity of existing systems (focusing on housing, water scarcity, and livelihoods) to adapt, current management practices, and relevant policies and projects. Thirty-six potential IEs participated in the meetings.

## Stakeholder Consultation Meetings Summary findings

Consultations at the community level indicate that poor communities primarily collect crablets from the Sundarbans. However, they are unable to find crablets in near-shore areas and must travel farther, leading to a decline in natural crab stocks. Participants in these meetings suggested that community members with the financial means should be encouraged to establish crab hatcheries.

## RHL Project selects Implementing Entities



*Representatives of the RHL project IEs after signing the agreement*

The RHL project selected 16 credible local organizations as Implementing Entities (IEs) for implementing its activities in seven coastal districts of Bangladesh. The selection of IEs, completed on February 8, 2024, marks a critical step in ensuring the effective implementation of the project's objectives.

Implementing Entities of RHL project
Community Development Center (CODEC)
Grameen Jano Unnayan Sangstha (GJUS)
Poribar Unnayan Sangstha (FDA)
Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF)
Ad-din Welfare Center
HEED Bangladesh
Bastob-Initiative for People's Self-Development
Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF)
Coast Foundation
Nawabenki Gonomukhi Foundation (NJF)
Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)
Dam Foundation for Economic Development
Society for Development Initiatives (SDI)
Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV)
Unnayan Prochesta
Nabolok Parishad

According to the agreement (FAA) signed between GCF and PKSf, the project will be implemented at the field level through at least 15 partner organizations (POs) of PKSf. On September 17, 2023, Expression of Interest (Eoi) was invited from PKSf affiliates through widely circulated newspapers (The Daily Kaler Kantha and The Daily Business Standard), the PKSf website, email, and Facebook to select the Project Implementing Entity through an accountable, transparent, and competitive process. A committee is formed with a senior officials of PKSf to evaluate the Eoi. Through a vigorous process, the committee selected 16 Organizations as Implementing Entities for the RHL project out of 48 Eoi applications.

On 6 March 2024, PKSf signed agreements with 16 local NGOs to implement the project at the grassroots. An orientation session for the NGOs' focal persons for RHL project was also conducted at PKSf Bhaban.

Dr Nomita Halder ndc, PKSf's Managing Director, presided over the contract signing ceremony. Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, PKSf's Deputy Managing Director, and Dr AKM Nuruzzaman, PKSf's General Manager (Environment and Climate Change), were also present.

### Consultation meeting on Climate Resilient Housing held



Speakers at the consultation meeting

The RHL project organized an expert consultation meeting on 'Climate-Resilient Housing for Coastal People of Bangladesh' on November 21, 2023 at PKSf Bhaban. The primary objective was to explore innovative and robust housing solutions for coastal communities vulnerable to climate change. The meeting focused on integrating climate-resilient technologies into the conventional housing sector to enhance climate resilience.

Dr Nomita Halder ndc, PKSf's former Managing Director, presided over the meeting, while Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, PKSf's Deputy Managing Director, provided the context by outlining the characteristics of climate-resilient housing and its significance for the project.



In her speech, Dr Nomita Halder said, “There is an urgent need to support coastal communities facing climate change, particularly the disadvantaged.” During his opening remark on climate-resilient coastal housing, Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman, General Manager (Environment and Climate Change) at PKSF, highlighted potential areas for improvement in the architecture and construction of homes in coastal areas.

In his closing remarks, Md. Fazlul Kader, Additional Managing Director of PKSF, emphasized the need for dynamic housing designs tailored to coastal communities. He suggested considering the local context instead of relying on a standardized prototype. He also assured that active engagement of project participants would be prioritized, focusing on remote areas, local expertise, and the use of locally sourced building materials.

Individual architects, experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), as well as representatives from the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), and Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB), and PKSF’s Partner Organizations attended the meeting. The meeting covered the construction and design options of houses to withstand natural disasters.

## Training on RHL Project Implementation and Climate Change Issues held

RHL project organized a "Training on RHL Project Implementation and Climate Change Issues" on 18–22 May 2024 at the RRF Training Center in Jashore. The training aimed to equip employees of IEs with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective field-level project implementation. It also facilitated knowledge sharing on the RHL project components and climate change issues. The RHL project staff from the IEs participated in the five-day long training.



*Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director of PKSF speaks at the training*

## Orientation on KoboToolBox

The RHL project is working initially with 350,000 of the most vulnerable people living in seven coastal districts of Bangladesh. These beneficiaries will benefit from this project and whose circumstances are expected to change by implementing the project interventions. All the beneficiaries belonging to the communities' poor and extremely poor sections are selected following detailed beneficiary selection criteria.

The RHL project has been preparing a detailed Socio-Economic Profile of each beneficiary household, gathering all relevant data, including demographic, family, social and economic information. To make the rigorous initiative accurate and timebound, the project collects and stores the beneficiary data using Kobo Tool Box.

The RHL project organized an Orientation on Kobo Tool Box on September 15, 2024. The capacity-building event aimed to equip the team with the knowledge and skills to collect, organize, and store primary data using specialized software. Over 100 participants from Implementing Entities (IE) attended the four-hour session. The session covered the technical aspects of Kobo data collection, addressing various frequently asked questions and resolving key issues. Earlier, the project provided smart mobile phones to IEs for facilitating efficient data collection.

## RHL project Implementing Entities and intervention on the ground

The RHL project operates in seven coastal districts of Bangladesh through its Implementing Entities (IEs). These IEs serve as the project's key pillars, responsible for mobilizing beneficiaries, engaging local contractors, and delivering project services. PKSF oversees the process by reviewing documentation and conducting field visits to ensure quality implementation. Below are summaries of key activities conducted by the Implementing Entities (IEs) of the RHL project during this period

### Ad-din Welfare Center

#### Project Area:

Dacope Upazila, Khulna District

#### Beneficiaries:

5659, Male: 387, Female: 5272

**Project Inception Workshop:** The RHL project inception workshop was held on May 15, 2024, at the Dacope Upazila Muktiyoddha Bhaban Auditorium. Joydev Chakravarthy, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Dacope Upazila, was the Chief Guest. Representatives from government offices, local government institutions, media, and community members attended the event.



FGD with community people. Photo: Ad-din

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** The project conducted PRA exercises across various unions of Dacope Upazila to raise awareness among the local population about the RHL Project and its activities, gather first-hand information from families, and develop a social map highlighting the vulnerabilities of families in the project implementation areas. The project carried out a series of FGDs with coastal communities,

women's groups, crab farmers, vegetable farmers, and family headmen between March and August 2024. Additionally, the project conducted transect walks to validate the PRAs and FGDs' findings and identify potential beneficiaries, ultimately selecting 5,659 beneficiaries.

**Cyclone REMAL response:** Ad-din supported communities in Dacope upazila during Cyclone REMAL in May 2023. It conducted field assessments on the extent of damage and provided support to affected communities. Additionally, the project carried out awareness activities on cyclone preparedness and encouraged them to relocate to cyclone shelters.

### BASTOB - Initiative for People's Self-Development

#### Project Area:

Moheshkhali Upazila, Cox's Bazar District

#### Beneficiaries:

3886, Male: 500, Female: 3386

**Project Inception Workshop:** The RHL project inception workshop was held on May 29, 2024, at the Upazila Parishad Auditorium in Moheshkhali. Upazila Nirbah Officer of Moheshkhali was the Chief Guest of the event. Union Parishad chairpersons and councilors, Upazila officials, journalists, representatives from Union Parishad chairpersons and councilors, Upazila officials, journalists, representatives from other NGOs, beneficiaries, and officials from BASTOB attended the workshop.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** BASTOB



*Social Mapping. Photo: BASTOB*

conducted 168 PRA exercises, initially selecting 4,250 beneficiaries. To verify the data collected through the PRAs, 4,500 entries were validated, resulting in the final selection of 3,886 beneficiaries.

## COAST Foundation

### Project Area:

Cox's Bazar Sadar and Kutubdia Upazila,  
Cox's Bazar District

### Beneficiaries:

4630, Male: 350, Female: 4280



*Social Mapping. Photo: COAST*

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** COAST Foundation conducted 337 PRA exercises at the project sites between May and August 2024, selecting 9,050 beneficiaries. They utilized FGDs and social mapping to discuss climate change issues and gather community opinions and perceptions on the topic. Social maps were developed during the mapping exercises indicating the vulnerability of people reside in project areas. The organization also conducted transects walks to validate the PRA data, and finalize 4630 beneficiaries.

**Project Inception Workshop:** COAST Foundation organized two project inception workshops for the RHL project in Cox's Bazar Sadar and Kutubdia Upazila on May 15, 2024 and July 27, 2024, respectively. Representatives from various government offices at the district and upazila levels, NGOs, civil society organizations, media outlets, and community members attended the workshops.

**Cyclone REMAL response:** COAST provided three-stage response to Cyclone REMAL in Cox's Bazar Sadar and Kutubdia Upazilas. The organization conducted data collection and awareness-raising activities focused on cyclone preparedness. The project emphasized the importance of monitoring radio broadcasts and official warnings, sharing accurate information with others, and refraining from spreading rumors.

## Community Development Centre (CODEC)

### Project Area:

Rangabali Upazila, Patuakhali District and Patharghata Upazila, Barguna District.

### Beneficiaries:

5596

**Project Inception Workshop:** Two inception workshops on the RHL project were held in two upazilas in Patuakhali and Barguna districts. The first workshop took place in Patharghata Upazila on July 4, 2024, followed by the second workshop in Rangabali Upazila on July 30, 2024.



*Inception Workshop. Photo: CODEC*

Representatives from government offices, local government organizations, NGOs, and media personnel participated in the workshops.

## DAM Foundation for Economic Development (DFED)

### Project Area:

Borguna Sadar Upazila, Borguna District.

### Beneficiaries:

2666, Male: 181, Female: 2485

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Verification:** To select beneficiaries for the RHL project, DFED conducted 168 PRA exercises in the project area from May to August 2024, initially selecting 5,225 beneficiaries. The PRA exercises included FGDs, key informant interviews, social mapping, and opinion-sharing meetings. Subsequently, DFED carried out door-to-door verification with the initially selected beneficiaries and finalized a list of 2,666 beneficiaries.



*Training on Goat/Sheep rearing on slatted houses.  
Photo: DFED*

**Project Inception Workshop:** DFED organized a Project Inception Workshop on July 16, 2024 at the Subornajointy Conference Hall of the District Commissioner's Office. Pijus Chandra Dey, the Acting District Commissioner of Barguna, was the Chief Guest, while Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman, General Manager of PKSF, chaired the event. The workshop was attended by 69 participants from various sectors and offices of Borguna Sadar Upazila.

**Cyclone REMAL Response:** Cyclone REMAL significantly impacted Barguna in May 2024. Heavy rainfall caused river levels to rise, inundating villages and damaging infrastructure. The RHL project conducted field assessments to assess the extent of the damage and provide support to affected communities. Additionally, the project carried out community outreach through transect walks, advising residents on cyclone preparedness.

## Poribar Unnayan Songstha (FDA)

### Project Area:

Charfassion and Monpura Upazila, Bhola District

### Beneficiaries:

4247, Female: 2845 women, Male: 1402



*Social Mapping. Photo: FDA*

**Project Inception Workshop:** The RHL project inception workshop was held on May 8, 2024 at Grameen Jano Unnayan Songstha (GJUS) in Bhola, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss project implementation strategies.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** 195 social mappings were conducted, engaging 5655 individuals, including 3445 women and 2210 men. Besides, FDA organized several meetings with local leaders and community members to discuss project objectives and gather their input.

**CCAG Formation:** 40 Climate Change Adaptation Groups (CCAGs) were formed to facilitate project implementation and community-led action.

## Grameen Jano Unnayan sangstha (GJUS)

### Project Area:

Bhola Sadar and Borhanuddin Upazila,  
Bhola District

### Beneficiaries:

4251, Male: 1251, Female: 3000



*Social Mapping. Photo: GJUS*

**Project Inception Workshop:** The RHL project Inception workshop was held in GJUS hall room on May 8, 2024. The Deputy Commissioner of Bhola District was the Chief Guest of the workshop. ADC (General & Revenue), UNO, DFO, DD (Ag.), DLO, ADD, AD (DoE), Union Chairman, UP members, Journalists and local community people attended in the workshop.

**Participatory Rural appraisal (PRA) and validation:** GJUS conducted 337 PRA exercises between July and September 2024 in the project area to identify potential beneficiaries using different methods such as Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and opinion-sharing meetings. During this period, the project team also carried out transect walks, visiting the homes of initially selected beneficiaries to cross-check the data collected through the PRA exercises. After this thorough verification, the project finalized the selection of 8,425 beneficiaries.

## HEED Bangladesh

### Project Area:

Kalapara upazila, Patuakhali district

### Beneficiaries:

3010, Male: 50, Female: 2960



*Household verification of at Komorpur Village.  
Photo: HEED Bangladesh*

### Project Inception Meeting at Upazila Level:

HEED Bangladesh organized a Project Inception Meeting on May 13, 2024 at the Kalapara Upazila Conference Hall. The meeting was chaired by Anwar Hossain, the Executive Director of HEED Bangladesh, with Md. Rabiul Islam, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, serving as the Chief Guest. Koushik Ahmed, the Assistant Commissioner (Land), and other government officials were also present. 60 participants attended the event.

### Field Visit and Meeting with Union Parishad:

HEED Bangladesh visited 12 unions in Kalapara, holding meetings with the Union Parishad Chairmen, Members, and Secretary. These discussions provided crucial insights and helped identify the most climate-vulnerable unions, areas, villages, and communities within the Upazila.

### Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):

The project conducted PRA surveys to identify the most climate-vulnerable households in pre-selected high-risk areas. From May to August 2024, 168 surveys were completed, resulting in a preliminary list of 4,116 households that met the beneficiary selection criteria. During this process, social maps were developed with the assistance of local community members. A door-to-door verification process was then undertaken using the preliminary list from the PRA surveys, leading to the final selection of 3,010 beneficiaries.

**Transect Walk:** The project conducted transect walks to gather comprehensive information on

beneficiary family size, income and expense, land use, socio-economic resources, and environmental conditions. Through this activity, they identified the diversity of ecosystems, land use patterns, socio-economic indicators, cropping practices, slopes, drainage systems, etc.

**Cyclone REMAL Response:** In May 2024, Cyclone REMAL caused widespread damage to the infrastructure of Kalapara Upazila, affecting homes, roads, bridges, and communication systems. In response, the RHL project conducted field assessments of the damage and provided support to the affected population.

## Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF)

### Project Area:

Koyra Upazila, Khulna District

### Beneficiaries:

5625, Male: 2194, Female: 3431



*Social Mapping. Photo: JCF*

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** The project conducted 168 PRA exercises from June to August 2024, resulting in a preliminary list of 6,000 beneficiaries that met the beneficiary selection criteria. During this process, social maps were developed with the assistance of local community members. A door-to-door verification process was then undertaken using the preliminary list from the PRA surveys, leading to the final selection of 5,625 beneficiaries.

**Transect Walk:** The project conducted Transect

Walk to gather information on the use of land, social and economic resources, state of the environment, diversity of eco-systems, existing coping mechanism, slopes, drainage patterns etc.

**Cyclone REMAL Response:** Cyclone REMAL significantly impacted Koyra in May 2024. Heavy rainfall caused river levels to rise, inundating villages and damaging infrastructure. The RHL project conducted field assessments and provided support to the affected population.

## Nabolok Parishad

### Project Area:

Mongla Upazila, Bagerhat District

### Beneficiaries:

7,480, Male: 153, Female: 7,327



*Practical session of the training on saline tolerant vegetable cultivation. Photo: Nabolok*

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** Nabolok Parishad conducted 178 PRA sessions to engage communities in identifying vulnerable coastal populations, livelihood challenges, and actionable strategies.

**Climate Change Adaptation Group (CCAG):** To empower disaster-prone communities through awareness, capacity building, and participatory decision-making, the project formed CCAGs in Mongla Upazila, Bagerhat district. By September 2024, the project had formed 48 CCAGs.

**Project Inception Workshop:** The Inception

Workshop of the RHL project was held on June 25, 2024 at the Bagerhat DC Office. The workshop aimed to discuss ways to address climate vulnerabilities by providing appropriate housing and livelihood support to coastal communities.

## Nowabanki Gonomukhi Foundation (NGF)

### Project Area:

Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira District

### Beneficiaries:

15,648, Male: 1,315, Female: 14,333



*Inception Workshop. Photo: NGF*

**Project Inception Workshop:** The RHL project Inception Workshop was held on April 18, 2024 at the Deputy Commissioner's Auditorium, Satkhira. The Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira was the Chief Guest. Among others, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education & ICT), Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), and representatives from local government institutions, media, and communities attended the event.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** NGF conducted a total of 106 PRA exercises during this period. Nearly 18,000 potential beneficiaries were enlisted from these sessions. The project engaged local residents from each village, including teachers, imams, Union Parishad members, doctors, and other community members. From the list of nearly 18,000 potential beneficiaries, the project selected 1,450 beneficiaries after visiting each household.

**Climate Change Adaptation Group (CCAG):** The project formed 45 CCAGs within this period. 25 CCAG meetings were held where the details of the project, climate change issues, adaptation and mitigation techniques were discussed.

**Cyclone REMAL Response:** The project played a crucial role in emergency response efforts, collaborating with local authorities and community leaders to provide timely support to affected households. They assisted in the evacuation of vulnerable individuals, facilitated the distribution of emergency relief materials, and offered guidance on cyclone preparedness and safety measures.

## Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF)

### Project Area:

Morrelganj Upazila, Bagerhat District

### Beneficiaries:

3549, Male: 1598, Female: 1951



*Training on RHL Project Implementation and Climate Change Issues. Photo: RRF*

**Project Inception Workshop:** The Inception Workshop of the RHL project was held on June 27, 2024 at the Conference Hall of the District Commissioner's Office in Bagerhat. Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director of PKSF, chaired the workshop, while Md. Khalid Hosen, the Acting District Commissioner, served as the Chief Guest. Representatives from various government departments, Union Parishad Chairpersons, NGOs, media, and community members attended the event.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** RRF conducted 168 PRA exercises from May to September 2024 across 7 unions in Morrelganj Upazila. Nearly 5,658 potential beneficiaries were enlisted from the PRA sessions. Through a door-to-door verification process, the project finally selected 3,549 beneficiaries later.

**Climate Change Adaptation Group (CCAG):** The project formed 140 CCAGs during the period engaging around 20-25 members in each group. The groups are organizing their monthly meeting on a regular basis.

## Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV)

### Project Area:

Chakaria Upazila, Cox's Bazar District

### Beneficiaries:

3132, Male: 315, Female: 2817

**Project Inception Workshop:** The Inception Workshop of the RHL project was held on May 14, 2024 at the Upazila Conference Room in Chakaria. 35 participants from local Government offices, local representatives, media and communities attended in the workshop.



*Training on Crab Farming. Photo: SARPV*

**Meeting with union parishad Chairman, Secretary and Government Officials:** SARPV met with Union Parishad Chairmen, UP Secretaries, and other government officials to gather household information and assess the vulnerability status in the area. Additionally, the project organized 117 community consultation.

meetings at various locations across Chakaria Upazila.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and beneficiary selection:** The RHL project conducted 125 PRA sessions at various locations in Chakaria Upazila to identify beneficiaries. 9,496 participants took part in these sessions. SARPV also validated data from 4,432 primarily selected beneficiaries to finalize 3,132 vulnerable households as project beneficiaries in Chakaria.

## Society for Development Initiatives (SDI)

### Project Area:

Teknaf Upazila, Cox's Bazar District

### Beneficiaries:

2910, Male: 770, Female: 2140



*Training on Goat/Sheep rearing on slatted houses.*

*Photo: SDI*

**Training on RHL Project Implementation and Climate Change Issues:** SDI attended the 'Training on RHL Project Implementation & Climate Change Issues' organized by the RHL project from 26–29 May 2024 in Cox's Bazar. The training was designed to equip the IE/PO staff with the necessary skills to implement the project at the field level. The event's objective was to disseminate knowledge about the RHL project and raise awareness about climate change.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Validation:** SDI conducted 86 PRA meetings and identified 4000 beneficiaries. These sessions were followed by developing social maps of respective areas. The project also conducted



door-to-door validation in primarily selected beneficiary households and finalized a list of 2910 beneficiaries.

**Project Inception Workshop:** SDI organized a Project Inception Workshop on May 15, 2024. 83 participants attended, including representatives from various government departments and offices at the district and Upazila levels, UP Chairpersons and Members, Civil Society Organizations, and community members. The workshop focused on building rapport between local government, project personnel, and beneficiaries.

## Unnayan Prochesta

### Project Area:

Assasuni Upazila, Satkhira District

### Beneficiaries:

6000, Male: 50, Female: 5950

**Training on RHL Project Implementation & Climate Change Issues:** UP participated in the 'Training on RHL Project Implementation & Climate Change Issues' organized by the RHL project. The training was designed to provide knowledge on the RHL project and climate change issues, while also enhancing the capacity of IE/PO to implement the project at the field.



*Inception Workshop. Photo: UP*

**Project Inception Workshop:** The Inception Workshop of the RHL project took place at the DC Office conference room on April 18, 2024. Attended by representatives from government departments and offices, NGOs, local media, and community members, the workshop focused on key climate change issues in Satkhira and discussed strategies to address these challenges.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):** The RHL project conducted 180 PRA exercises at the project site between May and August 2024, initially selecting 6,000 beneficiaries. Additionally, the team developed a social map during this period with the assistance of local community members.

## Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

### Project Area:

Ramu Upazila, Cox's Bazar District

### Beneficiaries:

2835, Male: 724, Female: 2111

**Project Inception Workshop:** The Inception workshop of the RHL project was held at the Officers Club, Ramu upazila on May 16, 2024. 50 participants from different sectors and offices attended in the workshop.

**Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Validation:** YPSA conducted 137 PRA meetings at the project site between 27 June to 29 August, 2024, initially selecting 5252 beneficiaries primarily. The project also conducted door-to-door validation in primarily selected beneficiaries and finalized a list of 2835 beneficiaries.

**Workshop on Crab Farming:** The representative from the YPSA RHL project participated in a workshop on "Possibilities of Crab Farming in Bangladesh, Current Problems and Possible Solution" on July 16, 2024 at PKSF Bhaban. The workshop provided insights and guidance on crab farming in coastal areas like Cox's Bazar.



*Crab Farmer of Shrimura CCAG in front of his pond.*

*Photo: YPSA*



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