

Transforming Coastal Lives

Quarterly Newsletter of the RHL Project



Volume No. 5
July – September 2025

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We are pleased to present the fifth volume of the RHL Project Newsletter, highlighting the key achievements and community-led progress made during the period of July to September 2025.

A key highlight of this period was the training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management in Cox's Bazar, advancing sustainable crab hatchery practices and alternative livelihoods for coastal families. Additionally, the story of Rahima Begum from Dacope, Khulna, shows how the RHL project is changing lives. With support from the project, she and her family now live in a climate-resilient home, bringing them safety and hope for the future. The community-managed roadside tree plantation in Shyamnagar, symbolizes collective community action in restoring ecosystems and promoting environmental stewardship.

The Activity Progress Review Workshop assessed implementation achievements and reaffirmed the commitment of all partners to quality, timeliness, and sustainability. Together, these efforts reflect the RHL project's ongoing commitment to building a more resilient, and sustainable future for the coastal communities of Bangladesh.

Happy reading!!



Farida Akhter, Adviser, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock visits the training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management on 21 September 2025

RHL project organized Training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management

To address the adverse impacts of climate change in the coastal regions of Bangladesh, PKSF is implementing the Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) project since 17 August 2023 with financial support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). As part of developing climate-resilient livelihoods for climate-vulnerable coastal communities, the project provides technical and financial support to establish 50 crab hatcheries, 500 crab nurseries, and 20,000 crab farms.

Climate change has increased salinity in the coastal districts of Bangladesh, making it harder for poor and ultra-poor people to ensure livelihood. At the same time, crab farming has become an important source of income in this area because crabs can survive in salty water and have a high demand in foreign markets. But

crab farming depends on collecting baby crabs from nature, especially from the Sundarbans, which puts pressure on biodiversity. To solve this problem, the RHL Project has planned to establish crab hatcheries for producing crablets (baby crabs).

As a part of the initiative the RHL project organized a “Training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management” for crab hatchery entrepreneurs on 24 August. The 26-day training was designed in three phases, combining theoretical, technical, and practical sessions. 20 participants, including crab hatchery entrepreneurs, technicians from private Bagda hatcheries, and government crab hatchery technicians took part in the training. The first phase, consisting of seven days of theoretical sessions, was completed on 30 August. The second phase, a seven-day practical training, was held from 14 to 21 September. On 21 September,



Participants of the hands-on training on Crab Hatchery Operation and Management

Adviser to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Farida Akhter visited the training venue and praised the initiative. The infrastructure of the Crab Hatchery and Nursery Complex, Cox's Bazar under the Department of Fisheries was utilized to conduct the training. The third phase, a 12-day practical training, will be held from 5 October.

It is expected that after the training, crab hatcheries as well as Bagda shrimp hatcheries will be able to initiate crab seed (crablet) production. A significant portion of the seed demand for crab farming in Khulna, Satkhira, and Bagerhat regions will be met, once the 50 crab hatcheries are established and produced crablets in the Cox's Bazar region. Consequently, dependency on natural crablet collection, particularly from the Sundarbans, will be reduced. At the same time, greater employment opportunities will be created in the crab sub-sector.



A crab farmer harvesting hard-shell crabs



Project Coordinator of the RHL project conducts theoretical session

PKSF Deputy Managing Director inaugurated community-managed tree plantation

To combat adverse impact of climate-change in the coastal area, the RHL project plants trees in beneficiary homesteads and public places including roadside space and education institutions. As a part of the initiative of the RHL project, Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of PKSF Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed inaugurated community-based roadside tree plantation in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira district on 06 July 2025. During the campaign six kilometre road was covered with 16 hundred trees in Henchy Kheya Ghat, Mohendrakotha and Nawabeki in Shamnagar. The planted trees are jointly managed with Atulia Poribesh Unnayan Club (Atulia Environment Development Club) and Nababeki Gonomukhi Foundation (NGF).

After inaugurating the campaign Dr. Fazle Rabbi said, "Trees play a crucial role in protecting coastal ecosystems by reducing soil erosion, improving air quality, and acting as natural barriers against cyclones and tidal surges." He underscored the importance of continued efforts to expand tree cover in coastal areas to protect both people and nature from the escalating threats of climate change.



Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of PKSF inaugurated the community-managed roadside tree plantation in Shyamnagar

The tree plantation campaign, organized by RHL project, aims to promote greenery, restore the coastal ecosystem, and contribute to long-term environmental balance. Beneficiaries, community members, and NGF officials actively participated in planting fruit-bearing and timber trees suitable for coastal conditions.

So far, the project planted 347,017 climate-resilient trees in the beneficiary homesteads, roadsides and education institutions in the project areas. The plantation included a variety of species such as coconut, guava, sapodilla, wood apple, betel nut, and neem, contributing to both environmental conservation and the livelihood needs of the communities. To support the healthy growth and protection of these trees, beneficiaries were also provided with garden trellis nets, ensuring enhanced care and sustainability of the planted trees.

Dr. Fazle Rabbi visited the RHL project activities at Nababeki Gonomukhi Foundation (NGF) later. He observed a range of interventions



Community-managed roadside tree plantation in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira district

under the RHL project, such as climate-resilient housing, homestead vegetable cultivation, goat rearing with improved housing facilities, and other livelihood-support initiatives designed to enhance the adaptive capacity of vulnerable coastal households. He interacted with beneficiaries to learn about their experiences, challenges, and progress in building resilience to climate change and salinity-affected environments.

RHL project Activity Progress Review Workshop held

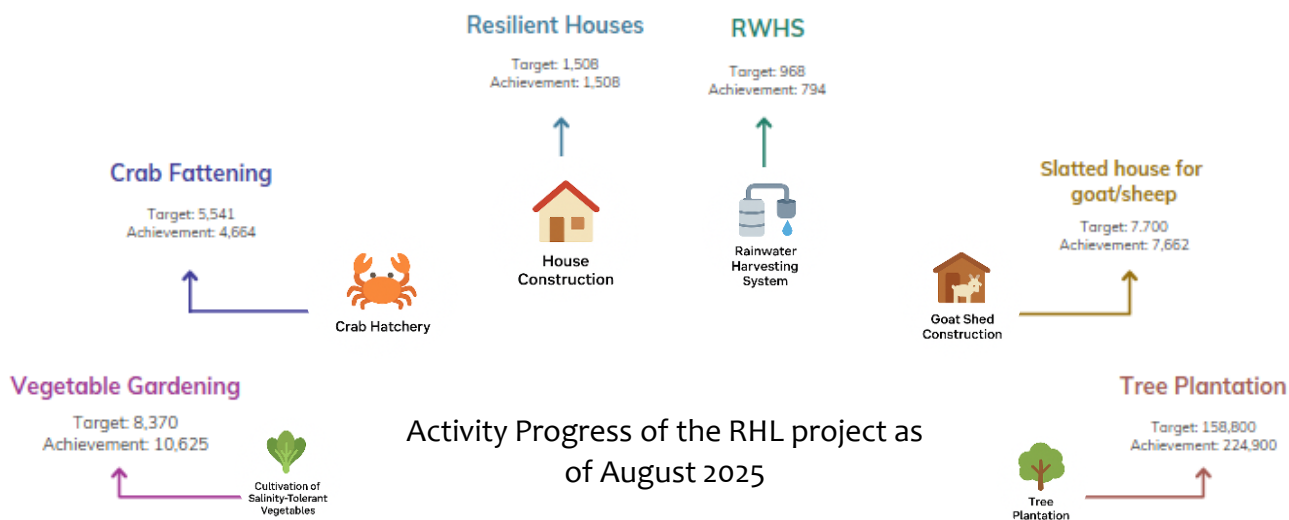
To assess the field-level progress of the fiscal year 2024–25 and outline the operational plan for 2025–26, the RHL Project organized a virtual activity progress review meeting on 18 August 2025. The meeting brought together executive directors, focal persons, and project coordinators from all Implementing Entities (IEs) under the Project Management Unit (PMU).

The session was chaired by Dr. Fazle Rabbi



Dr. Fazle Rabbi Shadek Ahmad, Deputy Managing Director of PKSF chaired the Activity Progress Review Workshop

Shadek Ahmad, Deputy Managing Director of PKSF, who welcomed the participants and acknowledged their continued dedication and commitment to the project’s goals. He noted that the project has now reached its mid-term stage, making the upcoming fiscal year a crucial period for achieving key objectives. “Implementing Entities must ensure efficiency and timeliness while maintaining the highest quality standards in all activities,” said Dr. Fazle Rabbi. He also emphasized that the next year would be particularly challenging for the 18 IEs. He stressed the importance of strategic planning and adherence to deadlines to sustain project momentum.



Activity Progress of the RHL project as of August 2025

Dr. Fazle Rabbi said, “We must ensure that project activities meet GCF’s standards and are rated *Highly Satisfactory*. No compromise on quality is acceptable,” he added.

The Chair outlined several key directives for ensuring effective and sustainable project implementation. He emphasized prioritizing beneficiaries’ satisfaction while maintaining sustainability across all interventions. He instructed that regular internal audits be conducted and their findings shared with PKSF for continuous improvement. To ensure timely fund flow, he directed that transfers from the mother account to project accounts must be completed within three working days. Strengthening the *Community Climate Action Groups (CCAGs)* was also identified as a top priority, with a call for active monthly meetings and knowledge-sharing sessions on environment and climate change. He further stressed strict adherence to technical standards and guidelines issued by PMU and PKSF and encouraged stronger collaboration with government initiatives—particularly in mangrove afforestation—to enhance environmental impact.

Representatives of the implementing organizations then shared their respective progress updates and challenges. Zakir Hossain Mohin, Executive Director of GJUS, reported that despite disruptions caused by heavy rainfall, house-building targets for FY 2024–25 were successfully achieved. Anwar Hossain, Executive Director of HEED Bangladesh, praised PKSF for promoting transparency and building institutional capacity to serve climate-vulnerable communities. Sheikh Iman Ali, Executive Director of SUS, proposed organizing meetings with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for policy guidance, while Md. Arifur Rahman, CEO of YPSA, suggested showcasing RHL’s activities at international platforms such as Conference of the Parties (COP).

An interactive session, led by Dr. A.K.M.

Nuruzzaman, General Manager of the Environment and Climate Change Unit at PKSF, focused on key operational and policy concerns such as exceptions for housing, land ownership documentation, government land usage, and budget flexibility. Dr. Nuruzzaman clarified that exceptions for housing may be approved on a case-by-case basis for highly vulnerable families. He also stressed compliance with government restrictions on plinth raising using topsoil and noted that the sustainability of crab hatcheries depends on the availability of *Artemia* and proper site selection. In his concluding remarks, he commended the cooperation of all implementing organizations and emphasized the social responsibility embedded in RHL activities. He encouraged the promotion of micro-shelters to protect against cyclones and highlighted the importance of training local engineers and masons to build community resilience. “The collaboration of implementing organizations is key to achieving our goals. By working with commitment and technical competence, we can ensure the safety and livelihoods of vulnerable coastal communities,” he said.

The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude from the Chair and renewed commitment from all stakeholders to ensure timely, high-quality, and sustainable implementation of the RHL project in the coming year.



Resilient family in their climate-resilient homestead

RHL Project Showcases Climate-Resilient Innovations at Adaptation Expo in Bhola



RHL project takes part in the Adaptation Expo in Bhola

The RHL project participated in the two-day Adaptation Expo on Innovation, Empowerment, and Climate Resilience Technology, held on 24–25 August 2025 in Bhola. The event served as a valuable platform for sharing innovative, community-driven technologies designed to combat the growing impacts of climate change in Bangladesh's coastal regions.

The exhibition featured a wide range of climate-resilient practices and technologies promoted under the project to strengthen the adaptive capacity of coastal households. Among the key exhibits were climate and disaster-resilient housing models, improved cookstoves, solar energy systems, saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation, and gunny bag-based ginger farming techniques.

Demonstration models on tree plantation and safe water preservation technologies during disasters further reflected the project's comprehensive approach to building climate resilience.

Visitors praised the practicality, affordability, and adaptability of these technologies, which have been designed for easy replication at both household and community levels. The stall not only showcased the tangible impacts of the RHL project but also created an opportunity for meaningful interaction among stakeholders. It facilitated valuable exchanges of knowledge, ideas, and experiences that can enhance awareness and inspire further action on climate adaptation at the grassroots level.

Through its active participation in the event, the RHL project successfully demonstrated its ongoing contributions to promoting sustainable livelihoods, resilient housing solutions, and climate-smart agricultural practices among the vulnerable coastal population. The exhibition reaffirmed the project's position as a leading example of innovation and adaptation in Bangladesh, offering practical pathways toward a more climate-resilient and sustainable future for coastal communities.

Training on Photography Using Mobile Devices held

To strengthen field-level documentation skills, the RHL Project organized an online training session on “Photography Using Mobile Devices” on 10 July 2025. Project staff from 18 implementing entities, including Project Coordinators and Technical Officers (Environment and Monitoring), participated in the session aimed at enhancing their capacity for improved photo and video documentation of project activities.

The training began with an inaugural session chaired by Abu Nashir Khan, Project Coordinator of the RHL Project.

Update from Ground

During the period the RHL project reached to 41,356 coastal people with different types of interventions and services, among them 6,821 are male, and 34,535 are female. Additionally, the project achieved the following milestones:

Design and building of homesteads



Rahima Begum stands with her mother in front of their climate-resilient homestead

Following the overall target for designing and building 3000 climate-resilient homesteads, the RHL project constructed 1,624 resilient houses so far. 114 homesteads were constructed during the reporting period. Along with the construction of houses, the project provided a comprehensive package of rainwater harvesting system, an environment friendly twin pit offset latrine and a solar system based on the needs of individual beneficiary. 10% contribution against the total cost were born by the beneficiaries.

Homestead tree planting

So far, the project planted 347,017 climate-resilient trees in the beneficiary homesteads in the project areas. The plantation included a variety of species such as coconut, guava, sapodilla, wood apple, betel nut, and neem, contributing to both environmental

conservation and the livelihood needs of the communities. To support the healthy growth and protection of these trees, beneficiaries were also provided with garden trellis nets, ensuring enhanced care and sustainability of the planted trees.

Cultivation of saline tolerant vegetables



Beneficiary at her ginger garden

Till the period, the project provided support to 10,667 beneficiaries with saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation practices in homestead areas. The support included seeds, plants, nets, and watering cans for cultivating ginger using bags. Beneficiaries have also begun growing a variety of crops, including tomatoes, eggplants, red amaranth, kangkong, and turnips, along with zinger in sack method.

Construction of slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing

To enhance hygiene, reduce disease risk among livestock, and contribute to better livelihoods



Slatted house for goat/sheep rearing.

for the beneficiaries, the project constructed 801 slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing during July to September 2025. So far, 8,437 houses have been constructed for goat/sheep rearing. Prior to the construction, beneficiaries were systematically selected and provided with training on the effective use and maintenance of the structures. The construction materials include concrete pillars, bamboo, wood, tin etc.

Development of crab Hatchery



PKSF Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed inspecting crablet production process at a crab hatchery

During the reporting period, the project provided support to develop two crab hatchery. Besides, construction work for three hatcheries is underway. Additionally, the project is working with hatchery owners in Cox's Bazar for developing crab hatcheries.

RHL project supports Crab Nurseries and Farmers



RHL supports crab farmers.

During this quarter, the project provided technical and financial support 121 new beneficiaries to establish crab nurseries. During the period, the project provided technical and financial support to 5,429 new beneficiaries for crab farming in saline ponds. This initiative aims to enhance livelihoods and promote sustainable aquaculture practices in saline-prone areas.

Climate-Change Adaptation Group (CCAG)

Each group is scheduled to hold at least one meeting every month for its 3200 CCAGs. During the reporting period, a total of 5,881 CCAG monthly meetings were organized, engaging 124,387 beneficiaries (with repeated participation).

Each CCAG is structured with a committee comprising a President, Secretary, Cashier, and General Members to promote community involvement in climate action and decision-making processes. These committees play a vital role in ensuring the effective implementation and management of project activities within their respective areas.

Updates in Frames



Tree Plantation



Crab Farming



Goat rearing on slatted house



RHL project climate-resilient house



Grievance Redress Mechanism



Crab farming



Story of change

The Journey of Rahima Begum: From Despair to a Safe Shelter

In Khona, a small village bordering the Sundarbans in Dacope Upazila of Khulna, lives Rahima Begum, a widowed woman struggling to rebuild her life. She lives with her two young sons and elderly mother. After the death of her husband, all the responsibilities of the family fell on her shoulders. Unfortunately, Rahima suffers from epilepsy, which makes even daily chores a difficult challenge.

Without any permanent home of their own, Rahima's family used to live in a fragile thatched hut provided by a kind neighbor. The family's meager expenses were managed mainly from her mother's small allowance, while Rahima occasionally earned a little by working as a domestic help in nearby houses. Although she owns a small piece of land, she never had the means to build a safe house on it.

Every monsoon brought a new nightmare. Rainwater dripped through the tin roof, the courtyard went under mud and water, and during storms there was no safe place for her to take shelter with her children. With her mother's old age and her own illness, managing everything became almost impossible.

The Khona-3 Climate-Change Adaption Group (CCAG) under the RHL project identified the most vulnerable families in the village, and Rahima's name came up among the highest-priority cases. Her illness, lack of housing, and the responsibility of caring for two young children and an elderly mother made her situation especially critical.

After a joint discussion, the group decided to provide Rahima with a climate-resilient permanent house. Construction began soon



Climate-resilient homestead of Rahima



Rahima, along with her family

after featuring a raised plinth, solid walls, and a concrete floor to ensure safety and durability. Beyond just a house, her courtyard was elevated to prevent waterlogging, and she was provided with a 3,000-liter safe water tank, an improved cookstove, a hygienic latrine, and a 100-watt solar power system to supply light at night, charge mobile phones, and help her children study after dark.

Expressing her gratitude, Rahima said, “This house is not just bricks and cement for me - it is my sons’ safety and future. Earlier, my heart trembled whenever a storm approached, but now I feel courage.”

For the first time in years, a smile brightens Rahima’s face. Her family now enjoys a sense of comfort, safety, and dignity, and most importantly, a dependable shelter they can finally call home.

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