Environmental and Social Impact Monitoring (ESIM) Progress Report

Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL) Project

Reporting Period: July–September 2025
Compiled by: GCF-RHL, PKSF
Monitoring coverage: 3,244 records across 7 coastal districts: 15% pre-implementation, 31% implementation, 54% post-implementation, covering homesteads 100% and approximately 10% samples for other activities.

Executive Summary: The RHL project is maturing into a high-compliance, systematized safeguard programme, with climate finance translating into measurable, climate-resilient and socially inclusive outcomes. ESIM data from 3,244 Kobo-based field records for July–September 2025 show overall ESS compliance rising from 47.9% in pre-implementation to 50.6% in post-implementation, with particularly strong performance in homestead development, occupational health and safety (OHS), and stakeholder engagement. PKSF Environmental and Social Standards (ESS-1 on environmental assessment, ESS-2 on labor and working conditions, ESS-4 on community health and safety, and ESS-7 on Indigenous Peoples) are now largely embedded in routine implementation, with compliance generally above 90%, while standards on resource efficiency, biodiversity and stakeholder engagement (ESS-3, ESS-6 and ESS-10) are being applied systematically, though they remain more sensitive to the intensity of field supervision and follow-up.

Key Safeguarding Highlights

Activity	Monitoring Coverage/ Stage	Key Positive Findings	Gaps / Risks	Priority Follow-up
Design and building of climate-resilient homesteads	**1,716 households** across pre/ implementation/ post; 100% coverage of implemented homesteads.	- General pollution risk reduced from 9% to 2.9% (air, water, soil). - Dust and air emission control nearly 93% through water spraying, polythene cover, clean transport. - Solar use: 35.9% to 96.8%; ICS: 32.5% to 93.9%. contributing to GHG reduction. - OHS awareness 84.6% to 92.6%. - PPE use and safe water and first aid access more than 96%. - CCAG/stakeholder engagement consistently 98 to 99%.	- Isolated cases of pay inequity (less than 10% of female workers) and 1% child/forced labor. - Minor vegetation removal (1.6-5%) during construction.	- Tighten contractor/ mason supervision on labor standards (no child labor, equal pay). - Ensure every reconstruction is linked with compensatory plantation and nurturing.

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Construction of slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing	**982 records** (240 pre, 106 implementations, 636 post) more than 10% of 8,505 target up to this quarter.	- Environmental pollution risk very low (0.8-1.1%). - Dust control and hygiene: polythene use 26.1% to 72.4%; litter box cleaning 90% to 97.6%. - OHS awareness improved 61.7% to 85.2%. - Safe water and first aid access 49.2% to 96%. - Composting awareness/practice 98-99%. - Female worker safety 87–100%. - Stakeholder awareness & CCAG participation 100%.	- Small presence of child labor (0.5–0.9%). - Biodiversity: tree cutting 29% at pre-stage, improved but still 2.8–3.5% in later stages; plantation 66–100% but not uniform. - SEAH awareness improved but fluctuated (33% to 46% to 40%).	- Zero-tolerance plan for child labor; integrate message in all CCAG meetings. - Maintain minimum re-plantation ratio (e.g., 3-5 trees per tree cut) and monitor. - Schedule refresher SEAH sessions for all goat-rearing beneficiaries and workers.
Development of crab hatcheries (1st stage)	**Only 2 new hatcheries** assessed at pre-implementation (baseline).	- Dust/air and noise control at 100% (covered materials, water spraying, eco-friendly transport). - Good water source/resource measures: treatment facility 67%; safe material storage / grid electricity 75%. - Stakeholder engagement & consultation 100% with local administration and communities.	- OHS preparedness low: only 40% with PPE/first aid; limited safety awareness. - Biodiversity conservation weak (33% plantation/greening). - No structured GRM use yet.	- Conduct pre-construction OHS & SEAH orientations for hatchery staff and workers. - Integrate explicit biodiversity plan (pond-side greening, buffer vegetation). - Operationalize and display GRM channels at hatchery sites.
Technical & financial support to "crab	**19 nursers** (Nearly 10% of 121 target) across	- Pollution risk effectively managed (4% to 0%). - OHS indicators reached 100% in post-implementation	- Child labor still present and slightly rising (10% to 11.1%).	- Immediate corrective action plan on child labor.

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nursers" (2nd stage)	implementation & post-implementation.	(awareness, PPE, safe water, first aid, female safety). - Effluent/saline water treatment improved 40% to 100%; no new ponds/land used, only existing saline waterbodies. - Composting/waste management awareness 20% to 100%. - SEAH awareness 20% to 88.9%. - Stakeholder engagement/CCAG involvement at 100%.	- No formal complaints recorded-risk of under-reporting rather than zero grievance.	- Proactively promote GRM use during CCAG meetings to avoid "silent grievances".
Technical & financial support to "crab farmers" (3rd stage)	**525 farmers** (Nearly 10% of 5,429 target) across pre / implementation / post.	- General pollution risk well managed: 2.8% to 1.2% (post). - Water resource protection: 100% use of existing saline land/water; no salinity intrusion. - OHS: awareness 62.9% to 90%. - PPE use 26.3% to 86.2%; female safety 100% at all stages. - Biodiversity: tree/vegetation protection and plantation 69.4% to 91.3% around ponds. - SEAH awareness jumped 45% to 86%; - Stakeholder engagement and CCAG involvement 100%.	- Child labor minimal but not zero (0.9%). - GRM performance strong but slightly declining in resolution (100% to 90.9%).	- Keep OHS & SEAH refreshers part of routine extension visits. - Track time taken for grievance resolution and share back feedback to community to sustain trust.

Monitoring shows that the RHL project is maintaining strong environmental and social safeguards while moving beyond a "do no harm" approach toward creating clear climate and livelihood co-benefits. Construction sites and homesteads demonstrate low pollution risks, widespread use of solar panels and improved cooking stoves, safer water and sanitation practices, and markedly improved OHS, with injuries

remaining low. Livelihood interventions, especially goat/sheep rearing in slatted houses and the crab value chain, are largely compliant with environmental standards through regular cleaning, composting, effluent control and greening measures, while also strengthening circular economy practices at household level. Socially, women's participation has increased, CCAGs are emerging as trusted local governance and safeguards oversight bodies, and use of grievance redress mechanisms is expanding with high resolution rates. However, isolated cases of child labor and wage disparities affecting women particularly in some crab nurseries signal the need for stronger enforcement of zero tolerance on child labor and discrimination. The data also show that safeguard performance is closely tied to ongoing supervision and awareness-raising, with some indicators softening post-implementation. Sustaining gains will therefore require more structured post-implementation monitoring, community-led ESS tracking through CCAGs, and continued messaging and follow-up with crab value chain actors and local authorities.

ESS-wise Insight Summary

ESS	Thematic Area	Key Findings / Insights	Status	Follow-up
ESS 1	Environmental & Social Assessment	Systematic screening and digital monitoring applied to all activities. Pollution risk reduced in homesteads (9% to 2.9%) and crab farming (2.8% to 1.2%).	- On track - strong system in place	Maintain system and continue tracking pollution risk trends.
ESS 2	Labour & Working Conditions	Local labor recruitment 95-100%; female worker safety 90-100%; PPE use improving, especially in crab value chain. Occasional child labor (0.5-1.8%) identified and addressed.	Largely compliant	Enforce strict zero-tolerance on child labor; maintain PPE and safety supervision.
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency & Pollution Prevention	No hazardous chemicals used. Strong shift to solar and improved cookstoves (ICS); high composting adoption in goat activities; good effluent management in crab nurseries.	Positive trend	Continue close monitoring of wastewater/effluent and dust control measures.
ESS 4	Community Health, Safety & Security	No community health incidents reported. OHS awareness 80-100%; injury rate- 2.2%.	Very good	Keep OHS refreshers as part of routine supervision and monitoring.
ESS 5	Land & Resettlement	No land acquisition, no resettlement, no economic displacement. 100% compliance on use of private/non-disputed land.	Fully compliant	Maintain careful screening of land tenure and documentation.
ESS 6	Biodiversity	Small tree/vegetation removal, offset through strong greening (73-91%) around homesteads and ponds. No impact on endangered species reported.	Good (not yet "perfect")	Continue enforcing no-net-loss / net-gain principles and monitoring tree/vegetation cover.
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples	Participation numerically limited, but where present, FPIC, cultural respect	Procedurally strong	Increase proactive outreach to

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		and rights recognition at 100% compliance.		Indigenous households/communities where relevant.
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement & GRM	CCAG participation 98-100%; local administration awareness more than 98%. GRM awareness increased to 72%; resolution rates 90-94%. Complaint numbers decline in post-implementation (possible under-reporting).	Strong engagement	Strengthen post-implementation follow-up and enhance GRM visibility to avoid under-reporting of issues.

The ESS review shows overall strong environmental and social performance with robust systems in place. Systematic screening and digital monitoring are effectively reducing pollution risks, with no hazardous chemicals used and strong uptake of solar, ICS, composting, and proper effluent management. Labor conditions are largely compliant with very high local recruitment, strong safety and PPE use, and rare child labor cases being identified and addressed; OHS awareness is high with low injury rates. Land use is fully compliant with no acquisition or displacement, biodiversity impacts are minor and offset through greening, and Indigenous Peoples' rights are procedurally well respected despite limited participation. Stakeholder engagement is strong with very high participation and GRM resolution rates, though post-implementation follow-up, GRM visibility, outreach to Indigenous communities, and strict zero-tolerance on child labor remain key areas for continued improvement.

Priority Actions:

1. Institutionalize zero child labor and pay equity checks in all contracts (homestead, goat house, crab value chain) include in site checklists and monthly IE reports.
2. Scale up OHS and SEAH refresher training using CCAG platforms, especially for goat rearers and crab value chain actors where post-implementation awareness dips.
3. Standardize biodiversity and greening plans per activity (minimum plantation per household / pond; survival monitoring).
4. Strengthen post-implementation monitoring (after construction / initial support) so that compliance does not drop once IE presence reduces – particularly for waste management, biodiversity and GRM use.
5. Digitize and harmonize GRM and land documentation so that all complaints, resolutions and land records are traceable and accessible across IEs.

Conclusion: the RHL project is not only maintaining high standards of environmental and social performance but is also gradually embedding these standards into local systems and behaviors. The combination of raised, climate-resilient homesteads, climate-smart livelihood options, clean energy solutions and robust safeguards mechanisms offers a scalable model for coastal and climate-vulnerable areas of Bangladesh. Going forward, the priority will be to sustain these gains beyond the project timeline by strengthening community governance structures, institutionalizing zero tolerance for child labour and discrimination, and ensuring that environmental and social safeguards remain central to all phases of project planning, implementation and follow-up.