

# Transforming Coastal Lives

Quarterly Newsletter of the RHL Project



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We are pleased to present the Volume - 7 of the RHL Project Newsletter, highlighting key achievements and community-led progress during the period of January to March 2026. This quarter reflects the project's continued commitment to strengthening climate resilience, improving livelihoods, and promoting innovation across the coastal areas of Bangladesh.

A major highlight of this period was the Activity Progress Review Workshop, which assessed implementation progress and reinforced the importance of quality, transparency, and learning from field-level experiences. The consultation meeting on the Crab Export Policy brought together key stakeholders to emphasize the need for a coordinated national framework to support this growing climate-smart sector.

Another groundbreaking highlight was the innovative ginger cultivation in sacks, a climate-smart agricultural technology, which enabled salinity-affected households to grow crops in limited spaces and earn additional income despite adverse soil conditions.

Most importantly, the human impact is visible in the stories of families who celebrated Eid-ul-Fitre 2026 for the first time in safe homes, free from fear of floods and storms. These moments reflect the deeper purpose of the project, turning resilience into reality. Happy reading!



*Md. Fazlul Kader, Managing Director of PKSF, delivers his remarks as Chair of the Activity Progress Review Workshop*

## RHL project Activity Progress Review Workshop held

To combat the impacts of climate change in Bangladesh's coastal areas, PKSF implements the 'Resilient Homestead and Livelihood Support to the Vulnerable Coastal People of Bangladesh (RHL)' project in seven coastal districts since August, 2023.

As part of the initiative, the RHL project organized 'Activity Progress Review Workshop' on 07 January 2026 to assess the progress of the project activities over the past years. PKSF Managing Director, Md. Fazlul Kader was the Chair of the workshop. In his remarks, he said, "Just as birds need a safe nest for their natural life, human beings also require a secure and suitable home." He added, "The RHL project is providing safe housing for poor people in some of the most remote coastal areas of the country. This is a meaningful initiative of the project and of PKSF."

At the workshop, the overall progress of the project was presented by the Deputy General Manager of PKSF and Coordinator of the RHL project, Md. Abu Nasir Khan. He informed that during the first six months of the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the project achieved progress beyond its targets in several areas. Against the total targets of constructing 3,000 climate-resilient houses, planting 400,000 trees,

constructing 20,000 slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing, supporting 20,000 families to cultivate salinity-tolerant vegetables, and developing entrepreneurs across different stages of the crab value chain, the project has so far constructed 1,450 climate-resilient homesteads, built 9,700 slatted houses for goat or sheep rearing, and planted more than 139,496 trees. In addition, nearly 5,956 families have received support for cultivating salinity-tolerant vegetables, while about 6,696 families have been assisted in crab farming.



*Progress Review Workshop discussion*

During the workshop, Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman, Senior General Manager of the Resilient and Risk Management Department at PKSF, provided guidance on addressing field-level challenges in project implementation.



*Executive Directors, Project Focal Persons and Project Coordinators of the IEs*

He said, “The main objective of this workshop is to review the progress of the implementing organizations and learn from field-level experiences.” He further emphasized that maintaining quality standards in implementation and ensuring transparency in financial management are extremely important.

Executive Directors, Project Focal Persons and Project Coordinators from 18 implementing organizations of the RHL project participated in the workshop.

## Consultation Meeting Held on Crab Export Policy



*Consultation meeting on Crab Export Policy*

On 08 January 2026 the RHL project organized a consultation meeting to review the Crab Export Policy of Bangladesh at PKSF Bhaban-1. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Managing Director of PKSF Dr. Akond Mohammad Rafiqul Islam. Officials from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, the



*Participants of the consultation meeting on Crab Export Policy*

Department of Fisheries, the Forest Department, and the Department of Environment of the Government of Bangladesh, along with university teachers, researchers, crab exporters, crab farmers, and representatives from various non-government organizations, attended the event.

In his remarks, Dr. Akond Mohammad Rafiqul Islam said that due to climate change, increasing salinity in coastal areas has made traditional agriculture difficult. As a result, crab farming has become highly important in Bangladesh as a climate-smart technology. He also mentioned that although different ministries and departments of the government have taken separate initiatives to formulate policies related to crab farming and export, a coordinated policy is necessary to make this sector properly export-oriented and profitable.

Presenting the keynote paper, Assistant Project Coordinator of the RHL project, Sheikh Nazrul Islam, stated that crab has emerged as the second-largest export item in the fisheries sector, supporting the livelihoods of more than 300,000 people in coastal areas. However, despite Bangladesh exporting crabs worth approximately BDT 850 crore in the 2024–25 fiscal year, there is still a lack of a modern and integrated policy.

The session was moderated by Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman, Senior General Manager of the Resilient and Risk Management Department at PKSF.



## Celebrating life in Climate-resilient Houses

The coastal region of Bangladesh is among the most climate-vulnerable areas in the world. In low-lying coastal zones, most poor families build their houses with mud, bamboo, and Golpata leaves (leaves of an indigenous coastal plant), which are highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Due to low income, lack of land, and ongoing uncertainty, families are forced to repair or rebuild the same risky houses year after year, trapping them in a vicious cycle of poverty and debt.

To break this cycle, the RHL project is supporting 3,000 poor and extremely poor families with climate-resilient homesteads. These homesteads are designed to meet essential household needs and include raised plinths, durable housing structures, sanitary latrines, rainwater harvesting systems, solar electricity, and improved cooking stoves. These interventions not only reduce disaster risks from cyclones and storm surges but also lower long-term repair and maintenance costs.

So far, 1,508 families have moved into their new resilient homes. For these families, this year's Eid celebration in March 2026 was truly special. Celebrating Eid in a safe and secure home brought them a renewed sense of dignity, joy, and hope for a brighter future. Here, we share some of their joyful stories:

### A Safe Home, A Joyful Eid

Rehana Begum, a 34-year-old woman from Showdagarpara village in Cox's Bazar, lived through this struggle for many years. She lives with her husband, Md. Shahabuddin, a rickshaw puller, and their three daughters. With a monthly income of only 7,500 Taka, survival itself was a challenge. Every year, their house was damaged by floods, and the fear of losing everything was constant. Repairing the



Rehana's family celebrating Eid day



*Rehana, in front of her old fragile home*

house meant taking loans, which pushed the family further into financial hardship.

A new chapter began when Rehana's family received a climate-resilient house through the RHL project. The home was handed over on 19 November 2025. Built on a raised plinth, the new house includes a durable structure, a sanitary latrine, solar power, an improved cooking stove, a slatted house for livestock, and homestead tree planting. For the first time, the family felt safe and secure.

Eid in March 2026 marked the beginning of a new life for them. Instead of fearing floods, Rehana's family celebrated with joy inside their own safe home. Rehana shared, "Every year, I lost everything to floods. Celebrating Eid felt impossible. This time, with Allah's blessing and the RHL project, we celebrated Eid in our own home. I cannot describe this happiness."

## Celebrating Eid on Safer Ground



*Exchange of Eid greetings*

Md. Ibrahim, a 30-year-old day laborer from Ahmadpur village in Charfesson upazila, Bhola, lives with his wife, his father, one son, and one daughter. For a day laborer, it was always difficult to balance family needs with house repairs. Their old home, made from fragile materials, could not withstand strong winds, heavy rain, or tidal surges.

A major change came when Ibrahim's family received support through the RHL project. In December 2025, their new climate-resilient home was handed over. For the first time, the family has a home that is safe and dependable.

Eid-ul-Fitr 2026 was unlike any they had experienced before. Instead of worrying about water entering their home, the family welcomed guests on a dry, elevated courtyard. The children enjoyed the festive night under bright solar lights, and the fresh vegetables from their saline-tolerant garden helped prepare their Eid meals. The improved cooking stove made the kitchen healthier and more comfortable for Ibrahim's wife. Ibrahim shared, "This year, my heart is full because for the first time, we are celebrating Eid on high ground without worrying, under our own solar light."

## A Safe Home Brings Fresh Celebration of Life



*Yasin, heading for Eid prayer with his son*

Yasin Howlader, a 28-year-old van driver from PC Baroikhalii village in Morrelganj, Bagerhat,



*Yasin, in front of his old fragile home*

grew up facing hardship. His monthly income from driving a van barely meets the family's needs. Living in a fragile house in a disaster-prone coastal area only increased the family's struggle and fear.

In July 2025, Yasin's life began to change when his family received a climate-resilient home through the RHL project. For the first time, Yasin's family has a safe and dignified place to live.

Eid in March 2026 was unlike any before. Instead of worrying about storms or flooding, Yasin's family celebrated with peace inside their new home. The children enjoyed the festival without fear, and the family welcomed guests with comfort and pride.

Yasin said, "This Eid brought a new meaning of happiness. For the first time, we celebrated Eid in a safe home without fear. My children were happy, and that is my greatest peace. We will always be grateful to GCF, PKSF and RRF for this new beginning in our life."



*Eid celebration of Yasin's family*

## RHL Houses Withstood 5.4 magnitude Earthquake



*Disaster resilient house of the RHL project*

Climate resilient houses of the RHL project are designed to withstand multiple hazards, addressing both climate and disaster risks. To ensure earthquake resilience, all structures comply with the 'Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC)'. Built with reinforced cement concrete (RCC) frames and strong foundations, the houses can endure moderate seismic activity.



*Construction work of disaster resilient house*

Their effectiveness was proven on 27 February 2026, when a 5.4 magnitude earthquake struck Ashashuni upazila in Satkhira District. While some areas reported damage, no structural harm occurred in houses of the RHL project. Homes remained intact, allowing residents to continue living safely.

## Updates from Ground

During the period the RHL project reached to 5,254 coastal people with different types of interventions and services, among them 906 are male, and 4,348 are female. Additionally, the project achieved the following milestones:

### Design and building of homesteads



*Vegetable garden at the courtyard of resilient homestead*

Following the overall target for designing and building 3000 climate-resilient homesteads, the RHL project constructed 1,450 resilient houses so far. The project has already handed over the houses to beneficiary families, where they are now living. 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 139,496 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 after harvesting ginger*

In the period, the project provided support to 5,956 beneficiaries with saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation practices in homestead areas including cultivating ginger using bags. The support included seeds, plants, nets, and watering cans. Beneficiaries have also begun growing a variety of crops, including tomatoes, eggplants, red amaranth, kangkong, and turnips, and 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 constructs slatted houses for goat/sheep rearing. So far, 9,700 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



*Inspection of crablet production at 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.

## Crab Nurseries and Crab Farming



*A soft-shell crab farm at Shyamnagar Upazila of Satkhira District*

So far, the project provided technical and financial support 64 beneficiaries to establish crab nurseries. During the period, the project provided technical and financial support to 1,284 new beneficiaries for crab farming in saline ponds. In total, 6,696 beneficiaries have been supported with crab farming so far. This initiative aims to enhance livelihoods and promote sustainable aquaculture practices.

## Climate-Change Adaptation Group (CCAG)

Each group is scheduled to hold at least one meeting every month for its 3200 CCAGs. During the project period, a total of 46,476 CCAG monthly meetings were organized, engaging 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.

## Beneficiary training



Training for beneficiaries on Crab Farming

To the date, 1,471 batches of training on income-generating activities were conducted for beneficiaries by 18 Implementing Entities (IEs). The training sessions include goat and sheep rearing in slatted houses, cultivation of saline-tolerant vegetables, and crab farming.

## Grievance Management



Submission of grievance

During the quarter, the project received 19 complaints from beneficiaries, of which 11 were submitted by females and 8 by males. All complaints were resolved in consultation with the respective beneficiaries. To date, 133 grievances have been received, and resolved.

## RHL project supported vulnerable coastal people with

Building of  
**1,450**  
climate-resilient  
homesteads



Constructing **9,700**  
slatted houses for  
goat/sheep  
rearing



Supporting **5,956**  
beneficiaries with  
saline-tolerant  
vegetable cultivation  
practices



Planting **139,496**  
climate-resilient  
trees in the  
beneficiary  
homesteads



Providing  
technical and  
financial support  
to establish **64**  
nurseries and **6,696**  
crab farms



# In frames: Transforming costal lives through climate-resilient homestead

Previous house



Present house



Md. Akbor Ali , Koyra upazila, Khulna district



Al Amin Talukder, Morrelgonj upazila, Bagerhat district



Dilder Begum, Chakaria upazila, Cox's Bazar district



## New Innovation

# Ginger Cultivation in the Sack Method Brings Hope to Salinity-Affected Coastal Communities

Salinity has been increasing over the years, damaging soil fertility and making regular cultivation almost impossible. Farmlands that once produced seasonal vegetables have slowly become unproductive due to salt intrusion. On top of that, many households do not have enough cultivable land. Families who depend on agriculture have been struggling to maintain their livelihoods and meet basic needs.

To address this challenge, the RHL project introduced an innovative and practical solution in March 2025, ginger cultivation using the sack method. This technique allows households to grow ginger in sacks instead of open soil, protecting crops from salinity while using very little space. Even families without cultivable land can practice this method in their homestead yards.

Through this initiative, 6,188 beneficiaries received support to start ginger cultivation. On average, each beneficiary received 30 sacks, and 1.6 kilograms of ginger to

cultivate in sacks. The beneficiaries were provided necessary training and mentoring support for cultivating ginger in sacks. The approach required simple inputs and basic training, but it proved highly effective. By the end of the cultivation cycle, farmers harvested 166,785 kilograms of ginger altogether.

The economic impact was significant. The harvest was sold for a total of 35,956,196 BDT. Each beneficiary earned an average of 5,877 BDT from ginger cultivation, which helped



Ginger harvesting

them meet household needs and reduce financial stress. For many families, this income came at a crucial time when traditional livelihood options and agriculture was not viable in coastal areas.

Beyond the income, the method has brought confidence and optimism to many households. Families who once struggled to grow vegetables in saline soil now have a practical and profitable alternative. Md. Yunus Milon from Charfesson upazila, Bhola said, “This additional income from ginger cultivation in sacks has made a real difference for my family. With this support, I have been able to continue my son’s education without interruption, which was becoming difficult before.” Sadika Parvin from Koyra upazila, Khulna said, “After my husband passed away, my family income was very low and life became very difficult. With the training and other support from the RHL project, I started ginger cultivation in gunny bags in my homestead. After 10–11



*Milon Mondol, a beneficiary from Charfesson upazila, Bhola harvesting ginger*

months, I earned some extra income from selling ginger. This money helped me buy food and manage my family expenses. Now I am hopeful and planning to cultivate more ginger in gunny bags next season.”

Seeing the success of their neighbors, many other community members are now motivated to adopt the sack method for ginger cultivation.

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