

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



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, more than 1,500 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.

A Safe Home, A Joyful Eid

Rehana Begum, a 34-year-old woman from in Cox's Bazar, lived through this struggle for many years. She lives with her husband, a rickshaw puller, and their three daughters. With a minimum monthly income, survival itself was a challenge. Every year, their house was damaged by floods. Repairing the 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 from the RHL project.



Rehana, in front of her old fragile home

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. 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."



Rehana's family celebrating Eid day

To reduce the climate-induced vulnerability of the most vulnerable coastal communities and to enhance their resilience, PKSF is implementing the RHL project in seven coastal districts in Bangladesh. The adaptation practices include climate-resilient homesteads, saline-resilient livelihood practices, e.g. integrated fruit-fish-fibre (crab farming) farming, slatted houses for goats or sheep rearing, saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation, and storm-resilient tree plantations.

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