

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



Climate-Resilient Housing: Safe and Sustainable Shelter During Disasters

Over the past one and a half decades (2007–2025), the Bay of Bengal has experienced 12 cyclones in the month of May alone, with the coastal regions bearing the brunt of the devastation. While the government has constructed cyclone shelters, they remain insufficient to meet the needs of the vulnerable population. Moreover, due to social and other reasons, many people are reluctant to use cyclone shelters during emergencies. In this context, the RHL project has taken a transformative approach by constructing climate-resilient houses for families in the coastal belt. These houses not only serve as year-round residences but also provide safe shelter during disasters, not for the beneficiary family only, but also for the nearby community people.

On 29 May 2025, Cyclone Shakti made landfall on the coastal belt of Bangladesh after developing into a deep depression. Torrential rain, strong winds, and waterlogging left more than 50,000 houses damaged across seven coastal districts. Around 25,000 houses were submerged. However, in these same seven districts, 700 families residing in climate-resilient houses constructed by the RHL Project of PKSF remained safe. Built on plinth raised by 4 to 4.5 feet through earth-filling, these disaster-resilient homes withstood the cyclone's impacts. In many cases, neighbors also took shelter in these houses, and several families even moved their livestock indoors to safety.

“ In March 2025, we moved into our new home. Just a month later, a storm flooded the entire area and nearby houses went under water. But our house stayed completely safe. For the first time, we did not feel helpless. This home has changed everything for us. It feels like we have started a new and more secure life. ”

- Jahanara Begum, Borhanuddin, Bhola.



Climate-resilient house of Jahanara Begum.
Borhanuddin upazila, Bhola

“ In 2024, heavy rain nearly destroyed our house. Every monsoon, we borrowed money for repairs and lived in fear of the next storm. It felt endless. Last year, we moved into a stronger home. When the rains came, it stood firm even as water rose around us. For the first time, we felt safe, something we never imagined before. ”

- Naitu Begum, Borhanuddin, Bhola.



Naitu Begum from Borhanuddin upazila, Bhola
standing at her resilient homestead

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.

Advisors:

Md. Fazlul Kader

Managing Director (CEO), PKSF

Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman

Senior General Manager, PKSF

Editorial Panel:

Md. Abu Nashir Khan

Md. Shamim Iftekhhar

Contact:

Project Management Unit (PMU),

RHL Project, PKSF



PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban-1, Plot: E-4/B,

Agargaon Administrative Area,

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Tel: +88-02-222218331-33

Fax: +88-02-222218341

E-mail: pkssf@pkssf.org.bd

Website: www.pkssf.org.bd

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pkssf.org

