

Transforming Coastal Lives

Quarterly Newsletter of the RHL Project



Volume No. 8

April – June 2026

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We are pleased to present the volume 8 of the RHL project's Newsletter, highlighting key achievements and community-led progress during the period of April to June 2026.

A key milestone during the quarter was the visit of representatives from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to project interventions in Satkhira. The visit provided an opportunity for the delegation to engage directly with beneficiaries and observe the outcomes of climate-resilient housing, livelihood development, and community-based adaptation initiatives.

The quarter also witnessed the observance of World Environment Day 2026 across seven coastal districts. Through rallies, tree plantation campaigns, awareness sessions, and youth engagement activities, communities demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action. The inspiring stories featured in this issue demonstrate how project interventions are transforming lives. These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of beneficiaries, implementing entities, local stakeholders, PKSF, and the support of the GCF.

Happy reading!!



GCF and ERD officials interacts with the beneficiary of the crab RHL project

GCF Officials Visit RHL Project Interventions in Satkhira

A delegation comprising representatives from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Government of Bangladesh, and PKSF visited the RHL Project interventions in Assasuni Upazila of Satkhira district on 10 June 2026. The RHL project is being implemented by PKSF since August 2023 with the financial support from the GCF.

The delegation included Dr. Kazi Shahjahan, Joint Secretary, ERD; Md. Assadekjaman, Senior Assistant Secretary, ERD; Diane Jegam, Regional Manager, DAPAC, GCF; Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin, Climate Investment Principal, DAPAC, GCF; Juel Mahmud, Liaison Officer, GCF; Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman, Senior General Manager, PKSF; and Md. Abu Nashir Khan, Deputy General Manager, PKSF and Project Coordinator of the RHL Project.

During the visit, the team attended a meeting of the Tetulia Hindupara Climate Change Adaptation Group (CCAG) in Kadakati Union under Assasuni Upazila. The CCAG consists of 28 beneficiaries from one of the most climate-vulnerable coastal communities, where people regularly face cyclones, storm surges, salinity

intrusion, flooding, droughts, and extreme temperatures.

The visitors interacted with CCAG members and local community people to learn about their experiences in adapting to climate change through project-supported interventions. Beneficiaries shared how the project had improved their resilience and livelihoods by introducing climate-smart technologies and income-generating activities.



Beneficiary describes aromatic ginger cultivation

The delegation visited several project interventions, including climate-resilient homesteads equipped with rainwater harvesting systems, sanitary latrines, and solar panels;



GCF, ERD and PKSF Official at a climate-resilient house of beneficiary

slatted houses for goat and sheep rearing; crab fattening activities; homestead gardening; tree plantation; and ginger and Ekangi cultivation in sacks. The visitors also spoke directly with beneficiaries to understand the impacts of these activities on their lives and livelihoods.

During the field visit, beneficiaries shared stories of years of struggle in their old, fragile homes, which were frequently damaged by cyclones and floods, leaving them exposed and fearful. They also explained how their new resilient homesteads had reduced their vulnerability to cyclones and tidal surges while improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Women beneficiaries involved in goat and sheep rearing reported significant reductions in livestock diseases and increased income through the sale of animals. Several beneficiaries shared that they had already earned between BDT 16,000 and BDT 23,000 from livestock sales after receiving support for slatted housing.

The delegation also learned about the project's support for crab farming, which enables coastal households to take advantage of saline conditions while generating sustainable income. Beneficiaries highlighted the benefits of technical training, improved production systems, and market linkages provided through the project.

The visitors later toured the roadside tree plantation established along the Tangrakhali - Joduardanga Road, which contributes to



Beneficiary describes her goat rearing journey on slatted house

climate change mitigation significantly.

At the end of the visit, the GCF and ERD representatives highly praised the effective and efficient implementation of the RHL Project. They expressed satisfaction with the visible results achieved at the community level and commended the efforts of PKSF.

Earlier, PKSF organized a discussion meeting with delegates from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and officials from the Economic Relations Division (ERD) at PKSF Bhaban-1 on 8 June 2026. The meeting was presided over by PKSF Managing Director Md. Fazlul Kader. In his remarks, he said, “As the Accredited Entity of the Green Climate Fund, PKSF is committed to ensuring the highest standards of quality and efficiency in project implementation. PKSF is not only delivering development interventions but also creating meaningful and lasting changes in the lives of poor and vulnerable people.”

Among the participants were Sakera Ahmed, Deputy Secretary, ERD; Diane Jegam, Regional Manager, DAPAC, GCF; Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin, Climate Investment Principal, DAPAC, GCF; Juel Mahmud, Liaison Officer, GCF; and Representatives from PKSF, and its partner organizations.

Previously, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) hosted a briefing meeting with GCF officials and selected development organizations on 7 June 2026.



RHL Project Activity Progress Review Workshops held

The RHL project organized a series of Activity Progress Review Workshops during April and May 2026 to assess implementation progress, share lessons learned, and strengthen the sustainability of project interventions. The workshops brought together project staff from the Implementing Entities (IEs) of the project working across the seven coastal districts.

The workshops provided a platform for cross-learning among implementing entities working in climate-vulnerable coastal communities. The workshops were inaugurated by Dr. AKM Nuruzzaman, Senior General Manager of PKSF.

The sessions focused on reviewing overall project achievements against targets, identifying implementation challenges, documenting lessons learned, and discussing

strategies for sustaining project outcomes beyond the project period. Participants also engaged in discussions on climate change adaptation, weather and climate-related risks, income-generating activities, infrastructure interventions, financial management, procurement procedures, and community group management using project flipcharts.

Interactive group exercises and open discussion sessions enabled participants to share field experiences and identify practical solutions to implementation challenges. The workshops strengthened coordination among implementing entities and reinforced a common understanding of project approaches and operational procedures. Participants expressed their commitment to applying the knowledge gained to further improve project.

Date	Venue	Participating IEs
First Workshop		
20-21 April 2026	IDF Training Centre in Khagrachhari	Coast Foundation, IDF, SDI, BASTOB, YPSA, and SARPV
Second Workshop		
5-8 May 2026	CODEC Training Centre in Kuakata	CODEC, HEED Bangladesh, DFED, GJUS, and FDA
Third Workshop		
20-21 May 2026	SUS Training Centre	JCF, NGF, RRF, UP, Nabolok Parishad, Ad-din, and SUS



Coastal Communities Mark World Environment Day Through Collective Climate Action

To mark World Environment Day 2026, the RHL Project organized a series of awareness and environmental conservation activities across seven coastal districts, bringing together community members, local leaders, youth, students and government representatives under the global theme, *'Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future.'*

On 5 June 2026, 12 implementing entities arranged local celebrations in Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Barguna, Patuakhali and Bhola districts. 670 participants took part in 12 community events that included awareness rallies, discussion sessions, tree plantation campaigns, sapling distribution and youth engagement activities.

Across the project areas, rallies carried messages on environmental protection, climate action and sustainable resource management through villages, markets, upazila premises, coastal roads and embankments. Implementing entities distributed and planted hundreds of fruit, medicinal and timber saplings in homesteads, schools, roadsides and community spaces.

Among the notable activities, JCF distributed

saplings in Koyra, Khulna, while Nabolok distributed neem saplings in Mongla, Bagerhat. RRF planted saplings in beneficiary homesteads in Morrelganj, and SUS distributed saplings in Shyamnagar. In Bhola, GJUS organized a school debate competition and prize-giving ceremony alongside tree plantation activities, while FDA planted climate-resilient fruit and timber trees. Similar plantation and awareness initiatives were carried out by other implementing entities across the project locations.

The celebrations witnessed active participation from CCAG members, beneficiaries, women, students, teachers, journalists and local government representatives.



Tree plantation on the World Environment Day



RHL project Organized Exposure Visits to Promote Cross-Learning Climate-Resilient Practices

To strengthen knowledge sharing and promote the replication of successful climate adaptation interventions, the RHL project organized two exposure visits during the April–June 2026 quarter. The visits brought together project staff and beneficiaries from different Implementing Entities (IEs), creating opportunities to observe successful field-level interventions, exchange experiences, and learn practical approaches to improving climate resilience and livelihoods.

Exposure Visit in Satkhira, Bagerhat and Cox's Bazar

From 10 to 14 May 2026, an exposure visit was organized for beneficiaries and staff of YPSA, SDI, and SARPV. 45 beneficiaries and 16 staff members participated in the five-day event to learn about improved techniques for crab nursery management, water quality monitoring, feeding, grading, storage, transportation, and market linkage development. The visit also provided exposure to project documentation, bill-voucher management, and monitoring systems practiced by different IEs. The event was hosted by NGF in Shyamnagar, Nabolok Parishad in Mongla, and IDF in Chakaria.

Participants identified several replicable practices for their own areas, including latest climate-smart agricultural technologies. Participants visited improved hard-shell and

soft-shell crab fattening farms, crab nurseries, climate-resilient houses, goat rearing units on slatted houses, saline-tolerant vegetable cultivation plots, and homestead tree plantations.

Exposure Visit in Dacope, Khulna

On 11 June 2026, RHL project organized an exposure visit to Dacope, Khulna, hosted by Ad-din. Beneficiaries and project staff from CODEC, HEED Bangladesh, and DFED participated in the event. The day-long event was participated by 32 beneficiaries and 8 IE staff members. The visit highlighted practical lessons such as integrating fish and crab cultivation in the same pond, reinvesting profits to diversify income sources, protecting raised plinths through homestead gardening, and strengthening market linkages through improved crab handling and storage practices.

The participants visited climate-resilient houses equipped with raised plinths, solar systems, and rainwater harvesting facilities. They also observed integrated fish and crab farming, crab nursery management using the hapa system, roadside tree plantation activities, and a CCAG meeting.

Both exposure visits demonstrated the value of peer-to-peer learning and practical observation in enhancing beneficiaries' confidence and technical knowledge.

Updates from Ground

During the quarter the RHL project reached to 17,154 coastal people with different types of interventions and services, among them 3,834 are male, and 13,320 are female. Additionally, the project achieved the following milestones:

Design and building of homesteads



Construction of resilient homestead in progress

Following the overall target for designing and building 3000 climate-resilient homesteads, the RHL project constructed 1,647 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 250,496 climate-resilient trees in the beneficiary homesteads, roadsides and institutions. 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 9,778 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 Ginger 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, 10,426 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



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

So far, the project provided technical and financial support 176 beneficiaries to establish crab nurseries. During the period, the project provided technical and financial support to 1,748 new beneficiaries for crab farming in saline ponds. In total, 8,444 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 69,480 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 vegetable cultivation

To the date, 1,862 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 23 complaints from beneficiaries, of which 16 were submitted by females and 7 by males. All complaints were resolved in consultation with the respective beneficiaries. To date, 156 grievances have been received, and resolved.

RHL project supported vulnerable coastal people with

Building of
1,647
climate-resilient
homesteads



Constructing **10,426**
slatted houses for
goat/sheep
rearing



Providing
technical and
financial support
to establish **176**
nurseries and **8,444**
crab farms



Supporting **9,778**
beneficiaries with
saline-tolerant
vegetable cultivation
practices

Planting **250,496**
climate-resilient
trees in the
beneficiary
homesteads



Innovation

RHL Project Introduces Aromatic Ginger Cultivation in Gunny Bag Method

The RHL project has introduced Aromatic Ginger (Ekangi) cultivation in gunny bags as a climate-smart livelihood option for coastal households. Since May 2026, 45 project beneficiaries have started cultivating the high-value medicinal spice under the initiative.

The project is promoting gunny bag-based cultivation to help farmers overcome the challenges of saline soils that limit conventional crop production in coastal areas. Aromatic Ginger, a perennial herb belonging to the ginger family, is widely valued for its medicinal, aromatic, and commercial uses. Its scientific name is *Zingiber montanum*.

Under the initiative, beneficiaries cultivate Aromatic Ginger in gunny bags filled with non-saline soil and organic compost. The method allows cultivation in homesteads, areca nut orchards, and other shaded spaces while reducing the risks associated with flooding and waterlogging. The approach also requires relatively low investment and simple management practices.

According to project estimates, cultivating 30 gunny bags of Aromatic Ginger costs approximately BDT 3,150. With proper care and favorable weather conditions, farmers can harvest around 30 kilograms of produce after seven to eight months, generating an expected income of about BDT 18,000 or more.

The crop has strong market potential due to its demand in traditional medicine, cosmetics, perfume production, fish bait manufacturing, and the food and beverage industry. Aromatic Ginger cultivation can create new income opportunities and contribute to building resilient and sustainable livelihoods in Bangladesh's vulnerable coastal regions.





From Dependence to Dignity

In Kalikabari village of Mongla, Bagerhat, 39-year-old Eitika Mondal lives with her husband and their 12-year-old son. The household depended on day labour and had limited savings, while Eitika's role was mostly confined to household work and occasional labour.

In 2025, her husband suffered a severe accident while pruning trees and lost a leg, leaving him unable to continue regular income-generating work. The shock placed the family under acute pressure, affecting livelihood.

Eitika approached the RHL project during this crisis. Although she was not an indexed project beneficiary, the project facilitated her engagement in climate-resilient homestead construction as a worker. The opportunity gave her immediate income, practical construction skills and access to SEAH awareness sessions on safety, rights and workplace dignity.

Before this engagement, Eitika had limited mobility, low confidence and little influence over spending, children's education, disaster

preparation or asset purchase decisions. She relied mostly on her husband's income and had limited recognition in the community.

Her work changed the household dynamic. Starting at BDT 500 per day as an unskilled worker, she gradually became more skilled and increased her wage to BDT 800 per day. Her monthly personal income is now around BDT 20,000, with savings of BDT 5,000. Her opinion is now valued more in family decisions and community spaces.

Eitika's progress shows how gender mainstreaming can work through practical inclusion rather than direct cash support. Her construction work increased income, improved confidence and expanded her visibility as a skilled woman worker in a sector usually dominated by men.

The project engagement also created a safer pathway into paid work. SEAH awareness sessions strengthened her understanding of rights, safety and workplace dignity, while



Eitika joined SEAH awareness and OHS sessions before construction work



Eitika working at a climate-resilient homestead construction site

hands-on construction tasks helped her build marketable skills. Considering her enthusiasm, the project provided her family a resilient homestead later and incorporate her husband as a beneficiary of the project and a member of CCAG.

Within the household, she now contributes to decisions on spending money, children's education, disaster preparedness and asset purchase. Her family and community members

increasingly recognize her role as an income earner and skilled worker.

"After my husband's accident, our family faced extreme hardship. Through this work, I am now able to earn, support my family, and feel respected. I am no longer dependent; I am now contributing."

- Eitika Mondal, Mongla, Bagerhat

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