

# Annual Report 2022-2023

## **ASHIKA Development Associates**

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**ASHIKA**  
Development Associates

## Message from the Executive Director

By 2022-2023 ASHIKA has made remarkable achievements over the last 23 years-in improving internal and external governance system. We had a built up good working relationships with local, national and international level partners, stakeholders, networks and beneficiaries. We continued to work with them to improve our ability to generate knowledge towards bringing exceptionality within the organization in the local context. In the past years slowly the organization made a fabulous progress-which is the result of our initiative steps and intimacy with Donors, Stakeholders, and Beneficiaries. We appreciate their efforts, specially the beneficiaries including child, women and men specially marginalized community to improve their lives and livelihood. We look forward to continue the same in the coming years ahead and tackle the challenges in the context of CHT. We are now registered under NGO Affairs Bureau of Prime Minister's Office in the name of ASHIKA Development Associates. ASHIKA had its interventions in the field of disaster risk reduction and emergency response even during 1<sup>st</sup> wave of COVID 19 pandemic which merged with food insecurity problem in Rangamati hill district.

I hope that this report will let you know about our organizational development activities and initiatives of towards sustainability. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to develop this report by depicting our organization's continued advancement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. S. G.', written in a cursive style.

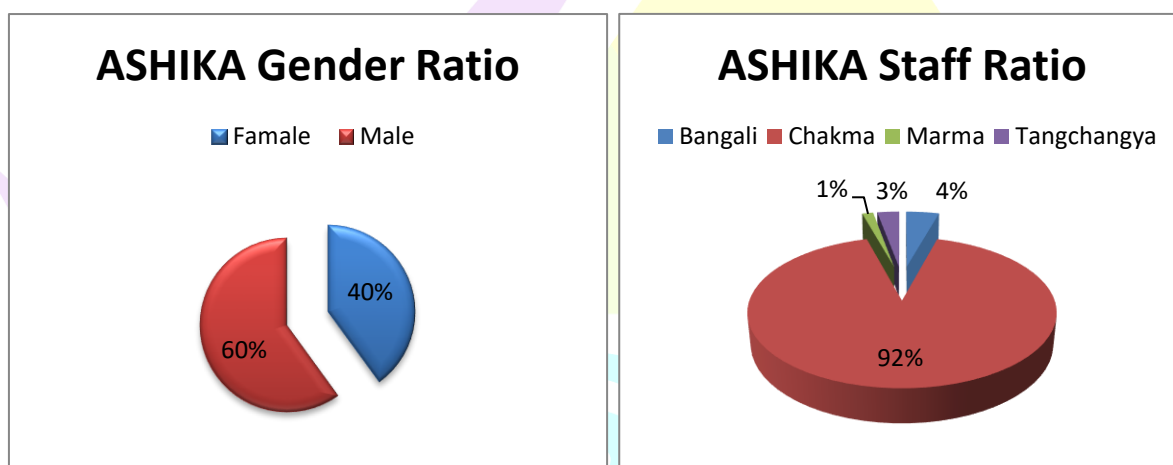
Executive Director

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## ASHIKA Intervention for the year 2022-23

ASHIKA Development Associates is a non-governmental organization (NGO) serving three hill districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)-Rangamati, Khagrachari, Bandarban, based in Rangamati Hill District. ASHIKA stands for Amader Shikkha O Kaj (আমাদের শিক্ষা ও কাজ), which refers to all formal, non-formal, technical, and vocational education types. We aim to reflect all this learning on communities' livelihoods. We assist ultra-poor people by providing technical support to create new opportunities. It is learned that globalization, along with climate change, has an impact worldwide. CHT is also not, apart from this, true, so we believe in an economical and environmentally friendly system within which the community would survive with improved living standards. Focusing on environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction, we know people should protect and preserve a healthy atmosphere through capacity building and mitigation strategies. ASHIKA believes in sustainability through climate-resilient livelihood generation to achieve a strong socio-economy in CHT.



This year, ASHIKA focuses on Educational and social development, Food security and livelihood, Climate change and Disaster Management, Health and Human Rights, and strengthening the capacity of ASHIKA.

ASHIKA initiated a strategic approach and activities that facilitate and drive ASHIKA's focused programs and mitigate barriers to reaching the aims.

ASHIKA will use Community engagement, Communication Advocacy and learning, Mobilizing Resources, Management, and Operational Approaches to implement Focused areas.

## Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activities (Conservation Communication)

**Status:** Implemented

**Donor:** UNDP-USAID

**Duration:** 1 May 2021 - 31 July 2023,

**Working area:** Rangamati hill district.

The period of July 2021 to July 2023, ASHIKA Development Associates and Joint ventures have successfully implemented several interventions to support the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) with climate change by using the Fund from USAID while the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangladesh has been implementing the CHTWCA under the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) approved project entitled, "Strengthening Inclusive Development Chittagong Hill Tracts" (SID-CHT, 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2021) - a project of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MOCHTA). This Project Completion Report (PCR) aims to summarize accomplishments and outcomes from the activities accomplished during the Fiscal Year of 2021-2023. The implementation agencies fulfilled by executing targeted activities within the project's timeframe in a structured overview of three objectives. This report is composed of the performance activities of leading NGO, ASHIKA Development Associates (ASHIKA), Rangamati and joint ventures Gram Unnayan Sangathon (GRAUS), Bandarban and Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS), Khagrachari.



Implementing this CHTWCA project strengthened ecosystem governance, resilient livelihoods with market access improvement, Reduced conflicts, and improved social cohesion among communities for ecosystem conservation. ASHIKA along with its joint ventures, has implemented 21 interventions with three outcomes: Strengthened ecosystem governance, Resilient livelihoods with market access improved, and met eight Interim Results (IRs), Reduced conflicts, and improved social cohesion among communities for ecosystem conservation several activities to focusing on Integrated ecosystem management, forest conservation, reduced conflicts and enhanced social cohesion, and resilient livelihoods; Spirit of sportsmanship with focus on conservation, social cohesion, and wildlife protection; Extra-curricular and outreach activities to motivate youth including girls; Engaging ethnically diverse youth with attention to communication messaging on social cohesion and natural resources-based conflicts resolution; and Raising community awareness and behavior change through conservation communications in the CHT. ASHIKA Implemented the CHTWCA project to strengthen gender-responsive local resilience through the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) integrated ecosystem management approach. The CHTWCA's purpose is a sustained capacity to protect and manage the natural ecosystems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This project has successfully engaged various stakeholders to strengthen local institutions, CHT VCF Committee people, CMC relevant stakeholders, BFD, and the Village Conservation Forum (VConF). A monitoring database format has been inserted in this report to understand the performance and achievement of the implementing project. Moreover, the implementing agencies believe that the various stakeholders we had engaged successfully are one of the key achievements of this project. We have added success stories to depict a clear picture of practical life among the targeted project participants of the project area.

### **Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activities (Social Mobilization, Livelihood and Value chain)**

**Status: Implemented,**

Donor: UNDP-USAID,

Duration: 1 July 2021 - 30 July 2023,

Budget: 3,49,82,910 BDT.

Location: 10 Upazila's of Rangamati and 9 Upazila's of Khagrachari.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA), funded by the United States Agency for International Development [USAID], is part of "Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)" - a project of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs MOCHTA). The goal of the SID-CHT is to strengthen the capacity of the population in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to shape and make decisions that impact their lives. The project aims to meet citizen expectations for voice, development, and accountability by strengthening institutions to progressively deliver universal access to essential services. The SID-CHT has three objectives:

- To enhance community land, resource, and livelihood management
- To increase participation and influence to shape decision-making

- To strengthen democratic governance with responsive institutions and effective services

To achieve the above-stated SID-CHT objectives, implemented CHTWCA is to strengthen gender-responsive local resilience through an integrated ecosystem management approach of the CHT. The purpose of CHTWCA is to sustain the capacity to protect and manage the natural ecosystems of the CHT. CHTWCA's goal and purpose: The achieved to meet the Result- 1: Strengthened Ecosystem Governance Result- 2: Resilient Livelihoods with Market Access Improved, Crosscutting Result- 3: Reduced Conflicts and improved social cohesion among Communities for Ecosystem Conservation CHTWCA works with key CHT institutions including: Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MOCHTA); CHT Regional Council (CHTRCJ); Hill District Councils (HDCs) of Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati; three Circles (Bohmong Mong and Chakma Circles) and their subordinate traditional institutions including Headmen and Karbaries, and other government and non-government partners including the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change [MOEFCC), Forest Department (FD), Local NGOs and civil society.

## **Empowerment through Integrated Livelihood and Right base Actions (EILIRA)**

**Status: Implemented,**

**Donor: Manusher Jonno Foundation,**

Duration: 1 January 2019 - 15 August 2022,

Budget: 1,68,37,281 BDT.

Location: Naniarchar, Kaptai, Rajsthali Upazila.

### **Executive summary:**

#### **Rationale:**

In CHT, several factors are responsible for low development and economy, including social tensions. Ethnic communities (Indigenous) are highly involved with agriculture and land-based activities but less in off-farm activities like weaving, small business, and government. Services, private sectors, and selling fuel wood are at risk of crop failure, price fluctuations, and natural disasters that threaten household income, food and nutrition security, and livelihood security. Social tensions, political influence, settlement of outsiders, discrimination against women in terms of inheritance and access to property, and ethnic language problems in school impact their economic status.

#### **Goal:**

To advance the sustainable economic transformation of ethnic communities into an upgraded status aligned with tradition, cohesion, and unity in Kaptai and Rajsthali Upazila of Rangamati Hill District.

#### **Outcomes:**

Capacity and economic access of vulnerable ethnic and disabled poor below poverty will be enhanced and improved as potential entrepreneurs preserve traditional rights, education, and culture by 2021. Participation of ethnic poor will be increased in the governance process and enhanced service availability from LG, NGO, and Govt service delivery machinery through strengthening mechanisms by 2021.

**Output and Major activities:**

To increase the productive capacity of 1000 poor ethnic people by income-generating activities with improved entrepreneurship, increasing monthly income from Tk.3000 to Tk.6000 by 2021.

**Activities:**

Group formations, capacity building through line department and resource person, providing eco-friendly agriculture inputs and livelihood and cash support through banking transactions to inspire entrepreneurship, Refreshers training, and vaccination supports, video development on vermin compost making, seed preservation, nursery demonstration plot with logistics support/guidance from MJF.

II. To increase access to and sensitize availability of services from local government, non-government, and public service delivery machinery on education, safety-net, District Agricultural Extension, and livelihood. And strengthen stakeholders for the prompt delivery of services from the village to the district level by 2021

**Major Activities:**

Organize quarterly informative sessions on the social safety net programs, agriculture, livelihood, livestock, and union information center of GoB, Training and Upazila level workshops on RTI, Day observations, organize agriculture fair in link with GoB with market linkages with beneficiaries, MLE training (Refreshers) support with teaching learning materials for primary level school teachers to cover 3000 ethnic children.

To strengthen, stimulate, and organize the ethnic vulnerable, especially women, Girls, and persons with disabilities, for increasing participation, expression of opinion, and raising demands to mainstream them in the process of formulating and implementing policies preserving their traditional rights by 2021.

Signature campaign and submission to Circle Chief, Legal awareness meetings, training on Leadership and Gender base violence and rights of persons with disabilities.



**Project Participants: 4000 (Male-400, Female-600, Child-girl-1800, boy-1200)**

**Major Stakeholders:**

CHTRC, RHDC, DC Office, Govt. line departments (agriculture, livestock, education, health, information), Local Govt., Scheduled Banks and non-financial institutions, Business Networking bodies, Traditional Institutions, women networks.

**Project description:**

Background, rationale, and problem analysis, including local and national comparison to local and national statistics. Gender analysis should be given here regarding different situations, roles, needs, and challenges faced by women and men (girls/boys) differently.

The development in the CHT has been slower than in other parts of the country due to several factors, including social tension. As per the source of MICS(2009) and UNICEF, in CHT, the poverty rate is 62% (national rate 32%), and the population in extreme poverty is 26.2%(national 17.6%). Of the ethnic communities, regarding On-Farm activities, 44% are involved in valley farming in plains/valley and fringe land, 42.6% is poultry rearing, 44.7% is livestock rearing, and 59.1% is fruit gardening. In the case of Off-farm activities, there is 40.9% in weaving, 19.6 % in small business, 4.9% in Govt. services, 9.2% in the private sector, 55.8% in wage labor, and 30.7% in selling fuel wood (Jamaluddin et al. (2010)).

Most households in the CHT depend heavily on agriculture or other land-based activities for their livelihoods and are therefore highly vulnerable to shocks such as crop failure, price fluctuations, and natural disasters threatening food and nutrition and livelihood security. Farmers need help accessing quality seeds, modern agricultural tools, fertilizers, or pesticides essential to increase productivity. Peace and socioeconomic development are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. It is observed that socio-cultural festival is avoided by ethnic communities several times in burnt villages in CHT.

There is discrimination against women regarding property inheritance, access to land and other property, access to formal and informal jobs, credit, extension, marketing, and financial services. The enrollment rate is 73%, which is very low compared to the national average of 99.4%, and the dropout rate is also high at 65% (Source: UNDP-CHTDF, 2009). Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachari have been included in the least 15 EDI districts, ranking 1, 2, and 4, respectively (Source: 7th Five Year Plan, 2015). Remoteness and scattered villages are risk factors for the security of women and girls students. Overall, the political situation has sometimes hindered development initiatives in CHT since the 1980s.

**Previous experience on the proposed project issue:**

The organization is dedicated to obtaining 3 Zeroes: Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Carbon in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Since 1999, it has been involved with initiatives taken under its thematic sectors like Education, Agriculture, Livelihood & IGA, Health, Gender, Rights & Culture, Language and Environment.

## Advancing WASH and Livelihood Integration at the Climate Vulnerable Are (AWLI) in Bandarban

**Status: Ongoing**

**Donor: BSRM**

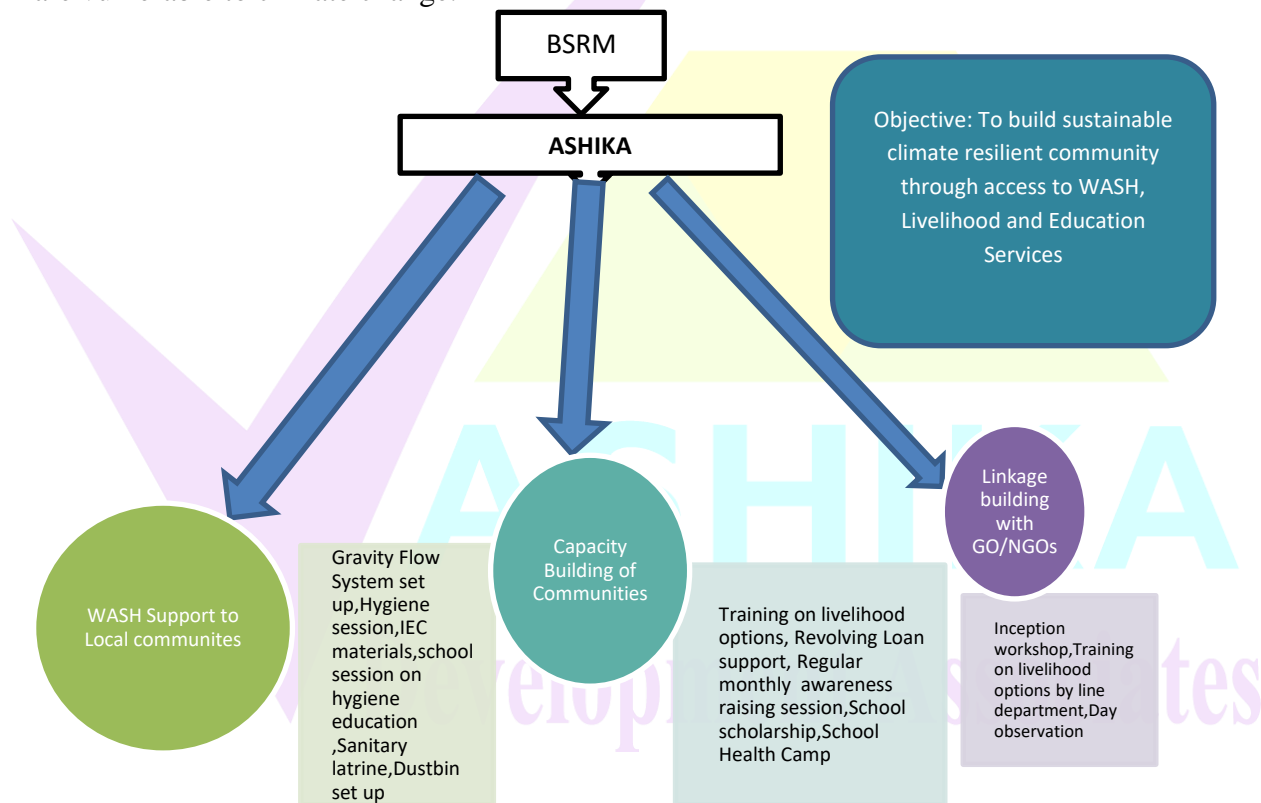
Duration: 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2025,

Budget: 99,81,143 BDT.

Location: Ruma, Bandarban Hill District.

### Proposed methodology to implement the assignment:

ASHIKA has planned to conduct a primary survey on the socio-economic conditions of 16 (Sixteen) vulnerable village communities in the remote areas of Bandarban Hill District that are vulnerable to climate change.



### Technical Quality Assurance Review Mechanisms:

The methodology includes details of the Proposer's internal technical and quality assurance review mechanisms.

### Partnership Responsibilities:

While our team will share the responsibility for the successful execution of the project, ASHIKA will be accountable to the BSRM for delivery. It will specifically provide support and guidance on all issues related to institutional coordination, project management,

institutional development, support for procurement, and monitoring and proper application of BSRM/organizational guidelines. Any backstopping that may be required in these fields will be mobilized by or through Joint efforts. Overall guidance on strategic issues, methodology, and approaches will also be within this role. It will also take up Project Management and all logistic and material support that may be required. This includes financial matters, travel arrangements, technical and financial reporting to BSRM, Bangladesh, timely mobilization of the Key experts, and identification and mobilization of required resource personnel.

**Support Facilities:**

ASHIKA will provide access to its series of “Best Practices.” The three partner organizations will provide Project Directorship. They will specifically provide support and guidance on all issues related to institutional coordination, project management, and monitoring proper application of Donor guidelines/own.

**Supervision:**

The ASHIKA project implementation committee and the M&E unit of the organizations will supervise the follow-up promptly by checking and reviewing deliverable reports. These will be presented in regular staff coordination meetings and Senior Management Teams meetings. Relevant pictures, videos, and visit reports will be tools for monitoring and will be given to Executive Council meetings. Communication and networking with relevant stakeholders will be added to supervise activities. Regular updates to BSRM and ASHIKA Facebook Pages and Websites: [www.ashikacht.org](http://www.ashikacht.org), Facebook pages. Also, flavor this follow-up mechanism and ensure the project’s smooth implementation.

**CPP Just Ecological Transition Agro-Ecology program in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh (CPP PAEP II)**

**Status: Ongoing,**

**Donor: Caritas Bangladesh,**

Duration: 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2025,

Location: Rajasthali Upazila.

ASHIKA has been implementing this project in partnership with CARITAS with the following implementation strategies:

**Provide Vaccination and Treatment Facility for livestock and poultry program:**

Many cattle and poultry/ducks die yearly through infectious diseases in Rajasthali Upazila without timely vaccination and lack of awareness. In reality, at least two open vaccination camps will be conducted annually through direct and indirect support from the government livestock department office in the remote area of Rajasthali.

The program was organized in the presence of government officials, public representatives, and local elite people by ensuring banners on distribution day at the mentioned Para.

**National and International Day Celebration (World Food Day and Environment Day):**

In coordination with government and non-government agencies as per the date announced to increase awareness of environmental protection, tobacco alternative farming, reduce the use

of chemical fertilizers; increase the use of organic fertilizers, in the project area. A day celebration should be organized at the time of reporting.

**Agriculture fair/Tree fair:**

In conjunction with the Upazila administration, the agricultural and technology fair and tree fair will be conducted with stalls as per demand.

**Meeting of the Forum for Agro-Ecology:**

+  
An MMA Forum consisting of 15 members exists in the upazila, where the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) is the convener of that Forum. The Forum meeting will be held twice yearly, once every six months at the upazila level. This Forum will work on protecting the environment and environmental balance by establishing a network at the upazila level. The forum meeting will share the activities of the Forum, provide various opinions, and take programs to protect the environment.

**Input distribution:**

"Organic farming practice": Seeds, Organic Solutions/Vermi Compost support will be provided to the beneficiaries of vegetables, paddy, and financing. 10% local Contributions should be collected from the beneficiaries according to the allocation of the project.

**Support for Land settlement:**

Develop among beneficiaries the complexities of land belonging to the small ethnocentric population at the para level and provide financial support to the collection of documents. Assist in collecting Headman Reports by engaging Headman/Karbari.

Marketing Committee meeting & support for marketing of Agriculture products: To encourage the project's beneficiaries to market their products, assist them in selling the products to get fair value for their produce, and organize advocacy meetings for proper marketing of beneficiaries.

**Inputs support for Beekeeping & Mushroom and others:**

The Project has involved beekeeping beneficiaries who were doing apiculture by training. Supports were given based on need, like Goat and pig distribution; there was also distribution of saplings among students at schools to protect the environment, encouraging conservation and awareness of the youth group so that students, students, and youth community can contribute to the conservation of environment.

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## **Community-based Resilience, Women’s Empowerment, and Action (CREA)**

**Status: Ongoing,**

**Donor: Manusher Jonno Foundation,**

**Duration: 1 March 2023 - 30 June 2026,**

**Budget: 20,167,424 BDT.**

**Location: Naniarchar, Rangamati Hill District.**

Analyzing the context of Chittagong Hill Tracts, several sectors that require more attention are related to socio-economic rights, governance, customary practices, and access to services by ethnic communities in CHT. There is discrimination against women regarding property inheritance, access to land and other property, access to formal and informal jobs, credit, extension, marketing, and financial services. Remoteness and scattered villages are risk factors for the security of women and girls students. Overall, the political situation has sometimes hindered development initiatives in CHT since the 1980s. The challenging terrain and scattered settlements, lack of skilled attendants while giving birth, lack of health clinics, lack of education awareness, the dominance of traditional healers, superstition, high levels of poverty, financial challenges, and family ignorance. Significant barriers for ethnic communities, especially for women, are accessing SRHR services. The poor state of health in the CHT is due both to a lack of awareness of primary healthcare issues and services and a lack of actual healthcare facilities. Most ethnic communities either didn’t know where to go for direct healthcare services or the service providers were too far from their current locality. Child delivery attended by skilled personnel in CHT is 9%; nationally, it is 24%.

Low fertility of grazing land, increased frequency of diseases, fruit pests, landslides, and worsened WASH situation in CHT. Ethnic (Indigenous) women are the worst victims of climate change; they collect fuel, wood, fodder, and other forest resources to live by walking longer due to deforestation leads to insecurity; the majority of them depend only on Jhum agriculture, and 9% combined with cropping and around 62% of households live below absolute poverty line as measured by daily calorie intake. The income per capita of CHT is the lowest in Bangladesh, 40% lower than the national average. The CREA project has been designed to address these issues at Naniarchar Upazila of Rangamati.

### **Project Description:**

**Background, rationale, and problem analysis, including local and national comparisons to local and national statistics. Gender analysis should be given here in terms of different situations, roles, needs, and challenges faced by women, men, persons with disabilities, girls, boys, and transgender people.**

The demography of Chittagong Hill Tracts has changed noticeably from 1790 to the end of the 19th century. CHT hosts eleven different indigenous communities with hundreds of various sectors. This includes the Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya, Tripura, Chak, Pankhua, Mro, Lushai, Khayang, Bawm, and Khumi. Regarding religious backgrounds, in Rangamati, the highest number of indigenous peoples is Buddhists, making up 53.83% of the population, followed by Muslims at 39.28%, Hindus at 5.62%, Christians at 1.12% and others at 0.15%. (<http://en.m.wikipedia.org.com>).

The vast resources in the hilly area attracted the then-British government around 1870. They declared the area as reserved, and consequently, jum cultivation was prohibited on around 800,000 acres of land. Thus, people were forced to move deeper into the hilly areas. Later, the 1900 Chittagong Regulation granted the ethnic people rights over their land while keeping the 800,000 acres still reserved. For ages, a feudal system has prevailed in the ethnic community pertaining to the management of lands, forests, grasslands, grazing lands, jum lands, and water bodies. (Daily Star, August 23, 2013)The Village Common Forests are governed by the VCF Executive Committees, where female members are silent observers.

There is the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010, as the offenses under this act are bailable, and there is a considerable scope of forceful compromises on the part of women. There is no Family Court in Rangamati, so domestic violence cases are handled under Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 2000. Poor women from remote areas of Rangamati cannot afford to come to the District Legal Aid Office, which is in the Municipality. The sexual violence cases (minor girls) are still pending due to procedural delays, and during cross-examination, witnesses are incapable of providing appropriate information and producing pieces of evidence, and this will ultimately result in the dismissal of the cases. Traditionally, the women were involved in local agriculture (Jhum Cultivation) and weaving to maintain family income, but now it is primarily expanded by the expansion of education. But they have to face many community problems when going outside the home and working outside. It is also astonishing to hear that, being the primary income source of a family, a tribe woman has to face structural violence and ignorance from their male members in many cases. So, the government should take policies to patronize these women to get proper education, training, financing for business, and policies for overall upbringing in social positions. A study on Chakma and Marma women empowerment in Rangamati Municipality revealed this observation.

In the CHT, aid has been essential to the government's strategy. Food and other relief have attracted Bengali settlers to the region. It has also been used to support the resettlement of tribals returning from India, particularly following the 1997 peace accord. As a result, aid has become heavily politicized. In a politically contested, resource-scarce context, entitlement to aid is not only of critical importance for subsistence, it is also seen as bestowing legitimacy on those claiming ownership and control in the CHT.(Quamruzzaman,2010).

Around 19% of indigenous people depend only on Jhum agriculture, and 9% combined with cropping and approximately 62% of households live below the absolute poverty line as measured by daily calorie intake (UNDP 2009). The 2001 census and economic statistics indicate that the income per capita of CHT is the lowest in Bangladesh, 40% lower than the national average. Almost 130,000 people in CHT suffered from severe food shortages due to the rat flood of 2008 (UNICEF). CHT is one of the country's most disadvantaged and vulnerable regions regarding almost all major development indicators, such as income, employment, poverty, health, water, sanitation, education, women's employment, access to infrastructure and national building institutions, and inter-community confidence. Both primary and secondary school completion rates in CHT (i.e., 62.9 % and 15.4%, respectively) are significantly lower than the national completion rates (i.e., 98.5 % and 62.2%, respectively). Food poverty is widespread in CHT. The prevalence of absolute poverty and extreme poverty in ethnic communities in 2016 was 45.7 percent and 28.4 percent, respectively – almost double the national poverty rate (24.3%) and excessive poverty rate (12.9%). Inferior ethnic minority people are less able to find jobs, making their situation even more perilous (8th Five Year Plan). Considering these situations to mitigate climate change crises and empower women and girls, integrated initiatives should include men, boys, and

disabled persons, including relevant stakeholders in the VCF or Mouzaban areas in Rangamati Hill District.

## **BRAC NFPE Bridge School in CHT**

**Status: Ongoing,**

**Donor: BRAC,**

Duration: 6 May 2023 - 31 December 2023,

Budget: 1,100,000 BDT.

Location: Baghaichari, Rangamati.

Education program since 1985, under the informal education program and in response to the country's educational needs, the BRAC academic committee has started activities in new private secondary schools. The education program has been vital in advancing primary education for sustainable development goals. Therefore, in 2023, BRAC will run primary schools from 2023 to 2025 for unprivileged children at risk of falling behind or having already lost in rural areas. The primary purpose is to enroll students in secondary school after completing primary education. As a part of this program, something good is about to be expected through partner NGOs in the hilly areas. The accessory policies mentioned-

1. District and upazila education officers are informed about NFPE School.
2. We established communication between government representatives (DC and UNO), local representatives (chairman, members), and SMC (school monitoring committee).
3. Small- and large-scale meetings were organized within the village community, and a survey regarding students was on Google Data Sheet. Responsible representatives will monitor the study.

### **Selection of students:**

- The eligible age of the students was between 8 and 12 years (1<sup>st</sup> March 2023).
- The ratio of the boys and girls was 50:50.
- Students who belong to the indigenous community are given priority.
- Birth certificate documents were collected.
- Among the enrolled students, those without Birth certificates were submitted within one month.
- 15-25 students enrolled in every batch.
- At least one disabled child was enrolled in a batch, and a maximum of five disabled students were accepted. If there is no disabled student in a batch, written approval is obtained from the concerned program head.

### **Points taken on recruiting teacher:**

- (1) Teachers were Bangladeshi citizens and vaccinated with at least 2 covid19 vaccines.
- (2) Age was between 18-30 years and Smartphone user with internet browsing/app usage skills.

- (3) Backward communities such as Dalits, Vedas, women with disabilities, tribal and BRAC graduates with teaching experience in BRAC schools (NFP Vul 1 cycle) recruited by the approval of the program manager, subject to educational qualification of at least SSC and age of up to 50 years.
- (4) No teacher was in multiple schools, and monetary transactions are prohibited.
- (5) Every school has an alternative teacher. The appointment letter was issued to the teachers.
- (6) Previously suspended teachers must not reinstate.



### **Teacher Recruitment Test:**

A three-member recruitment committee conducted the recruitment test for teachers. The Officer-in-Charge monitored the entire examination process.

A test with a total of 100 marks was conducted for recruitment. In that case, the marks will be 50 in Mathematics, 20 in English, 20 in Bengali, and 10 in Verbal. All the certificates were verified online by the relevant staff.

### **Teacher training:**

Recruited teachers were provided with 11 days of basic training. All the teachers will get taka 110 (One Hundred) daily and taka 140 (One Hundred and Forty) daily for lunch.

### **Honorees and other allowances:**

Monthly salary is 4500 (four thousand five hundred) taka. Substitute teachers will get taka 185 (One Hundred and Eighty-Five) per working day. All teachers will get two festival allowances in a year (January-December). Each teacher will get 2,250 (two thousand two

hundred and fifty) taka for each festival. During Eid-ul-Fitr, teachers of each religion will get one festival allowance. The others are given to Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, and Buddhism-Azha, Durga Puja, Christmas, and Buddhist Purnima and during indigenous festivals. Since this project will start in 2023, festival allowance is provided as per the rules. Teachers will get 100 (one hundred) taka per month for mobile and internet bills.

### **Regarding teachers' leave:**

All teachers will get one day of earned leave in a month, a maximum of four (four) days of accrued leave (subject to balance) at the end of the year. Teachers will get 185 (one hundred and eighty-five) taken for one day's leave, and the amount provided along with the December salary.

### **Construction of school:**

The schoolhouse is selected so that the place is safe and noise-free for the children. School sites not chosen near religious places, markets, highways, cowsheds, low damp areas, lack of adequate light and ventilation, and noisy places. Accessible toilets and drinking water are also available. Each school has two toilets, and one of them is used by girls. 8000 taka, including VAT/tax, is provided to the house owner for building a toilet. A small garden is in front of the school to fit the environment. The schoolhouse is 336 square feet, and it is 306 square feet in urban areas. A tin ceiling was also added to ensure adequate lighting. The border of the blackboards is polished with yellow color. Every school has an electric light and fan system with safe electrical wiring. The House owner will get Taka 900 (Nine Hundred) per month for the electricity bill; if there is no electricity system, he will get 800 (eight hundred) taka. In this case, VAT and applicable taxes are paid per the rules.

### **Collection of books:**

"Books collected from district and sub-district education offices."

If the required number of books is not provided, then new or old books are collected from the education office or the local government primary schools. Collected books were distributed among the students with entries in the register.

There will also be students' equipment such as wooden pencils, erasers, colored pencils, white paper, geometry box, and school equipment such as tools, signboard, blackboard, flag, attendance book, bound book, evaluation register, pen, chalk, duster, pencil, fan, key, Bangladesh map, world map, and energy saving light. All the equipment mentioned in the budget, including calendars, cloth, cards, drawings (large), games (large), compass (significant), and science equipment, should be procured locally through a three-member committee.

### **Gender and safeguarding:**

In addition to teaching, the teacher must know the name and address of a student and inform them of whether the student is at risk, communicate regularly with the student about safety, and cooperate if needed. Regular communication with the committee members is required to manage the school properly.

The teacher should also keep constant contact with the concerned staff. BRAC policies must follow to create a gender-sensitive and supportive environment for students.

**Before the opening of the school:**

- Meetings with parents were organized.
- School management committee members were organized.
- The necessary materials were arranged.
- Communicated with the Head Teacher.

**After the opening of the school:**

- The weekly action plan is created.
- An aptitude test was taken on all students, and their data was stored.
- The physical facilities of the house are ensured.
- Teacher and student materials are also provided.
- School safety protocols are also maintained.
- Checklists for the school committee are prepared.
- Orientation for management committee members and parent meetings is conducted monthly.

File register, reporting, and procurement are done following the given guidelines.

**Strengthening ADB’s Safeguard Policy Provisions and Procedures**

**Status: Implemented. Donor: ADB,**

**Duration: 1 July 2022 - 31 August 2022.**

Budget: \$ 9,266 (As per Contract).

Location: 3 Hill Districts.

Background The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is conducting a comprehensive review and update of its Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS), which was approved in 2009. The update seeks to modernize the policy, considering the changing development context and evolving developing member country and client needs and capacities and opportunities for greater harmonization with other multilateral financial institutions' policy principles and standards. This update process is underpinned by a robust stakeholder engagement plan that outlines consultations with government partners, private sector clients, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. The consultations, mainly done online, must be documented comprehensively and accurately to capture substantive inputs that will inform the policy update.

**Objective:**

For this purpose, a National Coordinator will be contracted to organize in-country consultations with the Bangladesh government and civil society stakeholders and with project-affected people (PAP). The National Coordinator should work closely with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Team.

### **Implementation arrangements:**

Under the overall direction of the SPRU Team with guidance from the Bangladesh Resident Mission, the experienced PAP Consultation Service Provider will provide facilitation, documentation, reporting, and administrative services in managing consultations with the project-affected peoples (PAPs) in the Second Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project in Bangladesh. The Coordinator will also liaise with relevant implementing agencies, subnational government authorities, and other stakeholders in performing their tasks. The PAP Consultation National Coordinator will report to the representative of the SPRU Team based in the ADB Headquarters. The Coordinator is also expected to liaise with the RM/FO Safeguards Focals for technical and protocol guidance before their deployment to the consultation sites and during the preparation for the actual consultations. The Coordinator will carry out the tasks under Work-From-Home and field work arrangements.

Under the overall direction of the Safeguards Division's Safeguard Policy Review Update (SPRU) Team with guidance from the Bangladesh Resident Mission, the main products the Consultation Coordinator will deliver:

The main products the PAP Consultation National Coordinator will deliver include: 1) meaningful PAP consultations demonstrated by the defined number and quality of household interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) and achieved via pre-consultation outreach including outreach to the vulnerable households and other members of the PAPs, sharing of prior information, and use of consultation formats where PAPs freely speak, use of venues free from threats or intimidation and consultation modalities that are compliant with the COVID-19 safety protocols; 2) documentation of proceedings that includes templated PAP consultation summary, audio/video recording, photos, and other supporting documentation; and 3) ensuring timely fielding of contracted service providers for each event/consultation and ensure that all required deliverables are complied with. The specific tasks are organized in the three phases of PAP consultations:

- 1) Pre-consultations.
- 2) During consultations.
- 3) Post-consultations.

বাংলাদেশের শিশুদের বিশেষ করে সুবিধা বঞ্চিত শিশুদের শিক্ষাক্ষেত্রে সহায়তা প্রদান প্রকল্প

**Donor: Agami Foundation.**

**Duration: July 2022 - June 2025.**

Budget: 3,00,000 BDT

Location: Guimara Upazila, Khagrachari.

### **Background:**

Agami Education Foundation (AEF) is a non-profit, non-political voluntary organization working to improve the education of unprivileged children in Bangladesh. AFE has been performing various projects for schools in remote and hilly areas in Bangladesh. In extension,

AFE management is implementing the project "Providing educational assistance to the unprivileged children of Bangladesh" in 18 schools. Ashika Development Associates, a local NGO of the Rangamati hill tract, has been taken as a partner to initiate this educational project in Kalapani Elephant Hill School in Guimara, khagrachari. This project aims to increase student participation in class activities by creating educational opportunities for unprivileged students in the project areas. It also aims to eradicate poverty through skill development training for families and improving the subjective knowledge of teachers and students (especially mathematics, science, and English) so that they can play vital roles by contributing to our economy.

## **Activities**

### **School program:**

- The organization will provide various educational materials such as school dress, Tiffin, exercise books, stationery, and house rent (school) to unprivileged children to improve the quality of their education.
- The project aims to create an educational environment and opportunities for unprivileged children and make students participate in class activities.
- We are providing quality Tiffin to increase students' attendance in class.
- Develop good relationships between teachers, students, and parents.

### **Education technology (Ed-tech):**

There will be one manager, three deputy managers, four coordinators, and two program officers for this project. Their role is to create more than 400 educational videos and content promoted on YouTube and other platforms. The videos will be developed according to primary and secondary curricula, benefiting teachers and students. This team will also train the teachers to create scripts, edit videos, review videos, and collect information. Teachers can even participate in the training program online at home, especially during the Covid-19 period. All the teachers' information will be collected and evaluated on this platform.

### **Teacher Training:**

Around 100+ teachers and 800+ students will benefit from 10 offline training. One manager, a few interns, and one volunteer will be there to manage this training.

- We are developing interactive teaching and formative assessment skills for the teacher per the primary curriculum.
- Special training for teachers on the "Olympiad method of teaching mathematics."
- Science Lessons are for teachers through practical training.
- Leadership and management training arranged for the head teacher.

**Life is fun:**

This program is specially designed for classes 3, 4, and 5. This program is to benefit 1200+ students and 2000+ guardians. One manager, a few interns, and one volunteer lead will assist students and teachers in a clear understanding of science. Interns will visit various schools and conduct hands-on sessions on various science topics. Each session will last 45 minutes to 1 hour. Based on science textbooks, the session ran through low-cost materials, science videos, and activity sheets on soil, water, air, energy, pollution, heat, plants, and animals. Students will be taught practical lessons with fun to eliminate the fear of science, which will gradually reduce the significant drop rate of students, and the expected reduced rate for dropout is 5% in every school.

**Health for education:**

DOCTORS PLATFORM will monitor the health checkup campaign in every school. There will be one intern in every school to communicate with the Doctor. Every student will have a health card, and their health condition will be tracked and stored. Every school should have at least one health camp, eye camp, dental camp, and awareness camp. Around 3000 students will benefit, and absenteeism due to health problems will decrease.

**Improving English teaching:**

There will be four skill training sessions to improve and develop English language skills for the teachers, which one manager and one intern will organize. This team will also organize school inspection and simulation classes. Teachers will receive training manuals, worksheets, and evolution forms to record the student's progress. Moreover, teachers provided audiovisual materials related to the **English for Today NCTV** textbook. Additionally, one experienced lead volunteer will advise and support this team.

**Chess Course:**

There will be one part-time instructor in every two schools. AFE will provide all the equipment and logistics support. Classes are held three days a week. Besides conducting chess courses, the teacher will organize at least two chess tournaments. Moreover, interested students will participate in chess tournaments organized by various governments and private institutions.

**Knitting Activity:**

Two part-time instructors will be there to train sewing and cutting for 100 students. The school committee and AFE will arrange all the logistics support for the program. The training class will be after school hours, and three trainers will run it three days a week. It will empower students to become economically independent, and they can also contribute to their family earnings.

**Background:**

To eliminate child labor engaged in hazardous work in Bangladesh, the Ministry of Labor and Employment has adopted the "Eliminate child labor in Bangladesh (phase 4)."

Under the project, 1lakh selected child laborers engaging in hazardous work will be provided with six months of educational program along with four months of skill development, and Essential activities will be implemented through NGOs to create social awareness against child labor and sending children to school those who are not going or drop out.

A baseline survey was provided based on the children's education and skill development training.

**Baseline survey and Activities:**

- 1) Prepared a detailed database containing all the necessary information about the child laborers of the project area, including name, photo, parent name and address, mobile number, Bkash number, working address, and submitted it to the project office within 60 days from the date of execution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> party contract.
- 2) Children who were not going to school or dropped out of school were found and sent to school from the district, upazila, and union levels. All the necessary information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> party was collected and provided to the project office with the help of the District Commissioner and Police Supervisor.
- 3) A work plan was created per the project office guidelines and a baseline survey for the education and skill development curriculum, guidelines, training timeline, place, books, and stationery items. All the materials and curriculum activities are conducted at one's expense.
- 4) The 2<sup>nd</sup> party undertook the online monitoring of the 1<sup>st</sup> party of the selected children. Moreover, the 1<sup>st</sup> party is directly monitored with the help of the local administration.
- 5) Six months of non-formal education and 4 (four) months of skill development training have been provided to the 893 child laborers selected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> party on the place designated by the 1<sup>st</sup> party (Chittagong City Corporation).
- 6) The 1<sup>st</sup> party may extend/reduce the non-formal education and skill development training period. If the period of education and training is grown/reduced by the 1<sup>st</sup> party, the service charge will also be raised/reduced in proportion to the advanced or reduced period by the 2<sup>nd</sup> party.
- 7) The 2<sup>nd</sup> party formed a central management committee in each center consisting of teachers, parents, and local social workers. A city/upazila committee should be constituted under the leadership of a representative of the local administrative (women/children/) after intimation to the local administration (DC, UNO).

- 8) The 2<sup>nd</sup> party will receive a service charge of 16,000/-(8000\*2) taka (VAT included) per child for providing Six months of non-formal education and Four months of skill development training.
- 9) The 2<sup>nd</sup> party provided training for selected trades like 1)mobile servicing, 2)block print & batik and embroidery, 3)beauty parlor and hair-dressing, 4) machine and plumbing, 5)wood-work, 6) radio TV mechanics, 7)tailoring & embroidery 8)cycle and rickshaw repairing, 9)handicrafts. The 2<sup>nd</sup> party also ensured the necessary training, machinery, tools, furniture, and other equipment for the trainees.
- 10) The 2<sup>nd</sup> party can terminate the agreement without assigning any reason for irregularity or failure in informal education and skill development training. 1<sup>st</sup> party can entrust any other NGO/volunteer for informal education and skill development training.

### **Gender Responsive Education and Skill Program in CHT (GRESP)**

Status: Implemented. Donor: BRAC-Global Affairs Canada,  
Duration: 7 October 2021 – 31 December 2022.  
Budget: 7,370,779 BDT.  
Location: Bandarban Sadar.

#### **Activity of GRESP:**

Arrange school-level meetings/workshops with teachers, SMC, and community members of GPS for developing an annual development plan once a year (30 participants per school). Language courses and need-based support to violence survivors through the referral network (psycho-social counseling, medical referral, and legal referral). Arrange stakeholder dialogue and popular theatres shows reinforcing the same set of messages—initial dialogue with the local youth organization, cultural groups, and community leaders. Develop leadership, diversity, inclusion, and Empathy-building workshops with local youth by role models. Ensure leadership, diversity, inclusion, social cohesion, and social and emotional learning sessions with secondary school students/ mentor groups. They are engaging local mentors, community representatives, and role models for learning and sharing. This program is based on formation of community officers and local adoption and sustainability in multiple locations.

## **Skill Development training on livelihood activities for destitute ethnic women in CHT**

Status: Implemented.  
Duration: June 2021-December 2022  
Donor: Bangladesh NGO Foundation.  
Budget: 275000 bdt.  
Location: Naniachar, Rangamati.

**Description:** Twenty-five Male and Female beneficiaries were given goats under this Program. Permanent residents' primary livelihood depends on Jum cultivation. So, most communities residing in the CHT and their livelihood rely on forest and natural resources. Rocky and mountainous landscapes gave no choice but to rely on Jum cultivation for livelihood. So, Communities of CHT learned the way of nature and eco-friendly solutions in their socio-economic life. Until now, most jum cultivating communities couldn't fulfill their basic human needs compared to national standards. In this vulnerable situation, they cannot make their life better because of a lack of modern education and resilient skills needed to develop their income source, though they can live a good life. Besides they don't get actual value of their produces goods and some of cultivators are losing the land ownership due to many reasons. The Jum cultivation lands are losing their fertility rapidly due to climate change, so farmers are considering fertilizing the jum cultivation lands. In that case, Farmers can adopt other crops and methods for cultivation that can sustain their livelihoods.

ASHIKA development associates took the initiative to mitigate some of these conditions by providing 500 mushroom seeds for cultivation among 20 beneficiaries of this jum cultivation land. So on Bangladesh NGO foundation step forward and funded on income generating activity and skills for this communities.

### **The project has 3 Objectives includes:**

- Reduction of poverty and achievement of better quality of life of the destitute indigenous working women.
- Raise the security of the indigenous working women in the society.
- To develop the quality of indigenous handloom textile.

### **The Major Activities were:**

- i) Set up a training center.
- ii) Conduct a baseline survey.
- iii) Selection of target group.
- iv) Hiring of project staff.
- v) Imparting training to the target group.
- vi) Operation of micro credit.
- vii) Formation of producers' cooperative.
- viii) Set up an outlet center.
- ix) Carry out an evaluation report.
- x) Training on livelihood activities.
- xi) Gender base Violence training.

## **Betterment of Underprivileged through Development and down streaming Household's Approach (BUDDHA) of BOB-Bank in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh**

Status: On going,

Donor: Catuddisa Sangha, Japan;

Duration: November 2010 – June 2025,

Location: Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban.

ASHIKA has started BoB activities in Rangamat Hill District since 2010, supported by Catuddisa Sangha (CS)- Japan. The organization first facilitated BOB activities in Dighalibagh village, Rangamati Hill District, through CS Japan, where poor people benefited economically and socially. They will be more self-sufficient if their agro-based products are given proper value-adding and market linkage facilities. In this connection, ASHIKA has been implementing this project in several villages with the support of CS Japan. The main objective is to enhance and develop the use of modern agro-technicalities to increase their agricultural production, and this fund will be generated by following a strategy of enhanced donation out of revolving loan fund installment. The project also aimed to set up an outlet center at the local level to ensure fair prices for BOB members' agricultural production and to ensure an improved socio-economic status at a community level. In cooperation with local NGOs: Eco-Development, Bandarban and Jum Foundation, Rangamati, the overall BOB activities have been carried out in three hill districts and Chattogram.

### **Activities carried out:**

ASHIKA has an established financial system for transparency and accountability of the project grant, and the project funds are to be kept in a separate bank account in the name of the project and operated by three signatories as per the suggestion of Catuddisa Sangha-Japan for maintaining and managing the project. After receiving funds of **BDT-500,000/ including 47,048/- remittance-** total 5,47,048/- ( Five Lac forty-seven thousand taka) from Catuddisa Sangha, Japan, ASHIKA has distributed 5,35,000/- ( Five lac thirty-five thousand) among three hill district of Khagrachari Rangamati & Bandarban.

### **Major Activities in Rangamati District:**

- a) Create Two New BOB consisting of 7-11 members with individual bank accounts by their para named.
- b) Newly created BoBs are 1) Dharmagiri Sadhona kuthir para, Mitinggachari, Kwkahli Upazila at Rangamati Sadar; 2) Jibkallyan Banabihar shakha para, Kutukchari, Rangmati Sadar
- c) Orientation program cum Meeting held for each cash distribution at every UNO Office.
- d) In Rangamati Sadar, the total distributed amount is 130,000/- (One lac thirty thousand) among four BoBs implemented by ASHIKA.
- e) In Bagaichari Upazila, the total distributed amount is 75,000/- among three old BoBs implemented by the Jum Foundation.
- f) In Kawkhali, the total distributed amount is about 90,000/ (Ninety thousand taka) among three BoBs. These are- a) Chelachara Dosobol para, Ghagra,Kawkhali Upazila.
- g) B). Swadharma bihar para, Ghagra, Kawkhali. C). Dharmagiri Sadhhana kuthir para, Mitingyachari Kawkhali,Rangamati.
- h) Aware on-
  - Skill Development on agro-based production, value addition

- Setting up an Outlet Center
- Market Linkages & Networking and Advertisement.
- Follow-up activities.



#### **Major Activities in Khagrachari District:**

- Create One New BOB consisting of 7-11 members with individual bank accounts by their para named.
- The newly created BoB is 1) Milon Bouddha Bihar, Pagujjechari, Pachari Upazila, Khagrachari.
- Orientation program cum Meeting held for cash distribution at UNO Office, Panchari Khagrachari.
- In Khagrachari District, the total donated amount is 90,000/- (Ninety thousand taka) among three BoBs implemented by ASHIKA.
- Also aware on-
  - Skill Development on agro base production, value addition
  - Setting up an Outlet Center
  - Market Linkages & Networking and Advertisement .
  - Follow-up activities.

#### **Major Activities in Bandarban District:**

Create two new BOBs consisting of 7-11 members.

- The newly created BoB is 1) Lulan Headman Para Bouddha Bihar Jamchari Union, Bandarbanban Sadar, 2) Lulan Punarbasan Para Bouddha Bihar Jamchari Union, Bandarbanban Sadar, implemented by Eco- Development.
- Orientation program cum Meeting held for cash distribution at UNO Office, Bandarban Sadar.
- The total donated amount is 140,000/- (One Lac forty thousand taka) among two new BoBs implemented by Eco-Development.
- Also aware on-
  - Skill Development on agro-based production, value addition
  - Setting up an Outlet Center

- Market Linkages & Networking and Advertisement.
- Follow-up activities.

### **District Coverage:**

The Distributed total amount is **BDT- 5,35,000/-** ( Five Lac thirty-five thousand taka) for three Hill Districts. For ASHIKA Development Associates, the total amount is 310,000/- (Tree Lac ten thousand taka); for Jum Foundation 75,000/ (Seventy-five thousand) & Eco-Development 150,000/-(One lac fifty thousand) along with organizational administrative cost.

### **CHT Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation program.**

**Status: Ongoing,**

**Donor: Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh,**

Duration: 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2025,

Budget: 120,000 BDT.

Location: Rangamati Hill District.

### **Description:**

The activities under this project included:

- Dissemination of messages on Leprosy and rabies through different activities such as courtyard meetings with community people, sharing with School and staff and groups, other NGOs
- Advocacy to educational institutes and other organizations for creating a message disseminating; it will also advocate to the local government (especially health and social welfare) to help people affected by Leprosy and disability have government access. Services.
- It is proved that the IEC materials could significantly disseminate information about the CHT Leprosy Rehabilitation Project. The stakeholders said that the community mass people have yet to report to us regarding the cases of Leprosy /dog bites. Though we have suggested treatment from the health complex in some places, they didn't respond. But many of them are now aware of the issues related to Leprosy, rabies, and initiatives done by Leprosy Mission International in Bangladesh. In the traditional cultural context of CHT, people faced these problems through the involvement of traditional healers in their village; they lacked knowledge of facilities for the Leprosy mission in CHT. Through this project, ASHIKA has been trying its level best to disseminate the problems and facilities allotted through this project. Sometimes, people do not want to hear about Leprosy, so we are trying to motivate them to listen to us and become aware of Leprosy, rabies, or dog bites.



## **Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Resilience in Bangladesh (SERB phase 2)**

Funded by USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), in cooperation with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) Country Office in Bangladesh, ASHIKA has been implementing Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Resilience In Bangladesh (SERB phase 2) in the vulnerable coastal district Cox's Bazar and two other vulnerable districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts namely Rangamati and Bandarban. The SERB Program aims to strengthen the emergency response of first responder agencies, urban community volunteers, and hospitals in the three districts by integrating key capacity development activities in existing institutional systems, strategies, programs, and budgets under the leadership of the Department of Disaster Management and national implementing partners from the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense (FSCD), Directorate General for Health Services (DGHS) and the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM).

### **IGA (Income generating activities)**

#### **Mushroom:**

There is a demand for mushrooms in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Mushrooms are consumed locally by indigenous communities who used to search for wild mushrooms in the forests of the Hill Tracts. However, the rise in mushroom cultivation has made access easier and increased popularity. Furthermore, there is a demand for mushrooms from food manufacturers who use processed mushrooms in various products. The Hill Tracts also have a comparative advantage in mushroom production as they require slightly cooler temperatures and do not grow as well in the plains of Bangladesh. Mushrooms as an IGA require relatively less investment and time for good returns, as noted by the experience in various projects. In 2008, ASHIKA needed more knowledge of mushroom cultivation. During the PLIEG project with technical support from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), ASHIKA gained through training and exposure visits to mushroom cultivation sites such as Savar, Bangladesh, and ICIMOD's Godavari site in Nepal.

Mushroom cultivation helps people in the Hill Tracts earn an average of Tk.1500/month without any substantial investment. Producers buying seed from ASHIKA noted that the average production cost for mushroom/kg is Tk.23.50 and sold at Tk 30. The households consume a small proportion of the mushroom produced, but most are sold to local traders and intermediaries. They sell the mushrooms for Tk.80/kg to local traders and intermediaries who sell it at the Tk.100/kg market. Based on the experience during the project, ASHIKA and other local partners have concluded that mushroom cultivators can earn an additional 32% income in a year. The increase in income helped people meet their household expenses, and many re-invested in expanding mushroom cultivation or other livelihood strategies such as livestock.

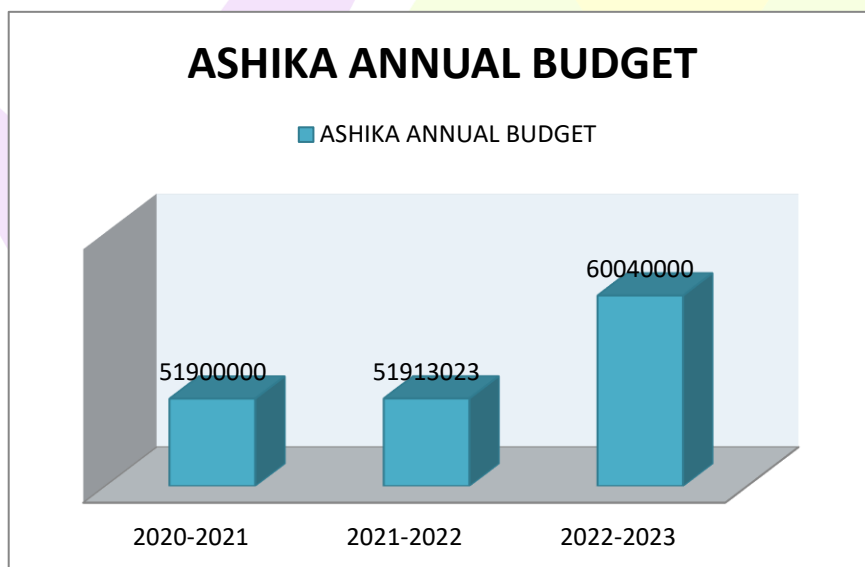
PLIEG project drove demand for mushroom seeds, and ASHIKA recognized the need to meet the demand. ASHIKA established a seed production lab in Rangamati town through its initiative in 2009. This ensured that people had year-round access to quality seed at competitive prices. The seed production lab is an air-conditioned incubation room with an autoclave machine to mix the different seed packet components. ASHIKA has employed

eight people to work in the production lab part-time and full-time. The cost of producing one packet was Tk.16.50 and sold at Tk.20.ASHIKA annually produces 36000 packets, which it sells through its outlet center. The profit from the outlet center has been crucial in helping ASHIKA meet its operating costs with limited external assistance. It helped pay the monthly salary for eight staff members engaged with the mushroom center, including full-time staff for the seed production lab and outlet center. ASHIKA planned to expand its outlet center and provide an avenue for mushroom cultivators to sell mushrooms at higher prices without intermediaries.

In addition to the outlet center, ASHIKA held meetings with local traders and worked with them to establish linkages with mushroom producers. Some traders work closely with ASHIKA to collect and buy mushrooms directly from the producers at a higher wholesale price. This ensures that mushroom producers can earn more for their efforts and reduces transportation costs to markets. Furthermore, the local traders also benefit by earning more income and creating jobs within the Hill Tracts.

On 23 August 2014, ASHIKA contracted with Grameen Telecom Trust to establish “Mushroom Seed Social Business” in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Until now, the lab has become unique over the three hill districts, providing exclusively mushroom spawn, even covering the Chittagong division.

ASHIKA's financial turnover can be depicted as follows based on expenditures per our audited statements for the last three years.



**ASHIKA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES**  
Consolidated Statement of Receipts & Payments  
For the year ended 30 June, 2023

Particulars	Notes	Amount in TK	
		30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22
<b>Opening Balance</b>			
Cash in Hand		100,248	270
Cash in Bank		6,226,097	1,290,217
<b>Total Opening Balance</b>		<b>6,326,345</b>	<b>1,290,487</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
General Fund: ADA		65,371,055	105,851,865
Conservation Communication under CHTWCA Project 94988		10,572,040	12,961,499
Brac NFPE BRIDGE SCHOOL IN CHT Project		549,842	
ASHIKA PECSGP Project of CHT		2,352,387	
ASHIKA Conventions Park		1,977,600	377,517
Skill Development Training on Livelihood Activities for Destitute Ethnic Woman of CHT		-	275,230
Activity Village Court II		4,000	
Empowerment through Integrated Livelihood and Right base Actions (EILIRA), MJF Bangladesh Jhukipurno Shisusrom (4th state)		226,332	4,065,727
CHTWCALivelihood Project		8,335,166	2,381,334
		6,975,225	7,795,106
Community based Resilience, Woman's Empowerment and Action (CREA) Project		1,359,488	
ASHIKA- Buddha of BOB Bank in CHT of Bangladesh		507,200	
ASHIKA Agro Ecology		309,000	
CPP Just Ecological Transition Agro-ecology Program in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh		1,068,131	
Shuvolong Safe Drinking Water Social Business		-	-
Mushroom Seed Social Business		1,486,175	1,762,020
Gender Responsive Education and Skills Programme in CHT		2,658,943	5,412,451
Women and Girls Empowerment in CHT Through Education & Skills Project, UNDP		7,181,360	9,983,903
ASHIKA Craft Cane and Bamboo Furniture		306,293	
AWLI		1,873,308	
Activating Village Courts in CHT (Rang. Pack-A, Part-1)		168,122	5,758,902
Basic Literacy Project 64 District		-	12,791,775
Microfinance programe		6,500	3,003,221
Emergency Assistance to COVID-19 affected Vulnerable Pepole in Bangladesh		-	31
ASHIKA AVC IN CHT (PART -2) Project		-	22,307,755
CPPPAER- CHT Caritas		-	905,000
Strengthen civil society and public institutions to address combating gender based violence and build community resilient to adopt climate change project"		-	1,894,045
Promoting Engagement of Civil Society in Governance Process of CHT		-	4,133,389
General Fund I		-	30,000
<b>Total Received</b>		<b>113,288,167</b>	<b>201,690,770</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>119,614,512</b>	<b>202,981,257</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
General Fund: ADA		65,688,396	112,338,302
Conservation Communication under CHTWCA Project		10,800,275	13,251,998
Brac NFPE BRIDGE SCHOOL IN CHT Project		264,611	
ASHIKA PECSGP Project of CHT		2,410,875	
ASHIKA Conventions Park		2,387,875	370,553
Skill Development Training on Livelihood Activities for Destitute Ethnic Woman of CHT		1,000	276,230
Activity Village Court II		4,980	
Empowerment through Integrated Livelihood and Right base Actions (EILIRA), MJF Bangladesh Jhukipurno Shisusrom (4th state)		229,092	4,104,682
CHTWCALivelihood Project		8,335,660	2,381,840
Community based Resilience, Woman's Empowerment and Action (CREA) Project		6,881,969	7,788,274
ASHIKA- Buddha of BOB Bank in CHT of Bangladesh		892,812	
ASHIKA Craft Cane and Bamboo Furniture		506,641	
CPP Just Ecological Transition Agro-ecology Program in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh		307,297	
Shuvolong Safe Drinking Water Social Business		1,053,193	
Mushroom Seed Social Business		-	-
Gender Responsive Education and Skills Programme in CHT		1,671,238	1,752,460
Women and Girls Empowerment in CHT Through Education & Skills Project, UNDP		2,635,488	5,400,407
		10,087,420	7,065,350

  
**Biplob Ghakma**  
General Secretary  
ASHIKA Development Associates  
Rangamati

7



  
**Md. Nizam Uddin**  
President  
ASHIKA Development Associates  
Rangamati

Particulars	Notes	Amount in TK	
		30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22
ASHIKA Craft Cane and Bamboo Furniture		288,223	
AWLI		934,710	
Activating Village Courts in CHT (Rang. Pack-A, Part-1)		167,380	5,758,329
Basic Literacy Project 64 District		1,265	12,791,322
Microfinance programe		1,780	5,875
Emergency Assistance to COVID-19 affected Vulnerable Pepole in Bangladesh		-	9,930
ASHIKA AVC IN CHT (PART -2) Project		-	22,303,789
CPPPAER- CHT Caritas		-	904,841
Strengthen civil society and public institutions to address combating gender based violence and build community resilient to adopt climate change project"		-	2,492,937
Promoting Engagement of Civil Society in Governance Process of CHT		-	4,074,476
General Fund 1		-	30,656
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>115,552,180</b>	<b>203,102,251</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>			
Cash in Hand/partners account		63,478	1,763
Cash at Bank		4,957,431	6,332,082
Outstanding Payable		958,577	6,454,840
Others		-	-
<b>Total Closing Balance</b>		<b>4,062,332</b>	<b>(120,995)</b>
<b>Grant Total</b>		<b>119,614,512</b>	<b>202,981,256</b>

The annexed notes from on integral part of these financial statements

  
 Finance Manager  
**JUGANTOR CHAKMA**  
 Finance Manager  
 ASHIKA-Rangamati.

Signed as per our annexed report of even date

  
 Executive Director  
 ASHIKA **Biplop Chakma**  
 Executive Director  
 ASHIKA Development Associates  
 Rangamati.



**Md. Abdus Satter Sarkar, FCA**  
 Partner  
 ICAB Enrollment No. 1522  
 Mahfel Huq & Co.  
 Chartered Accountants  
 Firm Registration No.P-46323  
 DVC:

Place: Dhaka  
 Date: 27 NOV 2023

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**Biplop Ghakma**  
 General Secretary  
 ASHIKA Development Associates  
 Rangamati

  
**Md. Nizam Uddin**  
 President  
 ASHIKA Development Associates  
 Rangamati



# Our Funding Partners(2022-2023)



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

ASHIKA



四方僧伽

Catuddisa Sangha



Grameen Telecom Trust  
Building Social Business



বাংলাদেশ এনজিও ফাউন্ডেশন  
BANGLADESH NGO FOUNDATION