

2015- 2016

ANNUAL REPORT



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ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra
2015-2016

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Message from the Executive Director



By 2015-2016 ASHIKA has made remarkable achievements over the last 16 years-in improving internal and external governance system. We had a built up good working relationships with local, national and international level partners, stakeholders 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.

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

The organization stood in such a position that was the combination of all types of efforts, strength, initiatives etc made it exceptional in CHT. We are continuing with our production of mushroom spawn, bamboo & cane made furniture, honey, fresh mushroom, organic vegetable, non-timber forest products that introduced us as a unique entity in the sector of livelihood. With the growth of our organization we have recognized that our communities would be best served if we can optimize the usage of our resources.

We made sure that the growth achieved during this period was based on ASHIKA's principles and values.

Another special achievement in the program of Culture and Rights that publication of 6 booklets related to institutional laws to bring whole community under good governance where there would be best coordination in between duty bearers and right

holders. This year the Education sector started MLE activities to conserve own script, songs, story, cultural instruments etc among children of different communities. Our collective efforts was to bring economical revolution in the program of Agriculture, livelihood and income generating activities through evolvment of interest free micro credit system in 8 villages, that has brought a remarkable changes in vulnerable communities who did not have access to banking systems.

We have taken great strides in installation of CHT friendly technological hardware installation to improve health situation and hygienic behavior in hard to reach areas. This year our geographical coverage crossed the borderline of CHT, reached in Noakhali District also. It was the landmark moment for the history of ASHIKA.

This was the year of working towards social, cultural, gender and age-based equality and dignity from all sectors. I would like to extend my hearty gratitude to all partners (both implementing and supporting), colleagues and local administration to join us.

Executive Summary

Annual Report 2015-2016 started with institutional highlights from July 2015, followed by features showcasing progress and impact from each projects and each of the programs. The Report 2015-2016 speaks about various projects of Education, Agriculture, Livelihood & Income Generating Activities, Rights & Culture, Gender sectors of ASHIKA. In short this Annual Report tells about some of the organization's activities aimed at promoting the hilly lives and livelihood and their adaptation to climate change that are being implemented by several partners like The Royal Danish Embassy, The Asia Foundation-Election Working Group, Asian Development Bank, Grameen Telecom Trust, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Save the Children International, Bangladesh NGO Foundation, BRAC, BLAST etc.

What we were undergoing during 2015-2016

1. "Non- Formal Primary Education" –NFPE Project



The duration of NFPE project is from January 01, 2014 to December 31, 2016 which is supported by Education Support Program and attuned by its partner NGOs is largely determined by the attitude, knowledge, skills and activities of partner NGO heads. Since 2000 ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra has been working in educational sector in partnership with other donor NGOs like PROSHIKA and BRAC. At present NFPE program supported by BRAC

International is mainly for the poor rural children who are not in touch with education or whose parents are not capable of affording their children to bring down in formal primary schools. Especially we are working in rural Naniarchar Upazila of Rangamati Hill District. NFPE provides non-formal education to children belong to the age group of 7-12 years. In this group girls are of dominant character in studies and in quality & quantity. The classes are up to 5th standard and after this stage there is humanitarian plan to precede the students toward Government Primary School. The essential materials are provided by BRAC and ASHIKA read the budget for NFPE schools thoroughly for a clear understanding of student. Books, teaching aids, supplementary reading materials, classroom supplies and teacher supplies needed in an ESP NFPE School. School result was successfully very bright in the centre. Through the guardian meeting, it was asked to provide for scholarship at least for good students. To encourage children in NFPE School in studies, there is system of giving small gifts for good result or improvement. As a result, there is less rate of tendency of leaving /drop-out students in ESP NFPE Schools. Skilled and good education is being provided by local teachers which reduced drop out of the students; Till date more than 100 students successfully completed primary education and 220 students are newly admitted; Local community peoples are aware of the necessity of primary education through meetings of SMC, PTA etc.; Confidence of the local poor ethnic community peoples has increased to ensure primary education of their children.

2. Education for Language & Culturally Marginalized Ethnic Children(ELCMEC) project

This project aimed at improving access to quality pre-primary education for 520 (220 from Rakhaing community & 300 from ethnic community) children of 4-6 years of age from the ethnic minority from Rangamati Hill District. It is also fulfilling language & culturally marginalized ethnic children's rights to basic education, through improving access to quality Early childhood development service and providing pre-school education support. The project is being implemented in Kawkhali and Rangamati Sadar Upazila of Rangamati Hill District in Chakma and Marma languages that has received a mass response from community.



3. Supporting to Physical Facilities of Marginalized Primary School Children in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Project



This project was aimed to strengthen teaching learning environment at school and to improve health & Hygiene facilities at school. The support to Backchari Government Primary School under Kawkhali Upazila of Rangamati Hill District is to increase physical facilities and software facilities of that school area, the activities include: School Building Construction or repairment, school boundary wall, meeting with different stakeholders (CHTRC, RHDC, DPEO, TEO, local elected bodies, teachers &

SMC)association, capacity building of SMC, establish source of drinking water which is suitable for those area, establish separate toilet for teachers and students and community awareness on school health.

4. “Upgrading Sustainable Households’ Affordability” (USHA) Project

ASHIKA is implementing USHA Project with the goal of improved livelihood opportunities of marginalized communities through enhancing economic capacity to restore human dignity for the duration of October 2013 to December 2016. The Purposes of this project is to increase average household income through providing supports for IGA and to increase the capacity of community for protecting violence against women. The first output is that monthly average 600 household income would be increased at TK. 3000 – TK. 5000 by the end of the project and the 2nd output is that Groups are capacitated and motivated to perform action violence against women. The targeted population is totally 3000 out of which 1200 men and 1800 women. The trainings under this project are:1)2 Day-long Training on Mushroom Cultivation,2)1 Day long Training on Vegetable gardening,3) 1 Day long Training on Non-Timber Product Gardening,4) 3 Day long training on Honey Bee-keeping,5) Group Management Training for Group Management Committee Members. These trainings are provided to 24 Groups of USHA Project. At its second year the project depicts a vast changes at village level, it has been found that the income of 27(each consisted of 25 person) groups is Tk. 6246267 out of the financial support from donor Tk.1634734.Its more than three times of the support provided to them within 2 year which has proved that a quality monitoring, consultation, coordination can make it happen. The savings of these groups is now Tk.569281 beside their regular income through USHA project.



5. Income Generation activities (IGA)

(a) ASHIKA Craft, Cane & Bamboo Furnitures



In 2011 the **M/S ASHIKA Craft, Cane & Bamboo Furnitures** was set up with the initiative of ASHIKA. CHT is rich in its natural beauties, especially bamboo and cane. The traditional practices were mainly based on bamboo and cane was since immemorial time even from birth of a child to its death. To keep alive of traditional practices of different ethnic communities of this region and open the door of mass employment opportunities ASHIKA started its furniture and crafts production center exclusively by Bamboo & cane available in CHT. This centre is

already running in a place where such initiative never existed commercially. The products are available in this centre includes sofa set, dining table, bed, divine, tool, lampshade, tray, glass, crafts, traditional items used in marriage, child birth, death, cultural instruments, show piece etc. The variety of its design, traditional uses increased its unique characteristics that are bringing the factory into alternative livelihood options, young people specially unemployed youth and marginalized communities are already involved.

The sources of raw materials are from different enlisted bamboo and cane cultivators located in 10 Upazilas of Rangamati Hill District. The farmers including male and female are getting benefitted for sourcing ASHIKA bamboo show room and factory where by selling raw materials they are getting easy fair price, free of risk to sell, and no interference of intermediaries in the market. The responsible personnel of ASHIKA Bamboo factory take the responsibility to collect raw materials. Bamboo and cane cultivators became interested to expand their production and now it is a new alternative income options. This factory has made bamboo and cane cultivators to be interested on commercial production at large scale for a big income between 1st year to 3 years after cultivation. The life style of producers has been changed and investment on bamboo cultivation increased more than 5 years back. It opened the eye for betterment of family status and strength.

(b) ASHIKA Conference Hall Room cum Outlet center



This is one of ASHIKA's income generating activities which contribute to enrich the financial strength and resources of the organization. The outlet center includes honey bee, traditional crafts and items, instruments of honey bee-keeping etc.

6. ASHIKA Mushroom Seed Social Business Project

This is the partnership in between ASHIKA and Grameen Telecom Trust for the period of eight years primarily and it will be extended through its sustainability plan. This social business plan of ASHIKA focuses on quality mushroom seeds primarily which will produce high volume of fresh mushroom that would lead to reduce the poverty of CHT communities and reintroduces a very popular & organic medicinal food habit of the CHT residents. **ASHIKA** is committed to brand the products as **Made in CHT**. Moreover **ASHIKA** targeted to develop a better market linkage of fair price & quality products among producers & consumers through **this initiative**. The project aims to produce 77000 quality mushroom spawn in a year with the partnership of Grameen Telecom Trust. Availability of quality seeds will generate IGA among the small scale

entrepreneurs and farmers which will strengthen income of the community peoples. Uses and demand of mushroom as organic as well as medicinal food will be increase simultaneously reduce scope of prevention of cancer among the users. Through this project there is opportunity of i) **Improvements in quality of spawn/ seeds production;** ii) **Training opportunity for the interested small and marginal mushroom producers;** and iii) **Promotion, branding product and market development.** Under this project there is more than 127949 (One lac twenty seven thousand nine hundred and forty nine) fresh mushroom producers are involved. It has got a vast response from beneficiary level that is totally contributing at their day to day life.



7. Chittagong Hill tracts Rural Development project (Phase II)

The project has been implemented by the joint venture of Greenhill, Progressive, Shinning Hill, Jum Foundation and ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra for the period of eight year starting from 20 August 2013 to July 2018. The project has a specific objective is to provide implementation services for Project Management Offices and Districts Project Management Office for all aspects of the implementation of community infrastructure, watershed management and micro agribusiness development. This is the project of social mobilization which is ensuring capacity building and strengthening beneficiary communities through their involvement

in infrastructure development and watershed management. It is providing adequate support for micro business development to poor rural households to improve their incomes through capacity building of local producers, marketing and improved agriculture production. There is 200 para development committees were selected based on their necessity and their para profile is also documented out of which we can assume a real picture of rural village. The demands of each para differ and the need is identified through social mapping method. Under this project the google image of Paras are developed that has brought true reliable information which could be a good sources of information regarding villages of Chittagong Hill Tracts. Women are participating at the decision level at meeting, seminars, workshops etc, even they are one of

cheque signatories of different schemes. ASHIKA is implementing these social mobilization activities in Jurachari, Bilaichari, Naniarchar, Rajasthali upazilas of Rangamati Hill District.

8. "Community Legal Aid Service" project

With the overall cooperation of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST), ASHIKA has been implementing community legal aid service related awareness increasing programs since January 2013. It will be implemented till 31 December 2016 at the USHA & ELFOS project area. We have raised the importance of legal rights to the common people and the opportunity to come under the legal aid services that are provided freely by BLAST. With the presence of Paralegal, BLAST and nominated Advocates are disseminating the services and scopes to fight against illegal issues & evils in society. It is mentionable that each sessions are totally based on different legal issues come under early child marriage act-1929, Pornography Control Act 2012, CHT Regulation 1900, Right to information Act 2009 and other Acts related to acid throwing, kidnapping, dowry, domestic violence, autistic persons etc. Through this project various hidden cases are coming out in front which should be disseminated to increase awareness. It is noticeable that rural level community people totally depended on Karbari, Headman, and Circle Chief (Traditional Institution) Court.



9. "Enforcement of Local Institutional Laws Focusing Public Awareness through Sustainable Good Governance Approach"- (ELFOS Phase II) project

The overall objective of this project is to build awareness among right holders as well as improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness of the duty bearers in CHT for delivering basic services to them. The Specific Objectives under this project were

- a) To create mass awareness in CHT about the laws, rules and procedures related to the rights and entitlement of the local people.
- b) To strengthen institutional capacity of the local government bodies especially



the Union Parishads and Moujas.

- c) To improve access in basic needs and/or services of CHT community through playing a facilitation role both supply and demand sides.

The Outputs under ELFOS II were included:

I) Population of 5 CHT Upazilas (Kaptai, Rajsthali, Rangamati Sadar, Naniarchar and Kawkhali) will have enhanced awareness on required laws, rules and procedures for improving livelihoods within 3 years periods.

II) At least 150 decision makers and policy users will be trained on RBA issues for making decisions which protects and promotes rights of the target population in CHT within 3 years.

III) Enhanced participation of community people will be seen at different level in CHT in the decision making process on the issues affecting their lives.

IV) Functioning capacity of 2 (Two) CHT institutions (especially Union Parishad & Mauja) increased both Upazila and district level and V) CHT community will have increased access in services and duty bearer will be more responsive to the demand of the rights holders.

10. Indigenous/ Minority Project

The project was implemented in between November 2013 to December 2016 in Rangamati Hill District. The first element to ensure a sound election is to frame a correct voter list. The organization involves a thematic area as Right base programme. In this connection it includes the activities of voter rights of communities. The Indigenous/Minority Project is the sub-grant of project entitled as “Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes for Enhanced Transparency and Democratic accountability” which aims to ensure transparency and credibility in the electoral process of the 10th Parliamentary Election. ASHIKA was involved in this issue in the Rangamati Hill District. During the project period it includes a combination of

long term domestic observation, short term election day observation, arrangement/or participation in trainings, electoral reform advocacy, voter/civic education to mitigate political and electoral violence and to enhance citizen awareness about representation, representative government and accountability and citizen monitoring.

A focus on involvement of women and minority, indigenous especially, as election observers, was of highly importance. This project was contributed to promote confidence among stakeholders for the 10th Parliamentary election, and to promote responsive and accountable governance through strengthened election administration and greater public security of the electoral process. The observation

of the development of voter list done by the Election Commission implies that. Through this



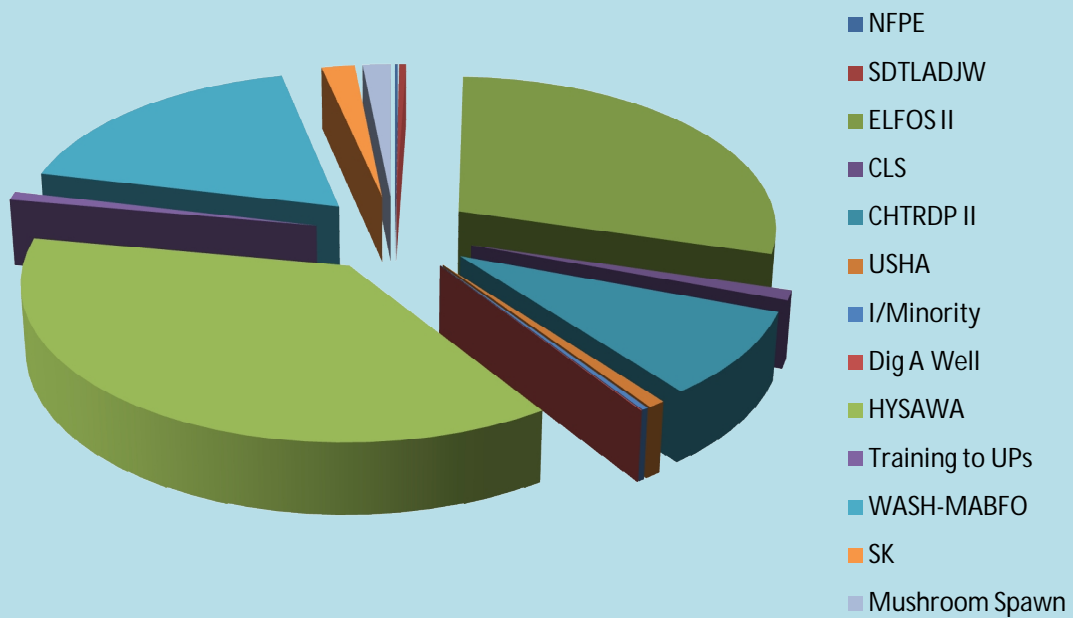
activity our organization is the eye witness of ensuring civic rights of the poor, marginalized communities by The Election Commission of Bangladesh in Rangamati Hill District.

11. "Skill Development Training on Indigenous Handloom for Destitute Jumma Women of CHT" Project

Bangladesh NGO Foundation with its overall cooperation supporting beneficiaries of Naniarchar upazila of Rangamati Hill District through partnership with ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra. The objective is to eradicate poverty of the indigenous destitute women and achieve their socio-economic rights and increase their self-reliance through providing alternative livelihood trainings. Trainings on Handloom, poultry rearing & fresh mushroom and Distribution of fund to women beneficiary groups at the project area. Through this project the outcomes are (i) Women became self-reliant by investing donation, (ii) Groups strengthened and marketing linkages. We observed that the productivity of women increased to whom the trainings are provided. The organization is implementing its Seventh installment from July 2016 to June 2017 by providing technical support to 50 beneficiaries exclusively for women. It is experienced that the empowerment of women is possible by providing technical and partly financial support.



ASHIKA Beneficiaries Coverage 2015-2016



Financial Turn Over 2015-2016

HAFIZ AHMED & CO.
Chartered Accountants

ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra
Kambhe House (2nd Floor), K. K. Roy Road, Rangamati Hill District-4500, Bangladesh.
General Income & Expenditure Account
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2016

INCOME	Current Year 30-06-2016	Previous Year 30-06-2015
Project wise Fund Received/Transfer	11,72,690.00	Nil
Income from IGA Section	7,25,000.00	Nil
Overhead A/C (MJF-USHA)	12,500.00	Nil
Income from UNDP-CHTDF-Event Management	4,22,300.00	Nil
Project wise Office Rent Received/Transfer	1,52,000.00	Nil
Hall Room Rental Income	3,36,000.00	5,86,000.00
Bamboo Furniture Sales Income	8,95,300.00	6,75,240.00
Outlet Center	2,15,000.00	1,15,000.00
Bank Interest	3,800.00	3,500.00
Grant Received from the BRAC	3,83,868.00	4,80,328.00
Grant Received from the Save the Children	99,09,949.00	6,63,300.00
Project Other Income Activities	24,000.00	Nil
Grant Received from the ASHIKA Investment	4,47,000.00	2,84,662.00
Sales of Income from Mushroom	10,80,530.00	Nil
Grant Received from The ASIA Foundation	3,05,467.00	9,65,785.00
Grant Received from the Manusher Jonno Foundation-MJF	16,35,775.00	20,26,158.00
Grant Received from the Bangladesh NGO Foundation-BNF	Nil	2,75,000.00
Grant Received from the Bangladesh Bank & Schedule Bank	8,65,000.00	11,55,890.00
Grant Received from the BLAST	1,35,000.00	67,500.00
Grant Received from the HYSAWA	Nil	1,39,20,350.00
Grant Received from the Muslim Aid	Nil	21,22,480.00
Excess of Expenditure Over Income	3,65,250.00	11,98,998.00
	1,90,86,429.00	2,45,40,191.00
EXPENDITURE		
Project wise Fund Transfer	11,72,690.00	Nil
Staff Salary & Benefits	6,64,826.00	3,45,000.00
Hall Room Rent & Office Rent	10,42,088.00	3,50,000.00
Accommodation & Lodging	39,200.00	Nil
Repairing & Maintenance Cost	2,25,890.00	34,580.00
Traveling and Conveyance	1,11,555.00	24,410.00
Printing & Stationary	51,210.00	12,365.00
Office Supplies	21,500.00	11,985.00
Utilities Cost (Electricity, GAS, WASA & others)	2,39,016.00	81,975.00
Telephone and Communication	29,596.00	15,395.00
Other's Expenses	9,500.00	98,576.00
Purchase of Raw Materials (Bamboo)	2,42,500.00	4,37,211.00
Outlet Center Repair Cost	47,800.00	Nil
Entertainment	13,775.00	12,299.00
Bank Charge	9,591.00	9,779.00
Expenses for Non Formal Primary Education Project-BRAC	3,17,766.00	4,06,179.00
Expenses for ASHIKA-EL & CMEC Project	28,96,540.00	5,41,022.00
Supporting to physical facilities Marginalized Backchari Primary School Children in Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)	68,34,258.00	Nil
Expenses for Mushroom Seed Social Business Project	13,61,586.00	8,84,037.00
Strengthening Civic Engagement in Election and Political Process for Enhanced Transparency and Democratic Accountability	3,64,875.00	11,02,480.00
ASHIKA-Upgrading Sustainable Households Affordability Project	18,60,808.00	26,35,941.00
Expenses for Skill Development Training on Indigenous handloom for Destitute Jumma Women in CHT	34,656.00	2,49,460.00
Uddaghta and Business Development Council, Rangamati	8,81,440.00	11,28,675.00
Expenses for ASHIKA Community Legal Service	1,35,000.00	67,500.00
Expenses for ASHIKA CHT-HYSAWA Fund	Nil	12,96,002.00
Expenses for ASHIKA-HYSAWA Training Program	Nil	1,24,01,149.00
Expenses for RDA-ASHIKA-MABFO Wash Project	Nil	20,47,511.00
Depreciation	4,78,763.00	2,66,660.00
	1,90,86,429.00	2,45,40,191.00

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date appended hereto.



Md. Hafiz Ahmed, FCA
Principal
HAFIZ AHMED & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

HAFIZ AHMED & CO. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS. MUKTA BANGLA SHOPPING COMPLEX, ROOM NO. 117 (6TH FLOOR),
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Present Donors/partners





Executive Committee At a Glance

Mr. Shamim Haidar
President



Mr. Upal Kanti Mutsuddi
Vice President



Ms. Ratna Chakma
General Secretary



Ms. Rangabi Tanchangya
Asst. General Secretary



Bimal Kanti Chakma
Treasurer



Ms. Chumki Chakma
General Member



Mr. Livingstone Chakma
General Member

