

Annual Report

2016-2017



*We believe in Information,
Empowerment & Development*

Kambhe House (2nd Floor), K.K. Roy Road,
Rangamati Hill District-4500
Phone: 0351-63570
Email: ashika_ranga@yahoo.com
Website: www.ashikacht.org

Message from Executive Director



We are happy to share our Annual Report 2016-2017 and we hope that this report will provide you an overview of our activities during the last years. At the age of 17 ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra is moving through its motto “We believe in Knowledge, Empowerment & Development”. This report will give a glimpse of our year round activities under support from different organizations of our country. Here we have our attachment with the local rural communities in cooperation with stakeholders of different levels, LG, departments, civil society, local representatives etc. We express our homage to the people, who died in flash flood, landslide occurred in June 2017. Learning from this type of environmental degradation which has shown the look of disasters how much could be dangerous to our lives, we are concern on this issue and taking initiation of separate plans that will lessen climate change impacts. In all type of activities we are keeping sustainable environmental risk reduction strategy, increased network with disaster management committees of GoB. Environment is one of our programmatic sectors to easily work on disaster preparedness and during disaster. We try to initiate livelihoods which have no impact on land and as alternative income generating activities we have factory of bamboo & cane made furniture, crafts, mushroom seed production lab, *Subolong*-safe drinking water plant, IT center etc. We are involved with preserving natural resources, increase vegetation and management of village common forests and in rural areas of CHT. We hope that the overview of our annual report will provide you an impression of the commitment and hard labor of ASHIKA family members’, continuous support from Executive Council and national, international sponsors and local stakeholders. Their continuous encouragement is a source of inspiration that helps us to overcome our weaknesses in order to make ASHIKA stand on its own leg and committed service provider.



Biplob Chakma

Executive Director

ASHIKA at a Glance

ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra is a Non-Government Organization serving three hill districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)-Rangamati, Khragrachari & Bandarban, based in Rangamati Hill District. It has extended its geographical coverage in Noakhali and Cox's Bazar also. ASHIKA stands for *Amader Shikkha O Karjokrom* which refers to all types of formal, non-formal, technical and vocational education. We aim at the reflection of all these learning into communities livelihoods. We assist ultra poor people by providing technical support with the objective of creating new opportunities. It is understood that globalization along with climate change have an impact worldwide, CHT is also not apart from this true, so we believe in economical and environmental friendly system within which the community would survive with improved living standards. The organization is stressing importance on livelihood, education and environment. Beside this it has also involved in voter awareness to increase peoples' participation to select representative to build good governance in the country. ASHIKA heading with its motto: We believe in Information, Knowledge & Empowerment. So we are involved with information technology to forward local community and making youth involvement in income generation even /she's a student. The strategy of self-dependency is always remain in all the approaches of different initiatives. Mushroom Spawn Lab, Subolong-safe drinking water plant is contributing to public health that will sustain and a technical generation is rising in CHT. Skilled manpower will increase economical mobility that we ensured through Apprenticeship program of Rangamati Hill District Council-International Labor Organization. We have Bamboo & cane made furniture and traditional craft factory that is alternative to wood made furniture, this is lessening large reduction of forest wood, may one day will contribute to national revenue. Gender focus was reflected in livelihood activities of their daily activities. We are stressing importance on natural resource management, awareness among village common forests(VCFs)in cooperation with GoB line departments, LG and civil society, CHTRC, RHDC etc.

Major Thematic Area

Our 7 programmatic areas under which different approached projects are running :

- I. Education**
- II. Agriculture, Livelihood & Income Generating Activities**
- III. Health**
- IV. Language**
- V. Culture & Rights**
- VI. Gender**
- VII. Environment**

Our Implementation during 2016-2017

I. Non-Formal Primary Education(NFPE)

Since 2000, BRAC has been supporting with Teaching Learning Materials, awareness raising events on natural resource preservation, Basic training for teachers, refreshers training, monitoring field visits, cultural events, competition, prizes for winner students etc. These strategies are assisting the project as a success one. Till now more than 300 students have passed in primary level and got admission in government schools, thereby contributing into increased literacy rate of CHT. Out of these students girl child are given importance in case of selecting center students.



II. Education for Language & Culturally Marginalized Ethnic Children

We are implementing Multi-lingual activities with the support from Save the Children International in Bangladesh starting from December 2014 to till date. ASHIKA *has been implementing the ELCMEC projects in two upazilas of Rangamati Hill Tracts, named Rangamati sadar and Kawkhali* with the financial support from Save the children since 2014. The project covered Rangamati sadar Pourasava, Katukchari, Sapchari union under Rangamati Sadar Upazila. and Ghagra, Kalampati, Fatiqchari unions under Kawkhal Upazilai, in Rangamati hill district. At present 4th phase the organization is implementing this project at 2 Upazilas of Rangamati Sadar & Kawkhali Upazila which has increased the importance of MLE to the region, District and Upazila level stakeholders.



The CHT is a home of 11 ethnic groups and they have been living here with various hardships from unmemorable period of time. A huge number of children still out of education access in CHT and among the enrolled, the dropout rate is too high. The desired completion rates and quality education are still far from being attained. There are many indentified causes behind these under-achievements and language issue is the one of them. The intended activities under the Education for Language and Culturally Marginalized Ethnic Children (ELCMEC) project are contributing ensuring of quality education for all.



The ELCMEC project is mainly focused on language and culturally providing mother tongue based pre-school and early childhood development services. The project is also providing after school support for grade I & II students besides the pre-school support. ASHIKA through this project is providing mother tongue based pre-school support and early childhood development services.

The project has improved access to quality pre-primary education for 4-6 years of age children and provided community based after school support in collaboration with SC, PNGO & Community. We have learnt that Mother tongue base bridging approach may reduce student drop-out rate.

At present ASHIKA is involved with SCI in **Emergency Education, Language and Child Protection Support for Culturally Marginalized Ethnic Children** Project for the period : Mar-October 2017 for quality education of chakma & marma community people in Rangamati Hill District and support has been given

to them by providing food, first aid box, umbrella, sandal, school bag, teaching learning materials, etc.

III. ASHIKA Mushroom Spawn Production Social Business

ASHIKA is the only mushroom spawn producer in Chittagong Hill Tracts and it has proved that only mushroom spawn production can be also alternative livelihood option. It will be an industry at larger scale in CHT may open a door to reduce rate of unemployment generation specially youth. With this observation a group of fresh mushroom cultivators have been grown up based on this spawn factory in Rangamati. Grameen Telecom Trust came forwarded to assist and popularize this sector which may contribute to economy of the country.



ASHIKA is a Chittagong Hill Tracts base development organization which has been working for community development since its debut in 2001. The organization has been successfully pioneering the sector of IGA projects which is obviously related to the *seven major principles* of Social business. Hence, ASHIKA expanded its working scope by establishing- *ASHIKA Agro- Farm Products Co-operative Society Ltd.* under Cooperative Directorate of Bangladesh Government. This social business plan 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 the organization wishes to develop a better market linkage of fair price & quality products among producers & consumers through ***social business***.



IV. ASHIKA Safe-Drinking Water Plant Social Business

'Shuvolong' is the 2nd joint venture Social Business Project for safe drinking water at Rangamati of Grameen Telecom Trust & ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra. There is no water treatment plant at Rangamati and municipal authority supplies water with filtration only. Quality of municipal supply water is not potable and it is used only for bathing, washing etc. There is no jar water (with dispenser) sales system in Rangamati Hill District till now.

The major sources of drinking and cooking water in CHT are not safe. Most tube wells have not been tested for arsenic contamination. People have to travel long distances to fetch drinking water and spend substantial amount of time for the same. The distance and traveling time varies by season. A widespread practice of gender discrimination in collection of water is found, it is the female members who suffer most due to water scarcity and inadequate hygiene situation. ASHIKA as Chittagong Hill Tracts base development organization has been working for community development since its debut in 2001. The organization has been successfully pioneering the sector of IGA projects which is obviously related to the *seven major principles* of Social business. Hence, ASHIKA expanded its working scope by registration from Joint Stock Companies & Farms.

- **Product:** 20 Liter Drinking Water Jar (Refillable)
- **Production Capacity of the plant:** 750 liter per hour
- **Production process:** Filtration of deep tube well water and automated jar filling as well supply to customers

This social business plan focuses on quality drinking water that would lead to reduce health related threats. To ensure safe drinking water to residents of Rangamati communities, this jar system will be a proven system in Rangamati.



V. Skill Development Training on Livelihood Activities of Ethnic Destitute Women of CHT

ASHIKA has been working for women empowerment in Naniarchar Upazila of Rangamati Hill District with financial support from Bangladesh NGO Foundation since 2007. The project covered various villages: 1. Khamar Para, 2. Noadam, 3. T & T Bazar, 4. Choy Kuri Bil, 5. Patachari under Naniarchar Sadar Union; 1. Purba para, 2. Bhuiyan Adam, Nangel Para under Ghilachari Union and Headman para of Sabekkhong Union of Naniarchar Upazila in Rangamati. At present, 7th phase of this project, the organization is already implemented at 2 Unions of Naniarchar Upazila which has increased various options of alternative livelihoods.



The Project **Skill Development Training on Indigenous Handloom for Destitute Jumma Women of Rangamati** was the sub-contract of the major project “Technical Assistance through Gender Facility Project (BGD/01/005) Phase II”. It was the project of Ministry of women and Children Affairs, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Funded by United Nations Development Program.



In the Chittagong Hill Tracts there is no such statistics on indigenous working women but it could be easily assumed that the rate would be higher than other part of the country. Due to the insurgency (1975-1997) of 21 years, a significant portion of them has lost their main income-earning members which compelled them to work at outside. But due to illiteracy they couldn’t find any fixed suitable job to earn from different alternative livelihood. ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra felt to extend their services towards destitute indigenous women through which their socio-economic right would be ensured.

VI. Community Legal Service (CLS)

We have conducted legal services project for the welfare of rural community who do not have access to legal institutions. Most of them are taking relieves from Traditional Institutions like Court of Karbai, Headmen & Circle Chief in CHT. Through BLAST-UKAID, we have conducted legal awareness activities in between year of 2013 to 2017. Our running project beneficiaries were selected for these services. These events were held in cooperation with Legal practitioners, union council, upazila councils, CHTRC representatives, Reserved Female Member etc. to motivate common people who are deprived of legal services and who have suffered from fake cases. BLAST has become capable to enlist the sufferers and brought their existing legal services.



VII. Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project (CHTRDP-II)

The CHT comprising Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban district is ethno-culturally unique from Plainland Bangladesh and is the least development region of the country. After the long period of emergency insurgency the 1997 CHT Accord created opportunities for development of CHT. The Asian Development Bank initiated infrastructure oriented development of the region through the Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project (CHTRDP). This project was successfully completed in September 2009. A follow-up project titled Second Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project (CHTRDP-II) has been undertaken and the implementation process of the project has started with establishment of a project office under the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MOCHTA). The project started August 2013 and end in July 2018.



The major activities includes: project inception activities, baseline survey, Village level group formation with forest dependent/climate vulnerable communities or youth, Facilitate process of community based CCA and DRR plan development and execution, Capacity building of community, potential leaders, NGOs, Headman , Karbari & Union Parisad on CCA & DRR , GBV, Promoting community actions for environment protection/ DRR ,Initiate and facilitate regional and national NGOs/ CSOs network for policy advocacy, capacity building on climate related issues and livelihood diversification with support of agricultural inputs, vaccination, revolving fund, female nutrition training, Stream side plantation, case study, IEC materials development, exposure visit, local theatre show, Mouzaban meeting, Day observations, GoB Committee meeting, liaison with MJF & stakeholders.

VIII. Upgrading sustainable Households' Affordability Project (USHA)

We have implemented USHA project with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation from 01 October 2013 to 31 December 2016. The beneficiaries have an open option choice of taking project based on Goat rearing and cultivation they possess.. The main goal of the project is to create an opportunity of the poor community people to be made them self-dependant subsequently set up a food secured life of the community people. The local government organizations display an appreciable role to make the project goal as possible as successive. ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra came into being with a series of bitter development experiences. It is an effort of some educated and energetic young social workers who are dedicated to the poverty alleviation of the ultra-poor communities in the CHT. MJF has been supporting CHT based NGOs to promote livelihood options, wellbeing services particularly primary education and heritage and tradition of CHT people under its 'Socio-economic development of CHT' programme area. MJF is committed to continue its support for another 5 years in CHT. It is mentionable that ASHIKA has been working with MJF since June 2010 under 'Development Initiative to Promote Transforming Youth and Adolescent (DIPTYA)' project. Under this project 10 numbers of youth and adolescent groups has been formed and trained up in mushroom cultivation, green vegetable production, pigeon rearing and pisi-culture in four unions of Naniarchar upazila.It has supported burnt



villages of naniarchar upazila under contingency budget head equivalent to TK. 44000.

Alternative livelihood opportunities of marginalized communities are increased which includes mushroom cultivation, vegetable gardening, non-timber forest product cultivation, honey bee-keeping, goat rearing etc. The community people agreed to perform action against violation and discrimination happens with women.

A proven rate of increased income of Group members has shown a pathway towards confidence building in own village and established self dependency rule.

IX. Achieving Resilience in food security and nutrition in remote areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts



FAO started to work in CHT in early 2000, and in 2012 opened an office in Rangamati to coordinate its activities in the CHT region. Since then, FAO has also established itself in Khagrachari and Bandarban and strengthened its linkages with local stakeholders. Most recently, FAO has engaged in CHT through the following projects interventions:

- Increased food and nutrition security in remote areas of CHT through resilience building measures (October 2014 - December 2015)
- Early recovery assistance to restore agriculture-based livelihoods in critically food insecure areas of the CHT (February 2013 - June 2014)
- Emergency assistance to support the recovery of crop-based livelihood systems of marginal farmers affected by communal violence and loss of agricultural capital (November 2013 - December 2014)

As identified by the joint ECHO-FAO monitoring visit in November 2015, key lessons learned from previous actions are:

- The integrated agricultural approach tested during the project was highly relevant and appreciated by beneficiaries, and should be replicated, ensuring that all targeted households enjoy and count on the full range of livelihood options to improve their condition.

- The approach can be extended to other remote areas of CHT other than Sajek and Thanchi, suffering from the same limitations. In this context, consultation with local institutions and with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) identified Alikadam, Belaichari and Juraichari upazilas among the most vulnerable in terms of food security.

We have faced challenges like-Time-consuming and costly transportation due to hard to reach area, specially from February, water level of Kaptai lake went down and boats cannot move up to working areas; Communication and information sharing with beneficiaries and field level is one of challenge as there is no mobile network in some working areas and require extra time for the project materials transportation in the working areas.

Emergency Support to poultry activities for landslide Affected people:

1. Re-distribution of Poultry shed materials for 91 existing beneficiary households who have faced severe damage to poultry sheds because of cyclone Mora, flash floods and Landslides.
2. Set up of conditional cash transfer whereby beneficiaries who lost poultry birds dead due to Cyclon, Mora/flash flood will be given , an amount of 18750/-,cost of purchasing 3 hens and 1 cock (BOT 1,250 each).

X. Actions for Livelihood Development & Watershed Protection in Village Common Forest Project

This project is being implementing since October 2016 with overall support from UNDP in Barkal and Jurachari Upazila of Rangamati Hill District. VCFs are situated accordingly in Barkal and Jurachari, the most disadvantaged Upazila of Rangamati Hill District. The predominant trees are Chapalish (*Artocarpus chapalasha*), Gamar (*Gmelina arborea*), Koroï (*Albizia spp*) etc. Bamboos are common here. At least 45 species of mammals, 85 species of birds, 15 species of reptiles, and 6 species of amphibians have recorded from the this forest area. However, wildlife population is decreasing fast due to uncontrolled poaching and increasing deforestation leading to habitat loss. There are about 1345 families belonging to Tanchangya, Marma, Pankhua, Chakma communities are dependent on these village common forest and reserved forest area. Recognizing the traditional and customary resource rights of the indigenous communities in the CHT, acknowledging resource management system, providing tenure security, encouraging communities through legal and financial incentives in protecting these VCF or any other state owned forest areas solely for the conservation of biodiversity following an intensive management plan, resolving long lasting land related conflicts, and at the same time upholding the spirit of CHT Peace Accord 1997 could be important policy tools for the sustainability of these VCF in the CHT.



XI. Apprenticeship Program of RHDC

This project is the skill base training that has been implemented in Rangamati Sadar Upazila with the support of International Labor Organization and Rangamati Hill District Council in between 22 November 2016-June 2017. There were 40 Master Crafts Person of 100 Apprentice of different trade that are suitable in the context of CHT. Trades are mushroom production, bamboo furniture, carpentry, Housekeeping, bee-keeping, restaurant etc. They will be entitled for certificate from TVET institutions of Bangladesh after completion of training period.



XII. South Asia Food And Nutrition Security Initiative SAFANSI

South Asia Food And Nutrition Security Initiative program of MJF funded by The World Bank is being implemented in partnership with ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra since 2016 in Juarachari and Naniarcha upazila. This is important for dissemination of nutrition habit for sound health of children, women and whole of the family members. Video display also another tool to ensure their awareness that has been played by local community.



ASHIKA Innovation

1 Entrepreneurial Activities of Entrepreneur Development Council

ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra is a Chittagong Hill Tracts base local NGO has been working in the development sector since 1999. It has observed that CHT is full of local resources which could be transformed into valuable products by value addition and local poor community would diversify their traditional livelihoods. Strengthening communities and organization would be possible through the promotion of alternative income generating activities with the utilization of local natural resources, adapt technicalities to survive within the affect of climate change and thereafter increase income. With this observation ASHIKA Manabik Unnayan Kendra as parent organization introduced ASHIKA Welfare Foundation and got registration under Joint Stock Companies. The Foundation aims to introduce all niche CHT products produced under its various components at national & International level. It has got registration from District Cooperative Office, Rangamati in 2012 and initiated CHT Entrepreneur Fair since 2013 and it has more than 300 entrepreneur member.

Souvenir of Entrepreneur Fair 2013 & 2014



2. ASHIKA Bamboo and Cane made Crafts & Furniture

We have our own bamboo made furniture production centre in Rangamati Sadar Upazila that also focuses on traditional crafts.

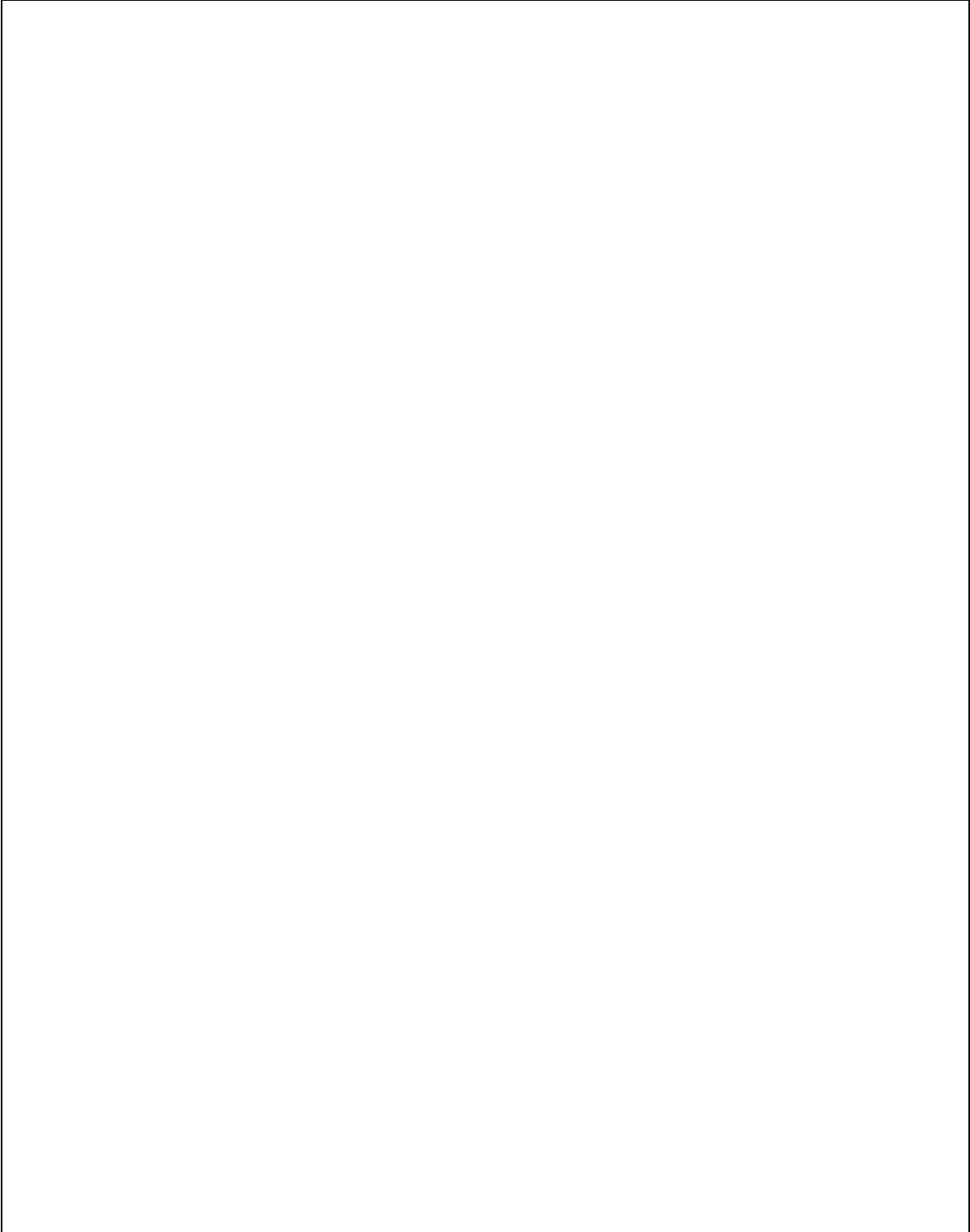
3. ASHIKA Bazar

We have initiated www.ashikabazar.com, the first ever online shopping in 2016. Local commodities, traditional dresses, crafts, Bamboo furnitures etc. are available in this online marketing.

4. ASHIKA ICT Center

ASHIKA with its former name HCRTL has started its activities with the initiative of providing computer training in Rangamati Hill District that has been conducted in support of National Training & Research Academy for Multilingual Shorthand (NTRAMS) in 30 March 2000 and it was the regional Office of NTRAMS.

Audit Report 2016-2017



Logos of Partnership Organizations



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.