

United Nations Development Programme – Bangladesh

Progress report on

Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)

DCI-ASIE/2011/266-983

(01 January 2011 – 15 March 2012)



*Empowered Lives.
Resilient Nations.*

Report prepared for the European Union

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF)

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ACRONYMS

ABCD	Asset Based Community Development
ABDI	Area Based Development Initiative
BHDC	Bangladesh Human Development Centre
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CE	Community Empowerment
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHTDF	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility
CHTI	Chittagong Hill Tracts Institution
CHTRC	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
CHTWON	Chittagong Hill Tracts Women Organizations Network
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DDCC	District Development Coordination Committee
DPFC	District Project Facilitation Committee
ED	Economic Development
EDI	Economic Development Initiative
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmers Field School
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GM	Gender Mainstreaming
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HDC	Hill District Council
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	International Displaced Person
IDRW	International Day for Rural Women
IGA	Income Generating Activity
ILO	International Labor Organization
IUNV	International United Nations Volunteer
JSS	Jana Sanghati Samiti
KHDC	Khagrachari Hill District Council
LED	Local Economic Development
LEDF	Local Economic Development Forum
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LGRD&C	Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives
LNGO	Local Non-Government Organization
LoA	Letter of Agreement
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey
MLE	Multi Lingual Education
MLGD&C	Ministry of Local Government Development and Cooperatives
MoCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
MOFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
MoMPE	Ministry of Mass and Primary Education
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
NUNV	National United Nations Volunteer
OD	Organizational Development
PDC	Para Development Committee
PEDP	Primary Education Development Program

PIC	Project Implementation Committee
PNDG	Para Nari Development Group
PNGO	Partner Non-Government Organization
PO	Purchase Order
QIF	Quick Impact Fund
RC	CHT Regional Council
REDD	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RHDC	Rangamati Hill District Council
SMF	Stream Management Forum
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UnFC	Union Facilitation Committee
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fun for Education
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
USD	United States Dollar
UzDCC	Upazila Development Coordination Committee
UzAC	Upazila Advisory Committee
UzST	Upazila Support Team
VCF	Village Common Forest

1. Description of the Project

- 1.1 Name of beneficiary institution of grant contract: Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), UNDP
- 1.2 Name and title of the contact person: Henrik Fredborg Larsen, Director, CHTDF
- 1.3 Name of partner in action: Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA)
- 1.4 Title of the action: Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)
- 1.5 Contract No.: DCI-ASIE/2011/266-983
- 1.6 Start date and end date of action: 1st January 2011 and 30 September 2013
- 1.7 Target country(ies) or region(s): Bangladesh, Chittagong Hill Tracts
- 1.8 Target beneficiaries
- The project addresses capacity development of local government institutions, including RC, HDCs, Upazilas and Union Parishads, to support local development in partnership with PDCs and PNDGs. It provides integrated support for the following:
- I. Local government institutions (RC, 3 HDC, 3 Circle Offices, 25 Upazilla and 111 Unions), traditional institutions, civil society and community counterparts for capacity development.
 - II. Marginalized and vulnerable groups, including gender based and small ethnic minority groups for economic empowerment and capacity building.
 - III. The project enhances capability of the communities and the government agencies to deliver services and implement development actions. More than 3,200 PDCs and 1,000 PNDGs developed by CHTDF are to be made as the foundation stones of a rejuvenated government led bottom up planning process, and with sufficient funding/grants to make significant inroads into local MDG indicators.

Executive Summary

The project component “Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)” was signed by the EU in October 2011. This report outlines the progress since then as well as the results of the preliminary set of activities under the project component which were started by UNDP from January 2011. The project will continue up to 30 September 2013 under the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF). This progress report covers the activities implemented and results achieved from 01 January to 15 March 2012.

With the overall objective to create an enabling environment for local development contributing to the achievement of local MDG targets in the CHT, the project addresses capacity development of CHT government institutions and communities to support local development in partnership with Para Development Committees (PDCs) and Para Nari Development Groups (PNDGs).

Under the **first specific objective of the project, “CHT Institutions have increased capacity to deliver services and support community development”**, there is evidence which indicates that progress has been made according to each one of the three agreed upon expected project results.

Expected Result 1.1: Capacities of local government institutions to advocate on CHT issues strengthened, in particular implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, resulting in enhanced clarity and consensus on CHT issues

For the first time in the lifespan of the CHTDF, the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) has been taking leadership and ownership of inter-ministerial coordination and policy-related initiatives leading to more effective advocacy, inter-governmental coordination and enhanced clarity on CHT issues e.g. the Government's 6th 5-year plan, Harmonization of Laws governing Hill District Councils and Local Government Institutions, and the formation/functioning of 4 Technical Advisory Committees (TAC). Through these initiatives, a clear message has been sent to other government ministries that they have to be aligned with the CHT Peace Accord's provisions on CHT issues. In addition, inter-ministerial meetings with Local Government Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives in November 2011 brought about a crucial turning point in the capacity building of CHT institutions. An agreement was made for CHTDF to conduct capacity assessments across the CHT institutions using a common approach. Moreover, the Cultural Diversity Festival which was attended by the Prime Minister provided fresh momentum for Accord Implementation and set several politically significant events and dialogues in motion.

Women specifically have been involved in CHT advocacy through the CHT Women Peacemakers Scheme. This scheme promotes advocacy on CHT issues and simultaneously empowers women, encouraging them to engage in politics, which is evidenced by the number of Women Peacemakers involved in mainstream politics or working as local activists. Also, within this project, CHTDF place a significant number of women volunteers into a range of key CHT institutions. In the reporting period the dual objective of strengthening the institutions and empowering women was achieved. Many volunteers moved into mainstream employment – a step which would otherwise not have been possible.

Expected Result 1.2: Capacities of local government institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery

Institutional Capacity Assessments (ICA) have been completed for 3 HDCs and 3 Circle Offices. The process of self-assessment enhanced the ownership of institutions as regards the institutional capacity development plan while giving direct stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the assessment and making the leaders of the institutions accountable to stakeholders.

HDCs are handling more resources to deliver within the areas of development transferred to them with the CHT Peace Accord through the LoAs (in health, education and agriculture) and are coordinating more effectively with relevant line departments. The HDC and RC staff have been successfully coping with the introduced changes and with meeting the needs of their communities. Staff efficiency has been proven through the successful accomplishment of the LoA activities.

Capacity development has also been enhanced regarding coordination with NGOs, IT Units and project implementation management guidelines. HDCs drafted their gender mainstreaming policy and observations suggest that there is a genuine interest in ensuring this policy is applied.

Expected Result 1.3: Participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring mechanisms among CHT institutions and stakeholders enhanced to contribute towards achievement of MDGs

During this project phase, preparation and initiation of project activities were priorities. Therefore, the main achievements include mobilizing partners and stakeholders, identifying major bottlenecks and detailing programming and planning documents.

As requested by the TAC, CHTDF proposed amendments of Government Circulars on Development Coordination in the CHT. Secondly, initial steps were taken to harmonize the Participatory Planning Guideline for HDCs. Thirdly, the process of MDG acceleration was prioritized as an activity. Preliminary qualitative results indicate that there is an increased interest and understanding of the MDG acceleration process. This constitutes a significant achievement as it likely to facilitate the MDG assessment and targeting in the near future.

The process of consulting all stakeholders, from grassroots up to national level, ensured their ownership and participation. Having all stakeholders mobilized for the project contributes to stronger coordination and linkage between all CHT government institutions and development actors. The methodologies for supporting the relevant CHT institutions in a final push to achieve the MDGs in the 3 years till 2015 were also developed and implementation will start from May.

The **second specific project objective** is: “**Local organizations and communities empowered and their capacity enhanced to manage their own development**”. Although many of the activities implemented to achieve this objective are still in a preparatory phase, all of them appear to be on track to achieve the expected results.

Expected Result 2.1: Communities are empowered to plan and implement small scale community projects

The overall process of capacity building of PDCs has empowered its members to step forward and play a larger role in their communities. The findings from the PDC survey show that different plans, rules and guidelines were both developed and followed by communities. A separate survey conducted for all PNDGs likewise demonstrates that PNDGs are following the plans and guidelines they developed. It was also found that as a result of the formation of PNDGs, women in particular benefit from the project management skills acquired in specific trainings and they are able to engage in a greater variety of income generating opportunities. The project lays out an implementation modality which is different from the current community driven development model of the CHT Development Facility and, following the approval of the project by the EU in October 2011, the institutional partnerships have been developed for implementation to start with the FY 2012/13.

Expected Result 2.2: Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and local services

A number of activities to promote economic opportunities and local services have been accomplished. These have seen particular achievements through the support given to weaver groups with 94% of the weaver groups establishing market linkages with buyers. Impressive progress has been seen in the practice of savings, with a total cumulative savings by communities in all 3 districts being over US\$600,000 (a 25 per cent increase from previous year).

Visibility and Communications

Throughout the reporting period, the visibility and communications calendar was replete with various events through which CHTDF and the CHT received good media coverage, attendance of high level opinion makers, and strong turnouts among the indigenous people. The single most significant event for visibility was the Cultural Diversity Festival. In addition, various knowledge products and visibility materials were produced. These activities increased the visibility of CHT issues and the awareness on international donors and development initiatives in the CHT.

Lessons Learned and Way Forward

During the implementation of activities, lessons were learned and challenges were encountered. The most significant lesson of this project phase relates to the need to have constructive and sustained engagement with all the stakeholders in the CHT. Other specific lessons learned include addressing the need for greater engagement with civil society, facilitating regular contact between MoCHTA and the Regional Council, facilitating coordination between HDCs and Union and Upazila Parishads and adjusting the rules and guidelines of CHT institutions to Government rules.

As the new phase considered activities and approaches that were relatively new for both the CHT and CHTDF, the preparation and initiation of activities was time consuming and frequently challenging. In fact many of the achievements from the reporting period relate to the preparation of activities which was done together with multi-level stakeholders.

I. Introduction

This document is submitted to the EU as part of CHTDF's annual reporting. It covers the activities undertaken to achieve the 2 specific objectives and 5 expected results as agreed with the EU. This first section delves into the background of CHTDF, its objectives, key strategies, followed by a descriptive narrative of what was achieved under each of the 5 expected results. This document reports against the Logframe, with the visibility and communication section reporting against Annex 9 in the project document. Annex 1 provides an overview of reporting against the indicators/targets agreed with the project document.

1.1 Background of CHTDF

Since 2003 and in partnership with the Government, CHT communities, and NGOs, UNDP is supporting the 'Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts' through the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF). CHTDF is multi-sectoral and works for the overall development of all peoples in the CHT. It is managed through five main program Clusters:

- (i) Policy Advocacy and Confidence Building Cluster
- (ii) Capacity Development Cluster
- (iii) Community Empowerment and Economic Development Cluster
- (iv) Gender Equity Cluster
- (v) Knowledge Management Cluster.

The Facility supports the Government of Bangladesh, institutions of the CHT, and local communities to pursue accelerated, sustainable socio-economic development and poverty reduction based on principles of local participation, and decentralized development. The CHTDF's activities cover 20 out of 25 Upazilas across the three Hill Districts.

The European Union (EU) is supporting the project component 'Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)' with effect from 1st January 2011 to create enabling environment for local development, contributing to the achievement of local MDG targets through further strengthening capacity of CHT institutions and empowerment of CHT communities.

1. 2 Objectives and Expected Results

The overall objective of the project 'Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)' is to promote an enabling environment for local development, contributing to the achievement of local MDG targets in the CHT by the end of September 2013. There are five expected results under two specific objectives, which are stated below.

Objective 1: CHT Institutions have increased capacity to deliver services and support community development. It includes the following expected results:

- 1.1 Capacities of local government institutions to advocate on CHT issues strengthened, in particular implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, resulting in enhanced clarity and consensus on CHT issues.
- 1.2 Capacities of local government institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery.
- 1.3 Participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring mechanisms among CHT institutions and stakeholders enhanced to contribute towards achievement of MDG.

Objective 2: Local organizations and communities empowered and their capacity enhanced to manage their own development. It includes the following expected results:

2.1 Communities empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects.

2.2 Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and local services.

1. 3 Key Strategies

The implementation method for project action is a joint management through the signature of a Contribution Agreement with the UNDP. This is the modality opted for by the EU given UNDP's mandate for post conflict recovery; the positive experience with the ongoing CHTDF's established role in CHT and close working relationship with GoB, and the ongoing situations and operational difficulties faced by the local agencies. CHTDF offers the advantages of a single management structure for the multi-sectoral interventions of the project which allows for a quick and targeted response to changing situations, considerable synergy amongst components and sectors and the ability to concentrate inputs on key local government and community institutions. It has also resulted in good relationships being built at all levels of CHT society with resultant networks of contacts that allow a multi-disciplinary program to take place in the complex political and social environment of CHT.

1. 4 How Strategies are Being Implemented

Preparations for the implementation of the project "Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts" have started after the verbal agreement on the project proposal between EU and UNDP, in anticipation of the signed agreement. Preparatory works included the mobilization and orientation of project partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Various programming and planning activities have started as detailed work planning and drafting of supporting documents as terms of references (for staff and consultants), procurement related documents and program guidelines.

MoCHTA, RC and HDCs have been closely involved in the design of the project proposal and these institutions are also fully engaged in the preparatory works and in the implementation of the project activities. Since Union and Upazila Parishads will play a more significant role in this project phase, the Ministry of LGRD&C has been included in the consultation process. The Technical Advisory Committee on Decentralization/Local Governance has become the main platform for consultations and decision making on all Local Governance related aspects of the project design, planning and implementation. The project implements the new strategy of working with clusters of PDCs and local government in line with the project document. Minimal institutional support is given to PDCs for them to engage in partnerships (refer to Activity 6.4.2),

The CHTDF annual work plan and budget for 2011 did include a fund allocation to pre-finance preparatory works and implementation of urgent activities. Preparatory activities have started for all 5 expected results, initiation of implementation of urgent activities were mainly under the expected results 1.1 and 2.1. After the signing of the project document in October 2011, the full fledged implementation could start and the CHTDF annual work plan and budget for 2012 was revised accordingly.

The CHTDF program clusters contribute to the 2 specific objectives and 5 expected results as laid out with CHTDF's strategies and workplan. This is different from earlier project design, where each cluster had its own expected results. The new arrangement provides the opportunity to achieve closer collaboration amongst the clusters and to achieve enhanced synergy of the different project interventions. Workgroups have been formed with staff members from different program clusters which undertake joint consultations with stakeholders and collaborate on detailed programming and planning of project activities.

1.5 Description of Preparatory Work to Achieve Results

Preparatory work started from January 2011. The following is an overview of activities that have been undertaken to support the overall implementation of project activities.

(a) Inter-Ministerial meeting with MoCHTA, Ministry LGD&C, RC and HDCs was held with orientation on project and discussions on coordination and delivery modality.

(b) Working group consisting of respective CHTDF program clusters drafted implementation guidelines, terms of references for staff and consultants, and other procurement related documents.

(c) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Decentralization/Local Governance Institutions agreed on the need to amend GOB circulars on development coordination for committees functioning in the CHT, in order to take the specific CHT context and institutions into consideration. TAC also agreed on having fund flows between Hill District Councils, Union and Upazila Parishad for the project purpose, even though the lack of formal government rules to guide this. TAC requested CHTDF to work both decisions out in detail.

(d) Consultation meetings held with CHTDF staff and implementing partners to finalize actual work plans. These have been included in CHTDF Annual Work Plan 2011 (main and revised plans) and Annual Work Plan 2012.

(e) In various meetings with MoCHTA, Regional Council, Hill District Councils and Circles the prevailing partnership/implementation management system through Letters of Agreements (LOA) was reviewed. This has led to a more effective reporting system and enhanced flexibility in work and financial planning, with the overall aim in having a higher degree of responsibility and ownership by the implementing government partners. Where financial support for Circles in the past years was channeled through Hill District Councils, from 2012 CHTDF will sign LOAs with Circles directly as per decision of the National Steering Committee.

(f) As per UNDP rules, CHTDF has carried out with the 3 Circles assessments for implementing partners, and has identified that financial management and implementation capacity of the circles needs additional support, for successful management of LOA activities.

(g) CHTDF and government partners have agreed on the following activities, to be implemented under the LOA modality:

Interventions	Delivery modality
Capacity development grants to MoCHTA, RC, HDC and traditional leaders	LOAs with respective institutions
Capacity development grants to Union and Upazila Parishad.	LOA with HDC. HDC transfers fund to Union and Upazila Parishad
HDC based officers (development, planning and monitoring), including logistic and transport support	LOA with HDC
Union and upazila facilitators, including logistic and transport support	LOA with HDC. Facilitators have dual reporting lines to HDC and UP/UzP
Support union, upazila and district development coordination	LOA with HDC. HDC transfers fund to Union and Upazila Parishad
MDG acceleration (identifying bottlenecks, define plan of action)	LOA with HDC
MDG acceleration development grants to UP, UzP and HDC	LOA with HDC. HDC transfers fund to Union and Upazila Parishad.
Development grants to support annual development plans (following government planning procedures) to UP and HDC	LOA with HDC. HDC transfers fund to Union Parishad
Small grants for cross cutting issues	LOA with HDC. HDC transfer fund to NGOs and CBOs.

Consultations with beneficiaries, implementing partners and other stakeholders for area based development initiative, in order to decide on implementation guidelines and work modality in transfer of development grants to groups of Para Development Committees.

II. Key Achievements and Results

The key achievements and results stated below are divided into the five results and two objectives which figure in the project logframe. Likewise, activities undertaken with the aim of achieving each of the results are described sequentially in the same order as in the project logframe.

2.1 Specific Objective 1: CHT Institutions have increased capacity to deliver services and support community development

The first objective of the project includes 3 expected results, which are: (1.1) Capacities of local government institutions to advocate on CHT issues strengthened, in particular implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, resulting in enhanced clarity and consensus on CHT issues; (1.2) Capacities of local government institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery; and (1.3) Participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring mechanisms among CHT institutions and stakeholders enhanced to contribute towards achievement of MDGs.

2.1.1 Expected Results 1.1: Capacities of Local Government Institutions to advocate on CHT issues strengthened, in particular implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, resulting in enhanced clarity and consensus on CHT issues

For the first time in the lifespan of the CHTDF, the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), a key CHT institution under the Peace Accord, has been in the driving seat and taking ownership of inter-ministerial coordination and policy-related initiatives leading to more effective advocacy, inter-governmental coordination and enhanced clarity on CHT issues e.g. the Government's 6th 5-year plan, Harmonization of Laws governing Hill District Councils and Local Government Institutions, and the formation of 4 Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) on Agriculture, Health, Education and Local Government Institutions. Through these initiatives, a clear message has been sent to other government ministries who were not aware of, or did not prioritize the Accord, that they now have to be aligned with the Accord's provisions on CHT issues.

Activity 1.1.1 Advocacy Strategy

CHTDF has supported the Regional Council (RC) to develop a strong advocacy strategy, develop their capacity to make their voice heard, and have provided support for advocacy events. Under the project component, MoCHTA has also been supported in a range of ways (e.g. major advocacy events as further outlined below and inter-ministerial dialogue). Whereas the description of action envisages that MoCHTA and the Regional Council (RC) will work closely together to develop an Advocacy Strategy, this is challenging in the current political situation. Instead, CHTDF has in the reporting period supported each institution in policy analysis and advocating for their position to create a healthy dialogue on what it takes to implement the CHT Peace Accord. The advocacy strategies include activity plans and budgetary requirements. These will be implemented through a LoA. The strategy will be developed and its implementation will be rolled out by mid-2012. In the coming months, the RC Advocacy Officer will work closely with his CHTDF counterpart who has come on board.

In terms of reporting to UNDP by RC's Advocacy Officer, detailed reports were submitted on land disputes and on the analysis of causes for dispossession of land. This will in turn provide the necessary supporting policy documents needed for local government institutions to advocate effectively on CHT issues.

Activity 1.1.2 Annual Inter-Ministerial Meetings with LGRD & Cooperatives

Inter-Ministerial meetings with Local Government Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives in November brought about a crucial turning point in aligning the HDCs and regular LGs in the CHT. An agreement was made for CHTDF to conduct capacity assessments across the CHT institutions. MoCHTA, RC, HDCs have since completed, or in the process of completing their institutional capacity assessment with support from this project component. Furthermore, another positive

indicator in terms of better governance and transparency will be the public reporting and wide circulation of these capacity assessment reports. Committees have been formed to follow up on the progress made in implementing future capacity development plans.

Activity 1.1.3 Annual TAC Meeting

Technical Advisory Committees on agriculture, local governance, health and education (with the last two formed before the reporting period) involving key stakeholders from the relevant line ministries, Planning Commission, local government, Development Partners and CHTDF have been formed and ToRs developed.

TAC meetings on Health, Education and Agriculture were held as per schedule. These meetings provide excellent opportunities for CHT institutions to interact with relevant national ministries, and to put the specific demands and needs for development and service delivery in the CHT, under the attention of national ministries. TACs on Education and Agriculture are actively involved in the design of CHT specific sector strategies. TAC meetings are allowing MoCHTA, RC and HDCs to take the lead in strategy development and planning, hence in support of the Peace Accord implementation.

The inaugural TAC meeting on Decentralization/Local Governance Institutions in October saw another turning point in the decentralization process for CHT. CHTDF has drafted a proposal for a new funding mechanism where the funds would flow from HDCs to Unions and Upazila Parishads. Much work remains to be done in the Government legislative side before this funding mechanism can be implemented, especially in terms of the CHT context of governance. At the moment, CHTDF is reviewing whether adjustments are required in the GoB circulars on Development Coordination Committees across Unions, Upazilas, and Districts. MoCHTA has kindly agreed to issue a letter to the relevant institutions, claiming that roles and responsibilities of project specific committees (i.e. UnFC, UzAZ and DPFC), will be transferred to the regular Government Coordination Meetings. CHTDF will continue to work closely with MoCHTA for further follow up actions with the relevant Local Government Divisions.

Activity 1.1.4 High Level Exposure Visits to the CHT

CHTDF supported MoCHTA in organizing a high profile visit to CHT (Bandarban) to discuss CHT-related issues to be included in the national Five Year Plan. The State Minister for MoCHTA, members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for CHT Affairs, Secretary and Joint Secretary of MoCHTA, 3 HDC Chairmen, 2 Circle Chiefs, Chairman of the IDP&R Taskforce, the CHT Development Board and representatives from CHT Civil Society were members of the mission.

The subsequent workshop documented and shared issues with the Government Planning Commission, to be used in preparing the next Five Year Plan of the Bangladeshi Government. MoCHTA involved all relevant stakeholders from the CHT (HDCs, RCs, Circle Chiefs and NGOs), government line agencies, the Parliamentary Standing Committee and the Planning Commission. This was the first time that an event brought all of the key CHT stakeholders together, including more than 200 participants from the three hill districts, with a view to developing a plan for the region.

In addition, 3 TAC visits (Health, Education and Agriculture) were also held in CHT (refer to 1.1.3). A joint team including the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) also visited CHTDF interventions in Rangamati and Bandarban in late January 2012 accompanied by MoCHTA to share experiences of best practices in other mountainous country contexts.

CHTDF has also supported, under the project, senior policy-makers and government officials to review specific elements of the CHT context for policy-making. This includes the MoCHTA State Minister, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Deputy Secretaries, the Prime Minister's Special Advisor, and the Chief Justice.

Activity 1.1.5 Comparative Studies on Land and other CHT Issues

The studies on land issues have not yet been initiated. The Land Minister, the MoCHTA Minister, the RC Chairman and the Accord Implementation Committee Chair held a meeting during which they reached the consensus that 13 sections of the Land Commission Act 2001 need to be amended. The Land Ministry is drafting the Amendment Bill and once finalized, the draft will be presented before the Parliament for approval.

The Land Commission is currently dysfunctional but it is hoped that through the amendment and reconstitution of the present commission it will be made operational and solving land issues in the CHT. At this stage, CHTDF's input is primarily through the technical assistance/capacity development to the individual institutions engaged in negotiating the revision to the Act (notably the Circles, RC and MoCHTA). CHTDF fully supports the progress made so far and is ready to provide further support, as necessary.

Activity 1.1.6 Overseas Study Tours for Government Officials

A study tour was organized in Mizoram, India, for government officials and elected representatives to observe land management practices in decentralized service delivery experiences. The study tour created opportunities to build people-to-people linkages given the similar contexts of both CHT and tribal territories in Mizoram. One additional study tour is planned for May 2012 enabling high level government officials, including the CHT Accord Implementation Committee and State Minister of MoCHTA to experience hands-on the governance arrangements and development models in the Autonomous Region of South Tyrol in Italy.

Activity 1.1.7 National Dialogues on CHT Issues

A number of events offering the possibility to engage in national dialogues on CHT issues were organized. These events allowed for broad participation on CHT development as well as frequently providing an opportunity for advocacy. They include the following:

(a) The Cultural Diversity Festival (2-5 December 2011) was the first major CHT-related event where the Prime Minister (PM) publically committed her Government to full implementation of the CHT Accord and provided a platform for national dialogue on CHT issues. In addition, by officiating at the Cultural Diversity Festival, the PM diffused tensions caused by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' controversial statement that there are no indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. The CDF provided fresh momentum for Accord Implementation and set the following events in motion:

- The PM assigned Special Advisor Mr. Rizvi to visit CHT and meet with the RC Chair, Mr. Larma, to re-start Accord dialogue. This was first high level meeting between the PMO and RC Chair in 3 years.
- The RC Chair reciprocated with a visit to the Prime Minister in January 2012 and both parties conveyed publically that it was a fruitful meeting geared towards Accord Implementation.
- The Accord Implementation Committee met for the first time in 3 years in January 2012 and agreed upon the amendment of the Land Dispute Settlement Commission Act and temporary suspension of the Land Commission.

(b) CHTDF and Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum jointly organized a seminar (7th August 2011) in response to the 15th amendment of the Bangladesh Constitution which was opposed by indigenous peoples (IPs) due to the lack of acknowledgement of IPs' identity and land rights. The seminar focused on constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples and land rights. It resulted in a joint declaration by civil society and IP organizations that the government should revise the amendment to properly acknowledge IP rights.

(c) 14th Anniversary of CHT Accord Commemoration (2nd December 2011) in Dhaka, Chittagong and CHT has created platforms for national and regional dialogues on Accord implementation involving Regional Council and civil society organizations.

(d) The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) co-hosted a day-long seminar on 'Sustainable Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts: A Way Forward' in, Dhaka on 24 January 2012 in cooperation with UNDP and ILO. The seminar provided the opportunity for a multidisciplinary exchange of ideas on the future prospects and strategies for sustainable development, including sustainable management of natural resources and watershed development in the CHT.

Activity 1.1.8 Monthly CHT Coordination Meetings

CHTDF has supported the three HDCs in organizing CHT coordination meetings with respective CHT government and non-government institutions. The main issues discussed, however, were project related such as planning and programming for the EU project and organizing the diversity festival. CHTDF will continue to support these meetings and will facilitate the inclusion of CHT development issues into the meeting agenda. Regional coordination meetings chaired by the RC are also envisaged but not feasible at present; CHTDF is continuously working to create the enabling environment for these meetings.

Activity 1.1.9 Grants to RC for Advocacy Actions

The 14th Anniversary of CHT Accord Commemoration (2nd December 2011) in Dhaka, Chittagong and CHT created platforms for national and regional dialogues on Accord implementation. The latter was funded by grants to the RC and involved civil society organizations in CHT accord advocacy.

Activity 1.1.10 Support for other Policy & Advocacy Related Activities

(a) Harmonization Workshop

A workshop on "Harmonization of laws of the Hill District Councils (HDCs) and other Local Government Institutions" was held in September. By identifying effective coordination mechanisms amongst the HDCs and other local government institutions, duplication is minimized and synergies maximized. Overlapping issues, policy gaps and practical solutions were identified and necessary reform and suggestions were compiled in the workshop. MoCHTA and LGRD agreed on the minutes and detailed action-oriented recommendations from the workshop in December. The follow-up to this workshop will be a minister level meeting to agree on implementation of the workshop's recommendations. CHTDF will continue to provide technical assistance to local government institutions and utilize all available channels with the Government and the LCG Working Groups to push for practical harmonization reforms.

CHTDF and government partners agreed that a delivery modality between HDC, Union and Upazila Parishad for the implementation of project activities, can pave the way for a formal governance framework. These steps are further described under activity 1.1.3.

The follow-up to this workshop will be a minister level meeting to agree on implementation of the workshop's recommendations. CHTDF will continue to provide technical assistance to Local Government Institutions and utilize all available channels with the Government, the LCG Working Groups, to push for practical harmonization reforms.

(b) Capacity of Women Peacemakers for CHT Advocacy

The CHT Women Peacemakers' scheme initiated by CHTDF in 2010 saw the completion of the first training session on Peace Building and Conflict Transformation. A total of 24 women peacemakers from various conflict oriented areas of the CHT attended and graduated from this innovative training.

The participants identified the issues which need most attention, such as mass awareness on gender based violence prevention, lobbying for women's political participation in HDCs and minimizing the level of communal conflicts using non-violent methods. CHTDF will work closely with the Women Peacemakers to tackle these areas in their future endeavors.



Peace Building and Conflict Transformation Training

The Women Peacemakers scheme can be viewed as a worthy investment to achieve better advocacy for CHT because of the potential and caliber of the peacemakers. Moreover, it serves the purpose of empowering women and encouraging them to get politically involved. Most of the Women Peacemakers are integrated in mainstream politics as activists or as elected officials (Upazila vice-chairmen, Union Parishad members). 23 per cent of 950 PDC members elected in the Union Parishad elections were women¹.

2.1.2 Expected Results 1.2: Capacities of Local Government Institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery and economic growth

Activity 1.2.1 LGI Baseline Assessments and Annual Surveys

Local Government Institutions' Capacity Assessment

Local Government Institutions' Capacity Assessment (LGICA) has been completed for 3 HDCs and 3 Circle Offices. Assessment for MoCHTA is under process and to be completed mid-April. ICAs are also planned for RC, Upazila Parishad and Union Parishad in the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2012. As a result of the ICA, institutions are developing capacity development strategies, a long-term capacity development plan with identified areas of intervention, benchmarks and indicators.

The process of self-assessment has enhanced the ownership of the institutions as regards the institutional capacity development plans. At the same time the process has given direct stakeholders of the institution the opportunity to participate in the assessment and has made the leaders of the institutions accountable to stakeholders. Staff of the institutions have also had a say on the implementation of the capacity development plan, i.e. in using capacity development grants for making significant improvements in the performance of the institution. Institutional capacity development plans comply with the project result chain and logical framework.



Capacity Assessment Workshops (RHDC on the left; KHDC on the right)

¹ Annual M&E Data Collection Survey Results

Institutions began designing capacity development plans on the basis of the assessment outcomes. Outcomes of the assessment are at the same time part of the baseline for the capacity development plan. A similar self-assessment conducted in the future will give an indication on the progress made. This is in addition to other output and outcome indicators.

The ICAs have resulted in a marked shift in the CHT Development Facility's engagement on capacity development with CHT institutions in favor of support which is directly linked to their institutional roles. For example, with the ICA, CHTDF now have achieved consensus with the circles that support will directly target the capacity to perform roles in natural resource/land management, local justice etc.

Activity 1.2.2 Grants to MoCHTA for Capacity Development

CHTDF will support MoCHTA with the establishment of a Planning Cell, as part of the implementation of a capacity development plan and in line with UNDP's agreement with Government. Steps for the establishment of the wing have been taken already, such as drafting of a TOR for planning the distribution of staff and assessment of logistical support required. Recruitment of staff has been initiated. It is expected that the planning cell will be functioning at the beginning of the 2nd quarter of 2012.

Activity 1.2.3 Grants to 3 HDCs for Capacity Development

HDC Capacity Development

HDCs are receiving grants, to be utilized in line with the institutional capacity development plans. Grants can be used for the following inputs; (1) Consultant/staff, (2) Workshop/training, (3) Logistics, (4) Publications and (5) Local exchange visits, with a maximum of 30% of the total grant amount on logistics.

The capacity development plan is not restricted to activities to be financed from the grants only, activities to be financed from own resources and activities without fund requirements are included. The approach of having institutions leading the design and implementation of their own organizational capacity development plans appears to have been successful. The plans are not "blue-print", but include organizations' own priorities, therefore activities and achieved results differ between the institutions. However, CHTDF is facilitating exchange between organizations, for sharing of experiences and good practices. Some examples of capacity development interventions undertaken by the HDCs in 2011 are described below:

(a) Development and Coordination Units

A permanent desk on NGO Affairs was established within HDCs resulting in enhanced coordination and cooperation among NGOs and HDCs. A reporting system and format was initiated and implemented.

The observations and data collected indicate significant progress. Over 90 per cent of NGOs are submitting their bi-monthly reports, with over 80 per cent of NGOs in attendance at NGO Coordination meetings. A detailed list of district NGOs and the NGO profiles was compiled, updated and uploaded on RHDC website. The proactive and up-to-date information management systems were received positively by NGOs and stakeholders who have since utilized the documents as a way to build consultative support within the NGO communities in their districts.



RHDC Chairman chairing the NGO Coordination Meeting

(b) IT Capacity of HDCs

The establishment of an IT Unit within RHDC has provided tangible results. An internet and computer training course was organized for RHDC staff to increase their IT proficiency. Senior RHDC officials are connected online through an ADSL connection, which has increased their outreach abilities. RHDC staffs are also equipped with an official RHDC email address, enhancing their capacity to utilize IT as part of their communications. RHDC website is now fully functional with a built in Content Management System (CMS) enabling RHDC staff to update the website content systematically and efficiently. The website has enhanced RHDC's ability to disseminate information on their development activities more widely.

(c) Project Implementation Management Guidelines

In line with its mandates HDCs are implementing development projects in the CHT, not only as implementing partner for CHTDF but also with other international organizations as ADB and DANIDA. The challenge of managing these projects is that often it brings additional non-government staff into the HDC organization, who are unaware of government rules, and whose acquired project management processes may differ from regular government rules. In order to have all staff (government and LOA staff) informed on the process to follow in project management, HDCs have drafted their own project implementation guidelines. These guidelines refer whenever possible to government rules and include in exceptional cases project specific rules. They are drafted with the objective to be used for management of all development projects from international organizations.

Activity 1.2.4 Grants to 25 Upazila Parishad for Capacity Development

Institutional capacity assessments are scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2012. Capacity development grants for Upazila Parishad will be included in LOA with HDCs. HDCs will transfer the grants to Upazila Parishad and will monitor the implementation.

Activity 1.2.5 Grants to 111 Union Parishad for Capacity Development

Preliminary and ground works have been accomplished for the Union Parishad capacity building training, such as consultation with National Institute of Local Government (NILG) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative (MoLGRD&C) who have the mandate to ensure capacity building training for elected members, chairmen and functionaries of Union Parishad. A basic and advanced package of training will be provided to Union Parishad for using existing government training materials and also CHTDF will utilize training materials already developed by NILG or Local Government Support Project (LGSP) of UNDP in order to reduce costs.

Activity 1.2.6 Grants to 3 Circles Offices for Capacity Development

(a) Traditional Raj Punnyah Festivals Supported

The traditional Raj Punnyah Festivals, held in January 2012, were supported by CHTDF in the Bohmong Circle and the Mong Circle. Supporting the traditional administrative system, whereby local indigenous people gain access to their cultural and land rights, is perceived to promote peace and to build confidence in the CHT region. Events such as the Raj Punnyah provide an opportunity for the people to consult the traditional leaders (Headman and Karbari) on the land management system and the revenue generation capacity. In addition to the technical and financial support, the CHTDF Director and Chief Implementation, respectively, were present as speakers in the two Raj Punnyahs.



Bohmong Circle Chief collecting gifts and tax for Bohmong Rajpunyah

(b) Traditional Leaders Capacity Development

Circle offices will receive grants to support the institutional capacity development plans. For this purpose CHTDF has signed LOAs directly with the circle offices. The design of capacity development plans is in progress. CHTDF has conducted assessments for implementing partners, as per UNDP guidelines. Prior to signing an LOA this assessment is required in order to identify potential weaknesses of the implementing partner in terms of LOA management and administration. As outcome of this assessment Circles and CHTDF agreed that the LOA includes Finance and Implementation Officers, in order to ensure adequate capacity in managing and reporting on the capacity development grant.

2.1.3 Expected Result 1.3 Participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring mechanisms among CHT institutions and stakeholders enhanced to contribute towards achievement of MDGs

The main objective of this first phase of the project is the preparation and initiation of activities to achieve the MDGs which will be supported by national/local government as well as other partners. The incentive for conducting these exercises is the significant funding for accelerating progress on the MDGs provided through this project component. As such, activities could not be started until EU had finally committed resources in October 2011. Significant work has been undertaken since the signing of the document mobilizing the major partners and stakeholders, and processes for identifying bottlenecks to achieving the MDGs have been initiated feeding into detailed programming and planning documents.

The following preparation activities have been conducted:

- CHTDF has consulted all relevant stakeholders from grassroots up to national level, in having their inputs in detailed programming and planning of activities. This process has ensured their ownership and participation. MoCHTA and HDCs have taken the lead in these consultations at respectively national and district (and below) level.
- A major break-through has been the agreement with MLGD&C, Union and Upazila Parishad on having a working modality with HDCs on the implementation of project activities. MoCHTA, RC, HDCs and Circles have agreed on a common approach on the development of capacity development plans, and have taken the initiative to form an inter-organizational committee, that will lead capacity development efforts that require joint efforts from all organizations.
- Representatives from PDCs and members of UnFC, UzAC and DPFC have all agreed on the next steps on the Community Empowerment process, ie having higher emphasis on economic empowerment and transfer of funds to groups of PDCs.

Having all stakeholders mobilized for the project will not just benefit the implementation of the project, it also contributes to stronger coordination and linkage between all CHT government institutions and development actors in their efforts for the implementation of the Peace Accord and bringing development to the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Activity 1.3.1 Monthly Development Coordination Committee (DCC) Meetings

(a) District, Upazila and Union level Coordination Meeting

CHTDF provides support to the regular government monthly coordination meetings at union, upazila and district level with financial support through LOA with HDC, and the employment of union, Upazila development facilitators and district development officers. Financial support for development coordination meetings and salaries/logistics for union and Upazila officers will be included in the 2012 LOA with HDCs. One of the challenges in strengthening development coordination at district level will be the relatively low attendance of development coordination meetings called by HDCs. Over the past years the attendance of line departments has become more regular (stronger linkages between HDC and line departments through LOAs have contributed to this), however participation from NGOs and in particular from Upazila Chairmen remains low.

CHTDF is planning also to support the functioning of the Union development coordination meeting as envisaged established by Government (recently issued circular). CHTDF will support the establishment and functioning of these and abandon project specific meetings. In the meantime, however, regular meetings of project specific committees are still held, until responsibilities and tasks are transferred accordingly.

(b) Amendments of Government Circulars on Development Coordination in the CHT

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Decentralization/Local Governance has requested CHTDF to work out a plan for the transfer of tasks and responsibilities from the specific project committees to the regular government meetings. In addition, the TAC has agreed that amendments of government circulars are required in order to ensure the specific CHT context and institutions are considered in development coordination, and have requested CHTDF to come with a proposal. CHTDF has complied accordingly.

After reviewing the circulars and following discussions with various stakeholders, CHTDF is proposing the following changes (applicable for all levels):

- Inclusion of traditional leaders as members, and
- Inclusion of HDC and RC in distribution list for minutes.

The TAC is expected to meet in the 2nd quarter of 2012 and to make a final decision on the amendments.

Activity 1.3.2 GIS Household Level Baseline

Preparation has not begun for completing the GIS Household Level Baseline due to time constraints.

Activity 1.3.3 Workshop at Upazila Level for MDG Assessment and Targeting

(a) MDG Acceleration

In the process of formulating and planning of component activities related to MDG localization, CHTDF has drawn on the experiences of UNDP Bangladesh and similar projects in other parts of the world. In order to ensure immediate action and results on achieving MDGs, CHTDF is proposing a change in approach from MDG localization to MDG acceleration. CHTDF will continue to support the local government institutions as (Union and Upazila Parishad, and HDCs) in making their planning and budgeting more participative and development results oriented, however not through specified local development plans, but through mainstreaming participative approaches and MDGs in the regular government practices.

The outputs of the MDG acceleration process in the CHT are as follows:

- Mapping of MDG achievements at district and Upazila level;
- Government development coordination committees/meetings at Upazila and district level will conduct mapping exercise annually to review overall development results; and

- For selected MDGs, bottlenecks identified and immediate action to address them at different levels (Union, Upazila and district).

CHTDF organized a workshop on MDGs to orientate CHTDF colleagues at district and Upazila levels, local government representatives including Hill District Council representatives and other key stakeholders on the MDG mapping and planning at district and Upazila level.



MDG target setting workshop in Rangamati

Government district development coordination committees have accepted to have development plans evidence based, applying the MDGs in development planning, monitoring and evaluation. All actors have joined their respective task forces, have agreed on the MDG targets and indicators to use, and have finalized a plan of action for data-collection.

All three districts organized orientation workshops on MDG and formed 4 thematic task groups by MDG Goals. Completion of the MDG mapping exercise is expected for the 2nd quarter of 2012 and the final draft of MDG acceleration plan is expected for the 3rd quarter of 2012.

Preliminary qualitative results indicate that there is an increased interest and understanding of the MDG acceleration process. This is a significant achievement as it likely to facilitate the MDG assessment and targeting in the near future.

Activity 1.3.4 Planning and Budgeting Workshops

CHTDF supported the harmonization of the Participatory Planning Guidelines for HDCs which has been developed by the three HDCs differently in 2010. The main objective of harmonizing the planning guideline is to improve the HDCs planning capabilities and to shift the planning process from traditional resource-based planning system to a need-based one. The long-term objective is to facilitate HDCs to enhance service delivery through the formulation, implementation and monitoring of comprehensive and integrated development plans tailored to the respective needs of the respective HDCs.

From 2012 HDCs are going to follow the Participatory Planning Guideline to prepare their annual development plan and budget, ensuring consistency and minimizing duplication.

Activity 1.3.5 Annual Household Level Survey

The ToR for the Household Survey 2012 has been prepared and the indicators which reflect the MDGs and project activities were chosen. The survey will commence in May 2012.

2.2 Specific Objective 2: Local organizations and communities empowered and their capacity enhanced to manage their own development

The second objective of the project includes two expected results viz (2.1) Communities empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects and (2.2) Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and local services. All activities and their results are described below under the expected results, according to the sequence of the logframe.

2.2.1 Expected Results - 2.1: Communities are empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects

Activity 2.1.1: PDC/PNDG Institutional Baseline Survey

(a) Major Findings on Institutional Capacity of PDCs

Communities received several trainings to facilitate their adherence to the PDC and PNDG implementation rules and guidelines. The major findings of the PDC survey show that different plans/rules/guidelines including Para Development Plan, Fund Management Guideline, General Ledger, Project Management Rules, Meeting Management Rules, Savings Management Rules, etc, have been developed and have been followed by communities with support from Community Facilitators (CFs). PDCs have shown that they have the capacity to write meeting minutes, to deal with banks and to manage their savings.

Outline of Findings:

Overall, it is evident that the capacity building of PDCs has empowered its members to step forward and play a larger role in their communities. In 2011, members from 44 per cent of PDCs participated in the Union Parishad elections.² The specific findings include the following:

- According to the results of the survey, 84% of PDCs have their Para development plan which helps PDCs in carrying out development activities in a more systematic way.
- 92% of PDCs developed their project management rules and are applying these rules
- Survey data shows that up to 2011, 85% PDCs have developed fund management rules which they use to manage funds efficiently and this is 6% higher compared to the previous year
- 93% of PDCs have developed savings management rules which help PDC members in managing their savings
- PDCs are showing better capacity in terms of organizing meetings and making decisions. The data shows that 87% of PDCs are able to conduct meetings and make decisions without support from others which is 5% higher than 2010. 72% of PDCs can write meeting minutes without any external support.
- General ledger was maintained in 63% of PDCs, which is newly initiated. Gradually, it will be implemented across communities. With this general ledger PDCs are able to keep all the financial records in a single ledger, in a summary form.
- 86% PDCs can deal with banks independently, i.e. can communicate with banks, maintain their savings, withdraw money from bank, etc.

² Annual M&E Data Collection Survey Results

(b) Major Findings on Institutional Capacity of PNDGs

As of end 2011, 1,686 PNDGs are formed. In addition to the PDC annual survey, a separate survey was conducted for all PNDGs. The survey shows that different plans/rules/guidelines, fund management rules, project management rules etc, were developed and are followed by the PNDGs.

In addition, three workshops for assessing the current picture of gender equality and women empowerment in the three hill districts were organized. A total of 126 women leaders of different PNDGs attended the workshops. During the focus group discussions, it was found that through the formation of PNDGs at community level, women received opportunities to build their capacity on project formulation and management. After the formation of PNDGs, an increased trend was observed in terms of social acceptance, access to information, access to market, democracy practice at organizational level, social harmony, participation in decision making process and access to economic opportunities. Most of the women stated that they are able to contribute in fulfilling the basic needs of their families due to wider access to income generating options that have been created for them.

Outline of findings:

- 90% of PNDGs have project management rules with an increase of 2% from the previous year. The project management rules guide PNDGs in managing their projects in a more systematic and transparent way.
- PNDGs use their funds according to fund management rules and survey data shows that 80% of PNDGs developed their fund management rules which are 15% higher compared to the survey conducted in 2010. This indicates an improved fund management by the PNDGs.
- 66% of PNDGs can conduct their meetings without external support and can make decisions alone but follow-up support is still needed from Community Facilitators (CFs)
- Communication with different service providing organizations by PNDGs members is gradually improving and it seems that 49% of PNDGs can communicate with different service providing organizations by themselves and this is about 14% higher than in the previous year.

Activity 2.1.2: Contract Local NGOs to Build Capacities of PDCs and CBOs

CHTDF hired 13 local NGOs for 20 Upazilas for assistance in implementing community development activities (mobilization, planning, training, awareness in raising, linkage building, coordination, follow-up, monitoring, technical assistance to community based organizations and Union Parishads, etc) and for building the capacities of PDCs and PNDGs.

The PNGOs have been providing support to over 3200 communities (including PDCs and PNDGs), mobilizing support from 98 Union Facilitation Committees (UnFCs), 20 Upazila Advisory Committees (UzACs) and 20 Upazila Support Teams (UzSTs). According to the data from the annual M&E data collection, in 2011 the NGOs have increased regular support to PDCs and PNDGs where the capacity areas are relatively weak.

In addition, the NGOs have been continuing with regular community empowerment activities for all the PDCs and PNDGs in the following ways:

(a) Technical Trainings from GoB Line Departments

A number of technical trainings, mobilized by PNGOs, on livestock rearing, fisheries and agriculture have been provided by the GoB line departments at community level. A total of 22,030 community people (14,713 PDC and 7,317 PNDG representatives) received the trainings. These have enabled PDCs and PNDGs to run their activities in a more effective manner. They have also strengthened their linkages to extension service providers and communities. Trained participants shared their learning with community people in regular monthly meetings of PDCs and PNDGs. The community people received technical knowledge and skills which helped them in managing their income generating activities.



Technical training on livestock & fisheries

(b) Financial Management and Bookkeeping Training

Members of PDCs and PNDGs received financial management and basic book keeping training held at Upazilas where 8518 participants (3845 women, 4673 men) were trained. They then shared the knowledge they received with other members of PDCs and PNDGs. Preliminary qualitative data indicates that as a result of the training, the community people are aware of the financial management process and the way of updating all financial registers in the community. Observations suggest that trained participants are able to properly maintain records and documents in PDCs and PNDGs.



Training on financial management and bookkeeping

(c) Regular Monthly Meeting of PDCs and PNDGs

Para Development Committees (PDCs) and Para Nari Development Groups (PNDGs) are now more aware of their roles and responsibilities in undertaking activities. These have been possible due to active participation in regular monthly meetings. PDCs held 35,806 meetings during the reporting period (with male 59 per cent, female 41 per cent) and PNDG held 17,339. They shared their activities' progress and updated documents. Through holding these meetings regularly, a positive change at community level has been observed as outlined below:



Members updating documents in PNDG meeting

- A total of 3,258 Para Development Committees (PDCs) and 1,686 Para Nari Development Groups (PNDGs) are active in community empowerment initiatives;
- PDCs and PNDGs are conducting monthly meetings regularly;
- Meeting decisions are being taken in a participatory way;
- Documents are being updated on regular basis;

- PDC and PNDG members became more active; and
- The communities are maintaining social harmony.

d) Refresher Training for PNGOs

A refresher training, lasting 3 days, was organized to reinforce PNGO staff capacity on community empowerment processes, role of stakeholders in program implementation, community mobilization and facilitation. The trained participants are now equipped with the skills to develop monitoring plans and strong action plans to implement small scale community projects.

Activity 2.1.3 Annual PDC/PNDG Institutional Survey

The survey is planned for 2012 with the support of external expertise. The process of hiring a Consultant who will be designing the PDC/PNDG institutional survey has begun.

Activity 2.1.4 Socio Economic Baseline of Small Ethnic Groups

A draft ToR for the baseline survey of smaller ethnic groups has been developed and the survey will be implemented in 2012. The survey will form the basis for development initiatives that target smaller ethnic groups more effectively during the future implementation of the project.

Activity 2.1.5 Annual Gender Audit of Development Projects

A detailed analysis of the overall gender situation in the CHT and evaluation of gender mainstreaming capacity of CHTDF are needed to gain clear guidelines and for identifying the future roadmap on gender mainstreaming. Considering this, CHTDF has planned to conduct an elaborate gender audit/ assessment in its implementation areas. The process of hiring an organization for conducting a gender audit/ assessment of CHTDF interventions is in its final stage. Based on the findings of the gender audit, CHTDF will modify its existing gender strategy.

Activity 2.1.6 Annual Environmental Impact Assessment of Development Projects

The Environmental Impact Assessment could not be conducted during the reporting period. However, the project paid due attention during planning, designing, and approving of community projects to make sure that the projects posed limited threats to the environment. The annual environmental assessment, similar to the assessment conducted in 2009, of the project activities is planned in 2012.

Activity 2.1.7 Small Grants for Diversity/Gender/Environment Projects

(a) Small Grants on Gender

The preparation of guidelines for small grants on gender is completed. Through the provision of small grants, the project will promote gender equality and support initiatives which enhance the role of women in the development process and support MDGs. The following areas will be considered:

- Advocacy on gender related themes (e.g. violence against women and girls, and property endowment for women and any burning gender issues in the CHT);
- Awareness raising of men and women on women's rights;
- Awareness raising of traditional leaders on women's participation in social arbitration;
- A women network to evolve as a peer pressure group on advocating for women's rights and gender equality in the CHT;
- Gender sensitization of staff in public institutions (schools, health clinics, government offices etc), and improvements to public buildings to create gender sensitive environments; and

- Involving women in the peace building process through creating special capacity building opportunities for women in leadership and peace building roles.

Progress has been made through provision of grants to CHTWON (Chittagong Hill Tracts Women Organizations Network) for gender mainstreaming. CHTWON is a peer pressure network that carried out initiatives towards advocacy on women's rights and elimination of discrimination against women across the CHT. During the reporting period, CHTWON began several initiatives, including:

- Setting up a resource centre on gender at the CHTWON Secretariat
- Strengthening coordination with similar networks to respond effectively to gender based violence cases
- Conducting a policy dialogue event on women's inheritance rights.
- Organizing football and volleyball matches for girls in the CHT
- Organizing (together with the Bandarban District Committee) an exposure visit for the smallest ethnic groups to build the institutional capacity of their women member organizations, attended by 22 (out of 48) CHTWON member organizations

These activities contributed to the increase of women's, particularly rural women's, recognition. Through initiatives such as the exposure visits, the members of CHTWON became more committed to advocacy, especially for the women in hard to reach areas inhabited by the smallest ethnic communities.



CHTWON team meeting with women of the smallest ethnic groups

As part of advocacy on the women friendly social arbitration system in collaboration with CHTWON 3 consultative workshops were organized with Headmen on recording the current practice of social arbitration process by traditional leaders in the CHT in three hill districts. The main purpose of the workshop was to get an overview of the current practice of customary law for social dispute resolution from the traditional leaders i.e. Headmen and Karbaries and to identify the discriminatory practices which are hindering the process of social justice. A total of 125 Headmen attended the three workshops and included 3 women Headmen and 4 women Karbaries. CHTWON was closely engaged during the consultative workshops with the aim to lobby the circle chief offices to introduce a written guideline on social arbitration and court procedure.



Headmen and Karbaries filling up questionnaires

It was revealed in the workshops that participation of women in the social arbitration process has been, to some extent, accepted in society which constitutes progress as in the past there had been no participation of women at all in the arbitration process. Participants also stated that this changing trend is particularly due to the increase in awareness of gender issues in the community and as a result of the introduction of PDC and women groups (PNDGs) formed through CHTDF. Moreover, observations indicate that traditional leaders have begun to appreciate the importance of women's

participation in social arbitration processes. Most of the headmen and karbaries admitted that the current social arbitration process needs to be upgraded to reflect modern social changes.

(b) Small Grants on Environment

Under the small grants on environment initiative CHTDF has initiated the process of engaging a technical organization with practical experience in designing appropriate strategy on sustainable management of 'chora' (small water bodies) considering the ecological scenario and local people's livelihood pattern. The concept of small stream management is produced and this assignment will look at a few small streams of three hill districts connected directly with the existing Village Common Forest (VCF) and ensure integrated management for recovery of the drying out streams.

Activity 2.1.8 Grants to 75 Union Parishad to Improve Local Service Delivery and Support Area Based Development for Economic Growth

(a) Development of Conceptual Framework

As part of the delivery modality developed to channel development grants to different institutions and communities a primary conceptual framework has been developed as a first step. The major areas covered are: implementation processes, fund transfer mechanism, grant size, grant allocation method, funding cycle, a menu of options, linkages between communities, Union Parishad and other local government institutions. This is done to ensure that the support to improve infrastructure and services as targeted with the project component is provided to the level of local government having the institutional role and responsibility.

(b) Grants to 75 Union Parishads to Improve Local Service Delivery

CHTDF developed a guideline on working modalities with Upazila Parishad and Union Parishad (UP) and planned to implement the grants in 2012. The guideline covers the fund allocation, fund delivery model and financial management.

CHTDF will provide grants to UPs through the HDCs. The reason for channeling funds through the HDCs is to strengthen the linkages between the HDC and the UPs. The grants will enable the UPs to undertake small scale schemes mostly related to social services based on the MDG based plan at ward/union level. From 2012 CHTDF is going to provide one type of grants to UP to finance activities from UP Annual Development Plan (ADP) and another type of grants for MDG acceleration based on the MDG localization plan.

(c) Block Grant to Support area Based Development for Economic Growth

The following preparatory activities have been accomplished to support area based development for economic growth:

(i) Consultative Workshops:

Three district level consultative workshops were organized in Bandarban, Khagrachari and Rangamati. The main objective of the workshops was to disseminate information on the new Area Based Development Initiative (ABDI) and draw feedback/suggestions to organize an Implementation Strategy. The ABDI activities will be implemented through a group of communities (or PDCs) for building community assets that will benefit people living in a particular project area.

(ii) Operational Manual:

An Operational Manual was developed on the Area Based Development Initiative to facilitate the implementation process of the initiative. The manual provides detailed descriptions and guidelines for carrying out a scheme cycle process under the Area Based Development Initiative. It will guide Project Implementation Committees, support organizations (CHTDF, PNGOs and HDCs, Upazila Advisory Committees, Union Facilitation Committees) and other relevant stakeholders and project staffs in carrying out the project activities in a standardized and systematic manner.

CHTDF has ensured that the cross-cutting theme of the environment was considered in the Operational Manual. A separate section has been prepared with necessary tools and formats to be used to prepare and screen projects considering the projects' environmental impact.

2.2.2 Expected Results 2.2: Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and local services

Activity 2.2.1: Contract International NGO to Support Value Chain Development

Product specific value chain such as banana value chain responsive interventions and activities are selected on the basis of three criteria -1) Potential impact on poverty reduction, 2) Potential impact on growth and 3) Potential for systemic change.

The hiring of an expert organization is ongoing for implementing banana value chain upgrading activities, which is one of the priority sub sectors identified by the different stakeholders. It is expected that the value chain expert organization will work closely with CHT based local NGOs in 6 Upazilas.

Activity 2.2.2: Quarterly meetings of Local Economic Development Forum

The Local Economic Development Forum (LEDF) is yet to be formed at Upazilla level by the value chain partner organization. The forum will involve representatives from producers, consumers, traders, buyers, key local decision-making institutions and business opinion leaders. Primarily this forum will support the value chain upgrading initiative through advising in Upazilla and Union level activity planning & implementation linked to product specific value chain development, information and best practices sharing, addressing different constraints and challenges related to economic growth of the selected sub sector and gradually support to other local economic development issues.

Activity 2.2.3: Value Chain Assessments in Additional Sub Sectors

The same expert organization which will be contracted for value chain upgrading of banana will also conduct value chain analysis in the two additional new sub sectors such as beef and papaya, which had been identified by the stakeholders during the LED (Local Economic Development) mission in 2010 as having potential for business growth in CHT. In addition to the activities stated in the project logframe and described above, the following activities to promote economic opportunities and local services have been accomplished:

(a) Information on Services Available Disseminated to Communities

Information dissemination workshops on the GoB services available were organized for communities at the Union level. Over 4,000 individuals participated in these workshops, with representatives from the GoB, NGOs, banks, and traditional institutions in attendance. Linkages were strengthened between the communities and service providers during the workshops and this is likely to serve as a mechanism to increase communities' access to local services and economic opportunities.

(b) Regular Support to Weaver Groups

CHTDF continued its regular support to 16 producer groups under three hill districts particularly in the indigenous textile sub sector. These groups have been supported for skill development in group management, diversifying and improving product quality, costing, pricing and marketing. All the groups undertook need based initiatives such as establishing common production centers, buying necessary equipment and machineries, purchasing raw material etc, to gear up their small business initiatives.



Women engaged in weaving

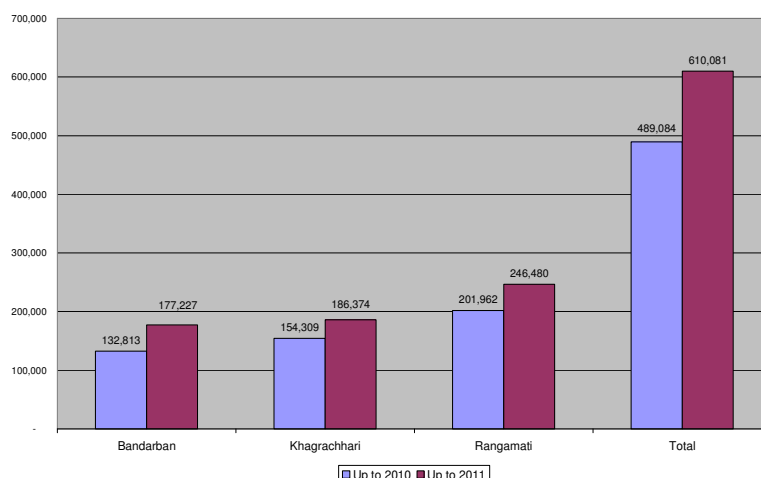
Results achieved on producer group initiative:

According to the M&E data collected in 2011, continuous support from CHTDF in the area of capacity building in technical skills resulted in the following changes among the weaver group households:

- 77% of the trained weaver group members diversified their product range to attract more buyers
- 65% of the trained weaver group members applied their marketing & branding training learning
- 72% of the trained participants applied their training learning in costing, pricing and also adding value to their product.
- 94% of the weaver groups established market linkages with buyers and among them 25% were able to establish linkages with outside buyers (eg. Buyers in Narayanganj or Dhaka)

(c) Regular Savings by Communities

CHTDF has facilitated PDC savings schemes which help to establish a community level resource base. It is an integral part of PDC and regularly monitored in the PDC meetings. A savings mentality has been cultivated among the CHT communities. 93 per cent of communities have developed Savings Management Rules. 86 per cent of communities say that they are able to liaise with banks independently (i.e. they feel empowered to communicate, maintain their own savings, withdraw money from banks independently)³. Access to local financial services is being utilized, as evidenced in the graph below. The total cumulative savings by communities in all 3 districts was over US\$600,000 (an impressive 25 per cent increase from previous year).



Graph: Savings mobilized by District (in USD)

It has been observed that some PDCs supported needy members from community savings through interest free loan for emergencies (e.g. medical treatment). In a few cases, PDCs have started providing loan to members for investing in income generating activities.

To facilitate better financial management in their collective financial assets, CHTDF's CEP Cluster will look into giving sound financial advice on how communities can leverage their savings for possible small scale projects, or an equitable distribution of the savings, which will benefit even the marginalized segments amongst them.

³ Annual M&E Data Collection Survey Results

(d) Technical Trainings and Campaigns on Livestock and Agriculture

Over 200,000 individuals benefited from technical trainings on livestock rearing, fisheries and agriculture that was provided by the GoB line departments. Communities also took full advantage of the GoB line department's Vaccination and De-Worming Campaigns. The following data demonstrates the achievements:

- 77 vaccination and de-worming campaigns (for livestock) were organized in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Services at Union level
- 4,000 communities (Male-2,000, Female-2,003) have gained awareness of livestock vaccination and de-worming
- 9,500 animals were vaccinated and 500 were de-wormed and free from Anthrax, Black Quarter, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), duck plague, pigeon pox etc

Reinforced with better awareness of accessing services, these technical trainings and campaigns further improved the effectiveness in PDC/PNDG projects.

III. Cross-Cutting Issues

3.1 Ethnic Diversity and Cultural Differences

Through the organization of widely attended and high profile events, such as the Cultural Diversity Festival, World Indigenous Day and Traditional Raj Punnyah Festivals, ethnic diversity in the CHT and the respect of cultural differences were widely promoted.

Ethnic diversity was also considered in all of the studies and surveys conducted. A concept note on providing special support to smaller ethnic groups (specifically on supporting the Chak who live in Naikhyongchari) was prepared.

In mid 2012, a baseline survey is planned for areas inhabited by 8 small ethnic groups whose capacity is lower than of other groups (Lusai, Khumi, Kheyang, Chak, Pankho, Bawm, Tanchangya and Mro), which will then be used for planning interventions in those areas. It is expected that these interventions will help the 8 ethnic groups to raise their voice and ensure representation in different forums, HDCs, the RC and other relevant institutions in the CHT.

3.2 Enhanced Role of Women in the Development Process

Gender is systematically in-built within all initiatives of CHTDF at all levels including grassroots (community), institutional and policy. Gender is also mainstreamed within some of the programmatic areas such as local peace building, CHT institution's capacity enhancement, network creation for advocacy and others.

The major achievements of CHTDF's work on enhancing the role of women in the reporting period can be summarized as follows:

3.2.1 Gender mainstreaming in CHT Institutions: HDCs have drafted gender mainstreaming policy. They will take the lead role in making the gender policy official and have expressed strong interest in applying it effectively once it is finalized.

3.2.2 Involvement of women in the peace building process: Most of the women peacemakers revealed during a follow up meeting that they have benefited from the conflict and peace building training and have applied mediation skills during social arbitration and tips on effective public speaking when needed.

3.2.3 Gender sensitization: An increased trend of women's leadership, participation in social and economic arenas and acceptance of women's multiple roles suggests that gender sensitization trainings have been effective. Sensitization trainings on gender relating themes and on women's rights were provided to a total of 2,031 (Male-1051, Female-980) community people by PDCs and PNDGs during their regular meetings.

3.2.4 Female volunteers: Opportunities were created for 64 local female graduates to volunteer with CHT institutions or with organizations cooperating with CHTDF. A total of 17 women volunteers got better jobs or an academic offer following their placements. Women volunteers created a network among themselves and took a leading role in organizing various events (e.g. celebrating International Volunteers Day) and initiated a publication to promote volunteerism for peace and development in the CHT.

3.2.5 Capacity development of women leaders and CHT Women Organizations Network:

CHTWON took the lead role in organizing several advocacy events on elimination of discriminatory laws i.e. opportunities and recognition of rural women in CHT, Indigenous Property and Inheritance law, guidelines for women friendly social arbitration process in traditional court, etc. The network managed to strengthen the capacity of comparatively weak and smaller organizations under its umbrella.

3.3 Environment Protection

3.3.1 Support for Bangladesh REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

The government of Bangladesh, with the support from UNDP and FAO, is working on the UN'S REDD+, which stands for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Readiness Roadmap. The CHT contains about 40% of the national forest coverage and therefore CHTDF was involved in supporting the REDD preparedness process. CHTDF facilitated HDCs' participation in national consultation workshops and later organized one local consultation workshop with all relevant stakeholders on the forest issues in CHT. The workshop identified local issues and challenges regarding deforestation, forest degradation and forest governance in the CHT. During the discussions, it was agreed to consider the CHT specific governance system, particularly the Peace Accord, during designing of the REDD+ programme for CHT. According to the Hill District Council Act, the HDCs are mandated for Unclassed State Forest (the forest remains outside Reserved Forest and Protected Forest) where the Village Common Forests (VCF) are located. Hence the draft report of Bangladesh REDD+ Readiness Roadmap highlighted the importance of MoCHTA being included in the National Steering Committee for REDD+ and climate change under the Ministry of Forest and Environment.

3.3.2 Environment Friendly Agriculture Techniques

Under the activities of Agriculture and Food Security Project – supported by EC Food Facility and Danida, CHTDF provided training to farmers on environment friendly agriculture techniques. Through Farmer Field School (FFS) training the farmers learned about the composed fertilizer, balanced use of chemical fertilizer and hand pollination for cucurbit vegetable production without using chemical.



A Field School Facilitator preparing Yard Manure in Khagrachari

As a result of the awareness training provided by Farmers Field School Facilitators on compost preparation, communities began using compost preparation. The result assessment data of AFSP 2011 shows that about 85% farmers use compost in their field. The data in the following table shows that the majority of farmers have increased the use of compost.

Table: Level of use of compost by district

District	Increased (%)	Decreased (%)	Same as before (%)	Don't use (%)
Khagrachari	52.5	2.5	36.3	8.8
Rangamati	51.2	2.4	36.6	9.8
Bandarban	56.3	2.5	13.8	27.5
All	53.3	2.5	28.7	15.3

Source: AFSP result Assessment 2011, CHTDF, UNDP

In 2011, through support from the EC-Food Facility, CHTDF also supported 3 Hill District Councils to carry out adaptive research on Jum crops (mainly on rice).

3.3.3 Integrated and Improved Small Stream Management in CHT is in Preparation

As described under the 2.1 Expected Results section of the report, integrated and improved small stream management in CHT is under preparation. Using the small grants on environment, improved stream management activities will be carried out in 3 streams across different communities in the CHT with a focus on integrating stream, forests, livelihood and wildlife. This will be piloted considering one of the best practices of Village Common Forest (VCF) where communities are managing and protecting the forest.

The process of small stream management was discussed. It has been decided that under the stream management piloting, the main focus will be the “*water of the stream*” where communities depend on water for their household consumption and agricultural activities (particularly for irrigation in the lower part of the stream). Emphasis will be given on managing the forest to make sure that water flows throughout the year. A Stream Management Forum (SMF) will be formed with all communities of the stream and surrounding VCF. The traditional leaders, who play a significant role in managing the natural resources in the CHT, will also be involved.

During the piloting stage, CHTDF decided that it will be active in advocating transferring the un-classed state forests (outside the reserved forest and protected forest) to Hill District Councils (HDC) to improve their capacities in local forest management.

3.3.4 Annual Environmental Assessment

As outlined in an earlier section of the report, the annual environmental assessment, similar to the assessment conducted in 2009, of the project activities is planned for 2012.

IV. Visibility and Communication

The project has a communication and visibility plan (including indicators) as part of the action planning process with respective allocations in the budget in accordance with the relevant provisions under the FAFA, the Joint Visibility Guidelines for EC/UN Actions in the field and the Communication and Visibility manual for European Union External Actions. The plan follows the main lines of the template provided in the Joint EC/UN Visibility Guidelines. The main objectives of the communication and visibility strategy are to:

- 1) Design and implement effective communications strategies to raise awareness and create common understanding, as well as increase visibility of the CHT among key stakeholders (including donors and international communities) and larger Bangladeshi society.
- 2) Design advocacy programmes and raise awareness about the uniqueness and complexity of CHT local governance system for local government stakeholders at the local, regional and national levels.
- 3) Raise the profile of marginalized and hard to reach communities (especially women and children) of the CHT in larger society and in the global development arena using effective communication tools.
- 4) Generate and disseminate knowledge on the CHT and its people through knowledge products and visibility material both in larger Bangladeshi society and among international key stakeholders.

The project utilized the communication tools and visibility actions as outlined in the Communication Manual for EU external actions. All the administrative and financial arrangements were done in accordance with general conditions applicable to EU contribution agreements with international organizations.

The calendar year was busy with various events through which CHTDF continued to receive good media coverage, attendance of high level opinion makers, and strong turnouts among the indigenous people across the CHT. As seen in the events below, the momentum is healthy with regards to advocating and increasing the visibility and communication.

The visibility of CHT culture in wider society was increased through the production and dissemination of promotional items including banners, festoons, posters, leaflets, booklets on cultural diversity, invitation cards, press releases, visits to the CHT, brochures, e-publications, website, video documentaries and other promotional items (Annex-2: Visibility Materials) and the CHTDF Annual Report 2010.

Activity 4.1: Monthly Stakeholder Review Meeting

There were regular meetings with key stakeholders at the district and Upazila level where information on the project and government activities were shared. This helped create collaborations among the key stakeholders and avoid duplications of development activities on the ground.

Activity 4.2: Learning Events and Exchange Visits within the CHT

Exchange Visits

Two hundred people participated in 15 exchange visits, including CHTDF & PNGO staffs, GoB officials and communities where people from one area visited to other area. These visits provided participants opportunity to share experiences and learning, discuss on different practices used by PDCs/PNDGs which benefited both the visitors and host communities to apply in their own situations based on learning.

Learning Events: Observation of National and International Days

In 2011, CHTDF facilitated the observation of 6 national and international days at Union and Upazila level, which included International Mother Language Day, International Women's Day,

National Independence Day, World Environment Day, World Indigenous Peoples' Day and National Victory Day. At the end of the reporting year 176 events were observed at Union and Upazila levels with the participation of 11,733 community people. In addition, CHTWON celebrated the International Day for Rural Women and the CHT Women Volunteers celebrated International Volunteers Day.

It is expected that as a result of these events, the participants became aware of the significance of the themes and issues of the observed days. Interaction and linkages were also strengthened between communities and other stakeholders (local leaders and government officials) with the joint celebration of different national days.

An outline of the most significant events is provided below:

World Indigenous Peoples Day

Under the small grants for diversity, CHTRC observed World Indigenous Peoples Day through a public meeting and a seminar in August. Three public meetings in CHT gathered more than 15,000 people. This turnout indicates the prominence of the event and the interest in celebrating indigenous peoples themes. The presence of high level influential policymakers signaled the political weight given to CHT advocacy this year. Apart from the various posters, leaflets, banners that increased the visibility of CHT and the EU (through the donor logo used in all promotional items), the print and electronic media coverage of the event brought the CHT and indigenous issues to the forefront.

International Day for Rural Women (IDRW) 2011

On the eve of celebrating the International Day for Rural Women (IDRW) 2011, CHTWON organized a discussion session on the theme of the day, a fair for agro products produced by rural women, a drama and cultural program. Around 200 men, women and children gathered and enjoyed the event which has contributed to mass sensitization on rural women's rights, recognition and challenges.



Cultural program by rural girls in IDRW 2011

International Volunteer Day

The CHT Women Volunteers celebrated the International Volunteer Day with the main objective being promoting and creating public awareness on volunteerism at the community level particularly on climate change and global warming.

The objective of the day celebration was to raise awareness among local people on the HDC-CHTDF joint volunteerism initiatives that exist in the community. As a result of the extended outreach, a network or link was established between the community and the volunteers. Different opportunities for volunteering were presented.



Rally of International Volunteer Day 2011

Activity 4.3: Annual Cultural Diversity Festival (CDF)

MoCHTA and the CHTDF have jointly organized the 5th Cultural Diversity Festival 2011 during December 2011. The overall objectives of the festival were to create greater understanding on cultural diversity and sensitizing the mass people about plurality and richness of tradition and culture in Bangladesh. Through the 5 day long festival which included cultural fair, traditional performances, a painting and art exhibition, CHT culture and their unique traditions were shared and exposed to wider Bengali society. A platform for better understanding of the CHT and its socio-economic situation and demographics was created through the celebrations and interactions of the CHT entrepreneurs and Bengali people. The Cultural Diversity Festival celebrates community values, ideologies, identity and continuity.



Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attending the Cultural Diversity Festival as Chief Guest

Activity 4.4 Publishing Knowledge Products and Advocacy Materials

(a) Information on CHT and Development

Information related to CHTDF and CHT development has been uploaded in the website and shared with other stakeholders. The information includes CHTDF news, events, clusters' activities, and development issues related to CHT, case studies, jobs, procurement opportunities, photo gallery, photo stories and relevant web links. Through the use of the website relevant and on-going information on the project, on local government institutions collaboration with the project, donor activities and their involvement in the CHT has been highlighted.

(b) CHTDF Photo Database

The internal CHTDF photo database has been updated and restructured. This has provided easy access to photos and images for using for various promotional items and reports. CHTDF has also featured photographs on high official visits including visits by the MoCHTA Secretary and GoB officials. The photo gallery has also provided visuals for banners, posters and promotional items used in significant events such as the Cultural Diversity Festival that has increased CHT visibility and the donor visibility through the use of the EU logo on all promotional products.

(c) CHT Development News

CHTDF produced and widely disseminated project activities and results based news items on the UNDP Country Office website, UNDP Country Office communication material and the CHTDF website. It has also been widely disseminated to key stakeholders both in the CHT and at the national level. The newsletter features stories on project achievements, CHT development issues and stories on partner NGOs and donors working in the CHT. The widely disseminated newsletter helped raise awareness about development interventions in the CHT, about the role and functions of the CHT institutions and cultural diversity of CHT communities.

(d) Knowledge and Visibility on the CHT Accord

The CHTRC observed the 14th anniversary of Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord on 2 December, 2011 by holding a colorful rally, processions, seminars, public gathering in different places of the country. To mark the occasion, thousands of indigenous people from all over the country gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka with colourful traditional dresses, multi-colored festoons and placards. Financial and technical support was provided to the CHTRC for organizing the event, which has helped strengthening capacity of CHTRC to advocate on CHT issue.

The celebrations not only played a role in opening a space for understanding the CHT Accord and its significance to CHT development, it also brought people from all walks of life under one platform and created an opportunity to share and disseminate information on the CHT and critical issues that influence the socio-economic and political development in the CHT. Furthermore, the importance of the CHT Accord and its immediate implementation was highlighted and was given focus through the participation of people in the different events.

(e) Reprint of Information Educational and Communication Materials on Gender

8 posters (3000 copies each) elaborating on creating awareness on several gender issues targeting mass community and 2 flip calendars (1200 copies each) on gender sensitization at community level from community empowerment and health perspectives are reprinted because of high demand from the field. The posters were distributed widely across all stakeholders ranging from communities to government and non-government institutions. It is believed that these visual aids have certainly contributed in mass awareness creation on importance and benefits of gender equality and recognition of women's rights.

Activity 3.5: Publishing Annual CHTDF Progress Report

CHTDF published its Annual Report 2010, and was distributed to all stake holders following a mailing list. It reflected major achievement and results achieved during the year 2010, strategies and approaches followed, project overall monitoring and management, lesson learned, challenges faced and way forward for future actions.

Activity 4.6: Mid Term and End of Year Evaluation

The preparation for the mid-term and end of year evaluation has not yet begun. It is expected that the evaluations will take place in October 2012.

Note: CHTDF was not able to fully implement the visibility plan when assisting MoCHTA on the conference on Sustainable Development in January 2012 as the lead organizer of the conference, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) had printed the invitation cards without including the EU logo. However, CHTDF alerted the EU immediately about this and ensured that the EU logo was visible in the actual conference (on stationary, banners, posters, etc).

V. Activities Not Done and Work Plan for 2012

5.1 Activities Not Done/Completed

Some activities were not performed of which some were initiated with preliminary tasks. Next actions have also been chalked out. These are listed below with reasons.

SL	Activities not performed	Reasons for not performing	Next action
A-1	Stakeholders Capacity Building on Indigenous Peoples Rights and Development to Govt. officers, CBO, Journalist and lawyers on UNDRIP, Land Rights, Customary Rights, CHT Peace Accord etc.	Draft LOA was prepared but could not be signed as planned between the UNDP and ILO.	Planned in 2012
A-2	Facilitation of Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples Issues	LOA was not signed between the UNDP and ILO.	-Do-
A-3	Media advocacy for promotion and implementation of international standards on IP rights and implementation of CHT Accord	LOA was not signed between the UNDP and ILO.	-Do-
A-4	Strengthening implementation of UN guidelines and facilitations of interaction between UN mandate/ systems and Indigenous People's Organization	LOA was not signed between the UNDP and ILO.	-Do-
A-5	Logistical and technical assistance to IDP task force for Need Based Assessment	LOA was not signed between the UNDP and IDP &R Task Force.	-Do-
A-6	Dialogue on Hill District Council election	Project management consent was required but delayed.	-Do-
A-7	GIS Household Level Baseline	Preparation has not begun for completing the GIS Household Level Baseline due to time constraints.	Planned in 2012
B-2	1.2.4 Upazila Parishad to recruit Development Coordinators and procure office equipments and motorbike	Discussions on delivery modality about to complete, agreed to put it in LOA with HDC	Planned in 2012
B-3	1.2.4 Upazila Parishad to prepare annual work plans and budgets for own capacity development taking into account the recommendations of the Institutional Assessment	Institution Capacity assessment to be conducted	Planned in 2012
B-4	1.2.4 Upazila Parishad to implement capacity development plans and to report quarterly to UNDP	Institutional Capacity assessment to be conducted	Planned in 2012
B-5	1.2.5 Union Parishad to recruit Development Coordinators and procure office equipments and motorbike	Discussions on delivery modality about to complete, agreed to put it in LOA with HDC	Planned in 2012
B-6	1.2.5 Organize orientation over 6 months period for Union staff, elected members and Headman on Local Govt. Acts, Roles and Responsibilities and Functions relating to Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Reporting	Decided to join with national training program	Planned in 2012
B-7	1.2.6 Circle Offices to prepare annual	Institutional Capacity	Planned in 2012

SL	Activities not performed	Reasons for not performing	Next action
	work plans and budgets for traditional leaders capacity development – taking into account the recommendations of the Institutional Assessment	assessment completed, drafting of capacity development plans in progress.	
B-8	1.2.6 Circle Offices to implement traditional leaders capacity development plans and report quarterly to UNDP	Institutional Capacity assessment completed. Drafting capacity development plan in progress	Planned in 2012
B-9	1.3.1 Form Committees and Organize District, Upazila and Union Development Coordination Meetings (monthly)	TAC's final recommendation is pending and expected for the 2 nd quarter 2012	Planned in 2012
C-1	NGOs to undertake PDC/PNDG institutional Baseline Survey and Annual PDC/PNDG Performance Reviews and to provide appropriate support to PDC/PNDG – taking into account the results of the survey	The survey could not be conducted in 2011 due to delay in signing agreement between EU and UNDP	The survey is planned in 2 nd quarter of 2012
C-2	NGOs/consultants to undertake value chain assessments in new sub sectors, design community economic development models and support Local Economic Development (LED) Forums and CBO to bring forward appropriate applications to the Union Parishad for funds to support economic development and growth in the CHT	The value chain expert firm/organization could not be hired in 2011 due to delay in signing agreement between EU and UNDP.	Hiring expert organization to implement value chain activities is under process.
C-3	HDC to coordinate LED Forum Formation and Meetings in 3 Hill Districts (12 pilot Upazila by end of 2013)	The modalities on LED forum will be decided in consultation with the value chain expert organization	Hiring expert organization to implement value chain activities is under process.
D-1	Small grants on gender	Grants modalities and guidelines are still under review. It has been finalized that this grant will be provided through HDCs to local organizations, women network for carrying out systematic advocacy on burning gender issues of the CHT.	Inclusion of grants under Letter of Agreement with HDCs and finalization the guidelines for implementation will be done in 2012.

5.2 Work Plan for 2012

The work plan outlining the activities planned for 2012 is enclosed in Annex 1.

VI. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Based on recommendations of an EU Evaluation Mission held in 2009, the Planning, Monitoring and Reporting (PMR) Unit was strengthened after review of the project monitoring system.

PMR Unit has been strengthened with the addition of new members of staff specializing in monitoring and reporting. It ensures timely data/information collection from the field level, progress analysis and planning against the results indicators. The Unit compiles the information into reports and documents which are then shared with donors, the UNDP country office, CHTDF management, project stakeholders and the general public. It also verifies the implemented activities correspond to the agreed objectives and indicators. Every quarter, it prepares a list of lessons learned and key challenges which it shares with senior management who in turn use this information for decision making and to make recommendations to policy makers.

The PMR unit reports directly to the Project Director and maintains close communication with all project clusters. Dedicated M&E staffs are also assigned for each cluster and each district office to collect and verify data, minimize data error, update the database and ensure rapid reporting on results of the project implemented activities.

During the reporting period, the PMR Unit introduced a number of changes in the functioning of the CHTDF monitoring and reporting system. Firstly, it produced a Business Plan for Monitoring and Reporting, which has been finalized in December 2011. Secondly, it designed a CHTDF Results and Resources Framework which includes the outcomes and results indicators of the new agreement with the EU. Thirdly, it prepared an M&E Framework, which includes all indicators agreed on with the EU. All documents were produced in close consultation with field level project staff to ensure a common understanding of indicators and activities and feasibility of proposed methods of data collection. In addition, the quarterly reporting format was reviewed and revised. The revised format, which will be introduced in the second quarter of 2012, will result in sharper and shorter reports, with the aim to improve presentation of key points for senior management.

An independent Project Assurance unit has been established within UNDP, under the direction of the Program Management Specialist, reporting directly to the Deputy Country Director for Programs. Monitoring and Evaluation and Quality Assurance Specialists are to perform as below:

- a) Monitor achievement of results as per project log frame and donor agreements;
- b) Ensure proper utilization of project funds in relation to donor agreements;
- c) Liaise with donors and ensure timely and quality reporting to donors;
- d) Monitor project efficiency and value for money, compared with other similar projects;
- e) Monitor project relevancy in the context of the project document; and
- f) Monitor project effectiveness in reducing the MDG gap in the CHT, and in reaching vulnerable groups (e.g. women, ethnic minorities) and poorer sectors of the community.

In the reporting period, UNDP has advertised twice to recruit the international head of the PMR unit. However, it was not possible to identify a suitable candidate. At the time of reporting, UNDP is advertising again with improved TOR.

Monthly, the project keeps track on project efficiency, specifically financial delivery and the implementation of project activities. The project also monitors quarterly effectiveness of project interventions, documenting achievements, results and challenges.

Different surveys are to be undertaken annually to measure progress in achieving targets viz: performance survey on RC, HDC, Upazila and Union Parishad, Circle Offices; PDC/PNDG institutional/performance surveys; Household level beneficiary surveys; Gender Audit and the Environmental Impact Assessment. The analytical findings are to be documented and summarized in the project Annual Progress Report. The overall performance of the project is closely monitored by UNDP. The Quality Assurance Unit will commission a Mid Term Review of the project in the 3rd quarter of 2012.

VII. Lessons Learned, Challenges, Sustainability

This section is organized according to the sequence of objectives and expected results of the project logframe, in a similar way as has been done in the earlier sections of the report.

Objective 1: CHT Institutions have increased capacity to deliver services and support community development

Expected Result 1.1 Capacities of local government institutions to advocate on CHT issues strengthened, in particular implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, resulting in enhanced clarity and consensus on CHT issues.

The sustainability of the development program will rely on the implementation of the CHT Accord. The main concern is to implement the CHT Accord and to build confidence among the communities to promote peace and communal harmony. Continuous efforts are being made to build consensus among the key stakeholders especially those who are directly related to implementing the CHT Accord and building peace in CHT. Confidence building activities need to be conducted by civil society. CHTDF will strengthen efforts in designing or adapting a civil society institution or facility to take over enhanced advocacy and confidence building activities before the end of this project.

There is a need for high profile events such as the Cultural Diversity Festival which is far more than a “visibility event”. Indeed these events are policy-drivers that are essential to prevent the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord from being relegated to the backburner as occurred during the better part of 2011 when it was over-taken by other national issues. As detailed in the earlier sections of the report, the Cultural Diversity Festival helped set in motion a chain of events, including the first meeting in three years between the Head of State and the Head of the PCJSS (the main regional political party and signatory to the Peace Accord), which created new momentum to address obstacles to Accord implementation.

In 2011, CHTDF has focused on supporting MoCHTA to be more effective in inter-ministerial coordination and the CHT Regional Council has felt somewhat neglected, accentuating the distance between the Government in Dhaka and PCJSS in CHT. CHTDF needs to support and facilitate regular contact and bilateral meetings (Govt-PCJSS), not only to expedite implementation, but also to build confidence and mutual trust between both parties, which is important in its own right.

In 2011, the 15th amendment of the Bangladesh Constitution was opposed by Indigenous Peoples throughout the country, including the CHT, due to the lack of acknowledgement of IPs’ identity and land rights. This was exacerbated by the controversial statement from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the effect that there are no indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. Actions and statements like these have the potential to derail the CHT Peace Accord and sow mistrust, instead of building confidence. It is essential that MoCHTA is properly consulted (let alone IP representative bodies) by all other ministries before such actions are undertaken or statements issued. The fact that this is not the case indicates that MoCHTA has a relative lack of standing and would be likely to benefit from the assistance of Development Partners such as the European Union which could strongly encourage the Government to reconsider issues of this nature. This would also help add more “weight” to MoCHTA so that it is not the sole voice on IP issues.

There has been too much focus by CHTDF on Government which needs to be balanced by additional engagement with CSOs in general, and regional CSOs in particular, to strengthen CSO capacity to facilitate dialogue and advocacy on CHT issues.

The Cultural Diversity Festival was a successful initiative but other sustainable channels/media need to be explored to further stimulate an interest in the CHT and in the diverse peoples of the CHT within Bangladesh.

The current Project Document needs to be revised to accurately reflect the full range of CHTDF support for the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord via the Policy Advocacy and Confidence Building Cluster. Major opportunities exist with CHTDF engagement in key policy areas such as implementation of the provision of the Peace Accord to increase the number of IPs in the police

force in CHT, dialogue to move forward with elections to the HDCs, advocacy and technical support to develop HDC financing mechanisms etc.

Overall, it now appears that the project is understaffed and under-resourced to achieve both the currently defined advocacy/policy objectives and to utilize windows of opportunity created to fully support the implementation of the CHT Peace Accord.

Expected Result 1.2 Capacities of local government institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery.

The HDCs have been successfully coping with the process aiming at meeting the need of systematic requirements. The efficiency level of staff has been proven through their successful management of services for which responsibility has been transferred to them (accomplished through CHTDF LoA activities). Quarterly progress sharing meetings have been benefiting HDCs and CHTDF to implement the LoA timely. MDG localization and acceleration is a new idea which is also a new challenge. HDCs have the capacity to deliver services but greater support in terms of finances from the national centre is required.

The technical staff will be withdrawn once skills are transferred after cycles of planning and monitoring. Increased capacity building interventions will be introduced in the areas of coordination, planning, monitoring and policy making to ensure that by the final year of the project, all activities are being implemented by local partners viz: local government, local NGOs and local community groups. Efforts will also be strengthened to activities viz: LoA with three Circles and RC, support to HDCs, RC and Circles to implement LOA activities, review and harmonize organization development (OD) reports and participatory planning guidelines, institutional capacity assessments of Circle Offices, capacity assessment of RC and MoCHTA, and MDG localization and acceleration.

RC, HDCs and Circles are project implementing partners through letters of agreement (LOA). Over the years the budget allocation for activities through LOAs has been increased significantly. For example the budget LOA allocation for HDCs has been increased from USD 4.2 m in 2010 to USD 7.2 m in 2011. The increase in allocation over the years, reflects the project strategy of building capacity of CHT institutions and gradually transfer more responsibilities from CHTDF to these institutions. This will eventually lead to a situation where institutions can take the full control of development interventions, and where these activities will form part of regular government program. The existing LOA modality however has some limitations in this regard. Reporting requirements and rules on provision of grants are not in line with government regulations. Also the working modality between HDC, Union and Upazila Parishad is not covered by government guidelines. Efforts will be made in finding a balance between having the LOAs and its activities in line with institution's mandate and in compliance with government rules, and on the other side the requirements for the project implementation and development needs of the CHT. A profound review of government rules is required in order to decide on modalities for future development interventions, which would ideally be implemented through the same institutions, following the government rules, as part of government program.

Expected Result 1.3 Participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring mechanisms among CHT institutions and stakeholders enhanced to contribute towards achievement of MDG.

Having government institutions such as Union and Upazila Parishad, and government line departments coordinating with HDCs and RC remains a challenge. The fact that institutions are not elected makes it even more challenging. Linkage and coordination has been established for coordination of project activities, however more needs to be done for having the same level of coordination on overall CHT and development issues. CHTDF has put policy support for CHT elections high on the agenda and is actively propagating for elections at various levels. In the mean time, CHTDF will put more effort in advocating with institutions such as RC and HDC on the importance of transparency and accountability and having close coordination with institutions as Union and Upazila Parishad. Acceptance of the need for decentralization among line departments and institutions might be the first step in getting greater interest from these institutions in the empowerment of HDCs and RC.

As regards the MDG acceleration, the major lessons learned out of the first steps of the process relate to the fact that proper analysis of up to date data is lacking. The MDG mapping exercise (first step of MDG acceleration process) will assist the District and Upazila development coordination committees in accessing existing databases and derive, analyze and transform data into evidence based development indicators. This will be used in future for development planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Objective 2: Local organizations and communities empowered and their capacity enhanced to manage their own development

Expected Result 2.1 Communities empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects.

This new phase considered some activities (e.g. area based development initiative, value chain upgrading) which are relatively new for CHT as well as for CHTDF and related planning and hence preparatory works involving multi-level stakeholders took a long time.

The way forward is outlined below:

- Develop project's support plan for the PDCs and PNDGs through conduction of PDC/PNDG institutional survey.
- Add value to economic empowerment of the communities utilizing the existing PDC network through initiating broader scale schemes (area based development initiative where a group of communities will jointly implement projects) to increase economic opportunities for the communities.

Information dissemination workshops with PDCs and PNDGs can enhance the communities' capacities to explore services and resources from service providers. Regular monitoring visits to community projects and appropriate guidance play a key role in supporting grassroots level activities. Linkages amongst line departments and community people have been improved because of the involvement and technical support of the GoB Officers as Master Trainers.

It is a challenge to keep regularly monitoring the situation of some of the program activities, especially those undertaken in some Upazilas of Rangamati and Khagrachhari where political unrest exists. Proper record keeping is a challenging task for those PDC members who are not literate or less literate. Attendance ratio of PDCs/PNDGs is low in regular meetings and awareness sessions due to seasonal workload and Jum harvest. The drop out of PNGO staff, particularly community facilitators and Technical Officers-Agriculture, prevented smooth implementation of targeted activities. Ensuring technical support by GoB line departments particularly in the most remote areas is also a challenge.

Expected Result 2.2 Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and local services.

The linking of PDCs and PNDGs to the government embryonic bottom up planning process, combined with better use of tools and techniques for participatory planning by the relevant local government agencies will ensure their continued participation in mainstream government development activities. Project activities are largely managed by local government agencies and community level institutions with high levels of CHTDF involvement in the early years. In this context, HDCs agreed to allocate responsibilities for the project implementation to their regular staff, where CHTDF technical and monitoring staff is able to mentor permanent staff within the government institutions and withdraw from the activities after transferring the necessary skills and competencies. This will help local government to be well placed to take over not only project activities but also the whole process of participatory planning and community led local development.

During the second year of project implementation, MoCHTA and CHTDF will design a new program and funding mechanism whereby government (and donor) funds can be directed to community led programs within CHT. Such a program would be designed as a fully government owned & led

process which can utilize the institutions (PDCs and PNDGs) established by CHTDF and the capabilities of the local government institutions in CHT.

Cross-cutting activities

The project has major deliverables related to local confidence building, which is mainstreamed in the entire project but no dedicated staff with relevant expertise in this regard Rangamati.

VIII. Status of Expenditure (Interim Report)

The project incurred a total eligible expenditure of EURO 4,674,188 (01 January 2011- 15 March 2012). A detailed financial statement is attached with this report (Annex-4).

Annex 1: Work Plan for 2012

The following activities are planned for the year 2012. Their implementation is the responsibility of the five CHTDF clusters, as indicated in the last (far right) column in the table.

SL	Activities	Time frame				Concerned cluster*
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1	CHT Institutions have increased capacity to deliver services and support community development					
1.1	Capacities of local government institutions to advocate on CHT issues strengthened, in particular implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, resulting in enhanced clarity and consensus on CHT issues					
1.1.1	Formulation of Advocacy strategy					PA&CB
1.1.2	Organize Advocacy training for staff of various institutions					PA&CB
1.1.3	CHT Police force logistics and support					PA&CB
1.1.4	CHT Police force logistics and support					PA&CB
1.1.5	Assessment of the situation of IDPs, ex-combatants and India returned refugees					PA&CB
1.1.6	Logistical and technical assistance to Land commission					PA&CB
1.1.7	Capacity building of stake holders					PA&CB
1.1.8	Facilitation of parliamentary caucus					PA&CB
1.1.9	Media advocacy on implementation of CHT accord					PA&CB
1.1.10	Strengthening implementation of UN guidelines and conventions					PA&CB
1.1.11	2 Regional Exchange Visits for Ethnic minority (Tripura and Nepal)					PA&CB
1.1.12	4 National Exchange Visits					PA&CB
1.1.13	Organize workshop on promotion of culture and languages of ethnic minority 3 workshops					PA&CB
1.1.14	Organize Cultural awareness training for CHT youth					PA&CB
1.1.15	Grants to three Ethnic Minority Cultural Institution 3 SECI					PA&CB
1.1.16	Small Grants support to ethnic minorities or CBO 4 grants					PA&CB
1.1.17	Small Grants support to CSOs & BIPF for IP day					PA&CB
1.1.18	Day celebration (IP day, Language day and accord day)					PA&CB
1.1.19	One regional cultural diversity festival in CHT					PA&CB
1.1.20	One national cultural diversity festival in Dhaka					PA&CB
1.1.21	High level conference on strategies and policy formulation of CHT Peace Accord					PA&CB
1.1.22	3 Residential training for the ethnic Artists					PA&CB
1.1.23	Organize policy dialogues & round tables on CHT issues					PA&CB
1.1.24	Organize Training for local Journalists					PA&CB
1.1.25	Organize training on conflict prevention & peace building					PA&CB
1.1.26	Organize NSC meetings					PA&CB
1.1.27	Organize inter-ministerial meetings & TAC					PA&CB
1.1.28	Overseas study tour for government officials					PA&CB
1.1.29	High Level exposure visits to the CHT					PA&CB
1.1.30	LOA signing with CHTRC and provide advocacy grants					PA&CB
1.1.31	Salary support for advocacy officer					PA&CB

SL	Activities	Time frame				Concerned cluster*
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1.1.32	Logistic and capacity development support					PA&CB
1.1.33	Support to training program for police force in CHT with special focus on modern policing and investigative techniques and police management					PA&CB
1.2	Capacities of local government institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery and economic growth					PA&CB
1.2.1	Capacity assessment of Local Government Institutions(RC, HDCs, Upazila and Union Parishad)					CD
1.2.2	Institutional capacity assessment of Circle offices (traditional leaders)n					CD
1.2.3	Capacity development of MoCHTA and CHT local government institutions through providing training/orientation, logistic support, planning, holding workshops, etc					CD
1.2.4	Capacity development of Circles Offices(Traditional leaders)					CD
1.3	Participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring mechanisms among CHT institutions and stakeholders enhanced					
1.3.1	Engaging the stakeholders (Development coordination committees meeting at district, Upazila and Union level and Annual planning & Review meetings etc)					CD
1.3.2	MDG mapping and planning at district and Upazila level					CD
1.3.3	Implementation of MDG acceleration activities					CD
1.3.4	UDCC to appraise grant applications, award grants and ensure technical inputs from Upazila Parishad and NGO					CE&ED
1.3.4.1	Consultation & orientation workshop on Area Based Development Initiative (ABDI) at district, Upazila, Union & Community level with relevant stakeholders;					CE&ED
1.3.4.2	Annual Work Plan (AWP) sharing workshop including orientation on ABDI with UzDCC/UzAC members at Upazila level					CE&ED
1.3.4.3	Facilitate communities to plan and develop project proposal;					CE&ED
1.3.4.4	Facilitate UDCCs/UnFCs to appraise grant applications;					CE&ED
1.3.4.5	ToT on ABDI grant management for PICs to project staff (Core Facilitators) at regional level,					CE&ED
1.3.4.6	Provide training to communities on grant management.					CE&ED
2	Local organizations and Communities empowered and their capacity enhanced to manage their own development					
2.1	Communities empowered to plan and implement small scale community projects					
2.1.1	Conduct PDC/PNDG institutional Baseline Survey and Annual PDC/PNDG Performance Reviews and to provide appropriate support to PDC/PNDG					CE&ED
2.1.1.1	Conduct Annual PDC/PNDG institutional survey					CE&ED
2.1.1.2	Observation of national and International Mother Language Day (21 February) and other days at various levels					CE&ED
2.1.1.3	ToT on Para Development Planning Tools to project staff (Core Facilitators) at regional level					CE&ED

SL	Activities	Time frame				Concerned cluster*
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
2.1.2	Planning, Monitoring & Reporting					
2.1.2.1	Facilitate Monthly UDCC/UnFC meeting, District Cluster Coordination Meeting-DCCM (PNGO & CEP team members of CHTDF), (1.3.1)					CE&ED
2.1.2.2	Orientation training/workshop on revised reporting/M&E database at district level					CE&ED
2.2	Communities have increased access to local services and economic opportunities					
2.2.1	NGOs/consultants to undertake value chain assessments in new sub sectors, design community economic development models and support Local Economic Development (LED) Forums and CBO to bring forward appropriate applications to the Union Parishad for funds to support economic development and growth in the CHT					
2.2.1.1	Implement banana value chain upgrading activities;					CE&ED
2.2.1.2	Value chain assessment in new sub-sectors-Beef fattening, Papaya.					CE&ED
2.1.3	Cultural differences respected					
2.1.3.1	Study on small ethnic minorities/groups (Baseline Survey)					PA&CB
2.1.4	Enhanced role of women in development process					
2.1.4.1	Handing over the final Gender Policy to HDCs and ensure implementation					Gender
2.1.4.2	Advocacy initiatives on consensus building for local level peace building with women peacemakers					Gender
2.1.4.3	Promote peace building and volunteerism among youth groups					Gender
2.1.5	Small Grants Program for Cross Cutting Issues					
2.1.5.1	Provision of small grants on Gender through HDCs					Gender
A	Visibility and Communications					
A-1	Produce MoCHTA/CHTDF joint Newsletter					KM
A-2	Regular compilation and dissemination of CHT news in the media					KM
A-3	CHTDF website maintenance					KM
A-4	Produce promotional items of CHTDF					KM
A-5	Produce success stories/case studies based on field learning					KM
B	Planning, Monitoring & Reporting					
B-1	Household Survey					PMR
B-2	Assessment of coverage of the poorest under economic benefit of the CHTDF project					CE&ED and PMR
C	Evaluations					
C-1	Mid Term Evaluation					UNDP / EU

Annex 2: Progress against Log Frame

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
Overall Objective							
	Enabling environment for local development, contributing to the achievement of local MDG targets in the CHT by end 2013 promoted	<p>Measurable progress in achieving local MDG targets.</p> <p>Both targets and indicators will be established at District and Upazila by end of 2nd quarter of 2011 through MDG Assessment</p>	-	Annual MDG Assessment report in 25 Upazila; Bureau of Statistics data		-	During this reporting period, three MDG localization and acceleration workshops were organized in three districts and four thematic task forces were formed in each district to select the indicators and targets at District and Upazila.
Specific Objectives							
1	CHT Institutions have increased capacity to deliver services and support community development	142 CHT institutions have improved institutional and functional capacities to plan and deliver local services and drive development in their constituencies according to local priorities and evidence based needs	The institutions have less institutional and functional capacities to plan and deliver local services	LGI Assessment report MDG Assessment report Community Score Card/HH Survey	MoCHTA and relevant line ministries provide support to CHT institutions to deliver services and coordinate development; CHT institutions commitment to improve service delivery at local level is sustained	-	During this reporting period, 3 HDCs and 2 Circle Offices completed capacity assessments. Based on the findings of capacity assessments, 3 HDCs have initiated to develop capacity development strategy, a long-term capacity development plan with identified areas of intervention, benchmarks and indicators.
		25% increase in HH satisfied with services and economic opportunities provided by local government institutions	N/A			-	Progress could not be measured yet but will be measured through a HH survey within 2 nd quarter 2012
2	Local organizations and Communities empowered to manage their	3500 PDC have increased institutional and functional capacities to manage development within their communities by 2013	During inception, PDC have no institutional and functional	PDC Survey HH Survey	PDCs represent and are supported by the community and	84% PDCs have Para development plan; 92% PDCs developed Project	These figures are derived from Annual M&E data collection survey 2011. However, the comprehensive PDC

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
	own development		capacities to manage their development initiatives.		institutions Benefits of development projects are sustained	management rules; 85% PDCs have developed fund management rules; 93% PDCs have developed savings management rules; 87% PDCs are able to conduct meeting and make their decisions without support from others; 72% PDCs can write meeting minutes; 86% PDCs can deal with bank independently i.e can communicate, maintain their savings, withdraw money from bank;	institutional survey will be held in 2012 which will provide more detail information on it.
		40,000 HH members have improved living conditions in 2013 against 2010 baseline (against selected local MDG indicators and other quality of life indicators to be selected by communities	-			-	Progress could not be measured yet but will be measured through a HH survey within 2 nd quarter 2012
	Expected Results						
1.1	Capacities of local government institutions to advocate on CHT issues strengthened, in particular	MoCHTA has convened/ facilitated 2 high profile campaigns on CHT issues, involving key government and non government stakeholders	Before 2011, no high profile visits were undertaken lead by MoCHTA	Minutes of Meetings Media reports Advocacy materials LGI Assessment	Government is committed to the implementation of the Peace Accord Political	-	In 2011, one high profile visit was conducted in Bandarban, CHT lead by MoCHTA to discuss the issues on CHT to be included in the Five Year Plan.

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
	implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, resulting in enhanced clarity and consensus on CHT issues			report	environment remains stable		<p>In addition a high profile dialogue was held in September 2011 in Rangamati on "Harmonization of laws of the Hill District Councils (HDCs) and other Local Government Institutions" to enhance clarity on roles and responsibilities of HDCs and LGI agreed on.</p> <p>In the first quarter of 2012, several high level exposure visits in CHT were conducted with CHTDFD support such as MoCHTA Minister, Secretary, Dep/Joint Secretaries; Prime Minister's Special Advisor, Chief Justice, European Union Ambassador and representatives, CIDA representative, MoCHTA and ICIMOD joint mission, UN Resident Coordinator and other government senior officials.</p>
		MoCHTA has presented 2 proposals, together with implementation budgets to line ministries on relevant models of service delivery for CHT	N/A			-	Preparatory steps only have been taken at this stage of the project phase
1.2	Capacities of Local Government Institutions in the	HDCs have strategic, evidence based, Service Plans in place at District and Upazila level	Service Plans is not in place	Minutes of Meetings Government Orders	MoCHTA takes the lead in coordinating programs and	-	This institutional capacity assessment of 3 HDCs and 3 Circle offices during the reporting period

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
	CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery	formulated through stakeholder participation.		SWAP/ADP Service plans in place LGI Assessment report PDC Survey	projects in the CHT MoCHTA enable local institutions to carry out comprehensive district and Upazila based service planning		provided the baseline information in all core areas to assess the capacities of the institutions. On the basis of this information HDCs developed output statements and indicators to develop the long term CD plan. HDCs will implement their CD Plan through CHTDF CD Grant.
		Line departments have increased the frequency and quality of support provided to local government	N/A	Government reports	CHT institutions (including traditional institutions) are committed to deliver quality services and implement development	All the relevant line departments have been providing their support as required to the local government.	
1.3	Participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring mechanisms among CHT institutions enhanced to contribute towards achievement of MDGs	Development Coordination Committees (DCC) established at District (3), Upazila (25) and Union (111) level and meeting regularly	No Development Coordination Committees established at district, Upazila and union	MDG Reports Minutes of meetings Development Plans LGI Assessment report	MDG assessments are based on up to date and accurate data. CHT institutions are committed to an inclusive bottom-up participatory planning process Plans are sufficiently strategic enough to target and	-	Concept paper on CHT development coordination committees is developed. It was discussed in TAC meeting as an important agenda. TAC has agreed to propose changes in Government circulars in specifically inclusion of traditional leader's representatives in UzDCC & UDCC and inclusion of regional council member and circle chief in DDCC. A concept paper on CHT development coordination committee and draft letter was sent to MoCHTA for proposed changes in

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
					achieve MDG priorities		Government circulars in order to take specific CHT context.
		MDG assessments undertaken and targets set at District and Upazila level in 3 Hill Districts and 25 Upazila	MDG assessments were not undertaken earlier			Three MDG localization and acceleration workshops organized in three districts and four thematic task forces have been formed in each district in 2011.	
		Evidence based Development Plans at District, Upazila and Union level formulated through stakeholder participation	MDG based plan is not developed at District, Upazila and Union level			Planning guideline developed and planning process has been started to develop MDG based development plan at 3 district and 25 Upazilas.	
		Monitoring and Evaluation Systems at District, Upazila and Union level established, particularly their contribution to MDGs (disaggregated by gender)	M&E system at District, Upazila and Union level is not in place particularly contribute to MDGs			District level monitoring and evaluation system has been established at 3 HDCs but yet to be at Upazila and union level.	
2.1	Communities are empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects	By 2013 1,000 community groups in 25 Upazila contributes to (or participates directly in) service planning, targeting and utilization of local government resources for development	Community groups directly not participated of local government resources for development	UDCC Meeting Minutes, participation list	UDCC represent fully their constituencies - at least 10 community groups on each committee	-	Preparatory activities only have been achieved at this stage of the project phase

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
		450 PDC in 45 Pilot Union jointly implementing development projects by 2013	Up to now, no communities jointly implemented development projects	Union Grant Register	PDCs are willing to work cooperatively	-	Preparatory activities such as stakeholder consultation process completed, concepts & operational manual for area based development schemes.
2.2	Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and local services	Number of HH taking advantage of government and/or NGO support mechanisms (training, advice, extension services, grant, loans etc) increased by 25% by end of 2013, against 2010 baseline	Not available	HH Survey	HH are aware on their rights and the availability of government and/or NGO support and have access to local services	17,379 HHs took advantage of government and/or NGO support mechanisms (training, advice, extension services, grant, loans etc) in 2011. However the household survey will provide clear information on it.	
		Number of HH with increased access to local services and economic opportunities resulting from public investments at Union level (Target:18,720)	Not applicable. HH get access to local services and economic opportunities from the schemes that will be undertaken at Union Parishad & Upazila Parishad and HDC	HH Survey		-	Preparatory activities such as stakeholder consultation process completed, concepts & operational manual developed both for local government institutions and communities (for area based development schemes).
		Actual quantifiable service infrastructure maintained, upgraded and provided in support of improved local service delivery (e.g. instillation of tube wells, no. community schools upgraded to meet GoB	No service infrastructures maintained and upgraded as these schemes will be under taken and maintained by	Hill District Council, Upazila and Union Parishad Reports	Union Block Grants will be used effectively to increase access to local services, create		Preparatory activities were undertaken. These include as stakeholder consultation process completed, concepts & operational manual developed (for area based development schemes).

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
		registration criteria, no. of health clinics upgraded with facilities for emergency delivery, improved facilities in bazaar areas) (Target:300)	the PIC under Area Based Development Initiatives		employment opportunities, increase farm production and farm profits, and stimulate economic growth in the CHT		
		Actual quantifiable productive infrastructure maintained, upgraded and provided in support of value chain upgrading (e.g. km of road upgraded, ha irrigation provided, mt storage etc) (Target: 12)	No productive infrastructures maintained and upgraded as these schemes will be under taken and maintained by the PIC under Area Based Development Initiatives			-	Preparatory activities only have been achieved at this stage of the project phase.
		No. of workdays/temporary jobs created for women/men as a result of employment intensive infrastructure, agriculture or other Union financed development project (Target: 196,000)	No temporary jobs created. These will be created through Area Based Development Initiatives			-	Preparatory works like stakeholder consultation workshops initiated, concepts & guideline developed for area based development schemes.
		No. of permanent jobs created for women/men as a result of sustained District, Upazila, Union or PDC investment in local services (Target: 98)	No permanent jobs created for women/men			-	Preparatory activities only have been achieved at this stage of the project phase

Annex 3- Visibility materials



2012



বৈচিত্র্যের বিকাশেই ঐক্যের বন্ধন

Unity in Diversity

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh



Sam Baita, 11 years old, Bangladesh

February

2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29										

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh



www.chtdf.org





Cultural Diversity Festival: Building Bridges for Amity and Development

In different parts of Bangladesh, there are various ethnic groups that have maintained their distinct identities and cultures vis-à-vis the Bengalis. Though relatively small in numbers compared to the Bengalis, these ethnic groups collectively represent an immense range of cultural diversity. However, rather than simply representing cultural diversity, these ethnic groups since time immemorial have also taken active part in the formation of the socio-economic and political history of the country. Ethnic



Inside this Issue

Cultural Diversity Festival: Building Bridges for Amity and Development... 1

In Focus ... 2

Inauguration Ceremony ...
Cultural Diversity fair and Cultural ...
Children's Art Competition...
Evenings were adorned with colorful ...

Stories on the Ground... 5

International Volunteers Day...
Three HDCs and CHTDF working together ...
Local government officials in Sylhet...

Case Study ... 8

Khumi Women for ensuring Safe Motherhood

groups such as the Santal, Hajong, Garos and others have been in the forefront of anti-colonial and anti-feudal struggles of this part of the subcontinent. In fact, the emergence of the modern Bengalis and of their language and culture owe a lot to the coming together of many ethnic groups such as the minority ethnic groups of today. Thus it goes without saying that the cultural diversity of various ethnic groups of Bangladesh is truly an integral part of the national heritage of this country, and that valuing and nurturing this diversity means promoting a common national heritage. It is in the light of such understanding that the Ministry of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, supported by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility of UNDP, took the lead in organizing the Cultural Diversity Festival 2011 in Dhaka from December 4-9.

This year's Cultural Diversity Festival is the fifth edition of an annual event in Dhaka that CHTDF started in 2007. Each year, the festival starts on or around December 2, the anniversary of the signing of the historical CHT Accord of 1997. As is well known, the CHT region underwent more than 25 years of conflict when it was left out of the mainstream of development. After the CHT accord, many development partners responded positively to the government's call for assisting in the development of the region. In this context, much of the development assistance to the region was provided through UNDP's Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility, which was formed in 2003.

The main objective of the Cultural Diversity Festival is to create awareness about ethnic and cultural diversity in the CHT, and in

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http://www.chdi.org/bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme, Bangladesh

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Economic Development



"The push to get the program to be made an environment of business for private and social enterprise is a health transformation."

News Update ...

CHDI in Progress (Oct 2011)



Read more...

CHDI in Progress (Oct 2011)

Mr. Tahirul Karim, Director General, High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Dhaka, visited CHDI on 14-15 January 2012.

Read more...

CHDI in Progress (Oct 2011)

Read more...

Events Calendar

February 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

Key Documents

CHDI Fact Sheet

[CHDI Report 2010](#)

Project Location



United Nations Development Programme-Bangladesh
Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in Chittagong Hill Tracts

 **ANNUAL
REPORT
2010**
Bangladesh



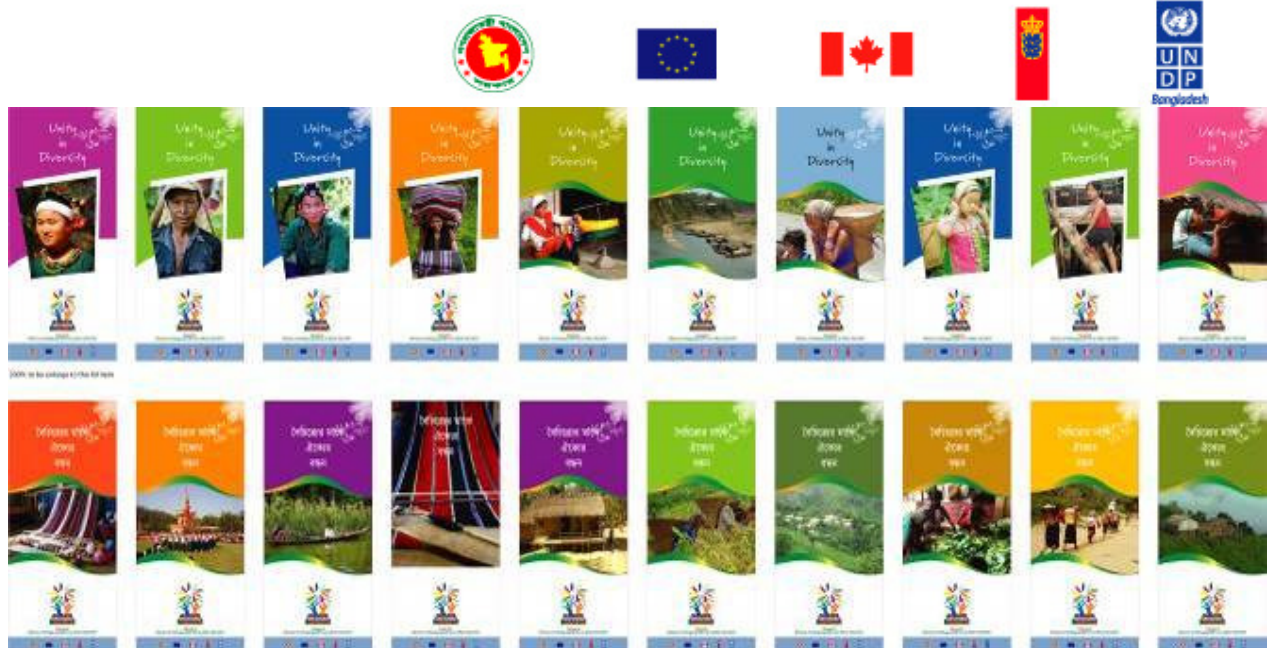
Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF)





T-shirt Design

বৈচিত্র্যের মাঝে ঐক্যের বন্ধন
Unity in Diversity



বৈচিত্র্যের মাঝে ঐক্যের বন্ধন
Unity in Diversity



আয়োজনে
পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
সহযোগিতা
পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম উন্নয়ন ফান্ডেশন, ইউএনডিপি



সাংস্কৃতিক বৈচিত্র্য উৎসব ২০১১
স্মরণিকা



Souvenir Cover



বৈচিত্র্যের মাঝে ঐক্যের বন্ধন Unity in Diversity



৫ম সাংস্কৃতিক বৈচিত্র্য উৎসব '১১

০৫ - ০৯ ডিসেম্বর
বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমী
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০



চিত্র প্রদর্শনী ও
হস্তশিল্প মেলা

সকাল ১০:০০ - রাত ৮:০০



সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান ও
নাট্যোৎসব

সন্ধ্যা ৬:৩০ - রাত ৮:৩০



আয়োজনে

পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

সহায়তায়

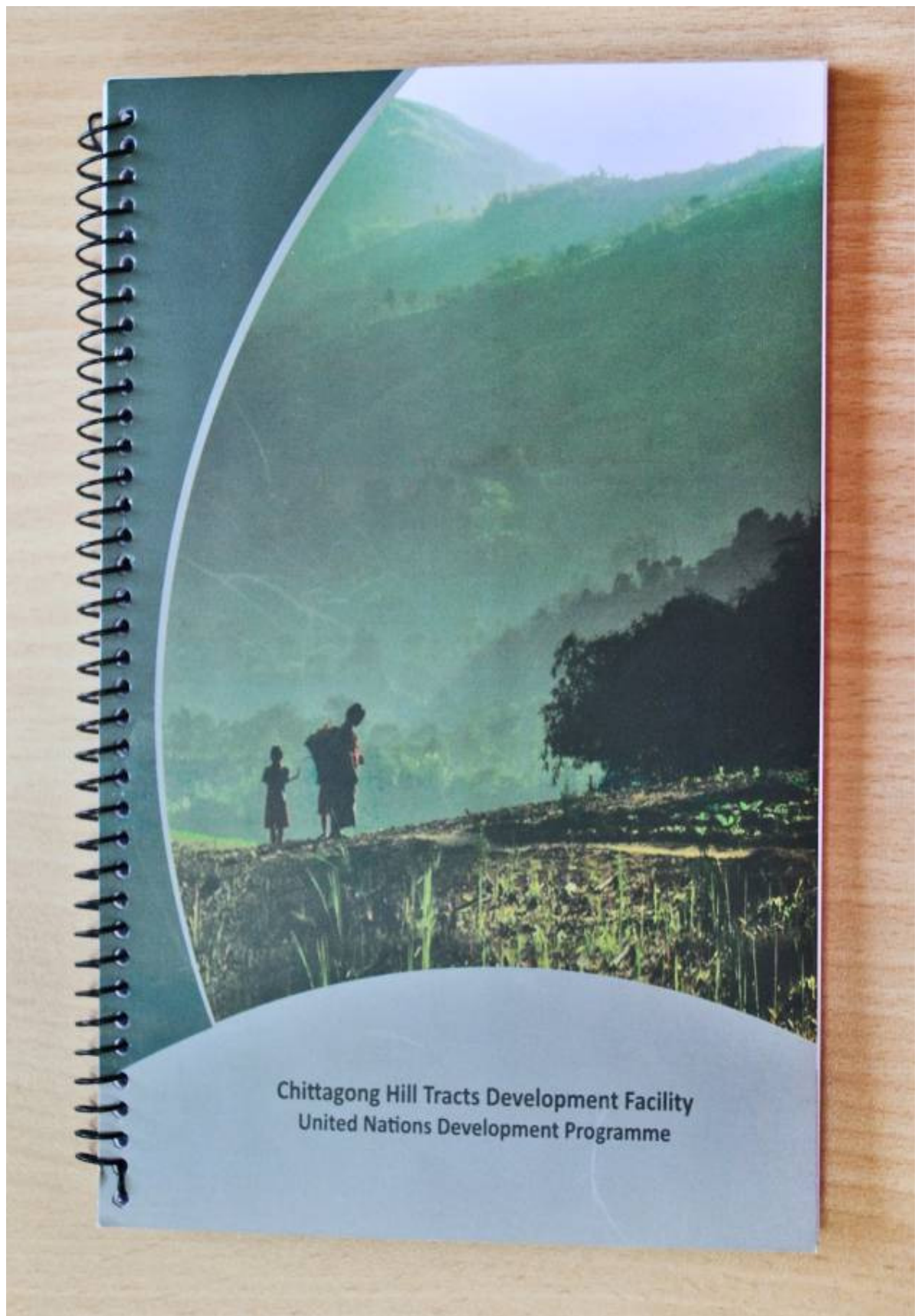
পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম উন্নয়ন ফ্যাসিলিটি, ইউএনডিপি









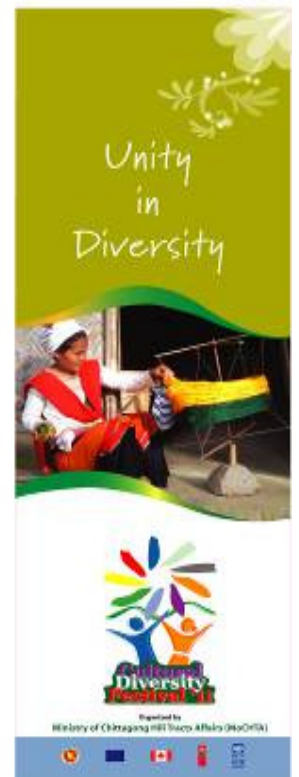
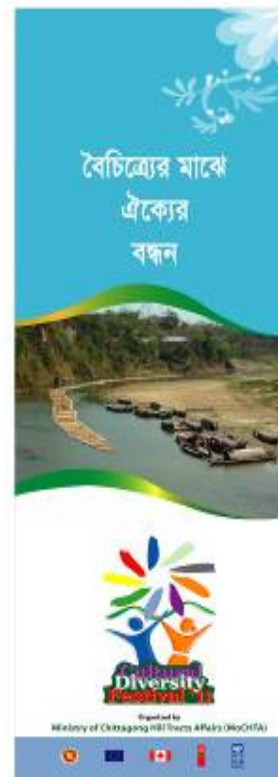
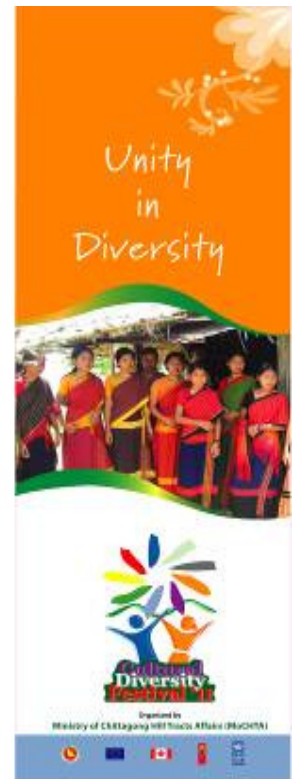
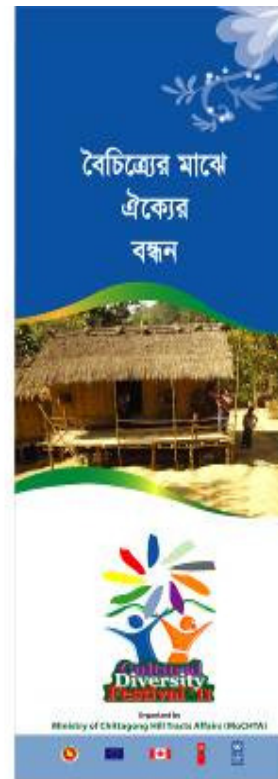








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Leaflet

বৈচিত্র্যের মাঝে ঐক্যের বন্ধন Unity in Diversity



৫ম সাংস্কৃতিক বৈচিত্র্য উৎসব '১১

০৫ - ০৯ ডিসেম্বর
বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমী
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০



চিত্র প্রদর্শনী ও
হস্তশিল্প মেলা

সকাল ১০:০০ - রাত ৮:০০



সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান ও
নাট্যোৎসব

সন্ধ্যা ৬:৩০ - রাত ৮:৩০



আয়োজনে

পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

সহায়তায়

পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম উন্নয়ন ফ্যাসিলিটি, ইউএনডিপি



<p>Programme Schedule</p> <p>03.00 - 03.30 : Guests take their seats</p> <p>04.00 : Arrival of the Honorable Chief Guest Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and traditional reception</p> <p>04.05 : Honorable Chief Guest and Special Guests take their seats on stage</p> <p>04.10 : Welcome Speech by the Secretary in-charge, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs</p> <p>04.15 - 04.25 : Speeches by the Special Guests Neal Walker, Resident Coordinator, UN, Bangladesh William Hanna, Ambassador, Head of Delegation, European Union Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma, Chairman, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Premade Marikán, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Cultural Affairs Abdul Kalam Azad, MRE, Minister, Ministry of Information & Ministry of Cultural Affairs Syeda Neelofa Chowdhury, MRE, Deputy Leader of Bangladesh Parliament & Convenor, CHT Accord Implementation Committee</p> <p>04.30-04.40 : Speech by the Chair Dipankar Talukder, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs</p> <p>04.40 - 04.45 : Presentation of Crest & Traditional CHT Dress to the Honorable Chief Guest</p> <p>04.45 : Speech by the Chief Guest Sheikh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</p> <p>04.50 : Formal Inauguration of the Festival</p> <p>04.55 : Chief Guest and all Special Guests take their seats at the audience</p> <p>05.00 - 05.30 : Traditional cultural performances</p> <p><small>Note : Guests are requested to bring this card (which is non-transferable) and not to carry any bag, camera, cellular phone and any electronic device</small></p>	<p>The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs requests the honour of your presence in the Inauguration Ceremony of Cultural Diversity Festival '11 to be held on December 04, 2011 at 4:00 pm at the Osmari Memorial Auditorium, Dhaka.</p> <p>Sheikh Hasina Honorable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has kindly consented to grace the occasion as Chief Guest</p> <p>Deputy Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, MP Deputy Leader of Bangladesh Parliament & Convenor of CHT Accord Implementation Committee</p> <p>Mr. Abdul Kalam Azad, MP, Minister, Ministry of Information & Ministry of Cultural Affairs Mr. Premade Marikán, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Cultural Affairs Mr. Jyotindra Bodhipriya Larma, Chairman, CHT Regional Council Mr. William Hanna, Ambassador, Head of Delegation, European Union Mr. Neal Walker, Resident Coordinator, UN, Bangladesh will be present as Special Guests in the Inaugural session</p> <p>Mr. Dipankar Talukder, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs will chair the Inaugural Session.</p> <p>With warm regards, Naba Bikram Khosro Tripathi, nba Secretary in-charge Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs</p>
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Invitation card

<p>The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs requests the honour of your presence at the Opening Ceremony of Handicrafts Fair and Art Exhibition to be held as part of the Cultural Diversity Festival '11 on December 05, 2011 at 4:00 pm at the Bangladesh Academy, Dhaka.</p> <p>Guests of Honor Honorable Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will be present as Special Guest in the opening ceremony</p> <p>Mr. Dipankar Talukder, MP State Minister, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs will chair the Inaugural Session</p> <p>With warm regards, Naba Bikram Khosro Tripathi, nba Secretary in-charge Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs</p>	<p>Programme Schedule</p> <p>03.00 - 03.30 : Arrival of guests</p> <p>03.30 - 04.15 : Minister Speech on the Secretary in-charge, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs</p> <p>04.15 - 04.25 : Speech by the Chief Guest</p> <p>04.25 - 04.30 : Speech by the Chair</p> <p>04.30 - 04.40 : Speech by the Chair Dipankar Talukder, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs</p> <p>04.40 - 04.45 : Speech by the Chief Guest Sheikh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</p> <p>04.45 - 04.50 : Inauguration of the Festival</p> <p>04.50 - 05.00 : Traditional cultural performances</p> <p>05.00 - 05.30 : Traditional cultural performances</p>
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Invitation Card Opening Ceremony

Annex-4 Detailed financial statement