

# **United Nations Development Programme – Bangladesh**

## **Progress Report on**

### **Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts**

**DCI-ASIE/2011/266-983**

**(1 May 2013 –26 January 2014)**



**Report prepared for the European Union**

**Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF)  
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*Empowered Lives.  
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## Acronyms

ABDI	Area Based Development Initiative
BHDC	Bangladesh Hill District Council
CB	Confidence Building
CBO	Community-based Organization
CD	Capacity Development
CE	Community Empowerment
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHTDF	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility
CHSW	Community Health Services Workers
CHTPMA	Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Maker Alliance
CHTRC	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSBA	Community Skilled Birth Attendant
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DCI	Direct Calorie Intake
ED	Economic Development
EPI	Expanded Programme of Immunization
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmers Field School
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HDC	Hill District Council
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	International Displaced Person
IGA	Income Generating Activity
ILO	International Labor Organization
KHDC	Khagrachari Hill District Council
LED	Local Economic Development
LoA	Letter of Agreement
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MPCC	Multi-Purpose Community Center
MoCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PA	Policy and Advocacy
PDC	Para/Para Development Committee
PIC	Project Implementation Committee

PMR	Planning Monitoring Reporting Unit
PMO	Prime Minister Office
PNDG	Para/Village Nari Development Group
QIF	Quick Impact Fund
RC	CHT Regional Council
REDD	Reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation
RHDC	Rangamati Hill District Council
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UDDC	Union Development Coordination Committee
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
UzDCC	Upazila/Sub-district Development Coordination Committee
UzAC	Upazila/Sub-district Advisory Committee
UzST	Upazila/Sub-district Support Team
VCF	Village Common Forest

## 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
- 1.6.1 Start date and end date of action: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 and 30 September 2015
- 1.6.2 Reporting period: 1 May 2013 –26 January 2014
- 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 Upazila 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.
- 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

A Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord signed in December 1997 ended the decades-long insurgency, allowing for the recognition of the rights of the peoples and tribes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region which is home to both 11 distinctive indigenous groups and Bengalis. Relevant government institutions have been established in the CHT, including the Regional Council and the three Hill District Councils (HDCs) to support this peace process, representing the interests of the ethnically diverse population and to adapt national policies and programmes to local conditions. However, the implementation of the Peace Accord has remained partial, and peace consolidation continues to be fragile in the CHT. CHT institutions still face enormous challenges in delivering services and development assistance to the CHT people.

“Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)” has been initiated by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh with principal financial support from the European Union (EU). The project implementation began in January 2011 with initial implementation timeframe up to September 2013. In November 2012, a 2-year no-cost-extension was granted in order to respond to the difficulty in operationalization of the originally proposed implementation modality. With this extension, the implementation timeframe was revised up to September 2015.

The overall objective of the project is to promote an enabling environment for local development, contributing to the achievement of local Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets in the CHT. The project addresses capacity development of CHT government institutions to support local development and MDG acceleration, thereby addressing the ownership and sustainability of the CHT peace and development results. At the community level, community-based organizations, namely *Para* (village) Development Committees (PDCs) and *Para Nari* (women) Development Groups (PNDGs) which were formed and mobilized by the CHTDF in earlier periods are contributing to the local development in the CHT.

Below summarizes the interventions undertaken during this reporting period, and progress made towards the 5 key expected results of the project.

### **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 project continued to support the CHT institutions to advocate for the implementation of Peace Accord. During the reporting period, the project expanded its engagement with a wider range of stakeholders to support this process. 16 policy dialogues and round table discussions were facilitated on CHT issues, resulting in key policy level changes.

Firstly, continuous dialogues with the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), and Police Headquarter (PHQ) resulted in the Government’s commitment to transfer 1500 tribal/indigenous police personnel to the CHT who are currently deployed outside. As of now, 212 indigenous police personnel have already been transferred to all 27 police stations of the CHT since 2012, including one Additional Superintendent Police, bringing Indigenous Person to the leadership of the Bangladesh police in the CHT. Ultimately, the government aims to have half of the region’s 7,137 member police force come from the same region<sup>1</sup>. This change has significant impact in increasing the confidence of indigenous/ tribal peoples in the law and justice system of this region.

Secondly, the draft amendment of Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Disputes Resolution Commission Act 2013 was approved by the Cabinet and put before the parliament in June 2013 as a result of strong advocacy and technical support provided by the project. A commitment was also made by the Prime Minister Office to have a time-bound implementation plan for the CHT Peace Accord. The Facility continues to work with the Technical Working Group of the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People to produce a detailed action plan for the Accord Implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Inter-ministerial meeting held at Prime Minister Office, Dhaka

Thirdly, as a result of strong advocacy efforts, for the first time, traditional leaders (headmen and karbaries) in the CHT have become the members of government local development committees (Union Development Coordination Committee) as formalized in a government circular.

Fourthly, the project advocacy work resulted in a decision by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in mid-2013 to finance major components of the HDC-managed health services (operation costs of 863 CHSWs and 160 Community Skilled Birth Attendants (CSBAs)) through the Ministry's Tribal Health Plan. This means that the innovative health service delivery model developed with the EU funding will be mainstreamed into the national financing process, thereby addressing the financial sustainability of the HDC managed health services beyond the lifespan of the project.

At the local level, the sense of peace consolidation felt by the CHT peoples is improving. The household survey conducted by the project in 2013 sampling more than 2500 households in the CHT reveals that 65% of them could move outside of their own village confidently, whereas this was 34.5% before the CHT Peace Accord. Similarly, 74% can now comfortably carry on daily business whereas this was 65% before the Accord period. However, there is a need to retain focus on monitoring security situations in the hill districts as violent incidents continue to take place across the CHT area. This includes the violent communal attack taken place in August 2013 in Taindong of Khagrachari Hill District, affecting over 2000 indigenous/tribal people. The project played a key coordination and advocacy role in this regard to launch early recovery interventions for the affected communities including leading the joint needs assessment undertaken by the UN agencies.

The project also engaged with partners and CHT institutions such as Regional Council (RC) and Circle Offices (CHT traditional leaders) to organize public meetings and dialogues for raising awareness on the Accord. Around 650 traditional leaders (headmen and karbaries) were capacitated on subjects such as land management and measurement, customary law which are core mandates of the traditional leaders. Moreover, as part of the project, through a partnership agreement, ILO promoted CHT issues in an innovate way - a live talk show was broadcasted countrywide through ABC Radio to promote Indigenous People's rights among general public and stakeholders.

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

The project continues to support the decentralized service delivery system of the local government institutions. Locally adapted agricultural strategies have been developed by the HDCs with the technical support of the project in partnership with the FAO to accelerate decentralized service models. Moreover, during this reporting period, technical and grant support to 25 Upazila and 118 Union Parishads of CHT was initiated following the capacity assessment of each Union and Upazila. Support to MoCHTA, 3 HDCs and 3 Circle offices continued in parallel, particularly with regard to implementation of multi-year capacity development plans which aim to address the core areas of institutional and organizational weakness such as financial management, revenue collection, advocacy, communication and monitoring etc. Now, a communication plan has been put in place in respective HDCs. A significant increase in the revenue collection by HDC was recorded during 2012 and 2013. Khagrachari HDC increased its source of revenue by 18%. Rangamati and Bandarban HDC saw similar increase: 13% and 10% respectively. The revised organograms drafted by the HDCs are now submitted to the MoCHTA for final approval. Moreover, HDCs' e-management system has been improved; 3 HDCs have LAN system in place; more than 60% circulars such as opportunities, tenders, office documents, notice etc. were uploaded on their website; and about 80% HDC staffs have now been able to operate ICT equipment (fax, computer, photocopier, internet etc.)<sup>2</sup>. Similar ICT support outcome has been felt in the MoCHTA.

During this reporting period, support to HDCs for police began to enhance the overall governance and rule of law in the CHT. 7 policing posts were renovated, and reactivation of community policing forums began. The community police forums, once activated, will receive grants to manage their safety and security initiatives. Policing is one of the 33 subjects of jurisdiction that are supposed to be transferred to HDCs according to the Peace Accord, although the actual transfer has not been materialized. The

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<sup>2</sup> HDCs' internal survey, 2013

capacity building of HDCs in this regard will enable the smooth transfer of the subject when this is materialized.

The development grants under the project have enabled HDCs to deliver development services in functional areas transferred to them. The operation of HDC managed health services continued for example. In 2013 alone, nearly 400,000 patient cases were treated, through an operation of 863 Community Health Service Workers (CHSWs) including 158 Community Skilled Birth Attendant (CSBA), 16 mobile medical teams and 78 weekly satellite clinics. The continued support to the HDC managed services has clearly brought changes to the lives of CHT peoples. According to the household survey 2013, women who were assisted by medically skilled birth attendants during last delivery increased from 12% in 2008 to 22.5% in 2013. Number of malaria cases dropped significantly among the total patient cases from 12.8% (in 2006) to 1.3% (in 2013). Child immunization coverage on various diseases reached above 90%<sup>3</sup>. All these outcomes inform the effectiveness of the HDC managed health services supported by the project.

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

The ability of CHT institutions to plan and monitor development activities in the CHT is considered crucial for ensuring sustainable peace and strong development results in the CHT. In this regard, the project aims to support the capacity of CHT institutions to better plan and monitor their development activities, notably setting localized Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the CHT and manage the local MDG monitoring process. Accordingly, the project supported the formulation of district-based MDG master acceleration frameworks following the globally-tested methodology of UNDP MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF). Now the district based MDG acceleration master plans are in place in all three hill districts and under implementation. A series of workshops involving over 1000 participants were held in respective districts to ensure orientation and necessary actions from all stakeholders. Based on the master plan addressing MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Khagrachari and Rangamati districts have started developing annual activity plans in sectors of fisheries, agriculture, and skill development for employment, social safety net, and nutrition. Similarly, based on their master MDG acceleration plan on MDG -2: Achieve universal primary education, Bandarban district has drafted activity plans in areas of early & pre-primary education, Multi-Language Education (MLE) and non-formal education for implementation. HDCs and other local government institutions in the hill districts such as Union and Upaizila Parishads are working together to implement coordinated annual activity plans. In this process, the project ensured the plans are well defined and realistic, through facilitating the discussion on district-based expert core groups, assisted by international and national experts. This process is providing opportunities for the CHT institutions to jointly report on the development changes that are taking place in their respective districts, thereby enhancing the overall governance and monitoring capacity of the districts. Momentum created by the MDG acceleration intervention, in bringing together the development actors for joint action and achieving joint results, will support these actors to continue their efforts in achieving the post 2015 development goals.

The **second specific project objective** is: **“Local organizations and communities empowered and their capacity enhanced to manage their own development”**. Majority of the planned activities are on track to achieve the expected results.

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

The support to CHT communities continued during this reporting period. 3,257 communities have now been managing their own development affairs through Para Development Committees (PDCs) and Para Nari Development Groups (PNDGs) to influence local government development and service delivery. Organizational and financial capacity of PDC and PNDG have been strengthened; at present 94% of PDCs maintained savings register and 90% maintained general leader properly. The communities have accumulated community assets worth of USD 15.8m in present value, in addition to a saving of USD 5.4m made in banks due to their successful capital investment/regeneration of small scale projects.

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<sup>3</sup> Household survey in the CHT, 2013



While the direct support to the individual PDCs was completed as of Sep 2013, the project continues to observe regular PDC and PNDG activities. During the reporting period, 98% PDCs and 96% PNDGs conducted their monthly meeting to regularly update their documents, records and collect monthly savings. There is also a good indication of participatory monitoring activities. According to the project Annual M&E database 2013, about 68% of PDCs monitor and evaluate their project activities; about 78% of PDCs have adapted unity and inclusive leadership; 89% took decisions; and 92% dealt with banks independently. Furthermore, a total of 4,409 community people collectively participated in the services and resources planning meetings of Union Parishad and raised their voices in the higher administrative forums to address development and service gaps felt by the communities.

The direct support to individual PDCs has been replaced with the support to the clusters of PDCs to bring about larger development results, impacting multiple communities. Through a series of joint planning workshops, the networks of PDCs have collectively formulated 237 local economic development projects, namely the Area Based Development Initiatives (ABDI) in the areas of communication, education, marketing infrastructure, water and sanitation, and agriculture.

Another work which the project engaged in the reporting period was development of a sustainability strategy for 3,257 PDCs to take corrective actions and formulate programmatic areas of focus to achieve sustainability of PDCs beyond the lifespan of the project. The draft plan includes a possibility of deeper and wider engagements with both government and private sectors and of formal recognition of PDCs. The implementation of the sustainability strategy will start in 2014.

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

As reported in the previous progress report, the Household survey conducted by the project captures strong development outcomes of the project. Average number of food deficiency month of target households reduced from 2.7 months in 2008 to 1.2 months in 2013, recording a 56% reduction after project interventions. Similarly, average per capita daily food energy intake of target households shows progress, from 1,797 kilo-calorie in 2008 to 2,033 kilo-calorie in 2013. The poverty indicator by Direct Calorie Intake (DCI) method captures reduction of absolute poor households from 75% in 2008 to about 60% in 2013.

Progress has also been made on pilot initiatives to enhance CHT value chains. During this reporting period, 1513 households of 67 banana producer groups obtained new knowledge on banana cultivation practices and adopted three indigenous and modern technologies, which reduced the post-harvest wastage of banana from 5% to 3%<sup>4</sup>. In addition, the project facilitated linkage buildings of a large number of public and private stakeholders. Field staffs of agriculture department are now providing technical advice to banana producers in line with the training modules developed under this project. The recent assessment on banana value chain shows that 82 percent of the producers have received technical advice whereas this was 25 percent before the interventions; and 62% of producers are satisfied with the advice they received in comparison to 5% before the interventions.

As a part of promoting alternative income generating initiatives, the mushroom producers (who received training from CHTDF) in Khagrachari has formed a mushroom growers association and established a mushroom spawn production and supply center with the project support so managing now entire supply chain. As a result, 121 mushroom growers now have stable local supply of spawns. During the reporting period, the centre produced 12,827 mushroom spawns.. In addition, the project continued to provide follow-up support to 16 weaver groups established by CHTDF to better market CHT weaving products. The annual M&E database indicates about 91% weaver groups established linkages with the CHT buyers and 38% with outside buyers. About 94% weaver groups maintained meeting minutes and resolution book, 63% weaver groups maintained Cash Book and 37% weaver groups maintained General Ledger properly.

### **Cross-Cutting Issues**

The project integrates gender, youth, peace-building, human rights, and environment as cross-cutting issues through mainstreaming and targeted approaches. Many development changes have taken place over the years of assistance in the CHT. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Women Organizations Network (CHTWON) supported by the project in previous years have now become a gender advocate and

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<sup>4</sup> Assessment of banana value chain upgrading initiative 2013

champion for promoting gender issues in the CHT and registered under the joint-stock company act of Bangladesh in 2013. A cadre of 47 peacemakers (34 women & 13 men) trained by the project are playing a pivotal role in promoting peace dialogues, conflict mediation and prevention of violence in the CHT, and have moved a step further to form CHT Peacemakers Alliance (CHTPMA) to undertake collective peace actions. In the reporting period, a total of 484 conflicts<sup>5</sup> were mediated by the 47 peacemakers through the existing arbitration process.

The project contributed to fostering local justice and peace by providing 82 traditional leaders and locally elected women members of Union Parishad with training on mediation skills and human rights in the traditional shalish (arbitration). Moreover, the project supported 98 youths including 50 girls through 'Sports for Peace' events where the youth participated in football matches as a means to build confidence across different ethnic divides. The local youth, considered as catalysts for change, were further supported through 36 inter-school and college level debate competitions organized by the project with involvement of 44 educational institutions in the CHT. Through the events, the youth were provided with a forum to voice their concerns and engage in constructive dialogues on important CHT issues.

Similarly, the project mainstreamed environment. At the national level, the government was supported to formulate Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) document on REDD+ programme, helping them get ready for a REDD+ mechanisms in Bangladesh. The support ensured that CHT indigenous people (IPs) participate and provide key insights to the documents given the relevance and importance of this programme in the CHT. At the local level, the environmental governance intervention began during this reporting period to increase capacity of communities to govern CHT ecosystems in a sustainable manner. 3 community-managed forests known as 'village common forests (VCF)' were established in the CHT and being managed by indigenous village leaders, enabling indigenous communities to improve livelihoods in a way that is sustainable and adaptive to climate change. Improved Cool-Stoves were provided for more than 200 VCF households in order to manage fuel in a more effective and sustainable way. Furthermore, a total of 43,738 indigenous tree seedlings were planted in the reporting period in the streamside plantation zones of 20 out of 25 Upazilas of CHT.

### **Major Challenges, Lessons Learned and Measures Taken**

During the reporting period, the project faced various challenges. The volatile national and regional political situations including continued and frequent hartals (general strikes) and extreme weather conditions such as heavy rainfall/flash flood affected implementation. In order to mitigate these challenges and accommodate new development, implementation plans were frequently revised. The downsizing of the support structure within the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) following the completion of PDC project support in September 2013 was also felt as challenge since majority of staffs needed to take on new responsibilities. Furthermore, completion of contracts with 13 local NGOs in September 2013 had an implication on the monitoring activities of the project. It meant a need for direct follow-ups of PDC and PNDG activities going forward by the CHTDF instead of the NGOs. In order to address this monitoring gap, the project planned and organized quarterly coordination meetings at union level instead of upazila level involving representatives of all PDCs within the union to hear updates directly from PDCs. Moreover, the pilot initiatives to enhance CHT value chain faced some challenges in getting necessary buy-in from the local government counterparts such as Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and upazila officials, causing some delays in implementation. Limited knowledge of state institutions on their roles for new business modeling meant a requirement for more meetings to explain the concept / methods and change their mindsets.

### **Project Expenditure**

The project incurred a total eligible expenditure of EURO 6,241,044 for this reporting period (1 May 2013 -26 January 2014). The cumulative eligible expenditure for the project stands at Euro 18,940,265.

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<sup>5</sup> The project indicators' tracking sheet

## I. Introduction

This third Progress Report for ‘Supporting Local Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)’ Project provides highlights of achievements for the period of May 2013 to Jan 2014. This project has been funded primarily by the European Union (EU) and being implemented by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh. The project implementation timeframe is from January 2011 up to September 2015.

### 1. 1 Objectives and Expected Results

The **overall objective of the project is to promote an enabling environment for local development, contributing to the achievement of local MDG targets in the CHT.** With this objective, the project addresses capacity development of CHT government institutions and communities to support local development and local MDG acceleration. At the community level, community-based organizations, namely *Para* (village) Development Committees (PDCs) and *Para Nari* (women) Development Groups (PNDGs) which were formed and mobilized by the CHTDF in earlier periods are contributing to the local development outcome of the project.

Two main objectives and 5 expected results are provided below.

**Objective 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.
- 1.2 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.

## II. Key Achievements and Results

**2.1 Specific objective-1: CHT institutions have increased capacity to deliver services and support community development**

**2.1.1 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 issue**

The project continued to support the CHT institutions to advocate for the implementation of Peace Accord. During the reporting period, the project expanded its engagement with a wider range of stakeholders to support this process. 16 policy dialogues and round table discussions were facilitated on CHT issues, resulting in key policy level changes.

Firstly, continuous dialogues with the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), and Police Headquarter (PHQ) resulted in the Government’s commitment to transfer 1500 tribal/indigenous police personnel to the CHT who are currently deployed outside. As of now, 212 indigenous police personnel have already been transferred to all 27 police stations of the CHT since 2012, including one Additional Superintendent Police, bringing Indigenous Person to the leadership of the Bangladesh police in the CHT. Ultimately, the government aims to have half of the region’s 7,137 member police force come from the same region. This change

has significant impact in increasing the confidence of indigenous/ tribal peoples in the law and justice system of this region.

Secondly, the draft amendment of Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Disputes Resolution Commission Act 2013 was approved by the Cabinet and put before the parliament in June 2013 as a result of strong advocacy and technical support provided by the project. A commitment was also made by the Prime Minister Office to have a time-bound implementation plan for the CHT Peace Accord. The Facility continues to work with the Technical Working Group of the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People to produce a detailed action plan for the Accord Implementation.

Thirdly, as a result of strong advocacy efforts, for the first time, traditional leaders (headmen and karbaries) in the CHT have become the members of government local development committees (Union Development Coordination Committee) as formalized in a government circular.

Fourthly, the project advocacy work resulted in a decision by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in mid-2013 to finance major components of the HDC-managed health services (operation costs of 863 CHSWs and 160 Community Skilled Birth Attendants (CSBAs)) through the Ministry's Tribal Health Plan. This means that the innovative health service delivery model developed with the EU funding will be mainstreamed into the national financing process, thereby addressing the financial sustainability of the HDC managed health services beyond the lifespan of the project.

At the local level, the sense of peace consolidation felt by the CHT peoples is improving. The household survey conducted by the project in 2013 sampling more than 2500 households in the CHT reveals that 65% of them could move outside of their own village confidently, whereas this was 34.5% before the CHT Peace Accord. Similarly, 74% can now comfortably carry on daily business whereas this was 65% before the Accord period. However, there is a need to retain focus on monitoring security situations in the hill districts as violent incidents continue to take place across the CHT area. This includes the violent communal attack taken place in August 2013 in Taindong of Khagrachari Hill District, affecting over 2000 indigenous/tribal people. The project played a key coordination and advocacy role in this regard to launch early recovery interventions for the affected communities including leading the joint needs assessment undertaken by the UN agencies.

The project also engaged with partners and CHT institutions such as Regional Council (RC) and Circle Offices (CHT traditional leaders) to organize public meetings and dialogues for raising awareness on the Accord. Around 650 traditional leaders (headmen and karbaries) were capacitated on subjects such as land management and measurement, customary law which are core mandates of the traditional leaders. Moreover, as part of the project, through a partnership agreement, ILO promoted CHT issues in an innovate way - a live talk show was broadcasted countrywide through ABC Radio to promote Indigenous People's rights among general public and stakeholders.

Activities undertaken during this reporting period are elaborated below.

#### **Activity-1.1.1 Advocacy Strategy on Confidence building**

##### **Training on policy advocacy**

During this reporting period, three batches of training on advocacy skills was conducted in three hill districts for a total of 98 participants (male-66, female-32) from CHT institutions (CHTRC, HDCs, traditional circle offices), CHT based CSOs, NGOs and the project staff. The objective was to enable CHT stakeholders to advocate effectively for Accord implementation (including formulation and amendment of policies). The module was developed by the project covering advocacy concepts, strategy, implementation tools and methods. The project focused on practicality including its focus on use of vocabulary, effective utilization of campaigns and media as tools for lobbying for key policy changes benefitting the CHT.

##### **Ethnic police transferred to CHT region**

Major progress has been made with regard to conflict sensitive policing in the CHT. Following a series of consultations with Police Headquarters and relevant ministries (MoHA, MoCHTA and PMO), a total of 212 ethnic police personnel of CHT origin who were previously deployed outside of the CHT were transferred back into all 27 police stations of the CHT. The immediate impact was felt among the communities; CHT ethnic communities are feeling more comfortable to visit police stations to seek

assistance and file cases. The government also made a commitment to transfer at least 1500 ethnic police to CHT, paying the way for a transfer of the police jurisdiction from the ministry to HDCs as per the provision of the CHT Accord.

### **Reformation of UDCC**

Union Development Coordination Committees (UDCC) is a local development forum where Union Parishad, NGOs, women representatives, school teachers, PDCs/PNDGs etc. come together to review collectively local development activities and monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery in respective Unions. During the reporting period, the strong advocacy work of the project resulted in reformation of 118 UDCC in the three districts of CHT to include traditional leaders (Karbaries and Headmen) as UDCC members for the first time.

### **Post Disaster Need Assessment at Taindong and Humanitarian assistance for victims**

During this reporting period, the security situations in the CHT remained volatile as symbolized by the incident of communal attack which took place in Taindong Union of Khagrachari Hill District, Aug 2013 affecting over 2000 indigenous/tribal people. The project played a key coordination and advocacy role to support the affected communities of the violent communal attack. The project led the UN inter-agency team to undertake a joint Post Disaster Need Assessment which fed effectively into the formulation of early recovery programme under the project. The major findings of the assessment are highlighted below;

- **Affected communities:** Chakma, Marma and Tripura are the most affected communities in this communal incidence. During the assessment, 24.4% members of the affected households were not living with their family members because of lack of security and in anticipation of further attack etc. More than 38% households were fully affected, about 35% households moderately and 21% households were partially affected. Chakma households were comparatively more affected (50% of them were fully affected) than other communities.
- **Repairing the damaged houses:** Only 10.4% households started building/repairing their houses and among those households, about 57% households started repairing houses with their own resources.
- **Access to health facilities reduced:** Before the incidence, 88.4% households had access to health facilities which was reduced to 47.7% after the incidence. Access to the UNDP health facilities was considerably reduced from 66.7% to 16.3%; Access to Government facilities reduced from 18.6% to 5.8%, and others from 28% to 16.3%. Most of the Community Health Services Workers of Hill District Council lost their medical instruments for health checkups at the community level which was the main reasons of reducing health services by UNDP.
- **Household affected by diseases:** 36% households reported that they were affected by Pneumonia as the incidence occurred during the rainy season and they had to stay in open places near border areas with India. 22% households were affected by reproductive tract infections, 9.3% by water-borne diseases and 3% by skin disease.
- **Children's education disrupted:** 46.5% households with school children reported that children were not going to school after the incidence. Lack of security and loss of educational materials due to torching were the main reasons. Among those who were not going to school, 78% children were staying with families and around 19% were assisting household work.
- **Household income reduced:** After the incidence households' income significantly reduced. 67.5% households were earning below Taka 3,000 per month which was only 17.5% before the incidence. The households which earned more than Taka 10,000 before the incidence was also reduced from 16.3% to 5%.
- **Damaged status:** An average financial value of household damage was Taka 224,590 which includes houses, agriculture seeds, equipment, grain and food stock, electronics and furniture, small business, cash and valuable items etc.
- **Food consumption decreased:** After the incidence, majority of affected households experienced food shortage. Around 50% households consumed less food (rice-48.5%, oil-49%, potato-58.3% and dry fish-61% hhs). Very few households (13%) had sufficient food. Among the household

members, 50% of the pregnant, lactating and adult females and 44% adult males did not consume full meals over past seven days before the data collection.

- **Priority ranked for normal life:** 88% of surveyed household wished for prioritizing safety and security measures to enable them to go back to their normal life. Food, cash and houses were priorities for 87.4%, 80% and 67% households respectively.

**Early recovery assistance for Taindong victims:** Based on the findings of the post-disaster need assessment, the project initiated early recovery interventions for Taindong victims and allocated US\$ 52,000 under the small grants support mechanism. The early recovery response focuses on livelihood support and social cohesion. The total allocated resources were disbursed into the community's bank account while ensuring the monitoring mechanism for effective use of funds. Two volunteers from the local community will be engaged for 1 year and have assumed their roles to support the committee leaders. Taindong Area Development Committee formed by a total of 902 households from affected communities procured winter blankets to support 38 affected families who lost their houses during the communal attack. They also procured rice through existing community rice banks enabling rice loans with little interest among those affected. A need assessment and site selection for installation of tube well and sanitary latrine were completed. The skill development training on tailoring, agriculture machinery repairing, and mobile phone repairing for the women and unemployed youths was initiated under the package support. The community people formed a purchase committee and purchased agricultural equipment and machineries with 100,000 Taka (USD 1,300). Furthermore, the poorest households have been identified for support on cattle rearing, piggery, goat rearing, local poultry, fish culture, and homestead gardening etc.

**Social capital assessment of CHT:** An in-depth study on Social Capital Assessment in CHT has been initiated in partnership with Peace and Conflict Studies Department of Dhaka University. This is the first time this type of study has been initiated in the CHT history. The study seeks to map out the source and actors of conflicts in the CHT and to set an early warning system for preventing potential conflicts. By doing so, it also aims to foster social cohesion and social capital (networks) among diverse actors in the CHT. Moreover, the study aims to identify entry points to strengthen and calibrate peace building interventions in the CHT. The data collection has been completed, and the report is currently being compiled.

#### **Activity-1.1.2 Inter-Ministerial Meetings**

During the reporting period, one inter-ministerial meeting on 'Operationalisation of Health Services Delivery by HDCs in CHT' was held chaired by Secretary of MoCHTA, attended by development partners, relevant ministries, and UN Agencies. The meeting took several decisions in terms of sustainability of Health programme supported under the project, which are: i) MoHFW provides salary support of CHSWs and CSBA as agreed by MoHFW in September 2013 by revising operational plan (OP)/ Project Implementation Plan (PIP) as soon as possible; ii) MoHFW provides medicines for CHSWs, CSBAs and mobile medical teams, especially anti-malarial drug and RDT; iii) HDCs accommodate CHSWs, CSBA and mobile medical teams in their future work plan; iv) USAID would seek confirmation from its relevant offices to explore if a stop-gap measure could be put in place for continuation of the much needed health programme constituting CHSWs, CSBAs and mobile medical teams; and v) MoCHTA will explore for sustainable solution on the issue for its own resources in future.

#### **Activity-1.1.3 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings**

A TAC meeting for Health was held for attaining consensus on national financing mechanism for HDCs managed health services. MoHFW informed of revising the operational plan (OP) to accommodate the fund required for salary support of CHSWs and CSBAs and other support to mobile medical teams under the ongoing sector program, Health Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP). The meeting also agreed to arrange another inter-ministerial meeting led by MoCHTA with participation of MoHFW for nailing down operational aspects of MoHFW's decision as of September 2013. Moreover, a concept paper for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on the project "Supporting local development in the CHT" was circulated to all TAC members for review.

### **Activity-1.1.6 Overseas study tours for government officials**

A study tour to Australia was conducted for 11 members of MoCHTA, HDCs, CHTRC and civil society organizations. The tour opened an opportunity for the members to learn about ways to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples including the use of legal safeguards and action measures. The visit is expected to help them identify key areas of interventions in their respective institutions.



**Study tour participants**

### **Activity-1.1.7 National dialogues on CHT issues**

During this reporting period, the project continued to support national level dialogues on the rights of indigenous peoples', CHT issues, and Peace Accord implementation. These included a meeting on 'CHT Peace Accord Status: High Level Policy Dialogue Outcomes' chaired by the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Issues to push for the time bound implementation of Peace Accord. In the meeting, the Foreign Advisor to the honorable Prime Minister, on behalf of the government, reassured the full implementation within the current term of the caretaker government.

The project effectively utilized media to draw attention to the Peace Accord implementation, and supported a press conference of the Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Regional Council to lobby for the amendment bill of the CHT Land Disputes Resolution Commission Act 2001. The bill was approved by the Cabinet in June 2013 and placed before the parliament, paving the way for land dispute resolution in the CHT. A conference organized by the Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Regional Council involving 70 participants from CHT and plain land indigenous platforms were another example of support; it enabled the participants to discuss and take actions on common indigenous issues.

The project expanded its support to other types of stakeholders to promote and protect rights of indigenous peoples' in Bangladesh. Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Issues and Research Development Collective (RDC) were supported to provide 2 (regional and national) consultation meetings for Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Rights Acts, enabling the project to engage in the consultation process of the draft Act before placement in the parliament during the tenure of the current caretaker government. The meetings were attended by more than 250 participants (male-148, female-102) including policy makers, members of the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples, representatives of both indigenous and mainstream communities.

Training on UN human rights instruments, national laws, and regulations of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was organized for a total of 44 high level government officers from Ministry of Land, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Army Headquarter, Bangladesh Police, CHT institutions and Upazila Nirbahi Offices in the CHT. Moreover, 35 women stakeholders in the CHT were given leadership training on basic human rights and women rights, aiming at enhancing women's leadership in human rights protection and promotion.

A study on harmonization of acts and laws of CHT began in order to reduce duplication and gaps in the current act and laws governing the CHT, and to include specific CHT governance structure in relevant national acts and policies. Based on the findings and recommendations of the study, a strategy will be formulated to operationalize the harmonization of laws and acts to enable better governance in the CHT.

### **Activity-1.1.9 Grants to CHT Institutions for advocacy actions**

#### **CHTRC organized public meeting on CHT Peace Accord**

Regional Council demonstrated its advocacy role for Accord implementation at various occasions. With the project support, CHTRC successfully organized several public meetings on peace, development and implementation status of the CHT Peace Accord. About 1600 participants (male-1344, female-256) including Social Welfare Officers, Upazila Chairmen, Upazila level different stakeholders, and representatives from RHDC, Union Parishad, Headman Network, and indigenous leaders participated in

these meetings. Another dialogue to mark the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CHT Accord was organized by RC, involving over 100 participants regionally. Further, the CHT Accord signing day '2<sup>nd</sup> December' observed in many places of the country including Dhaka enabled participation of over 200 participants to discuss and take action on the Accord implementation.

### **Building Capacity of Indigenous and Tribal People's Issues in Bangladesh**

The project effectively utilized UN inter-agency partnership with ILO to build the national level capacity to address and protect indigenous and tribal people's rights in Bangladesh. The intervention focused on advocacy towards the principles of ILO Conventions (C107, C169 and C111) and other instruments. A talk show on ABC radio - an innovative media tool was piloted to raise awareness on IP issues. A total of 24 episodes on 24 different topics of indigenous peoples' lives including CHT Accord, land rights of indigenous peoples, CHT land commission amendment act, indigenous culture were broadcasted receiving enormous responses from the audiences. A series of seminars and training to promote the indigenous peoples' rights were also organized including a review of the government's Sixth Five Year Plan on indigenous issues, meetings on CHT Administrative System and ILO C107 & C169, targeting hundreds of indigenous youths and elected grassroots ethnic indigenous leaders from the north-east Bangladesh, as well as more than 1700 CHT traditional leaders (headmen and karbaries) in 2 districts (Khagrachari and Bandarban).

### **Activity-1.1.10 Activities to promote CHT cultural diversity, including the Cultural Diversity Festival**

#### **Celebration of International Mountain Day**

The project supported the first initiative of the government and CHT institutions to observe the International Mountain Day. The main events included art competition, marathon, rally, discussion, film show, cultural show and stall exhibition. The program was considered an opportunity for shedding lights on hill tracts issues including their lives, environment, nature and problems. Good coverage was made by media on this event, indicating the level of success. CHT ethnic communities including Bawm, Pangkhua, Khiyang, Tripura, Marma and Chakma joined the event.



**Marathon and cultural programme on International Mountain Day**

### **2.1.2 Expected Result 1.2: Capacities of Local Government Institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery**

The project continues to support the decentralized service delivery system of the local government institutions. Locally adapted agricultural strategies have been developed by the HDCs with the technical support of the project in partnership with the FAO to accelerate decentralized service models. Moreover, during this reporting period, technical and grant support to 25 Upazila and 118 Union Parishads of CHT was initiated following the capacity assessment of each Union and Upazila. Support to MoCHTA, 3 HDCs and 3 Circle offices continued in parallel, particularly with regard to implementation of multi-year capacity development plans which aim to address the core areas of institutional and organizational weakness such as financial management, revenue collection, advocacy, communication and monitoring etc. Now, a communication plan has been put in place in respective HDCs. A significant increase in the revenue collection by HDC was recorded during 2012 and 2013. Khagrachari HDC increased its source of revenue by 18%. Rangamati and Bandarban HDC saw similar



increase: 13% and 10% respectively. The revised organograms drafted by the HDCs are now submitted to the MoCHTA for final approval. Moreover, HDCs' e-management system has been improved; 3 HDCs have LAN system in place; more than 60% circulars such as opportunities, tenders, office documents, notice etc. were uploaded on their website; and about 80% HDC staffs have now been able to operate ICT equipment (fax, computer, photocopier, internet etc.)<sup>6</sup>. Similar ICT support outcome has been felt in the MoCHTA.

During this reporting period, support to HDCs for the management of police administration began to enhance the overall governance and rule of law in the CHT. 7 policing posts were renovated, and reactivation of community policing forums began. The community police forums, once activated, will receive grants to manage their safety and security initiatives. Policing is one of the 33 subjects of jurisdiction that are supposed to be transferred to HDCs according to the Peace Accord, although the actual transfer has not been materialized. The capacity building of HDCs in this regard will enable the smooth transfer of the subject when this is materialized.

The operation of HDC managed health services continued. In 2013 alone, nearly 400,000 patient cases were treated, through an operation of 863 Community Health Service Workers (CHSWs) including 158 Community Skilled Birth Attendant (CSBA), 16 mobile medical teams and 78 weekly satellite clinics. The continued support to the HDC managed services has clearly brought changes to the lives of CHT peoples. According to the household survey 2013, women who were assisted by medically skilled birth attendants during last delivery increased from 12% in 2008 to 22.5% in 2013. Number of malaria cases dropped significantly among the total patient cases from 12.8% (in 2006) to 1.3% (in 2013). Child immunization coverage on various diseases reached above 90%<sup>7</sup>. All these outcomes inform the effectiveness of the HDC managed health services supported by the project.

Activities undertaken during this reporting period are elaborated below.

#### **Activity-1.2.1 Grants to MoCHTA for capacity development**

The project support enabled smooth functioning of IT and other electronic equipment in the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) for improving overall capacity of E-governance. The support included smooth internet connectivity with Wi-Fi devisor, instalment of antivirus software, and maintenance of computer users list. The hardware support was complimented with training support for 40 MoCHTA officials on Windos-7, Office 2007, Basic MS word, Basic hardware, trouble shooting, and operating system to ensure their effective utilization of the hardware. As a result of the packaged IT support, increase in efficiency of the office has begun to be felt by MoCHTA officials. For example, the MoCHTA website has now been updated regularly with most up-to-date information. Through this process, MoCHTA also gained experiences on tendering, enabling them to perform other similar tending in a more efficient manner.

#### **Activity-1.2.2 Grants to 3HDC for capacity development**

The project continued to support the institutional strengthening of the Hill District Councils in line with the capacity development plans formulated in the previous year. Rangamati HDC was given support to procure 11 engine boats made of fiber mats to be used for the water locked areas. As a result, Rangamati HDC officials began to frequently visit Upazila and



**Engine boats for RHDC staff**

Union Parishads to provide oversight on ongoing activities, leading to better coordination and communications among HDC, Upazila and Union Parishads. Similarly, Bandarban HDC was supported to establish a LAN system. With this, 3 HDCs now have LAN system in place, enabling them to perform their mandates in a more efficient manner.

The support was given to the area-based policy work. The project supported the formulation of locally adapted agricultural strategies of each HDC to accelerate decentralized service models.

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<sup>6</sup> HDCs' internal survey, 2013

<sup>7</sup> Household survey in the CHT, 2013

The support provided by the project in prior years too has brought some tangible outcomes. IT center established within Khagrachari HDC with the project support have been functioning fully; it provided 15-day training for a total of 53 staffs (male-35, female-18) of transferred line departments and college students, thereby enabling a transfer of IT knowledge and services to other institutions and stakeholders in the CHT. The results in these line departments are visible; computers which were never utilized previously have now begun to be used by the department officials as a result of improvement in their IT knowledge.

Similarly, Rangamati HDC successfully organized training for 38 (male-35, female-3) GoB transferred line departments on CHT existing rules and regulation. "Chittagong Hill tracts law collection" published by CHT Regional Council with the project support was utilized in the training.

Khagrachari HDC has been active in promoting their work through quarter issuance of newsletters, and a knowledge product: a booklet on laws and regulation of CHT. These advocacy and knowledge products are being produced in accordance with their capacity development plan. The newsletter is available in KHDC website ([www.khdcbd.org](http://www.khdcbd.org)). Similarly, Bandarban HDC produced 1000 copies of Annual Report 2012 focusing on development interventions supported with the EU funding.

### **Activity-1.2.3 Support to 25 Upazila Parishad and 118 Union Parishad**



**Capacity Assessment sessions with Upazila and Union Parishad**

Block grant support to 25 Upazila and 118 Unions of CHT began during this reporting period in line with the revised block grant modality<sup>8</sup> which allowed a direct transfer of grants to Union and Upazilas of CHT, instead through the HDCs in light of unfeasibility of the original transfer modality (from HDCs – Union / Upazilas to Communities). The grants are aimed to increase the overall governance capacity of CHT institutions in a more coordinated and harmonized manner, allowing HDCs, Upazilas, and Unions to collectively monitor and provide oversight on development interventions in the CHT based on district-based master MDG acceleration plans. As an initial step, capacity assessment of 25 Upazila Parishads and 118 Union Parishads of CHT was completed. And based on the assessments, each Upazila and Union Parishads were provided with a small grants of BDT 200,000 to enhance the basic logistics and office needs, which will in turn prepare them for forthcoming utilization and monitoring of block grants.

### **Activity-1.2.4 Grants to 3 Circle Offices for capacity development**

The capacity support to the CHT traditional leaders and institutions continued in accordance with their multi-year capacity development plans. The project supported the Chakma Circle to procure a speed boat for strengthening coordination with Headmen, Karbaries and other stakeholders. Several monitoring visits were made by all Circle offices to enhance the overall monitoring and coordination capacity. 5 monitoring visits were conducted by Mong Circle and Bohmong circles to check the status of Multi-purpose Community Centers (MPCCs) in the CHT. Moreover, Chakma Circle made a visit to Monipuripara and Khasiapunji under Srimongal Upazila of Sylhet district.

The grant support was also utilized by the Circle Offices to disburse smaller grants to other local based organizations. For example, Mong Circle awarded BDT 70,000 to seven cultural organizations of

<sup>8</sup> The revised block grant modality was approved by EU in November 2012, given the difficulty in operationalizing the originally proposed block grants modality.

Khagrachari Sadar, Ramgarh and Panchari Upazila for preserving local culture and promoting their cultural activities. The Mong Circle office conducted a seminar on improvement of project implementation and communication for 34 officials, NGOS, and Headmen and Karbaries.

Through the grant support to Circle Offices, a total of 647 tradition leaders from three hill districts received training opportunities which included the following:

- a) **Training on land measurement & management and office management** for 67 Headmen and karbari including 2 women of Chakma Circle.
- b) **Training on Justice and administration** for 27 Headmen and Karbari (male-26, female-1) of Chakma Circle
- c) **Training on traditional leader's roles and responsibilities** for 213 Karbaries including 4 women from four different Mouzas.
- d) **Training on customary law for traditional leaders** for 210 headmen and karbaries by the Mong Circle.

#### **Activity-1.2.5 Support to Regional Council**

The project continued its support to Regional Council (RC) through advocacy grants. With the grants, CHTRC through a grant committee provided small grants of BTB 1,037,500 to Regional Sports Association of Chittagong Hill Tracts for managing a small ethnic student hostel 'Bangladesh Khyang Chatrabas' in Rangamati and covering school expenses of the hostel students.

The grants were utilized by the RC to conduct another round of "Sports for Peace" events in the CHT, building on the results from the previous year. The event was organized in association with CHT based sports associations such as "Regional Sports Association-RSA", "District Sports Association-DSA" and "District Women Sports Association-DWSA". A football grooming camp was organized for 48 girls of under-14 from CHT ethnic groups by inviting renowned former senior national and regional football players and to build confidence across different ethnic divides as well as to provide opportunities for talented youth in the CHT. The project ensured that the selection criteria of participants was fair; indeed, majority of participants came from remote areas of CHT who otherwise have no opportunity to demonstrate their talents in organized sports events. The results were clear; soon after the grooming camp, 6 girls were selected to participate in the government sponsored national Football Tournament from Rangamati district and won the Chittagong divisional championship; and one of the participants of this grooming camp named Chathuima Marma became the best player in the Chittagong divisional level.



**Girls in football grooming camp in Rangamati**

The event also contributed to enhancing the coordination capacity among sport associations.

During this reporting period, CHT Regional Council organized a 5 day-long based computer training for its 12 staff by inviting an IT Expert from Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC). The idea was innovative, enabling a knowledge transfer within the CHT institutions to enhance the overall E-capacity of CHT officials. In addition, several office equipment items such as switch broad band connection, UPS, voltage stabilizer, antivirus software, carpets etc. were procured during this reporting period.



### Activity-1.2.6 Activities to support effective police services in CHT including training on policing, infrastructure and logistic support, and outreach program



**Launch of support for community police forums in Bandarban**

During this reporting period, support to police strengthening in the CHT began. Following consultation process, key stakeholders such as MoCHTA, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police for Chittagong Range, Additional Inspector General (Operations) of Police Head Quarter, Police Supers of three Hill Districts agreed on a fund transfer modality - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between HDCs and Police Super's offices in respective districts to implement the police programme.

With this base, the support started with provision of 15 motorbikes for Bandarban police, and renovation of 7 remote police outposts with solar panels, sitting arrangements and potable water. Another batch of support including handover of additional 30 motorbikes and police post renovation in Rangamati and Khagrachari will start in early 2014.

Formulation of CHT orientation manual has been completed; the draft manual after rounds of review is now with DIG and Police Head Quarter for approval. Further, a plan for Training of Trainers (ToT) for Sub-Inspector level officers and another 3 batches of ToT for Community Police Officers is under way. Subsequently, these trained officers will roll out their training for all police personnel in respective police stations of CHT.

As part of the police strengthening programme, community policing committees in 7 Upazila and 31 Union were activated in Bandarban hill district. Although the policing committees were formed in all unions in 2009 in Bandarban by the local administration to enhance the community level governance and rule of law in the CHT, the lessons indicated that there was a room for improvement in effective functioning of the committees. Building on this lesson, the reactivation of committees will provide more governing and planning power to the committees through grant support of USD 1,000 (per committee), based on which the committees are expected to come up with innovate ideas and solutions to enhance the security and safety of their own communities. Reactivation of committees in Rangamati and Khagrachari is underway.

### Activity-1.2.7 Access to Basic Health Services

Provision of health services by HDCs continued. During the reporting period, HDCs have managed operation of a network of 863 Community Health Service Workers (CHSWs), 158 Community Skilled Birth Attendants (CSBA), 16 mobile medical teams and 78 weekly satellite clinics. During the reporting period, a total of 301,737 patient cases (male-133,139, female- 168,598) were treated, of whom 103,039 (34%) were under 5 years children; 48,902 (16%) were due to water-borne diseases; 53,364 (17%) were due to respiratory diseases; and 19,649 (6.5%) were for pre-natal care. Of the total patients, two-third patients' cases (69%) were treated by CHSW.

**Malaria incidence reduced:** Of the total 301,737 patient cases, a total of 4, 411 malaria cases were treated during the reporting period. Number of malaria cases among the total patient cases decreased from 12.8% (in 2006) to 1.3% (in 2013), reflecting a positive decline in the incidence of malaria in the CHT.

**CHSWs became Skilled Birth Attendants and safe deliveries by SBA:** In the reporting period, 105 CHSWs became Community Skill Birth Attendant (CSBA) through six months training from the Institute of Maternal and Child Health (ICMH) in Dhaka. Consequently a total of 158 CSBA have been operational in three hill districts



**A group of CHSW who recently completed CSBA training from ICMH, Dhaka**

of CHT. These CSBA conducted a total of 792 safe deliveries in the remotes communities. The Health and Family Planning Department of the Government of Bangladesh has begun to take services of the CSBAs and want to utilize the services by CSBAs at the adjacent Community Clinics and Family Welfare Centres. The community people have welcomed this initiative.

**Health education sessions organized:** Health education and diseases prevention activities were the core activities of SC and network of CHSWs. Both the Community Health Services Workers and health promoters of weekly Satellite Clinics conducted a total of 39,269 health education sessions on Acute Respiratory Tract Infections (ARI), diarrhea, malaria, Ante Natal Care (ANC), Post Natal Care (PNC) and safe water usage, immunization, sanitation and personal hygiene. More than 23,000 people participated monthly, resulting in increased awareness and improved health seeking behavior among local CHT communities.

**Referral System for Emergency Services:** Emergency referral system has fully been functional. In the reporting period, a total of 257 emergency patients were referred to district and Upazila hospital, of which 115 cases (45%) were maternal cases. Besides 56 patients were also served through the fast boat services, and 13 emergency OB care were served. However, slowness in referral services is still an issue in the community.

#### **A successful Immunization Programme in remote areas of Bandarban**

Sakhoy Commander, Menroa and Hoiton are 3 villages of Bolipara union in Thanchi Upazila of Bandarban district. It takes 45 minutes' walk from these villages to the Upazila headquarter. The villagers had refused to get vaccinated under Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) and thus remained outside of EPI vaccination for a long time. This happened as there was a wrong belief that child can die for taking Vitamin A. The EPI inspectors, health workers, CHSWs and the CHS Supervisors tried hard to change their mindset but all went in vain. The headmen and the heads of villages also stood against the vaccination and asked the health workers to discontinue the programme.

The health team didn't give up. Instead they adopted a new strategy. They joined hands with the Upazila Health and Family Officer (UHFPO), Bandarban Hill District Council and a teacher in the EU-supported local school whom the villagers had great respect. After having several sessions of discussion, the elderly villagers who opposed initially began to show their interest in the EPI. Soon after, the CHSWs took actions to introduce the EPI in these villages. A partial success was observed during the recent National Immunization Day on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 when all under five years children of Sakhoy Commander village, 4 out of 9 in Menroa and 5 out of 10 Hoiten villages were brought to the immunization venue to take Oral Polio Vaccines (OPV).

The above case is not uncommon in the CHT. In remote areas of CHT, the CHSWs are working every day to improve the health practices of the communities by changing their beliefs through awareness. The work is surely contributing to bringing the positive changes to the lives of CHT peoples.



**UHFPO giving OPV to a baby**

**CHSW giving OPV**

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

The ability of CHT institutions to plan and monitor development activities in the CHT is considered crucial for ensuring sustainable peace and strong development results in the CHT. In this regard, the project aims to support the capacity of CHT institutions to better plan and monitor their development activities, notably setting localized Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the CHT and manage the local MDG monitoring process. Accordingly, the project supported the formulation of district-based MDG master acceleration frameworks following the globally-tested methodology of UNDP MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF). Now the district based MDG acceleration master plans are in place in all three hill districts and under implementation. A series of workshops involving over 1000 participants were held in respective districts to ensure orientation and necessary actions from all stakeholders. Based on the master plan addressing MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Khagrachari and Rangamati districts have started developing annual activity plans in sectors of fisheries, agriculture, and skill development for employment, social safety net, and nutrition. Similarly, based on their master MDG acceleration plan on MDG -2: Achieve universal primary education, Bandarban district has drafted activity plans in areas of early & pre-primary education, Multi-Language Education (MLE) and non-formal education for implementation. HDCs and other local government institutions in the hill districts such as Union and Upazila Parishads are working together to implement coordinated annual activity plans. In this process, the project ensured the plans are well defined and realistic, through facilitating the discussion on district-based expert core groups, assisted by international and national experts. This process is providing opportunities for the CHT institutions to jointly report on the development changes that are taking place in their respective districts, thereby enhancing the overall governance and monitoring capacity of the districts. Momentum created by the MDG acceleration intervention, in bringing together the development actors for joint action and achieving joint results, will support these actors to continue their efforts in achieving the post 2015 development goals.

Key activities undertaken during this reporting period are elaborated below.

#### **Activity-1.3.1 MDG Acceleration in CHT**

##### **District MDG Acceleration master plan developed**

Continuing from the previous year, the project made progress on localized MDG acceleration in the CHT. Following the long exercises (needs-mapping, MDG goal prioritization, and identification of bottlenecks and solutions), each district completed formulation of its master MDG acceleration plan, involving all stakeholders. The project provided major support for district level stakeholders to formulate this plan following the globally-tested methodology of UNDP MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF). A series of workshops were held in each district to ensure orientation and necessary actions from stakeholders, involving over 1,000 participants including HDC, Upazila and Union Parishads, General-Deputy Commissioner's Office, Civil Society, NGOs, community members, and partner UN Agencies (WFP, FAO and UNICEF). Based on this plan, annual MDG acceleration activity plans were also framed and defined and now under implementation.



**MDG Acceleration Master Plan** all



**Participants in the identification & prioritization of bottlenecks workshop**

The project ensured the plans are well defined and realistic, through the review process of district-based expert core groups assisted by international and national experts. Khagrachari and Rangamati districts under its MDG acceleration plan - MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, have started interventions in sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, and skill development for employment, social safety net, nutrition. Bandarban district under its MDG acceleration plan - MDG -2 (Achieve universal primary education) have begun its interventions in early & pre-primary education, Multi-Language Education (MLE) and non-formal education.

In order to ensure smooth implementation of the MDG activity plans, the project organized orientation workshops on activity plans and grants management involving 165 district level stakeholders. Open public meetings were also initiated as per the guideline of annual MDG acceleration activity plans in 15 Upazila and 64 Union across the three districts, involving 4,329 people including 968 females. Main objective of public open meeting was: sharing the guideline and collecting opinion on draft MDG acceleration activity plan; screening the ongoing interventions of selected MDG; and identifying scheme/project by the stakeholders.

#### **Activity-1.3.5 Coordination meeting held**

During this reporting period, a total of 17 cluster monthly coordination meetings were organized in 3 districts where 794 participants including 100 female from LOA staffs of HDCs and Circle offices participated. Similarly, a total of 255 monthly Upazila development Coordination Committee (UzDCC) meetings at Upazila level and 796 Union development Coordination Committee meetings (UDCC) at Union level were held where a total of 22,241 participants including 4465 female participated. The progress of planned activities, challenges and lesson were shared in the meetings which ensured accountability and transparency both at Union and Upazila levels. 120 Upazila Project Coordination meeting were also held in three Hill Districts where 2,365 participants (265 female) including Upazila Parishad Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Union Parishad Charimen and representatives GoB Line departments and NGOs participated.

#### **Activity-1.3.6 Annual Household Level Surveys**

The Household Level Survey was conducted independently by an external consultant firm, sampling more than 2500 households from 3 districts (13 Upazilas). The report is being finalized for publication. The report captures some positive changes taken place in the lives of CHT peoples following the project interventions. Many indicators also suggest significant variations among ethnic communities, which suggest a need for ethnic disaggregated attention and further analysis. The summary findings can be found in the previous progress report.

## **2.2. Specific Objective 2: Local organizations and communities empowered to manage their own development**

### **2.2.1 Expected Result 2.1: Communities are empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects**

The support to CHT communities continued during this reporting period. 3,257 communities have now been managing their own development affairs through Para Development Committees (PDCs) and Para Nari Development Groups (PNDGs) to influence local government development and service delivery. Organizational and financial capacity of PDC and PNDG have been strengthened and at present 94% of PDCs maintained savings register and 90% maintained general leader properly. The communities have accumulated community assets worth of USD 15.8m in present value, in addition to a saving of USD 5.4m made in banks due to their successful capital investment/regeneration of small scale projects.

While the direct support to the individual PDCs was completed as of Sep 2013, the project continues to observe regular PDC and PNDG activities. During the reporting period, 98% PDCs and 96% PNDGs conducted their monthly meeting to regularly update their documents, records and collect monthly savings. There is also a good indication of participatory monitoring activities. According to the project Annual M&E database 2013, about 68% of PDCs monitor and evaluate their project activities; about 78% of PDCs have adapted unity and inclusive leadership; 89% took decisions; and 92% dealt with banks independently. Furthermore, a total of 4,409 community people collectively participated in the services and resources planning meetings of Union Parishad and raised their voices in the higher administrative forums to address development and service gaps felt by the communities.



The direct support to individual PDCs has been replaced with the support to the clusters of PDCs to bring about larger development results impacting multiple communities. Through a series of joint planning workshops, the networks of PDCs have collectively formulated 237 local economic development projects, namely the Area Based Development Initiatives (ABDI) in the areas of communication, education, marketing infrastructure, water and sanitation, and agriculture.

Another work which the project engaged in the reporting period was development of a sustainability strategy for 3,257 PDCs to take corrective actions and formulate programmatic areas of focus to achieve sustainability of PDCs beyond the lifespan of the project. The draft plan includes a possibility of deeper and wider engagements with both government and private sectors and of formal recognition of PDCs. The implementation of the sustainability strategy starts in 2014.

Key activities contributing to the expected results 2.1 are elaborated below.

#### **Activity-2.1.1 PDC/PNDG Institutional Baseline Survey**

This year, the PDC/PNDG Institutional Survey was not conducted but the project fielded a mission to conduct an assessment focusing on future direction of PDCs for their sustainable engagements in community-based development affairs. This assessment is being conducted by a team of a national and an international expert. Below is a summary of preliminary findings of the study:

- i.** Upazila stakeholders and Partner NGOs estimate that 50-75% of PDCs can be qualified as functional (active) and around 30-75% as doing well.
- ii.** The vast majority of communities are better off in organizational, economic and social terms than ten years ago, and at least part of that can be ascribed to the activities undertaken by PDCs supported by the project.
- iii.** Considering a post-conflict situation in the CHT with relatively inexperienced NGOs, which again worked with very inexperienced local field staffs, the project achieved reasonable results on the empowerment indicators of PDC organizational motivation, organizational management, financial management, resource mobilization and organizational accountability. Field visits showed that at least few communities learned a lot from CHTDF-QIF (Quick Impact funds) failures and became more resourceful and resilient as a result. It is unlikely that substantially more could have been achieved.
- iv.** As for the external relations indicators, the project placed an emphasis nearly completely on relations with and strengthening of governance actors, networks, institutions and structures: Traditional leaders, Union Parishad, Upazila institutions, and HDC. It is unlikely that substantially more could have been achieved.
- v.** A considerable number of PDCs have established relations with Unions and line agencies, few have been visited by line agencies and many by Union members (both mainly through CHTDF) and a few others have obtained support from these as a PDC.
- vi.** It is logical that where most of the voters are PDC members and most of development have come through CHTDF that a considerable number of PDC members have become Union Parishad members as well. This in itself must have had an empowering effect.
- vii.** Most projects, NGOs and agencies however channel their support not through PDCs, partly because their regulations ask for specific beneficiary committees and separate accounts. Few institutional stakeholders see the PDC as purely for CHTDF. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Rural Project (CHTDRP) of Asian Development Bank is the only project that does use PDCs systematically and only after considerable efforts by the project formulators.

#### **Activity-2.1.2 Building capacities of PDCs and PNDGs through partnership with local NGOs**

The partner NGOs played an animated role in mobilizing support from various level stakeholders i.e. traditional leaders, UnFCs/UDCCs, UzACs, GoB line departments and like-minded organizations to bring about an enabling environment for community development in the CHT. The contracts with local NGOs were completed as of September 2013, as the project moved towards working directly with the clusters of PDCs for formulating Area Based Development Initiatives (ABDI). The local NGOs worked



with 98 Union Facilitation Committees (UnFCs), 20 Upazila Advisory Committees (UzACs) and 20 Upazila Support Teams (UzSTs) to support the community level development initiatives.

### **Organizational and Financial Management capacity of PDC and PNDG improved**

Capacity of the PDC executives has been strengthened to minimize organization gaps (organizational and financial management, and maintenance of PDC documents). In this reporting period, a total of 5,367 members (male-3006, female-2361) received 3-day long refresher training held at union level across the CHT. Cumulatively, the training reached 16,955 PDCs/PNDGs members. The training envisaged a transfer of knowledge from trained participants to the rest of PDC/PNDG members. The M&E database stated that around 94% of PDCs maintained savings register and 90% maintained general ledger properly.

### **Skill development training support of PDC and PNDG to manage project activities smoothly**

A total of 2,064 members from PDC and PNDG received technical training on livestock rearing, fish cultivation, agriculture and other projects from GoB line departments. The trained participants shared their learning with other members of the PDCs and PNDGs in the training. They are now better equipped to manage their projects in an effective manner. A linkage has been established between communities and the extension service providers, enabling them to easily access extension services.

### **Community participation in service planning process of local government**

In the reporting period, 89 information dissemination workshops were organized for 4,409 community people where they gained opportunities to give their voice in the planning process of Union Parishad services/resources. The workshops enabled the constituencies to match their needs to supply side of services at the local level. Observations suggest that many communities members are now engaging with service providers to proactively seek services.

### **Participatory monitoring and PDCs/PNDGs monthly meeting held**

In this reporting period, both PDC and PNDG conducted 28,539 meetings (PDC-18,850 and PNDG-9,689), as planned, involving 420,134 PDC members (42% were female) and 136,292 PNDG members.

Community people also conducted participatory monitoring to review progress of PDC's and PNDG's major activities, latest saving status, bank balance, cash in hand, and current projects status. The CEP Annual M&E database 2013 reveals that around 68% of PDCs monitor and evaluate their progress following participatory monitoring and evaluation process on which they were trained.



**PNDG members of Uttar Hagalachara Para, BaghaichariUpazila, Rangamati in monthly meeting**

### **Community capital mobilized through regular savings practice and investment**

Further progress has been made on community savings. Cumulative savings across the 3 districts, reached over \$715,221 in 2012, which is a 17.23% increase from previous year. The saving has been re-invested by PDCs/PNDGs to increase economic activities. The CEP Annual M&E database shows accumulated assets of 3,257 communities supported by CHTDF have worth of USD 15.8m in present value, in addition to a saving of USD 5.4m made in banks. The Household Survey in the CHT 2013 indicates an increase of household level savings from Tk. 4,575 in 2008 to Tk. 22,549 in 2013.

### **Community people minimized food crisis through Rice Bank support**

With a view to addressing food shortage in disadvantaged remote communities of the CHT, the project is supporting the management and maintenance of rice banks established by the communities through CHTDF's prior interventions. In this reporting period, a total of 6,976 households borrowed 65,859 Kg rice from the rice bank of their own community. Rice Banks management committees have been playing a key role to procure and distribute rice among the households. The Household Survey 2013 also noted the rice banks function as



**Community people of Kalapani Para, LaxmichariUpazila in Khagrachari district**

copied mechanism of households during food-deficiency months.

#### **Activity-2.1.4 Socio-economic baseline survey of the smaller ethnic groups in the CHT**

The work on Socio-Economic Baseline Survey of smaller ethnic groups in the CHT continued. The work was commissioned to an independent research institution of Bangladesh. The study report is now at the finalization stages. The report will shed lights on the socio-economic conditions and lives of small ethnic communities - Lusai, Khumi, Kheyang, Chak, Pankhoa, Bawm, Tanchangya and Mro tribes in the CHT. The study sampled approximately 600 households of 6 Upazilas covering 8 (eight) ethnic small communities using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The preliminary findings are summarized below.

- i. Education level of small ethnic groups is low. Literacy rate is 43%, with Mros being the lowest (29%). Poverty is one of the major factors that prevent them from sending their children to schools, followed by non- existence of any school at their paras, and a language barrier as other factors. Small number of respondents mentioned the male treatment of teachers deterred children attending schools.
- ii. Smaller ethnic groups tend to face difficulties in finding opportunities in the job market.
- iii. Decision making spaces in CHT are occupied by the three dominant ethnic groups of CHT and the smaller ethnic groups tend to be invisible.
- iv. The categories of lands owned by ethnic people are homestead (100%), plough land (21%), horticultural land (14%), teak garden land (27%), and jhum land (55%) where Jhum is regarded as common land under the management of the Karbari in a para/village. There is a trend in land management among the smaller ethnic groups to move away from common ownership to private ownership.
- v. The study reveals concerns of small ethnic groups over loss of their land possessions as there are incidences of forced relocation for outsiders in all the studied Upazilas. Examples include land grabbing incidences and declaration by the government of their common land as of reserved forest for rubber plantation.

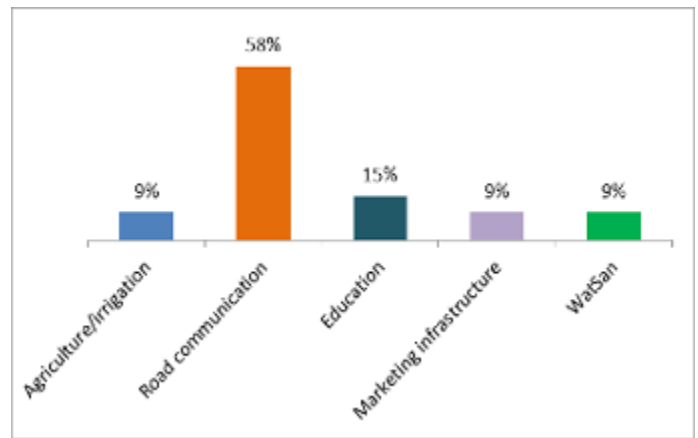
#### **Activity-2.1.8 Grants to communities (PDCs/PNDGs) to improve local service delivery and support Area Based Development for economic growth**

Communities are becoming more empowered and organized. Not only supporting their individual efforts, but the project also supported their collective actions to bring about local economic development in the region through Area-Based Development Initiatives (ADBI); over 10,000 communities have now collectively formulated 237 local development projects such as construction of irrigation, markets, and water supply. The project work involved facilitating area-based forums where groups of communities within close geographical proximity (on average including five villages) came together, identified issues/problems and developed



**Community people Involvement with Area Based Development Activities**

joint projects with common interests (e.g. roads connecting villages, and shared schools, etc.). Of the 237 projects formulated, 58% were **communication projects** including construction/repairing of rural earthen & brick soling road, wooden/foot bridge, RCC box culvert and RCC guide wall; 15% were **education projects (15%)** including construction/repairing of school library & building, boundary wall, playground, rural student hostel, transportation facilities for students; and 9% were **Marketing Infrastructure projects** including rural market shed, rural sales & service centre, vehicle for transportation of goods, **Water Supply & Sanitation projects** including installation of deep tube-well, construction of ring well, Gravity Flow System, construction of community latrines, and **Agriculture projects** including irrigation scheme, embankment, sallow power pump, power tiller etc. The average grant size per project is EURO 7,145 (USD 9,709/BDT750, 000).



**Schemes types under ABDI**

Environmental impact assessment has been completed for all 237 Area Based Development Initiatives (ABDI) using a structured checklist, thereby ensuring that the environment is not adversely affected by the ABDI.

Around 50 or 21% of the projects formulated are already under implementation by the area based development forums. To date, a total of 4,293 community people have directly been involved (23% female) in ABDI and earned income as skilled or unskilled labour. The average income is BTD 200-250 per person for per working day.

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

The project continued to promote alternative income generating initiatives, helping marginalized households to diversify incomes and build more viable, sustainable, and resilient livelihoods. Progress has been made on pilot initiatives to enhance CHT value chains benefitting large number of farmer households. During this reporting period, 1513 marginalized households of 67 banana producer groups obtained new knowledge on banana cultivation practices and adopted three indigenous and modern technologies, which reduced the post-harvest wastage of banana from 5% to 3%. In addition, the project facilitated linkage buildings of a large number of public and private stakeholders through 12 linkage workshops. 203 group members (three persons from each group) received trainings on management skills (group management, group marketing, accounts management and book keeping). And a total of 599 beneficiaries including 99 women received training on improved cultivation, sapling selection, disease management, and post harvesting techniques through the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI). Field staffs of agriculture department are now providing technical advice to banana producers in line with the training modules developed under this project. The recent assessment on banana value chain shows that 82 percent of the producers have received technical advice whereas this was 25 percent before the project interventions; and 62% of producers are satisfied with the advice they received in comparison to 5% before the project interventions.

As a part of promoting alternative income generating initiatives, the mushroom producers (who received training from CHTDF) in Khagrachari has formed a mushroom growers association and established a mushroom spawn production and supply center with the project support. As a result, 121 mushroom growers now have stable local supply of spawns. During the reporting period, the centre produced 12,827 mushroom spawn and earned worth BDT 122,171 by selling 6,233 spawn. In addition, the project continued to provide follow-up support to 16 weaver groups established by CHTDF to better market CHT weaving products. The annual M&E database indicates about 91% weaver groups established linkages with the CHT buyers and 38% established linkages with outside buyers.

About 94% weaver groups maintained meeting minutes and resolution book, 63% weaver groups maintained Cash Book and 37% weaver groups maintained General Ledger properly.

The support also directly targeted gender and youth; 16 Agro Product Fairs organized in 16 upazilas enabled 2,051 people including 738 women to come together and establish linkages with buyers, local traditional leaders, and GoB line departments. 49 community women benefitted from training on Fruit Processing & Preservation, and 29 unemployed youths gained skills on electrical wiring, tailoring and beautification.

Key activities undertaken under this result area are elaborated below;

### **Activity-2.2.1 support to improve agricultural value chain in the CHT**

A series of interventions were undertaken to improve the banana value chain in the CHT benefitting a wide range of stakeholders in the business markets. A focus of interventions remained for 1,513 banana producing households of 67 producer groups formed under the project – to be able to collectively purchase inputs, produce quality banana and increase their access to markets by capitalizing on their collective powers. For instance, organizational management skills of the producer groups have been upgraded through training of 203 producer group members (3 core members from each group) on group management, group marketing, accounts management and book keeping. Technical knowledge transfer was also done by engaging the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) to provide training for 599 produce group members (500 men and 99 women) on improved cultivation, sapling selection, disease management, and post harvesting techniques. Further, an enabling environment for new business opportunities was created through 12 linkage workshops organized among 220 stakeholders including input retailers, banana producers, and buyers (collectors, traders, and supermarkets). Establishment of a monitoring committee by Upazila Parishads to ensure periodical execution of fertilizer assessments was a direct output of these workshops in light of fertilizer shortages often experienced in the CHT. Local Economic Development (LED) Forum established in each of the three hill districts (Ruma in Bandarban, Dighinala in Khagrachari and Kaptai in Rangamati) is another way of ensuring the enabling environment for banana market growth. Indeed, the LED comprising of local government, private sector, producer representatives, banks, traditional hill leaders, and other relevant stakeholders is an important forum to address existing marketing constraints on banana production and the value chain in the respective districts. Most notably, LED Bandarban succeeded in putting a ceiling for toll fees placed on producers at a bazar, minimizing the chance of excessive tolls charged to banana producers. In addition, more government stakeholders have begun to provide producers with necessary services at right times; 82 percent of the producers have received technical advice, and 62 percent state that they were satisfied with the advices received, whereas this was 25 percent and 5 percent respectively before the interventions. 40 inputs suppliers, such as local fertilizer, insecticide, and pesticides suppliers, separately benefitted from training on usage, efficiency and dosage of different inputs applicable for improved banana cultivation. As illustrated above, preliminary results of the pilot value chain interventions are promising. Farmers' comments also reveal that the intervention was the first of its kind to provide opportunities for farmers to gain a big picture of the lucrative banana business markets existing in the CHT as 60 percent of market demand is reportedly yet to be met by the local supply.

#### **Reducing wastage through better packaging**

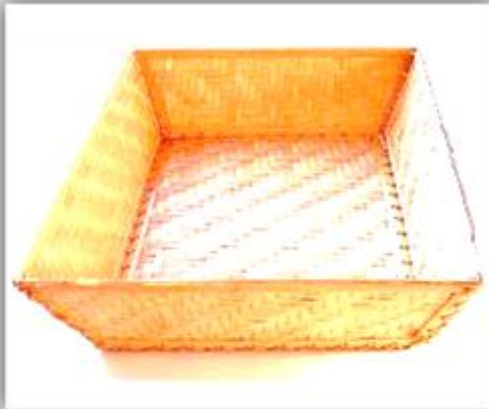
One of the common issues faced by banana producers in the CHT is wastage of bananas during post-harvest handling and transportation. Due to limited care done on the protection of banana produce, approximately 5 % of the bananas get wasted before reaching end users. To address this wastage problem, the project introduced and promoted 3 methods of packaging suitable for transporting bananas. Immediate results show that wastage is reduced from 5 to 3 percent.

**Post-Harvest Packaging method: I** - Covering the complete banana bunch with fresh banana leaf and tying up the leaves lightly with natural materials, suitable for transportation over shorter distances and made by the individual farmers.





**Post-harvest carrying and transportation method: II. (Bamboo basket)** - replicating international packaging practices by using bamboo baskets – locally produced materials. This practice has been applied in other banana growing countries for transportation and display in the super shops and other high value market places. This model is suitable for transportation over long distances



**Post-Harvest Packaging Method**

Covering the banana bunches by parts of banana tree (Chalbakal). This model is suitable for transportation over long distances and is being done by the individual farmer.



**Activity-2.2.2 Agro products fairs at Upazila level**

16 Agro Product Fairs were organized in 16 upazilas with participation of 2,051 people (36% female) to promote



Buyers and sellers meet at Agro Products Fair

agricultural products such as vegetables, seasonal fruits, honey, mushroom, and other crops. Buyers, local traditional leaders, union parishad representatives, upazila administration, representatives from GoB line departments, and local government representatives joined the events, creating linkages among agricultural stakeholders. Diversified folk cultural events were arranged by the local cultural groups at the venue.



### **Activity-2.2.3 Community people trained on Fruit Processing & Preservation as alternative IGAs**

**Demonstration of fruit processing**

One day training was conducted in Khagrachari and Rangamati districts on “Fruit Processing and Preservation” for 49 community people (73.4% female) on fruit processing and preservation to make use of loss and wastage for income generation. The pilot initiative shows some promising results; some participants have started business in production and marketing of jam and jelly.

### **Activity-2.2.4 Skill development training for unemployed youth**

A total of 29 unemployed youths successfully completed skill development trainings on different marketable trades such as electrician, tailoring and beautification. The selection criteria focused on disadvantaged communities and households. Nine youths completed an electrician course and received a kit box upon completion. And 3 of them immediately received employment in the public sector, while the rest are practicing their skills as entrepreneurs. 10 female youths completed a beautification course with a kit box for a business start-up. Another 10 female completed a tailoring course with a sewing machine.

### **Mushroom Production Centre benefited Small Scale Mushroom Producers**

Small scale mushroom growers in Khagrachari district in CHT were facing difficulties to source mushroom spawn according to the needs. Sourcing from outside of CHT often results in a high proportion of the spawns being spoiled during transport. This means that for small scale mushroom growers the production cost become too high to attain reasonable profit margins from mushroom growing, even though local market demand is high in CHT. Small scale mushroom growers raised the issue in their Para Development Committee (PDC) meeting and shared in the PDC’s learning sharing workshops at Upazila level. Responding to the mushroom growers’ need, the project took initiatives to mobilize the mushroom growers to establish an association. The project provided grant support of BDT 820,465, and the association contributed with BDT: 153,000. In May 2013 a Mushroom Spawn Production Center was established in Khagrachari and production began in August 2013. The aim of this production center was to produce quality mushroom spawn and supply to local mushroom growers on a commercial basis. The production center is managed by member committee of members, and technical advisers give support to growers on cultivation techniques.

Konok Prova Tripura the president of the mushroom production center stated, “The mushroom production center is able to supply the spawn as per the farmer’s needs. There are four people directly involved with the spawn production i.e. two workers, one lab technician, and one lab assistant. Now the production is high due to lot of demand in the market. The production center creates income options for local people, who are getting spawn according to their demand. This center creates easy access for local farmers to get spawn at reasonable prices, as they do no longer need to pay additional transport cost to source from outside of CHT”.

In second half of 2013, 12,827 mushroom spawn were produced and 6,233 sold worth approximately BDT 122,171. A total of 121 households bought spawns as per their demand. Uttara Chakma, a mushroom grower at Giriful Kamini Para in Khagrachari Sadar Upazila stated, “...I purchase regularly mushroom spawn from the production center, and I am happy to get quality of spawn for my mushroom cultivation. Previously, I had to purchase spawn from Rangamati or Dhaka. Sometimes those were not good quality and damaged due to long transportation. Now, I am getting spawn in cheaper rate and rarely damaged, as the transportation time is short. Moreover, we have access to cultivation advice from the production center if we face any difficulties. I already purchased 20 spawn

seeds from the center and produced 60 spawn (1:3). On an average, my daily mushroom production is 3-4 Kg, which I can sell for about BDT 120 per kg. This month, I earned around BDT 6,375, and I have today 200 spawn in production”.



**A lab technician in the mushroom spawn production centre**



**A mushroom grower cultivating mushrooms**

### III. Cross-Cutting Issues

#### 3.1 Gender, Youth, and Human Rights

Gender equality, youth inclusion, peace-building, and human rights are all cross-cutting development issues and interventions in its own right. The project promotes gender equality, peace-building, women’s empowerment, youth inclusion, and human rights in the CHT through both mainstreaming and targeted interventions to address the specific needs.

The following include cross cutting activities undertaken by the project during this reporting period.

##### Activity - 3.1.1 Training on Mediation and Human Rights

According to the rule no. 48 under 1900 CHT regulation and customary system, the traditional leaders (i.e. headmen and karbaries) are responsible to play a role of mediators and resolving social disputes through social arbitration. The Union Parishad women members are also engaged in resolving family and social disputes related to women. But, often most of these leaders lack clear understanding on their roles and responsibilities, and other national and international laws related to human rights and violence against women. This leads to misapplication of mediation process and contribute to increased mistrust and further conflict among communities. Considering the above situation, the project contributed to fostering local justice and peace by providing 82 (male-53, feame-29) traditional leaders (Headmen and Karbaries) and locally elected women members of Union Parishad with training on mediation skills and human rights in the traditional shalish (arbitration). Participants were made aware for the first time on mediating techniques and human rights aiming for fair trials and mediations for local women in the CHT.



**Traditional leaders and UP women members in Mediation and Human Rights Training**



### Activity - 3.1.2. CHT Peacemakers' Alliance (CHTPMA) formed for Sustainable Peace and Development

Progress continues with regard to developing peace agent network in the CHT to contribute to preventing conflicts and promoting sustainable peace in the CHT. A cadre of 47 peacemakers (34 women & 13 men) trained by the project are now playing a pivotal role in promoting peace dialogues, conflict mediation and prevention of violence in the CHT, and have moved a step further to form CHT



Peacemakers Alliance (CHTPMA) to undertake collective peace actions in 2013.

**Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh listens to CHT Peacemakers during CHTPMA formation**

During this reporting period, a total of 484 conflicts were mediated by the 47 peacemakers through the existing arbitration process (Project database). An executive committee of CHTPMA was also formed with a representation of diverse communities, gender, age, personal background and jurisdiction.

One of the first initiatives undertaken by the CHTPMA is No Violence Movement. The CHTPMA is under process to finalize a concrete plan for a campaign on 'No Violence'. Once completed, they will be actively tackling the barriers of peace building and promoting representation of more local men and women to lobby for a non-violent society in the CHT. So far, they have been successful in establishing linkages with influential members of communities at district, Upazila, and Union levels to launch this initiative.

#### Peacemakers: Seeds of Hope for Survivors of Communal Violence in the Hill Tracts

*"No one wishes such devastation, even on their sworn enemies, like what happened to the indigenous community in Taindong"* says Nigar Sultana, a Khagrachari Peacemaker. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August last year, communal violence erupted in Taindong in Khagrachari district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The devastation was deeply felt across 13 villages. Over 36 houses were burned to the ground, 261 homes completely looted, and over 900 households affected. Seeking refuge from the attack, 2,000 villagers tried to flee towards Bangladesh-India border. Another 380 families fled into the neighbouring Panchari Upazila. This is a story of the tireless CHT Peacemakers in the days following the vicious attack.

Namita Chakma and Nigar Sultana, both residents in Khagrachari district, mobilised their Peacemakers network and headed to Taindong. They witnessed the heart breaking destruction with their own eyes.

On the ground, Namita has forged positive linkages with the local administration. "I have better access to the local officials, and even the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari. I help to flag early warning signs of conflict, and local officials have been responsive. It has been 16 years since the signing of the CHT Peace



**Namita Chakma urging the Prime Minister's Advisor and the Ministry of CHT Affairs to respond to the plight of the communities in Taindong affected by the violence. She is one of the 47 Peacemakers supported by the CHT Development Facility.**



Accord in 1997. We try to be guardians of peace. We have lived in CHT long enough to really appreciate the meaning of peace.”

Meanwhile, Nigar, together with government officials went as far as the Bangladesh-India border to support and encourage the 2,000 displaced Taidong villagers to return home.

These two inspiring women are part of the 47 ‘CHT Peacemakers’ trained in mediation and peace-building supported by UNDP and the EU through the CHT Development Facility since 2011. Their experiences and training helped them channel their energies towards advocacy for a response to the Taidong violence and future preventive measures.

### **Activity 3.1.3 - Strengthening the logic based youth leadership through debating competition:**

The project continued to support district based inter-college and inter school level intensive debate competitions targeting youth as catalysts for change to promote local peace-building across the CHT in association with the district based institutions. During this reporting period, 36 debate competition events were organized including semi-final and final rounds (school- 27, College- 9) with involvement of 44 educational institutions. Through the events, the youth were provided with a forum to voice their concerns and engage in constructive dialogues on important CHT issues.



**A participant defending the logic of opponent group in semi-final round of debate competition**

As part of debate competition programme, the

project organized 2 day long intensive training on ‘Quality Debating Skill and Facilitation’ in Rangamati in collaboration with Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF), Dhaka for 40 participants (male-20, female- 20). The participants were selected based on the results of the debate competitions. Two nationally renowned resource persons- President of Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) and renowned TV journalist facilitated the training.

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### **Activity 3.1.4 - Crosscutting Small grants:**

As reported above under the Activity 1.1.1 (page 14), the project allocated a small grant (USD 52,000) to Taidong community for early recovery initiatives, focusing on livelihoods and social cohesion. The assistance was quick in nature, considering the urgent needs of the affected communities. The results are visible; now the supported communities are able to resume their livelihoods following our assistance which included provisions of house items, food, and machinery, etc. Apart from this, 20 small ethnic groups in the CHT were provided with small grants via Regional Council and implemented small scale income generation projects such as goat, pig rearing and poultry rearing in their respective communities.

During this reporting period, the project invited innovative proposals for small grants under the thematic areas of gender and equality; environmental protection and promotion of rights of small ethnic groups & local confidence building in CHT. 58 proposals have been received from local NGOs, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) working in CHT, which are now under review. The desired outcome of the small grants is to bring about positive changes in the CHT around these thematic areas.

## **3.2 Environment protection**

### **Activity 3.2.1 - Stream Side Tree Plantation with Indigenous Tree Species**

Various environmental governance interventions have taken form in the CHT to build the capacity of communities to manage the critical ecosystems in a sustainable manner. One example is a streamside plantation programme. A total of 43,738 indigenous seedlings were planted along the sides of 21

streams in 20 out of 25 Upazilas in the CHT. All the key stakeholders including local community, stream bank owners, traditional leaders, local government representatives joined these events where importance of streamside vegetation was sensitized. The streamside vegetation will help reduce soil erosion, restore stream banks, maintain low water temperature with clarity of streams, reduce evaporation, nutrient runoff, provide habitat for birds and aquatic wildlife, and act as reservoir for local plant biodiversity.

**Activity 3.2.2 - Piloting of Integrated Village Common Forest (VCF) and Stream Management**

Another example of environmental governance interventions is integrated Village Common Forests (VCF) and stream management. 3 sites including one VCF and associated stream (locally known as ‘Chora’) were selected from each of the districts in CHT to pilot the conservation of natural forests and traditional community water sources. First, a map of the community resources (including streams and one participatory natural resource management zone) was produced in a participatory manner, which was followed by learning visits to forest based community conserved areas (CCAs) within the CHT. 3 stream management committees were formed to manage the VCF, including enrichment of their VCF through planting of over 7,500 indigenous fruit tree species, demonstration of mixed fruit gardening with 4,500 seedlings in the stream corridors, and distribution of 4,800 fuel wood seedlings to grow in homesteads.



**Community people developed the land use Map of Bijoy Para Village Common Forest**

**iv) Piloting of Improved Cook-Stove (ICS) by VCF Communities**

Improved Cool-Stoves were provided for 220 VCF households in order to manage fuel in a more effective and sustainable way. The stove is a new tool for the community people who primarily depend on dry fuel wood for cooking. It intends to reduce existing pressure on VCF and homestead forest through a reduction of wood consumption. The initiative is also anticipated to free up the wood collection time of the community people. The field observation so far reveals a good indication of acceptance by the community people, and a reduction in health hazard as a result of effective combustion of fuel.



**VCF dependent Communities using ICS**

#### IV. Visibility and Communication

During this reporting period, the project continued to utilize strong communication and visibility tools to promote EU visibility. As a result, the project gained good media coverage and attention of high level policy makers and development partners on ongoing interventions. A series of visibility items were produced with the use of EU logo including calendars, banners, and notebooks. The project also ensured that knowledge products are presented with strong EU visibility. These products included the following:

**Annual Report 2012:** CHTDF produced 1,500 copies of the Annual Report 2012 reflecting key project activities and achievements in 2012. The reports were widely disseminated to stakeholders both at regional and national levels including to institutions like Dhaka University.

**Newsletter:** Newsletters with EU logo are being produced bi-monthly by the CHTDF with a total of 1,000 copies per issuance in both Bangla and English. The newsletters are distributed to the key government stakeholders as well as other development partners at national and CHT levels. The project also ensures electric outreach of the newsletter to wider networks both inside and outside of Bangladesh

**CHTDF Website and Information sharing:** Information related to CHTDF including this project and CHT development has been uploaded regularly in the website ([www.chtdf.org](http://www.chtdf.org)) with EU logo to raise visibility of EU funded development interventions.

**Development of promotional materials:** Promotional items produced by the project ensured the use of EU logo for visibility. For example, the pilot interventions to enhance banana value chain in the CHT included production of 30 signboards for demo plots and 12 billboards, and dissemination of 10,000 posters and 2000 festoons on improved cultivation practices of banana, and 2800 informational flipcharts designed for 1,500 banana producers, all which ensured EU visibility and consideration for illiterate. whom to allow them to refresh the improved cultivation practices demonstrated at the training sessions.



**Banner produced for the Seminar on the implementation of Sixth Five Year Plan**



**Awareness raising festoon provided to local stakeholders**



**a) Awareness raising and sensitization through observance of National and International Days**

Various International days were observed under the project to raise awareness on important themes while also promoting the EU visibility. These included World Environment Day, World Indigenous Peoples’ Days, and World AIDS Day 2013. Over 7,000 community people, students, Union Parishad representatives, traditional leaders, Upazila administration joined these events in the CHT and across Bangladesh. On World Environment Day, 5,975 community people (37% female) were sensitized on the negative consequences of deforestation, environmental pollution and the important role of the community people to preserve the environment. On **World Indigenous Peoples’ Day**, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples’ Forum was supported to conduct separate programmes in four regions of Bangladesh to promote the rights of indigenous peoples including the event in Dhaka which highlighted the key concerns regarding the delay of CHT Accord implementation. **World AIDS Day 2013** was observed in three districts and each intervention Upazila of the project. EU logo was used in all these events.



**Rally on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2013**

**V. Activities Not Done and Work Plan for 2014**

**5.1 Activities Not Done/Completed**

SL	Activities not done/completed	Reasons for Not Completing the Activities	Next action
<b>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.</b>			
1.	CSO mobilization for advocating election at local & national level and general accord implementation	Considering the political situation in prevailed throughout the country planned activity was not initiated.	Activity will be carried out in 2014
2.	Explore possibilities of community radio & Social media	Due to the sensitivity concerns of Government counterpart, this was not pursued.	No Action required
3.	Training of Trainers (TOT) for Police (3 courses)	Training was cancelled by Police Headquarter due to their focus on their primary duty to maintain law & order given the fragile political situations prevailed in 2013	Activity will be carried out in 2014
4.	Organize orientation/training on local policing 29 courses	Training was cancelled by Police Headquarter due to their focus on their primary duty to maintain law & order given the fragile political situations prevailed in 2013	Activity will be carried out in 2014
5.	Explore possibilities for women friendly police station	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between local police and HDCs was delayed due to longer time than anticipated taken for consultations.	Activity will be carried out in 2014
6.	Support for women friendly police station/facilities	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between local police and HDCs was	Activity will be carried out in 2014

SL	Activities not done/completed	Reasons for Not Completing the Activities	Next action
		delayed due to longer time than anticipated taken for consultations.	
7.	One national cultural diversity festival in Dhaka/CHT	Following to discussion with the EU, the idea of holding national level cultural diversity festival has been replaced with advocacy through high level dialogues.	This will be organized at the regional level with CHTRC.
8.	Training on Diversity at the Upazila and Union level	Formulation of diversity strategy has been cancelled due to prioritization of activities given limited resources	No Action required
9.	Meetings with local media in CHT	Due to adverse political situation, it was not possible to organize meetings with the journalist.	3 meetings will be organized in 2014.
10.	Establishment of legal cell at MoCHTA	A legal advisor was due to limited number of pooled candidates.	Position will be re-advertised soon
11.	Strengthening capacity of local organizations on social mobilization through theatre arts	The activity has been cancelled due to limited capacity of local organizations in this area	No Action required
12.	Promote Community Mentors for women's advancement	The activity has been cancelled as other activities to bring similar outcomes have been prioritized.	No Action required
13.	Exposure visit of CHT women peacemakers	Due to delays, it was not possible to organize.	Activity will be carried out in 2014
14.	Provision of small grants for gender and LCB	Due to more time taken than anticipated for getting an internal approval on small grants guideline, the activity has been delayed.	Planned in 2014
<b>Expected Results 1.2 Capacities of local government institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery.</b>			
15.	Development Block grants for implementing development plan to HDCs, Upazilas and Union	Due to delays in finalization of MDG acceleration activities plan by the HDC, Upazila and Union Parishad	Activity will be carried out in 2014
16.	Support to MDG ambassadors/advocates/ awareness campaign	Due to delays in finalization process of the district level MDG acceleration plan, the activity was not taken place.	Activity will be carried out in 2014
<b>Expected Results 2.1 Communities empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects.</b>			
17.	Provision of small grants for environmental protection	Due to more time taken than anticipated for getting an internal approval on small grants guideline, the activity has been delayed.	Planned in 2014
<b>Expected Results 2.2 Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and local services.</b>			
19.	Support to establish market outlet center for weaver groups	This activity was supposed to be managed by Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC). Delays experienced due to more time than expected taken for HDC to manage the design and procurement process of the market outlet.	An architect is expected to be on board by February 2014 based on Terms of Reference (ToR) developed. Market outlet center will be established by July 2014.
20.	Baseline study of Village Common Forests (VCF)	Due to the human resource constraints faced in 2013 as a result of organizational change in CHTDF, the activity was not conducted on time.	The activity is planned in 2014 through commissioning to an external research institution.

## 5.2 Future Work Plan for the year 2014

The following activities are planned for the next period. The four clusters under the project are mainly responsible for implementation as indicated in the last column in the table below.

SL	Activities	Time frame				Concerned cluster
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>1</b>	<b>CHT Institutions have increased capacity to deliver services and support community development</b>					
<b>1.1</b>	<b>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</b>					
<b>1.1.1</b>	<b>Building Capacity of CHT police</b>					
1.1.1.1	Conduct ToTs (3 batch) for police officers working in CHT		X			PA &CB
1.1.1.2	Conduct TOTs for Community police officer on community policing	X	X			PA &CB
1.1.1.3	Form Community police forums in 118 Ups, 25 UZPs			X	X	PA &CB
1.1.1.4	Introduce Women friendly facilities in Police Thanas/Stations			X	X	PA &CB
1.1.1.5	Logistic and equipment support to police	X	X	X	X	PA &CB
<b>1.1.2</b>	<b>Policy advisory support to MoCHTA</b>					
1.1.2.1	Establish legal cell at the MoCHTA	X	X	X	X	PA &CB
1.1.2.2	Organise NSC meetings	X		X	X	PA &CB
1.1.2.3	Organise inter-ministerial meetings and TAC	X	X	X	X	PA &CB
<b>1.1.3</b>	<b>Strengthen Advocacy capacity of CHTRC</b>					
1.1.3.1	Advocacy grants for undertaking various activities	X	X	X	X	PA &CB
1.1.3.2	Organise dialogues and workshops	X	X	X	X	PA &CB
1.1.3.3	Support IDP-TF	X				PA &CB
<b>1.1.4</b>	<b>Organise policy dialogues and round tables on CHT Issues</b>					
1.1.4.1	Regional and national dialogue on Local election in CHT		X		X	PA &CB
1.1.4.2	Dialogue on CHT issues land and Police			X	X	PA &CB
1.1.4.3	Celebration of CHT Accord signing day				X	PA &CB
1.1.4.4	Regional Cultural Diversity Festival			X		PA &CB
1.1.5	Regional Council Advocacy Grants on Sports for Peace	X	X	X	X	Gender & LCB
1.1.6	Upazila & District level Debate Fair for schools & colleges	X	X	X	X	Gender & LCB
1.1.7	Advocacy & Campaign on critical CHT issues for peace promotion by CHT Peacemakers Alliance & CHT Citizen's Committee (through expert NGO)	X	X	X	X	Gender & LCB
1.1.8	Introduce an early warning system of conflict prevention by PACS dept. of Dhaka University	X	X	X	X	Gender & LCB
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Capacities of local government institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery and economic growth</b>					
1.2.1	MDG acceleration block Grants for HDCs, Upazila and Union Parishads for local service delivery and institutional strengthening	X	X	X		CD & SD
1.2.2	Upazila Parishad capacity development grants ( training to UZP and UPs	X	X			CD & SD
1.2.3	Capacity Development Grant to HDCs – taking into account the recommendations of the Institutional Assessment	X	X	X	X	CD & SD
1.2.4	Capacity Development Grant to Circles- taking into	X	X	X	X	CD & SD

SL	Activities	Time frame				Concerned cluster
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	account the recommendations of the Institutional Assessment					
1.2.5	Development Block grants for implementing development plan to HDC	X	X	X	X	CD & SD
1.2.6	Support salary and DSA for three officers of CHT RC ( Information resource center and coordination meeting)	X	X	X	X	CD & SD
1.2.7	Support Government Staff (including Travel and DSA)	X	X	X	X	CD & SD
1.2.8	Support HDC Office Sundries (including stationaries, fuel etc.)	X	X	X	X	CD & SD
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Participatory planning, budgeting, monitoring mechanisms among CHT institutions and stakeholders enhanced</b>					
1.3.1	Engaging the stakeholders (Development coordination committees meeting at district, Upazila and Union level and Annual planning, participatory planning & Review meetings etc )	X	X	X	X	CD & SD
1.3.2	Support to MDG ambassadors/advocates/awareness campaign	X	X	X		CD & SD
1.3.3	Organize stakeholders workshop at district Upazila and Union level on MDG situation and develop MDG based Plan	X	X	X		CD & SD
1.3.4	Develop annual MDG Acceleration Plan for district, Upazila and union level	X	X			CD & SD
<b>2</b>	<b>Local organizations and Communities empowered and their capacity enhanced to manage their own development</b>					
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Communities empowered to plan and implement small scale community projects</b>					
2.1.2	QIF grants for newly organized PDCs				X	CE&ED
2.1.3	Orientation on ABDI project management to project staffs	X				CE&ED
2.1.4	Orientation on area based development approach at Upazila and union level with relevant stakeholders	X				CE&ED
2.1.5	ToT on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) to project staffs (Core Facilitators)		X			CE&ED
2.1.6	Organize training on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) for O&M Committee Members			X	X	CE&ED
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Communities have increased access to local services and economic opportunities</b>					
2.2.1	Follow-up Banana value chain upgrading activities	X	X	X	X	CE&ED
	Facilitate Rural Sales and Service Centers to act as input supply and selling outlet for the producers	X	X	X	X	
2.2.2	Organize Local Economic Development Forums to support value chain upgrading activities	X	X	X	X	CE&ED
2.2.3	Support to community people for creating income options and marketing opportunities (mushroom growers and honey bee keepers)	X	X	X	X	CE&ED
2.2.4	Area Based Economic Development Grants to Communities	X	X	X		CE&ED
2.2.5	Support to establish market outlet center for weaver groups	X	X	X	X	CE&ED
<b>2.2.3</b>	<b>Cultural differences respected</b>					
2.2.3.1	Finalising study report on smaller ethnic communities of CHT		X			PA &CB
<b>2.2.4</b>	<b>Enhanced role of women in development process</b>					
2.2.4.1	Address Gender Based Violence Prevention through	X	X	X	X	Gender & LCB

SL	Activities	Time frame				Concerned cluster
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	support for legal rights and assistance to violence survivors					
2.2.4.2	Introduce a social capital assessment	X				Gender & LCB
2.2.4.3	Campaign on Resisting Violence Against Women			X	X	Gender & LCB
<b>2.2.5</b>	<b>Small Grants Program for Cross Cutting Issues</b>					
2.2.5.1	Provision of small grants for Gender Equity and LCB	X	X	X	X	Gender & LCB
2.2.5.2	Grants for Small Ethnic communities	X	X	X	X	PA &CB
2.2.5.3	Provision of small grants on environmental protection	X				CE&ED
<b>A</b>	<b>Visibility and Communications</b>					
A-1	Printing & publication of study/survey reports		X	X		PA &CB
A-2	Capacity building training of Local Journalists -3 trainings		X	X		PA &CB
A-3	Publication of Annual Report 2013		X			PA &CB
A-4	Produce MoCHTA/CHTDF Newsletter	X	X	X	X	PA &CB
A-5	Publication on CHT Festivals			X	X	PA &CB
A-6	Produce promotional items					
A-7	CHTDF website maintenance	X	X	X	X	PA &CB
A-8	Sharing findings of Household Survey and small ethnics Baseline Survey at national level	X				PMR
<b>B</b>	<b>Planning, Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b>					
B-1	Result Assessment of Banana Value Chain Initiative and Community Rice Banks			X	X	CE&ED
B-2	Assessment on PDC sustainability and strategic direction	X	X			CE&ED
B-3	Periodical data collection on M&E	X	X	X	X	PMR/Clusters

Note: PA&CB (Policy Advocacy & Confidence Building); CD & SD (Capacity Development & Service Delivery); Gender & LCB (Gender and Local Confidence Building); CE&ED (Community Empowerment & Economic Development); PMR (Planning Monitoring and Reporting)

## VI. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The project now has multi-year M&E plan linked to the project document that ensures periodical M&E data collection. During the reporting period, the M&E activities were implemented smoothly. The project continued to provide M&E capacity support to project staffs, HDCs, Circle offices and local NGOs. The CHT institutions (e.g. HDCs and traditional circles offices) along with the project staffs were engaged in M&E-related activities particularly in collection of periodic M&E data, success stories and to a certain level of data analysis. At the field level, dedicated M&E staffs/focal points for each cluster and each district office collected and verified data, minimized data error, updated the database and ensured rapid reporting on results of the project implemented activities. At the corporate level, an independent Project Assurance unit established in the UNDP Bangladesh under the direction of the Program Management Specialist provided further quality assurance and oversight functions of the project.

Planning, Monitoring and Reporting (PMR) unit of the CHTDF continue to lead the M&E activities of the project. The indicator tracking system by using a structured tracking format is being effectively practiced at three levels i.e. HDCs, cluster/unit and PMR that ensured tracking of each performance indicator through providing its 'updated status. The information of this tracking format has been used in updating the progress of project log frame and preparing progress reports.

Apart from the periodic data collection process, various surveys and studies were undertaken by the project during the reporting period. These include a sustainability study of Community Empowerment interventions, Socio-economic Baseline survey of Small-ethnic communities (2013), and Social Capital Assessment (2013).



## **VII. Major Challenges, Lessons Learned and Measures Taken**

During the reporting period, the project faced challenge in the smooth implementation of planned activities across the board. This was due to the fragile political situation prevailed in all over Bangladesh as the year 2013 coincided with the 10<sup>th</sup> parliamentary election. Continued hartals (general strikes) were experienced across Bangladesh which hampered smooth implementation. Extreme weather conditions such as heavy rainfall/flash flood experienced in some of the working upazilas of CHT also affected the project outputs. In order to mitigate this adversity and accommodate new development, implementation plans were frequently revisited. For example, planned workshops, training and discussions were rescheduled to weekends. The downsizing of the support structure within the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) was also felt as challenge across the organization, since majority of staffs needed to take on new responsibilities as a result of reduction in human resources.

The below provides some specific challenges and lessons that are experienced in the process of achieving the expected outcomes.

### **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**

One lessons learned in 2013 under this outcome was the importance of utilizing the existing platforms such as this project to quickly respond to and address the peace and development challenges in the CHT region. In August 2013, when the violent communal attack took place in Taindong Union of Khagrachari Hill District, affecting over 2000 indigenous/tribal people, the UN agencies led by the project jointly undertook a needs assessment for the affected communities. Based on this, the needs-based early recovery interventions have been initiated, setting an example of quick joint engagement by UN agencies to respond to conflicts/ human disasters in Bangladesh. The most important take-away of this exercise was the capacity and flexibility of the project and organizations involved to effectively utilize the existing platforms (including resources) and swiftly respond to and prevent the communal violence. The project engaged peace-makers trained under this project to immediately address the psychological effects of the incidents among the affected communities.

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

With regard to capacity building interventions, several external studies noted that UNDP capacity building interventions of CHT institutions and communities have been successful given the post-conflict situation in the CHT where experienced partners and resources are scarce (CHTDF Review 2012-2013, Joint Evaluation of CHTDF 2013, and Draft Assessment of PDC/PNDG Sustainability 2013). However, the studies also noted a concern over sustainability of results beyond the project support. In 2013, with a view to addressing the financial sustainability gap, the project focused on advocacy work for a national financing system of CHT institutions, notably HDCs. Consequently, the advocacy efforts resulted in a decision by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) as of August 2013 to finance major components of the HDC-managed health services which have been funded by development partners to date. While the actual implementation is pending, a lesson learnt was the importance of persistent advocacy and negotiation of a realistic plan with the government for a gradual assumption of financial responsibilities.

### **Expected Results 2.1 Communities empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects.**

Under this outcome, completion of contracts with 13 local NGOs in September 2013 had an implication on the monitoring activities of the project. It meant a need for direct follow-ups of PDC and PNDG activities going forward by the project instead of the NGOs. In order to address this monitoring gap, the project planned and organized quarterly coordination meetings at union level instead of upazila level involving representatives of all PDCs.

## **Expected Results 2.2 Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and local services.**

The pilot initiatives to enhance CHT value chain faced some challenges in getting necessary buy-in from the local government counterparts such as Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and upazila officials, causing some delays in implementation. Limited knowledge of state institutions on their roles for new business modeling meant a requirement for more meetings to explain the concept / methods and change their mindsets. In this regard, it was learned that continuous result-oriented dialogs with the support of public and private leaders are essential for local economic development. However, platforms such the piloted LED forums are still largely dependent upon interventions.

The very limited knowledge of farmers on consumer demands and access to markets meant a significant time required for mentoring support for farmers to build their confidence. The value chain approach was indeed found effective in this context since it involved engaging them with buyers and traders where they were provided with opportunities to learn the needs and interests of buyers directly. Much effort was spent to foster trust between these actors, which contributed to removing each other's stereotypes and encouraging environments for new businesses. Improvement in farmers' confidence is also visible in the mushroom sector where they have integrated their activities backwards of the value chain and taken responsibility over input supply. These farmers will continue to build upon the good initial results achieved under this project.

## **VIII Sustainability**

Successful realization of sustainable peace in a conflict affect region including in the context of CHT requires consensus and commitments of all stakeholders on the peace process, addressing the root causes of conflicts. In this aspect, the project in 2013 focused on lobbying for amendment of the land dispute resolution commission act, which aims to ultimately resolve land disputes in the CHT as this being one of the deep-rooted causes of the conflict in the region. Major milestone in 2013 was the successful consensus building of the amendment act leading to the Cabinet approval as a result of intensive advocacy efforts, enabling the Accord stakeholders to move to the next step of consensus building for bringing sustainable peace in the CHT. The major takeaway of this effort is that while the Accord implementation depends largely on political outcomes influenced by actors at the time, the project's consistent engagement with a wide range of stakeholders at all times could bring tangible and sustainable results over time.

In terms of looking at sustainability of CHT institutions to manage the CHT affairs, the project also saw a good result in 2013. Advocacy and solid technical assistance of the project towards establishment of a national financing system for HDC managed services resulted in a decision by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to finance major components of the HDC-managed health services through the Ministry's Tribal Health Plan, thereby making a first step towards financial sustainability of the HDC health services. This was another important milestone towards achieving sustainability. Needless to say, this result is complimented by the project's direct approach to build the governance capacity of CHT institutions and communities to address their sustainability. Indeed, through the effective engagement of this project as well as synergies achieved among other projects managed by the CHTDF, HDCs have been strengthened technically, institutionally, and managerially and have now been able to fully deliver services in the sectors of health, education, and agriculture as mandated by the CHT Peace Accord.

With regard to community empowerment results, a number of indicators related to sustainability confirm the progress made so far. For example, a total cumulative savings made by the communities in all 3 districts reached over USD 715,221, and 616 communities have reinvested their cash returns for carrying out additional projects. Moreover, above 90% of the PDC members have been able to confidently deal with bank and financial institutions, and develop and utilize various plans/rules/guidelines for managing and undertaking community level initiatives (Annual PDC/PNDG survey Dec 2012- Jan 2013). The draft sustainable assessment of PDC/PNDGs noted that 'a considerable number of PDCs have already formed relations with Union Parishads and line agencies as a result of [the project] facilitations, and a considerable number of PDC members (239 women members of PDC) have become elected Union Parishad (local government) members, reflecting an empowering effect of CHTDF interventions'. This assessment report once finalized will provide directions towards formulating

programmatic areas of focus to achieve sustainability of PDCs beyond 5 year funding support. The draft plan includes a possibility of deeper and wider engagements with both government and private sectors and of formal recognition of PDCs. The implementation of the sustainability strategy will follow.

## IX. Status of Expenditure

The project incurred a total eligible expenditure of EURO 6,241,044 for this reporting period (1 May 2013 –26 January 2014). The cumulative eligible expenditure for the project stands at Euro 18,940,265.

A detailed financial statement is attached with this report (Annex-1).

The information on negative expenditure shown on the financial report is provided below.

<b>Budget line</b>	<b>Justification</b>
1.2.22 Upazila Coordinators (11)	The reduction in expenditure (Euro 41,943) was made to shift previously reported expenditures to correct budget lines. These include the expenditures related to 1.2.17 District Managers (3) and 1.2.18 District Community Empowerment Officer (3). Accordingly, reported figures under these budget lines were increased by a total of Euro 41,943.
3.1 Local (field visit of staff )	The reduction in total expenditure (Euro 55,521) has been made to reflect the adjustment for apportionment of programme support cost including Travel and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) among available donor resources managed by the CHTDF. Proper adjustments were made in the financial system to correctly apportion the local travel and DSA cost incurred previously. Accordingly the adjustments were also reflected in this financial report.
4.1.4 Workstations for Union Development Officers 4.2.1 Motorbike per Upazila Development Officer 4.2.2 Motorbike per Union Office	The small reduction in expenditure under these budget lines reflects the revaluation of reporting figures in Euro since the Euro/USD exchange rate used for this report differs from the rate used in the previous report. The reason is that in this financial report the rate reflects the weighted average of past 3 installments received under the project, while the previous rate reflected the weighted average of past 2 installments. Accordingly the cumulative USD expenditures were re-valuated using the most updated exchange rate.
5.2 Consumables - office supplies	The reduction in expenditure (Euro 59,289) was made to shift previously reported expenditures to correct budget lines such as 5.3 Other services (tel/fax, electricity, internet, security, mobile phone), and 6.3.9.1 Block Grants for HDCs for local service delivery and institutional strengthening. For example, some consumable items procured for health interventions such as plastic containers, medicine, methanol, and disposable medical glove etc. were moved to the correct budget line - 6.3.9.1 Block Grants for HDCs.

6.2.1 Annual Local Government & Circle Institutional Assessments (2011,2012/2013)	The small reduction in expenditure under this line reflects the revaluation of reporting figures in Euro. It should be noted that the Euro/USD exchange rate used for this report differs from the rate used in the previous report. The reason is that in this financial progress report, the rate reflects the weighted average of past 3 installments received under the project, while the previous rate reflected the weighted average of past 2 installments. Accordingly the cumulative USD expenditures were re-valuated to Euro using the most updated rate.
6.4.6 Cross Cutting Small Grants (less than 4,000 EURO)	The reduction in expenditure (Euro 9,879) under this budget line was made to shift previously reported expenditures to correct budget lines. For example, some expenditure related to targeted gender interventions were reported under the small grant line in the previous report, while it should have been reported under 6.4.3 Review of CHTDF strategies for gender and diversity. Accordingly, the expenditure was classified correctly in this financial report.
6.6.1 Annual Adivasi Cultural Festival and confidence building	The reduction in expenditure (Euro 33,244) under this budget line was made to shift previously reported expenditure to correct budget lines. For example, some expenditures that should have been reported under the budget lines such as 6.1.1 Advocacy Materials & advocacy work, and 6.6.3 CHTDF Learning Events, Observation Days and In-Country Exchanges were corrected and shifted to these lines.
6.6.4 CHTDF Annual Report	The small reduction in expenditure under this line reflects the revaluation of reporting figures in Euro. It should be noted that the Euro/USD exchange rate used for this report differs from the rate used in the previous report. The reason is that in this financial report the rate reflects the weighted average of past 3 installments received under the project, while the previous rate reflected the weighted average of past 2 installments. Accordingly the cumulative USD expenditures were re-valuated to Euro using the most updated rate.

The information on a change in title of a budget line is provided below.

Budget line	Justification
1.1.5 Programme Management Specialist will be replaced with 1.1.5 International Advisor, Conflict Prevention and CHT Accord Implementation	The description of budget line 1.1.5 will be replaced to International Advisor, Conflict Prevention and CHT Accord Implementation from the Programme Management Specialist. For this new post, Euro 202,347.60 has been budgeted for the next 13 months (units). The post will contribute to high level policy advocacy and bridge the current policy and advocacy gap experienced in the national level platforms.

## **Annex 1: Financial Statement**

## Annex 2: Progress against Logical Framework

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
<b>Overall Objective</b>							
	Enabling environment for local development, contributing to the achievement of local MDG targets in the CHT by end 2015 promoted	Measurable progress in achieving local MDG targets.	<p>a) 75% households in CHT region were absolute poor in 2008.</p> <p>b) Average number of food deficiency months was 2.7 months in 2008.</p> <p>c) Household annual net income was Taka 85,050 (Baseline data of 2008 has been adjusted with price level of 2012).</p> <p>d) 31.2% households had access to safe drinking water round the year in 2008.</p> <p>e) 12.0% women were assisted by medically skilled birth attendants (Doctor, Nurse, FWV and CSBA) during last delivery in 2008.</p> <p>f) Primary school net intake rate in the CHT was 62.5% (Boys-62.4%, Girls- 63.7%) in 2008.</p>	Annual MDG Assessment report in 25 Upazila; Bureau of Statistics data		<p>Considerable progress has been made on local MDG indicators in CHT region following project interventions.</p> <p>a) 60% target households are living below absolute poverty status (per capita per day food consumption is less or equal to 2122 K.cal).</p> <p>b) Average number of food deficiency months of households in target communities is 1.2 months, recording 56% reduction from 2008 baseline.</p> <p>c) Average annual net income of project intervened households is BDT 101,426, recording a 19.3% increase compared to the 2008 baseline.</p> <p>d) 66% households have access to safe drinking water round the year.</p> <p>e) 22.5% women in target areas were assisted by medically skilled birth attendants (Doctor, Nurse, FWV and CSBA) during last delivery, indicating 87.5% increase from the baseline.</p> <p>f) Net enrollment rate in primary school in CHT region (6-10 years) is 79% (Boys: 75.7 and Girls: 82.8).</p>	
<b>Specific Objectives</b>							
1	CHT Institutions have increased capacity to deliver	146 CHT institutions have improved	The institutions have less institutional and functional capacities to	LGI Assessment report	MoCHTA and relevant line ministries	7 CHT institutions (3 HDCs, 3 traditional Circle Offices and MoCHTA) developed their own multi-year Capacity Development Plan	



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	services and support community development	institutional and functional capacities to plan and deliver local services and drive development in their constituencies according to local priorities and evidence based needs	plan and deliver local services	MDG Assessment report  Community Score Card/HH Survey	provide support to CHT institutions to deliver services and coordinate development; CHT institutions commitment to improve service delivery at local level is sustained	<p>and the plans are under implementation.</p> <p>3 HDCs have now district MDG acceleration master plans in place.</p> <p>3 HDCs developed their own communication plan and are in place. 3 HDCs formulated Gender Mainstreaming Policy and is in place.</p> <p>HDCs' revenue increased following the review of internal revenue system. An increase of 18%, 13% and 10% recorded by Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban HDCs respectively.</p> <p>HDCs have developed website and established LAN connection in their offices and published newsletter, booklets on CHT rules and regulations and annual report. HDCs' e-management system has been improved; and 63% of circulars such as opportunities/tenders/office documents/notice etc. uploaded on the website regularly.</p> <p>Survey indicates about 80% HDC staffs have increased capacities to operate ICT equipment (fax, computer, photocopier, internet etc).</p> <p>Transparent procurement system is in place at HDCs and Circle Offices. The Mong Circle utilized the procurement policy developed to achieve the best value in purchasing logistic equipment.</p> <p>Institutional capacity assessment of 143 CHT institutions (25 Upazila and 118 Union Parishad) including reports completed.</p> <p>Staffs (122 no.) of HDCs, RC and traditional Circle Offices have increased capacities to deliver services through 6 training and</p>	

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						<p>workshops.</p> <p>HDCs have been strengthened to mobilize additional resources. BHDC submitted 1 proposal on Health to USAID in 2012 and another one to the Forest and Environment Ministry of Bangladesh. KHDC mobilized BDT 10.0 million (USD 128,000) from Japan for the formulation of “Development of water management system for poverty reduction of Khagrachari hill district” project. Moreover, RHDC mobilized BDT 65 million (USD 840,000) from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry for Climate Trust Fund on Forestation, Biogas and Waste management project in line with MoCHTA in 2012.</p> <p>35 staffs of HDCs’ and Traditional Circle Offices’ capacity on planning and monitoring has been enhanced through training on monitoring and reporting of the service delivery activities.</p> <p>Participation rate of Circle Chiefs and other traditional leaders in meetings with government counterparts have reportedly increased.</p> <p>Circles Offices have organized training for 650 traditional leaders (headmen and karbaries) on different issues related to their functions.</p> <p>Capacity support to IDP&amp;R taskforce is continuing and advocacy on IP rights completed through partnership with ILO.</p>	
		25% increase in HH satisfied with services and	Data not available			74% households of target communities who visited HDCs received services and 85% of those who received services are satisfied with	<b>Source:</b> Household Survey in the

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		economic opportunities provided by local government institutions				<p>the services received.</p> <p>74% households of target communities who visited Regional Council received services and 97% of them expressed their satisfaction.</p> <p>95.5% households of target communities who visited Circle offices received services and 94.4% of them expressed their satisfaction.</p>	three districts of CHT, 2012
2	Local organizations and Communities empowered to manage their own development	3,258 PDC have increased institutional and functional capacities to manage development within their communities by 2013	During inception, PDC have no institutional and functional capacities to manage their development initiatives.	PDC Survey  HH Survey	PDCs represent and are supported by the community and institutions  Benefits of development projects are sustained	<p>3,094 PDCs (95%) out of 3,257 PDCs have the capacity to revise the Para Development Plan. Of 3,257 PDCs, 3,115 PDCs (96%) developed project management rules (return utilization, profit sharing etc.) compared to 92% of PDCs in 2011.</p> <p>3,006 PDCs (92%) developed fund management rules in comparison to 85% in 2011.</p> <p>3,147 PDCs out of 3,257 PDCs (97%) developed savings management rules, compared to 93% in 2011. 3,049 PDCs (94%) have functional saving groups and maintain savings register properly.</p> <p>2,905 PDCs (89%) can conduct meeting and make decisions. 2,344 PDCs (72%) have the capacity to write meeting minutes.</p> <p>2,995 PDCs (92%) increased capacity to deal with bank independently, whereas this was 2,801 PDCs (86%) in 2011.</p> <p>2,395 PDCs (74%) PDCs have a monitoring committee and out of them, 2203 PDCs (68%) monitored &amp; evaluated their development progress. 3,083 PDCs (95%) have a procurement committee.</p> <p>2,555 PDCs (78%) increased capacity to</p>	<b>Sources:</b> Annual M&E Data Collection Survey, 2012 and 2011

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						<p>identify their own problems and solve those accordingly.</p> <p>2,686 PDCs (82%) have strong social cohesion.</p>	
		<p>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)</p>	<p>Average number of food deficiency months was 2.7 months in 2008.</p> <p>The per capita daily energy intake of an average household was 1797 k. cal. in 2008.</p> <p>In 2008, 75% households in rural CHT were absolute poor.</p> <p>Household annual net income was Taka 85,050 (Baseline data of 2008 has been adjusted with price level of 2012).</p> <p>31.2% households had access to safe drinking water round the year in 2008.</p> <p>8.2% households had access to safe sanitation/hygienic latrine in 2008.</p> <p>12.0% women were assisted by medically skilled birth attendants</p>			<p>Average number of food deficiency months of households in target communities is 1.2 months, recording 56% reduction from 2008 baseline (2.7 months).</p> <p>Per capita daily energy intake of an average project supported household has increased to 2,023 k.cal. This per capita daily energy intake is more than the level for the hardcore poor (below 1,805 k.cal), but still under the level of the absolute poor (below 2122 k.cal).</p> <p>60% target households are living below absolute poverty status (per capita per day food consumption is less or equal to 2122 K.cal).</p> <p>56% target households reported access to food throughout the year recording an increased by 57% compared to 2008 baseline.</p> <p>Average annual net income of project intervened households is BDT 101,426, recording a 19.3% increase compared to the 2008 baseline. (Baseline data of 2008 has been adjusted with price level of 2012).</p> <p>66% households have access to safe drinking water round the year.</p> <p>17% target HHs has access to safe sanitation/hygienic latrine which is increased by 107% compared to the 2008 baseline (8.2%).</p>	<p><b>Source:</b> Household Survey in the three districts of CHT, 2012 and Socio-economic Baseline Survey in CHT, 2008</p>

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
			<p>(Doctor, Nurse, FWV and CSBA) during last delivery in 2008 baseline.</p> <p>Contraceptive prevalence rate in target communities is 57.2% in 2008.</p> <p>12% women in target areas were assisted by medically skilled birth attendants (Doctor, Nurse, FWV and CSBA) during last delivery.</p>			<p>30% women in target communities take advantage/ services of government support mechanism, which is 50% and 21% higher than the control area.</p> <p>More than 43% women in target communities take advantage/services of NGO support mechanisms which is 70% higher than the control area.</p> <p>96.1% project intervened households having practice of using mosquito net as malaria prevention methods</p> <p>The contraceptive prevalence rate in target communities is 73%, which is increased by 27% as compared to the 2008 baseline. The same is 63% in the control area.</p> <p>22.5% women in target areas were assisted by medically skilled birth attendants (Doctor, Nurse, FWV and CSBA) during last delivery, indicating 87.5% increase from the baseline. The same is 14.8% in the control area.</p> <p>HH yearly expenditure on health care in the target communities is BDT 2,494 which was BDT 781 in 2008 baseline. The same is BDT 2,280 in the control area. (Baseline data of 2008 has been adjusted with price level of 2012)</p> <p>Net enrollment rate in primary school (6-10 years) is 79% (Boys: 75.7 and Girls: 82.8).</p> <p>Gross enrollment rate in primary school (6-10 years) was 90.5% (Boys: 88.2 and Girls: 93.4), while this was 120 from data collected at household level. The gross enrollment rate</p>	

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						<p>of target communities was found 33% higher than that of the control area.</p> <p>95.2% students (boys: 95.5% and girls: 94.8%) enrolled in CHTDF supported primary schools in 2008 completed primary level education in 2012.</p> <p>HH yearly expenditure on education in target communities is BDT 1,511 while this was BDT 514 in 2008 baseline. The same is BDT 1,338 in control area. (Baseline data of 2008 has been adjusted with price level of 2012)</p>	
<b>Expected Results</b>							
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	MoCHTA engaged in policy engagement strategies, including high level policy dialogues on, and strengthening of police, land, elections and IDPs	Before 2011, no high profile visits were undertaken lead by MoCHTA	Minutes of Meetings Media reports Advocacy materials LGI Assessment report	Government is committed to the implementation of the Peace Accord Political environment remains stable	<p>During the reporting period, a seminar was organized by MoCHTA to review the government's Sixth Five Year Plan and the advancement of ethnic minorities in Bangladesh. This was built on the high level visit 2011 of MoCHTA in Bandarban, CHT to discuss the inclusion of CHT in the National Five Year Plan.</p> <p>A policy level meeting on CHT Peace Accord Status: High Level Policy Dialogue Outcomes' was organized by the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Issues with involvement of policy makers, stakeholders and indigenous leaders.</p> <p>A time-bound implementation plan for Peace Accord developed through a high level dialogue organized by the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>A series of follow-up events to the high level policy dialogue ensured commitment of Members of Parliament (MPs) from the IP Caucus on the accord implementation. In May</p>	



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						<p>2013, the cabinet approved the draft Act and the act was placed before the parliament.</p> <p>In 2012, 5 (five) government functionalities of subjects under Health, Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Social Welfare sectors were transferred to the HDCs as per the CHT Peace Accord. In 2011 the Department of Youth Development was handed over to the Khagrachari Hill District Council.</p> <p>In 2012, National workshops on Sustainable Development in the CHT: A Way Forward' organized jointly by MoCHTA, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), ILO and UNDP provided an opportunity for a multidisciplinary exchange of ideas on sustainable development, including sustainable management of natural resources and watershed development in the CHT.</p> <p>2 high level dialogues held 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 LGIs.</p>	
		Regional Council's organizational capacity strengthened to advocate on CHT issues and for the Peace Accord implementation	<p>No advocacy strategy at CHT Regional Council</p> <p>Very limited capacity to advocate on CHT issues</p>			<p>During the reporting period, CHTRC successfully organized public meetings on peace, development and implementation status of the CHT Peace Accord with about 1600 people.</p> <p>CHT Accord's signing day observed in different places of Bangladesh including CHT, led by CHTRC.</p> <p>CHTRC, in cooperation with Regional Sports Councils, CHT initiated "Sports for Peace</p>	

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						<p>Initiative” and organized a football grooming camp for 98 under 14 girls of CHT.</p> <p>Bangladesh Adivasi Forum organized a press conference and discussion meeting held on indigenous.</p> <p>In 2012, CHTRC organized 14 workshops on the “Role of Public Representatives in implementing CHT Accord and Development”</p>	
		At least 15 CHT regional events and 3 national events held, bringing CHT people together and promoting dialogue between different communities and/or promoting cultural diversity	Very limited events to bring CHT people together and promote dialogue between different communities			<p>During the reporting period, 36 debate competition events for local peacebuilding were organized involving 44 educational institutions (schools and colleges in CHT).</p> <p>A conference of the traditional leaders (headmen and karbaries) held in Khagrachari, organized by the CHT Headman Network with the participation of 1600 traditional leaders.</p> <p>A live talk show titled ‘Adibashi Kantha’ on indigenous people rights and issues, broadcasted through ABC radio countrywide, raising awareness around indigenous issues.</p> <p>The International Mountain Day observed.</p> <p>In 2012, 3 workshops held in CHT to formulate a strategy for promoting cultural diversity in CHT.</p> <p>The 16 days long UNiTE ‘to end violence against women’ campaign organized in in CHT.</p> <p>A policy dialogue on social arbitration organized by the traditional leaders with the involvement of traditional leaders, lawyers, journalists, development activists, women leaders and civil society members. Agreement reached on introducing a limited scale</p>	

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						<p>written guideline for resolving social disputes in CHT.</p> <p>A policy dialogue on “CHT Women’s Inheritance Rights” organized with the involvement of traditional leaders.</p> <p>In 2011, the Cultural Diversity Festival organized promoting cultural diversity of small ethnic communities in CHT. Prime Minister (PM) declared the commitment of Government to full implementation of the CHT Accord.</p>	
1.2	Capacities of Local Government Institutions in the CHT strengthened, resulting in improved management systems for decentralized service delivery	<p>HDCs have strategic, evidence based, costed Service Plans in place at District and Upazila level formulated through stakeholder participation.</p> <p>Line departments have increased the frequency and quality of support provided to local government (Union Parishad, and Upazila Parishad) in CHT</p>	<p>Service Plans is not in place</p> <p>Rare visits by line department officials to the rural communities</p> <p>Community people had limited or no access to the services from the line department in CHT.</p>	<p>Minutes of Meetings Government Orders</p> <p>SWAP/ADP Service plans in place</p> <p>LGI Assessment report</p> <p>PDC Survey</p> <p>Government reports</p>	<p>MoCHTA takes the lead in coordinating programs and projects in the CHT</p> <p>MoCHTA enable local institutions to carry out comprehensive district and Upazila based service planning</p> <p>CHT institutions (including traditional institutions) are</p>	<p>7 CHT institutions developed organizational Capacity Development Plans, based on self-capacity assessments.</p> <p>Annual MDG Acceleration activity plan developed by 25 Upazila Parishad and 118 Union Parishads.</p> <p>A permanent desk on NGO Affairs established within HDCs has been functional. NGO coordination meeting being organized by HDC on regularly basis.</p> <p>District agricultural and education strategy formulated by HDCs and are in place.</p> <p>Participation of line departments in HDC district coordination meetings increased.</p> <p>During this reporting period, a total of 16,656 animals were vaccinated and de-warmed (vaccinated: 7,688 and de-warmed: 8,968) through 53 campaigns, organized via Dept. of Livestock. Cumulatively, the vaccination reached 97,166 animals since 2011.</p> <p>During the period, Master Trainers (GoB Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries officials</p>	

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					committed to deliver quality services and implement development	including NGOs technical personnel) conducted 122 visits to community managed Farmer Field Schools and provided technical support to the FFS farmers, which was 48 visits conducted in 2012.  MOHFW included a separate budget Line (BDT 150 million for 5 years)-'Tribal Health in the CHT' within Essential Service Delivery (ESD) Operational Plan under the Health Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program ( HPNSDP)	
		Police in CHT strengthened to deliver effective services through institutional capacity building, functional infrastructure and logistics including women-friendly police posts and stations, and outreach programs.	No initiatives to strengthen Police capacity in CHT to deliver effective services.  Police in CHT received no training/orientation on CHT rules and laws.  No ethnic police personnel of CHT origin transferred in CHT. No community police forum available in CHT.			212 ethnic police personnel of CHT origin that were previously deployed outside of the CHT were transferred back in all 27 police stations of the CHT as per the Peace Accord.  15 motorbikes were provided to the Bandarban police, 7 remote police outposts/faris renovated with solar panels, sitting arrangements and potable water.  CHT specific orientation course for Police developed and sent to DIG and Police Head Quarter for approval.  Community policing committees in Bandarban reactivated (Upazila (7) and Union (31)).	
		MoCHTA's capacity enhanced in planning, monitoring and coordinating development programmes	Planning and Monitoring unit is not available in MoCHTA.  MoCHTA had limited capacity in planning, monitoring and coordinating development programme			Planning Cell and Monitoring cell are established in MoCHTA and operational. Institutional capacity assessment of MoCHTA was completed and an organizational capacity development plan was developed.  IT capacity of 40 MoCHTA officials strengthened. Internet including Wi-Fi deviser installed and MoCHTA's website	

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			in CHT.			started being updated regularly. MoCHTA has been convening inter-ministerial meetings among 19 relevant ministries on transferring agreed subjects as per the Accord.	
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 (118) level and functioning.	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 achieve MDG priorities	118 Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) reformed/formed with inclusion of traditional leaders (headmen and karbaries)  Coordination meetings at 118 union, 25 Upazila and 3 district development coordination committee being held on regular basis.	
MDG assessments undertaken and targets set at District and Upazila level in 3 Hill Districts and 25 Upazila.		MDG assessments were not undertaken earlier		HDC involving all district level stakeholders developed district based MDG master acceleration master plan on selected MDG goal.			
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		Annual MDG Acceleration activity plans for district, upazila and union developed based on the district MDG master plan. A collective report on the process of MDG acceleration planning of 3 districts of CHT has been prepared.			
Monitoring and Evaluation Systems at District, Upazila and Union level established, particularly their contribution to		M&E system at District, Upazila and Union level is not in place particularly contribute to MDGs		Planning & Monitoring cells established in 3 HDCs. HDCs developed entire M&E System including indicators' framework, data collection tools/formats, data protocol, roles and responsibilities in the M&E system, data/information management calendar and annual M&E work plan through a			

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		MDGs (disaggregated by gender) and functioning.				<p>participatory process. HDC also developed reporting system and provided training to Upazila and Union level staff on M&amp;E. which supported HDCs in executing the M&amp;E and Reporting system from district to union level. HDCs' capacity enhanced with regards to planning, monitoring and reporting as per established M&amp;E System within the HDCs. The cells have now been well functioning.</p> <p>Health management information systems (HMIS) put in place in HDCs is feeding into the national HMIS on malaria, ARI, Diarrhea and other diseases, and contributing to compilation of the malaria data (as per GoB format) at the national level.</p>	
2.1	Communities are empowered to plan and implement small scale development projects	<p>By 2015 1,000 community groups in 25 Upazila contributes to (or participates directly in) service planning, targeting and utilization of local government resources for development</p> <p>450 PDC in 45 Pilot Union jointly implementing development projects by 2015</p>	<p>Community groups directly not participated of local government resources for development</p> <p>Up to now, no communities jointly implemented development projects</p>	<p>UDCC Meeting Minutes, participation list</p> <p>Union Grant Register</p>	<p>UDCC represent fully their constituencies - at least 10 community groups on each committee</p> <p>PDCs are willing to work cooperatively</p>	<p>A total of 4,409 community people participated in the planning process of union parishad level services/resources for community development.</p> <p>More than 1,000 communities formed 237 area based Project Implementation Committees (PIC). The PICs developed and are managing 237 projects (4-5 communities jointly undertaken each project) to bring about local economic development.</p>	
2.2	Communities have increased access to economic opportunities and	Number of HH taking advantage of government and/or NGO	In 2011, only 17% project households took advantage of government and/or NGO support	HH Survey	HH are aware on their rights and the availability of	During this reporting period, 17,131 HHs took advantage of government and/or NGO support mechanisms (training, advice, extension services, grant, loans etc.) which	



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	local services	support mechanisms (training, advice, extension services, grant, loans etc) increased by 25% by 2015, against 2010 baseline.	mechanisms (training, advice, extension services, grant, loans etc) <i>(Source: Annual M&amp;E Database, 2011)</i>		government and/or NGO support and have access to local services	was 41,930 HHs in previous reporting year. <i>(Source: Annual M&amp;E Database)</i>  54% HHs took at least 1 advantage, 17% hhs at least 3 advantages and 4% HHs at least 5 advantages of NGO support mechanisms. Whereas, 33% HHs took at least advantage/services, 8% HHs at least 3 advantages/services from HDC and around 72% HHs took at least 1 advantage/service, 24% HHs at least 3 took advantage/services from local UP. <i>(Source: Household Survey, 2013)</i>	
		Number of HH with increased access to local services and economic opportunities resulting from public investments at Union level.	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		Annual MDG Acceleration Activity Plan developed by 118 Union Parishads (UP) and 25 Upazila Parishad (UPz) with the participation of community people. The MDG acceleration grants will be provided to all UPs and UPz for implementing the activity plan early in 2014, and thus households access to local services will be increased.	
		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 registration criteria, no. of health clinics	No service infrastructures maintained and upgraded as these schemes will be under taken and maintained by the PIC under Area Based Development Initiatives	Hill District Council, Upazila and Union Parishad Reports	Block Grants will be used effectively to increase access to local services, create employment opportunities, increase farm production and farm profits, and stimulate economic growth in the	237 area based development projects developed and initiated. (132 (58%) related to communication such as construction/repairing of rural earthen & brick soling road, wooden/Foot Bridge, RCC box culvert and RCC guide wall; 33 (15%) related to education - construction/ repairing of school library & building, boundary wall, playground, rural student hostel, transportation facilities for students); 21 (9%) projects related to marketing infrastructure (rural market shed, rural sales & service centre, vehicle for transportation of goods); 21 (9%) projects on Water Supply & Sanitation (installation of deep tube-well,	

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		upgraded with facilities for emergency delivery, improved facilities in bazaar areas).  (Target:300 )			CHT.	construction of ring well, Gravity Flow System, construction of community latrines); and 21 (9%) projects on agriculture (irrigation scheme, embankment, shallow power pump, power tiller etc).	
		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			Construction of 9 Rural Sales and Service Centers (RSSCs) are under process to support value chain activities	
		<b>No. of workdays</b> 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			Around 50 or 21% projects started. 4,293 community people (23% female) earned income as unskilled and skilled labour. Average earning per person/ day is BTD 200-250.	

SL	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs)	Baseline	Means of Verification (MoV)	Assumptions	Achievement so far	Remarks
		No. of 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				Information on this indicator will be collected when the construction activities will be completed in the field level.
		HDCs effectively operate a health system of +800 CHSWs, 16 mobile medical teams and conducting +60 weekly satellite clinics in the remote regions, managing a referral system and other health local services	People in remote areas had little or no access to health services at local level.			<p>HDCs health services (80 satellite clinic, 16 mobile medical teams, 863 Community Health Service Workers (CHSWs), 158 Community Skill Birth Attendants (CSBA) and an emergency referral system) functioning in 15 Upazilas of CHT.</p> <p>301,737 patient cases (male-133,139, female-168,598) treated, of whom 103,039 (34%) were under 5 years children; 48,902 (16%) were due to water-borne diseases; 53,364 (17%) were due to respiratory diseases; and 19,649 (6.5%) were for pre-natal care. two-third patients' cases (69%) were treated by CHSW.</p> <p>Of the 301,737 patient cases, a total of 4, 411 malaria cases were treated Number of malaria cases among the total patient cases decreased from 12.8% (in 2006) to 1.3% (in 2013).</p> <p>158 Community Skilled Birth Attendants (CSBA) operational and assisted in over 792 safe deliveries.</p>	

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						<p>257 emergency patients supported and referred to, and received treatment in the Upazila health complexes or district hospitals. 45% of the emergency referral cases were pregnancy/delivery related complications. 13 patient cases served by the emergency obstetric care and 56 patients served through the fast boat services.</p> <p>39,269 health education sessions (of which about 85% session conducted by CHSWs) held. More than 23,000 people participated in these sessions per month in CHT.</p>	

### Annex-3: Progress on the Indicators' of Communication and Visibility Plan

The project continued on communication and visibility activities during this reporting period based on its communication and visibility plan. The plan elaborates the project's objectives to promote awareness on CHT and increase its visibility among key stakeholders while also ensuring visibility of the European Union at all levels. Below is progress against indicators of communication and visibility results as set in its plan.

Sl#	Indicators	Progress
1	# of cultural diversity festivals (national and regional) successfully completed and sufficient coverage received in the media	<p>One national cultural diversity festival was held in 2011 with engagement of 20 ethnic communities from the CHT and plain land of Bangladesh, and national and regional stakeholders. The event, as participated by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, received wide media coverage across the country. Similarly in 2012, the project organized a high level dialogue on CHT Peace Accord to raise awareness on the CHT issues and advocate for acceleration of the CHT Accord implementation, as the year coincided with the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Accord. The event received again sufficient coverage by the media. In addition, in 2013, a cultural diversity strategy was formulated through 3 workshops organized in 3 hill districts of CHT under the project. The final strategy was shared with stakeholders such as Regional Council, and Hill District Councils for future implementation and to raise awareness on CHT cultural diversity.</p> <p>Observation of the International Mountain Day in 2013 was yet another approach taken by the project to promote cultural diversity of the region. The program organized with the Government/CHT institutions shed lights on hill tracts issues including their lives, environment, and culture.</p> <p>Support to Mong and Bohmong Circle offices in organizing the Annual Raj Punnah – the traditional tax collection festival in 2012 was another tool for raising visibility and awareness of the CHT. About 7,600 individuals including foreign and nationals attended the grand Mong Raj Punnah Festival supported by the project, raising awareness on the traditional CHT practices, and mandates of the traditional leaders in this area.</p>
2	Appropriate representation of donor visibility in the local, regional and national workshops and CHT stakeholders/policy makers attendance at such workshops	Donor logo has been used for ensuring visibility in workshops, round table discussions, dialogues, trainings, national and international day observations, and other relevant events at all levels (local, regional and national levels). For example, the project ensured that banners for conferences and workshops contained donor logos and were attributed to donor funding.
3	# of advocacy materials produced and # of public outreach	One advocacy training handbook was developed in 2012 by the project to raise advocacy capacity of the CHT stakeholders on CHT issues. A series of training on advocacy were

		<p>rolled out subsequently, using the training handbook. 250 bags of indigenous/ethnic design were printed and distributed to the training participants.</p> <p>Cumulatively the project organized over 24 high level policy dialogues and round table discussions/meetings on CHT issues, resulting key policy level changes (the policy results are summarized in the main report).</p> <p>Furthermore, through the partnership agreement made with ILO, the project supported ILO to pilot a talk show on ABC radio - an innovative media tool – aiming at public outreach on Indigenous Peoples issues. A total of 24 episodes on 24 different topics of indigenous peoples’ lives including CHT Accord, land rights of indigenous peoples, CHT land commission amendment act, indigenous culture were broadcasted receiving enormous responses from the public audience.</p> <p>As part of regular initiatives on public outreach, newsletters are being produced bi-monthly by the project with a total of 1,000 copies per issuance in both Bangla and English. The newsletters are distributed to the key government stakeholders as well as other development partners at national and CHT levels. The project also ensures electric outreach of the newsletter to wider networks both inside and outside of Bangladesh.</p>
4	<p># of reports produced based on lessons learnt from the study tours</p> <p># of national/international observance days celebrated</p>	<p>Six reports were produced on six international study tours organized to India (twice), Nepal, China, Italy and Australia (1 conducted in 2011, 4 in 2012 and 1 in 2013). A total of 47 participants from MoCHTA, HDCs, and RC etc. joined the tours and prepared the reports following the missions.</p> <p>With regard to observation of national and international days, cumulatively 15 national and international days were observed at the national and local (Union and Upazila) levels under the project. These included International Mother Language Day, International Women’s Day, World Environment Day, World Indigenous Peoples’ Day, World AIDS Day and National Victory Day. For example, in 2013, on World Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples’ Forum was supported to conduct separate programmes in four regions of Bangladesh to promote the rights of indigenous peoples. The same event in Dhaka highlighted the key concerns on the delay of CHT Accord implementation.</p>
5	<p># of participants during observance of national and international days</p>	<p>Around 28,000 participants from different community groups, CHT institutions including Upazila and Union Parishad, traditional institutions, civil society organizations, NGOs, Upazila and district administration etc. joined the events.</p>
6	<p># of updates uploaded on the website per month, # of visitors per month, and # of donor related updates, queries and visitors</p>	<p>The CHTDF website has been updated with the most up-to-date information on a regular basis. A total of 665,887 hits were recorded from January-December 2013 and 602,759 hits from January-April on the website.</p>



		<p>Moreover, MoCHTA's website has now been updated regularly with most up-to-date information on CHT issues. Today, 63% of circulars of HDCs such as opportunities/tenders/office documents / notices etc. are being uploaded on the website for public sharing.</p> <p>A website (<a href="http://www.mongraja.com">www.mongraja.com</a>) has also been developed by Mong Circle since 2012 with the support of the project, providing access to information among wider public.</p>
7	# of CHTDF promotional materials produced and disseminated	<p>Under the support to banana value chain initiatives of the project, one video documentary on enhancement of banana value chain was produced in 2013 and distributed and shown among stakeholders. Further, 30 signboards and 12 billboards on banana production were installed in different project areas of CHT to raise awareness on these initiatives. 10,000 posters and 2,000 festoons on improved cultivation practices of banana were also disseminated among stakeholders. Moreover, 1,500 beneficiary banana producers also benefited from use of 2,800 informational flipcharts designed under the project.</p> <p>Under the gender interventions of the project, 8 posters (3,000 copies each) were produced to raise awareness on gender issues in CHT. 2 flip calendars (1,200 copies each) were also produced for gender sensitization including on violence against women and women's health. Furthermore, a seven minutes documentary on health interventions of the project showcased EU's contribution to significant improvement in health services of the CHT.</p>
8	# of special publications (promoting minority interests and celebrating cultural diversity) produced and disseminated to key stakeholders	<p>A special feature was made on 4 daily newspapers for the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of CHT Accord and cultural diversity festival in 2011. The inauguration programme of the cultural diversity festival 2011 was directly telecasted in Bangladesh National Television and Desh TV. Crest, and certificates were provided to the participants of the art competitions under the festival held in 3 districts and in Dhaka.</p> <p>A total of 11,500 posters, 4,200 T-shirts, 10,000 pens, 950 mugs, 500 CHTDF brochures, 228 pairs of jerseys and shorts were produced for various events such as Cultural Diversity Festival, Worlds' Indigenous Peoples Day and the "Boi-SA-BI" - CHT festivals.</p>
9	# of stories/reports in the print and electronic media covered on the donor visits to the CHT	<p>Media have covered extensively on CHT visits made by donors, showcasing development partners' continued interests in the CHT including the implementation of CHT Accord. For example, the recent visits of EU, Canadian and Japanese Ambassadors to CHT were covered widely by local and national print media.</p> <p>In addition, newsletters produced bi-monthly by the project featured donor missions hosted by the project, including those of the EU Ambassador and were shared among all stakeholders.</p>