

**United Nations Development Programme – Bangladesh  
Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF)  
Progress Report on**

**Conflict Prevention, Recovery and Peace-building in Chittagong Hill  
Tracts of Bangladesh  
(Reporting Period: 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015)**



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Resilient nations.*

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title	: Conflict Prevention, Recovery and Peace-building in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh
Project Start Date	: 1 July 2014
Project End Date	: September 2015 (However, no-cost extension of the project for a period of 12 months from 1 October 2015 to September 2016 has been proposed by UNDP)
Reporting Period	: 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015
Project Budget	: US\$ 1,474,000 (But USD 1,386,234 considering actual amount received)
Executing Agency	: Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility, UNDP-Bangladesh
Responsible Ministry	: Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA)
Project Area	: 118 Unions of 3 Hill Districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh.
Beneficiaries	: The local citizen across the CHT and CHT institutions (CHTRC, HDCs, traditional circle offices) in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.
Overall Objective	: Facilitate confidence building to solve long standing problems to development and sustainability in the CHT.
Strategies	: The strategies are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocacy for full implementation of Peace Accord and national process to build support.</li><li>• Capacity development to support confidence building.</li><li>• A quick response mechanism for the victims of communal attacks.</li></ul>
Target Results	: The Key results desired are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved demand &amp; capacities of national and regional level actors/stakeholders for the full implementation of the CHT Accord.</li><li>• Improved capacities of CHTIs to facilitate local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT.</li><li>• Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen human security</li></ul>
Contact Person	: Director, CHTDF, UNDP

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

BPPS	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
BDT	Bangladeshi Taka
BGB	Border Guard Bangladesh
BIPF	Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum
BIPRA	Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Rights Act
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHTDF	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility
CHTRC	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
CHTI	Chittagong Hill Tracts Institutions
CHSW	Community Health Services Worker
CPF	Community Police Forum
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HDC	Hill District Council
HPNSDP	Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program
IDP	Internally Displaced People
ILO	International Labor Organization
IP	Indigenous People
LoA	Letter of Agreement
LTBN	Local Trust Builders Network
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoPME	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
MP	Member of Parliament
MSC	Most Significant Change
NSC	National Steering Committee
PCJSS	Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti
PMR	Planning, Monitoring and Reporting
Q&A	Question and Answer
RC	Regional Council
TA	Technical Assistance
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
USD	United States Dollar

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Introduction and Background**

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), located in the south east of Bangladesh, consist of three districts: Bandar ban, Khagrachari and Rangamati. The region is still marked by 25 years of conflict surrounding issues of identity, local control of resources, land ownership and indigenous people's rights. The conflict formally ended with the signing of a Peace Accord between the Government of Bangladesh and the indigenous people's insurgency group, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) in 1997. The Accord paved the pathway for the recognition of the rights of people and indigenous communities in the CHT region, which is home to 11 distinctive indigenous groups as well as the Bengali settlers. Relevant government institutions have been established in the CHT, including the CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) and three Hill District Councils (HDCs) to support this peace process, representing the interests of the ethnically diverse population, and to adapt national policies and services to local conditions. To date, the implementation of the Peace Accord has remained partial, and peace consolidation continues to be fragile in the region. Further, CHT institutions still face enormous challenges in delivering services and development assistance to the CHT people.

The project titled 'Conflict Prevention, Recovery and Peace-building in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh' is being implemented by UNDP Bangladesh through the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF). The overall objective of this project is to facilitate confidence building to solve long standing problems to development and sustainability in CHT. The project commenced in July 2014 and has an implementation timeframe up to 30 September 2015. It has a total budget of USD 1,474,000 with USD 500,000 being contributed by the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)<sup>1</sup>, USD 500,000 from Sweden and USD 474,000 from Denmark. However, UNDP has proposed a no-cost extension of the project for a period of 12 months from 1 October 2014-30 September 2016 as some of the key planned activities were not completed due to political unrest and widespread violence during October 2014 – March 2015 across Bangladesh. The beneficiaries of the project are the local citizens across CHT, CHT governance institutions (RC, HDCs, and traditional institutions) and MoCHTA. The project strategies are to advocate the full implementation of the CHT Accord and national processes to build support; improve capacities of CHT institutions to support confidence building; and support a quick response mechanism for victims of communal attacks. All project interventions will be carried out within the umbrella framework of the 'Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the CHT' initiative.

The project works in partnership with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), the CHT RC, three HDCs, and Circle Offices. The project also closely works with PMO, Election Commission, Land Commission, NGOs and representatives from local community based organizations.

This is the first progress report, covering the key activities and results achieved during the reporting period of 01 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. The key results achieved come under the three support areas summarized below.

### **National Policy Advocacy**

The project has continued to steadily support CHT institutions in their advocacy and negotiation to facilitate CHT Accord implementation. For example, the project supported an event marking the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CHT Accord and trained 36 Government officials on the human rights mechanisms and key UN conventions.

During this reporting period some outcome level changes were observed, including the reduction in disagreed points on the draft amendment of Land Commission Act 2001, the appointment of the new chairman of the CHT Land Commission, and the transfer of six additional subject areas (secondary education, local tourism, money lending businesses, preservation of birth, death and other statistics, provision of licenses for local industries, and the improvement of trust and other administrative bodies) to HDCs from relevant ministries/departments as per the Accord. This has resulted in over half of the subject areas transferred all together, including health, education and agriculture but not financial and human resources for a fully effective transfer. In the meantime, the project continued with advocacy for

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) now changed to Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS).

effective decentralization on already transferred subjects. Last year also saw the transfer of 69 additional indigenous police personnel to all 27 police stations (*thana*) of CHT, resulting in a total transfer of 281 out of 1500 personnel committed by the government for conflict sensitive policing in the region.

Furthermore, continued policy dialogues and advocacy activities were successful in supporting the Parliamentary Caucus and CSOs to raise the profile of key indigenous people's issues. This included drawing attention to the National Budget, human rights violations against the indigenous peoples, establishment of BGB Sector Headquarters in disputed land in the CHT, and progressing the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Rights Act 2014.

The legal cell was established in MoCHTA and support will be provided from this project to operationalize the cell. The Legal Advisor, who is currently reviewing CHT related laws/rules, will ensure that any legal matters/amendments relating to the region are done in line with the CHT Accord. Furthermore, the legal cell assisted MoCHTA in removing all legal barriers to gain the possession of two acres of prime land at the centre of Dhaka for building the CHT House. The pending cases related to various provisions of the CHT Peace Accord were also brought to the notice of the honorable Chief Justice during this reporting period.

### **Strengthened Institutional Capacity**

While a significant amount of investment has been made by CHTDF and partners to build the capacity of CHT institutions, the project realises that without addressing core issues impeding the effectiveness of the CHT governance framework, the capacity transferred to these institutions so far will have limited impact on the overall development conditions of the CHT. With this in mind, the project has focused intensively on the harmonization of CHT laws and acts to minimise duplication and inefficiencies between parallel systems of administration at the regional level. Building on a study into the harmonization of CHT laws with the support of EU, the project facilitated the organization of one national level and three district level workshops to build consensus on a 'road map' on harmonization and consequently a commitment came from government to amend 12 CHT specific and 26 related laws. The project also facilitated two special meetings between CHTRC Chairman and the Prime Minister, and the Advisor to PM to discuss the key issues related to the accord implementation during this reporting period.

### **Response Mechanism for Victims of Communal Violence and Strengthened Human Security**

Whilst progress has been made in respect to building trust between communities, the relationships and linkages between settler and indigenous communities, and government agencies, remain tenuous. Despite of ongoing challenges at various levels the project has continued to gain traction in supporting confidence and social cohesion in the Hill Tracts. For example, the project supported Local Trust Builder Network is becoming more organized and empowered as agents for peace in CHT. The development of early warning and response mechanism is underway with the support of Japan, but actual institutionalization of the mechanism will be undertaken with the support of this project. District relief coordination has commenced following government approval on modes of rehabilitation and recovery support in response to unexpected violence in Bogachari, Naniarchar Upazila. 160 young people were supported in building relationships across ethnic groups through Sports for Peace initiatives. Furthermore, 300 Community Policing Forums reactivated with the support of the project are already having positive impacts, raising awareness on social issues across over 17,000 community people, mediating 804 social conflicts and contributing to public safety.

### **Financial Delivery**

The project incurred a total eligible expenditure of USD 596,574 for this reporting period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 recording a 43% delivery against the total actual budget (USD 1,386,234).

## I. INTRODUCTION

This first progress report for 'Conflict Prevention, Recovery and Peace-building in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh' project provides highlights of achievements for the period of 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. This project has been funded by the Embassy of Sweden, Embassy of Denmark and Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) of UNDP and is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh through its' Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF). The project implementation timeframe is from 1 July 2014 up to 30 September 2015. However, UNDP has proposed a no-cost extension of the project for a period of 12 months from 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016 to achieve the objectives of the project as some of the key planned activities of the project mentioned in the project document have not been completed due to political unrest and widespread violence experienced during October 2014 to March 2015 across the Bangladesh. The objectives and outputs to be delivered under the project are provided below.

<b>Overall Objective:</b> Facilitate confidence building to solve long standing problems to development and sustainability in the CHT.
<b>Immediate Objective:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Improved demand &amp; capacities of national and regional level actors/stakeholders for the full implementation of the CHT Accord.</li><li>2. Improved capacities of CHT Institutions (CHTIs) to facilitate local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT.</li><li>3. Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen human security</li></ol>
<b>Output 1. National Policy/Advocacy to support the Government of Bangladesh to implement the CHT Accord:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>A) Organizing policy dialogues on issues related to implementation of the CHT Accord (Amendment of CHT Land Commission Act, Transfer of more subjects together with finance and HR, Holding of local elections in the CHT, Harmonizing of CHT laws, local police etc.)</li><li>B) Providing Technical Assistance to MoCHTA, Land Commission and Election commission.</li><li>C) Building capacity of CHT and national CSOs on CHT related advocacy through training, seminars and workshops</li><li>D) Building Capacity of Government officials on international human rights mechanism, ILO and UN conventions</li></ol>
<b>Output 2. Improved capacities of CHTIs and traditional institution to local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>A) Build capacities of CHTIs to perform their mandated duties and responsibilities</li><li>B) Provide financial support to the CHTIs and traditional institutions to implement priority activities</li><li>C) Organizing trainings/ orientations for the CHTIs</li></ol>
<b>Outputs 3. Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen Human Security</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>A) Respond to communal violence (recovery and reconciliation)</li><li>B) Establish Community-Police Forums to improve security</li></ol>

## II. KEY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

The 'Conflict Prevention, Recovery and Peace-building in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh' project continued to support the facilitation of confidence building to address long standing barriers to development and sustainability in the region. Specific attention was given to the project areas related to supporting advocacy and policy dialogues at the national level, and capacity development of CHT institutions, government and CSOs at national and regional levels. Within CHT, steps have been taken towards building confidence and strengthening social cohesion in the region.

The key results and activities carried out during the reporting period under the three respective target components are highlighted below.

### **2.1 Output-1: National Policy/Advocacy to support the Government of Bangladesh to Implement the CHT Accord.**

As noted in several studies<sup>2</sup>, the core provisions of the CHT Accord continue to be un-implemented despite the government commitment in this regard, and CHT indigenous/tribal people are increasingly becoming frustrated by the slow process<sup>3</sup>. Land issues, continued presence of military, and pending HDC-election are some of the core provisions of the Accord not yet implemented. Meanwhile, with influx of non-indigenous population over the past decades, polarization between indigenous/tribal and settlers is increasing<sup>4</sup>. Similar to Taindong incident in 2013, this ethnic based polarization was once again manifested in a Naniarchar incident of Rangamati in December 2014, displacing over 60 indigenous households.

Despite the limited leverage it had so far on resolving these core Accord issues, this project has been steadily supporting CHT institutions in their every step of advocacy and negotiation process to contribute to the Accord implementation. For example, during this reporting period the project supported a high level dialogue marking the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CHT Accord and continued to support Government officials in training on the human rights mechanisms and key UN conventions. These small steps are contributing to some of the outcome level changes observed.

One positive outcome is the transfer of six additional subject areas (secondary education, local tourism, money lending businesses, preservation of birth, death and other statistics, provision of licenses for local industries, and the improvement of trust and other administrative bodies) to HDCs from relevant ministries/departments, as per the Accord. This has resulted in over half of subject areas transferred all together, including health, education and agriculture but not the financial and human resources for a fully effective transfer. In the meantime, the project continued with advocacy for effective decentralization on already transferred subjects. Moreover, disagreed points on the pending draft amendment bill of land commission Act 2001 between the government, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) and CHT Regional Council were reduced to zero in January 2015 as opposed to the 11 core points of disagreement in 2013, indicating a major step towards the passage of the acceptable amendment bill by all stakeholders. A new chairman of the CHT Land Commission was also appointed during this reporting period, taking into the view of indigenous groups for the first time. This is expected to bring about an effective constitution of the commission moving forward.

Furthermore, continued policy dialogues and advocacy activities were successful in supporting the Parliamentary Caucus and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to raise the profile of key indigenous people's issues, including drawing attention to the National Budget, human rights violation against the indigenous peoples and progress the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Rights Act 2014.

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<sup>2</sup> For example, refer to 'Social Capital Assessment' by Peace and Conflict Studies, Dhaka University; 'Review of Implementation Status of the CHT Accord 1997' by Dr. Abdullah Al Faruque, Faculty of Law, University of Chittagong.

<sup>3</sup> For example, RC Chairman warns to go for a non-cooperation movement against the government if sincere efforts are not made by April 30 2015 on implementing the CHT Accord. (source: Daily star, Santu threatens non-cooperation, <http://www.thedailystar.net/santu-threatens-non-cooperation-52700>)

<sup>4</sup> 'Social Capital Assessment' by Peace and Conflict Studies Department of Dhaka University.



Activities undertaken under the first output during this reporting period are elaborated below.

### **2.1.1 Support to Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples Issues.**

The project, in partnership with ILO, continued to support the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples Issues - a non-partisan and cross party grouping of current members of Parliament who work together to advocate for better implementation of constitutional and legislative protections for indigenous peoples. The support includes: i) financial assistance for day to day operation of the Parliamentary Caucus Secretariat, ii) organizing meeting/workshops/seminars on indigenous issues, and iii) technical assistance on drafting and finalizing the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (BIPRA) 2014. During this reporting period, the Caucus raised concerns on the human rights violations cases against the CHT and plain land indigenous peoples, delays in passing the draft amendment bill of Land Commission Act 2001 and full implementation of CHT Peace Accord. Based on Caucus meeting decision, a Parliamentary Caucus team lead by a ruling government Minister, Caucus Convenor, MPs, journalists and development partner representatives conducted three fact finding missions in CHT and northern region of Bangladesh. Two missions were conducted in Dighinala of Khagrachari and Rowangchari of Bandarban to investigate the land dispute arisen from the decision of land acquisition and establishment of BGB sector head quarter. After the missions, the Caucus members met with the BGB Director General and requested him to stop establishing of two BGB sector head quarters on the disputed lands in the CHT. The third mission was conducted in Dinajpur where 65 indigenous families were victims of arson and physical attacks by the land grabbers which turned into communal attacks. During the mission, they met with the indigenous victims, local leaders and discussed with local administration on how to protecting human rights violation against indigenous communities. After this fact-finding mission the Parliamentary Caucus held a press conference in Dhaka and demanded for punishment of the perpetrators.

The project also supported the Bangladesh Indigenous People's Forum (BIPF) to bring together both CHT and plain land indigenous peoples to discuss about a potential joint advocacy initiative to address marginalization of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh and promote indigenous people's rights. BIPF was also supported to conduct separate programmes on Indigenous Peoples Day 2014 in the CHT to promote the rights of indigenous peoples including the event in Dhaka which highlighted the key concerns regarding the delay of CHT Accord implementation. Over 8,000 people from different ethnic and mainstream communities participated in these events.

### **2.1.2 Budget Advocacy for Indigenous peoples by Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous peoples.**

The project supported the Parliamentary Caucus to undertake advocacy on indigenous issues at national level. The Caucus hold a press conference to demand more allocation for indigenous peoples both plain lands and CHT on 26 June 2015 at the Media Centre of National Parliament. The members of Parliamentary Caucus expressed their frustration over the block allocation of BDT 20 crore for over 20 lakh plain land indigenous people against the size of the budget (BDT 2,95,100 crore) for the fiscal year 2015-2016 and demanded that the government increase the budget allocation to BDT 100 crore. Concern during the press conference was also raised that indigenous peoples were not raised once during the budget speech, breaking from previous years.

### **2.1.3 Support for the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Rights Act 2014 (BIPRA)**

During this reporting period, the Parliamentary Caucus was supported to formulate a draft legal instrument - Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (BIPRA) 2014. The project supported the process of drafting the bill through consultation meetings with indigenous people's leaders, law makers and other relevant stakeholders. The Caucus organized two consultation workshops on the draft BIPRA with Parliamentary Members in Dhaka. The discussions focused on the terms and wording of the draft Act, and Caucus Members agreed to reword the title as "Recognition, Ensuring Security and Preservation the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" with the term 'Small Nationalities' listed as being second preference if Parliament does not accept the term 'indigenous'. The both consultations have secured the commitment of Members of Parliament to table the drafted law in the National Assembly as 'Private Bill'. It is anticipated that two further consultation workshops with the CHT RC and plain land indigenous groups will be held with the project support before endorsing the final draft BIPRA for presentation at the National Assembly.

#### **2.1.4 Capacity development of government officials on international human rights mechanism, ILO and UN conventions**

The project continued to support the capacity of Government officials on key human rights mechanisms and international conventions relevant to post-conflict CHT.

During this reporting period, the project supported MoCHTA and ILO to successfully organize a three-day long training on UN human rights instruments, national laws and legislation related to CHT for Government staff in Dhaka. A total of 36 government officials (27 male and 9 female), including



*Government training participant receives completion certificate.*

members of the armed forces members and police officers participated in the training. The training was centred around 7 thematic sessions ranging from ILO Conventions No. 107 and 169 through to land, forest and natural resource rights of indigenous peoples in international law. All sessions were delivered by experts in their fields. The special guest, International Affairs Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister, participated in the training and voiced concern on outstanding indigenous rights issues in CHT and plain land Bangladesh. He also reiterated the commitment of the present government to fully implement the CHT Accord. Honorable Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on MoCHTA and Secretary were also among senior Government representatives.

#### **2.1.5 Building capacity of indigenous youth on ILO Convention, UNDRIP and Human Rights issues**

The project effectively utilized UN inter-agency partnership with ILO to build the capacity to address and protect indigenous people's rights in Bangladesh. During this reporting period, a three-day long training was organized for 40 indigenous youths (male-20, female-20) from six different communities of the north-east Bangladesh on ILO Conventions (C107, C169), UNDRIP and Human Rights of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. The training enhanced understanding level of indigenous youths on ILO Conventions particularly related to indigenous peoples, human rights and rights of indigenous peoples that help them to act as youth human rights defenders applying training knowledge and information.

#### **2.1.6 Capacity development of traditional leaders through headmen conference**

The capacity of traditional institutions and leaders in CHT has continued to be strengthened for greater understanding of and advocacy for CHT Accord implementation.

During this reporting period, a two-day long regional conference for CHT *Mouza* headmen was organized by the Headmen Association of Rangamati. The purpose of the conference was to increase traditional leader's knowledge on the provisions of the Accord and in turn, better represent their communities' interest more effectively. The conference was also used as an opportunity to train 269 traditional leaders on their roles and responsibilities as Headmen and *Kabaries* and to identify advocacy strategies to support Accord implementation. Through the conference, participations were able to discuss challenges and gaps in CHT Accord implementation, the role they can play in raising grass roots awareness on the CHT Accord, and identify key demands to be raised to local institutions and government. During the conference particular attention was given to the topics of land, education, development, self-governance and rules of the 1900 Act, among others.

#### **2.1.7 Policy dialogue on CHT Accord**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on MoCHTA and the Parliamentary Caucus on indigenous peoples, with the support of the project, organized a day long high level policy dialogue on CHT Accord in Dhaka. The main purpose of the dialogue was to identify the primary constraints and opportunities for

the full implementation of the Peace Accord, map out key steps needed to achieve this and build consensus on these steps amongst decision makers and opinion setters. More than 200 participants from diverse backgrounds attended, with many including: Members of Parliament (MP), Cabinet Ministers and State Ministers; High officials of Government; leaders from indigenous communities; representatives from UN Bodies and development partners; in addition to academics and students.

Key points of dialogue was the speedy resolution of land disputes and resource related human rights violations against indigenous people in the CHT, as both issues were felt to be primary blocks to implementation of the Peace Accord and harmony in the CHT. On the whole the policy dialogue was a productive day with many fruitful discussions and opportunities to strengthen relationships between key stakeholders and discuss on CHT issues together.

### **2.1.8 MoCHTA legal cell established and operational**

During this reporting period, MoCHTA was supported to establish a legal cell in the ministry and recruit a Legal Advisor with the financial support of EU. Support will be provided to MoCHTA from this project to keep the legal cell operational. The Legal Advisor currently reviews the laws/rules and provides opinion to legal matters/amendments related to CHT to ensure that the laws/amendments are in line with the CHT Accord. While the review is still in progress, it is anticipated that the outcomes will complement the harmonization process and help build consensus amongst key players. The review findings are planned to share through a high level workshop with key stakeholders with the support of this project.

The legal sell in MoCHTA is already having an impact with pending cases related to the CHT Accord being brought to the attention of the honorable Chief Justice and a meeting organized between the MoCHTA State Minister and the Chief Justice. The cell also helped MoCHTA to remove all legal barriers to get the possession of two acres of prime land at the centre of Dhaka for building the CHT House.

### **2.1.9 Results from Policy Advocacy**

#### **Police from ethnic communities transferred to CHT region**

Major progress has been made with regard to conflict sensitive policing in the CHT. CHTDF advocacy with Police Headquarters and relevant ministries (MoHA, MoCHTA and PMO) contributed to the transfer of an additional 69 indigenous police personnel to their home communities in the region. Cumulatively 281 indigenous police personnel are now based in 27 police stations in 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.

#### **Progress on the draft amendment bill of Land Commission Act 2001**

Disagreed points on the pending draft amendment bill of Land Commission Act 2001 between the government, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) and CHT Regional Council were reduced from 11 points in 2013 to zero in January 2015, indicating a major step towards the passage of the acceptable amendment bill by all stakeholders. While the bill is still with the parliament for approval, the project support is continuing through dialogue facilitations between stakeholders with the ultimate objective of resolving land disputes in the CHT. In addition, a new chairman of the CHT Land Commission was appointed by the Prime Minister in 2014, taking into the view of indigenous groups for the first time. This is expected to bring about an effective constitution of the commission moving forward.

#### **Transfer of subjects to Hill District Councils**

The project continues to advocate for Accord implementation and provides support to CHT institutions to advocate on key issues both at national and regional level. During this reporting period, 6 additional areas of responsibilities were transferred to HDCs as per the CHT Accord. They include: secondary education, local tourism, money lending businesses, preservation of birth, death and other statistics, provision of licenses for local industries, and the improvement of trust and other administrative bodies. This has resulted in over half of subject areas transferred all together, including health, education and agriculture but not the financial and human resources for a fully effective transfer.

### 2.1.10 Implementation status of the CHT Accord review

The project continues to complement and build on other aspects of CHTDF's work and in synergy with other activities. In November 2014 a review of the implementation status of the CHT Accord commenced, undertaken by a legal expert attached to the University of Chittagong's Faculty of Law. The study, funded by the European Union, is part of the preparatory work undertaken for a high level dialogue scheduled as part of the Conflict Prevention, Recovery and Peace-building in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh project in August/September 2015. The study, based on desk reviews and in-depth interviews with key CHT stakeholders, is broken down into the following four sections: preserving special characteristics of the CHT; the empowerment of HDCs for their autonomy and transfer of subjects; CHTRC arrangement; Land Dispute Settlement Commission and the IDP Task Force for settlement of land disputes and rehabilitation of the refugees and IDPs.

The outcomes of this study will inform the upcoming policy dialogue and advocacy activities supported under the project.

### 2.1.11 CHT confidence building assessment

Given the highly sensitive and political landscape that surrounds CHT, it is unsurprising that certain quarters that are neither conducive nor productive in supporting peace and stability in the region. In order gain an honest and comprehensive analysis of the status and underlining causes of conflict, and hindrance to the confidence building process CHTDF, with support of the Denmark and Sweden amongst other Development Partners, commissioned an assessment. The assessment, based on extensive consultation with stakeholders and examinations of recent violent events in the CHT, considers how the international community may best work with the Government of Bangladesh to achieve lasting peace in the region. The final draft of the assessment has been received by CHTDF and is presently being reviewed. It is anticipated that the finalized assessment of the study will be shared with Development Partners shortly.

### 2.1.12 National Steering Committee for the Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the CHT

During this reporting period the 11th National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting on the Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the CHT was held in Dhaka, chaired by the State Minister of MoCHTA. Over 60 participants from Government ministries and departments, development partners, HDCs and Circle offices attended. During the meeting the Economic Relations Division confirmed their support for the upcoming joint UN programmatic framework for CHT and the State Minister, MoCHTA stressed the importance of taking into account lessons learnt from earlier phases. Major decisions made at the meeting included: i) Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Advisor to Honourable PM and Mr. Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing Honorable, State Minister, MOCHTA will visit Taindong area soon to observe the successful rehabilitation programmes jointly implemented by GoB, UNDP, FAO and others; ii) MoCHTA committed to follow-up on the nationalization process of HDC managed 228 schools, and HDCs with MoCHTA support to identify ways of financing schools between October 2015 and full nationalization; iii) MoCHTA to follow-up with MoH&FW on channelling of funds for the 866 CHSWs, adequate medicines and mobile clinics, iv) UNDP, HDCs and Civil Surgeons to continue with mapping exercise of nearby services at mobile clinic nodes; v)



*The honorable State Minister of MoCHTA, MoCHTA Secretary, EU Ambassador and UNDP Country Director in the National Steering Committee discuss the future direction of UN and international community support in CHT.*

UNDP to formulate the new programme document and submit to MoCHTA as soon as possible, among others.

### 2.1.13 High level exposure visits

CHTDF recognizes the importance of development partners' involvement in project oversight and operations, including site visits and monitoring missions. In March 2015 the Facility facilitated the visit of His Excellency Mr. Johan Frissel and Ms. Maja Edfast, Swedish Ambassador and Second Secretary respectively, along with Md. Faruk Hasan, Political Advisor to the Norwegian Embassy, to Bandarban District. Their field mission included visiting CHTDF and HDC project sites and a meeting with important CHT institution members including Region Commander Brigadier General Noquib Ahmed Choudhury, Chairman of Bandarban Hill Council, Bhomong Circle Chief, Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban district and Superintendent of Police in Bandarban.



*H.E Mr Johan Frissel with community members.*



*Officers from the national Bangladesh Public Administration Training Academy learn about the CHT context and project work in the region.*

Moreover, a group of 16 high profile government officers from the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Academy undertook an orientation visit session led by UNDP-CHTDF Deputy Director on CHTDF interventions and achievements made over the life of the project. During the session participants engaged in a 'Q&A' on project interventions, including the overall development scenario and governance systems in CHT. They also visited one project site and engaged with government line staff and beneficiaries at the Union Level. The importance of the full implementation of the CHT Accord, social harmony and peace-building in the region was emphasized.

## 2.2 Output 2: Improved capacities of CHTIs and traditional institution to local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT.

While a significant amount of investment has been made by CHTDF and partners to build the capacity of CHT institutions, the project realises that without addressing core issues impeding the effectiveness of the CHT governance framework the capacity transferred to these institutions so far will have limited impact on the overall development conditions of the CHT. With this in mind, the project has focused intensively on the harmonization of CHT laws and acts to minimise duplication and inefficiencies between parallel systems of administration at the regional level.

Activities undertaken under the second output during this reporting period are elaborated below.

### 2.2.1 Harmonization of CHT Laws, National level workshop

Since the British colonial period CHT has been governed by special administrative systems and associated laws. Today, the region's governance structure is made up by multiple parties, comprising the Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHTA), CHT Regional Council, three Hill District Councils, traditional circle offices, and national government - represented through district and sub-district offices. Furthermore, CHT is presently governed by three categories of laws, including those (i) enacted or amended following the CHT Accord, (ii) CHT specific laws such as CHT Regulation 1900, and (iii) national government laws related to

CHT. In light of the existing parallel legislation and multi-level governance system, harmonization of CHT laws is required to streamline the CHT Governance Framework.

In 2014, MoCHTA and CHT institutions commissioned a study detailing the laws in the region. The purpose of the study, undertaken by three national legal experts, was to identify inconsistencies between the categories of laws and provide recommendations for amendments to reduce gaps between primary governing bodies. In particular the study's objectives were to identify gaps and duplications due to parallel governance structures; identify and mobilize stakeholder involved in the harmonization process; identify the sequence and requirements for synchronization of harmonization processes; and identify advocacy requirements to bring a common understanding among stakeholders on the necessity of harmonization.

Following on from the study and with the project's support, MoCHTA successfully organized the first national workshop on the Harmonization of Laws in CHT in April 2015, Dhaka. The workshop focused on the drafting of a 'roadmap' to streamline the region's governance framework, ultimately reaching the outcome envisaged by the Government of Bangladesh and PCJSS when signing the CHT Accord in 1997. Key discussion points included the need to amend 26 national laws and 12 CHT specific laws, the full transfer of all Accord subjects, drafting of rules and regulations, and upgrading of organograms. Other topics of agreement included the need for the harmonization process to be coordinated and to engage all relevant stakeholders effectively. Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Chief Guest and International Affairs Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister, detailed the government's commitment at the workshop for moving forward. During the workshop the government committed to amend 12 CHT specific laws and 26 related laws.



*The national level workshop on harmonization of CHT laws was attended by high profile guests, including Dr Gowher Rizvi.*

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*“The government will amend Chittagong Hill Tracts related laws that are inconsistent with the CHT Peace Accord of 1997 to harmonize those with the treaty.”*

– Dr Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister

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Moreover, MoCHTA has agreed to form an advisory committee comprised of experts to provide support in the development of the road-map. Looking forward, MoCHTA and CHT institutions, supported by CHTDF have commissioned a second consultancy mission on the harmonization of laws and acts, specifically on the drafting of a roadmap for implementation. The draft roadmap will be presented in August/September 2015. Over 100 participants attended the event, including officials from different ministries, CHT Regional Council, Hill District Councils, Development Partners, UN agencies, NGOs and national media bodies. Significant participants included UNDP Country Director, MoCHTA State Minister, MoCHTA Secretary, and Secretary of Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, Ministry of Law.

### **2.2.2 Harmonization of CHT Laws, District Level Workshops**

Following on from the national level workshop on the Harmonization of Laws in CHT, three District level workshops Towards Harmonization of Laws of Chittagong Hill Tracts were organized by the respective Hill District Councils and CHTDF in a joint. The workshops were held in all three districts from late April to early May 2015 with the intention of informing all 211 participants on the harmonization process, moreover to gather inputs for the drafting of a roadmap. Participants ranged from CHT institutions through to military personnel and civil society members. In addition to providing a platform for informing

stakeholders on the harmonization process the workshops generated a raft of recommendations, including the formation of an advisory committee to help chart the harmonization roadmap and importance of establishing a framework for enhancing coordination between CHT institutions, under the Regional Council.



*District level harmonization workshops provide an opportunity for stakeholders to find out more about the process and voice their opinions.*

### **2.2.3 Capacity Assessment of Hill District Councils**

Good governance is typified by competent institutions that are accountable, able to set strong policies, deliver needs-based services and ensure rules of law. Strong governance is integral to the success and equitable prosperity of the Hill Tracts, particularly considering its post-conflict status. During the reporting period, the project continued to support the HDCs institutional and managerial ability through the conduction of capacity self-assessments using the UNDP 'blueprint' for capacity evaluation. The project has provided technical and financial support to HDCs to measure where their current capacity is compared to where they would like to be. Moreover, local stakeholder groups were engaged prior to the self-assessments to provide guidance in setting the general themes that they felt HDCs would improve on. To date the Rangamati HDC has completed their capacity assessment and it is anticipated that Bandarban and Khagrachari HDCs will be finalized shortly. Following the finalization of the capacity evaluation CHTDF will support HDCs in bridging training needs.

### **2.3.4 Support to CHTRC for institutional development**

During this reporting period, the project supported CHTRC to implement several advocacy activities both at local and national level. For example, at national level, two special meetings between CHTRC Chairman and Prime Minister, and Advisor to PM were facilitated by the project to discuss the key issues related to the accord implementation. At local level, CHTRC Chairman and other senior official made several visits to different places of Rangamati and Bandarban and organized meetings with community peoples, traditional leaders, students' leaders, civil society members and local administration on peace, development and implementation status of the CHT Peace Accord.

CHTRC was also supported to upgrade its existing website which is still underway. The website (<http://www.chtrc.org/bn/>) has now been updated regularly and plays a major role in ensuring transparency through disclosure of relevant information.

## **2.3 Output 3: Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen human security.**

Whilst progress has been made in respect to trust building between communities the relations and links between settler and indigenous communities, and government agencies, remains tenuous. Key services, such as policing, still have a long way to go to build confidence in communities with much lower overall confidence levels in law and order than the national average: only 31 percent of hill tracts households sampled expressed satisfaction with law and order against a national average of 62 percent.

Despite ongoing challenges and dissent from different pockets of society and government, the project has continued to make progress in building confidence and social cohesion in the Hill Tracts. For example, the project supported Local Trust Builder Network is becoming more organized and empowered as agent for peace in CHT. The development of early warning and response mechanism is underway with the support of Japan, but actual institutionalization of the mechanism will be undertaken with this project support. District relief coordination has commenced following government approval on mode of rehabilitation and recovery support in response to unexpected violence in Bogachari, Naniarchar Upazila. 160 young people were supported in building relationships across ethnic groups through Sports for Peace initiatives, Furthermore, 300 Community Policing Forums reactivated with the support of the project are already having positive impacts, raising awareness on social issues across over 17,000 community people, mediation of 804 social conflicts and contributing to public safety.

Activities undertaken under the second output during this reporting period are elaborated below.

### **2.3.1 Reactivation of Community Policing Forums**

With a view of contributing to public safety in CHT, the project continued its support to strengthening gaps between communities and police in the region through Community Policing Forums (CPF). During the reporting period a total of 300 Community Police Forums (CPFs) (270 at the Ward and 30 at the Union level) were reactivated under the project. The breakdown is as follows: 200 in Bandarban, 90 in Khagrachari and 290 in Rangamati, across the three hill districts. As part of the reactivation, forum members were briefed on their roles and responsibilities and public safety activities through joint workshops. Building on lessons learned from the policing committees formed by the local administration previously, the reactivation of the same under this project is meant to provide more governing and planning power to the committees through the provision of grant and technical assistance. Working closely with local police personnel and utilizing the grants the CPFs are currently implementing respective activities to enhance the security and safety of their own communities. The forums contributed to advocacy and enhance awareness of over 17,000 community people on issues as social crime, child marriage, theft, eve teasing, traffic and drugs abuse. Moreover, 804 social conflicts were collectively mediated through the CFP across all three districts, contributing to public safety and social cohesion.



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## COMMUNITY POLICING: PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE IN BANDARBAN

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Traditional policing practices can have a tendency to be reactive in nature, resolving the immediate incident and responding with a philosophy of public control. Conversely, community policing takes a proactive approach to preventing crime through creating a partnership and open communication channels between local administrators and grass root communities. It seeks to help give police a greater sense of citizen's needs and foster trust between community and policing services. It is through this partnership that a spate of robberies in Bandarban's Muslim para was resolved.

Muslim para was one of many communities in Balaghata Upazila, Bandarban district, which were plagued by a wave of break-ins and disputes. In response the villagers raised their concerns with the local police station and community policing forum, who formed a plan. Mr. Ayoub Ali was one of the local residents involved. "I sought some support from the community police and they organized a meeting with the villagers. This gave us a unified movement and coordination. Every house received a torch light and a whistle, and we took turns standing guard. These activities were effective and eventually the robberies stopped."

After the robberies ceased in Muslim para the community policing forum rolled their response across other paras in Balagata, distributing lights and whistles, and supporting in the organization of efforts. The resolution of burglaries in Balagata are a positive outcome. But perhaps the most profound contribution through CHTDF's community policing intervention is villagers and police working together to achieve a common goal of public safety. Bandarban President of Community Policing, Mr. Maung Kya Ching Chowdhury, tends to agree. "It is a great opportunity for us that police and community working together. People from different cultural backgrounds are involved in the forum including political and social leaders, public representative, women representative and religious leader. Due to this project many social problems have been solved and many ... people are getting support."



*Community Policing Forums bring citizens and police together.*

### 2.3.2 Conflict Early Warning and Response System in CHT

Despite over a decade and a half passing since the signing of the CHT Accord, tensions remain between communities largely on issues of identifying local control of resources and people's rights. It has been widely recognized that an effective strategy to countering human insecurity lies in a collaborative approach that engages all stakeholders, including government authorities, law enforcement agencies, civil society, media and the wider community. Consequently, a conflict prevention approach that builds on current confidence building initiatives and addresses the escalation of tension into conflict in the region is required.

To date, an in-depth study on social capital in the CHT has been completed in partnership with Peace and Conflict Studies Department of Dhaka University and with the financial support of EU. The study mapped out the sources and actors of conflict, which would be used as a basis for developing a model for early warning and response system in the CHT, supported by the Japan project. However, the actual institutionalization of the model will be undertaken through the support of this project. Specifically the early warning response mechanism aims to establish platforms for data collection and monitoring of relevant indicators, undertake a risk analysis and explore communication processes among targeted actors to respond to the confidence building needs in the region. The proposed mechanisms are intended to be institutionalized within the local government, law enforcement agencies, civil society, media and communities at large.

Central to a successful conflict and early warning response system will be a strong Local Trust-Builders Network. Building on results from previous years, CHTDF and the project supported Local Trust-builders' Network (LTBN) has been growing from strength to strength. Indeed, with financial and technical support from the CHTDF, the LTBN is becoming more organized and empowered as agents for peace in CHT. During the reporting period a further 46 new Trust-builders were trained with support from Japan, bringing the total number up to 148. Moreover a further 550 local level conflicts were mediated by the volunteer mediators, bringing the cumulative figure to over 1,350 cases. The successes in strengthening Trust-builders across CHT will provide a strong foundation to a project supported conflict early warning and response system in CHT. The mechanism is expected to be developed by November 2015.



**Trust-builder Namita Chakma speaks with women during a learning sharing visit.**

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*"Potential violence has signs that we can predict. Based on the situation we go into action to mediate between people so that both parties can reach a mutual understanding."*

Ms. Shahena Aker  
Trust-builder

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### 2.3.3 District Relief Coordination Meeting

In response to the break-out of conflict in Bogachari Para, Naniarchar Upazila, in Rangamati district December 2014, the project has made efforts to provide recovery support to the indigenous and Bengali communities impacted. On the 23 December a six-person team from CHTDF visited the affected areas to meet with local government and law



**Villagers inspect a burnt building in Bogachari Para, Naniarchar Upazila**

enforcement agencies. According to the project's physical survey and government assessment report a total of 62 buildings (houses, shops and a youth club) were burnt and assets lost. Unfortunately, the recovery support to Naniarchar victims remained pending for some months due to delays in approval from government, despite project's several attempts to work with the government on this issue. A district relief committee meeting was held on the 11 June 2015 in Rangamati district, where the MoCHTA Secretary and other government officials were present. The meeting provided a platform to discuss relief response and early recovery issue of the Naniarchar communal violence incident and government expressed their 'in principle' support to victims. As part of recovery response and implementation processes, formal discussions with government line departments, MoCHTA and CHT institutions are continuing. Moreover during the reporting period two court yard meetings were organized by project supported Trust-Builders with attendance of community members, government officials and law enforcement agencies. The objectives of the court yard meetings were to increase awareness on the peace and sensitize local stakeholders on the importance of maintaining social cohesion in their locality. The project will continue advocating for livelihood-focused early recovery assistance and reconciliation support, similar to what was provided following the 2013 Taindong community conflict.

### **2.3.4 Social cohesion through sports**

The theory of peacebuilding, which draws heavily from the 'three Rs' - Resolution, Reconciliation and Reconstruction –maintains a strong focus on building relationships. Across the Hill Tracts young people between the ages of 15 and 24 make up almost one fifth of the population, making them significant partners in peace and confidence building processes. In response to this need and opportunity, CHTDF is using sport as a means of fostering positive relationships between youth from different ethnic backgrounds. 'Sport for Peace' has become a recognized method of intervention in disadvantaged communities particularly in the CHT. Most notably football has been used as a catalyst for social inclusion, conflict resolution and peace among youth affected by poverty and conflict.

The Facility works through the CHT Regional Council to engage youth in the programme's football, martial art and debate initiatives for building confidence and trust across ethnic divides. This is particularly important in post-conflict CHT where limited employment opportunities among other factors can leave young people vulnerable to anti-social and criminal conduct. While sporting activities do not necessarily directly discourage violent behavior, it provides a positive alternative for young people and promotes messages of unity, team building, discipline and friendship. It proactively builds relationships between young people and across ethnic groups – an important investment in the region's prospects of peace moving forward.

In partnership with Regional Council<sup>5</sup>, the project organized 1) two residential football training camps; 2) an inter-district football tournament; 3) one refresher training for martial art training participants; and 4) provision of 800 sports equipment units to educational institutions, clubs, and local communities in the CHT. The project worked with Regional Sports Association and District Sports Associations that are under the purview of the Regional Council to ensure that these activities are undertaken as planned with required quality including ensuring the selection process of beneficiary youth. The project also involved the Bangladesh Football Federation to secure presence of three renowned national level football players for these activities. The brief results per activity are provided below.

- Two batches of month long residential football training camps were organized providing opportunity for 60 boys and girls to gain football skills and build confidence across diverse ethnic groups in the CHT.
- An inter-district football tournament was organized in Rangamati, benefitting 54 youths.
- One refresher training was organized for 40 youth girls who previously received training with the support of EU. From the refresher session, 7 talented girls were identified to work as trainer with the main coach for the upazila level same training.
- 800 units of sports equipment such as cricket sets-60, bats and gloves, volleyball sets-150, handball sets-100, chess set-100, practice balls-350, and match ball-40 were distributed in a coordinated manner between Regional Sports Association and 3 Districts Sports Associations based on a need assessment and request from educational institutions, clubs, and local communities/paras.

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<sup>5</sup> Regional Council is a local government institution mandated for coordination of development affairs in the region as per CHT Peace Accord of 1997.



**Structured sport provides a positive outlet for young people in CHT**

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*“This training camp opened the door for all of us to make close friendships with people from different ethnicities and cultures. We have shared many interesting customs...of our diverse culture during the camp. Some of us have managed to pick up some basic languages of other ethnicities. We have shared contact numbers and addresses so that we can be in touch.”*

Thuihlaching, football camp participant.

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### III. ACTIVITIES NOT DONE AND WORK PLAN FOR 2014-2015

#### 3.1 Activities not accomplished

SL	Activities not done/completed	Reasons for Not Completing the Activities	Next action
<b>Outcome: Improved peace consolidation in Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh through support to governance, human security, and peace-building</b>			
<b>Output 1: National Policy/Advocacy to support the Government of Bangladesh to implement the CHT Accord.</b>			
1.	Policy dialogue on HDC election and land management	Political unrest and widespread violence during October 2014 to March 2015 across the Bangladesh constrained to organize the said policy dialogues.	This activity will be implemented during the proposed no-cost extension period of the project.
2.	Technical assistance for Election Commission to explore possibility of local election in the CHT	Same as above	This activity will be implemented during the proposed no-cost extension period of the project.
<b>Output 2: Improved capacities of CHTIs to facilitate local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT</b>			
3.	Capacity assessment of HDCs conducted. So far Rangamati HDC has completed, Bandarban and Khargrachari pending.	This activity could not start timely due to volatile political situation in the country, particularly frequent strike/blockades programme called by political parties.	This activity will be completed in next quarter.
4.	Drafting proposals for policy reforms and formulation	This activity has not been undertaken as the study on harmonization of CHT laws was not completed timely due to political unrest during October 2014 to March 2015 across the Bangladesh.	This activity will be implemented during the proposed no-cost extension period of the project.
<b>Output 3: Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen Human Security</b>			
5.	Response and early recovery for the victims of conflict in Rangamati	Decision on mode of rehabilitation and early recovery support for the affected victims was delayed from the Government side.	The prep activities have already been started and main task of rehabilitation and recovery support will be completed during the proposed no-cost extension period of the project.
6.	Capacity building of local police in the CHT	Police could not manage time as they were largely engaged with the law and order management duties due to the political unrest and widespread violence during October 2014 to March 2015 across the Bangladesh.	This activity will be implemented during the proposed no-cost extension period of the project.

### 3.2 Future Work Plan (1 July 2015 to September 2016)

The detail work plan for the next period including the proposed no-cost extension period is given below.

SL.	Activities	2015		2016		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
<b>Outcome: Improved peace consolidation in Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh through support to governance, human security, and peace-building</b>						
<b>1.</b>	<b>Output 1: National Policy/Advocacy to support the Government of Bangladesh to implement the CHT Accord</b>					
1.1	Organize policy dialogue on CHT issues		X	X	X	X
1.2	Organize national seminar on the findings of CHT Accord study	X				
1.3	Continue support to MoCHTA legal cell	X	X	X	X	X
1.4	Organize workshop for sharing findings of law review				X	
1.5	Provide technical assistance to Election Commission to explore possibility of HDC election				X	
1.6	Support for the celebration of the International Day for World's Indigenous Peoples	X				X
1.7	Consultation meeting on BIPRA with indigenous peoples representatives in Dhaka	X	X			
1.8	Capacity development of CSOs & NGOs on advocacy related to CHT issues through engaging national NGOs		X	X		
<b>Output 2: Improved capacities of CHTIs to facilitate local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT.</b>						
2.1	Complete capacity assessment of HDCs	X				
2.2	Capacity development support to CHTIs	X	X	X		
2.3	National level workshop on Harmonization of CHT Laws		X			
2.4	Complete the road map on Harmonization of CHT Laws	X	X			
2.5	Preparation of policy briefs on specific laws for advocacy with the concerned ministries through dialogues with concerned ministries, MoCHTA, CHTRC and HDCs.			X	X	X
2.6	Support MOCHTA for drafting amendments of CHT specific laws through dialogue with CHTRC and HDC ,concerned ministries and the cabinet division			X	X	X
<b>Output 3: Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen Human Security.</b>						
3.1	Establish Conflict Prevention Networks in the region		X	X		
3.2	Introduce the Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Mechanism in the CHT		X	X		
3.3	Organize training on early warning system for the conflict prevention network and relevant stakeholders		X	X	X	
3.4	Conduct awareness raising activities on social cohesion and trust building					
3.5	Livelihood recovery support for the affected victims of Bogachari in Naniarchar Upazila of Rangamati	X	X	X	X	
3.6	Organize training for the Police in CHT and implement community policing activities		X	X	X	

#### IV. VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION

During this reporting period, the project continued to utilize strong communication and visibility tools to promote CHT issues while also raising the visibility of Development Partners. A series of visibility items were produced with the Danish and Swedish logos including a calendar, banners, notebooks. The project also ensured that knowledge products are presented with strong Development Partner visibility. These products include the following:

**Annual Report 2014:** The CHTDF produced 1,150 printed copies of the Annual Report 2014 reflecting key project activities and achievements. The reports were widely disseminated to stakeholders both at regional and national levels including different ministries/departments and institutions like Dhaka University. The Danish and Swedish logos was on the front cover, along with other Development Partners.



**Newsletter:** Quarterly newsletters detailing project updates and interesting activities are distributed to key government stakeholders as well as other development partners at national and CHT levels. Harmonization, policy dialogues and confidence-building activities supported by the project have been featured during the reporting period. The newsletter is printed in both Bangla and English, and is circulated through print and electronic mediums. Roughly 1,200 copies are printed per quarter and include all Development Partner logos.

**CHTDF Website:** Information related to the CHT Development Facility and the region is uploaded onto the website ([www.chtdf.org](http://www.chtdf.org)) with Danish and Swedish logos.

**CHTDF Video:** A seven minute video highlighting the diverse work that CHTDF undertakes was shot late 2014 and distributed earlier 2015. The video, which was shot by a professional British team, features many of the confidence building activities that the project supports, including CPF and Trust-builders. The video, which contains Danish and Swedish logos amongst other Development Partners, was widely circulated to target audiences including government personal. The video is currently stored on [the UNDP Bangladesh YouTube](#) channel.

#### **Awareness raising and sensitization through observance of national and international days:**

High profile and relevant international days were observed by the project to raise awareness on key themes, in addition to providing opportunities to raise the project visibility. These included World Indigenous Peoples' Day and International Women's Day. On World Indigenous Peoples' Day, the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum was supported to conduct separate programmes in Dhaka, Hill Tracts and Cox's Bazar to promote the rights of indigenous peoples. Over 8,000 people from different ethnic and mainstream communities participated in these events. The Danish and Swedish logos were used at all events.

### **V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The Planning, Monitoring and Reporting (PMR) unit of the CHT Development Facility continues to ensure result-based monitoring and reporting processes of project activities.

During this reporting period, the result framework has been reviewed and revised with some additional indicators to properly track progress towards the planned results (refer annex 1 for the revised result framework). The periodic data collection tools for the performance indicators have also been developed based on the revised result framework. This includes development of qualitative data collection tools to measure behavioral changes intended among beneficiaries. A confidence building assessment was commissioned with the support of Sweden and Denmark amongst other development partners in the CHT to gain honest and comprehensive analysis of the status and underlying causes of conflict and hindrance to the confidence building process in the CHT.

The periodical M&E data including compilation of success stories continued to undertake, engaging partner institutions such as HDCs and CHTRC. At the field level, dedicated M&E focal points under each cluster collected and verified data, minimized data error, updated the database and sent to PMR for consolidation and reporting. To ensure good planning and implementation of M&E activities the project also utilizes various M&E tools such as annual M&E plan and indicator tracking formats to monitor and track progress.

## **VI. LESSONS LEARNT, CHALLENGES, ACTION TAKEN AND SUSTAINABILITY**

### **5.1 Lessons Learnt, Challenges and Action Taken**

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

#### **Output 1: National Policy/Advocacy to support the Government of Bangladesh to implement the CHT Accord.**

The major challenge faced under this outcome was regarding the limited leverage that the project had over the core issues of the CHT Peace Accord, despite its successful engagement with key Accord stakeholders so far. For example, the allocation of sufficient financial and human resources for transferred subjects remain pending in many cases despite high level dialogues and regular communication channels with the key stakeholders (such as Parliamentary Caucus) for pushing forward issues. Based on the learning, during the remaining period, the project is aiming for more strategic utilization of high level dialogues being planned along with clear time-bound milestones to ensure consensus built on each step of the discussion/negotiations on pending clauses of CHT Accord provisions.

#### **Output 2: Improved capacities of CHTIs to facilitate local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT.**

Coordination between local government (Union and Upazila Parishad) and CHT institutions (HDCs, CHTRC, and traditional institutions) remained a challenge throughout the project period. Due to limited implementation of the CHT Accord, these institutions continue to function in parallel, resulting in confusion in responsibility and areas of authority. To address this hindrance in the long run, harmonization of laws to draw clear lines of responsibilities between these systems is ongoing under the project. Due to the requirement of consensus among key stakeholders and government's political will to move forward, however, the process is anticipated to take long and as a result, the expected outcome on harmonization will not be achieved within the project timeframe. Given this constraint, the project during the remaining period, will focus on building consensus on the priority laws and acts to be harmonized/amended based on the earlier exercise of identifying these key laws and acts (by engaging experts). The subsequent harmonization workshops will be used as a tool for reaching this consensus between the key stakeholders.

#### **Output 3: Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen human security.**

A significant challenge faced under this output was gaining traction on a coordinated response to the Naniarchar Upazila violence in December 2014. Despite the project undertaking an initial joint assessment of the affected communities with the government, securing subsequent buy-in from central government was extremely difficult, despite repeated attempts by the project. At the recent District Relief Coordination Meeting in June 2015, the government expressed their 'in principle' support for development response to the violence and the project remains hopeful that progress will now take place at a faster rate. Moving forward, the project will continue to advocate strategically securing formal government support and the commencement of support for impacted households.

Throughout the duration of the project, it has been observed that open discussion on community issues and conflicts are not encouraged, leading to further escalation of violence. Moreover, a gap exists between communities, local administration and law enforcement agencies which hinder communication and mutual trust. This gap has proven to be a problem in rapid response to regional violence, largely resulting



from an absence in collective effort and coordination. Despite various government and law enforcement agencies and representatives recognizing the need to engage with volunteer mediators, (Trust-builders) a more formalized and synchronized response is needed. The project anticipates that the establishment of a conflict early warning and response mechanism will meet this need and support government institutions in being more able and accountable in ensuring human security in the region.

## **5.2 Sustainability**

Addressing sustainability of project results achieved is a key focus. Foremost, it should be noted that the project worked with government, CHT institutions and CSO at the national and local level to build their capacity, raise their awareness and increase their ability to both better advocate for CHT Accord implementation and to perform their own functions. These interventions will go a long way towards having an enduring impact on not only those targeted stakeholders, but on the lives of beneficiaries in the long run. For example, through now functioning CPFs, relationships between communities and police in Rangamati and Khagrachari districts have been strengthened and disputes resolved. Immediate conflicts are being settled through Trust-builders and the impacts of potential violence will be minimised through a comprehensive early warning system. CSOs and traditional institutions have greater awareness on CHT Accord matters and the capacity to advocate with impact. Moreover, at the national level, policy advocacy with, and sensitization of, parliamentarians, MoCHTA and other partners through the Parliamentary Caucus have made significant progress in bringing indigenous issues to the fore. Finally, through gaining consensus and advocating for the amendments and revisions of CHT laws and acts, the project will make a lasting impact on clearer and more coordinated governance in the region, thereby enabling larger impact on development conditions. The preparatory work already done on harmonization of laws and acts under this project can be fully built on in the next phase.

It is also worth mentioning the wider and more enduring social ripples resulting from the CHTDF's community interventions. In 2014, seven women previously supported by CHTDF in varying capacities, including as local Trust-builders were elected as Upazila Vice Chairmen during the Upazila election, indicating both political empowerment and increased social standing.

## VI. STATUS OF EXPENDITURE

The project incurred a total eligible expenditure of USD 596,574 for this reporting period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 recording a 43% delivery against the total actual budget (USD 1,386,234).

Budget Description	Original budget as per agreement (in USD)	Total budget considering actual amount received	Expenditure from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (in USD)	Remarks
<b>1. National Policy/Advocacy to support the Government of Bangladesh to implement the CHT Accord</b>				
Policy dialogues	80,000	75,665	18,521	
TA to MoCHTA	26,233	25,000	-	
Capacity building of CSOs, NGOs	40,000	38,811	-	
Support to ILO for advocacy on IP rights	92,000	92,000	42,286	
Support to BIPF	25,000	25,000	25,000	
Senior National Policy Expert	57,137	51000	41,145	
Partial salary of National Expert (Advocacy)	54,498	48000	27,299	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>374,868</b>	<b>355,476</b>	<b>154,250</b>	
<b>2: Improved capacities of CHTIs to facilitate local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT</b>				
Technical and financial support to CHTIs (CHTRC-30K, 3 HDCs-80K, 3Circles 30K and IDPTF10K)	150,000	136,536	27,759	
Harmonization of CHT Laws	25,000	22,809	7,656	
Partial Salary of Institutional development expert	87,276	79,613	3,497	
Programme Officer- Capacity Development/ Governance	35,370	35,370	17,299	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>297,646</b>	<b>274,328</b>	<b>56,211</b>	
<b>3: Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen Human Security</b>				
Funds for rapid response and early recovery	150,000	147,926	22,063	
Reconciliation and mediation	50,000	50,000	31,550	
National Officer Early Recovery	23,033	23,033	14,763	
Formation of Community Police Forum in 30 Ups	120,000	110,000	8,065	

Community Outreach & Training expert for police	35,370	30,025	-	It was planned to recruit a Police officer for this position and accordingly processed. However the selected candidate did not get final approval of taking the position on lien. The project will hire two national consultants (retired police officers) for conducting training for police during the proposed extension period and cost for the consultants will be paid from this budget line.
Local Confidence Building Expert (3)	69,145	69,145	44,862	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>447,548</b>	<b>430,129</b>	<b>121,303</b>	
<b>4: Operational Cost and Programme Management</b>				
Office Rent, Utility, Office supplies, and other services	60,000	60,000	94,287	Expenditure under this budget line shows high than the allocated budget. However, additional expenditure of USD 29xxx is currently under review of this budget line.
Travel & Daily Substance Allowance	50,000	50,000	50,482	
Human Resources for programme support such as procurement, security, and monitoring	112,753	112,753	86,636	
Monitoring and Evaluations	22,000	22,000	2,495	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>244,753</b>	<b>244,753</b>	<b>233,899</b>	
<b>5. General Management Services (8%)</b>	109,185	81,548	30,910	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,474,000</b>	<b>1,386,234</b>	<b>596,574</b>	

## Annex-1: Progress against Indicators Framework

Results	Indicators	Baseline (Base year 2013)	Targets	Achievements as of 30 June 2015	Remarks
<b>Impact: Facilitate confidence building to solve long standing problems to development and sustainability in the CHT</b>					
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Improved demand & capacities of national and regional level actors/ stakeholders for the full implementation of the CHT Accord	1. # of subjects transferred to HDCs	12 subjects were transferred to 3 HDCs (as of 2013)	A least 4 subjects together with finance and HR	During this reporting period, 6 additional areas of responsibility were transferred to HDCs. They include: secondary education, local tourism, money lending businesses, preservation of birth, death and other statistics, provision of licenses for local industries, and the improvement of trust and other administrative bodies.	Full transfer of finance and HR for these six subjects is pending.
	2. Land commission amendment bill passed by the parliament	Land commission amendment bill is not passed in the national parliament	The national parliament passed the land commission amendment bill	Dialogues facilitated by the CHTDF between government, PCJSS and the Regional Council contributed to reducing the number of disagreed points on the draft amendment bill of the Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001 from 13 to 0 in early 2015, indicating a major step towards the passage of the acceptable amendment bill by all stakeholders. In addition, a new chairman of the CHT Land Commission has been appointed during this reporting period, taking into the view of indigenous groups for the first time.	It is expected that the bill will be placed in upcoming (September) session in the parliament.
	3. # of IP police personnel transferred to CHT (additional indicator)	212 (as of 2013)	Actual	During this reporting period, CHTDF advocacy contributed to the transfer of an additional 69 indigenous police personnel to their home communities in the region. Cumulatively 281 police personnel are now based in 27 police stations in CHT.	

<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Improved capacities of CHTIs to facilitate local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT</p>	<p>1. CHTIs with increased capacity to perform their mandated duties and responsibilities</p>	<p>Capacity assessment of HDCs was conducted in 2012. Major areas of improvement were-IT, revenue enhancement, capacity development of staffs, proper planning etc.</p>	<p>CHTIs have technical expertise to their mandated duties and responsibilities as per the CHT Accord</p>	<p>With the project's technical and financial inputs HDCs have been supported in undertaking capacity self-assessments to determine where their strengths and weaknesses lie. Rangamati HDC completed and Bandarban and Khagrachari to be finalized shortly.</p>	<p>Based on self-assessment findings CHTDF will support HDCs in further strengthening their capacity to bridge capacity gaps.</p>
	<p>2. # of CHT laws and policies are harmonized</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Organization of national and district level workshops to discuss and bring about consensus on the harmonization of CHT laws and acts 'road-map'.</p> <p>A commitment came from government to amend 12 CHT specific and 26 related laws.</p> <p>MoCHTA to form advisory committee to guide and provide support in the development of road map.</p>	<p>Workshops build on a comprehensive study in the harmonization of laws and acts in CHT commissioned by the CHTDF.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal violence and strengthen human security</p>	<p>1. % of victims supported re-established livelihoods post early recovery support</p>	<p>Baseline needs to be established</p>	<p>70% of victims supported re-established livelihoods post early recovery support</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>The government recently approved the mode of rehabilitation and early recovery support for the affected families of the Bogachari, Naniarchar Upazila in Rangamati. CHTDF is hopeful that the post conflict recovery support for the affected communities will be started implementation shortly. At the end of the intervention, the progress of this indicator will be assessed through a result assessment.</p>

	2. % of people in target areas with improved perceptions of social cohesion within twelve to eighteen months after conflict ends ( <i>this indicator is slightly modified</i> )	Baseline needs to be established	TBD	2 court yard meetings have been organized by the CHT local Trust-builders' Alliance members in the severely affected areas (14 mile area, Bogachari, Burighat Union under Naniarchar Upazila, Rangamati district) from a communal attack took place in December 2014. The objectives of the court yard meetings were to increase mass awareness on the peace among communities and sensitize local authorities/ stakeholders on importance of keeping social cohesion in their locality. Government officials, Public representatives, Law enforcement agencies, affected community peoples, etc. attended the meetings.	At the end of the intervention, the progress of this indicator will be assessed through a result assessment.
<b>Output 1:</b> National Policy/Advocacy to support the Government of Bangladesh to implement the CHT Accord	1.1 # of Policy Dialogues organised on issues <sup>6</sup> related to implementation of the CHT Accord	Baseline of this indicator is not applicable for this project	6	3 policy dialogue were held ( <b>One national level policy dialogue</b> to mark the 17 <sup>th</sup> CHT Accord was held in 2014. Achievements, lessons learnt and the way forward was discussed; <b>One high level workshop</b> was held at national level on harmonization of CHT Laws contributed to bringing consensus on the harmonization of CHT laws and acts 'road-map' among the relevant stakeholders; and <b>a regional conference of Mouza headmen</b> in the CHT was organized by the Headmen Association to discuss the CHT Accord, in order to enable them to represent the communities' interest more effectively)	Other policy dialogues held but not funded under this project.

<sup>6</sup> Issues included –i) Amendment of CHT Land Commission Act, ii) Transfer of more subjects together with finance and HR, iii) Holding of local elections in the CHT, iv) Harmonising of CHT laws, v) local police, and vi) Land management

	1.2 # of advocacy initiatives undertaken for transfer of subjects/departments to HDCs	Baseline of this indicator is not applicable for this project	TBD	National level policy dialogue held with the project support during this reporting period called for full implementation of CHT Accord including full transfers of the subjects/departments to HDCs as per the CHT Accord.	
	1.3 Legal cell of MoCHTA established and operational	Legal cell at MoCHTA is not established	Legal cell is established and operational at MoCHTA	Legal cell is established and operational. One Legal Advisor is recruited who now provides opinions to the legal matters related to CHT to ensure that the laws are in line with the CHT Accord.	
	1.4 No. of reform/amendment proposals prepared by MoCHTA	0 (Baseline not applicable for this project)	TBD	MoCHTA legal advisor is currently reviewing relevant rules and laws related to CHT in line with CHT Accord. Reform/amendment proposal will be prepared once review completed.	
	1.5 # of issues related to IP raised in the national parliament by the Parliamentary Caucus	0 (Baseline not applicable for this project)	TBC	Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Affairs was supported to undertake two advocacy issues at national level. Such as, additional budget allocation for indigenous peoples of Bangladesh in the national budget for the FY 2014-2015 demanded by at least 30 MPs, and draft bill on Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Rights Act)	
	1.6 # of issues related to CHT raised by the organised national and local CSOs and NGOs ( <i>this indicator is slightly modified</i> )	0 (Baseline not applicable for this project)	TBD	Parliamentary Caucus on indigenous peoples held a press conference to demand more allocation for indigenous peoples both plain lands and CHT expressing their frustration over the block allocation of Tk 20 crore for over 20 lakh plain land indigenous people.  National budget 2014-2015 from the CHT and IP's perspectives were discussed in two national level policy discussions.	

	1.8 # of Policy makers, government officials and CSOs trained on international human rights mechanism, and ILO and UN conventions ( <i>additional indicator</i> )	0 (Baseline not applicable for this project)	35	36 government officials (male-27, female-9) including members of the armed forces and police representatives received training on UN Human Rights instruments, national laws and legislation related to CHT.  In addition, 40 indigenous youths from six different communities were trained on ILO conventions, UNDRIP and human rights of indigenous people of Bangladesh.	
<b>Output 2:</b> Improved capacities of CHTIs and traditional institution to local confidence building and strengthen social cohesion in the CHT	2.1 # of policy issued raised at national and local level by CHTIs	TBC	TBD	3 HDCs raised at least two policy issues on sustainability of health and education service delivery managed by HDCs at the national level (NSC, MoPME and MoCHTA), such as - nationalization of HDC-managed 228 non-government primary schools and operationalizing the financial support for 866 health workers from MoH&FW under the tribal health plan of HPNSDP.  CHT Regional Council also raised the issue of full implementation of CHT Accord both at national and local level and undertook political programmes accordingly.	
	2.2 # of proposal prepared by CHTIs for policy reforms and harmonizations	TBC	TBD	Not yet, but draft proposal will be prepared once the harmonization road-map to be finalized which is now in the process of being developed with inputs from CHT institutions amongst other stakeholders.	
<b>Output 3:</b> Improved mechanism to support the victims of communal	3.1 # of women and men benefitting from other diversified livelihoods opportunities within six to eighteen months after a crisis through UNDP emergency support	0	825	None, as response yet to commence due to delays in government decision on mode of rehabilitation. Now progressing	



violence and strengthen Human Security	3.2 # of youth benefitting from other diversified livelihoods opportunities through UNDP emergency support	0	TBD	None, as response yet to commence due to delays in government decision on mode of rehabilitation. Now progressing	
	3.3 # of emergency jobs for women and men (15 or more years old) created	0	TBD	None, as response yet to commence due to delays in government decision on mode of rehabilitation. Now progressing	
	3.4 # of Community Police Forums (CPF) established and operational	30 CPFs formed in 2013	300 CPFs in 30 Unions formed and operational	300 CPF across 30 Unions reactivated during the reporting period.	
	3.5 # of conflict mediated by CHT Peacemakers	0	1,200	Total 550 no. of local disagreement/conflict mediated in amenable ways across the CHT by the CHT Local Trust Builders' Alliance during the reporting period.	