



Taungya E-Bulletin

A Bi-Monthly News Letter of Taungya

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Editorial Message:

We are very happy to publish the second issue of it's third volume. Efforts to make the *Bulletin* even more visible and useful are in progress. It is a matter of sorrow that we could not include any new writings from our organization members in this issue too. However, we will continue the effort to extend our publication by involving more researchers or writers from other NGOs too in CHT. So, those who are interested please contact with us.

Taungya wishes belated **HAPPY BIZU 2018 !** to all its readers, well wishers and followers.

Loan Review Mission Team visited project sites in three hill districts

As per planned activities of the progress monitoring of ADB, Bangladesh, the first weeklong loan review mission was conducted in the three hill districts from 15 April 2018 to 19 April 2018. The mission team was led by Senior Project Officer, Mr. Shahidul Alam. Among the other team members Md. Sayeedul Haque, Associate Portfolio Management Officer (Resettlement); Ms. Farhat Jahan Chowdhury, Senior Project Officer (Environment) & Ms. Nasheeba Selim, Social Development Officer (Gender) participate in the mission team. Latter on 18 April Senior Portfolio Management Specialist (PMU Head), Mr. Tika R Limbu join the mission from Raikhali Sub-project site visit. On the other hand Project Director of Project Management Office, Rangamati, Mr. Sukriti Ranjan Chakma; Project Director, LGED, Mr. Nurul Kader, Executive Director, Taungya Mr. Biplob Chakma attend the mission visit. Before site visit the team members attend sharing meetings with the partners organization representatives at PMO, Rangamati and also meet with the Honorable Chairman of CHT Regional Council. Project sites visit starts from 16 April and ends on 19 April through Naikkhongorsori sub-project site visit.

It is mentionable that Taungya have been working in the *Rural Road Component* of CHTRDP-II Project. Hence, the sole responsibility of Taungya is to assist the concerned DC offices of three hill districts in terms of land acquisition and resettlement process. However, the mission plans to visit eight sub-project sites of Taungya in three hill districts but due to extreme weather it was finished in five. During the visit mission team members also visits project sites of Community Infrastructures- CI components and Micro Agri-based Development-MAD Components.

Construction works of the sub-projects sites is implemented by LGED and Project Director Mr. Nurul Kader along with his team members update the mission team members about their work progress. The team quarries about quality of constructional works, talks with the elected bodies and the affected persons, check out environmental and gender concerns and inquires about progress of the project as per qualitative and quantitative output.

Finally, the mission team members farewell the attending PNGOs and RNGO representatives and thanks for cooperation and facilitation to complete the mission successfully.



Mr. Biplob Chakma shares about RR component progress during Raikhali Sub-project Part-2 site visit



Team Leader of the mission Mr. Shahidul Alam examines construction quality at Betunia Shantir Hat Sub-project



UP Chairman Mr. Redakh Marma informs about construction works as a community representative to the mission members



Safeguard Specialist Ms. Kazi Akhmila talks with the affected persons during the visit

Resettlement Benefit Cheque Distribution at Sindhuk- Sori

On the 10 April 2018 a programme on check distribution was arranged at UP complex Sindhuk-sori. In this regard the chief guest of the programme was honorable member Mr. Khageshwar Tripura, special guests Sindhuksori UP Chairman Mr. Redak Marma & Executive Director of Taungya Mr. Biplob Chakma. The event was arranged in formal way and 12 affected persons receive BDT 74,797.99 for structures –58454.59 (total 35% on removing house structures, re construct/rebuild and land development) for fruits bearing– 10943.40 (30% of compensation distributed by the concerned DC office) for paddy land– 5400 (per decimiles-600 total 9 decimals).

In this regard Taungya Project Manager Mr. Reetesh Roy says, “according to the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan a total of BDT 43,69,072.55 is to be paid to 37 entitle persons of the sub-project but till date BDT 33,08,510.92 paid to 30 still seven remaining. On the other hand 76% of total work of the sub-project has been completed. We could distribute cheques to all but seven entitle persons could not update their documents till date”.

The programme was facilitated by Taungya Project team members. At the beginning of the programme MDO, Mr. Palash Khisa act as moderator and updates the participants about the programme. Mr. Khageshwar Tripura says, “The project has considered the loss of the affected persons so Government and ADB have supported to overcome the loss. So, the project not only developing road communication in CHT but also helping the affected persons to recover their loss”. The programme finally ends with vote of thanks to all.



Honorable KHDC member Mr. Khageshwar Tripura distributing cheque to a affected person



Cheque distribution to an affected person of Sindhuksori Sub-project



Cheque distribution programme held at UP complex of Sindhuksori Union

Land Dispute resolution meeting at Raikhali Part-II Sub-project

To address dispute on land ownership a team from Rangamati DC Office visits the Raikhali Part-II sub-project site and sit in a meeting with the concerned affected persons. The meeting was arranged at Narangiri HighSchool adjacent to the sub-project site on 1 March 2018. Participants of the meeting were– Mraggya Marma, Kanungo, LA Section, Rangamati DC Office, Nirupam Chakma, Surveyor, LA Section, Rangamati DC Office, Kazi Farid Uddin, Surveyor, Surveyor, LA Section, Rangamati DC Office, Darpan Chakma, Chainman, LA Section, Rangamati DC Office, Uching Thowai Chowdhury, Headman, 321 No. Raikhali Mauza, Headmaster Mr. Mridul Kanti Talukder, DFF–Khanos Chakma, Local elites, Karbari, assistant teacher, Ward member. The meeting ends successfully by addressing the dispute. In this regard District Field Facilitator Mr. Khanos Chakma says, “It ended successfully and now the team will prepare a report to DC and next steps will be taken then. I hope everyone will get their rightful compensation as they deserve it”.



The Meeting was held at Narangiri High School

CASE STUDY

Affected but Improved life of Deva Ratan Chakma

Son of (late) Upendra Chakma and Hurichogi Chakma, 54 years old shopkeeper Deva Ratan Chakma has been living at Uttar Shantipur Village under Pansori Upazila of Khagrachari District since 1994. Uttar Shantipur is one of the villages that the “*Pansori-Bheibonsora via Shantipur Aronnyo kuthir Road*” went through. He did not study much only up to class eight. His son, 27 years old Helen Chakma also could not do much completed only class eight and now learning tailoring at Pansori Sadar for adopting tailoring business in future. The youngest one is a daughter called Easta Chakma. She is a meritorious student who is studying BA (Hons.) at Khagrachari Govt. College. Though he is not much solvent but he is trying hard to support his daughter for her education. So, beside his shop, he cultivates 60 decimals paddy land as a peasant and earns rice for his small family members which cannot cover the whole year. Consequently Deva Ratan must depend on his shop which has been helping him to earn BDT- 5,000/- to 7,000/ per month before the road was constructed. Deva Ratan came to live at that village in 1994 from Kalanal, Puzgang mauza under Pansori Sadar union. Settled down there by purchasing 5 decimals of land from which he sacrificed more than 1 decimal land for the road construction. His financial condition was never good. On the other hand he doesn’t have other technical knowledge like- carpentry, driving, tailoring or so to earn besides farming. As a result he chose to be a shopkeeper. Hence, due to financial crisis, life has always been a challenge for his family.

However, when the road was about to construct he came to know that he is going to lose some land and his shop structure. It was not good news. He discusses the matter with his wife and latter he hears that villagers also talking about it. But no one clearly knows anything. At this situation one day he heard that a consultation meeting is going to be organized by a local NGO called Taungya and affected villagers are requested to attend the meeting. From his life experience he knew that there must be compensation for that loss but he feels anxious too.

The sub project “*Pansori-Bheibonsora via Shantipur Aronnyo kuthir Road*” met critical challenges during the time it was started to construct. But due to have very positive strategy and community friendly supportive mechanism it was overcome gradually. Taungya works in the land acquisition and resettlement part of the CHTRDP II Project in partnership with ADB. So its project team worked hard to address challenges and troubleshooting with caring attitudes and cooperative manner. However, project CHTRDP II proved its cooperative and supportive implementation in case of the above mentioned sub project too. It is not absurd to mention that the Project focuses on the road communication development, resettlement, support income generating activities to the most vulnerable affected communities, provide capacity building trainings to the seriously affected communities selected through priority basis along with compensation distribution and special allocation for the widow, disable and business persons. Deva Ratan is one of the affected villagers who received compensation for his land and shop structure. Under *Cash compensation under law* he received 1, 27,506.25/- (BDT) as compensation for his shop structure, 25,760/- (BDT) for his title land in total 153266.25/- (BDT) from Deputy Commissioner, Khagrachari and as a business person 21, 000/- (BDT), Additional grant for land 2, 406.66/- (BDT), transfer grant 15, 938.28/- (BDT), reconstruction grant 15,938.28/- (BDT), land development cost 12750.63/- (BDT) in total 68, 033.85/- (BDT) from the KHDC. So, he receives in total **2, 21, 300.1/-(BDT)**. Such amount was like a blessing for him. He uses some money for urgent medical treatment of his wife which is about 50,000/- to 60, 000/- (BDT). Then he and his wife Swapna Chakma discuss how to use the remaining money properly. They decide to build the shop in semi pacca structure and use 1, 80, 000/- (BDT) to construct the shop with a little room in it. He also rented 30 dcmls of paddy land with 8000/- (BDT) for one year contract which will help him to get rice for his family.

“It was not easy to improve my earning for I know nothing except my business. So looking after the shop there was very little time I get to use it as peasant. I was always looking to increase my income but there was no option. After the consultation meeting when I came to sure that we are going to have good compensation I took the chance and tried my best to use it properly On the other hand the road was a crying need for many villagers. All were suffering for the road. Farmers did not use to get fair price for their goods; urgent medical treatment was scanty and especially the school goers would suffer the most during the Rainy season. Now we can go to Sadar very easily. But I think personally I am more benefitted for my sale has increased as well as my income from the shop. Previously I used to earn 5000/- (BDT) to 7000/- (BDT) per month but now my average is 8, 000/- (BDT) to 10, 000/- (BDT) per month. If the road would not construct I would never get such price for my 1 dcmls. of land and my previous thatched roofed shop would need repair or re building need which cost was difficult for me to manage. But now I have a semi pacca tin shade shop. So, I see the road as blessing of Buddha that has helped me to have a semi pacca structure of my shop and timely treatment for my wife. Now, I can think of tomorrow for my two children. I am really grateful to Taungya for helping me to have my righteous compensation.” says Deva Ratan Chakma with confidence & new hope of glittering eyes.

At present Deva Ratan Chakma dreams that his daughter will complete her study and will get a govt. job and his son will be a tailor to run his own business. Many got compensation as affected person but very few could use their compensation money as Deva Ratan Chakma did. Otherwise it would be their stories instead of him.

“ If the road would not construct I would never get such price for my piece of land and my previous thatched roofed shop would need repair or re building need. But now I have a semi pacca tin shade shop. So I see the road as blessing of Buddha that has helped me to have a piece of paddy land and semi pacca structure of my shop and timely treatment for my wife. Now I can think of tomorrow for my two children.” - Deva Ratan Chakma



Deva Ratan Chakma and his wife standing on the spot of their previous shop

Compensation distribution for Marishya Bazaar Part-I Sub-project

A joyful event of compensation distribution has been arranged at Rangamati DC Office on 30 April 2018. The programme was arranged to distribute cheques on structures and additional grants among the affected persons of the Marishya Bazaar Part-I Sub-project under Rangamati Hill Tract. According to District Field Facilitator Mr. Khanos Chakma, “*total 35 persons received compensation cheques. Among them 18 persons on legal land and 7 on trees which total is worth BDT- 1,01,05,197.95*”. Recently joined Deputy Commissioner Mr. A K M Mamunur Rashid distributes cheques among the affected persons. Besides there were Md. Najrul Islam, ADC (Revenue)



Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati Hill Tract Mr. A K M Mamunur Rashid distributing compensation to the affected peoples

Samshul Haque, Kanungo, LA Section, Rangamati DC Office, PM, Reetesh Roy and DFF Khanos Chakma also present in the programme.

Taungya Project Manager Mr. Reetesh Roy says- “*out of 83 entitle persons we could provide compensation only 32 persons. Our target is BDT 3,76,91,094.75 but we could deliver only BDT 12,582,987.95 till date which is only 33% progress of the total sub-project. But it is a matter of regrets that Rangamati DC Office could not agree to distribute compensation for the 43 affected persons of customary land owners for they are claiming not to have clear instruction on this issue. If it would clear to them it would be free to distribute compensation for those persons too*”. Notable that as per government policy there is no compensation allocation for customary land owners but ADB contracted with Bangladesh Government to allocate it in case of customary land holders too. However, the programme was successfully ended with progress sharing and thanks giving to DC Office, ADB and Taungya by the beneficiaries.



Deputy Commissioner talks with the entitle persons during cheque distribution programme