



Taungya E– Bulletin

A Bi-Monthly News Letter of Taungya

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Editorial Message:

Taungya now becomes more professional to face challenges of various project activates. It decided to adopt time bound action plan for every project. Along side, It is also a positive endeavor of the organization intends to share information with our members, friends and partners about the organizational strategies through our News Bulletin. We tried to highlight some case studies in this bulletin. We hope this cyber bridge may connect us with our well wishers around the world that is our desire. [Editorial Board– Biplob Chakma, Executive Director, Pranajit Dewan & Shovan Chakma]

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Project Activities and Case Studies



Technical Trainings for undertaking HHs basis Small Scale Income Generating Activities

USAID and CHTDF, UNDP funded “*Livelihood Security and Watershed Management Project*” is focused on the livelihood support and watershed management for the *Reingkhong Reserve Forest* dependence community in Dhupshil-Lota Pahar area under Bileisori upazila. Taungya Project Team has been working in 17 paras of the area since July 2016. Among the major objectives of the project- *supporting the village communities living in the Reserved Forest area and developing their capacity and skills to secure effective and sustainable livelihoods* is remarkable. To achieve objectives several training manuals and guidelines are developed by local resource person of Rangamati Hill District. As per schedule of project activities, community level technical capacity building trainings have been organized from 26 March’ 17 to 02 April’ 17 at 15 venues covering 17 project intervention paras under Dhupshil-Lota Pahar area. The trainings were organized targeting technical capacity building of the PDC members who have chose to implement small scale IGA on agriculture and livestock to improve their livelihood. Taungya also provided same trainings to 21 para level volunteers who will directly supervise community people in their respective paras and community.

Sometime Good Fortune Comes without Knocking at the Door!



Md. Nurul Islam son of Late Rashid Ahmed and Late Amena Begum is a father of four sons and two daughters. His one son lives abroad and rest three live with Nurul Islam and his wife Naharunnesa. All the two daughters got married and live with their respective husbands. However, Nurul Islam was never greedy and has been living honestly. He got registered 5 acres of land from the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Hill District as per policy of the government. He was just living a very simple life though had wishes to be rich like others but had no easy ways.

In the mean time Taungya started intervention of CHTRDP-II, RRC (Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Program-2nd Phase, Rural Road Component) project in August, 2013 with implication of newly adopted ADB policies. The project responded positively to many complex challenges through beneficiary friendly strategies and cooperative approaches for the project interacted community peoples. Under the sub project “*Raicha – Goalia khola Road*” the bridge over the Shangoo River is like a symbolic bridge to cross over the river of ocean of deprived life of the villagers and new hope and prosperity for nearby village folks like Nurul Islam.

On the other hand it will connect with Chandanaish, Chittagong and will more easy to travel to Kaptai rather than through Bandarban Sadar. Even still now the impact is focusing on vegetables market for easy access and low price considering the other around besides improvement of business market. It is to note that he is the only affected person in this subproject sacrificed 17 decimals of recorded land for the bridge construction. Consequently under *Cash compensation under law* he received 2, 02, 762/- (BDT) for structure, 36, 05, 219.85/- (BDT) for title land, 50, 000/- (BDT) for crops and 44, 781.5/- (BDT) for trees from the DC office of Bandarban. So, he received in total 39, 02, 763.35/- (BDT) in couple of cheques. He never saw such a big amount in his life before. When he got the money he could not even believe in himself. “*The compensation money is like a blessing of Allah for me that surely turned my financial and social life into prosperous position and it is because of HIM that **sometime good fortune comes without knocking at the door!** I am truly grateful to Taungya for helping me to get my righteous compensation.*” Consulting with other family member he purchased 80 decimals paddy land with 10, 00, 000/- (BDT) and let it rent to a peasant against 300 kg. paddy per season, spend 5, 00, 000/- (BDT) to carry out medical treatment for his sick son and with the rest amount BDT 24, 02, 763.35/- he constructed a pacca house. If he would not get the compensation money he would still live under his raw house and lack his son would die for medical treatment. He believes now that he could have peaceful rest in life as there is blessing of Allah.

Project Activities and Case Studies



“Gender Training Enriched Knowledge of VCF Leaders!”

On the 20 to 22 March 2017, a three days long capacity building training on “Importance of Women Participation in Decision Making Process at District Level” was organized at Rangamati District under VCF Net Project, Taungya. The event was organized at Taungya Resource and Training Center, Kalyanpur, Rangamati. A total number of 22 male and 13 female participants from 21 VCFs, Rangamati Hill District, participated in the training who were selected from District level Convening Committee (Rangamati), various levels of VCF management leaders, headman, karbari UP members etc. Among the participants, Headman Thowai Aung Marma says- “I enjoyed the training very much and my knowledge is enriched. Though I have received many trainings on gender but this training is different for we have problems that we ignore our women in the decision making process. Now all we know how important it is to ensure active participation of our women in VCF management.” However, the event was inaugurated by Biplob Chakma, ED, Taungya facilitated by Ms. Tuku Talukder, Consultant and trainer of the event.



“Education Project of Taungya Phases out with Great Success but still Required in Remote Areas of CHT”

Taungya successfully served remote communities through “Integrated Support to Promote Primary Education in Remote Areas of Rangamati Hill Tracts”- ISPPERARHT project funded by MJF (Manusher Jonno Foundation). It ends up on the 31st March 2017. It is basically known as Education project of Taungya. The project was implemented through three phases for ten years and eight months that is from 1st July, 2006 to 31st March, 2017. Comparing other projects, ISPPERARHT project upholds trends of success and mentionable outcomes base on project objectives and results. Besides strengthening involvement of the key actors in school development activities, IGA support for schools’ sustainability etc. the most important one is to ensure basic and quality primary education for the children of hard-to-reach hill areas became successful for outstanding results in PSC examination. In 2016 PSC examination, 100% passing rate attracts anyone’s attention for the best outcome of the project oriented schools. The score was the same even in 2014 and in 2015 a little less 98%.

The Project totally spend 5, 18, 00,000 (BDT) out of approved budget 5, 94, 39,000 (BDT) where program cost was more or less 92% to 95% excluding 5% to 8% of operational cost. The project was run in four upazila under Rangamati Hill District. During the project period about 1500 students successfully completed their primary education and some of them are now in higher education. On the other hand 4 schools out of 45 were nationalized from 1 January 2014. 22 schools are at final stage of nationalization. Rests of the 21 schools are also included in the list of government nationalization policy of 1000 schools in the school less areas. Besides, 23 schools completed land registration from respective authority. According to Project Coordinator, Manabasish Chakma- “This is a very good success of the project. I also learned many things concerning development of education initiative of government. Hence, I realized that government education policy 2010 is good but considering CHT context some conditions are not relevant and more or less unnecessary in some extend. So, if there is no project like this one, remote area will remain out of coverage for ensuring 100% primary education coverage vision of the government.”



“Small initiatives but big impact of Social Protection Forum (SPF) for a life of Shiba Rani (30)”

Shiba Rani (30) is a housewife and among the two children the eldest daughter studies in class nine and the youngest son in class two. They were happy with the little daily income of her husband, Jagadish Dey (38). Though there were many family problems but they never faced severe financial crisis at that time. But the unexpected death of her husband in 2016 drives her family life into severe financial crisis and put into the life such as those who have been struggling to survive in this society. On the other hand they never had land properties besides the only small piece of homestead so that she could cultivate paddy land to provide foods for her family. As a result she becomes a day labour to look after her two children and herself. But it was a profession which could not help her to earn daily and sometime they would live with only one meal a day. After having a little capital she starts seasonal mixed fruits business at the Subholong Bazaar. Hence, she has been looking after her family with insufficient income from day labour and small scale seasonal fruits business. Shiba Rani knows that there are supports for the widows from government but not aware how to approach to the respective authority. One day she came into contact with Taungya field members and participated in a field level court yard meeting of the project. From then she started joining in various discussion session organized by Taungya. There she came to know about Social Safety Net services and enlisted herself into some other services besides widow allowance. Later, she contacted and shared her poverty problems to the Subolong Social Protection Forum (SSPF). The SSPF members contacted with the concerned UP. Chairman of the concerned UP though said about the limitation of widow allowance service but promised to enlist her into VGD service. Consequently as per commitment of the UP Chairman Shiba Rani got enlisted into VGD program for two years started from the year of 2017-2018. Now she gets 30 kg rice from the govt. service which is very helpful for looking after her family now.