

Year
2021-2022

Taungya
(Established in: 1995)

Prepared By:
Development & Fund
Raising Unit

Annual Report of Taungya



An organization for Indigenous Culture, Environment & Socio- Economic Advancement



Annual Report

Fiscal Year: July 2021-June 2022

Published in

July 2022

Advisor

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Development and Fund Raising Unit

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Acknowledgment

All the staff and Volunteers for their contribution to the development of the Annual Report-2022



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Development and Fund Raising Unit



The word “Taungya” is rooted in the traditional culture of all the indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. It is related to the Marma word “ya”, Tripura word “gaireng” and the Chakma and Tanchangya word, “taung”, all of which are related to the culture of swidden or jum-cultivating societies. Today, in agro-forestry technology, “Taungya” is also the name given to the system of raising tree plantations through an innovation to the swidden or jum method of agriculture. Thus Taungya provides a concrete example of the continued utility of traditional knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and the close links between cultural integrity, collectivist traditions, innovation and adaptation, all of which are an integral part of *jum*-cultivating societies.

Our Goal (In brief)

Goal of the organization is- Protection & articulation of language, literature, culture & tradition, custom, knowledge-scientific methods, healing/ medicinal methods of the underprivileged indigenous communities/ tribes and clans dwelling in the CHT besides conservation, protection and development of CHT natural environment and resources, youth development, protection of women and child rights, expansion of education and economic development.

Vision Statement (In brief)

Taungya intends to be a catalyst towards the articulation of the development perspectives of the people of the CHT and their views on indigenous culture and environment, among other things. Therefore, it is important that Taungya’s work has an impact on the greatest number of people possible. However, Taungya realizes that given the shortcomings of a voluntary organization, it will not be possible to be in direct contact with the entire population of the CHT. Therefore, the emphasis will be to combine efforts aimed at reaching the greatest number of people directly, through specific projects and dialogues, and through indirect means, such as networking with other organizations and through its research and advocacy activities. Formal and informal publications will play a key role in this regard.

Our Core Values

- Cultural Pluralism
- Self-Reliance
- Community
- Empowerment
- Equity

Taungya: A Brief Background

Taungya was formed in 1995 as an unincorporated body. It was called the *Committee for the Protection of Indigenous Culture*. The primary focus was on indigenous culture because it was felt that the cultural fabric of indigenous society was being threatened by external interventions that were not in conformity with the rights, needs, and aspirations of the peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Later the scope of the organization was broadened to include the themes of development and environment, thereby also employing a wider perspective on indigenous culture. The organization was also renamed Taungya in the year of 1996, and was finally registered with the Department of Social Welfare in 1998 and with the NGO Affairs Bureau in 2000.

Objectives of the Organization

The major objective includes the following:

- The protection and preservation of indigenous culture and knowledge systems;
- The preservation of the environment, the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, including women and children and
- The achievement of educational and socio-economic advancement by all, and in particular by disadvantaged communities.

Strategy of Taungya

Since Taungya intends to make an impact at the macro levels, its emphasis is on research and advocacy, rather than rely solely on direct project interventions. In many areas, Taungya's major role is to act as a conduit to facilitate dialogues between the different communities and their organizations on the one hand and between the communities and the development planners and policy-makers on the other. Taungya's activities include measures to improve the organizational skills of village communities through training, workshops and exchange programmes and the dissemination and re-dissemination of information to the concerned people. Therefore, networking, training and capacity-raising is important tools in Taungya's strategy plans.

Projects that deal directly with people - including research work –help keep Taungya in direct touch with the wishes and aspirations of rural communities and help it to understand the challenges of everyday life met by them. These experiences are sought to be reflected in Taungya's awareness raising and advocacy work. Where it is not possible to directly reach the people, Taungya works in cooperation with other organizations and institutions, including national and regional government bodies, NGOs, POs and CBOs.

In all cases, Taungya attempts to monitor and evaluate its activities internally - through an evaluation and monitoring unit that is independent of the executive committee and salaried staff of Taungya - and by external agencies. On the basis of such evaluation and monitoring, Taungya reviews and revises its ongoing programmes and policies, as necessary. In summary, the salient features of Taungya's intervention strategy are reproduced below in point form.

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Acknowledgements

Taungya would like to express its deepest gratitude and appreciation to the project staff of GRAUS and ASHIKA for their invaluable support in providing us with the necessary information, reports, and documents of the AVCB projects. Without their assistance, our report would have remained incomplete and would not have been published within the expected timeline of our organization.

Unfortunately, Taungya has suffered a great loss with the passing of one of its most dedicated staff members, Gyana Bikash Chakma, deceased on June 16th, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic virus. Despite this tragedy, Taungya will always be grateful for the unwavering support that he provided to the organization. His contributions will never be forgotten and his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

Again, Taungya would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all staff members for their invaluable contributions towards the development of the Annual Report for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Your hard work and dedication have been instrumental in ensuring the success of Taungya. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future. Special thanks are also extended to the former staff members who have made valuable contributions to Taungya during their tenure with AVCB projects.



Forward from Executive Director



Photo: Dr. Parash Khisa

“It is very challenging to continue some mentionable development works at community level that requires continuity of funding support at least for a period of time for sustainable outcomes. The consequence of it is to discover again to go back where you have started hard work 1 or 2 years ago. Nonetheless other root causes, it silently affecting all hard works and efforts in CHT in almost all areas of development interventions which is regrettable.....”

During the fiscal year 2021 to 2022, Taungya implemented various activities that were impacted to varying degrees by the global COVID-19 situation. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the circumstances of the reporting period were generally favorable. In our working areas, COVID-19 restrictions were not overly restrictive, allowing us to continue our field-level work while adhering to necessary protective measures as outlined by government guidelines, donors, and the World Health Organization.

During the implementation phase or reporting year, the turnover of three projects (BDT 2, 82, 15,916.00) was comparatively less than in previous years. However, it is important to note the significance of the activities and areas of work, as they address the needs of the community and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite this, the work trends of Taungya vividly demonstrate the ongoing struggle to secure funding and continue their visionary mission in areas such as education, customary natural resource management, and the socio-economy of development-deprived, socio-politically discriminated, and COVID-19 affected vulnerable ethnic communities in the remote corners of CHT. This is a concerning issue that requires attention and action.

Thematic areas of developing governance system of both traditional court of the headmen and karbaries and village courts of the union parishads besides development of gender situation especially four ages groups of young women and adolescent girls was another track record of practical experience at different remote locations of Rangamati Hill District supported Taungya to improve its implementation skill and knowledge.

It is worth noting with immense respect and gratitude that Taungya has received generous support from various donors, including MoCHTA, CHTRC, RHDC, the Office of District Administration, upazila Parishads, upazila administration, union parishads, and other concerned GoB service providers, associations, and networks of headmen and karbaries. This support has been instrumental in ensuring the successful implementation of our projects and programs.

Our organization is deeply grateful for the unwavering support we have received from these entities. Their contributions have enabled us to make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve. We recognize the importance of their continued support and look forward to working together to achieve our shared goals.

As we move forward, we remain committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and accountability. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every dollar donated is used effectively and efficiently to improve the lives of those we serve.

I am truly grateful for the support and contributions of our esteemed partners, concerned donors, and government line departments. Without their invaluable assistance, our endeavors would not have been possible.

Furthermore, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the unwavering dedication and hard work demonstrated by my colleagues within the organization. Their tireless efforts have been instrumental in successfully executing various project activities in accordance with the implementation plan.

In light of this, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have played a role in our achievements. Your commitment to our shared goals is truly commendable and has made a significant impact on the lives of those we serve.

.....
Dr. Parash Khisa
Executive Director (In Charge)



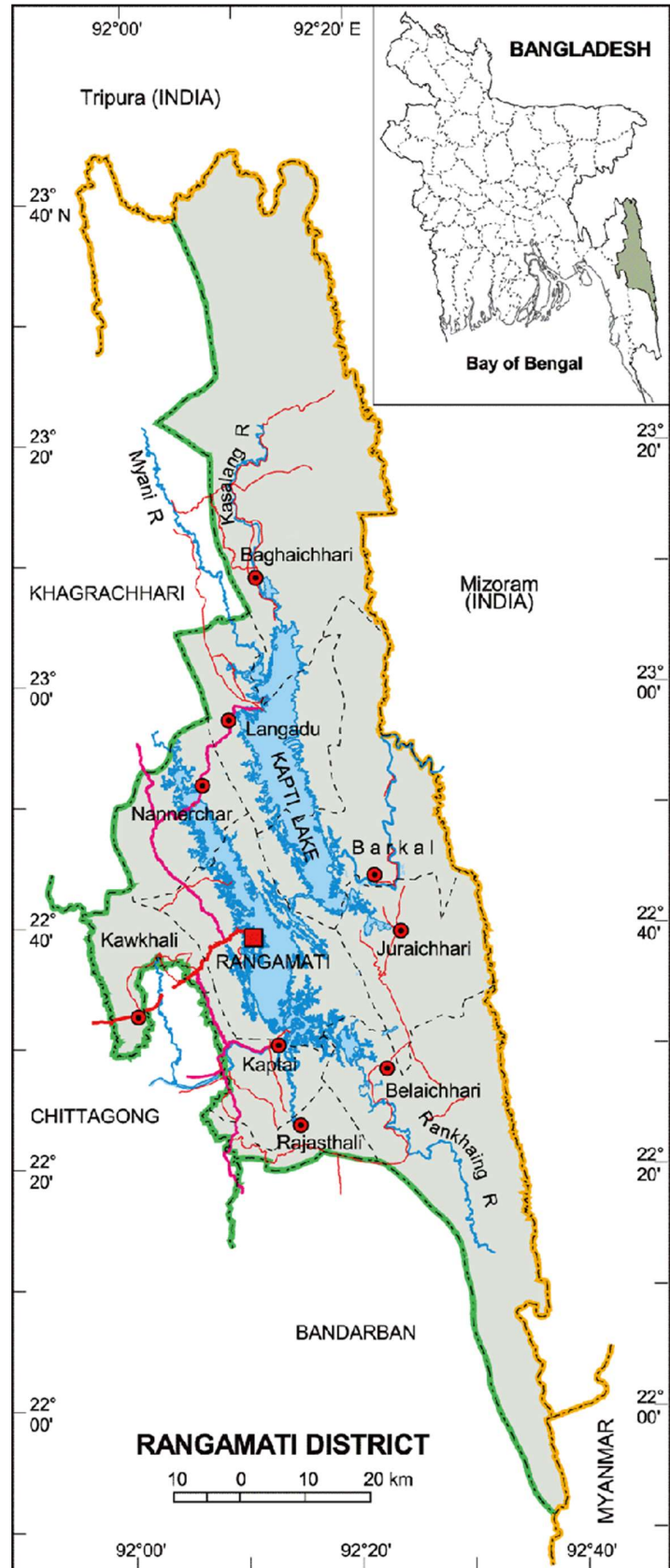
Geographical Coverage in July 2021 to June 2022

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Future Project	
Baghaisori Upazila	Bagheisori Sadar and Srbotoli unions
Borkol Upazila	Borkol Sadar, Vujonsora, Aima Sora and Subhlong unions
Bileisori Upazila	Bileisori Sadar and Forba union

AVCB in CHT 000115133	
Longodu Upazila	All seven unions
Borkol Upazila	Suvolong, Bhushonsora, Aimasora, Boro Horinga and Borkol Sadar

AVCB-Project (Rang Pack-A, Part-I)	
Rangamati Sadar Upazila	Jiptoli, Moghban, Balukhali, Bandukbhanga, Kutuksori and Sapsori unions
Kaptai Upazila	Chandraghona, Chimorong, Kaptai Sadar, Raikhali and Waggya
Rajasthali Upazila	Ghilasori, Gaindya and Bangalhali unions

"Develop Role Model of Hill Water Resource and Natural Forests Conservation of Ethnic Communities through Youth Engagement"	
Rangamati Sadar Upazila	Balukhali union
Bileisori Upazila	Bileisori Sadar Union



Project Highlights



Project Basic Information

Project Name: Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures (OLHF) Project

Project Period: August 2019 to Dec.2023

Donor: Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha- BNPS

Back Donor: Simavi, Netherlands and EU

Project Coverage:

Sl.	Upazila	Union	Ethnic Groups	No. of Girls Club
1	Bilaichari	Bilaichari Sadar	Chakma, Tanchangya & Marma	4
		Farua	Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya, Pangkhua, Bawm	6
2	Barkal	Bhusan Chara	Chakma, Marma & Rakhaine	6
		Aima Chara	Chakma	2
		Suvolong	Chakma, Rakhaine	2
3	Baghaichari	Baghaichari Sadar	Chakma	8
		Saruatali	Chakma	2
Total =		07	6	30

Direct Beneficiaries:

Beneficiary Type	Number of Beneficiaries at Present	Remarks
Girls (Age group- 10-14; 15-19; 20-25)	1200	
Mother/Mother-in Law	1200	
Father/ Father-in Law	1200	
Brother	1116	
Total:	4716	

Stakeholders from Traditional Institution:

Sl.	Upazila	Union	Customary Leaders
1	Bilaichari	Bilaichari Sadar	8
		Farua	12
2	Barkal	Bhusan Cahra	15
		Aima Chara	4
		Suvolong	10
3	Baghaichari	Baghaichari Sadar	5
		Saruatali	11
Total =		07	65

Human Resource:

Designation	Female	Male
Project Coordinator		1
Program Officer cum Trainer	1	
Program Monitoring & Evaluation Officer		1
Lobby & Advocacy Officer		1
Accountant		1
Program Facilitator	2	1
Office Assistant cum Boat Driver		1
Total	3	6

Project Goal: Empowering Adolescent Girls And Young Women In Chittagong Hill Tracts To Live With Dignity And Without Violence

The specific objectives of the project:

1. Local CSOs have strengthened their technical, methodological, financial and administrative capacity to effectively respond to the SRHR needs of young women and adolescent girls and foster their rights to live free from violence, coercion and discrimination;
2. Young women and adolescent girls from indigenous groups are empowered to make free and informed decisions about their SRHR (and are supported to do so), free of violence, coercion and discrimination.

Major Activates in 2021 to 2022:

1. Girls' Club Session
2. Awareness raising session on menstrual health management and security
3. Discussion session on SRHR and GBV
4. Awareness meeting with local leaders
5. Media engagement meeting
6. Training for the service providers
7. Training for the Gender Focal Persons
8. Project progress sharing at district level
9. Project progress sharing at divisional level
10. Multi stakeholders engagement meeting
11. Day observation on - 12 August International Youth Day, 8 March International Women's Day, International 28 May Menstrual Hygiene Day, 25 November International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 30 November International Women Human Rights Defenders Day



Intl. Women's Day 2022 (Cluster level) Rally with the Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council and other guest



Intl. Women Human Right Defenders Day 2021 observed at Rangamati

Learning:

- A skilled facilitators is essential to conduct community session with the gate keepers;
- Community mobilization is required to engage the field staff in inclusive manners which is hampered for workload at all levels;
- Creative projects for mass level sensitization is need to be arranged on more frequent and specific locations adjacent to the respective girls' clubs;
- It is difficult to address early marriage due to social dynamics and lack of large and effective awareness building especially in the remote corners where very few session tools can be used;
- Local stakeholders are interested in rights base approach but very few of them are practically in action at their respective communities that have difficult challenge to motivate the less educated and indifferent communities.

Challenges:

- Less interests of the gatekeepers to attend community session due to workload in livelihood activities
- Mentors are less interested to provide quality work due to unsatisfactory allowance/wages
- Due to geographical context, lack of facilitation skill some of the girls feel less interested to attend club session continuously;
- The project requires intensive social mobilization at field level but staff are engaged at district level in most of the time.

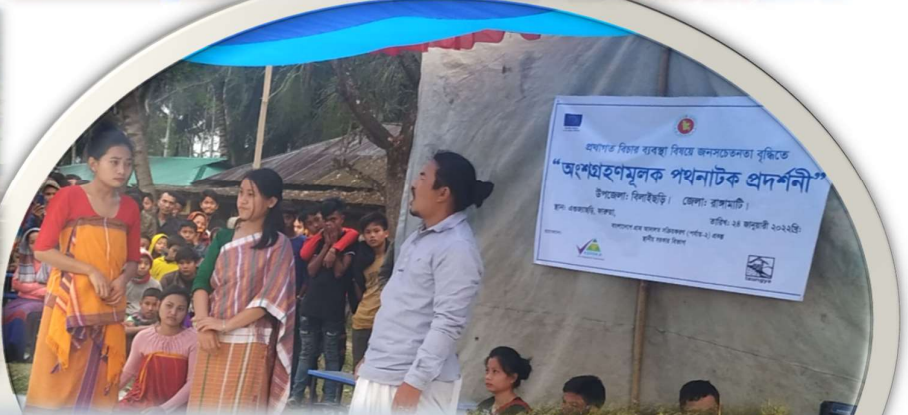
Recommendation:

- Strengthen field activities of the senior level project staff in strategic manners;
- Arrange more effective session with follow up learning output and outcome measures;
- Motivate the Mentors to realize their role from social service stand and social commitment
- Develop strategic action plan of the all level staff to bring maximum qualitative output and outcome of field level activities
-



Project Highlights

Activating Village Court in Bangladesh Project



Project Basic Information

Project Name: AVCB-Project (Rang Pack-A, Part-I)

Project Period: 01 August 2021 to 31 May 2022

Donor: GRAUS

Back Donor: SID-CHT, UNDP; EU

Implementing Partners: GRAUS, ASHIKA and Taungya

Project Coverage: Rangamati Sadar, Kaptai, Rajasthali upazila

Direct Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries of the project were mainly the headmen and karbaries of the three upazilas and concerned mauzas of the upazilas. But the mass level sensitization activities covered enormous communities in 26 open stage performances, 505 court yard sessions besides capacity building of the traditional institutions. From both partner and sub partner the envisaged community coverage is approximately 52,000.

Human Resource:

Designation	Female	Male
Popular Theater Expert		1
Case & Documentation Officer		1
MIS Officer		1
Community Mobilizer	1	2
Total	1	5

The specific objectives of the project:

To contribute to improving access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Bangladesh. There are two SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES in this project:

1. To make local authorities more responsive to local justice needs and offer appropriate legal services in the form of well- functioning village courts/local justice mechanisms in CHT
2. To empower local people, especially women, the poor and vulnerable groups to seek remedies for injustices and to resolve their disputes at the local level in an expeditious, transparent and affordable manner.

Major Outcomes:

- Capacity development of traditional institutions, CSOs and local administration as well as judiciary, legal professionals, and other relevant actors in CHT
- Review existing customary laws & practices and codification/documentation of laws as well as support to existing harmonization efforts of different justice systems in CHT
- Raising awareness on existing legal systems and options for redress mechanisms in CHT
- Increase Evidence-base and knowledge management on justice mechanism

Major Activates of the Project:

- Training on Traditional System (Case management, documentation, roles & responsibilities, HR, Gender etc.) for traditional
- Training/orientation on Traditional justice mechanism for the elected public representatives of Union and Upazila Parishad at district level
- Support 70 Headman to improve traditional courts with kind support
- Monitoring visit by UNO and other officials
- Court Yard Meeting by Community Mobilizer
- Capacity building of youth groups on popular theatre making skills on traditional justice.
- Staging of popular theatre/ awareness sessions by youth groups at Mauza level [2 per UP]
- Awareness campaigns (discussion session, day observation, cultural programme, film show, theatre, leaflet and poster distribution etc.) at Upazila level



The trained community youths performing popular theatre at community level to promote and sensitize the benefit of traditional court and village court



Capacity building training for the headmen and karbaries were arranged by the local expert Professor Maung Sanu Chowdhury



Capacity building training for the headmen and karbaries were arranged by the local expert Shanti Bijoy Headman

Project Basic Information

Project Name: AVCB in CHT 000115133

Project Period: 01 August 2021 to 31 May 2022

Donor: ASHIKA Development Associates

Back Donor: SID-CHT, UNDP; EU

Implementing Partners: Taungya

Project Coverage: All mauzas under Longodu and Borkol upazila

Direct Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries of the project were mainly the headmen and karbaries of the two upazilas and concerned mauzas of the upazilas. But the mass level sensitization activities covered enormous communities in 46 open stage performances, 552 court yard sessions besides capacity building of the traditional institutions. From both partner and sub partner the envisaged community coverage is approximately 50,782 (Direct beneficiaries)

Human Resource:

Designation	Female	Male
Training Associate	1	
Community Mobilizer	1	1
Village Court Assistant	2	1
Total	4	2

The specific objectives of the project:

The overall objective of the project was “To contribute to improving access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Bangladesh”. There were two specific objectives in this project:

- 1) To make local authorities more responsive to local justice needs and offer appropriate legal services in the form of well- functioning village courts/local justice mechanisms in CHT
- 2) To empower local people, especially women, the poor and vulnerable groups to seek remedies for injustices and to resolve their disputes at the local level in an expeditious, transparent and affordable manner

The Outputs of the Project were-

- 1) Capacity of relevant stakeholders at national and local level improved and key skills strengthened to enable Village Courts in new target Ups and local justice mechanisms in CHT to function effectively by the end of project implementation.
- 2) Legal and policy framework revised to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of VCs and local justice mechanisms in CHT
- 3) GoB monitoring capacity for evaluating Village Courts and other local justice mechanisms' performance is strengthened and systematized
- 4) Beneficiaries in project areas understand the roles and functions of the Village Courts and other local justice mechanisms and are able to access their services when required
- 5) Evidence-base and knowledge-management on VCs and local justice mechanisms increased

Major Activates of the Project:

- Training on Traditional System (Case management, documentation, roles & responsibilities, HR, Gender etc.) for traditional leaders at district level
- Court Yard Meeting by Community Mobilizer
- Capacity building of youth groups on popular theatre making skills on traditional justice.
- Staging of popular theatre/ awareness sessions by youth groups at Mauza level [2 per UP]
- Quarterly Coordination meeting at UP with UP functionaries and Traditional leaders on VC at UP level by CM
- Monthly coordination meeting with VCA [1/2 Upazila X12 months] by PC/CM
- Court Yard Meeting (CYM) [9 wardsx1 CYM per quarter x5 UPs]



A popular theater session on promotion of traditional court at community level by the trained community youths



Honorable Chakma Raja, Barrister Devasish Roy deliver speech during the training



Headmen and karbaries at photo session during the training at Taungya resource room, Rangamati



Honorable Chakma Raja Baristar Devasish Roy participate in the nnuL Headmen Conference arranged in Rangamati

Case Study

CASE 1: Menstrual Health Management a New Step towards a Sensitized Society

My name is Shiuli (pseudonym). I read in class IX. I live in village since I was born. My father is a farmer. He is the only income generating person in our family so, our family live on agriculture.

Like most of the other villagers I have been deprived of proper education and health service due to lack of financial solvency in our family and as there is no health service centre in or near our village. So, there are many village adolescent girls and women that cannot have proper guidelines for menstrual health management at home and treatment for sexual disease or carnal problems that's nobody openly talks about. I also had no scientific and any idea of period or menstruation and properly take care of it of my own. When first I experienced period I was scared like most of the girls and used old cloths. Sometime I also used sanitary pad but I had no idea for time of its uses duration. I used pad and cloths even a day long before learning about it properly. Sometime I would had pain in the abdomen and urinary bladder and I could not go school for 2 to 3 days even more could not play with friends in the fields and my temper would become too tetchy that I would misbehave with everyone in the family. I had to suffer a lot as I could not tell and share about it with anyone due to hesitation, shame and fear.

In the early 2020 a survey was conducted by a local NGO named Taungya for establishing a Girls' Club in our village. The field staff of Taungya collects a list of 40 adolescent girls and young women from our village. I was also become enlisted and later in October of the same year I participate in the first session of the club. A young woman from our village was also selected as *Mentor* that will support to run the club. Then I become a regular member of our club and get involved with the project called Our Lives Our Health Our Futures. I participate in all the sessions facilitated by our Mentor whom we call Mentor didi. One day she takes a session on menstrual health management and like the other entire members I learn many



Photo: Young women & Girls' of the Girls' Club learning to make reusable sanitary pad

untold things about it. I learn that as per natural and normal physical change, each and every normal girl has period in a periodical time of a month. I also came to know that in our country, period of a girl normally starts from the age of 9 to 12 years. We should not use one pad more than six hours and if we use cloth it must be washed with soap, clean water and dry it in the direct sunlight before reusing it. But due to unawareness, ignorance, fear, shame and off course taboo against it in our society almost all the girls and women suffer from mental and physical problem profoundly that becomes risky for their psycho-physical life. Socially established taboo like- during period a woman/girl should not climb a tree, go to the pagoda and agricultural fields etc. obsessions make bar for a girl to grow up normally, independently and free power of thinking and potentiality.

After my learning on menstrual management I have started to use sanitary pad not more than 6 hours and if I have to use cloth, I wash it with soap and clean water and then dry it in the direct sun light before reusing it. Sometime we share our experiences in the club and I came to know that all our members have started practicing it. I hope this practice and menstrual management will keep our members hale and hearty. All the girls are very glad to learn such life skill knowledge from the

club which we did not have had from our family or schools. I believe that like myself, many of our club members started understanding our wrong and bad ideas on many issues like it and we try to attend club sessions regularly besides our regular duties at home and for our study only for the benefit to enrich our knowledge about ourselves and properly build us for the future. I particularly loved another initiative of the project that our Mentor didi and some senior project staff also discusses about menstrual management with our mothers, fathers and brothers separately to sensitize them on it which made it easy for us at our respective homes for practicing it. But it is true that the taboo against this natural and normal physical and dignified characteristic of a woman life will take some time to remove from deeply rooted belief of our society.

Case Study-2: Domestic Violence against Woman

Divorcee Juni (pseudonym) is mother of a child. She is the second of four children of her parents. Her father is a jum cultivator and mother is a house wife.

Juni could study only in class VIII as her poor jum cultivator father could not provide support for further education. Her family arranges her marriage with a son of a solvent family in another village when she was only 15 years old adolescent girl. After her marriage she found a family of her husband with father & mother in law, two sisters of her mother in law and two younger sisters of her husband. Her husband is a businessman which is their family source of income. So, often he has to travel different places for business purpose. Her husband would take care and communicate with her regularly when he stays out of home for his business and Juni would carefully manage and take care of her father & mother in law as if they would not have any problem. It was indeed a great challenge and painful to look after for four of them (including two sisters of her mother in law). Time passes on and Juni becomes pregnant after a year and when her husband would not at home, all the family members would take care of her. She had a happy family whatsoever but it did not last long. After two months of her pregnancy she notices some absurd changes in her husband. He would no longer care of her and would not talk with her in normal expectation and manner. If she would plea something to have, he would not care and gave importance of that. For this change of her husband, Juni was silently becoming helpless and mentally agitated day by day. She could not talk about it with anyone too. One day she tells about it to her father and mother in law but they also could not give her any better answer.

At this time, one day she hears the heart breaking information from a distant-relative, an elder sister that lives besides their village that her husband is in illegal relationship with another girl of their village. Hearing the news she felt as if the sky had collapsed on her. She asks her husband about the rumor but he becomes very angry and diatribes and physically tortures her. She then informs about it to her mother and father in laws but they also remain silent too. Such situation makes her mentally break down and tremendously frustrated. She finds no solution for it. Husband and wife starts quarrel regularly and her husband continues beating and mentally torture her. In such situation her husband creates mental pressure on her for divorce. But Juni remains quiet and silently endures the torture as her father is a helpless poor jumia and she had no income to live. As there was no solution she could find, one day she informs of it to some elders of the village and seeks justice from them and meanwhile she returns to her father's home with her child. She could not but return as she complaint against her husband and wanted justice from the village elders. After few days later a customary court was arranged by the elders of the two villages. But as her husband was influential the verdict goes against her. The result of the justice increases mental pressure on her and her family by her husband and he continues forcing for divorce.

Juni becomes a member of Ludibas Sora Girls' Club in 2021. Whatever the situation is, she participates the awareness sessions regularly. She finds each session to be very encouraging for her. The motivational and sensitization sessions inspire her to live as a human being not like a doll or slave for someone. Though she was forced to married early, she accepts her destiny and becomes motivated to live on and move forward as life brings forward. Such situation made her to take firm decision that whatever society responses it does not



Photo: A community session on GBV in Borkol Upazila

matter anymore but she must live on of her own and she agrees and consent to divorce

her husband in 2021. She starts her education newly again for the time being. She gets herself admitted in class nine in the Open University and sets a tailors shop at upazila sadar.

Juni is now free from insult, torture and mental pressure and living happily with her child. Thinking of completing her education and future of her child, she continues looking for better ways to move forward with the support of her parents and inspiration and life skill knowledge from the project's Girls' Club.

Case Study-3: Girls' Club Awareness Session Started to Positively Contribute to Prevent Early Marriage among the Indigenous People in Hard to Reach Areas of Borkol

18 years old Minati Chakma (pseudonym) lives with her husband, my father and mother in laws in Mora Thega village. Her husband is a farmer and daily wage labour. She was forcefully married in 2019 when she was only 15 years old. Besides the income of her husband she tries to provide support by helping her mother-in-law to make their traditional cake/pitha and selling them to local market.

Minati is the third child of four children of her parents. Her father is a fisherman and mother is a house wife. Though her father is a poor fisherman but he tries hard to provide support to education of his children. The village of Minati Chakma is located in a remote corner of the upazila and disadvantaged in all aspects like- education, primary health service and availability of sanitation, communication etc. There are 60-70 households live in the village and when anyone get sick they go to the village quack though the villagers do not get good result from the treatment. As she belongs to a financially poor family it was always difficult for them to get better treatment from the Upazila Health Complex or live and study there. So, they did not have good idea about women's rights, gender based violence, menstrual health management. Now she understand for this unawareness she was forced to married early and before she was ready for it.

After completing her primary education from the primary school of their neighboring village in 2016 she was admitted to the high school about 8-10 km. distance from their village. She was not bad at her study and her family had good hope on me. So she starts living as pay guest type system in a respected villager adjacent to the school. In 2018, when she was



Photo: Symbolic photo of early marriage

studying in class eight, she became acquainted with a boy from their neighboring village and after sometime it turns into love affairs. They used to meet secretly. He was in class nine at that time. Within a yearlong secret relationship there were no physical relation between them and they only meet for chatting and spend some time together. One day afternoon in 2019 when her annual exam was completed and they both decide to meet to the backside of the school. At that time few youths discover them alone backside of the school and accused them for doing sex and force them to village elders for judgement. After two days of that incident the village elders summon their parents and start village court against them. The elders find them guilty and verdict to married each other or parents of her boyfriend must compensate one lac taka to her parents which was not possible as they were also very poor and they disagree to compensate and demand to let them married. The elders, considering their tender age decide it to be arranged when we will be physically matured. But whether one month passes or not her would be mother-in-law creates pressure on her family for marriage. Her parents become motivated and arrange their marriage without thinking. An elder brother of the village requests both of their parents not to do it and tries to make them understand that it will create many problems if they get married such tender age. But both their parents ignores it. They both were not ready for this marriage. At this time, impact of worldwide COVID-19 also reaches their locality and their study becomes completely closed for it as the school was declared closed for uncertain period.

She had no idea of running a family and her mother-in-law themed to mean on me for it. She becomes pregnant in the year end of their marriage and within three months she faces miscarriage and mental torture of her mother-in-law increases. She could not say nothing as she was scared.

One day in 2023, she came to know about the opening of a girl's club under OLHF project by local NGO Taungya. A didi comes to their village and informs them about it works and she becomes interested and get herself admitted as a member of Thega Mukh Marma Para Girl's Club. During the first few days she was irregular but she becomes interested, attentive and regular when session on MHM, SRHR, girls' rights and early marriage start. But for spending time in the club her mother-in-law themed to mean to me. Carefully she tries to discuss with her about the knowledge she learned on negative impact of early marriage and immature condition of the girls reproductive organs and body but she does not become slight interested rather ignored it consciously. One day the elder brother that tried to stop her early marriage visit their village and she share her story after marriage to him. He becomes sad to hear it. But he tries not to discuss about the matter with her mother-in-law rather one day takes her to a session in the club. That day their club Mentor discusses on information on sexual and reproductive health & rights, gender based violence and especially on negative impact of early marriage. She presents and moderate the sessions with the mother groups nicely as usual. After that day miraculously and silently she starts to change and began to lessen her mental torture on her gradually. Latter she starts making her as beloved one and sometime expresses her regrets for her rough attitude she did to Minati. Consequently her torture totally stops in short time.

At present there is no such problem in their family. Her mother-in-law guides her in their household jobs and she also heartily assist her. On the other hand she shared her knowledge with her husband that she has been learning from their girls' club so they decide to take baby when they both will be physically matured and ready for a new comer in the family. Her husband also agrees with her in this decision. *"Like all other Girls' Club members of the project that had very little knowledge on menstrual health management, sexual and reproductive health and gender base violence, concept of friend selection, women's rights, I can say that the project did not provide us money or other facilities for livelihood development but what the project has provided us is priceless and it was the just thing that we adolescent girls' needed the most"* said Minati Chakma.

Volunteerism Development

Since 2020, Taungya has been committed to developing skilled local human resources by providing opportunities for higher-educated local youths who lack practical experience in the development and social service sectors. Our program has been successfully implemented, and we currently have three organizational volunteers working with us to improve their knowledge and skills through on-the-job coaching, fieldwork, and discussion sessions etc.

Our mission is to empower these young individuals to become effective agents of change in their communities. Through our program, they gain valuable experience and knowledge that will enable them to make a positive impact on society. We believe that investing in local talent is crucial for sustainable development and long-term success.

At Taungya, we are dedicated to providing our volunteers with the support and resources they need to succeed. We work closely with them to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and tailor our coaching and training to their individual needs. Our goal is to help them develop the skills and confidence they need to become leaders in their field.

The volunteers have made an invaluable contribution to the program documentation and accounts management sectors. Their assistance has greatly enhanced the staff strength in Taungya, bringing a new level of expertise and support to the organization. We are proud of the progress our volunteers have made so far, and we look forward to continuing to support them as they grow and develop. Through our program, we are building a strong foundation for a brighter future for our communities.

Learning Courses of the organizational level Volunteers

During the fiscal year, arranging sufficient learning sessions proved to be a challenge due to the unavailability of resource facilitators. However, Taungya was able to provide volunteers with practical knowledge development sessions and a few field trips to project locations. Moving forward, Taungya is committed to conducting necessary discussion sessions in the upcoming years. We have identified several topics, along with mandatory sub-topics, that will be given attention to improve the skills and knowledge of our volunteers. Anyway, the following topics along with mandatory sub-topics that are going to give attention to improve skill and knowledge of the volunteers. We believe that by focusing on these areas, our volunteers will be better equipped to contribute to the success of our projects and make a positive impact in their communities.

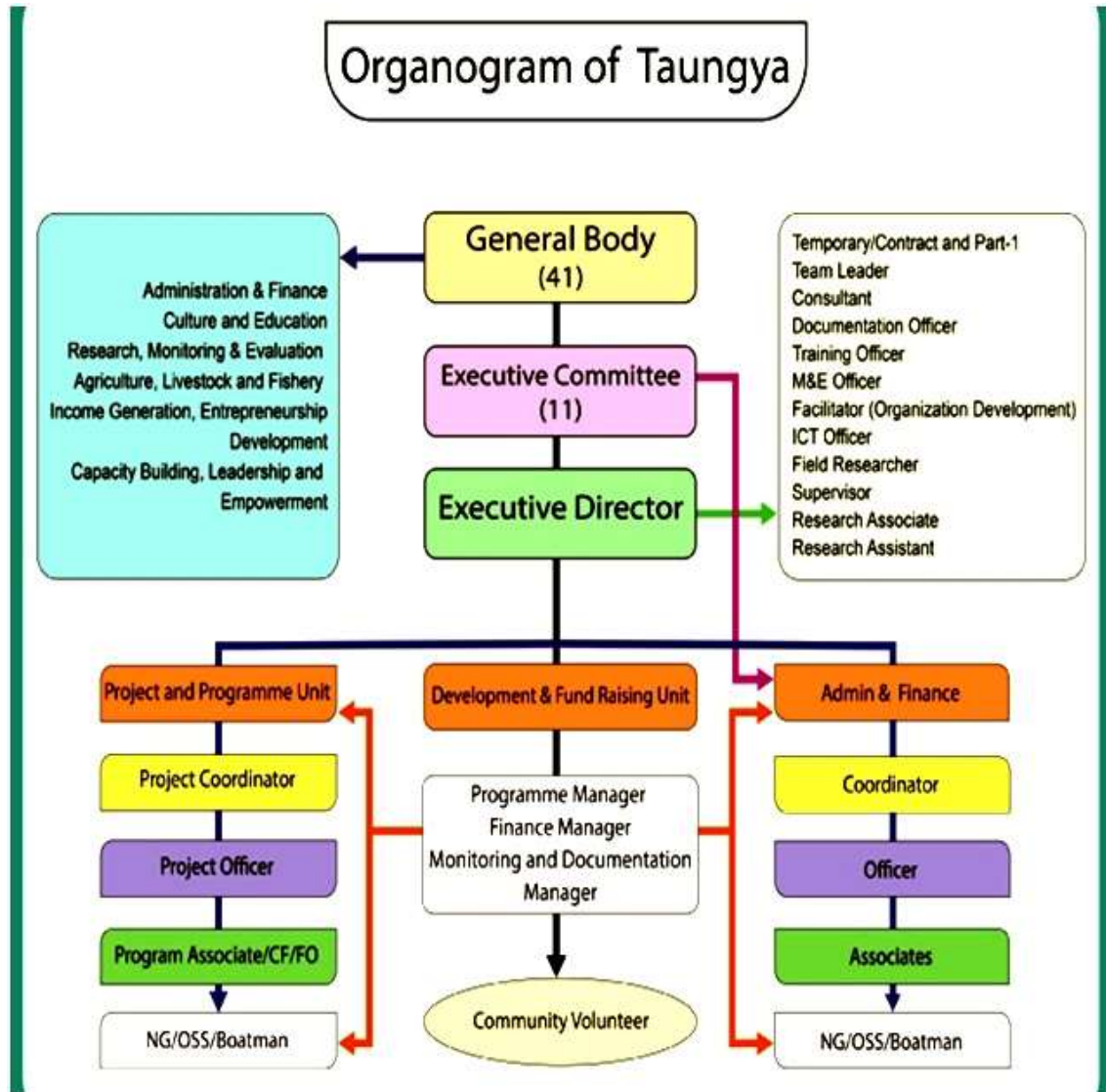


Admin, HR and Procurement Section	Accounts & Finance Section	Program Section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Office Management ▪ HR Management ▪ Procurement ▪ Event Management ▪ Constitution and Policies ▪ Coordination and Communication ▪ Documentation and Monitoring ▪ FRM & Safeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintenance and Management of all books of accounts ▪ Procurement ▪ Policies and Procedures ▪ Documentation and Monitoring ▪ Tally ▪ Vat & Tax ▪ Financial reporting ▪ Financial Proposal ▪ Budget Controlling Mechanism ▪ FRM & Safeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concept of development, thematic areas ▪ Project/program formulation, concept note, guidelines, development ▪ Project/program management ▪ Supervision ▪ Reporting and documentation (report formats, types, documentation process/evidence based documentation, Case study/success stories, profile/persona development) ▪ Communication and coordination ▪ PRA ▪ Event Management ▪ Community /social mobilization ▪ Facilitation ▪ Feedback response mechanism ▪ Session management ▪ Negotiation skill development ▪ Leader and Leadership Vs Boss ▪ Gender ▪ Lobby and advocacy ▪ MEAL /M&E & PM&E ▪ Data collection, FGD, KII, KID, RNA, NA, Workshop, seminar, conference etc. ▪ Customary governance system ▪ Traditional NRM (flora and fauna, watershed) ▪ FRM & Safeguarding ▪ Advance requisition and adjustment process ▪ Note taking and meeting minutes writing ▪ Basic photography

Taungya Volunteers Information

Volunteers (Head Office)	Community Volunteers																								
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limashree Chakma (Program) 2. Victor Chakma (Program) 3. Tufan Chakma (Program) 4. Moonson Chakma (Program) 5. Shovan Chakma (Program) 6. Milton Chakma (Admin & Finance) 7. Konika Chakma (Admin & Finance) 8. Namrada Dewan (Admin & Finance) 9. Sonadhan Chakma (Program) 10. NayanJyoti Chakma (Program) 	<p>Total Community Based Volunteers of Taungya are 121.</p> <p>Upazila Wise Volunteers-</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Upazila</th> <th>Female</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Borkol</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bileisori</td> <td>33</td> <td>42</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bagheisori</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rangamati Sadar</td> <td>10</td> <td>16</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total=</td> <td>63</td> <td>58</td> <td>121</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Upazila	Female	Male	Total	Borkol	10	0	10	Bileisori	33	42	75	Bagheisori	10	0	10	Rangamati Sadar	10	16	26	Total=	63	58	121
Upazila	Female	Male	Total																						
Borkol	10	0	10																						
Bileisori	33	42	75																						
Bagheisori	10	0	10																						
Rangamati Sadar	10	16	26																						
Total=	63	58	121																						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Female</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Female	Male	Total	4	6	10																			
Female	Male	Total																							
4	6	10																							

Organogram of Taungya



Taungya EC Members

Advisory Board



Sadeka Halim
Professor at University of Dhaka



Goutam Dewan
Chairperson, CHT Citizen's Committee



Raja Devasish Roy
Chairperson



Ms. Nirupa Dewan
Vice- Chairperson



Md. Abdul Mamun
Vice- Chairperson



Dr. Parash Khisa
Secretary



Mr. Amlan Chakma
Joint- Secretary



Mr. Rajib Chakma
Treasurer



Adv. Susmita Chakma
EC Member



Mr. Anjan Chakma
EC Member



Ms. Kabita Chakma
EC Member

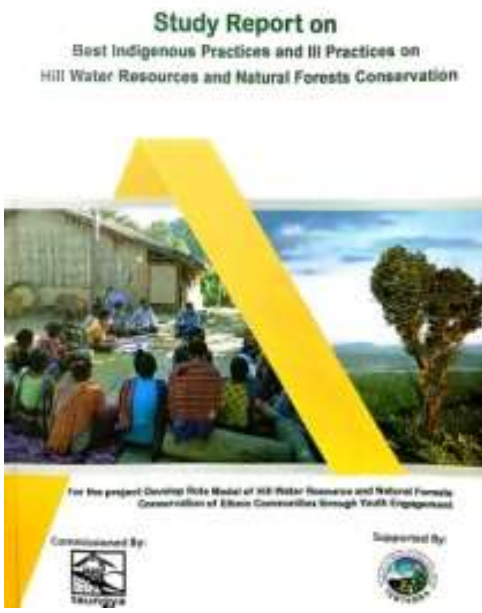



Ms. Uttara Tripura
EC Member



Ms. Protiva Tanchangya
EC Member

Publications

<p>1.</p>	<p>Publication on Study Report on Best Indigenous Practices and IIL Practices on Hill Water Resource and Natural Forests Conservation</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Video Documentation on Indigenous Culture on VCF and NRM practices in CHT</p>	

Approved Budget and Expenditure Summary of Projects

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Back Donor	Name of Donor	Approved Budget in July 2021 to June 2022			Budget Received in July 2021 to June 2022			Expenditure in July 2021 to June 2022			Balance	Remarks
				Program Cost	Operational Cost	Total	Program Cost	Operational Cost	Total	Program Cost	Operational Cost	Total		
1	Taungya-OLHF Project	European Union	Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha & Simavi, Netherlands	4,762,370	3,315,687	8,078,057	4,762,370	3,315,687	8,078,057	3,906,685	2,954,625	6,861,310	1,216,747	
2	Taungya AVCB Project (Rang Pack-A, Part-I)	UNDP	GRAUS	4,961,697	4,107,517	9,069,214	4,961,697	4,107,517	9,069,214	4,961,697	4,107,517	9,069,214	-	
3	TAUNGYA-AVC in CHT (000115133)	UNDP	ASHIKA	4,211,077	2,494,421	6,705,498	4,211,077	2,494,421	6,705,498	4,211,077	2,494,421	6,705,498	-	
4	Develop Role Model of Hill Water Resources and Natural Forest Conservation of Ethnic Communities through Youth Engagement	IFAD	Tebtebba Foundation	502,000	4,190	506,190	502,000	4,190	506,190	502,000	4,190	506,190	-	
						24,358,960	14,437,144	9,921,816	24,358,960	13,581,459	9,560,754	23,142,213	1,216,747	

Audit Summary of July 2021 to June 2022

TAUNGYA

Kalyanpur, Rangamati-4500, Bangladesh.

Statement of Consolidated Receipts & Payments Account FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Current Year</u> <u>30-06-2022</u>	<u>Previous Year</u> <u>30-06-2021</u>
Receipts		
<u>Opening Balance 01-07-2021</u>		
Cash in hand	1,538.00	3,523.00
Cash at Bank	17,83,617.00	26,59,695.00
Loan Received	32,98,038.00	11,92,099.00
Loan Realized to Project	4,10,000.00	5,25,000.00
FDR Withdrawn	16,31,668.00	21,69,395.00
ED Contribution	66,150.00	Nil
Taungya Contribution	763.00	Nil
Income from Sales A/C & Multimedia	2,84,582.00	1,87,827.00
Grant Received from the GRAUS (AVCB Project)	72,59,253.00	Nil
Grant Received from the Ashika (AVCB Project)	53,48,934.00	Nil
Grant Received from the BNPS	67,89,308.00	57,29,264.00
Grant Received from the OLHF (OR)	78,152.00	1,30,857.00
Grant Received from the IPAF	5,02,536.00	36,46,788.00
Grant Received from the JUM Foundation	Nil	4,95,477.00
NGO Operational Cost (AVCB-Graus)	1,42,107.00	Nil
NGO Operational Cost (AVCB-Ashika)	1,73,916.00	Nil
Motor Cycle Sells	6,000.00	Nil
Bank Interest	1,291.00	Nil
IPAF end of project learning exchange event	16,400.00	Nil
Overhead Cost (AVCB-Ashika)	1,72,295.00	Nil
Overhead Cost (AVCB-GRAUS)	2,41,313.00	Nil
Grant Received from the LEAN	Nil	4,24,227.00
Grant Received from the LEAN (OR)	Nil	38,838.00
Members Donation	Nil	5,65,000.00
Account Payable VAT & Tax	12,055.00	Nil
Relief	Nil	4,75,000.00
Total Tk.	2,82,15,916.00	1,82,42,990.00




Audit Summary of July 2021 to June 2022

Statement of Consolidated Receipts & Payments Account FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022

Payments		
Loan Refunded	36,99,815.00	8,72,000.00
Loan Paid to Project	4,81,914.00	9,41,514.00
FDR Deposit	5,00,000.00	13,00,000.00
Salary & Benefits	7,71,563.00	10,92,905.00
Office Stationery, Photocopy and Materials	Nil	2,393.00
Refreshment/Entertainment	3,550.00	16,827.00
Office Rent	1,35,000.00	Nil
Expenses for Oil & Fuel	Nil	3,700.00
Expenses for Meeting	9,280.00	53,007.00
Bank Charge	5,134.00	4,370.00
Traveling & Conveyance	27,000.00	16,649.00
Office Maintenance & Utility	32,847.00	43,597.00
Expenses for Communication	11,160.00	15,272.00
Promotional Activity/Day Observation	300.00	Nil
Repairs & Maintenance	7,000.00	Nil
IPAF end of project learning exchange event	16,400.00	Nil
Contribution to IPAF Project	763.00	Nil
Audit Fee	20,000.00	30,000.00
Advertisement	Nil	11,900.00
IPAF Fund	5,02,536.00	18,23,394.00
LEAN Project Fund	Nil	4,24,227.00
Relief	Nil	4,75,000.00
Expenses for IPAF Project	96,190.00	27,87,390.00
Expenses for LEAN Project	Nil	7,42,845.00
Expenses for OLHF Project	68,66,148.00	58,00,845.00
Expenses for Taungya-AVCB in CHT 000115133	59,48,934.00	Nil
Expenses for Taungya-AVCB-Project (Rang Pack-A, Part-I)	77,56,717.00	Nil
Relief	Nil	4,75,000.00
Closing Balance as on 30-06-2022		
Cash in hand	1,670.00	1,538.00
Cash at Bank	13,21,995.00	17,83,617.00
Total Tk.	2,82,15,916.00	1,82,42,990.00


 Executive Director
 Taungya, Rangamati
Executive Director
 Taungya

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.


 Treasurer
 Taungya, Rangamati
Treasurer
 Taungya

Mohammad Abu Salam, FCA
 Principal
Membership No: 1652
Salam & CO.
 Chartered Accountants
 DVC:2212221652AS200952

Dated: 22 December, 2022
Dhaka



Contact Us

Taungya is committed to collaborating with individuals and organizations that are dedicated to promoting Indigenous Culture, Education, Environment, and Socio-economic Advancement in challenging circumstances throughout the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts. We are always open to working with others and are pleased to share our materials, publications, policies, and other resources through our website, webpage, Facebook, and stakeholder email list. Our goal is to benefit others and contribute to the betterment of our community.



taungya

An Organization for Indigenous Culture Environment & Socio- Economic Advancement

Taungya (Head Office)

Rajbari Road, Rangamati – 4500,
Rangamati Hill District, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh

Tel: +8802333371837

E-mail: taungyacht@gmail.com, **Web Site :** www.taungya.org