



Annual Report of Taungya 2022-2023



An organization for Indigenous Culture, Environment & socio-economic advancement



Annual Report

Fiscal Year: July 2022-June 2023

Published in
November 2023

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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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Prepared By:
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The term "Taungya" is deeply ingrained in the cultural practices of the indigenous communities residing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. This concept is intertwined with the Marma term "ya," the Tripura term "gaireng," and the Chakma and Tanchangya term "taung." These words collectively reflect the cultural essence of societies engaged in swidden or jum cultivation methods. In contemporary agroforestry practices, "Taungya" also refers to a novel approach that enhances the traditional swidden or jum agricultural technique by facilitating tree plantation growth. As a result, the term "Taungya" exemplifies the ongoing significance of indigenous people's traditional knowledge systems. It underscores the strong connections between cultural preservation, communal customs, inventive thinking, and adaptability, all of which are integral components of jum-cultivating societies.

Our Mission (Brief Overview):

The organization's mission is to safeguard and promote the languages, literature, cultures, traditions, customs, scientific knowledge, medicinal practices, and holistic healing methods of marginalized indigenous communities and tribes residing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Alongside this, we are dedicated to conserving, safeguarding, and enhancing the natural environment and resources of the CHT. Our efforts extend to youth development, upholding women's and children's rights, expanding educational opportunities, and fostering economic growth.

Vision Statement:

Taungya aspires to be a catalyst in voicing the development perspectives of the CHT's people, highlighting their viewpoints on indigenous culture and the environment. This objective seeks to impact as many individuals as possible. Recognizing the limitations of a voluntary organization, Taungya aims to reach the widest audience through targeted projects, dialogues, collaborations, networking, research, and advocacy efforts. Publications, both formal and informal, will play a pivotal role in achieving this goal.

Our Core Principles:

- Cultural Diversity

- Self-Sufficiency
- Community Engagement
- Empowerment
- Fairness

A Brief Overview of Taungya's Origins:

Taungya was established in 1995 as an unincorporated entity named the "Committee for the Protection of Indigenous Culture." Initially, the focus was on indigenous culture due to concerns about external influences threatening the fabric of indigenous societies in the CHT. Over time, the organization's scope expanded to encompass development and environmental issues, presenting a broader perspective on indigenous culture. In 1996, the organization was rebranded as Taungya and officially registered with the Department of Social Welfare in 1998 and the NGO Affairs Bureau in 2000.

Our Objectives:

The key objectives include:

- Safeguarding and preserving indigenous cultures and knowledge systems
- Environmental conservation
- Upholding the rights of indigenous peoples, especially women and children
- Facilitating educational and socio-economic advancement for all, particularly marginalized communities.

Our Strategic Approach:

Taungya's approach centers on research and advocacy to create a systemic impact. Rather than solely relying on direct project interventions, the organization acts as a bridge to foster dialogues between various communities, their organizations, development planners, and policy-makers. This involves enhancing village communities' organizational skills through training, workshops, and exchanges, as well as disseminating information. Networking, training, and capacity-building are vital components of Taungya's strategic plans.

- Research and Advocacy Focus
- Dialogue Facilitation
- Training and Capacity Enhancement
- Collaboration with Diverse Organizations
- Internal and External Evaluation

For projects involving direct engagement with communities, including research initiatives, Taungya maintains a direct connection with rural aspirations and challenges. These experiences inform the organization's awareness campaigns and advocacy work. When direct engagement isn't feasible, Taungya collaborates with government bodies, NGOs, POs, CBOs, and other institutions. The organization regularly evaluates its activities through an independent evaluation and monitoring unit, adjusting ongoing programs and policies as needed. In summary, the key features of Taungya's intervention strategy are as follows:

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Acknowledgments

Taungya would like to express its deepest gratitude and appreciation to the project staff of OLHF for their invaluable support in providing us with the necessary information, reports, and documents for the annual report. 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 our staff members, Kono Chakma, deceased on August 04, 2022, due to heart attack. 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 2022-2023. 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 various project.



Forward from Executive Director



"Continuing community development relies on sustained funding. Insufficient support risks regressing after one or two years of effort. This affects projects in the Chittagong Hill Tracts across various domains. That is why Strategic intervention is crucial."

Dear Supporters and Partners,

As we reflect on the fiscal year 2022-2023, I am filled with gratitude for the collective efforts and unwavering support that have defined our journey. Throughout the year, our organization, under the project "Our Life, Our Health, Our Future" (OLHF), has dedicated itself to making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve. While facing the challenges inherent in our mission, we are proud to report that the year unfolded with a favorable environment for our endeavors. We have been fortunate to work on the OLHF project, focusing on three crucial components: Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Each of these areas plays a vital role in promoting the well-being and empowerment of the communities we serve.

Reflecting on the past year's endeavors, I am humbled by the journey we have undertaken together. Despite the challenges, I am pleased to share that the turnover of OLHF project (amounting to BDT 1,48,30,567.00) was less than in previous years. It is crucial to emphasize the significance of these projects as they directly address the pressing needs of our communities, contributing to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Taungya's commitment to education, customary natural resource management, and the socio-economy of development-deprived, socio-politically discriminated, and vulnerable ethnic communities in the remote corners of CHT remains unwavering. This ongoing struggle to secure funding for our visionary mission is a pressing concern that merits attention and collective action.

In expressing our gratitude, I want to acknowledge the generous support from various donors, including MoCHTA, CHTRC, RHDC, the Office of District Administration, Upazila Parishads, Upazila administration, Union Parishads, and other dedicated Government of Bangladesh service providers, associations, and networks of headmen and karbaries. Their support has been instrumental in the successful implementation of our projects and programs.

To these entities, our heartfelt appreciation knows no bounds. Your contributions have empowered us to make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve. We understand the importance of your continued support and eagerly anticipate the opportunity to work together in achieving our shared goals.

Looking ahead, our commitment to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and accountability remains unwavering. We pledge to work tirelessly, ensuring that every dollar donated is utilized effectively and efficiently to enhance the lives of those under our care.

To our esteemed partners, concerned donors, and government line departments, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your invaluable assistance has been the bedrock of our endeavors, without which our achievements would not have been possible.

Furthermore, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the dedication and hard work demonstrated by my colleagues within the organization. Their tireless efforts have been the driving force behind the successful execution of various project activities, aligning seamlessly with our implementation plan.

In closing, my heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who has played a role in our shared achievements. Your commitment to our shared goals is truly commendable and has left an indelible mark on the lives of those we serve.

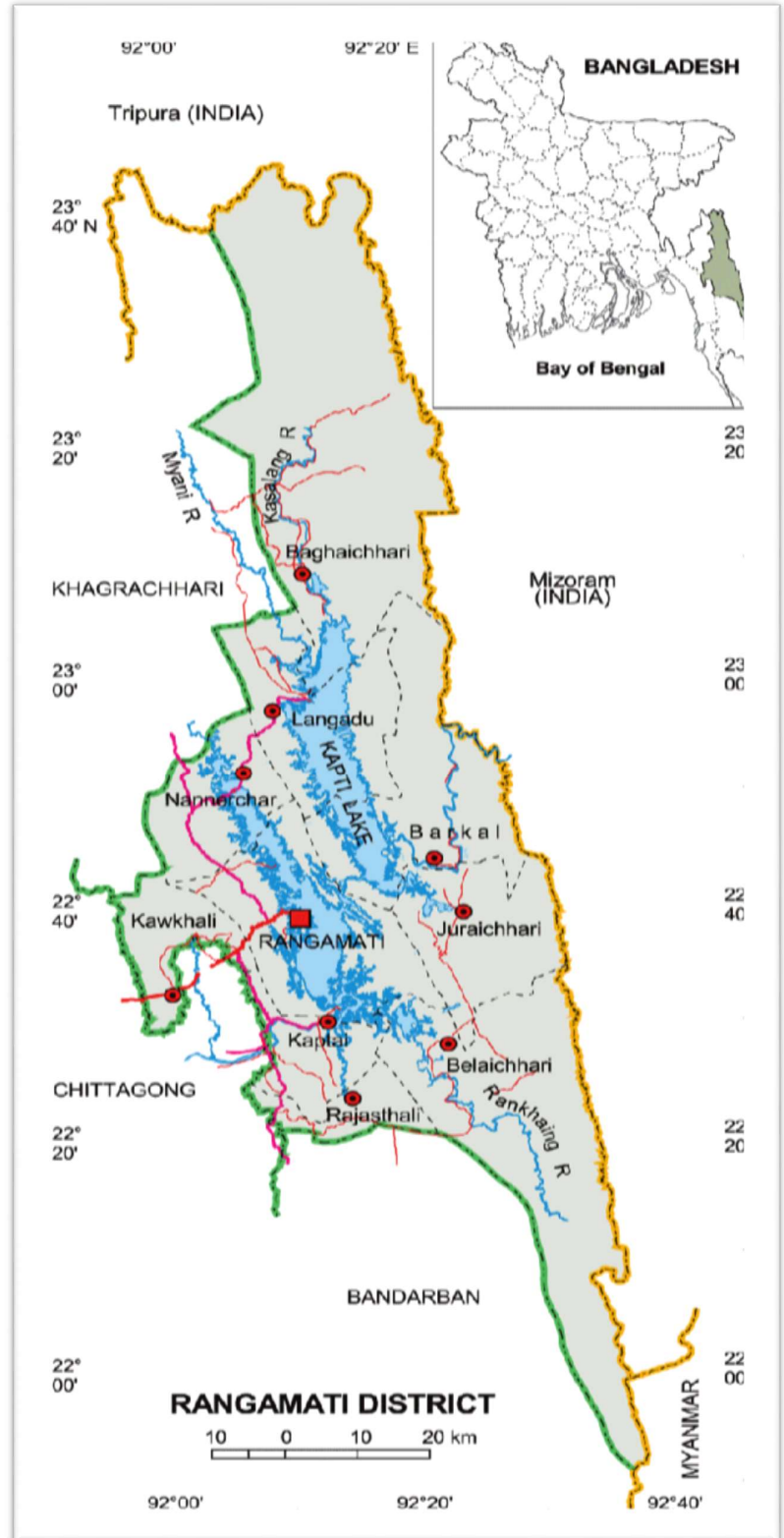


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Pranjit Dewan
Executive Director



Geographical Coverage from July 2022 to June 2023

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Future Project	
Baghaisori Upazila	Bagheisori Sadar and Srbotoli unions
Borkol Upazila	Borkol Sadar, Vujonsora, Aima Sora and Subholong unions
Bileisori Upazila	Bileisori Sadar and Forba 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 Pragati Sangha- BNPS

Back Donor: Simavi, Netherlands, and EU

Project Coverage:

Sl.	Upazila	Union	Ethnic Groups	No. of Girls Club
1	Bileisori	Bileisori Sadar	Chakma, Tanchangya & Marma	4
		Forba	Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya, Pangkhua, Bawm	6
2	Borkol	Vujon Sora	Chakma, Marma & Rakhaine	6
		Aima Sora	Chakma	2
		Subholong	Chakma, Rakhaine	2
3	Bagheisori	Bagheisori Sadar	Chakma	8
		Sorbotoli	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 Institutions:

Sl.	Upazila	Union	Customary Leaders
1	Bileisori	Bileisori Sadar	8
		Forba	12
2	Borkol	Vujon Sora	15
		Aima Sora	4
		Subholong	10
3	Bagheisori	Bagheisori Sadar	5
		Sorbotoli	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.



Girls Club Sessions:

A Girls Club Session, as part of the "Our Health, Our Life, Our Future" (OLHF) project, is a monthly gathering aimed at empowering and educating marginalized indigenous adolescent girls and young women. These sessions provide a safe and supportive space where girls from three distinct age groups (10-14, 15-19, and 20-24) come together separately to learn and share. Led by a mentor, these sessions encompass educational workshops on critical topics like Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). The girls engage in open discussions, build life skills, and develop a strong sense of self-worth and empowerment.

- Creative Project
- Training on Making Reusable Sanitary Pads
- Creative Project Showcasing
- Gender-based Violence and Introduction to Gender Focal Person (GFP)
- Evaluation of Year Activities
- Our responsibility to prevent and respond to violence in family and intimate relationships
- Human rights, sexual and reproductive health rights, and creative project demonstration and exercise of commitment taking
- Sexuality and Values and Introduction to Youth-Friendly Health Services
- Pregnancy and contraception
- Protection against reproductive tract infections and sexually transmitted diseases
- Understanding Human Sexual Development and Braking Society's Stigmas



Dhupsil Girls Club member is preparing reusable sanitary pads

Community Session with Mother, Father, and Brother Group:

Besides, the Girls Club Session, a Community Session is organized also to engage and educate the family members of the adolescent girls

participating in the project, including mothers, fathers, and brothers. The primary goal of these sessions is to provide knowledge and raise awareness about essential topics such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). By involving the family in these conversations, the sessions aim to foster an understanding of and respect for the rights of the girls and to create a supportive environment where girls can thrive. These meetings occur every month and serve as a vital part of the project's comprehensive approach to empowering and educating the community as a whole.

- Awareness about women's sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Gender-Based Violence
- Preventing Early Marriage
- Menstrual Health Management
- Handicrafts, Tree Plantation, and Cleanliness Initiatives in Villages
- Prevention of Violence against Women
- Importance of Women's Education
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Awareness Meeting with Local Leaders:

Awareness Meeting with Local Leaders is a strategic gathering conducted to inform and engage influential figures within a community, such as local government officials, community leaders, GFP, and religious leaders. These meetings are organized to raise awareness about specific issues of MHM, SRHR, Early marriage, and Gender-based violence. The primary objective is to share information, gather support, and mobilize these leaders to advocate for the overall well-being of adolescents and young women in their respective communities. In this regard, Meetings with local leaders were conducted in Bilaichhari and Barkal upazilas on April 26 and 27, 2013, and on June 7 and 25, 2023, respectively. These sessions brought together a diverse group of community leaders, including Local Headmen, Karbaris, Union Parishad (UP) Chairmen, UP Members, and other dignitaries.



An Awareness session with father group



PC-Taungya OLHF is performing a leader meeting at Borkol





Day observation:

In alignment with our commitment to recognizing and championing the values embedded in the OLHF project's mission and activities, Taungya actively engages in the celebration of significant days that resonate with our objectives. Events such as International Women's Day and International Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Day hold particular significance in our calendar. These observances serve as poignant moments for reflection, advocacy, and collective action, reinforcing our dedication to fostering positive change in the spheres of gender equality, reproductive health, and hygiene. Through these day observations, we amplify awareness and reinforce the core principles that drive our project's impact on the community.

International Youth Day 2022:

On August 11, 2022, "Taungya" organized a vibrant celebration of "International Youth Day-2022" at Bilaichhari Sadar Union Parishad conference room, Bilaichhari Upazila. The event, themed "Equality regardless of age: One world for all ages," brought together Dhupachar Girls Club and Digolchari Girls Club members for a painting competition. Following the competition, a prize distribution and discussion session took place, graced by the presence of the Upazila Assistant Youth Development Officer as the chief guest and a local Karbari as a special guest. The meeting was chaired by the Taungya OLHF Project Coordinator and was attended by UP Member Ms. Rita Chakma, UP Member Mr. Bhadrashan Chakma, parents of local young girls, club members, mentors, and community leaders. Guest speakers emphasized the importance of bridging generational gaps for sustainable development, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts across all age groups. They called for increased youth participation in societal development, emphasizing the role of both public and private sectors.

International Women's Day 2023:

On March 8, 2023, the celebration of International Women's Day took place at the West Baghaichhari Girls Club in Baghaichhari Upazila. The event featured a creative project exhibition and a discussion meeting organized by the Girls Club members. The esteemed presence of Mr. Rumana Akhter, the Honorable UNO of Baghaichhari Upazila, as the chief guest, and Mr. Olive Chakma, the Honorable Chairman of the 32nd Baghaichhari Union Parishad, as a special guest, added significance to the occasion. The meeting also welcomed the attendance of parents (fathers, mothers, and brothers) of youth club members. Prior to the discussion meeting, the members of the West Baghaichhari Girls Club



OLHF project team is celebrating IWD 2023 in presence of UNO Baghaichori

presented two impactful creative projects on gender equality in education and the prevention of child marriage through posters. Following the project exhibition, Mr. Rumana Akhter shared valuable insights gained from professional experiences, enhancing awareness about the showcased issues. He urged everyone present to actively contribute to increasing awareness regarding these crucial matters. The celebration served as a platform not only for acknowledging International Women's Day but also for fostering dialogue and promoting initiatives for gender equality and the prevention of child marriage in the community.

World Health Day 2023:

On 6th April 2023, the Lobby and Advocacy Officer of Taungya OLHF Project celebrated World Health Day 2023 at Lathibaschora Girls Club of Barkal Upazila with the theme "Health for All". A discussion meeting was held at the Girls Club to celebrate the day. The discussion meeting was attended by local woman Karbari Ms. Malaching Marma, parents of Girls Club members, and members of Latibashchara Girls Club. Focusing on the theme, the womenkarbari and guardians present in the meeting assured that they will play a necessary role in protecting the physical, mental, and psychosocial health of the girls in the area and will motivate the girls to follow the science-based health information as directed by the OLHF project.

International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls 2022:

Taungya celebrated International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls 2022 with the slogan "Unite and stop violence against women and children" in coordination with Barkal Upazila Women's Affairs on the premises of the Upazila Parishad by making a human chain to mark the celebration. The mentor and members of the Lathibaschchora Girls Club were present in the human chain along with various Govt. and private stakeholders officials of the upazila.

International Menstrual Health Day 2023:

The International Menstrual Health Day 2023 was celebrated at Hajachora Girls Club in Barkal Upazila. Commemorating the day, the Girls Club members organized a creative project showcasing and a discussion meeting. A rally was also set from Hajachora High School to Hajchora Girls Club. In the discussion meeting the Asst. Teacher Mr. Rintu Chakma, Ms. Mishu Chakma, representative of Women Affairs, Asst. Teacher Ms. Sujata Chakma were chaired as guests with the OLHF projects staff. The Club members showcased a creative project through a poster presentation during the discussion meeting, aiming to raise awareness about menstrual health management and challenge societal misconceptions



OLHF project team is celebrating Menstrual Health Day 2023 at Hajachora High School

National SRHR Conference 2022:

A National level conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Youth and Adolescents organized by BNPS from 11 to 12 November 2022 at the conference hall of Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong. The mega event brought together various Govt. and Non-Govt. stakeholders, including the representatives of BNPS, Simavi Netherlands, and the 10 partner CSOs of the OLHF project from three hill districts. From Taungya PC, POCT, LAO, PF Barkal, the mentor from Dhupsil Girls Club, 04 Dhuppechor girl's club members of the 15-19 age group participated in this mega event. On the first day of the two-day program Mr. Samshul Haque Chowdhury, Honorable Whip of the National Parliament was present as chief guest, and Dr. Sakhawat Ullah, Divisional Director (Health Department), and Mr. Md. Anwar Pasha, Additional Head (Development Department-Chittagong) were present as special guest. Moreover, Mr. Khadija Mitu, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, University of Chittagong, Mr. Mostafa Kamal, Associate Professor of the Department of Drama, University of Chittagong, Dr. Chaber Ahmed, Civil Surgeon, Khagrachari District, Dr. Angsalu Mong Marma, DDFP, Bandarban District, Dr. Emran Hossain Chowdhury, DDFP, Khagrachari District, Dr. Baby Tripura, ADDFP, Rangamati District were present in the guest panel. On the first day's session, the topics of guest discussion were "Adolescent Friendly Health Care" and "Tribal Health Plan" and the second day's discussion sessions were "Menstrual Health Management" and "Gender-Based Violence". The speeches of the guests shed light on various aspects of these issues in society and the role of development organizations was also highlighted to create awareness on these issues. Besides, the 10 CSOs participating in the event from three hill districts displayed stalls on their activities in the Shilpakala Academy premises. The stalls showcased various activities of the OLHF project and exchanged practical experiences of the project on creating public awareness of SRSR, GBV, and MHM in society.



Rally showdown at SRHR Conference 2022



Capacity Building Activities (Project Staff, GoB, traditional institution)

Health Service Provider Training:

To achieve the OLHF project goals and ensure youth and adolescent-friendly health services Taungya has been working closely with the health service providers of three working upazilas (Baghaichori, Barkal, and Bilaichori). In this continuity, Taungya arranged a three-day training on “Youth and Adolescent Friendly Health Services” from 6th November to 8th November 2022 for the local health care providers of these 3 upazilas – Barkal, Bilaichari and Baghaichari – at Ashika Conference Hall in Rangamati district. Healthcare providers working in seven unions of three upazilas (Barkal-Bhushanchhara, Aimachhra, Suvlong Union, Bilaichhari-Bilaichhari Sadar, and Farua Union, Baghaichhari-Baghaichhari Sadar and Sarwatali Union) participated in the training. The UHFPO of Baghaichori, Dr. Arabindu Chakma was present as the inaugurator of the program and Dr. Paresh Khisha, Former ED of Taungya, and Ms. Rimi Chakma, Master trainer of BNPS were present as special guests. After the inauguration of the training, the project coordinator of the Taungya OLHF project Mr. Kuldip Roy presented a PowerPoint presentation on project activities. The UHFPO of Barkal, Dr. Mong Kya Ching Marma, the UFPO of Barkal Mr. Satish Sankar Chakma, The MOMCH of Bilaichori, Dr. Shubhra Palit, and the MOMCH of Baghaichori, Dr. Robin Bhattacharya were present as resource person in the event. Besides, Begum Shahan Waz, the Deputy Director of the District Family Planning Department, was present as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the training, Dr. Paresh Khisa Acting Executive Director of Taungya, Master Trainer BNPS Ms. Rimi Chakma, Advocate Sushmita Chakma.

Mentor Training:

A three-day training was organized by the Taungya OLHF project from December 17 to 19, 2022 at the conference room in Taungya to enhance mentors' skills in facilitation and interpersonal communication. 30 mentors from 30 teenage clubs of Barkal, Bilaichari and Baghaichari upazilas participated in the training. The executive director of Taungya Mr. Pranjit Dewan. Project Coordinator of the Taungya OLHF Project Mr. Kuldip Roy gave a welcome speech at the opening ceremony and the training was inaugurated with the speech of Pranjit Dewan, Executive Director, Taungya. The training was conducted by Taungya OLHF Project Trainer, PF, and BNPS Master Trainer Ms. Rimi Chakma.



Mentor training at Taungya Conference Hall

Advocacy Strategy Review Workshop:

Last December 20-21, 2022 OLHF project donor organizations CMAVI and BNPS organized a two-day long annual advocacy strategy workshop at the conference room of the Action Human Development Center in Dhaka. Executive directors, project coordinators, and lobby and advocacy officers of ten organizations implementing OLHF projects in three hill districts participated in the workshop. Also, the Project Manager, Advocacy Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Lianza



Advocacy Strategy Workshop at Dhaka

Officer, and Master Trainers of three hill districts, the Project Manager, Lobby and Advocacy Officer, and MEAL officers of Simavi participated in the workshop.

Advocacy Workshop:

An Advocacy workshop was organized by BNPS and Simavi Netherland on 24-25th January 2023 at Parjatan Motel, Bandarban where the Executive Directors, Project coordinators, Lobby and advocacy officers of 10 partner CSOs, and the Master trainers of BNPS participated from three hill districts. From Taungya Executive Director, Mr. Pranjit Dewan, Project Coordinator, Mr. Kuldip Roy, and Lobby & Advocacy Officer, Mr. Rocktim Dewan joined in the workshop. The training event kicked off with a welcome speech by Sanjoy Majumder, OLHF-BNPS Project Manager, who outlined the two-day agenda. Participants engaged in an introductory session, sharing insights on lobby and advocacy. Ishaque Faruque facilitated discussions on communication strategies, rapport building, and maintaining connections with government and stakeholders. Sanjoy Majumder later elucidated the roles of Lobby and Advocacy officers, emphasizing their impact on government policies related to adolescents' health and rights. On the second day, Executive Directors from 10 CSOs joined the

session, contributing to discussions on the Multi-stakeholders meeting and the National SRHR Conference of 2023. Tentative dates and plans for observing events in girls' clubs were proposed. Mr. Ishaque Faruqi explored creative projects linked with advocacy, including commitments from government officials. Bandarban Hill District Chairman, Mr. Kyaw Shwe Hla, pledged support and felicitated CSOs for their achievements. Advocacy plans, cluster-wise group work, and discussions on media and social media engagement rounded off the training, concluding with a focus on future lobby and advocacy activities.

Monitoring Training:

From February 27th to March 1st of the past February, a three-day training was conducted at Hotel George in Rangamati, Bangladesh, aimed at enhancing the skills of monitoring officers working on the OLHF project, organized by the Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS) and Simavi. Ten monitoring officers from ten implementing organizations in the three hill districts participated in the training, focusing on monitoring tools, PME frameworks, and organizational capacity assessment. The inaugural session featured remarks from Ms. Nay Ni Phyu Marma, Executive Director of Hill Flower, and an opening statement by Mr. Sanjoy Majumder, the Project Manager of BNPS. The training was facilitated by Mr. Tuhin Sarkar from Simavi Bangladesh and Mr. Richard Colin Deuri, a monitoring officer from BNPS. The closing ceremony included speeches from Mr. Sanjoy Majumder, Project Manager of BNPS, Dr. Nilu Kumar Thanchangya, Executive Director of Hill Flower, Mr. Pranjit Deowan, Executive Director of Tongya, and Master Trainer Ms. Rimi Chakma. At the end of the closing session, participants were provided with pen drives as a token of appreciation from the guests.



Training on Monitoring and Evaluation methods at Ranaamati

Adolescent Friendly Health Service Training:

From February 5th to April 6th, 2023, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS) and Simavi orchestrated a comprehensive two-day training session at Hotel Saitat in Chittagong. The primary objective was to enhance the proficiency of service providers at local union and upazila-level health centers, ensuring the delivery of adolescent-friendly health services. The training brought together ten trainers and ten project coordinators from implementing organizations across the Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Bandarban hill districts. The inauguration was marked by Sanjoy Majumder, the Project Manager of the BNPS-OLHF Project, while Sumit Banik, Master Trainer for the BNPS-OLHF Project in Bandarban, extended a warm welcome. Sanjoy Majumder formally launched the training with his opening remarks. Facilitating the sessions were Rimi Chakma, Master Trainer for the BNPS-OLHF Project, along with Nabelesh Dewan, Sumit Banik, and Nasrin Begum, the Capacity Building Coordinator. Loann Liem, SRHR Advisor from Simavi Netherlands, participated as an observer during the training.

Training SRHR, GBV, and Psycho-social support for Trainers and PFs:

From March 13 to 15, 2023, a three-day training program was organized by the Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS) at the Savar Hope Foundation Center to enhance the skills of trainers and project facilitators in the facilitation of sexual and reproductive health, rights, and gender-based violence issues at the community level. The Participants included 10 trainers and 29 project facilitators from the 10 partner organizations of Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Bandarban hill districts.



POCT and PF of OLHF project joined in the training program organized by BNPS and Simavi Netherland

Mr. Sanjay Majumdar, Project Manager of the OLHF project from BNPS, was present as the inaugurator of the training. The opening ceremony featured a welcome speech by Mr. Sumit Banik, the Master Trainer of the BNPS-OLHF Project in the Bandarban district. The training was conducted by Ms. Rimi Chakma, Master Trainer of the BNPBS-OLHF Project, accompanied by Mr. Naboleshor Dewan, Sumit Banik, and Ms. Nasrin Begum, the Capacity Building Coordinator. From Taungya, Ms. Mithila Roy, POCT, Ms. Nila Chaka, PF Baghaichori, Ms. Suma Chakma, PF Barkal and Mr. Jyojit Khisa, PF Bilaichori participated in the training program.

Training on SRHR, GBV, and Future of Girls Club for Trainers:

From May 13-15, 2023, BNPS and Simavi Netherland organized another training for all the Trainers of the 10 partner organizations of three hill districts on "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender-Based Violence, and the Future of Adolescent Clubs" at Parjatan Motel in Khagrachari. From Taungya Ms. Mithila Roy participated in the training program. The training session was led by Ms. Lindsay Van Clip, SRHR consultant of Simavi Netherland, Ms. Nasrin Begum, Capacity Building Coordinator of BNPS, Ms. Rimi Chakma, Mr. Sumit Banik, and Mr. Nabolesh Dewan, the Master Trainers of BNPS from Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari. The training provided detailed information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence, and concluded with insights on how to effectively sustain the adolescent clubs in future.

Case Study 01: Empowered Women, Transformed Lives: A Journey Towards Progress:

My name is Hillary (pseudonym), a married woman from a remote village where 98% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. I come from a poor farming family and am the eldest among three brothers and two sisters. In my village, basic facilities are scarce, with only one government primary school and one community clinic. Unfortunately, financial constraints lead to irregular schooling and a lack of sufficient healthcare providers in the clinic, leaving many without proper medical services. Due to these hardships, I had to stop my education after the 5th grade and take on household chores and agricultural work to support my family as the eldest daughter. Under family pressure, I married a fellow villager at a young age and embraced the roles of a wife and daughter-in-law, assisting my husband in daily tasks. Nine months into my marriage, I joyfully discovered I was pregnant. Despite experiencing occasional stomach pain and loss of appetite during pregnancy, I considered it normal and kept it to myself, thinking it was my duty to endure hardships. One day, severe abdominal pain struck, and I realized I had a miscarriage. The emotional pain was overwhelming, but it was further compounded by emotional abuse from my in-laws and family members, blaming me for the misfortune. I had to endure their abusive language in silence, as societal norms dictated.

Change and adaptability were something I used to not believe in. However, I started to believe that when one of my cousin's sisters became a member of a club initiated by the Taungya OLHF project for adolescents and young women in our area towards the end of 2020. This club was unlike anything we had seen in our village – it aimed to empower women and promote knowledge on issues that had long been shrouded in silence and ignorance. Though my pregnancy prevented me from actively participating in the club's activities, the club mentor, took the initiative to educate me on menstrual health management, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence. Through informal but informative sessions, the club mentor taught us about using pads during menstruation, proper care of reproductive organs, and the importance of the 12 sexual and reproductive rights of every woman. Moreover, she fearlessly discussed why gender-based violence occurs, the problems it can cause in society, and how it is a punishable offense.

These eye-opening sessions ignited a spark within me, transforming my personal and family life significantly. Gradually, I found the strength to break the silence and confront the abuse I had endured. Surprisingly, my husband, listened and understood, realizing the pain he had unknowingly caused. He, too, had grown up in a society where these issues were rarely discussed openly. With newfound awareness, he sought to rectify his past behavior and became my strongest supporter. My in-laws, too, introspected and realized the injustice they had inflicted upon me. They apologized for their past actions, acknowledging the need for change. The impact of these sessions extended beyond my own family. As I shared the knowledge gained during the sessions with others, a ripple effect began. Women in my village, who had long accepted mistreatment as part of their fate, now found their voices and stood up against any form of gender-based violence.

I am currently six months pregnant, but I feel a sense of empowerment and optimism that I had never experienced before. My husband now takes me for regular medical check-ups, and he actively participates in preparing for the arrival of our child. The most important aspect is that now I am conscious of gender-based violence and its detrimental effects on family and society. Through my involvement with the club, I continue to educate others in my family and share this newfound knowledge with everyone.

Case Study 02: Girls' Club Awareness Session Started to Positively Contribute to Prevent Early Marriage among the Indigenous People in Hard to Reach Areas of Bileisori

My name is Shanti Bikash Tanchangya. I live with my family in a remote area of Egujyachari village, Farua Union, Bileishori Upazilla. I am an illiterate person who just can sign his signature and I am 45 years old. I earn by farming. My wife also helps me with farming and does all the household work of the house. I have two daughters. My eldest daughter is 15 years old and my youngest daughter is 11 years old. They study in a local school where my eldest daughter reads in class 8 and my youngest daughter reads in class 4.

My eldest daughter often gets absent 5 to 6 times in a month at school due to stomach pain. At first, I thought this is normal and I did not worry that much. My wife might know the matter but never shared anything about it with me.

My daughters are members of the Egujyachari Girls Club with other girls from our village which is run by the OLHF-Taungya Project team. They regularly join in the various sessions of the club and for my daughter's sake, I also get the opportunity to join in several meetings and sessions of the club. In one such session, I got to learn about the "Menstrual Health Management" of women where I learned that Menstruation is a normal process for a woman and it occurs on a periodic time basis and it is very essential to stay neat and clean, and eat healthy food during period. Besides, I have learned that stomach pain is a normal thing during period but sometimes the pain may get extreme and excessive bleeding may occur. If this kind of unusual situation occurs, it is necessary to contact the nearest health clinic and consult with the medical officer.

After learning all of this information about menstruation, I have realized my eldest daughter also may get serious health issues if her stomach pain gets severe day by day. So, I discussed with my wife regarding this and I asked my eldest daughter about her condition. She told me "Yes, Father I feel extreme pain sometimes in my stomach during my period. That is why, I get absent at school often" After hearing my daughter's statement, I immediately took her to our union health clinic center and consulted with the medical officer about her condition. All these years, I learned that the period is a private thing for women and this is not necessary to discuss it with men, the clothes of menstruation need to get dry privately, if a man touches a woman's menstruation clothes he gets unlucky etc. But doing the menstruation session in the girls' club I realized that these beliefs and learnings are all misbeliefs and superstition. So, after consulting with the medical officer, I took medicines for my eldest daughter from the clinic and started providing medicine to my daughter as per the advice of the medical officer. I bought healthy and nutritious food also for my daughter from Bajar. After a few days, my daughter's stomach pain gets normal and she was feeling good about her health. This was a great experience with my eldest daughter and I have learned a lot of new things regarding the menstruation of a woman.

I love my two daughters very much. So now, during their period, I bought healthy foods for them, motivate them to stay neat and clean, don't permit them to do heavy household work, etc. I did not get the opportunity to study when I was very young. But I want my daughter to be well-educated and have a good and prosperous life in the future. So, I encourage them to study well and advise them to share with me if any physical difficulties arise.

I learned a lot of things after joining the "Menstrual Health Management" session and my ideas about menstruation have been changing. I am grateful to the OLHF-Taungya project for providing such session and learning to us.



Learning:

- Competent facilitation is crucial for conducting community sessions with gatekeepers.
- Mobilizing the community is essential to engage field staff effectively, but this is hindered by high workloads at all levels.
- Organizing creative projects for widespread sensitization is necessary, focusing on specific locations near girls' clubs.
- Addressing early marriage is challenging due to social dynamics and a lack of effective awareness campaigns, particularly in remote areas where limited session tools are available.
- While local stakeholders express interest in a rights-based approach, only a few are actively implementing it in their communities. Overcoming the challenge of motivating less educated and indifferent communities remains a significant

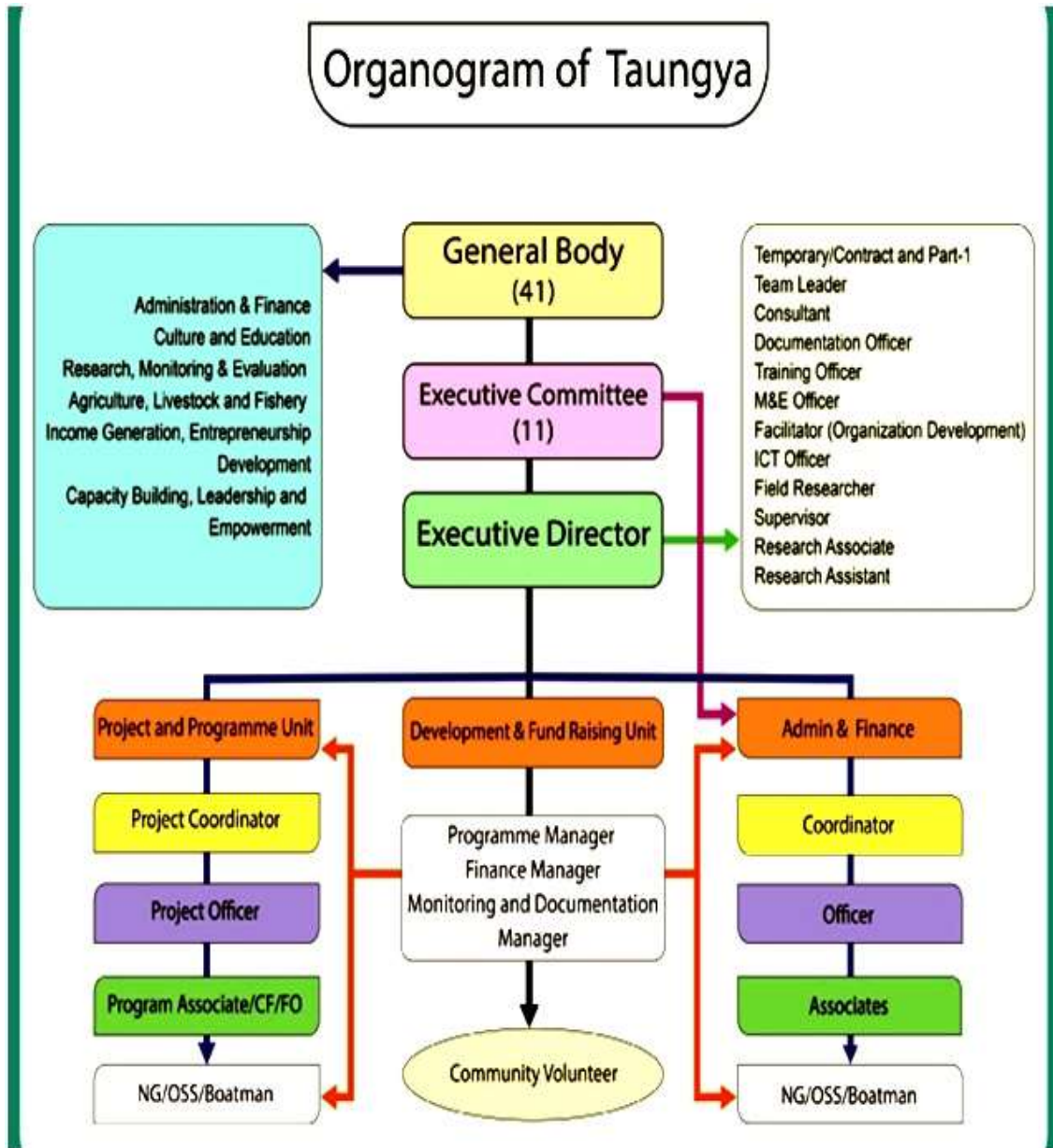
Challenges:

- Gatekeepers exhibit limited interest in attending community sessions due to heavy workloads associated with livelihood activities.
- Mentors express reduced enthusiasm to deliver quality work owing to inadequate allowances or wages.
- Some girls show diminished interest in consistently attending club sessions due to a lack of facilitation skills and the geographical context.
- The project necessitates extensive social mobilization at the field level, but staff members are predominantly occupied at the district level for a significant portion of their time.

Recommendation:

- Enhance the strategic implementation of field activities for senior-level project staff.
- Organize more impactful sessions with a focus on follow-up learning outputs and outcome measures.
- Inspire mentors to recognize their role as a social service and commit to social responsibility.
- Formulate a strategic action plan for all levels of staff to maximize the qualitative output and outcomes of field-level activities.

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

Audit Summery of Taungya from July 2022 to June 2023

Islam Quazi Shafique & Co.
Chartered Accountants

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Taungya
Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Particulars	Notes	2022-2023	2021-2022
		BDT	BDT
Opening Balance		1,323,665	1,785,155
Cash in hand		1,670	1,538
Cash at Bank		1,321,995	1,783,617
Receipts		13,506,902	26,434,761
Loan Received from EC Members		940,000	3,298,038
Loan Realized to Project		469,052	410,000
Advance Return		481,914	-
FDR Withdrawn		543,635	1,631,668
ED Contribution		114,814	66,150
Taungya Contribution		-	763
Rent of A/C & Multimedia		33,352	284,582
Grant Received from the GRAUS (AVCB Project)		3,783,971	7,259,253
Grant Received from the Ashika (AVCB Project)		113,360	5,348,934
Grant Received from the BNPS		6,752,154	6,789,308
Grant Received from the OLHF (OR)		114,579	78,152
Grant Received from the IPAF		-	502,536
NGO Operational Cost (AVCB-Graus)		-	142,107
NGO Operational Cost (AVCB-Ashika)		-	173,916
Motor Cycle Sells		-	6,000
Bank Interest		71	1,291
IPAF end of project learning exchange event		-	16,400
Overhead Cost (AVCB-Ashika)		-	172,295
Overhead Cost (AVCB-GRAUS)		-	241,313
Members Donation		160,000	-
Account Payable VAT & Tax		-	12,055
Total		14,830,567	28,219,916
Payments			
Loan to EC Members Refund		940,000	3,699,815
Other Expense		5,415	-
Advance to Staff of Project (OLHF)		146,659	481,914
FDR Deposit		1,500,000	500,000
Salary & Benefits		825,624	771,563
Office Stationery, Photocopy and Materials		1,000	-
Refreshment/Entertainment		21,349	3,550
Office Rent		238,480	135,000
Expenses for Oil & Fuel		9,000	-
Expenses for Meeting		42,855	9,280
Bank Charge		5,371	5,134
Advance Income Tax (Bank A/C)		11	-
Traveling & Conveyance		21,911	27,000
Office Maintenance & Utility		14,874	32,847
Expenses for Communication		20,965	11,160
Promotional Activity/Day Observation		-	300
Repairs & Maintenance		19,000	7,000
IPAF end of project learning exchange event		-	16,400
Contribution to IPAF Project		-	763
Audit Fee (last Year)		50,000	20,000

Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments

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Taungya
Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Particulars	Notes	2022-2023	2021-2022
		BDT	BDT
Advertisement		4,000	-
IPAF Fund		-	502,536
LEAN Project Fund		-	-
Website Development		17,850	-
Expenses for IPAF Project		-	96,190
Expenses for LEAN Project		-	-
Expenses for OLHF Project		7,495,028	6,866,148
Expenses for Taungya-AVCB in CHT 000115133		-	5,948,934
Expenses for Taungya-AVCB-Project (Rang Pack-A, Part-I)		-	7,756,717
Awareness campaign		675,200	-
Staging Popular Theatre		493,360	-
Training on Case management		735,200	-
Training on Justice Mechanism		406,500	-
CMDO		30,000	-
Community Mobilizer		100,000	-
ED Partial		20,000	-
MIS Officer		30,000	-
Popular Theatre Expert		30,000	-
Training Associate		23,000	-
VCA		36,000	-
Court Year Meeting		29,700	-
Programme Visit		15,061	-
AC Payable vat & tax		11,675	-
Total Payment		14,015,088	26,892,251
Closing Balance		815,479	1,323,665
Cash in Hand		348	1,670
Cash at Bank		815,131	1,321,995
Total		14,830,567	28,215,916

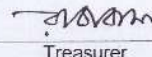
The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



Executive Director

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

Executive Director
Taungya



Treasurer

Treasurer
Taungya

Dated: 12 Nov 2023
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Islam Quazi Shafique & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Signed by: Biplab Hossain FCA (ICAB),
ACA (England & Wales)
Partner
Enrollment number: 1368
DVC: 2311121368AS910470



Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments

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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.



An Organization for Indigenous Culture Environment & Socio- Economic Advancement

Taungya (Head Office)

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