

Annual Report of Taungya





Annual Report

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All the staff and Volunteers for their contribution to the development of the Annual Report- 2024



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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.

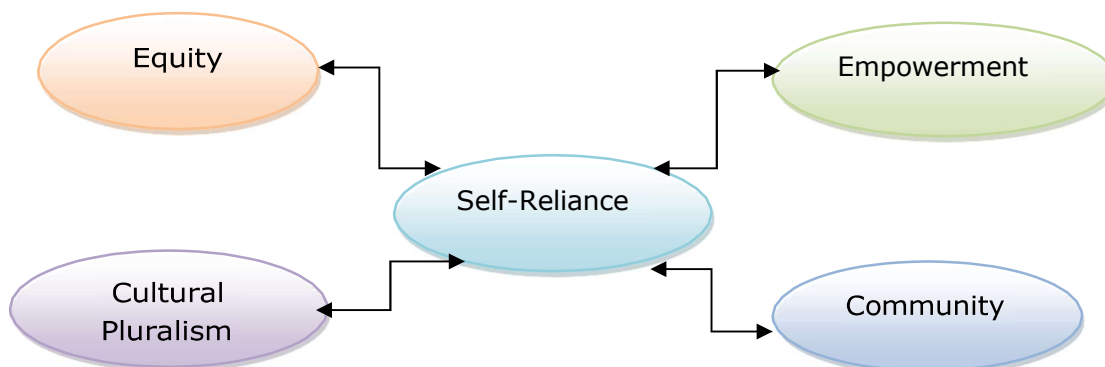
Our Goal (In brief)

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



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.

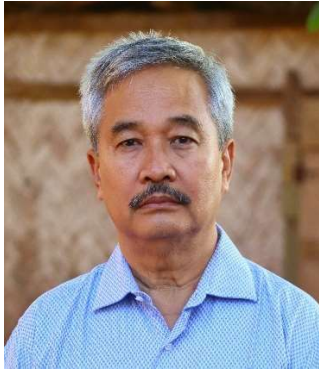
Acronym

PRLC	Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT Region
FFS	Farmer Field School
FF	Farmer Facilitator
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHTDF	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
HDC	Hill District Council
IGA	Income Generating Activity
INGO	International/ Non-Government Organization
MJF	Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)
MLE	Multilingual Education
MG	Mothers Group
PSC	Primary School Certificate
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
PWD	People with Disabilities
SMC	School Management Committee
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
UEO	Upazila Education Officer
UPEO	Upazila Primary Education Officer
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer

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Forward from General Secretary



Dr. Parash Khisa



As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year, it is with great pride that I present the Annual Report for July 2023 to June 2024. This report encapsulates our unwavering commitment to addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our four pivotal projects in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh. These projects have been instrumental in tackling critical issues such as education, poverty reduction, water scarcity, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), nutrition, livelihood development, and the sustainable conservation of customary Village Common Forests (VCF).

The Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT Region (PRLC) Project has begun making significant strides in poverty reduction and fostering resilient livelihoods. By focusing on sustainable agricultural practices, entrepreneurship, and nutrition education, we have commenced empowering 1,876 individuals in the remote areas of Jurrosori Upazila. This project directly contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), ensuring that the most vulnerable communities have the resources and knowledge to improve their livelihoods and nutritional well-being.

Our Lives, Our Health, Our Futures (OLHF) Project has been a beacon of hope for adolescent girls and young women, empowering them to live with dignity and free from violence. Covering seven unions, this project has reached 4,716 beneficiaries, addressing SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Through education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV), we are fostering a generation of informed and empowered young women.

The Support for Community School Project under the BRAC NFPE Bridge Schools initiative has been pivotal in addressing the crying need for quality education in remote areas. By supporting ten schools in Barkal Upazila, we are ensuring that children receive the education they deserve, aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education). This project also emphasizes the importance of community involvement in education, fostering a supportive environment for students and teachers alike.

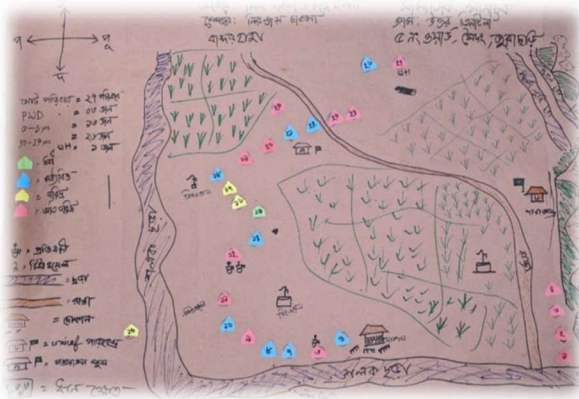
Lastly, the Empowering Young Leaders for Sustainable Management of Traditional Village Common Forests and Ecology Project has focused on the sustainable conservation of natural forests and watersheds. By developing Young Conservation Leaders and strengthening VCF management, we are addressing SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). This project highlights the critical role of community engagement in environmental conservation and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Despite the challenges posed by geographical isolation, poor infrastructure, and limited resources, our projects have made remarkable progress. The dedication of our staff, the resilience of our beneficiaries, and the support of our donors have been the cornerstone of our success. As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities in the CHT.

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all our partners and government authorities for their generosity and benevolence. I would also like to convey my sincere greetings and best wishes to Taungya staff members and volunteers for their wholehearted support and cooperation in the last years.

Together, we can continue to make a difference, ensuring that no one is left behind.

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Dr. Parash Khisa
Secretary, Taungya



Reflection from Our Executive Director



Dangu Pranajit Dewan



The annual report for the period from July 2023 to June 2024 highlights significant achievements and challenges across three key projects: the PRLC Project, the OLHF Project, and the Support for Community School Project under the BRAC NFPE Bridge Schools initiative.

The PRLC Project, aimed at poverty reduction and fostering resilient livelihoods in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh, has made notable progress. Covering two unions in Jurosori Upazila, the project directly benefited 1,876 individuals, including farmers, adolescents, children, mothers, and volunteers. The project focused on sustaining livelihoods, improving nutritional wellbeing, and increasing resource investment in vulnerable regions. Key activities included training for improved agricultural practices, entrepreneurship development, and nutrition education. Despite challenges such as beneficiary migration and communication issues in remote areas, the project successfully developed strong community relations and improved staff efficiency through fieldwork practices.

The OLHF Project, which aims to empower adolescent girls and young women in the CHT to live with dignity and without violence, covered seven unions across three upazilas. Direct beneficiaries totaled 4,716, including girls, mothers, fathers, and brothers. The project strengthened local CSOs' capacity to respond to SRHR needs and empowered young women to make informed decisions free from violence and discrimination. Major activities included girls' club sessions, awareness meetings on menstrual health, and training for service providers. Challenges included low attendance due to workload and geographical barriers, but the project emphasized the importance of skilled facilitators and community mobilization.

The Support for Community School Project under the BRAC NFPE Bridge Schools initiative focused on providing quality education to students in remote areas of Barkal Upazila. The project supported ten schools, benefiting SMCs, mothers' groups, PTAs, traditional leaders, teachers, and the community. Key activities included stakeholder coordination, teacher training, and monitoring visits. Despite logistical challenges and the need for more strategic action planning, the project facilitated co-curricular activities and ensured the provision of necessary school logistics.

Financially, the projects received substantial funding from various donors, including the European Union, Simavi, the Canadian Government, and BRAC. The total approved budget for the period was approximately 21.5 million, with expenditures totaling around 18.7 million. The PRLC Project had the highest expenditure, followed by the OLHF Project and the CFLI initiative. The projects collectively faced challenges such as high travel costs, poor mobile network coverage, and staff shortages, but they also demonstrated resilience and adaptability in addressing these issues.

Overall, the projects made significant strides in their respective areas, contributing to poverty reduction, empowerment, and education in the CHT, despite facing numerous challenges. The learnings and recommendations from these projects will inform future initiatives and help enhance their impact.



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Dangu Pranajit Dewan
Executive Director

Geographical Coverage in July 2023 to June 2024

Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT region Project (PRLC)

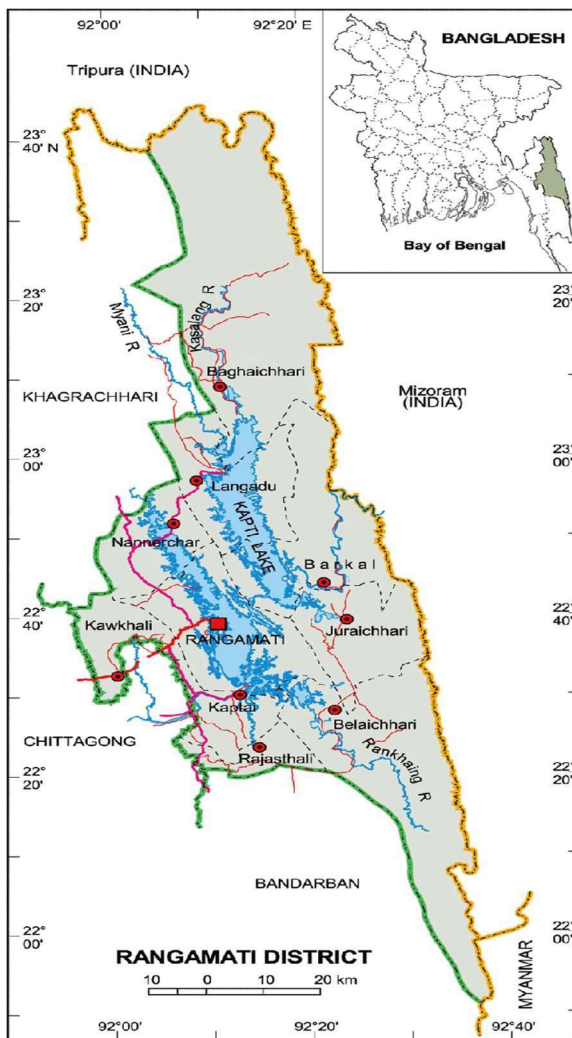
Jurosori Upazila	Dumdumya and Moidong unions
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Empowering Young Leaders for Sustainable Management of Traditional Village Common Forests and Ecology

Bileisori Upazila	1 No Bilaichari, 2 No Kengrachari Union
Kapte Upazila	4 No Kapte

Support for Community School Under BRAC NFPE Bridge Schools Project

Barkal Upazila	School -10 Students-350
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Project Highlights

Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT Region (PRLC) Project



Project Basic Information

The PRLC project aims to contribute to poverty reduction and foster resilient livelihoods for extremely poor households in the three Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) districts of Bangladesh. To achieve this goal, the project focuses on three key outcomes, each supported by 12 outputs and planned activities in the two targeted unions under Jurosori Upazila.

Project Name: Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT Region (PRLC) Project

Project Period: September 2023 to October 2026

Donor: Manusher Jonno Foundation

Back Donor: European Union

Project Coverage:

Sl.	Upazila	Union	Household	CS IFM FFS	No. of Adolescent Club	No of Maa ebong Shishu Forum	Community Volunteer Group
1	Jurosori	Moidong	750	27	2	2	-
		Dumdummya	791	27	2	2	1
Total =		02	1541	54	4	4	1

Direct Beneficiaries:

Beneficiary Type	Number of Beneficiaries at Present	Remarks
FFS Members	1541	
Adolescents (Age group 10-19)	80	
Child (Age Group 0-5)	80	
Mothers	80	
Volunteer	15	
Total:	1876	

Stakeholders from Govt. Line Departments, Upazila Parishad, Union Parishad and Traditional Institution:

Sl.	Upazila	Union	Govt. Line Departments	Upazila Parishad	Union Parishad	Customary Leaders
1	Jurosori	Moidong	8	3	13	8
		Dumdummya			13	12
Total =		02	08	03	26	65

Human Resource:

Designation	Female	Male
Project Coordinator	1	
Monitoring Officer		1
Technical Officer		1
Finance and Admin Officer		1
Paramedic		1
Organizer	1	1
CNHP/Health Worker		2
Community Mobilizer	1	3
Nutrition Apa	4	
Support Staff		1
Farmer Facilitator	6	12
Total	13	23

Project Goal: To contribute to poverty reduction and resilient livelihoods of extremely poor households in the three Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) districts of Bangladesh.

The Outcomes of the Project:

To achieve the expected result the PRLC project offers and concentrates on three outcomes supported with 12 outputs and planned activities in the proposed 2 unions under Jurosori Upazila.

Outcome 1: Sustained livelihoods and income generation amongst the target households in the CHT districts.

Outcome 2: Improved nutritional wellbeing of the target households, particularly women and children in the CHT districts.

Outcome 3: Increased investment of resources by local communities and the Government aimed at the most vulnerable regions and population segments in the CHT districts.

Major Activities of the Project:

- Training and input support for improved agricultural practices and high value crop production and strengthen IGA
- Entrepreneurship development of the potential youths
- Market linkage development for targeted farmers
- Nutrition awareness and education for communities
- Homestead gardening, animal husbandry and poultry rearing for targeted households
- Disaster preparedness and resilience building for communities

Learning:

- Fieldwork practice from training sessions improved staff efficiency.
- Developed good relations with local residents, traditional leaders, public representatives, and local administration. Received significant support and participation from local administration and community leaders.
- Chain system communication due to lack of network coverage.
- Selected specific network points for communication.
- Communicate with beneficiaries or staff when connection is available or via community leaders.
- Arrange meetings in one route or adjacent villages to complete multiple tasks in one visit.
- Following a bottom-up approach for work planning.
- Collecting data from targeted households supports project history and community history documentation.

Challenges:

- Less interests of the beneficiaries to attend community session due to workload in livelihood activities.
- Migration of FFS member for their livelihoods reason going to face a major challenge in running FFS session.
- Farmer Facilitators are less interested to provide quality work due to unsatisfactory allowance.
- Ensuring the safety of both female and male staff in our extensive, remote field areas is challenging due to isolation, difficult terrain, and lack of communication networks.
- The vast geographical area of Dumdumya and Moidong, covering nearly 77% of Jurosori Upazila in Rangamati, faces significant challenges in implementing activities due to lack of transportation, high travel costs, poor mobile network coverage, and staff shortages, especially in Dumdumya union.

Recommendation:

- Schedule community sessions at times that are more convenient for beneficiaries, such as early mornings or late afternoons.
- Integrate livelihood activities into the sessions to make them more relevant and beneficial.
- Offer additional non-monetary incentives, such as recognition programs, training opportunities, and career development support.
- Foster a supportive and motivating work environment to enhance job satisfaction.
- Implement a robust safety protocol, including regular check-ins and emergency response plans.
- Establish partnerships with local communities to create a support network for staff.
- Develop strategic action plan of the all-level staff to bring maximum qualitative output and outcome of field level activities.

Case Study

A Beacon of Hope: The Resilience of Fogirosora Community Clinic

Fogirosora Community Clinic is a crucial healthcare facility for over 14 paras (villages) in the remote and hilly regions of Moidong Union and parts of Dumdummye Union. This clinic is the primary source of medical care for these communities, who face significant challenges due to the lack of concrete roads and direct access from Jurosori Sadar. During the dry season, some areas are accessible by motorcycle on muddy roads, but most travel is done on foot. In the rainy season, long-tail boats are used for short distances when the Sholok river stream is navigable. For regular travel and emergency purposes, people have to rely on these limited transportation options. Consequently, the community is heavily dependent on the Fogirosora Community Clinic for medical treatment. Patients travel from remote areas to receive services at the clinic. The clinic, led by Community Health Care Provider (CHCP) Liza Chakma, faces numerous obstacles: the clinic building is deteriorating, with many cracks posing safety risks, there is a shortage of furniture and a reliable source of drinking water, causing distress for patients who travel long distances. Nearby families also suffer from a lack of safe drinking water, relying on small soras (streams) and the Sholok river, leading to waterborne diseases like diarrhea.

Liza Chakma, CHCP said that, *“There are many shortcomings in my community clinic. Firstly, the structure of the clinic is deteriorating day by day, with many cracks in the building. There is inadequate furniture for patients. It is very sorrowful for me when I see patients travel from remote areas to receive treatment, and after reaching here, they are tired and thirsty. At that time, I can’t provide them with drinking water. Sometimes, our services are also hampered due to the unavailability of water sources near the clinic. Additionally, there are 10-15 families near the clinic who also lack access to safe drinking water sources. These families depend on the nearest small streams, wells, and the Sholok River for water needs. As a result, local people sometimes suffer from waterborne diseases like diarrhea, dysentery etc. Also, I need to bring water from home during office hours, a task that is becoming increasingly difficult due to the distance.”*



Community clinic meeting with CC management member and Taungya PRLC team

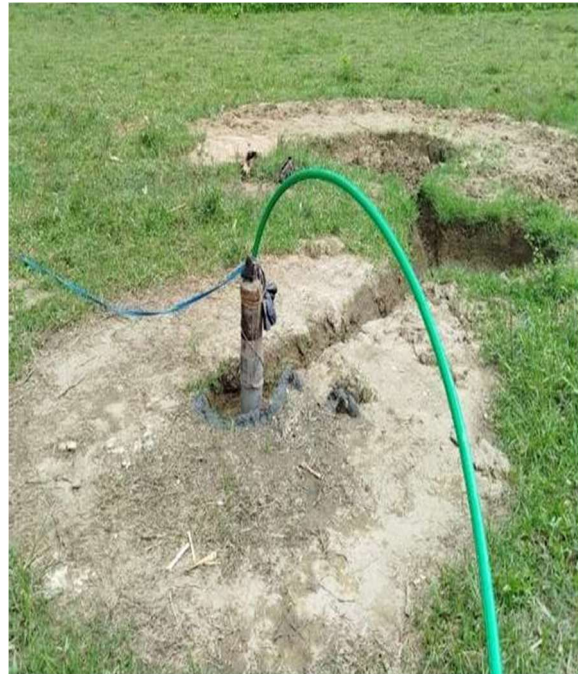


Liza Chakma, CHCP of Fogirosora Community Clinic

On June 14, 2024, a coordination meeting was held at Fogirosora Community Clinic, Moidong, involving the Community Clinic Management Committee, Taungya PRLC team, local stakeholders, and the Community Health Care Provider (CHCP) of the clinic. The primary focus was to identify the challenges hindering clinical service delivery and developed strategies to overcome them.

On that meeting Community Clinic Management Committee member Chikso Chakma also highlighted that the need for safe drinking water extended beyond the clinic staff and patients to the broader community. He also said that, *“Adjacent to the clinic, the main mud road leading to Jurosori Sadar sees daily pedestrian traffic from various villages, including Dumdummyeunion Borkolok, Aeitsori, Gaajtuli, Handebosora, Daane te sori, Baange shubolong, Kolabonsora Half Filling, Gobosori, and other villages. These pedestrians also face difficulties accessing safe drinking water during travel time.”*

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the Taungya PRLC team took the initiative to establish a safe drinking water source in collaboration with local stakeholders. The Community Clinic Management Committee President Anil Kumar Chakma, Liza Chakma CHCP, Somrat Chakma, Headman, and Moidong Union Parishad Chairman Sadhananada Chakma initiated the establishment of a safe water source at the community clinic with the assistance of DPHE, Jurosori. In addition to those individuals, the local community also played a significant role in establishing the deep tube well. They collectively covered the initial costs for the deep tube well and provided food for the mistri (worker who installed the deep-water source). By October 2024, a safe drinking water source was successfully established at Fogirosora Community Clinic.



Newly installed deep tube well at Fogirosora Community Clinic



Project Highlights

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



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	Bileisori	Bileisori Sadar	Chakma, Tanchangya & Marma	4
		Forba (Farua)	Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya, Pangkhua & Bawm	6
2	Borkol	Bhusan Sora	Chakma, Marma & Rakhaine	6
		Aima Sora	Chakma	2
		Suvolong	Chakma & Rakhaine	2
3	Bagheisori	Bagheisori Sadar	Chakma	8
		Sarbotoli (Saruatali)	Chakma	2
Total =		07	6	30

Direct Beneficiaries:

Beneficiary Type	Number of Beneficiaries at Present
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	Bileisori	Bileisori Sadar	8
		Forba (Farua)	12
2	Borkol	Bhusan Sora	15
		Aima Sora	4
		Suvolong	10
3	Bagheisori	Bagheisori Sadar	5
		Sarbotoli (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 July 2023 to February 2024:

- Mentoring the female mentors to run the girls' clubs (incl. support on thematic areas)
- Running costs of girls' clubs, including regular facilitation of girls' clubs' sessions (based on session plan provided by Master Trainers)
- Participation of staff in sessions and on the job coaching on specific methodologies to address SRHR and GBV (monthly)
- Participate in Joint reflection meeting at cluster on impact on WCA, on the roll-out of monitoring and evaluation to ensure quality implementation.
- Participate in a training (by M&E officers) on impact-oriented and women-centered programming adapted to the specific needs identified in the OCAs to support them to develop M&E tools and plans for the actions reflect on how this could be adapted towards programming which is more explicitly impact-oriented and women-centered.
- To participate in joint learning and reflection on the implementation of the Communication & LA strategy at cluster level with the support of Simavi/BNPS ensuring meaningful engagement with networks/ platforms/ stakeholders & NARI.
- Participate in 2-day advocacy training for new LA officers of CSOs
- Developing & reviewing jointly a cluster level Communication & LA strategy, in line with NARI.
- Participate in a 2-day workshop on review of Communication & Lobby and Advocacy strategy, along with creative projects.
- Participate in NARI workshop and meeting

Learning→

- A skilled facilitator 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

Support for Community School Under BRAC NFPE Bridge Schools Project



Project Basic Information

Project Name: Support for Community School Under BRAC NFPE Bridge Schools Project

Project Period: 01 August 2023 to 30 June 2025

Donor: BRAC Education Program

Project Coverage: Aima Sora, Bhujon Sora, Boro Horinga and Borkol Sadar unions under Borkol upazila of Rangamati Hill District

Direct Beneficiaries: SMC (School Management Committee), MG (Mothers Group), PTA (Parents Teachers Association), Tis (Traditional Leaders), Teachers, Communities of the catchment areas

Human Resource:

Designation	Female	Male
Program Organizer	1	1
Teacher	8	12
Total	9	13

Project Goal:

To provide quality education to backward students living in remote areas.

The specific objectives of the project:

1. To provide financial support for conducting teaching programs in ten selected schools.
2. Ensuring capacity building of teachers.
3. To ensure quality education of enrolled children.

Major Activities of the Project:

- Communicate and coordinate with upazila and union level stakeholders to inform of the project activities
- Mobilize and facilitate the SMCs to monitor their respective schools on monthly basis
- Arrange refresher training for the selected school teachers
- Mobilize and facilitate the SMCs to monitor their respective schools on monthly basis
- Monitoring visit conducted by Taungya senior management
- Collect annual exam questions for the students from UEO office and ensure timely distribution to the project schools
- Provide school teachers and SMCs to develop linkage with the UEO office for running their schools smoothly
- Provide School Teachers to collect NCTB for the students from the UEO Office
- Maintain regular base communication and coordination with the relevant stakeholders at upazila, union and community level to support the school management
- Facilitate to establish co-curricular activities (cultural promotion, indigenous sports, indigenous food etc.) for the community schools' students
- Arrange and facilitate quarterly **Mothers' Group** meeting
- Facilitate the SMCs, MGs and PTAs to repair school
- Facilitate the Teachers and SMCs to ensure logistics for their schooling activities. Such as- school house, blackboard, bench, table and chair, window, door, latrine etc.

Challenges

- Monitoring school activities due to complex geographical context and travel complexity;
- Ensure sanitary toilets at all schools;
- Ensure SMC, MG and PTA meetings;
- Ensure Teachers participation in the UEO monthly meeting due to expensive travelling;
- Increase number of students due to unavailable in casement area;
- Materials shortage in some schools- (blackboard, table, chair, drinking water etc.)

Learning

- Expensive travel resulted to delay in field monitoring;
- Staff need capacity building training on documentation, reporting etc.
- There is possibility for preprimary class in schools with Teacher;
- Project support has strengthened the schooling system improved;
- Communities are happy to support the project;
- Intensive supervision and guidance support is well accepted by the teachers and SMCs and local leaders.

Model of the project

Taungya is following the multi-grade teaching model for this project with two teachers in each school. Multi-grade teaching refers to the teaching of students of different ages, grades and abilities in the same group. This model of education is a social reality in developing countries, and an educational policy to enhance equal opportunities for children. According to various studies, multigrade teaching is an efficient alternative for conventional class organization, with multiple benefits for students.

Project Strategy and Activities

In this project, BRAC Education Program will ensure financial support for 10 Taungya Schools till December 2023. These Schools provide education to marginalized communities, living in remote, hard to reach areas of Rangamati.

Curriculum:

Taungya schools follow the national curriculum guidelines. NCTB textbooks that are issued by the national board are followed in these schools. Mother tongue-based instructions will be used as the means of communication in the classroom to make the lesson comprehensible. Taungya also implements multi-language teaching in these schools which ensures literacy in the local ethnic language such as the Chakma Language.

Besides basic academic content, children are taught to acquire life skills, social and moral values, and are involved in co-curricular activities, such as singing, dancing and role playing. Peer learning through group activities by maintaining a collaborative and cooperative approach in a safe child friendly environment is ensured in Taungya Schools. Students of a classroom are divided into 5-6 small groups (each group comprising 5 to 6 children) to work together, advanced learners are paired up with students of lower aptitude test scores, if needed. The principles are simple: children should like school, enjoy coming to school, feel safe in school, not get bored in the classroom, and develop PFA (performing and fine arts) skills as well.

Project Highlights

Empowering Young Leaders for Sustainable Management of Traditional Village Common Forests and Ecology.



Project Basic Information

Project Name: Empowering Young Leaders for Sustainable Management of Traditional Village Common Forests and Ecology

Project Period: 15 July 2023 to 28 February 2024

Donor: Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh

Back Donor: Canada Government

Implementing Partner: Taungya

Project Coverage: Kaptey (Kaptai) and Bileisori (Bilaichari) upazila

Direct Beneficiaries: The project direct beneficiaries approximately 5,358 individuals. This includes stakeholders from the two upazilas within the project area, headmen, village traditional leaders (Karbaris) and community youth volunteers who have undergone 11 training batches. Additionally, participants in 106 bi-monthly VCF community meetings, attendees of 44 awareness sessions and various project activities are also among the direct beneficiaries.

Human Resource:

Designation	Female	Male
Project Officer		1
Admin and Finance Officer (Partial)		1
Project Volunteer		1
Total		3

Project Goal: To enhance the sustainable conservation of natural forests and watersheds in Kapte and Bileisori sub-districts by improving VCF management and developing young conservation leaders.

The specific objectives of the project:

1. To strengthen VCF management for sustainable conservation of natural forests & watersheds in Kapte and Bileisori upazila and
2. To develop young conservation leaders through capacity building and promotion of culture, customs and gender mainstreaming

Major Outcomes:

- The VCF communities have established a sustainable natural forest management system with improved rules and regulations.
- Young conservation leaders are engaged and equipped to adapt to climate change impacts.
- The VCFs contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration by maintaining forest cover and quality.
- The micro-watersheds in the 13 VCF areas are rich in biodiversity and provide essential water resources. The micro-watersheds support community livelihoods by providing forest products, irrigation water, and ecosystem services.
- The communities have a strong sense of ownership and pride in their natural forests and cultural identity.

Major Activities of the Project:

- Conduct baseline surveys in 22 VCF-dependent villages
- Form/reform Executive Committees with gender mainstreaming
- Provide technical support to update/develop bi-laws and constitutions
- Develop and facilitate the implementation of VCF management rules
- Conduct bi-monthly meetings and awareness sessions on various issues
- Identify and engage youth volunteers, forming Community Youth Volunteer Groups (CYVG)
- Arrange meetings, learning visits, and training sessions for youth groups
- Develop resource maps and Resource Conservation Action Plans
- Facilitate resource mapping and data collection on flora and fauna
- Conduct GPS mapping of VCF boundaries and watersheds
- Implement streamside plantation to protect vulnerable areas
- Observe and document traditional festivals and cultural practices
- Promote social cohesion through community and district-level events
- Document traditional games, songs, dances, and other cultural elements



Identify and engage youth volunteers, forming Community Youth Volunteer Groups (CYVG)



Resource Mapping at Para Level



Facilitate resource mapping and data collection on flora and fauna

Learning→

- *Effective community mobilization is essential to engage field staff inclusively, but this effort is hampered by workload challenges at all levels.*
- *Several VCF leaders are excelling in their roles and show a keen interest in natural resource management. However, there is a need to further develop their leadership capacities.*
- *While some communities are still new to natural forest management, they need to cultivate interest and receive training on various topics.*
- *Local stakeholders show interest in natural resource management approaches, but only a few are actively implementing them in their communities. Motivating less educated and indifferent communities remains a significant challenge.*
- *The culture of the local population is very diverse. However, it is gradually being lost due to a lack of practice and engagement.*

Challenge→

- *Attendance at meetings and sessions is challenging for the working poor local population due to workload and various social barriers.*
- *The local population's focus on livelihood pursuits results in a lack of interest in natural resource management, making it challenging to engage them in project activities.*
- *With only one project volunteer and one project officer, it is challenging to manage project activities, meetings, sessions and maintain communication with stakeholders across two upazilas.*
- *Most members of the Community Youth Volunteer Group reside outside the village due to their studies and jobs in the garment industry. Those who remain locally are often illiterate and overburdened with work.*
- *Implementing project activities faces numerous challenges due to the remoteness of the areas and poor mobile network coverage.*

Recommendation→

- *To enhance the effectiveness of project activities, it is beneficial for senior-level staff to regularly visit the project area and assist in their implementation;*
- *Arrange more effective awareness session with follow up learning output and outcome measures;*
- *Motivate the VCFs leader and CYVGs member to realize their role in natural resources management from social service stand and social commitment;*
- *Allocating sufficient time for project implementation and strategic action planning by staff can maximize output and outcomes from field level activities.*

Annual General Meeting 2023

The Annual General Meeting of 2023 held on at Taungya Head Office, Rajbari Road, Rangamati Hill District. The Meeting was important as the new executive committee was formed during the meeting. So, the meeting had three major events-

- Review of the last year activities and progress and discuss on plan for next year
- Arrange a free and fair election to form the new executive committee in democratic process and
- cultural program and dinner for the guests and participants

As per regular practice of the organization the meeting was presided over by honorable chairperson of Taungya Raja Barrister Devasish Roy. moderated by honorable Secretary Dr. Parash Khisa. Before the commence of the formal meeting an obituary resolution was offered by the moderator to show respect and honor towards deceased Ms. Anita Dev Barman who was a member of Taungya family in OLHF project. Everyone stands and observe silence for one minute to remember her dedicated contribution for the organization.

During the first session Secretary delivers a welcome speech and request the participants to review the last meeting minutes for necessary correction and finalization. Then the project and program lead shares progress of the projects and program activities, implementation challenges and learning followed by recommendation for strategic steps to undertake. All the general council members have an opportunity to learn details of the last year activities and provide necessary opinion as necessary and strategic actions and plans are outlined for operational level. Then the annual financial report is shared by Treasurer, Rajib Chakma. in this session next year budget is proposed and finalized.

The second session was mainly deals with election to elect the new EC members for the next three years. Advisor Mr. Gautam Dewan was elected as the Election Commissioner who facilitates the election process in democratic way. The election commissioner declares the new EC comprised of 11 member and welcomes the members. Raja Barister Devasish Roy was elected as the chair, Dr. Parash as the Secretary and Rajib Chakma as the Treasurer for the tenure of 2024 to 2026.

After the formal meeting a dinner and cultural program was hosted for the guests and participants.



Volunteerism Development

Taungya continued to developing skilled local human resources by providing opportunities for higher-educated local youths who lack practical experience in the development or social service sectors or non-profit sector. Our program has been successfully implemented, and the reporting year had 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 capacitate these young individuals to develop their profession in non-profit sector and play role as change agents for the sustainable development of the society. Through the program, the Volunteers gained 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 be success. 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.

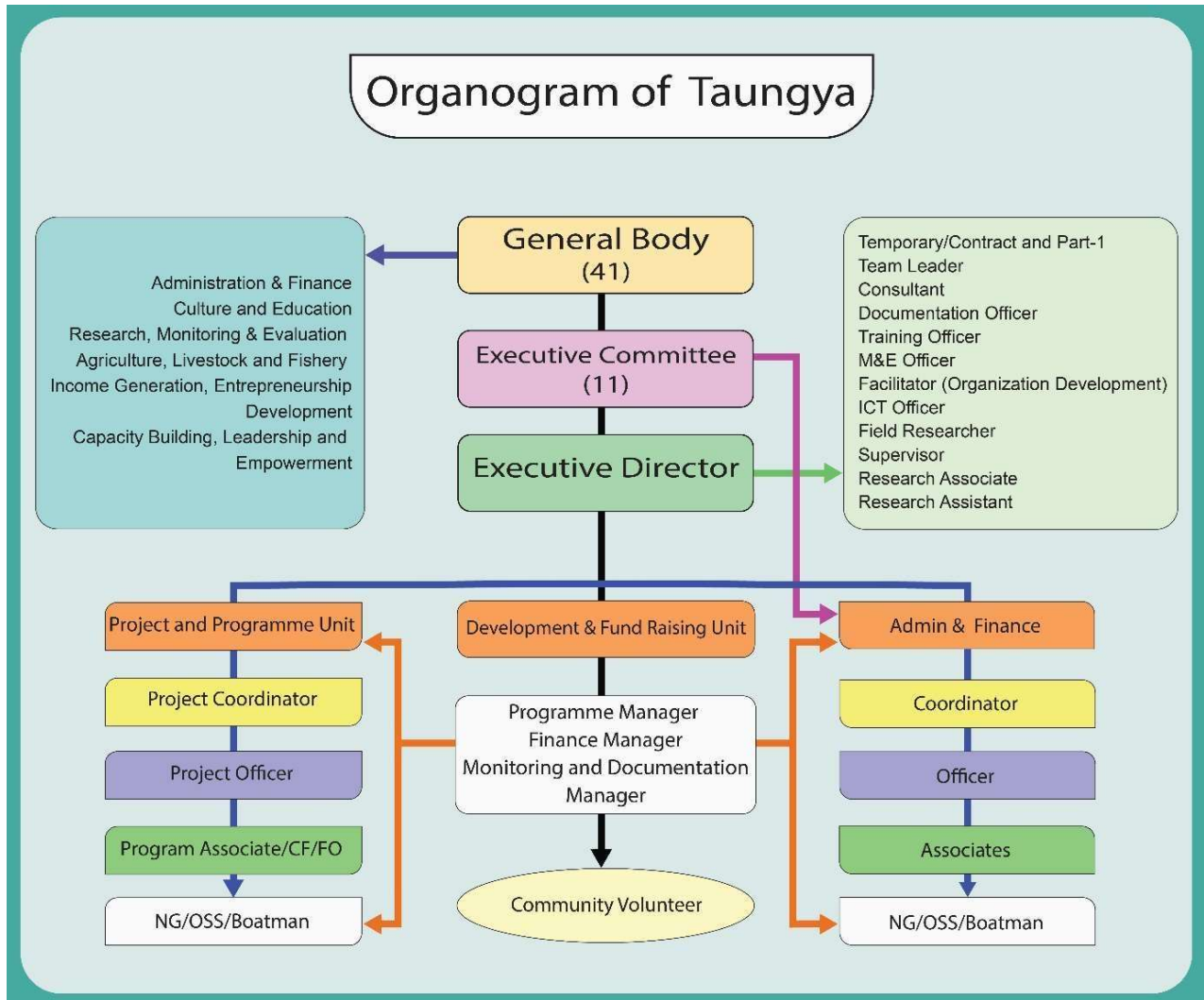
The volunteers have made an invaluable contribution to the Admin and HR Section, Project and program management section and Finance and Accounts Section. Their assistance has greatly enhanced the staff strength in Taungya, bringing a new level of expertise and support to the organization. We are proud 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

Organogram of Taungya



Our Funding Partners (Up TO 2024)

Taungya has acquired wonderful experience of working with various national and international partners and donors. In partner with them, it has developed and implemented several projects for the marginalized and disadvantaged communities in Chittagong Hill Tracts. To find out more about on the nature of our engagement, please write to us at: taungyacht@gmail.com



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Asian Development Bank



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
DANIDA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Taungya EC Members
(Tenure: 01-01-2024 to 31-12-2026)



Raja Barrister Debashish Roy
Chairperson



Nirupa Dewan
Vic- Chairperson



Rupak Khisa
Vic- Chairperson



Amlan Chakma
Joint- Secretary



Dr. Parash Khisa
Secretary



Rajib Chakma
Treasurer



Kabita Chakma
Member



Ad. Susmita Chakma
Member



Anjan Chakma
Member



Uttara Tripura
Member



Kalayan Chakma
Member

Approved Budget and Expenditure Summary of Projects

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Back Donor	Name of Donor	Approved Budget in July 2023 to June 2024			Budget Received in July 2023 to June 2024			Expenditure in July 2023 to June 2024			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	1,802,062	2,112,500	3,914,562	1,802,062	2,112,500	3,914,562	1,798,821	2,094,360	3,893,181	21,381	
2	Taungya-PRLC	European Union	Manusher Jonno Foundation	4,904,869	4,781,600	9,686,469	3,550,251	3,360,000	6,910,251	2,107,348	3,223,849	5,331,197	4,355,272	
3	CFLI	Canada Government	Canada High Commission	4,712,449	878,667	5,591,116	4,752,449	838,667	5,591,116	4,105,934	859,869	4,965,803	625,313	
4	NFPE	BRAC	BRAC	1,781,984	550,000	2,331,984	1,781,984	550,000	2,331,984	1,179,896	445,689	1,625,585	706,399	
	Total			13,201,364	8,322,767	21,524,131	11,886,746	6,861,167	18,747,913	9,191,999	6,623,767	15,815,766	5,708,365	

Audit Summary of July 2023 to June 2024

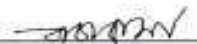
Islam Quazi Shafique & Co. | 3
Chartered Accountants

Taungya
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	Notes	2023-2024	2022-2023
		BDT	BDT
Property & Assets			
Non-current Assets			
		2,552,105	2,060,413
Property, Plant & Equipment	7	2,552,105	2,060,413
Current Assets			
		4,852,753	2,968,399
Cash & Cash Equivalents	8	3,339,967	815,479
Advance Income tax (AIT)	9	19,786	6,261
Loan to Project	10	393,000	-
Advance to Staff	11	-	146,659
Investment in FDR	12	1,100,000	2,000,000
Total		7,404,858	5,028,812
Fund & Liabilities			
Capital Fund			
		6,555,317	4,948,426
Fund Account	13	6,555,317	4,948,426
Current Liabilities			
		849,541	80,386
Loan from EC Member	14	329,951	29,951
Loan from General Fund	15	393,000	-
Provision for Expenses	16	124,650	50,000
Provision for Income Tax	17	1,940	435
Total		7,404,858	5,028,812

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


Executive Director


Treasurer

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

Dated: 26 Oct, 2024
Dhaka, Bangladesh

DVC: 2410261368AS635649

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



Taungya
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	Notes	2023-2024	2022-2023
		BDT	BDT
Income			
ED Contribution		-	114,814
Rent of A/C & Multimedia		117,348	33,352
Grant Received from the GRAUS (AVCB Project)		-	3,783,971
Grant Received from the Ashika (AVCB Project)		-	113,360
Grant Received from the BNPS		2,539,450	6,752,154
Grant Received from the OLHF (OR)		52,176	114,878
Taungya CFLI project Fund		5,187,116	-
Taungya NFPE Project Fund		2,331,984	-
Taungya PRLC Project Fund		6,910,251	-
Motor Cycle Sells		-	-
Bank Interest		43,315	71
Overhead Cost		287,541	-
Members Donation		200,000	160,000
Taungya Kind Contribution		404,000	-
FDR Interest		90,129	39,180
Total		18,143,310	11,111,461
Expenditure			
Salary & Benefits		1,109,818	825,624
Office Stationery, Photocopy and Materials		-	1,000
Refreshment/Entertainment		43,250	21,349
Office Rent		180,000	238,480
Expenses for Oil & Fuel		-	9,000
Expenses for Meeting		17,485	42,855
Bank Charge		9,083	8,171
Traveling & Conveyance		18,768	21,911
Office Maintenance & Utility		14,733	14,874
Expenses for Communication		16,450	20,965
Other Expense		-	5,415
Repairs & Maintenance		-	19,000
Audit Fee (Last Year)		-	50,000
Advertisement		7,000	4,000
Staff Recruitment		23,323	-
Website Development		17,850	17,850
Expenses for Taungya CFLI project		4,671,403	-
Expenses for Taungya NFPE Project		1,625,585	-
Expenses for Taungya PRLC Project		4,413,958	-
Expenses for Taungya OLHF Project		3,892,801	7,495,028
Depreciation		423,047	301,717
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



Taungya
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	Notes	2023-2024	2022-2023
		BDT	BDT
Court Yeard Meeting		-	29,700
Programme Visit		-	15,061
Account Payable VAT & Tax		380	11,675
Audit Fee		50,000	50,000
Total Expenditure		16,534,914	11,780,935
Net (Deficit) / Surplus during the year before Income Tax		1,608,396	(669,474)
Income Tax		1,505	435
Net (Deficit) / Surplus during the year after Income Tax		1,606,891	(669,909)
Total		18,143,310	11,111,461

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



Executive Director



Treasurer

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

Dated: 26 Oct, 2024
Dhaka, Bangladesh

DVC: 2410261368AS635649



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



Audit Summary of July 2023 to June 2024

Islam Quazi Shafique & Co. | 6
Chartered Accountants

Taungya
Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	Notes	2023-2024	2022-2023
		BDT	BDT
Opening Balance		815,479	1,323,865
Cash in hand		348	1,870
Cash at Bank		815,131	1,321,995
Receipts		20,136,744	13,506,902
Loan Received from EC Members		552,400	940,000
Loan Realized to Project		295,900	489,052
Advance paid to staff previous year		146,659	481,914
FDR Withdrawn		973,954	543,635
AC Payable		74,650	-
ED Contribution		-	114,814
Grant Received from the GRAUS (AVCB Project)		-	3,783,971
Grant Received from the Ashika (AVCB Project)		-	113,360
Taungya Kind Contribution		404,000	-
Taungya NFPE Project Fund		2,331,984	-
Rent of A/C & Multimedia		117,348	33,352
Grant Received from the BNPS		2,539,450	6,752,154
Grant Received from the OLHF (OR & Utilities)		52,176	114,579
Bank Interest		43,315	71
Overhead Cost		267,541	-
Members Donation		200,000	160,000
Taungya CFLI project Fund		5,187,116	-
Taungya PRLC Project Fund		6,910,251	-
Total		20,952,223	14,830,567
Payments			
Loan to EC Members Refund		292,400	940,000
Other Expense		-	5,415
Advance to Staff of Project (OLHF)		-	146,659
FDR Deposit		-	1,500,000
Salary & Benefits		1,109,616	625,624
Office Stationery, Photocopy and Materials		-	1,000
Refreshment/Entertainment		43,250	21,349
Office Rent		180,000	236,480
Expenses for Oil & Fuel		-	9,000
EC Meeting/AGM/Others Meeting		17,485	42,855
Bank Charge		6,413	5,371
Advance Income Tax (Bank A/C)		-	11
Traveling & Conveyance		18,768	21,911
Office Maintenance & Utility		14,733	14,874
Expenses for Communication		18,450	20,965
Repairs & Maintenance		-	19,000
Audit Fee (last Year)		50,000	50,000
Advertisement		7,000	4,000
Staff Recruitment		23,323	-
Website Development		17,850	17,850
Expenses for Taungya CFLI project		4,965,803	-
Expenses for Taungya NFPE Project		1,625,586	-
Expenses for Taungya PRLC Project		5,330,197	-
Expenses for Taungya OLHF Project		3,892,801	7,495,028



Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments

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Audit Summary of July 2023 to June 2024

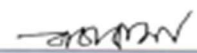
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Chartered Accountants

Taungya
Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Particulars	Notes	2023-2024	2022-2023
		BDT	BDT
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		380	11,675
Total Payment		17,612,256	14,015,088
Closing Balance		3,339,967	815,479
Cash in Hand		2,954	348
Cash at Bank		3,337,013	815,131
Total		20,952,223	14,830,567

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


Executive Director


Treasurer

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

Dated: 26 Oct, 2024
Dhaka, Bangladesh
DVC: 2410261368AS635649


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



Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments | 7

Contact Us

Taungya is dedicated to partnering with individuals and organizations committed to advancing Indigenous Culture, Education, Environmental Sustainability, and Socio-economic Development in the challenging regions of the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts. We welcome collaboration and are pleased to share our materials, publications, policies, and other resources through our website and stakeholder email list. Our mission is to benefit others and contribute to the betterment of deprived communities especially the women, children and indigenous in CHT and beyond.



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: +880233371837

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