

IOM Cox's Bazaar

Narrative Reporting Template

SAFEPlus Project: Ensuring Social Cohesion and Community Resilience through Promotion of Livelihoods and Social Welfare initiatives in Host Communities around Rohingya Refugee Camps, Ukhiya, and Cox's Bazaar

PROJECT DATA TABLE

Name of Implementing Partner:	Society for Health Extension & Development (SHED)
Project Cap Code	Cs.1021, LEG Approval Code: BGD/IMPL/ME0034/2020
Project Period and Overall Duration:	Start Date: 01 January 2020 & End Date: 31 December 2020 (12 months)
Geographical Coverage:	Jaliapalong Union and Palongkhali Union, Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazaar District, Bangladesh
Project Beneficiaries:	Total beneficiaries 2000, Female 1355 (67.75 %), Male 645 (32.25 %) , age range 18- 55 years
Project Partner(s):	Society for Health Extension & Development (SHED)
Reporting Period:	01 January to 31 December 2020
Date of Submission:	21 December 2020
Type of Report	Annual Narrative Report 2020
Total Confirmed Funding (Against CAP project):	BDT 57,042,257
Total Expenditures	BDT 51,101,217 (1st quarter- 2,105,407 + 2nd 13,969,892 + 3rd 1,87,70,661+ Final 16,255,257)
Fund burn rate	90%

1. SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

“SAFEPlus-Safe Access to Fuel and Energy” is a UN joint project to address cooking fuel needs, environmental degradation and food security for Rohingya refugees and affected host communities in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. The project has been launched by SHED from January 2020 in host-communities at 10 wards of Jaliapalong and Palongkhali Union, Ukhiya Upazila of Cox's Bazaar District with the support of UN IOM covering 2000 beneficiaries/ households. ***The overall objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the extremely poor, marginalized women and vulnerable households through protection and enhancement of diversified livelihood options, conflict prevention, and resolution, and restoration of environmental initiatives to minimize inter and intra-communal tension and conflict over scarce resources.*** To achieve the objective the project emphasizes to improve on promotion of livelihoods and social cohesion of vulnerable host-communities in the selected wards/village around Rohingya refugee

camps of the area, so as to build social cohesion among the communities including the refugees, develop the financial capacity to use alternative cooking fuel (e.g. LPG cooking stove), reduce pressure on the forest for fuel-wood collection, help promote forest regeneration, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation etc. Therefore, the project can be considered as a unique project of its kind as it covers livelihood development, peace building and environmental amelioration and it is consistent with the priority of the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The project is largely exclusive as it covers representation of 69% women beneficiaries (BNFs) out of 2000 BNFs selected from the 10 vulnerable wards/villages severely affected by the Rohingya refugee influx. The BNFs in 27 villages of the 10 wards were organized under 27 Self-help Groups (SHGs) and the SHG-members in every SHG elected executive committee to lead their organizations towards sustainable development and to achieve the objectives of the project. Side by side, two Village Livelihood Development Committees (VLDCs) were formed in two Unions with the membership of local elites, formal and informal leaders of different village institutions and Youth clubs to lead the SHGs towards the establishment of pro-poor sustainable SHG-cooperative. Leaders of both SHGs and VLDCs provided training on Organizational Development and management (ODM) for the smooth functioning and sustainable development of the organizations. The ODM training capacitated the leaders to run the organizations efficiently and have been taken care of livelihood development activities of their group members for successful implementation during the project period. Besides, monthly meetings, organizational activities and practices all over the year enhanced group dynamics, unity, decision-making capacity, ability to resolve conflicts, women empowerment, and social cohesion among the project beneficiaries.

The project provided training on seven potential livelihood development Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and business entrepreneurship development training to the beneficiaries. All 2000 BNFs (Female 1357 & Male 643) received training on business entrepreneurship development training and every BNF received training on one potential IGA selected by themselves based on their knowledge, experience and opportunities for successful implementation of the selected IGA. The project provided a grant of BDT 9000 to each BNF. All the 2000 BNFs received the amount as an unconditional cash grant from the project as support to face the adverse situation/ crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the majority of the BNFs invested a major portion of the amount to income-generating activities such as vegetable production, poultry and goat rearing, making handicraft items, doing small businesses like tailoring, fish drying, ready food making, grocery shop, fish culture and selling etc (IGAs) for the improvement of their livelihood options. It was observed that 100% of the beneficiaries were involved in 2 to 4 income generation activities in December 2020 and the **average income per BNF/household during the month was BDT 7947 out of the average investment of BDT 9000 and the income range was BDT 3,951 to BDT 10,325.** The BNFs were successful in generating income from IGA because of the opportunities they got through skill development training (on IGA and business development), as well as financial support to purchase inputs and also received continuous support from the project staff on market linkages to sell their products. The BNFs are now able to promote/enhance their income and also have the potentials to grow further with the investment to attain more profit.

However, the level of yield and return on investment varied across the BNFs and wards, as well as IGAs/ business enterprises due to many reasons, such as land type, tending facilities, knowledge, experience, and access to better inputs, credit, market information, marketing opportunities, communication, etc.

The project has provided life-skill development training with a special focus on food and nutrition, gender mainstreaming, preventing GBV and DRR. The training made the women beneficiaries aware of their rights, remain secured from violence, and the importance of taking part in decision-making process both in family and society.

It was observed that the project was on track in terms of achieving the targets set in the project frameworks. However, some targets have not been strengthened/ achieved, particularly on sustainability issues of the Community Based Organizations (CBO) - SHGs and VLDCs, value chain development of the products, the establishment of group savings for Revolving loan Fund (RLF), and linkages with government service providing agencies. Besides, some challenges were encountered to implement the project during the year. The greatest challenge was to carry out the project activities in the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the other challenges were social and environmental hazards that were mitigated socially with the help of local elites, institutions, and administration. Therefore, to make further improvement and sustainable development of the CBOs, strengthen livelihood development activities, the continuation of LPG use for cooking and social cohesion building, it is suggested to continue the project for more than one year. The endeavor will lead it to effective recovery of forest and environment through the continuation of LPG use for cooking and sustainable development of the affected population of host communities disrupted due to the influx of the Rohingya refugee crisis.

SAFEPlus Project: Progress Summary Sheet

Outcome 1: Improved livelihoods resilience and sustainable income of the selected households in host-communities of Palongkhali and Jaliapalong Union of Ukhiya Upazila		
Activities	Target	Achievement
Office set-up, Staff recruitment & orientation	22 staff	22 staff
BNF selection through the application of PRA tools/Community meeting, Household Survey; selection of potential livelihood opportunities & Training Needs Assessment (TNA)	2000 BNF	Selected 2000 BNF (Female 1357 (69%) & Male 643), selected 7 potential IGAs & identified Training needs.
Self-help Group (SHG) formation by the 2000 BNFs	19 SHGs in 10 Wards of 2 Unions	2000 BNFs organized under 27 SHGs in 27 villages of 10 wards under 2 Unions
Organizing monthly meetings in every SHG	270 meetings	Organized 270 meetings for 27 SHGs

	for 27 SHGs	
Development of training modules on potential livelihood intervention	9 training modules	9 training modules prepared and 6 printed
Organizational Development & Management (ODM) training to the leaders of 27 SHGs & 2 VLDCs	163 BNFs in 27 SHGs & 2 VLDCs	5 days ODM training in 5 batches provided to 133 leaders of 27 SHGs & 30 Leaders of 2 VLDCs.
Business entrepreneurship development training (EDT) to all BNFs	2000 BNFs in 67 batches	2000 BNFs (Female 1357 & Male 643) provided 5 days EDT in 67 batches
Training on vegetable harvesting, processing & marketing	700 BNFs in 28 batches	700 BNFs (Female 484 & Male 216) provided 5 days training in 28 batches
Training on poultry & livestock rearing & marketing	500 BNFs in 20 batches	500 BNFs (Female 405 & Male 95) provided 5 days training in 20 batches
Training on handicraft making & marketing	150 BNFs in 10 batches	150 BNFs (Female 129 & Male 21) provided 15 days training in 10 batches
Training on bamboo harvesting, treatment & marketing	30 BNFs in one batch	30 BNFs (Female 4 & Male 26) provided 3 days training
Training on tailoring & dress designing	100 Female BNFs in 10 batches	100 Female BNFs provided 25 days training in 10 batches
Training on Small business (Ready food making & supply, fish drying & marketing, grocery shop etc)	520 BNFs in 26 batches	49 BNFs (female 25 & Male 24) received 7 days training on fish drying & marketing; 471 BNFs (female 203 & Male 268) received training on ready food making and grocery shop management)
Unconditional cash grant support to all BNFs	200 BNFs	2000 BNFs received cash grant support @ BDT 9000 per BNF.
Value chain development & market linkages of the products: quarterly meetings with whole sellers, retailers, consumers, processing industries, exporters etc.	4 meetings (one meeting per Quart.)	3 Value chain development workshops held.
Product Exhibition	One	Organized 2 product

	Exhibition	display events at Maderbonia & Sonarpara.
Establishment of product display & sales centre at popular/ potential market place	2 sales centre	One product display & sales centre established at Palongkhali Bazar.
Outcome 2: Enhanced social cohesion through intra communities' citizen engagement, life skills development training, facilitation, and knowledge sharing and advocacy platforms.		
Activities	Target	Achievement
Formation of Village Livelihood Development Committee (VLDC)	2 VLDCs in 2 Union	2 VLDCs formed at 2 Unions
Organize quarterly meeting for 2 VLDCs	6 meetings for 2 VLDCs	Organized 6 meetings for 2 VLDCs
Life-skill development training (on food & nutrition, gender mainstreaming & empowerment, GBV, DRR, social cohesion etc)	2000 BNFs in 67 batches	200 BNFs (Female 1357 & Male 643) provided 5 days training in 67 batches.
Quarterly coordination meeting with local government institutions & media.	4 meetings	One meeting held with local government institutions & media.
Project sharing meeting with Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad	3 meetings	Organized 2 meetings at 2 Unions- Jaliapalong & Palongkhali Union

2. PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS THE REALIZING OUTCOMES* AND OUTPUTS

Office setup, staff recruitment, staff orientation/training:

Project office established at Malvita, Ukhia Sadar, Cox's Bazar. 28 project staff such as Project Coordinator, Admin & Finance Officer, Project officer, M&E Officer, Business Development Officer, 9 Field Facilitators, one office staff and 10 Community organizing volunteers was recruited through transfer from SHED's previous project and/or interview. All staff provided orientation/ training on the project's aim, objective, output-outcome, activities, implementation strategies,

preparation of quarterly implementation plan, development of project monitoring plan and monitoring, and introduction to major policies and procedures of SHED. The information about the project and SHED through training has strengthened the capability for smooth implementation of the project and the staffs adapted faster to the job. Besides, it has developed a congenial environment to promote further communication, rapid exchange of views and ideas among the project staff and supervisors.

Annexure 1. List of project Staff

Selection of project areas: The project areas (10 Wards in 2 Unions) were finally selected through meetings with IOM and its implementing partners (IPs). The IPs, viz. SHED, UP, & Prottayshi sat thrice to finalize the project areas for each so as to avoid duplication in selecting the beneficiaries and smooth implementation of the project. Besides, the project staffs visited the areas several times and discussed local people to identify and select pockets of vulnerable beneficiaries in the areas. SHED with the suggestions of IOM emphasized to avoid selection of same areas by two IPs, and other NGOs. **The 10 wards in two unions under SHED were:**

1. Jaliapalong Union : 7 Wards and Ward No.1,2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9
2. Palong Khali Union: 3 wards and Ward No. 3, 5, & 6.

Beneficiary selection: At the very beginning, 2500 beneficiaries (BNFs) were selected through application of PRA tools - transect walk, questionnaire survey, FGD, secondary information including VGD lists at Union and Upazila level. The final selection of 2000 BNFs from 2500 were selected according to the BNF selection criteria of IOM and also discussion with IOM and IPs with due emphasis to avoid selection of same BNFs by two IPs, or other NGOs & avoid duplication with the VGD list of Union Parisad. The numbers of BNFs selected per ward & per villages/ per SHGs in the two unions are furnished in **Annexure 2.**

Immediately after selection of **2000 BNFs (Female 1357 & Male 643, i.e. 69% female members)** in 10 wards of 2 Unions, 27 homogeneous SHGs instead of 23 were established in 27 villages. The number of SHGs increased because of organizing homogeneous group per village. In every SHG , **Executive Committee formed democratically (by fair election or selection through consensus) consisting of 7 members** and the posts of each committee are – President, General Secretary, Treasurer and four EC- members. Total 133 leaders of 27 SHG-Executive committees **provided Organizational Development and Management (ODM) training** during the year with a view to smooth implementation of project activities, sustainable development of the SHGs and lead towards establishment of SHG-cooperatives. At the end of the year (December 2020) most of the SHGs formed **new Executive Committees through peaceful selection or election** through voting rights of the SHG-members. This has created awareness and lesson learned about application of peaceful voting rights for electing good leaders. Besides, practice of monthly savings by SHG-members for **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) establishment** has been practicing by five SHGs and remaining groups are under process. These Five SHGs deposited their monthly savings in bank

account of the groups. The bank account will be helpful to transfer grant support to help the BNFs for their livelihood development. SHG-constitution and RLF management policy has already been prepared by the groups in collaboration with the project staff.

The SHGs all over the year was in **regular practice of monthly meetings** and **27 SHGs organized total 216 meeting during the year**. The mobilization of SHG-members through monthly meetings has integrated activities such as sustainable development of SHGs, gender mainstreaming and women empowerment, empowerment to decision-making process, livelihood development, life-skill development, conflict resolution and social cohesion building to follow. The monthly meetings served as foundation for the success of activities in other components of the project. It made aware all SHG-members about the importance of participation, which lead them to greater engagements thereafter. The mobilization of SHG-members through meetings developed leadership and empowered the grass-root people to bargain for their rights, increased their sense of unity and reduced dependency on elite groups. It has motivated grass-root people for collective approach to solve local problems including problems about fuel-wood crisis, conflict with the Rohingya refugees for the fuel-wood gathering from the forests, deterioration of social and natural environment, and help to reduce conflict and building social cohesion among the communities.

It was observed that the SHG- leaders with the facilitation of project staff organized monthly meetings regularly and planned activities were on track in terms of achieving the targets set in the project frameworks. However, some targets have not been achieved 100 %, especially on sustainability issues of the SHGs, establishment of group savings for Revolving loan Fund (RLF), and strong linkages with government service providing agencies like agriculture extension, livestock department and financial institutions for easy access to credit. The gap was mainly due to limited organizational practices in short duration of the project since sustainability of a community-based organization needs continuous organizational practices for longer period.

Formation of 2 Village Livelihood Development Committees (VLDCs) in 2 Unions:

As per project plan **2 VLDCs were formed at Jaliapalong and Palongkhali Union** organizing local elites, religious leaders, leaders of youth club and formal and informal leaders of the 2 Unions. The 2 VLDCs consist of 30 leaders (Male 24 & Female-6) and they received Organizational development and management (ODM) training to run the organization efficiently and help to implement the project activities successfully in their areas. The VLDC leaders organized 4 quarterly meetings during the year for organizational development of VLDCs, strengthening cooperation with SHG-members; motivate SHG-members towards the adoption of income-generating activities (IGAs) for livelihood development, conflict resolution and social cohesion building. **The VLDCs played an active role as a catalyst to improve organizational capacity and sustainability of SHGs and also to improve the livelihoods of SHG-members of the project.** Most of the members found active in decision-making process as they are from local elite, religious leaders, youth group

etc. However, the VLDCs need to be improved and capable to take responsibility and stewardship of SHGs after exit of the project.

Development of training modules: (on potential livelihood intervention (IGAs), Life-skill development of BNFs, Business entrepreneurship development & Organizational development & Management :

Based on the baseline survey, and willingness, knowledge, experience and opportunities of the beneficiaries **6 potential IGAs were selected and 2000 BNFs in 27 SHGs were divided into six sub-groups** for training, easy marketing of products, technology transfer and other necessary events for enhancing production and improving livelihood development endeavour. **The IGAs/trades and number of BNFs selected the trades are as follows:**

1. Vegetable harvesting, processing and marketing: 700 BNFs (Female 484 & Male 216)
2. Poultry and Livestock rearing and marketing: 500 BNFs (Female 405 & Male 95)
3. Tailoring and dress making: 100 BNFs (all female beneficiaries)
4. Bamboo harvesting, treatment/processing and marketing: 30 BNFs (Female 26 & Male 4)
5. Handicraft making and marketing: 150 BNFs (Female 129 & Male 21)
6. Small business (Fish drying & marketing, Ready-food making and marketing, grocery shop, ferry business etc) : 520 (Female 228 & Male 292) where Fish drying & marketing 49 BNFs (Female 25 & Male 24) and Grocery, ferry & Food business 471 BNFs (Female 203 & Male 268).

Based on the **Training needs Assessment (TNA)** of 2000 BNFs, **7 training modules were developed** on potential IGAs, life-skill development, entrepreneurship development and Organizational development & management (ODM). **The training modules are:**

1. Vegetable harvesting, processing and marketing,
2. Poultry and Livestock rearing and marketing,
3. Tailoring and dress making,
4. Bamboo harvesting, treatment/processing and marketing,
5. Ready-food making and marketing
6. Business entrepreneurship development &
7. Organizational development & management (ODM).

Besides, two training modules, viz. **8. Fish drying & marketing** and **9. DRR** were borrowed from IOM and SHED respectively. The above 1-7 modules were prepared/ compiled by the project staff.

Out of the above 9 training modules 6 modules (above training module serial No. 1 to 4; 6 & 7) were printed from press after review and necessary corrections by IOM.

Training to the project BNFs for capacity development on organizational development & livelihood development:

Community mobilization and organizational development is the gate way to livelihood development of a vulnerable community. As such, at the very beginning of the project 2000 BNFs selected considering survey data-base, secondary information and data, and cooperation of the community stakeholders and **organized the selected BNFs under 27 CBOs /SHGs maintaining the process of making homogenous group (one SHG in one village)**. Every SHG formed one Executive Committee consisting of 7 members through the selection process or through fair election by the SHG-members. During the project period, **163 Leaders of the Executive Committee (Female 60 & Male 103) in 5 batches received 5 days of training on organizational development and management (ODM)**. The ODM training sessions were conducted by Upazila Jubo Unnayan officer, Upazila cooperative officer, Upazila Social welfare officer and experienced resource persons on the subject from NGOs including SHED working in the area. The trainings on ODM have been bearing a good impact on mobilizing the SHGs and members by the trained SHG-leaders. For example the leaders are timely organizing their monthly meetings, keeping linkages with project staff for conducting the meeting and to draft meeting resolutions with the help of project staff, motivating SHG-members for implementing planned schedule of the project, helping IOM and SHED during LPG distribution, use of alternative fuel (LPG) for cooking, helping forest regeneration and playing an active role for conflict resolution and social cohesion building among the communities including Rohingya communities.

Training provided to 2000 beneficiaries on their selected trades/IGAs (one most potential IGA per BNF) for livelihood development during the year. For capacity development to livelihoods through income enhancement the project provided training on their selected IGAs. **The IGAs and number of BNFs who received training on IGAs are as follows :**

1. Vegetable harvesting, processing and marketing: 700 BNFs (Female 484 & Male 216) received 5 days training in 28 batches (100 % completed as per schedule)
2. Poultry and Livestock rearing and marketing: 500 BNFs (Female 405 & Male 95) received 5 days training in 20 batches (100 % completed as per schedule)
3. Tailoring and dress making: 100 BNFs (all female beneficiaries) received 25 days training in 10 batches.
4. Bamboo harvesting, treatment/processing and marketing: 30 BNFs(Female 26 & Male 4) received 3 days training in one batch.

5. Handicraft making and marketing: 150 BNFs (Female 129 & Male 21) received 15 days of training in 10 batches.

6. Small business (Fish drying & marketing, Ready-food making and marketing, grocery shop, ferry business etc.): 520 BNFs (Female 228 & Male 292; where Fish drying & marketing 49 BNFs: Female 25 & Male 24 and Grocery, ferry & Food business 471 BNFs: Female 203 & Male 268) received 5 days training in 26 batches.

The training sessions of the above IGAs were conducted by the officers of government departments and NGO staffs experienced on the respective fields of IGAs. The trainings have been an immense benefit to adopt and management of IGAs for the livelihood development of the beneficiaries. It has provided the beneficiaries with the new and increased knowledge and skills on respective trades for livelihood development. The trainings have furthermore increased the total knowledge resources of the communities through horizontal diffusion of the knowledge and technology to the community people.

The trainings have been provided mostly by Upazila level officers of government institutions that have facilitated linkages of BNFs to service providers, and it has increased the BNFs' knowledge of and access to relevant service providers.

The knowledge gained from the training has particular strong impact on women beneficiaries. Women BNFs in the training have gained confidence and capacities by acquiring skills, experience, knowledge and information on IGA and life-skill development. Generally, the training on food and nutrition, gender mainstreaming and empowerment, GBV, early marriage, social cohesion etc. has developed a stronger social knowledge and understanding of the women BNFs.

Adoption of IGAs for income generation and livelihood development:

Income Generating Activities (IGAs) consists of small businesses managed by group of people to increase their household income through livelihood diversification . The aim of an IGA is to produce for the market and make it to a micro- or small-scale enterprise, whether it is managed at individual or group level. One of the main criteria to choose an IGA is to make profit and as a consequence livelihood development.

After completion of training on selected trades every beneficiary was **provided unconditional cash grant support at the rate of BDT 9000 per beneficiary**. The cash grant support was provided to meet the crisis or adverse situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the modest motivation of the project staff has inspired the BNFs to invest the amount to initiate their selected trades/ IGAs for livelihood development. Almost 100% of the beneficiaries have invested their maximum amount in developing their selected trades. The latest data of December 2020 reveals that, though one BNF selected and received training on only one trade/IGA but she/he has been doing 2- 4 IGAs investing the amount of grant money and additional money from profit or other income sources. **In December 2020 average**

income per BNF (household) was BDT 7947, out of the average investment BDT 9000 and the income range was BDT 3951 to BDT 10,325. The number of BNFs adopted trades and the average income of trades are as bellow:

Table 1: Number of BNF adopted trades & average income per BNF (as of December 2020)

IGA/Trade	BNFs adopted Trade (No.)	Average Income (BDT)
Vegetable production, harvesting, processing and marketing	1107	1736
Poultry rearing and marketing	1352	2396
Goat rearing and marketing	193	3111
Handicraft making & marketing	162	2637
Tailoring & dress making	150	2888
Other Small business (Fish drying & marketing grocery shop, ferry, ready food, tea stall etc.)	511	3837
Others (daily wages, income from other homestead products- fruits, betel-nut bamboo, trees etc.)	1818	4022

N.B. Detail Data shown in Appendix:

Data in the above table shows that the most popular income generating trade was poultry rearing and marketing but the highest income-generating trade was small-business. However, every IGA/trade generated significant income for the BNFs. Besides the adopted trades, majority of the beneficiaries earned a significant income from daily wages and homestead products such as fruits, coconut, betel-nut, bamboo, trees etc. The data of December 2020 also revealed that the income generated from the trades have been helping to improve the living standard of many SHG-members. Now every family is enjoying 3 meals per day, sanitation facilities and LPG for cooking and it indicates an improvement of the BNFs towards minimum living standard.

The BNFs were successful in production and income generation because of the opportunities for the availability of training (on IGA and business development), financial support to purchase inputs, and accompaniment of project staffs with timely advice and market linkages of the products. The BNFs are now able to promote/enhance their income and also have the potentials to grow further with the investment of profit. However, the level of yield and return to investment varied across the BNFs and wards, as well as IGAs/ business enterprises due to many reasons, such as land type, tending facilities, knowledge, experience, and access to better inputs, credit, market information, marketing opportunities, communication etc.

Value chain development & market linkages of the products:

A value chain is a business model that describes the full range of activities needed to create a product or service. For producers or entrepreneurs that produce products, a value chain comprises the steps that involve bringing a product from producer to consumer, and everything in between—such as procuring inputs/ materials, production functions, and marketing activities. Value chains help increase a business's efficiency so the business can deliver the most value for the least possible cost. It is such a producer and consumer-friendly approach, where at each stage value is added to the product resulting in everybody in the chain, will be happy with their profit. The most important factor of value chain development is linking farmers to markets, processing companies and exporters.

During the last one-year project period, **3 workshops on value chain development of the products, especially vegetable and country chicken produced by the project beneficiaries were organized by the project.** Of the 3 workshops the first and second were held at SHED's training centre at Ukhia Upazila headquarter and the last one held at Dakkin Sonar Para Village, Jaliapalong Union, Ukhia along with the arrangements of products display produced by the BNFS. The workshop and product display/ exhibition was inaugurated by the Chairman, Jaliapalong Union Parisad along with his Parisad members. The participants of the workshops were potential producers of all trades/IGAs from all SHGs of the project, whole-sellers, retailers, consumers, processing industries, suppliers, hotel owners and journalists of press and media. In the last workshop held on 31 December 2020 at Dakkin Sonar Para, the producers brought their products to display in the open field and sold them to the customers. The purpose of the workshop & product display was to make a linkage between producer and stakeholders. In the workshops the stakeholders also expressed their view related to the kinds and quality of most demandable products, demand and supply of products in the region, competition with foreign products, quality control, packaging, seasonality, storage and price of the products in relation to seasonality, quality and supply.

Most of the participants in the workshops, especially the hotel owners, and suppliers of vegetable and poultry birds urged the BNFS (dealing with agro-farming businesses) to produce more vegetable and poultry birds since there is a big gap between the demand and supply of these two commodities in Ukhia and Teknaf. The influx of Rohingya refugee has increased the demand manifold. The participants of the workshop said that quality vegetable and country chicken production and marketing can be the most significant IGAs for the poor BNFS to be successful entrepreneurs with good profits.

During the discussion, the president of Ukhia Hotel Owners' Association, who is also the owner of 'Hotel Alhera', Court Bazar, Ukhia said that the vegetable growers and poultry rearers could directly sell their products to all local hotels. He and a whole seller of country chicken mentioned that country chicken of 1.25 kg to 1.50 kg weight are most demanding by the hotels and restaurants in Ukhia and Cox's Bazar. Many participants in the workshop said that the price of vegetables suddenly rises-up in the markets of Ukhia and Teknaf if vegetable supply from Chakaria Upazila is interrupted, since vegetable supply comes from Chakaria all over the year. They urged the project BNFS to grow more vegetable and country chicken to full-fill the local demand. At the end of the workshop the vegetable and country chicken producers (BNFS) and other participants exchanged their mobile phone number and

address, so as to communicate with each other concerning the direct supply of vegetable and country chicken.

According to the participants in the workshop, the value chain process of vegetables and country chicken at Cox’s Bazar region is as follows:

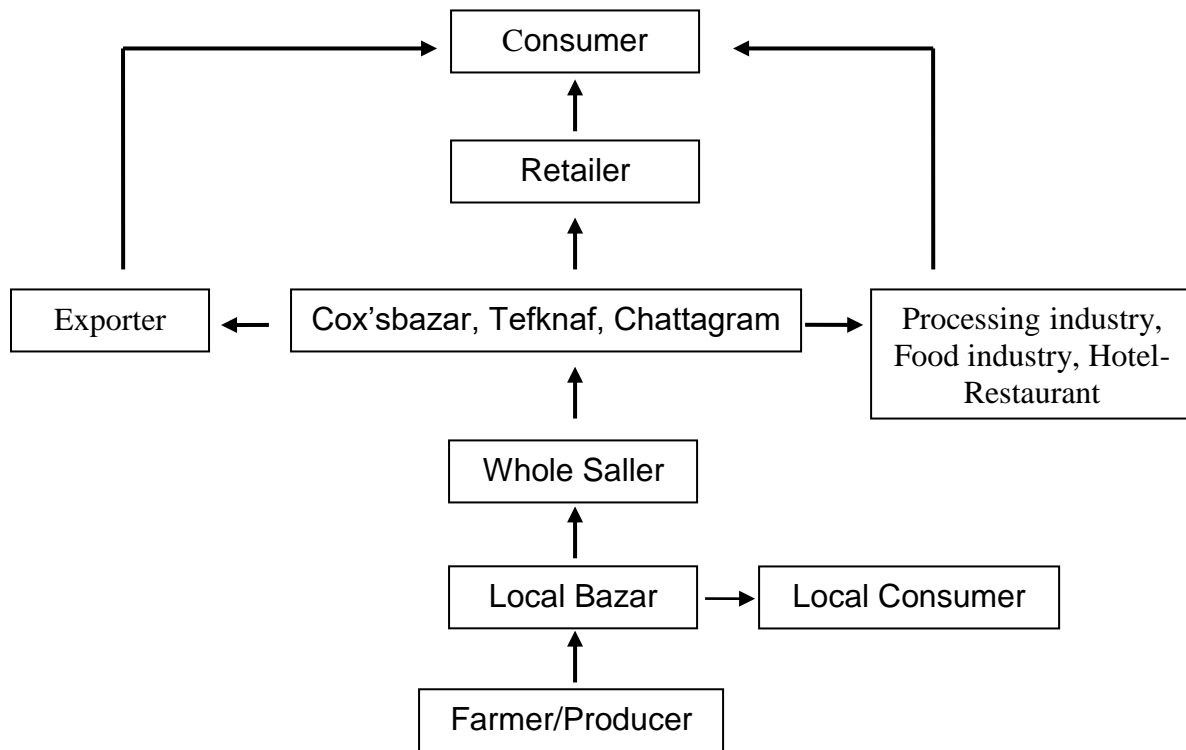


Figure 1: Supply-Chain of vegetable and Country Chicken in Cox’s Bazar region

The three workshops held during the year have established a network among producer, stakeholders and consumers, and as a result, businesses of both vegetable and poultry producers have been promoted. Many hotel-owners and suppliers are purchasing vegetable and poultry birds through contract over mobile phone.

Establishment of product display & sales centres

The project contained a prohibition to establish two product displays cum sales centre in the potential areas of Jalaipalong and Palongkhali union to promote sales of products produced by the project BNFs. During the project period **one sales centre was established at Thinkhali station, Palongkhali Union, Ukhia**. The project BNFs at Palongkhali Union have been selling their agricultural products from the sales centre.

Project sharing meeting with Union Parishad and Upazila Parishad:

At the very beginning of the project activities in the field, **coordination meeting held with two Union Parisad (UP), Jaliapalong and Palongkhali Union**, where the project area was distributed in 27 villages of 10 wards. Local elites, leaders of village formal and informal institutions of 10 wards were also present in the meetings. In the meetings the Project Coordinator (PC) introduced about aim, objectives, beneficiary criteria, activities and implementation strategies of the project through PowerPoint presentation. During discussion the UP-members expressed their views that the UP-members will select BNFs, distribute grant and input support to the BNFs. But with the support of local elites and the Chairman it was decided that all activities along with BNF selection, grant and input support distribution shall be implemented according to strategies stated in the project and UP- member will cooperate for implementation. However, project staff faced problems implementing the activities in the field in some areas. The UP-chairman and most of the UP-members extended their heartiest cooperation implementing the project activities successfully.

Quarterly coordination meeting with local government institutions & media:

The project organized a coordination meeting with Local Government Institutions and media - Chairman-members, Palongkhali & Jaliapalong Union Parisad, Union agriculture and livestock officers, Upazila Jobo Unnayan officer, VLDC leaders, some potential BNFS and Journalists of the press and electronic media on 19 October 2020 at SHED's training centre, Ukhiya Uazila Sadar, Cox's Bazar. Mr. Shawkat Ali, Deputy Director, SHED presided over the meeting and Deputy Director Mr. Abdul Mannan and Ziaur Rahaman were present as the special guests. There were 35 participants from Local Government Institutions and Media (Journalists of newspaper & Jamuna TV) in the meeting. The Project Coordinator Mohammad Zashim Uddin, SAFEPlus project delivered a power point presentation about the project background, objectives, activities, implementation strategies, the progress of activities made so far, challenges faced over the period and measures taken to overcome the issues. The Ukhiya press club president, secretary and some journalists expressed their views about the importance of the project in the present situation of Ukhiya and Teknaf, especially about the gradual degradation of local people's livelihoods, fuel-wood crisis, and degradation of the social and natural environment. They said that the SAFEPlus project implemented by SHED has been bearing immense benefit to the livelihood development and social cohesion building among communities including the Rohingya refugees, and helping to resolve conflict and competition for fuel-wood from the forest and competition in the local labour market.

Mr. Joynal Abedin Chowdhury, local correspondent of Jamuna TV said that many NGOs are giving LPG stove & gas cylinder to many people who do not need gas for cooking as they work in others house or in the hotel, as such they sell the stove and gas cylinders. Again, some people are getting more than one cylinder and stove at a time from different NGOs but many deserving people living in inaccessible areas are not getting help. Many journalists supported Mr. Joynal Abedin and suggested look into the matter and requested all NGOs to take necessary measures to avoid duplication in LPG gas distribution. The journalists including the president of Ukhia press club conveyed their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to IOM and SHED for implementing such a valuable project for livelihood development of the poor &

vulnerable people of this region through livelihood development endeavour and help to restore the forest cover of this area through supplying LPG as alternative to fuel-wood for cooking.

Life-skill development training (on food & nutrition, gender mainstreaming & empowerment, GBV, DRR, social cohesion etc.):

Life skills is a term used to describe a set of basic skills acquired through learning and/or direct life experience that enable individuals and groups to effectively handle issues and problems commonly encountered in daily life. The aims of life skills development were to know and understand what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and it helps to know about safety issues from natural and social disasters, making good relationships and respect others and become a responsible member of a community/society. With these views, **5-days training on life-skill development (i.e. on nutrition, DRR, gender mainstreaming and empowerment, GBV, & Social Cohesion) provided to 2000 BNFs (Female 1357 & Male 643) in 67 batches during November & December 2020.** The resource persons of the training were from different Government and non-government organizations in related subject and also from SHED working in related projects and experienced in the subject matter. The PC, PO, M&E officer and BDO of the project also took the sessions in their relevant fields. The training enables the project BNFs to deal with demands and challenges of their daily lives. In fact, the BNFs were lacking the basic skills required to effectively manage themselves and their households and to generate adequate income. Life-skills and livelihood training paves the way to a healthier and safer life-style, more effective learning, increased income generation and an improved standard of living.

Data collection on income generation per HH/month:

Data have been collected since November 2020 by the project staff to know the impacts of the livelihood activities and social cohesion building. At the very beginning of the project the geographic location of the selected wards in two Unions and the number of BNFs in the villages were recorded. Then base line data of 2000 BNFs were recorded in pre-organized questionnaires through the household visit. Data on production and income of BNFs from their adopted trades were calculated in the row data sheet. Finally the raw data were captured in an Excel spread sheet to calculate the income generations made from the individual IGA.

LPG-cylinder & cook-stove distribution:

2000 Cards prepared and distributed to 2000 BNFs by SHED. LPG cylinder and stove distributed to 1671 BNFs by SAFEplus project staff of IOM with the active cooperation of SHED staff. Up to December 2020, 100% of BNFs have been using LPG-cook-stove. Out of total 2000 BNFs 329 BNFs are still looking forward to receive LPG Cylinder and stove.

Results Matrix

Activity	Target	Previous Quarter- Jan'- June'20 (%)	Current Quarter- July- Sept'20 (%)	Cumulative- Jan'20 – Sept'20 (%)	Cumulative Achievement Jan'20- Dec'20 (%)	Remarks
Outcome 1: Improved livelihoods resilience and sustainable income of the selected households in host-communities of Palongkhali and Jaliapalong Union of Ukhiya Upazila.						
Staff Orientation on Project activity and Survey methods.	22 Staff	100 %	o	100%	100%	
Survey for Beneficiary selection through PRA / Community meetings and Training needs assessment (TNA) of Potential livelihood opportunities.	Selection of 2000 BNFs	100 %	o	100%	100%	
Project Sharing meeting at Upazila & Union Level	Project Sharing through 3 Meetings	34%	0%	34%	66%	
Group formation of project beneficiaries (Self Help Group - SHGs formation)	Organize 2000 BNFs under 27 SHGs	100%	0%	100%	100%	
Organizing monthly meeting of “ SHGs	270 Meetings (27 meetings/month) Total BNFs 2000	81 (30%)	81 (30%)	162 (60%)	270 (100%)	
ODM training to the group leaders (27 SHGs & 2 VLDC)	163 BNFs in 5 Batches for organizational capacity development	0%	100%	100%	100%	
Development of training Modules on Potential livelihood Intervention	9 training modules	55%	45%	100%	100%	

Activity	Target	Previous Quarter- Jan'- June'20 (%)	Current Quarter- July- Sept'20 (%)	Cumulitive- Jan'20 – Sept'20 (%)	Cumulative Achievement Jan'20- Dec'20 (%)	Remarks
Business/ Entrepreneurship Development Training (EDT)	2000 BNFs in 67 Batches	0%	1932 (97%)	1932 (97%)	2000 (100%)	
Training on vegetable harvesting, processing, packaging, storing and marketing	700 BNFs in 28 Batches	0%	100%	100%	100%	
Training on Poultry & Livestock rearing and Marketing	500 BNFs in 20 Batches	0%	100%	100%	100%	
Training on Handicrafts making & marketing	150 BNFs in 10 Batches	0%	100%	100%	100%	
Training on bamboo harvesting, treatment and marketing	30 BNFs in 1 Batch	0%	100%	100%	100%	
Training on Small Business (Ready Food making and Marketing , Grocery shop, fish drying and marketing)	520 BNFs in 26 Batches	0%	0%	0%	520 BNFs 100%	
Unconditional Cash Grant Support to beneficiaries for COVID -19 pandemic	2000 BNFs	1110 (56%)	822 (41%)	1932 (93%)	2000 (100%)	
Outcome 2: Enhanced social cohesion through inter & intra communities citizen engagement, facilitation, knowledge and advocacy platforms.						
Formation of Village Livelihood Development Committee (VLDC)	2 VLDC	2 VLDC (100%)	0%	2 VLDC (100%)	100%	

Activity	Target	Previous Quarter- Jan'- June'20 (%)	Current Quarter- July- Sept'20 (%)	Cumulative- Jan'20 – Sept'20 (%)	Cumulative Achievement Jan'20- Dec'20 (%)	Remarks
Life -Skill Development training : (On nutrition, disaster risk reduction, gender-based violence and early child marriage)	2000 BNFs in 67 Batches	0%	0%	0%	2000 BNFs (100%)	
Quarterly Meeting of Village livelihood development committee (VLDC)	4 meetings	0%	2 Meetings (50%)	2 Meetings (50%)	4 Meetings (100%)	
Quarterly coordination meeting with Local Government institution and Media	4 meetings	0%	1 Meeting (25%)	1 Meeting (25%)	1 Meeting (25%)	
Monthly project staff coordination meeting	12 Meetings	6 Meetings (50%)	3 Meetings (25%)	9 Meetings (75%)	12 Meetings 100 %	
Development data / record keeping book and distribution benf.	2000 HH	0%	2000 HH (100%)	2000 HH (100%)	100%	
Product display and sale center at popular/potential market place (2 Union)	2 Sale center	0%	0%	0%	1 Sale centre (50%)	
Value chain development & market linkages of product : Quarterly meeting with whole seller, Retailer & consumer	4 meetings	0%	1 Meeting (25%)	1 Meeting (25%)	3 Meetings (75%)	
Product exhibition at Upazila level	1 Exhibition	0%	0%	0%	2 Exhibitions	

Activity	Target	Previous Quarter- Jan'- June'20 (%)	Current Quarter- July- Sept'20 (%)	Cumulative- Jan'20 – Sept'20 (%)	Cumulative Achievement Jan'20- Dec'20 (%)	Remarks
Exit meeting with the Local Government institution (LGIs) at Upazia / District level	1 Meeting	0%	0%	0%	0%	

3. Challenges ENCOUNTERED and actions taken

Challenges and Action Taken: The main problems encountered to implement the planned activities during the reporting period are:

- The project staff faces pressure from UP members and local vested quarters to include their selected beneficiaries as project beneficiaries. Some UP-members pressurized that they will distribute Unconditional Cash Grant Support and LPG and cooking stoves to the BNFs. The senior staff of SHED resolved the issue with the support of respective UP-Chairman local elites and administration.
- Many poor families of the area have a general intention to be included in the list of all NGOs to get multiple benefits. They do not want to acknowledge whether they are already listed with an NGO and getting benefits from the NGO. As a result, it was very difficult to prepare a list of BNFs avoiding duplications.
- Duplication in receiving grant support and LPG- stove found in some households. It was very challenging to avoid the families due to the collaboration of local pressure groups with them. However, with the support and cooperation of IOM and IPs, the issue was resolved to a greater extent.
- The BNFs, those are rearing poultry and goat were facing serious problems in getting vaccine and treatment of their ailing poultry and goats since Upazila livestock office is far away from their villages and very difficult for them to pay the veterinary doctors' fee. As a result, the ailing poultry birds and goats die keeping behind their poor owner in poverty. It is a proven fact that poultry and goat rearing are very profitable business but the lack of timely vaccination programs and doctors for treatment are the main barriers to achieve the goal. The project arranged a special training program to create local service providers (LSP) for the vaccination of poultry and livestock. To resolve the issue 3 BNFs (Young and maximum female BNFs) from every ward were trained 2 days of practical training on vaccination and primary treatment of ailing animals. Every trained BNFs were provided Vaccinator's Kit-box with the necessary materials. Besides, vaccination service is provided for poultry and goat in every village.

- The vegetable growers were facing serious problems to manage irrigation water due to a lack of irrigation pumps. However, they irrigated their vegetable garden carrying water on shoulder load.
- Delayed start of livelihood interventions as there was limited movement of project staff due to restriction on mass gathering, lockdown the areas, and maintaining quarantine and social distancing due to COVID-19. As a result, the project beneficiaries were in a great delay getting production from IGAs and income. Timing of project activity implementation disrupted due to COVID-19 pandemic. As the majority of the project BNFS are primarily agro-based farmers and adopted agro-based IGAs, planned timing can have a markedly adverse impact on program success.
- Majority of the project beneficiaries were illiterate and it became very difficult to maintain the records and documentation of their SHGs. It was also very difficult to engage their true participation in the meetings, training sessions, Pre- and post-evaluation in training sessions.
- Low investment in IGAs was the main reason to get the low income and one IGA with minimum investment cannot alleviate poverty. Therefore, IGA diversification is very important to come out of poverty.
- Poor market access and inadequate market information are the barriers to the timely marketing of products with better prices. Besides, the BNFs were in lack of knowledge concerning the supply chain and poor knowledge on packaging and quality control of vegetables.

Lessons learned :

The BNFS of the project were poor and share-cropper with land lords as they have no cultivable land of their own. But they used their homesteads as a production unit of vegetable production, poultry and goat rearing all over the year for improving family nutrition and increased income from the surplus production. It is learned that the efficient utilization of homestead for diversified IGAs can enhance income of a family.

The BNF-farmers can get easy access to the facilities to improve their productivity of IGAs if government and non-government service providers and private sectors (such as whole salers, retailers, cold-storage, suppliers/ exporters etc.) are linked with the farmers through social mobilization and value chain development approach. Besides, the BNFs need quality inputs at the right time, proper price, extension services, risk management, post-harvest knowledge and markets for sales of their products.

- There is a strong need of transforming the rural agrarian economy into viable business model by linking agriculture production to commercial usage and thus agro-based small-scale and medium scale entrepreneurs can promote rural economy.

- The IGAs should be carefully selected with the analysis of BNFs' knowledge, experience, skills, opportunities, aspiration and marketability of products and profit.

- Livelihood diversification is better than dependence of a family on single livelihood (IGA) option for the livelihood development and rural poverty reduction. It helps the poor to lessen their vulnerability to food security and livelihood collapse; it can provide the basis for building assets that permit individuals and households to construct their own exit routes out of poverty and it can improve the quality and sustainability of natural resources that contribute the key assets in the rural livelihoods.

4. CONCLUSIONS

SHED has been implementing UN IOM supported SAFEPlus: Livelihood and Social cohesion project through organizing 2000 hard-core poor and vulnerable beneficiaries in 10 wards of Jaliapalong and Palongkhali Union covering 27 SHGs since January 2020. The project has been effectively improving livelihood and social harmony through organizational development, improving group dynamics of SHGs, capacity development of BNFs to be successful entrepreneurs on their selected trades, and life- skill development. After training to all beneficiaries, the project provided an unconditional cash grant support of BDT. 9000/- to each beneficiary. The majority of the BNFs have invested the grant money for the development of IGAs and have been able to enhance their income and also have the potentials to grow further. Besides, knowledge empowerment of the BNFs perused through training has improved new and increased farming skills and marketing skills. The trainings have furthermore increased the total knowledge resources of livelihood development activities and social cohesion building processes in the communities. The development of CBOs (SHGs & VLDCs) enhanced BNFs' mode of cooperation and playing an active role in social cohesion building. The project has been over the last 12 months facilitated organizational development of both the organizations – SHGs and VLDCs. The VLDCs have been strengthening to take responsibilities of SHGs after the exit of the project. The learning by doing method followed during the training of IGAs was very effective and appreciated by the training participants. The lesson learned by the BNFs has the potential to expand horizontally to the community to make real knowledge empowerment of the society. It was found that the livelihood development interventions (IGAs) and strategy used in the trainings found very effective to improve the livelihoods of the poor, especially women. The trainings have been provided mostly by officers of Upazila's government departments of respective subject and that has facilitated linkages for easy access to get service from them. However, there were challenges to implement the project activities but resolved through active cooperation of IOM, coordination of IPs and local elites. Some challenges, such as the poultry and livestock mortality problem faced by the BNFs need to be resolved through extensive vaccination program in the villages; and constraints in the marketing of products need to be resolved through the development of the value-chain approach. Finally, we would like to conclude that the establishment of organised potential CBOs (SHGs & VLDCs), BNFs' access to training, input or grant support for start-up IGAs, market linkages of products, and accompaniment of the dedicated project staffs of a dedicated NGO can be effective to improve the chances of peoples' livelihood,

5. EXPENDITURES AND RESOURCE UTILIZATION

Please see the attached financial report.

The financial report is to be attached to the narrative report as a separate document. This section can be used to provide a narrative description of any issues faced in budget execution or technical issues related to the accounting and reconciliation of expenditures, such as variances in actual expenditures on a given budget line compared to the funds allocated for that purpose.

6. ANNEXES

Annex1: List of project Staff

Sl.No.	Name of post	Number of Post
1	Project Coordinator	1
2	Admin & Finance officer	1
3	Project Officer	1
4	Monitoring & Evaluation officer	1
5	Business Development Officer	1
6	Field Facilitator	7
7	Community Organizing Volunteer	9
8	Service Staff	1

Annex 2: List of Selected Villages in 10 wards of 2 unions and number of BNFs per village

Union	Ward No.	Name of Village	Bnfs	
Jaliyapalong	1	Painnashia	217	
		Fakir Baper Para	10	
		Miyazi Para	14	
		South Painnashia	59	
			Sub total	300
	2	Sunaichari	80	
		South Sunaichari	100	
		Mitabonia	30	
		Somitir Ghona	90	
			Sub total	300
	3	East Sunarpara	54	
		North Sunarpara	70	
		Sunarpara	80	
		Union Parishad Para	27	
		West Sunarpara	69	
			Sub total	300
	4	Assroyon Kendro	32	
		Dail Para	126	

		Sub total	158	
	6	Chara Bottali	70	
		Boro Inani	72	
		Sub total	142	
	8	Madarbonia	79	
			Sub total	79
	9	Monkhali Chakmapara	61	
		Monkhali Bagghuna	160	
		Sub total	221	
Palonkhali	3	Rahmaterbil	70	
		East Rahmaterbil	90	
		South Rahmaterbil	50	
			Sub total	210
	5	Ponditpara	75	
			Sub total	75
	6	Old Mosarkhola	70	
		New Mosarkhola	70	
		Jambonia Para	75	
			Sub total	215
		Total	2000	
		Total -Male & Female	M-643, F-1357	

Annex 3: Income from different IGAs/trades in 10 wards of Jaliapalong and Palongkhali Union (as of December 2020)

**Society for Health Extension and Development (SHED)
SAFEPLUS : Livelihood & Social Cohesion Project
Income from different Trades in 10 Wards of Jaliapalong and Palongkhali Union**

S. L	Union Name	Ward No.	No. of BNFs/ Ward	Income (Tk) from different Trades (as on December 2020)														Total Income (Tk)	Average Income (Tk)
				Vegetable Marketing	BNFs No.	Poultry Rearing	BNFs No.	Goat Rearing	BNFs No.	Tailoring	BNFs No.	Small Business	BNFs No.	Handicraft	BNFs No.	Others	BNFs No.		
1	Jaliyapalong	1	300	399,000	206	475,500	247	157,000	28	93,800	21	326,400	104	28,000	15	1,650,800	255	3,130,500	10,435
2		2	300	129,500	193	642,150	282	193,600	40	23,700	12	120,800	23	63,600	20	925,800	300	2,099,150	6,997
3		3	300	471,300	85	324,800	56	-	-	94,400	16	392,000	61	112,600	21	1,395,100	240	2,790,200	9,301
4		4	150	86,700	52	161,800	90	4,000	1	31,000	14	283,500	86	18,500	11	453,830	158	1,039,330	6,929
5		6	150	116,000	62	333,000	116	13,000	4	19,000	9	440,970	57	35,000	13	218,110	142	1,175,080	7,834
6		8	79	81,000	69	256,500	73	57,500	6	6,000	5	37,500	16	18,000	5	195,800	79	652,300	8,257
7		9	221	186,000	168	476,300	205	22,500	12	19,000	9	121,000	63	48,500	18	1,337,300	221	2,210,600	10,003
8	Palongkhali	3	210	150,500	85	255,000	130	13,000	5	48,000	22	45,000	23	29,000	14	786,000	133	1,326,500	6,317

9		5	75	30,800	20	103,500	44	-	-	4,000	3	82,000	21	-	-	167,000	75	387,300	5,164
10		6	215	271,030	167	210,500	109	139,900	97	94,300	39	111,500	57	74,000	45	182,600	215	1,083,830	5,041
11	Total		2000	1921830	1107	3239050	1352	600500	193	433200	150	1960670	511	427200	162	7312340	1818	15894790	7947.4
12	Average			1,736		2,396		3,111		2,888		3,837		2,637		4,022			
