



Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT Region (PRLC)

INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT
(January-December 2023)
Manusher Jonno Foundation



Table of Content

Table of Content	2
Acronyms	3
1. Description	5
2. Action Activities and Results	6
2.1. Executive summary of the action	6
2.2. Results and Activities	8
A. RESULTS (IMPACT, OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS).....	8
B. ACTIVITIES:	27
C. CHALLENGES & LEARNING:	38
2.3 Log frame Matrix	39
2.4 Activity Matrix	47
2.5 Action plan for the year 2024 for PRLC Project.....	52
3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities, trainees and other cooperation	58
4. Visibility	60

Acronyms

AFSP	Agriculture and Food Security Project
ANC	Antenatal Care
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
CCMC	Community Clinic Management Committee
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHTRC	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
COP	Community of Practice
CS-IFMFFS	Climate Smart Integrated Farm Management- Farmer Field School
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CCRP	CHT Climate Resilience Project
CLW	Community Livestock Worker
CNHP	Community Nutrition Health Promoter
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DDA	Due Diligence Assessment
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DLS	Department of Livestock
DoF	Department of Forest
DNI	Direct Nutrition Initiatives
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
EBA	Ecosystem Based Adaptation
EPR	Employment-to-Population Ratio
EU	European Union
FF	Farmers Facilitator
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FFD	Farmers Field Days
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoB	Government of Bangladesh's
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HCR	Head Counting Ratio
HDC	Hill District Council
HH	Household
HKI	Helen Keller International
IARC	Internal Audit Review Committee
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
IFM-FFS	Integrated Farm Management- Farmer Field School
IGA	Income Generating Activity
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
KII	Key Informant Interview
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
LLA	locally led adaptation
LGI	Local Government Institute
MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
MoCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MJF	Manusher Jonno Foundation
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)
MT-TOT	Master Trainer- Training of Trainers
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NBS	Nature Based Solutions
PHC	Public Health Service

PNGO	Partner Non-Government Organisation
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
PKSF	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
PPEPP	Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PNC	Postnatal Care
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SAT	Social Accountability Tool
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SAPLING	Sustainable Agriculture and Production Linked to Improved Nutrition Status, Resilience, and Gender Equity
SID-CHT	Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SMT	Senior Management Team
SSNP	Social Safety Net Program
TOC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
TUS	Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha
UA	Upazila Assistant
UAO	Upazila Agriculture Officer
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
ULO	Upazila Livestock Officer
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UP	Union Parishad
VAW	Violence against Women
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of coordinator of the grant contract: **Banasree Mitra Neogi, Director-Programmes**
- 1.2. Name and title of the contact person: **Shaheen Anam, Executive Director**
- 1.3. Name of beneficiaries and affiliated entity (ies) in the action: ASHIKA, Hill Flower, Progressive, Taungya (Rangamati), Tahzingdong, GRAUS, BNKS (Bandarban), ALO, TUS (Khagrachari) in Chittagong Hill Tracts Districts.
- 1.4. Title of the action: **Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in the CHT Region**
- 1.5. Contract number: **ACA/2022/ 441-808**
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: **1 January 2023- 31 December 2026**
- 1.7. Target country: **Bangladesh (Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari hill districts)**
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men): 20000 HH including 98000 individuals including male, female, youth and children.
- 1.9. Country in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): **Not Applicable**

¹ 'Target groups' are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the project purpose level, and 'final beneficiaries' are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. Action Activities and Results

2.1. Executive summary of the action

Global poverty remains a significant issue, with millions of people worldwide facing economic hardship. Bangladesh has made substantial progress in poverty reduction, with the poverty rate dropping from 24.3% in 2016 to 18.7% in 2022.² However, there is still a major concern as approximately one-fifth of the population still lives below the poverty line. The COVID-19 pandemic has hindered further progress in reducing poverty. However, Bandarban (63.2%) and Khagrachari (52.7%) have higher poverty rates than the national average, while Rangamati (28.5%) has comparatively better socioeconomic conditions.³ The CHT faces rugged terrain and limited access, leading to widespread poverty. Its primarily agricultural economy is hampered by a deficit in technical education and significant youth unemployment. The region's insufficient infrastructure contributes to health disparities, limited market access for agricultural goods, and increased vulnerability to climate change-related livelihood threats.

The Project's first year was delayed by three months due to the government's approval process, hampering inception tasks. However, partnership agreements with local organisations were finalised, and the project team underwent comprehensive orientation during the inception period. Nine local organisations were selected after rigorous assessment. Transparent budget negotiations led to the signing of partnership agreements in September 2023. Technical strategies were revised in collaboration with UNDP, focusing on livelihoods and nutrition. A national launching ceremony was held in June 2023 to highlight project objectives and garner support.

The Project made promising progress towards achieving its outcomes, including household selection, addressing nutritional needs, and implementing disaster risk reduction efforts. Additionally, it has updated training materials for Climate-Smart Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field Schools (CS-IFM-FFS). District-level workshops in Rangamati and Bandarban were successfully organised, and FFS clusters were formed to promote sustainable farming practices across three districts. Moreover, "Maa ebong sishu" and adolescent groups were established, along with specialised awareness-raising modules. Volunteer groups were also formed for disaster risk reduction, with comprehensive guidelines and information kits provided for support.

In outcome 1, the 20000-targeted Household selection was completed, forming 132 Farmer Field School (FFS) groups. Rigorous beneficiary selection involved community engagement and local government (Union Parishad) despite challenges. The CS-IFM-FFS curriculum underwent a rigorous update led by UNDP. Insights from district experts and stakeholders were compiled into a revised draft through workshops and analysis. This curriculum will be field-tested next year during ToT sessions. Recruiting 225 Farmer Facilitators was also completed to enable Season-long Learning (SLL) sessions. The selection process for Master Trainers and Farmer Facilitators aims to enhance the implementation of climate-smart farming techniques and ensure effective training delivery for CS-IFM-FFS sessions. Seven Upazila-level meetings were organised throughout the year to disseminate project activities, with one postponed due to the unavailability of government officials. Training needs were identified through 78 FGDs and KIIs, with plans for post-FFS IGA support.

Under outcome 2, the Project focused on addressing gaps in the nutrition system and improving the capacity of health workers in the CHT. A formative study was initiated to evaluate Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) and local-level nutrition governance mechanisms. A comprehensive training module was developed for paramedics and Community Nutrition Health Promoters (CNHPs), covering food diversity, infant and young child feeding, and adolescent health and nutrition issues. Additionally, 52 Mother and Child groups were established, and 52 Nutrition Volunteers were enlisted from the community to conduct SBCC sessions and raise awareness about nutrition and health services. Furthermore, 52 Adolescent clubs were formed to enhance adolescents' understanding and knowledge regarding nutrition and primary healthcare.

The Project also made strides in disaster preparedness and management initiatives, with 12 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Volunteer Groups formed in disaster-prone areas. A two-day training module for gender-sensitive disaster response was planned for implementation in the second year of the

² Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), BBS, 2022

³ *ibid*

intervention. Program Coordination Officers were also hired to facilitate effective collaboration with local institutions and government departments.

During the reporting period, the Project actively performed MEL and MIS activities to improve project oversight and knowledge acquisition. A comprehensive M&E plan was drafted, outlining tasks such as baseline surveys, finalising the log frame, and establishing field visit protocols. Encoding indicators into the EU OPSYS system completed to comply with EU regulations. Beneficiary selection guidelines were developed through stakeholder consultations, promoting transparency and participation in the selection process. The baseline study commenced, leveraging modern technology for data collection. The MIS plan focuses on constructing the PNGO Portal and implementing Android-based census systems for efficient surveys, supported by capacity-building initiatives for PNGOs.

The Project faced several challenges, including establishing a project office in the project location, navigating multiple governance systems, obtaining approval from NGOAB, and obtaining approval for exchange gain. The Project also faced delays in obtaining approval from NGOAB, which required a "No Objection Certificate" from CHTRC and MoCHTA in the CHT region. This process resulted in a significant loss of project time. The Project also faced approval for a 40% reduction of the first-year budget, which forced MJF to adapt and create a customised plan for partner NGOs. This led to potential increased staff workloads in subsequent years.

Despite the challenges faced, the Project provided valuable learning experiences. It underscored the importance of enhancing coordination and stakeholder collaboration for smoother activity implementation. Recognising the diverse governance systems in the CHT region highlighted the necessity of building and nurturing relationships with these systems to ensure project success. Moreover, the project experience emphasised the significance of considering the lengthy approval process from NGOAB when planning project timelines. Overall, the Project highlights the need for better coordination and collaboration and consideration of possible delays in project timelines.

The project's burn rate is 53.10% in the reporting year of the project, with MJF received a pre-financing fund of EURO 787,893 and total expenditures amounting to EURO 418,335.

2.2. Results and Activities

The PRLC is a comprehensive project that pays particular attention to livelihood promotion for the extremely poor, expansion of nutrition services, community mobilisation and market development for the CHT people. Issues like gender equity, women's empowerment, and disability inclusion are at the core of the project. The initiative focuses on improving the well-being of the poor and marginalised people, access to markets, climate-resilient crops, and social safety-net services.

MJF, in partnership with nine local partner organisations, spearheads the project implementation, focusing on overseeing livelihoods, nutrition, and social protection components. The initial nine months of the reporting period constituted the inception phase of the project, during which the partnership process was finalised. However, the final three months primarily served as the inception phase for the implementing partners. While some planned activities were initiated during this period, comprehensive reporting on the achievement of log frame targets and associated indicators is pending. Therefore, the actions outlined in this report predominantly pertain to the inception phase.

A. RESULTS (IMPACT, OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS)

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

The project focused on preparing to assist extremely poor and poor families in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh during the first year. The project's overarching objective is to significantly reduce poverty and help people develop strong and sustainable ways of living in this area. To measure the progress, the following key indicators aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been determined to track impact.

- Impact Indicator 1: Proportion of population below the international poverty line (disaggregated by sex, age, employment status and urban/rural) (Aligned with SDG 1.1.1)
- Impact Indicator 2: Prevalence of stunting among children under five years (Aligned with SDG 2.2.1)
- Impact Indicator 3: Prevalence of wasting among children under five years (Aligned with SDG 2.2.1)
- Impact Indicator 4: Proportion of beneficiary households with increased resilience to climate change and other shocks (Aligned with SDG 13)

The first indicator measures the poverty situation by comparing the proportion living below the international poverty line, disaggregated by various demographic factors such as sex, age, employment status, and urban/rural. Additionally, there is tracking of the prevalence of stunting and wasting among children under five years old, crucial for assessing the nutritional status and overall well-being of this vulnerable demographic. Furthermore, the last indicator is a commitment to enhancing the resilience of beneficiary households to climate change and other shocks, aligning with SDG 13.

Progress:

As the project just completed its inception period, the progress of the impact indicator is yet to be reported. However, the interventions during the reporting period have shown progress in contributing to the project's overall objective. The Government's approval procedures (NGOAB approval) led to delays in the project activities right from the inception of the project on 01 January 2023. The project got final NGOAB approval in mid-August 2023 and signed partnership agreements with partners on 4 September 2023. Therefore, the delay of three months of the anticipated project starting date caused the delay in partnership signing and staff recruitment for project initiation. However, in response to the delayed start, the project has revised the activity plan and launched a baseline study immediately after completing the beneficiary HH selection process. Implementing partners also tried to reduce the required timing for staff recruitment and their date of joining, and all the vacancy announcements were drafted earlier to minimise the time gap.

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

The outcome 1 is to empower the communities in the CHT districts by enhancing their livelihood opportunities and income generation capacities. The project seeks to create a sustainable environment where households can thrive economically by focusing on various sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, vocational skill development training for youth, and support for entrepreneurship development like, mushroom cultivation, honey beekeeping, nursery development etc..

Outcome indicators 1.1. Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created/sustained through the intervention-supported producers, businesses and Vocational Education and Training (VET) graduates (Aligned with GEF 2.13a)

This indicator measures the intervention's direct impact on job creation and sustainability. It encompasses jobs generated or maintained through support to producers, businesses, and Vocational Education and Training (VET) graduates. By tracking the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, the project can evaluate its effectiveness in providing employment opportunities within the target communities.

Outcome indicators 1.2: Percentage of Beneficiary Households with Increased Agricultural Production

This indicator focuses on the agricultural sector, a crucial source of livelihood in the CHT districts. It assesses the project's impact on enhancing agricultural productivity among beneficiary households. By disaggregating the data by the sex of household heads, the project can identify any gender-specific disparities and tailor interventions accordingly.

Outcome indicators 1.3: Percentage of Beneficiary Households with Increased Monthly Expenditure

This indicator evaluates the project's impact on household incomes by measuring the percentage of beneficiary households experiencing an increase in mean monthly expenditure. By disaggregating the data based on the sex of household heads, the project can assess whether the interventions are equally benefiting all members of the community.

Progress:

In alignment with the above outcome indicators, 20,000 households were selected during the reporting period to whom knowledge and skill on modern agricultural technologies will be transferred through CS-IFM-FFS method to enhance their agricultural productivity. 132 Farmer Field School (FFS) groups were formed out of 675 planned groups. The remaining groups' formation is ongoing and is expected to be completed by January 2024. The selection process of Farmers Facilitators (FFs) has also been completed, who will act as facilitators to improve the capacity and skill of the targeted farmers for climate smart agricultural practices. However, regarding indicators such as economic engagement, productivity, and expenditure levels associated with this outcome, achievement is yet to be reported, as no FFS training sessions were scheduled in the reporting year.

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

The outcome 2 of the PRLC project aims to enhance the nutritional well-being of target households, with a specific focus on women and children, in the CHT districts. By addressing factors such as food security, dietary diversity, breastfeeding practices, and women's empowerment, the project aims to improve overall nutritional outcomes and contribute to the health and development of vulnerable populations in the target areas. It has four associated indicators:

Outcome indicators 2.1: Percentage of Participant Households Food Secured (HFIAS)

This indicator measures the food security status of participant households using the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS). It assesses the extent to which households have reliable access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. By tracking the percentage of food-secured households, the project can evaluate its effectiveness in addressing food insecurity within the target communities.

Outcome indicators 2.2: Mean Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

This indicator assesses the dietary diversity within participant households by calculating the mean Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS). It evaluates the variety of foods consumed by households, which is crucial for ensuring adequate nutrient intake and overall nutritional well-being. A higher HDDS indicates greater dietary diversity and potentially better nutritional outcomes.

Outcome indicators 2.3: Percentage of Children under Two Years Exclusively Breastfed

This indicator focuses on breastfeeding practices, particularly exclusive breastfeeding among children under two years of age. It assesses the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding, disaggregated by sex and district, to understand breastfeeding patterns and identify any disparities. Exclusive breastfeeding is essential for optimal infant nutrition and health.

Outcome indicators 2.4: Proportion of Program Participant Women Demonstrating Increased Empowerment

This indicator evaluates the project's impact on women's empowerment and household decision-making authority. It measures the proportion of program participant women who demonstrate increased empowerment in areas such as food purchasing, children's education and marriage, and control over resources. By empowering women, the project aims to improve household nutrition and overall well-being.

Progress:

During the reported year, a formative study was initiated to examine nutritional gaps, aligning with predetermined outcomes and indicators. Concurrently, 52 "Maa ebong sishu" groups were formed, and an equal number of adolescent groups formed with both boys and girls. The partner NGOs successfully recruited paramedics, Community Nutrition Health Promoters (CNHP), and Pusti Apas and equipped them with essential kit boxes. Moreover, 52 sets of children's growth monitoring tools were secured. A specialized, non-budgetary awareness-raising module was developed by MJF for mothers and adolescent groups for further education and engagement on nutrition-related issues during the reporting year. Moving forward, the implementation of awareness-raising activities through SBCC materials, cooking demonstrations, improvement in nutrition governance systems, increased income, and enhanced agricultural production is expected to lead to the achievement of indicators such as HDDS, HFIAS scale, breastfeeding behaviour, and women's involvement in household decision-making during the second and third years of the project.

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

Outcome 3 of the PRLC project focuses on advocating for increased government investment in resources targeted at the most vulnerable regions and population segments in the Chittagong Hill Tracts districts. Through targeted interventions and advocacy efforts, the project aims to improve access to safety net programs, primary healthcare facilities, and budgetary allocations for marginalised and ethnic groups.

Outcome indicators 3.1: Percentage of Extremely Poor Households with Access to Safety Net Programs

This indicator measures the access of extremely poor households in the target communities to safety net programs provided by the government. It assesses the extent to which vulnerable households are able to access social assistance programs aimed at alleviating poverty and addressing basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare.

Outcome Indicators 3.2: Percentage of Extremely Poor Households with Access to Primary Level Healthcare Facilities

This indicator evaluates the accessibility of primary-level healthcare facilities for extremely poor households in the target communities. It assesses the availability and proximity of healthcare services, which is essential for addressing vulnerable populations' healthcare needs and improving overall health outcomes.

Outcome indicators 3.3: Percentage of Budgetary Allocation for Social Safety Net Services

This indicator measures the percentage of budgetary allocation specifically designated for social safety net services targeting marginalized and ethnic populations in the target areas. It assesses the government's commitment to prioritizing resources for vulnerable groups and ensuring equitable access to social protection measures.

Progress:

Throughout the reporting period, progress was made in developing and organising volunteer groups for disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts. Firstly, comprehensive guidelines were formulated to facilitate the formation of these groups, ensuring a structured and practical approach. An information toolkit is

drafted to disseminate the information to the community people about accessing to the social safety net services. Additionally, a module focusing on gender-sensitive disaster response was drafted to enhance the capacity of the volunteer groups to address diverse needs and vulnerabilities. Subsequently, 12 DRR volunteer groups were successfully formed, marking a milestone in community resilience-building initiatives. However, activities contributing to indicators, such as advocacy on accessing safety net services, were not initiated during the reporting year. Most of these activities, including training on DRR, social accountability tools (SAT), public service awareness raising, and implementation of social accountability tools at the field level, are slated to commence in the second year according to the project implementation plan.

Output 1.1.

Strengthened capacities of targeted extremely poor households/farmers in improved agricultural practices and high value crop production

The proposed output aims to enhance the production and income of farmers by implementing climate-resilient agriculture practices. It will utilize the Climate Smart- Integrated Farm Management-Farmer Field School (CS-IFM-FFS) approach, focusing on guideline preparation, community selection, group formation, and training of Master Trainers and Farmer Facilitators. These facilitators will conduct regular sessions, including livestock vaccination, deworming campaigns, and Farmer Field Days. Trained farmers will receive cash grants for implementing Income Generating Activities, thereby increasing their farm productivity and income. UNDP will provide necessary technical guidance and support throughout the implementation process. The output has the following four indicators:

- 1.1.1. Number of Integrated Farm Management- Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS) trained farmers with increased knowledge and skills of agricultural practices (disaggregated by sex, age and district)
- 1.1.2. Number of farmers trained on high-value crop production, with increased knowledge and skills in the subject area (disaggregated by sex, age and district)
- 1.1.3. Number of farmers that have received cash grants to get involved in crop production (disaggregated by sex, age, district and type of grant)
- 1.1.4. Number of farmers that have benefitted from the community-managed seed banks (disaggregated by sex, age and district)

Progress:

During the reporting period, the planned initiative to establish Field Farmers Schools (FFS) was initiated as intended, forming 132 farmers' groups. This initiative aims to enhance agricultural skills and involve participants in income-generating activities. However, the knowledge level will be measured towards the end of the following year after completing the training sessions. Additionally, 250 selected farmer facilitators will receive training in the early second year and support the targeted farmers in cultivating high-value crops such as Papaya, Dragon Fruit, Malta, and Citrus, based on recommendations gathered from beneficiary consultations. Community-managed seed banks will be established in the last quarter of the subsequent year to increase farmers' access to quality and diverse seeds to preserve local good variety seeds. Furthermore, cash support will be provided to 20,000 selected farmers after completing training sessions scheduled for the third quarter of the upcoming project year.

Output 1.2. Improved market linkages of targeted farmers

Output 1.2 aims to strengthen market linkages for targeted farmers by establishing community-operated collection points. The project will establish new market collection points and supporting existing market collection points in the CHT districts to serve as key hubs for bulking and trading agricultural produces, facilitating improved access to markets and enhancing the economic opportunities for farmers. The indicators of this output are:

- 1.2.1 Number of collection points operated (bulking and trading) through the community (on an average twice a week, with at least 30% women in leadership roles), with the intervention support (disaggregated by district)
- 1.2.2. Number of producers who have established linkages with market actors through the community operated collection points (*Aligned with GEF 2.1*)

Progress:

The project aims to renovate 50 existing market hubs and construct 15 new ones. Additionally, 8 market sheds will be equipped with necessary establishments (e.g., toilet facilities, safety measures) to create a friendly environment for women entrepreneurs. However, no activities were planned or conducted in the reporting year to achieve this output, and as such, there are no reported updates for this period. In addition, the project intended to link 10,000 producers with collection points to maximize their benefits.

Output 1.3. Increased networking and knowledge dissemination within the targeted farmers

Output 1.3 of the project aims to enhance networking and knowledge dissemination among targeted farmers through a digital platform. By leveraging digital technology, the project seeks to facilitate communication, information sharing, and collaboration among farmers, ultimately improving agricultural practices and outcomes. The only indicator of this output is:

1.3.1. Number of farmers who received support from the farmers' networking digital platform (disaggregated by sex, age and district)

Progress:

The target is to assist 10,000 farmers through this digital platform to enhance their agricultural practices and knowledge. 52 Tabs will be provided so that farmers can get access to the different online agricultural services (i.e. Krishoker Janala, Krishi Kotha etc). However, progress has yet to be reported for this output, as the related activities are scheduled for the 6th quarter of the project.

Output 1.4. Enhanced capacities of selected women farmers on entrepreneurship Development – both individual and collective

Output 1.4 of the project focuses on enhancing the capacities of selected women farmers in entrepreneurship development, both at the individual and collective levels. Through tailored training programs and support initiatives, the project aims to empower women farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to establish and manage successful businesses, thereby contributing to their economic empowerment and livelihood sustainability. The associated indicators are:

1.4.1. Number of selected women farmers trained on entrepreneurship development and having increased knowledge of the subject area (disaggregated by age, district and type of business)

1.4.2. Number of small business established by the trained farmers with the intervention support (disaggregated by district and type of business)

Progress:

Different types of training, such as vermicomposting and quality animal breed production, are scheduled for selected female participants to develop new entrepreneurial ventures. After completing FFS sessions, the selection process will be finalised, considering their interests, potential, and market demand. Subsequently, progress will be reported accordingly.

Output 1.5. Strengthened capacities of line departments on technical services

Output 1.5 of the project focuses on strengthening the capacities of line departments on technical services. By providing training and support, the project aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of department staff in implementing climate-smart Integrated Farm Management-Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS) practices. Additionally, the project aims to improve the monitoring and backstopping functions of line departments through increased field visits and support to the farmers.

1.5.1. Number of staff of line departments with increased knowledge on climate-smart IFM-FFS implementation and their role in monitoring and backstopping as a result of training (disaggregated by sex, age, department and district)

1.5.2. Number of monitoring visits (DAE, DLS, DoF) and follow-up support visits made to communities by the line department members, with the intervention support

Progress:

Progress has yet to be reported for these indicators as the activities are scheduled for the mid-second year. However, officials from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Services (DLS), and Department of Fisheries (DOF) have actively engaged in project activities. They have participated in consultation sessions, providing valuable feedback to reviewing the

FFS curriculum. Additionally, they have contributed to district and Upazila-based workshops, sharing insights with the project team.

Output 1.6. Enhanced vocational skills of youth in the CHT districts

Output 1.6 of the project focuses on enhancing the vocational skills of youth in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) districts. Through partnerships with accredited vocational education and training (VET) institutions, the project aims to provide targeted youth with opportunities to graduate in various trades. Additionally, the project aims to facilitate the placement of VET graduates with relevant enterprises and businesses for apprenticeships, thereby enhancing their employability and contributing to their socio-economic development.

1.6.1. Number of targeted youth graduated in VET from (accredited) partner institutions (disaggregated by sex, age, district and trade) (*Aligned with GERF 2.14a*)

1.6.2. Number of VET graduates placed with relevant enterprises/businesses for apprenticeships (disaggregated by sex, age, district and trade)

Progress:

The project aims to train 150 youth to enhance their vocational skills through skill development training, with the objective of placing 30 of them in successful employment upon completion. After providing the training, a district-based job fair will be organised to link them with the job providers. While beneficiary households have been identified, the selection of eligible youth from these households is set to commence at the end of the upcoming year. Currently, no progress has been reported under this indicator.

Output 2.1. Improved nutrition governance system in the CHT areas

Output 2.1 of the project focuses on improving the nutrition governance system in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) areas. By enhancing governance structures and community participation, the project aims to strengthen efforts to address nutrition-related challenges in the targeted areas, ultimately improving the nutritional well-being of the CHT population. The indicators of the output are:

2.1.1. Number of comprehensive plans developed to improve nutrition-focused governance system in the targeted areas

2.1.2. Number of community groups supported to monitor community clinics in the targeted areas (disaggregated by district)

Progress:

In pursuit of Output 2, the project was initiated to commission a formative study to identify gaps in nutrition governance and behavioural aspects of the community. Throughout the reporting period, the study's comprehensive Terms of Reference (TOR) were developed and finalized. The TOR was also published, leading to the submission of 11 proposals from various consultant firms and individuals. After completing the study, it will contribute to developing comprehensive SBCC materials and strategies to enhance the nutrition governance system in the CHT areas. Moreover, the formation of community groups for monitoring community clinics will be held next year.

Output 2.2. Increased awareness and knowledge of communities on behavioural change and primary health care services in the CHT districts

Output 2.2 of the project focuses on increasing awareness and knowledge among communities regarding behavioural changes and primary health care services in the CHT districts. The initiative aims to empower communities with the necessary information and understanding to adopt healthier lifestyles and make informed decisions about their healthcare needs. This approach is designed to contribute to improved health outcomes and well-being across the targeted communities. The lone indicator for this output is:

2.2.1. Number of households with improved knowledge on nutrition and primary health care services (disaggregated by sex of head and district)

Progress:

One of the key tasks under this output is producing SBCC materials, which will be done over the next year. During the reporting time, the formative study process had already begun. This study will be used as the basis for developing SBCC materials. However, as planned, 52 mother-child groups and 52

adolescent groups were formed in the project areas by following a guideline in the reporting year. The progress of the knowledge level, which is the expectation of the indicator, will be measured from the beginning of the third year; the survey is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of the upcoming year. Additionally, pre and post-assessments will be conducted among group participants to measure changes in knowledge levels related to health and nutrition.

Output 2.3. Improved nutritional care of children under five, and women of childbearing age

Output 2.3 of the project focuses on improving the nutritional care of children under five and women of childbearing age in the targeted areas. By providing essential healthcare services and promoting nutritious dietary practices, the project aims to enhance the nutritional well-being of these vulnerable groups, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes. The indicators for this output are as follows:

2.3.1. Number of pregnant mothers who received antenatal care at least three times and post-natal care at least one time by the intervention supported health care workers (disaggregated age and district)

2.3.2. Percentage of targeted households that are supported to adopt at least one improved nutritious recipe in their daily cooking (disaggregated by sex of head and district)

Progress:

Pregnant mothers are expected to regularly receive Antenatal Care (ANC) and Postnatal Care (PNC) services due to the awareness initiatives of the project. Group formation was completed in the reporting year. However, awareness sessions will commence next year after community facilitators (CNHP, Pusti Apa) receive training on the awareness raising session. Additionally, cooking demonstrations are slated to begin next year, promoting the adoption of improved, nutritious recipes in daily cooking. Since the project has recently concluded its inception phase and is progressing into the next year, the results for both indicators will be assessed at the end of the upcoming year.

Output 2.4. Enhanced access to homestead farming for the targeted households

Output 2.4 of the project focuses on enhancing access to homestead farming for targeted households in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) districts. By promoting homestead gardening and poultry rearing and providing necessary inputs and awareness-raising activities, the project aims to improve food security and increase household income among the targeted population. The lone indicator for this output is:

2.4.1. Number of households engaged in homestead gardening, poultry rearing following awareness raising, and provision of inputs (disaggregated by sex of head and district)

Progress:

Progress for this indicator was not reported because homestead gardening and poultry rearing activities are scheduled to commence next year, following the completion of the FFS sessions.

Output 3.1. Strengthened capacities of communities on disaster preparedness in the CHT districts

Output 3.1 aims to strengthen the capacities of communities on disaster preparedness in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) districts. By providing orientations and training sessions, the project seeks to equip community volunteers with the knowledge and expertise necessary to respond to and mitigate the impacts of disasters effectively. Additionally, the project aims to enhance local-level disaster management committees to ensure a coordinated and efficient response to disasters. The indicators for this output are as follows:

3.1.1. Number of community volunteers with increased disaster preparedness knowledge and expertise as a result of orientations and training (disaggregated by sex, age and district)

3.1.2. Number of local level disaster management committees made functional at union and Upazila level through orientations

Progress:

In the reporting year, 12 community volunteer groups were formed across disaster-prone unions to educate and raise awareness about disaster preparedness. These groups are anticipated to respond swiftly to crisis, providing critical assistance and support in pre- and post-disaster scenarios. The training sessions for the volunteer groups are scheduled to be organised in the second year of the project. Progress has yet to be reported on this indicator as the training sessions for the volunteer groups and capacity-

building support for local-level disaster management committees are scheduled to be organised in the second year.

Output 3.2. Increased access to social security services for the most vulnerable households

Output 3.2 aims to increase access to social security services for the most vulnerable households in the project area. By facilitating joint planning and implementation of actions among targeted social protection actors, the project seeks to improve the delivery and effectiveness of social security services, ultimately enhancing the well-being and resilience of vulnerable households.

3.2.1. Number of actions focussing on social security services jointly planned and implemented by the targeted social protection actors, with the intervention support

Progress:

No progress was made for this indicator because the activities associated with this indicator will start in the coming years. An information toolkit is drafted on the social safety net services to disseminate the information to the community people about the selection criteria and processes to access to the services.

B. ACTIVITIES

This section has given an overview of the progress of the reporting year's activities including inception phase activities.

1.Preparatory Activities in Inception Period

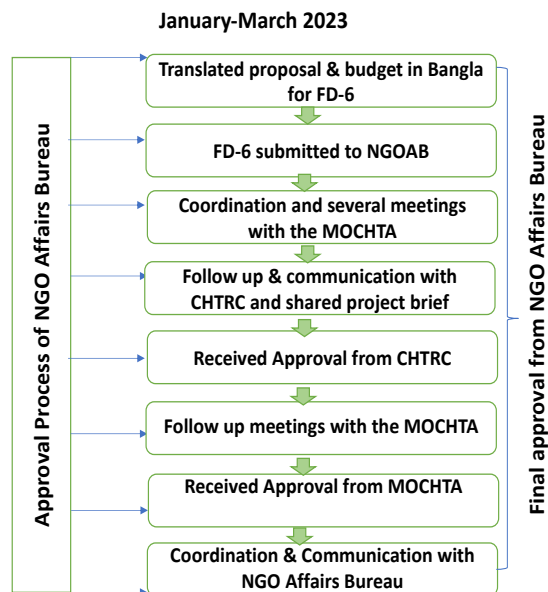
During the project's first nine months of the first year, several significant accomplishments, including NGOAB approval, assessment of partnership selection, recruitment and organising of the project team, CHT project office setup, field operation guideline development, and project launching ceremony; partners project proposal and budget finalisation; MOU signing with nine partners; project office launching at Rangamati; meetings with MoCHTA, Regional Hill District Council, and District Hill District Councils, have been achieved; and all planned as per the nine-month inception plan and targets have been completed, except PIC formation and meeting. The key highlights are as follows:

1.1.Project Approval from NGOAB: A rigorous process has been followed by submitting the project application in the prescribed FD6 format to NGOAB on January 16, 2023. Subsequently, project documents have been reviewed by the MoCHTA and the CHTRC. To ensure a thorough evaluation, MJF has presented comprehensive project details to CHTRC officials on February 22, 2023, received valuable feedback. Following this, CHTRC issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) on February 23, 2023, along with a recommendation for approval. MoCHTA then has issued the final NOC, leading to the official approval of the PRLC project by NGOAB on March 27, 2023.

Upon getting the approval, MJF requested a fund transfer from the bank for the approved budget, as per the first year's plan. Due to a rise in currency rate, the bank received extra funds worth BDT. Consequently, NGOAB requested a revision to the FD6 with the additional money, while the EURO amount remains unchanged. It is worth noting that this kind of letter had never been issued by NGOAB in its 20-year history.

Accordingly, in response to NGOAB's directive, MJF has revised the FD-6 and PRLC budgets within three months of the initial approval, received on 2nd June 2023. The revisions have improved the clarity of the training budget and expenditure statements, as well as the methods for selecting beneficiaries and the focus on livelihood-oriented training. These improvements include providing more cash and training inputs such as seeds, poultry and livestock breeding, rainwater harvesting systems/water tanks, food support, kitchen gardening, and micronutrient supplements. There has been a change in the total amount in BDT, while keeping the same amount of pre-financing in EURO, as previously approved. These changes align with the priorities of NGOAB.

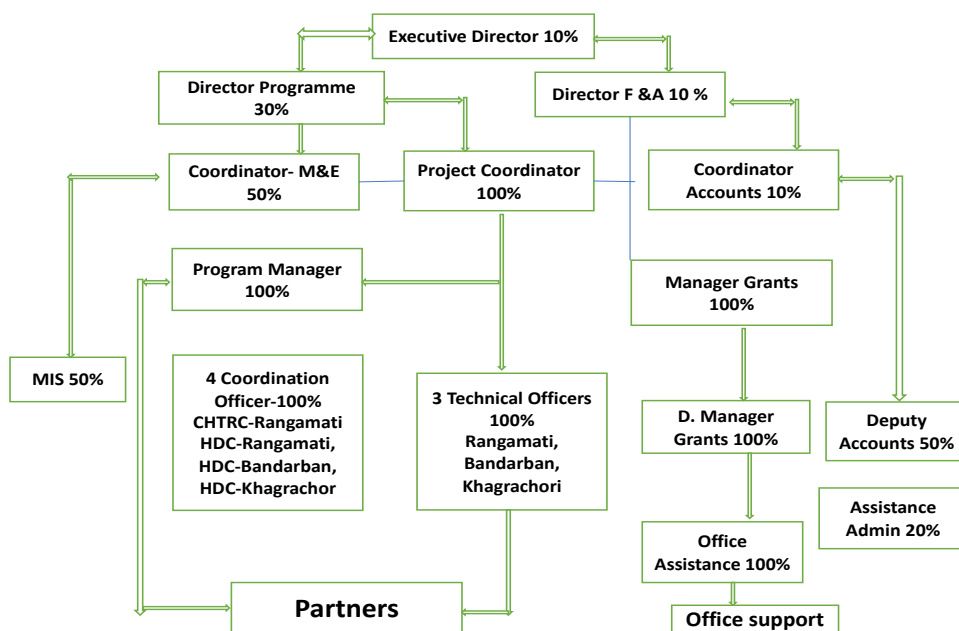
On July 5, 2023, MJF submitted the revised budget to the NGOAB, which was approved on August 10, 2023, with 40% of the funds cleared. In September, MJF submitted a request letter to NGOAB for clearance of the remaining 60% of the project budget. MJF already received approval for 40% of the remaining 60% budget.



1.2 Organizing the Project Team: A comprehensive process for organising the project team includes both partially involved and fully committed roles. The team was categorised into partially involved and fully committed roles, encompassing administrative, executive, and specialised positions. Notably, key administrative and executive roles included the Executive Director, Programme Director, Finance and Administration Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Accounts Coordinator, Deputy Accounts Manager, Assistant Admin Manager, and MIS Officer.

In addition to these roles, there were team members who were newly recruited and fully dedicated to the project, such as the Project Coordinator, Programme Manager, Grants Manager, Deputy Grants Manager, Technical Officer-Livelihoods, Technical Officer-Nutrition, and Technical Officer-Social Protection and Advocacy.

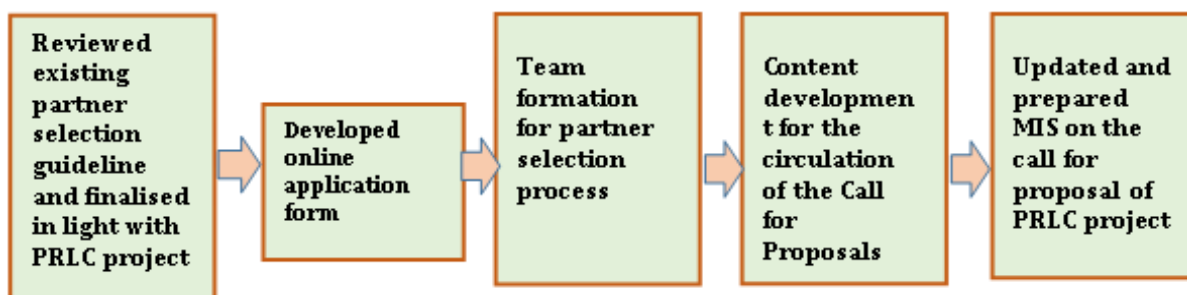
The recruitment process involved several steps, including drafting detailed job descriptions, announcing vacancies, shortlisting candidates, forming interview panels, conducting written and oral tests, making final selections, and extending employment offers. Ultimately, the successful candidates, including the Project Coordinator and three Technical Officers, officially joined the MJF Dhaka office on June 1, 2023, to contribute to the successful implementation of the project.



Governance Structure of PRLC Project Field Operation

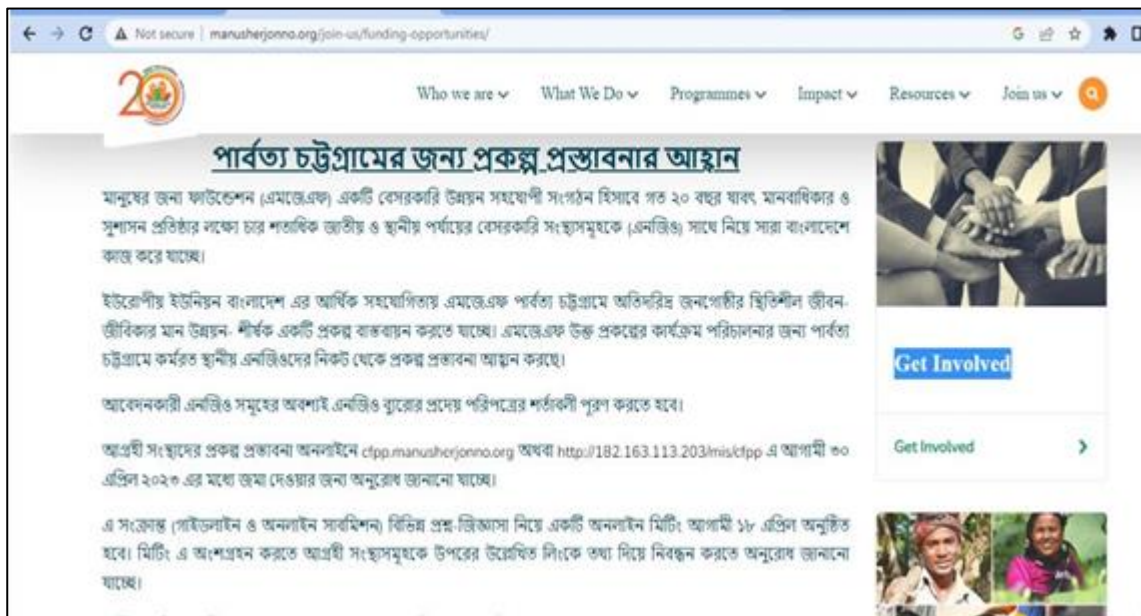
1.3 Set-up a Benchmark for Common Understanding: The inception phase had the dual objectives of familiarising new staff members with the project intricacies and fostering a shared understanding among the team to ensure effective implementation. This has been achieved through two main activities. Firstly, a comprehensive two-day staff orientation was conducted at the MJF Dhaka office on June 4th and 5th, 2023, covering various topics, including technical aspects of the project components, safeguarding policies, accounting and procurement procedures, operational guidelines, and internal policies. The orientation also introduced the MJF Management Information System (MIS). It has provided insights into the project's implementation methods, monitoring and evaluation system, stakeholder significance, communication channels, potential challenges, risks, and donor compliance requirements. Secondly, the newly hired staff members have critically reviewed the project's activities and budget, proposing new activities and adjustments to the budget breakdown and justification to align with practical considerations and the diverse geographical context of the CHT region.

1.4 Implementing Partners Selection: The partnership selection process for the project was a meticulous and thorough procedure that spanned four months and encompassed multiple phases. The primary objective was to identify and collaborate with local grassroots organisations capable of effectively implementing the project in the CHT region. The process consisted of two main phases: the preparatory phase (pre-selection process) and the evaluative phase (prime selection process).



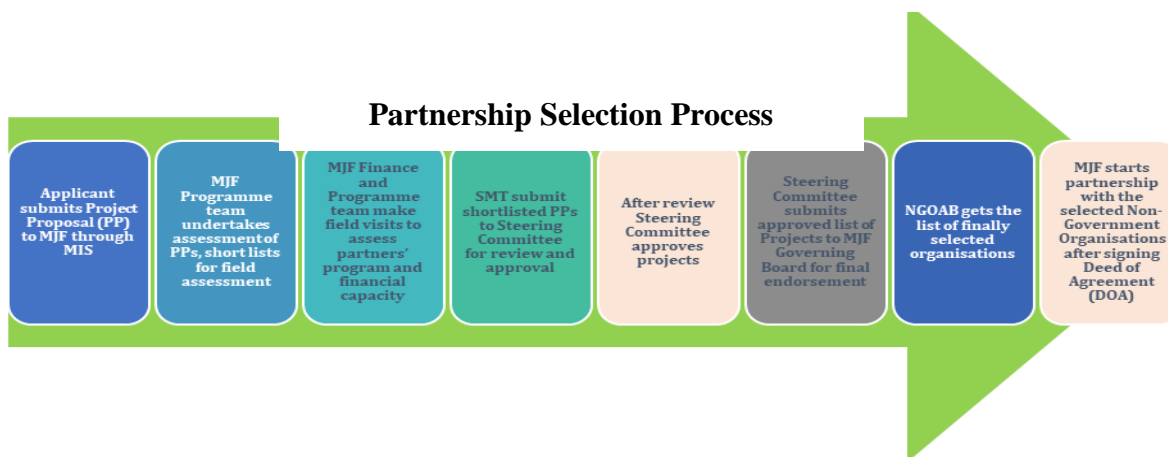
PNGOs Pre-selection Steps

During the preparatory phase, the partnership selection process was carefully prepared. This phase involved reviewing and revising partner selection guidelines to ensure alignment with the project's unique requirements, focusing on engaging local NGOs working for livelihood promotion. Clear eligibility criteria were established, emphasising experience in areas such as livelihood promotion, nutrition, disaster management, and social protection, with a preference for organisations with experience working with smallholder farmers. Two grant categories with specific experience and financial stability criteria were introduced for applicants. An online proposal template and assessment checklist were also developed for a streamlined application and evaluation process. A dedicated partners' assessment coordination committee was formed to oversee the assessment process.



Snapshot of the Call for Proposals on BdJobs.com

In the partnership selection process, organisations submitted proposals, with 13 passing the initial review for further consideration. A dedicated review team assessed these proposals using an online project proposal assessment checklist. Following a comprehensive evaluation, all 13 proposals advanced to the next stage, involving due diligence visits to the applicant organisations. An assessment checklist was developed for these visits, which were conducted by the teams. Subsequently, a partner selection meeting was held, during which programme and finance team members presented the results of the due diligence visits. This resulted in the selection of nine organisations to implement the project in eight Upazilas across the CHT region. The final list of selected partners and their respective areas of operation



In the CHT region was documented. Approval was secured from MJF's SMT and the CHTRC to proceed with the selected partners. Formal confirmation letters were issued to solidify the partnerships, paving the way for collaborative project implementation.

During the partner selection meeting, the program and finance teams meticulously presented the findings from due diligence visits, providing detailed justifications for each assessment section. The team members actively engaged in discussions, sharing their insights and opinions. Importantly, the evaluation also considered the absorptive capacity of the organisations, assessing their readiness to effectively acquire, assimilate, and utilize knowledge, resources, and skills for project implementation. This included evaluating factors such as the organizations' past experience, institutional capabilities, and demonstrated ability to adapt to new initiatives. Ultimately, based on comprehensive evaluations and taking absorptive capacity into account, nine organizations were selected to implement the PRLC Project across eight Upazilas. An exception was made in Jurachari Upazila, where both the organisations Progressive and Taungya were selected to operate in four unions. This decision was influenced by their proven track record in remote areas and their existing presence in the project areas, indicating their capacity to effectively absorb and utilize project resources for maximum impact.

The final list of selected partners and their respective areas of operation were documented. The PRLC Project would cover 26 unions across eight Upazila in three hill districts: Khagrachari, Rangamati, and Bandarban. Specifically, two organizations were selected for Khagrachari District, four for Rangamati District, and three for Bandarban District. Here are the selected partner organisations, along with their respective areas.

Table: Location wise Partner Distribution

District	Upazila	Union	Partner organization
Rangamati	Rangamati Sadar	Bandukvanga, Balukhali , Magban	ASHIKA
	Belaichhari	Belaichari, Farua, Kengrachari	Hill Flower
	Juraichhari	Jurachari, Banjogichara, Moidong, Dumdummya	Progressive Taungya
Bandarban	Bandarban Sadar	Rajvila, Tonkaboti	Tahzingdong
	Lama	Lama, Gojalia, Sarai, Faitong	GRAUS
	Thanchi	Tachi, Baipara, Remakri, Tindu	BNKS
Khagrachari	Laxmicahri	Laxmichari, Uuilatali, Barmachari	ALO
	Guimara	Guimara, Sindukchari, Hajchari	TUS

1.5 Implementing Partner Organizations' Budget Finalization: MJF collaboratively finalized budgets with selected partners during budget negotiation before signing the Deed of Agreement (DoA). This aimed to establish transparent financial planning for efficient resource use in the PRLC Project. Steps included:

- Develop budget guidelines
- Distribute project activities among implementing partners
- Conduct a virtual orientation
- Organise a two days long budget negotiation workshop

Representatives from nine organizations participated, and budgets were developed for each partner. Project proposals were also revised during the workshop to align with new targets. Partners submitted draft budgets and revised project proposals to MJF for review, and feedback was shared for adjustments. MJF's PRLC team meticulously reviewed these documents, providing feedback and necessary comments. Subsequently, final budgets and project proposals were submitted by the partner organisations after minimising gaps through bilateral discussions.

1.6 Signing of the Partnership Agreement: MJF formalised the DoA with partner organizations following NGOAB's budget approval. A formal signing ceremony occurred on September 4, 2023, in Rangamati, attended by Executive Directors, project teams, and dignitaries.

1.7 Project Office Setup in CHT: In September 2023, MJF inaugurated an office in Rangamati in the CHT region to improve project supervision and engage better with stakeholders. This marks the first time MJF has expanded its footprint to this area, and a few MJF staff members have already been relocated to the new office. Along with all nine partner representatives, Chakma Raja Devashish Roy, Nirupa Dewan (a member of the MJF Governing Board), and a representative from the CHT Regional Council attended the office inauguration ceremony.

1.8 Field Operational Guideline Development: A comprehensive Field Operational Guideline has been developed to ensure efficient field operations. It covers various aspects, including office management, procurement, IT, MIS, documentation, accounting, and partnership management. This living document is expected to be finalised in the next year by incorporating ongoing learning and practical experiences.

1.9 Project Implementation Plan and Gantt chart Development: The project team reviewed the Gantt chart and developed a detailed Action Plan for the rest of the project period to guide the implementing partner organizations in implementing the project activities efficiently.

1.10 National Project Launching Ceremony: MJF and UNDP jointly hosted a National Project Launching Ceremony for the PRLC Project on June 14, 2023, at Dhaka. It aimed to introduce the project's objectives, garner support, and generate media coverage. Distinguished guests attended in the esteemed presence of Mr. Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing, MP, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event also welcomed distinguished guests, including Mr. Mashiur Rahman, NDC, Secretary of the Ministry of CHT Affairs, Government of Bangladesh; H.E. Mr. Charles Whiteley, the EU Ambassador, and Heads of Delegation to Bangladesh; and Ms. Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, Bangladesh, all of whom participated as special guests. The opening remarks were delivered by Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of the MJF, while Nirupa Dewan, a member of the MJF governing board, presided over the proceedings. Traditional dance performances highlighted the CHT's beauty. The event featured speeches, documentaries on MJF's journey and the EU-UNDP partnership, project overviews, beneficiary testimonials, and an open discussion. Stakeholders emphasised the need for stakeholder involvement, environmental awareness, nutrition initiatives, marginalised community inclusion, data collection, traditional leader engagement, climate change considerations, and coordination mechanisms in CHT development projects. The event also concluded with a few key recommendations including facilitating active involvement of stakeholders like CHTRC, HDCs, CHTRDB, and relevant institutions, while raising awareness about adverse environmental effects of tree plantations and promoting indigenous species cultivation. It was also emphasized to integrate nutrition-sensitive initiatives at grassroots levels and prioritizing inclusion of disadvantaged communities, particularly small and remote ones facing significant challenges. It was suggested to collect community-specific data, engage traditional leaders in community development, and incorporate climate change considerations into livelihood interventions. Furthermore, fostering collaboration for market connections and establishing effective coordination mechanisms among organizations involved in projects within the region were also emphasized.

1.11 Stakeholders Collaboration:

The project significantly emphasized active engagement with diverse stakeholders. Regular meetings and interactions with key stakeholders, including CHTRC, Hill District Councils, and government departments aimed to align them with the project's objectives, seek support, and establish partnerships. The purpose of stakeholders' collaboration was to ensure effective engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, including government bodies, local councils, and traditional institutions, to facilitate the successful implementation of the project. The Chairman of CHTRC, Rangamati HDC, Bandarban HDC, and Khagrachari HDC were engaged through meetings to secure their cooperation. Additionally, project staff visited different line departments in Khagrachari, Bandarban, and Rangamati for coordination and

information sharing, with departments expressing commitment to support the project's beneficiaries and maintaining regular communication.

During these visits, the project team provided updates to the officials about the PRLC Project and discussed project activities relevant to their respective departments. Furthermore, it was decided that the project staff of PRLC would communicate and work with the departments to acquire necessary technical guidance. The project aimed to establish connections with different departments to encourage the targeted population to actively seek access to government services, such as social safety net programmes. The departments requested that the project team would maintain regular communication with government bodies and would keep the department informed with the project's updates. The department officials had committed at the meeting to provide necessary supports and ensured that the project beneficiaries would receive the required services such as social safety net programmes, including cash transfer schemes, food assistance programs, healthcare services, and other forms of social support, as well as facilitating access to other essential government services beyond social safety nets, such as education, healthcare, agricultural support, and infrastructure development.

1.12 Coordination Meeting among MJF, UNDP and EU: Nine monthly joint coordination meetings were organised with participation from MJF, UNDP, and EU representatives to ensure the effective implementation of the project during the inception period. These meetings facilitated the sharing of progress, discussed about activities, problem solutions and developed the action plan.

1.13 Implementing Partners' Staff Recruitment: Implementing partners initiated a recruitment process for essential human resources after signing the DoA. The objective was to ensure timely and efficient staffing for the PRLC Project by first year. Job descriptions developed, finalised, and shared with partners who advertised vacancies through various channels. Recruitment committees were formed in each organization to oversee the process involving CV reviews, written tests, and interviews. Some partners invited MJF to be an observer during interviews. It was expected that most of the organizations would complete their recruitment process by September 2023. However, due to budget constraints, full human resources could not be mobilised in October 2023 as planned.

1.14 Development of SOP: The project has targeted to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to establish a systematic and standardized approach for implementing the project. The purpose of the SOP is to provide detailed guidance to the project staff regarding the project's implementation procedures. Furthermore, this SOP will also serve as a valuable reference in the event of cash assistance procedures, ensuring that the target beneficiaries receive funds through an appropriate mechanism and without any falsification. A Terms of Reference (ToR) has been developed to recruit a consultant to oversee this task to execute this plan,

MJF has published an Expression of Interest (EoI) to solicit proposals from consultants for developing the SOP on the online portal bdjobs.com. However, no proposal was submitted in that time. Consequently, the TOR was circulated again among the potential individual consultants and farms. Unfortunately, no proposals were received during the stipulated period. Subsequently, the Terms of Reference (TOR) were re-circulated among potential individual consultants and firms. Despite this effort, only one proposal was received. However, the development of the SOP remains pending, prompting the initiation of another round of consultant search in the coming year to identify a suitable candidate for the task. Meanwhile, the MJF team has taken the initiative to develop an SOP for cash assistance. This draft SOP has been shared with the EU for their input and feedback. It is anticipated that the SOP will be finalized during the 5th quarter of the project.

1.15 Meeting of the Project Steering Committee: The planned meeting of the Project Steering Committee has yet to occur as scheduled because there have been a few pending matters regarding MJF representation and UNDP's support for inclusion in the committee.

1.16 Implementing Partners' Office visit: The project team visited all nine selected partners' offices at Rangamati, Bandarban, and Kahgrachari Districts. The main purpose of the visits were to discuss the

project goals and objectives in details. All nine organizations have experience in implementing projects related to resilient livelihoods and have significantly impacted poverty reduction and improved nutrition in their community. The project team was always open for collaboration and supportive in achieving the goals. Both teams were looking forward to ongoing engagement and partnerships. The MJF team explored the opportunities and strengths of the partner organizations in poverty alleviation and nutrition program activities, including building capacity by providing training on income diversification to mitigate seasonal fluctuations.

1.17 Project inception workshop: The project had planned to conduct three inception workshops in three hill districts. The objective of these workshops were to gather stakeholders and key personnel involved in the project to kickstart the project activities officially, align understanding of project goals and strategies, establish communication channels, ensure smooth coordination among all parties involved, and build relationships with local-level stakeholders, including CHTRC, HDC, and district administration. However, due to the national election, these workshops were postponed. They have now been rescheduled to take place in February.

1.18 Day observations: During the reporting period, the project commemorated two significant events: the 16 Days of Activism and the CHT Accord Day. Details are provided below:

- **CHT Accord Day:** On the 2nd of December 2023, the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord Day was commemorated with enthusiasm and unity at Rajar math, Bandarban. With a total attendance of 80 individuals, including 43 males and 37 females, the event served as a poignant reminder of the historic CHT Accord signed between the government of Bangladesh and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) on the same day in 1997. The primary objective of the event was to advocate for the peaceful resolution of the longstanding crisis in the CHT region. Additionally, the occasion aimed to highlight the contributions made by various organizations, including ALO and TUS, through initiatives like the PRLC project. The day-long program featured a vibrant array of activities such as pigeon releases symbolizing peace, rallies, cultural performances, and the distribution of paper-made caps. Notably, over fifty different organizations, spanning district administrations, educational institutions, business entities, and social clubs, actively participated in the event, showcasing a collective commitment to fostering harmony and development in the CHT region.
- **16 Days of Activism:** In the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region, three organisations, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS) in Khagrachari District, Progressive in Rangmati District, and GRAUS in Bandarban district, collaborated to observe the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The event aimed to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) through various activities.

Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha and ALO conducted a street drama show on December 6, 2023, at Perachara Union in Khagrachari to sensitize the community about gender-based violence. Esteemed guests, including Mr. Tapan Bikash Tripura the chairman of Perachar UP, Mr. Jashimuddin, and Ms. Rokeya Begum from Social welfare department, were present and emphasized the importance of community involvement in combating violence. The drama emphasized the need for community action and highlighted support resources like helplines.

Additionally, a drawing competition themed "Nature, My Friend" was organised on December 10, 2023, in the schools of Thanchi, Lama and Bandarban Sadar Upazila of Bandarban district in collaboration with BNKS, GRAUS, and Tahzingdong. This event aimed to promote artistic expression while raising awareness about violence against women and girls where students from high school attended.

Moreover, Progressive arranged a high school-level debate competition on December 7, 2023, at Jurachar Upazila and a discussion meeting arranged by Hill Flower at para level on December 7th to 8th, 2023, at Bilaichari Union. These events saw the participation of 214 individuals, who

pledged to take action against gender-based violence. The debate and discussions facilitated meaningful conversations and commitments to combat violence in the community.

Overall, the 16-day observation successfully engaged the local community, spreading crucial messages about gender-based issues. Participants gained knowledge about women's rights and gender equality, fostering a sense of empowerment and commitment to combat violence. The events facilitated dialogue and action against gender-based violence, contributing to a safer and more inclusive society in the CHT region.

1.19 Staff Capacity Development: The following trainings were organised during the reporting period:

- Financial Management Training;** MJF organised a Financial Management Training for Partner Finance & Program Personnel held at the Rangamati Parjatan Holiday Complex from November 16th to 18th, 2023, convened a total of 36 participants, including Executive Directors, Project Coordinators, Finance & Admin Officers, and central finance representatives from each organization. This diverse group, comprising both finance and non-finance personnel, engaged in a comprehensive program aimed at equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to apply financial management tools and techniques effectively within their respective organizations or projects. Facilitated by seasoned trainers with extensive expertise in financial management, the training adopted a multifaceted approach, blending practical activities, theoretical concepts, group work, and case studies. Participants were provided with training manuals and supplementary reference materials to support their learning. By the conclusion of the training, participants were expected to have a thorough understanding of financial planning, budgeting, accounting principles, financial reporting analysis, cost and cash flow management, internal control systems implementation, and compliance with EU & MJF regulations in grants management and reporting. The day wise content was as follows:

Day	Training content
Day 1	Financial Management and Internal Control, Overview of budget guideline and Budgetary control, HRM & Documentation. Procurement and Inventory Management
Day 2	Cash & Bank Management and Book keeping system, Reporting, Local payment procedures, Audit management, Monitoring and reporting and Advance management
Day3	Value for money, VAT & Tax, Overview of DoA, policy compliance and Challenges, Open discussion and AoB and Closing of the training

- Training on Gender Mainstreaming and Safeguarding:** The Training on Gender Mainstreaming and Safeguarding, held at the ALOK training centre in Dhaka from December 2-6, 2023, aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to integrate gender perspectives into project activities effectively. The objectives were clear: enhance understanding of gender mainstreaming principles, empower participants to conduct gender analysis, address gender-based discrimination and violence, and foster collaboration among project staff. With a diverse group of 30 participants, including Project Coordinators and Technical Officers of the PNGOs, and staff from the MJF project, the training provided a platform for both male and female staff to engage in meaningful discussions and learning sessions. Throughout the training, participants engaged in activities aimed at deepening their understanding of gender mainstreaming methodologies and safeguarding principles. They learned how to analyse gender dynamics within project contexts and identify strategies to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination and violence. The training also emphasized the importance of creating inclusive and safe environments for all project beneficiaries. As a result of the training, participants reported increased capacity to integrate gender perspectives into project design, implementation, and evaluation processes. They demonstrated improved understanding and application of safeguarding protocols, leading to enhanced protection of vulnerable groups. Moreover, participants became more aware and sensitive to gender-based discrimination and violence, taking proactive measures to address and prevent such incidents within their organizations. The day wise content was as follows:

Day	Training content
Day 1	Gender Definition & Challenges, Problem Tree Analysis, Power analysis, Gender Mainstreaming, Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Steps, Implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Process (Where and With Whom)
Day 2	National and International Laws and Policies, Gender Analysis, Gender Analysis Process, Gender Analysis Implementation (Project Based)
Day3	Gender Index, Considerations for Gender Index Determination, Gender Responsive Budgeting, Gender Responsive Budget Cycle, Gender Responsive Budget- Five-Step Approach, Action Planning Preparation and Implementation

- Training on Safeguarding including Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD):** During the first week of December 2023, a comprehensive three-day training program on Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) was held at the ALOK Training Centre in Dhaka. The training aimed to bolster organizational capacity regarding EDD and equip participants, including Project Coordinators, Technical Officers, and Monitoring Officers from nine PNGOs and MJF Project staff, with a deeper understanding and practical skills related to EDD processes. Conducted by an external resource person with extensive expertise in the field, the training utilized an interactive approach comprising case studies and practical exercises to facilitate effective learning. By the end of the program, participants were better equipped to implement EDD practices within their respective organizations, enhancing their ability to navigate the complexities of due diligence in their work. The day wise content were:

Day	Training content
Day 1	Difference between due diligence and enhanced due diligence, Identification of due diligence pillars, Definition and necessity of a security policy, Definitions related to security, Coverage of security policies, Main principles of security, Responsibilities regarding security, Reporting complaints method, Complaint investigation procedure, Penalty provisions, Duties of the safeguard officer, Organizational responsibilities under the security policy.
Day 2	Children, Definition of child protection, Measures to ensure children's safety, Preventive measures, Child protection guidelines, Procedure for complaint and resolution of grievances, Designated individual responsible for child protection (focal person), Organization's responsibilities. Gender and Gender Policy, Sexual Harassment, Formation of Committee in accordance with the directives of the Honourable High Court, Responsibilities of the Committee, Procedure for filing complaints, Responsibilities of organizations, Complaint procedure, Investigation procedure, Committee responsibilities, Punishment provisions
Day3	Code of Conduct, Core Principles of Conduct, Interview Process (Safeguarding Issues, Conduct, Questions on Women, Children, Diversity Issues), Reference Checks (for misconduct, sexual harassment, criminal record, involvement in terrorism), Process for informing about various policies, Sub-Topics, Risk Assessment, Discussion and Implementation Process of Safety Registers, Complaint Register Implementation Process, Safeguarding Officer Hiring Responsibilities, Complaint Box, Procedure for Recommendation Box, Gender and Gender Policy, Sexual Harassment policy, Responsibilities of the Committee, Procedure for filing complaints, Responsibilities of organizations, Whistleblowing or advance warning, Matters or misconduct that can be complained about, Complaint procedure, Investigation procedure, Committee responsibilities, Punishment provisions, Protection of whistle blowers, Organization's responsibilities (according to the checklist), Complaint procedure, Investigation procedure, Committee responsibilities, Punishment provisions,

- Staff Foundation Training:** The foundation training for PRLC project staff, held at Parjatan Motel, Rangamati from December 21 to 24, aims to unify staff understanding on project goals,

objectives, and strategies. It focuses on orienting staff across various project components such as Livelihoods, Nutrition, and Social Protection, and on the implementation modalities of project activities. With 38 total participants, the sessions range from introductions and discussions on Climate Smart IFM-FFS principles to developing a Year 2 action plan. The expected outcome is a well-oriented team, ready with a cohesive plan for project implementation, ensuring efficient monitoring, quality assurance, and impactful delivery on the project's components. The day wise content were:

Day	Training content
Day 1	Includes self-introduction of PRLC staff, inaugural speeches, discussions on expectations from participants, an overview of the PRLC project, and principles of Climate Smart IFM-FFS.
Day 2	Focuses on monitoring and quality assurance of IFM-FFS, discussion on Outcome-1, thematic discussion on nutrition issues, and implementation modalities of activities under Outcome-2.
Day 3	Continues with thematic discussion on nutrition, further discussions on implementation modalities of activities under Outcome-2, and M&E reporting and MIS.
Day 4	Dedicated to developing an action plan for Year 2 and concludes with closing remarks.

1.20 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities of the Project: Monitoring and Evaluation is an essential part of a project. MEL activities were carried out enhance project monitoring, evaluation, transparency, and accountability, ensuring the project's success and impact. During the reporting period, the following activities have been undertaken as part of M&E and MIS:

- MEL plan development:** A comprehensive plan for MEL has been developed to identify all M&E needs. This project's MEL activities (detailed plan in annex) encompass a range of essential tasks. These activities include commissioning a baseline survey, setting targets, and finalising the log frame with updated baseline data. The activities also focus on maintaining the EU OPSYS system and developing a comprehensive M&E system, including the formulation of an M&E plan. In addition, the project focuses on developing field visit formats and conducts M&E training for both the partners and MJF staff. Furthermore, it includes developing household profiles and a change tracking mechanism. It also includes developing an online reporting system for efficient data management and regular tracking of activities and results. It also added production of donor reports and organises a yearly Community of Practice (COP). Additionally, it will commission both midterm and final evaluations to assess and improve project performance. Collectively, these activities contribute to effective monitoring and evaluation, ensuring the project's success and impact.
- EU OPSYS Encoding:** In compliance with EU regulations, the log frame statement and its associated indicators have been put into their corporate system. This system has been designed to continuously track the performance of the log frame indicators throughout the specified period. This a continuous system and needs to be encoded whenever there is any change in the logframe indicators.
- Development of the Beneficiary Household Selection Process:** Beneficiary household selection is crucial for the PRLC project. A guideline has been drafted to streamline the beneficiary household selection process. This guideline outlines the process for engaging community members, traditional and community leaders, and local governance institutions in the selection process. The draft guideline was subsequently shared with the entire project team to gather their input. The programme staff provided feedback, which was incorporated into a revised guideline version. Subsequently, the revised guideline was shared with UNDP for additional feedback and comments. In September, a virtual meeting was conducted with UNDP, during which they provided feedback that was promptly integrated into the revised guidelines. To ensure effective implementation, an orientation for project staff on the household selection guideline is scheduled for the first week of October 2023, following the on boarding of all partner staff. Once the staff is trained, the beneficiary household selection process will

commence at the community level, with active participation and monitoring by MJF staff to support and oversee partner organisations during the selection process.

- **Baseline Study:** The baseline study was one of the major tasks during the inception period of the PRLC project. The following steps have been taken to initiate the study during the inception period:

A **TOR was developed** with the consultation of the project team to hire a consultant for the baseline survey. The ToR was shared with the European Union (EU) for further review and to get consent to proceed with the following steps. The EU provided their comments after the review, which were incorporated into the final Terms of Reference (ToR). The EU suggested sharing the Terms of Reference (ToR) with the BBS to obtain their views, which could enhance the study's reliability as well as to get the government's endorsement of the data and study findings. The Director-Programme of MJF initially communicated the BBS authority to start a conversation. However, the delay in the BBS process led to take the decision to conduct the study independently which was raised in the joint coordination meeting with EU, Given these concerns, the decision was made to forgo the BBS's approval of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and continue the baseline process independently. Subsequently, the focus shifted to the following steps: hiring a consultant.

To **hire a consultant**, MJF circulated an Expression of Interest (EoI) seeking a proposal for the consultancy on the online portal bdjobs.com. A total of 15 consulting firms participated in the bidding process and submitted proposals. In total, 15 consulting firms and individual consultants have submitted both technical and financial proposals, and three bidders (Circle Associates, HDRC and Unnayan Shamunnay) have been shortlisted for presentation sessions and requested to share their understanding about the task. Based on the presentations and compiled assessment, the procurement committee recommended Circle Associates for conducting the Baseline Study for the PRLC project. Circle proposed employing a highly skilled team with sector specialists, and the methodology was extensive and satisfactory compared to that of other bidders.

As a crucial step in the process, the survey and qualitative tools have been finalized in collaboration with feedback from project staff and partner organizations. Following this, the field administration has commenced subsequent to comprehensive training sessions for Data Enumerators. It is anticipated that the report will be completed by March 2024. Subsequently, all findings will be disseminated to relevant audiences through a dedicated workshop.

- **Household census and profiling:** The household census and profiling are cornerstones in constructing a robust database encompassing the targeted households and enabling periodic progress monitoring. This census validates the selected households and lays the groundwork for informed decision-making and targeted interventions.

As part of this, a comprehensive questionnaire was developed and finalized, incorporating feedback from the project and partner staff. Efforts are underway to leverage modern technological advancements by developing an ODK-based Android system. This approach will facilitate seamless data collection through Android-based mobile devices or tablets, streamlining the process and enhancing efficiency.

The data collection is anticipated to be completed by March of the second year. Subsequently, rigorous data analysis will be done to explore insights and trends. The findings will be diligently shared with the relevant stakeholders to facilitate evidence-based decision-making for impactful interventions and resource allocation

- **Development of MIS plan:** The MIS activities are essential for successfully implementing and managing the project. A detailed action plan was developed, mentioning all of the tasks for MIS. It encompasses a range of crucial tasks. The first part of the PNGO Portal is constructed, incorporating areas like Project Employee, Risk Register, Beneficiary Selection Process, and more, with a preference for MIS-based platforms. Additionally, beneficiary selection processes will be documented and stored for future reference within the MIS. An Android-based census system will be developed to conduct beneficiary surveys via mobile apps utilising ODK/KOBO platforms. Beneficiary profiles will be developed using MIS or ODK platforms, and a quarterly reporting system with a dashboard will be established for PNGOs, accompanied by training. The second part of the PNGO Portal will be developed, featuring a result tracker, report

submission, and feedback functions, all based on MIS. Lastly, orientation sessions are conducted to introduce PNGOs to the MIS system through virtual or physical means.

- **Launched PNGO Portal:** This segment includes features such as working areas for project employees, a risk register, a beneficiary selection process, group information, beneficiary information (accessible through the web), an activity tracker, an action plan, and activity deviation. The portal has been developed on a Management Information Systems (MIS) platform to enhance project management and streamline data-tracking
- **Beneficiary Selection Process Documentation:** The project achieved another milestone by developing a module documenting the Beneficiary Selection Process within the MIS. This activity will ensure that the process is effectively documented in the system for future reference, improving transparency and accountability in beneficiary selection procedures.
- **Orientation on MIS and Beneficiary Selection Process Documentation:** An orientation session was organised for the PNGOs, introducing them to the MIS and documentation process for beneficiary selection. These sessions provided an overview of the overall system and provided hands-on training in virtually, equipping PNGOs with the necessary skills to effectively utilise the MIS for project management and reporting. The orientation provided an overview of the beneficiary selection process, as well as the steps involved in documenting it, uploading the necessary files, and submitting them.

B. ACTIVITIES:

In the last three months of the first year (October- December 2023) few activities organised in the field, such as Household selection, Mother and Children Group formation, Adolescents Group formation, DRR volunteer selection, Field Facilitators selection and their orientation, equipment purchase, day observation, coordination meeting, staff meeting, district level orientation meeting as per plan. The details of these activities are described below against each Outputs.

Output 1.1: Strengthened capacities of targeted extremely poor households/farmers in improved agricultural practices and high value crop production.

MJF

1.1 Update training curriculum and modules: Training curriculum and modules for the CS-IFM- FFS sessions are continuous process as the context and demands change. However, substantial efforts were dedicated to updating the modules in the reporting period to review and update the CS- IFM-FFS curriculum based on the experiences of the UNDP-funded previous projects, including AFSP I, II, III, and SHARIP, considering the necessity of inclusion or deletion of any new or existing topics, including revision of the approach and methodology.

A Curriculum Development Team was formed consists of experienced persons from three districts, including the District FFS Officer, Program Officer Livelihoods (Horticulture-Agriculture) from UNDP, partner NGO Technical officers, former Master Trainers, and Technical officer from MJF. The Program Officer-Livelihoods (Horticulture-Agriculture) of UNDP led the team. The Team Leader and his team are responsible for managing the overall curricular development, including its quality assurance. The whole process of curriculum development was organised as follows:

- **Review of existing curriculum of different components:** The curriculum development team reviewed different curricula of AFSP, SHARIP, and other available documents. The team also consulted with Master Trainers, including the GoB officers of DAE, DLS, and DoF, to understand which sessions from the curriculum were more interesting to the facilitators and farmers, which were not, and why so. The team identified topics that farmers/facilitators/Master Trainers were interested in but could not cover due to not being included in the FFS curriculum. However, the review was not only about adding and removing topics but also about improving the curriculum of existing topics, which would be included in the PRLC project. The team emphasized that the selection of different criteria should be based on farmers' demand since farmers were the target group. Based on this, the team developed a first draft of the FFS curriculum.
- **FGD and KII:** 16 FGDs (2 FGDs in each Upazila) were conducted to explore the overall context, farmers' needs, demands, livelihood options and local agricultural practices in the project areas.

This process ensured the participation of farmers from various communities in the three hill districts. Two types of farmers were involved in the FGDs, FFS and Non FFS. Additionally, 9 KIIs were conducted with district-level officials such as DD-DAE, DFO, and DLO to know their perception and suggestions using individual questionnaires.

- **Factual Summary Report Preparation:** Each district team shared their compiled report from three districts. Later the curriculum development team drafted a compiled factual summary report based on the findings of the FGDs. This factual report was analysed manually using the Content Analysis Technique. Data was compiled according to pre-identified codes and sub-codes. MJF shared the findings of the factual report among the partners, program personnel and UNDP. Finally, these findings were incorporated into the draft IFM-FFS curriculum and finalized accordingly through validation workshops.
- **Consultative workshop:** 3 consultation workshops were organised in 3 districts where farmers (FFS and non-FFS), IFM-FFS expert, project staff, district and Upazila level line department officers of DAE, DLS, DoF, BARI, SRDI, BADC, and Horticulture Development Centre were taken part in the workshop. The focus of these workshops was to share the findings from the FGDs and KIIs, understanding previous experiences that worked and did not work, or whether any revisions/changes were required in the curriculum.
- **Developing the draft curriculum including the field-testing:** A final draft of the FFS curriculum was developed after the consultative workshops, incorporating all inputs from different levels, FGD findings, and workshop feedback. Moreover, the field-testing of this curriculum will be conducted during the MT- ToT training that will be held in the next year. Required changes of the curriculum will be adjusted and adapted in curriculum review workshops (e.g., annually) to identify and define further curriculum development requirements while implementing.

1.2 Printing of the training modules: The curriculum and modules are considered living documents, allowing for updates during implementation. However, a printed version of the modules is scheduled to be produced during the second operational year. This printed material will be provided to Farmer Facilitators upon completion of their ToT Sessions.

1.3 ToT for Master Trainers: Following consultations with UNDP, the selection process for Master Trainers commenced in late December in the last year. Individuals with previous experience working as Master Trainers under HDCs-UNDP project will be selected. These trainers will be responsible for conducting training sessions for Farmer Facilitators, focusing on the implementation process of Climate-Smart Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field Schools (CS-IFM-FFS) and introducing enhanced integrated climate-smart farming techniques, encompassing various aspects such as crops, fruits, vegetables, livestock, fisheries, as well as market linkage.

1.4 ToT for Farmer Facilitators: The Training of Trainers (ToT) is scheduled to begin in the early stages of the second year of the project. During the reporting period, all PNGOs successfully completed the selection process for Farmer Facilitators (FFs). The recruitment process for FFs is elaborated in the corresponding activity line.

1.5 Refresher ToT for Farmer Facilitators: The refresher ToT will be held in the next year of the project period after completing ToT.

Third parties (PNGO):

1.1.1. Organise meetings with Stakeholders: As part of the PRLC project's community engagement strategy, 7 project-sharing meetings with the stakeholders were organised at Upazila level out of the targeted 8. These meetings aimed to disseminate information about the PRLC project's objectives and significance, fostering active participation and collaboration among stakeholders.

Throughout the reporting period, 8 meetings were planned to mobilise stakeholders at the Upazila level. These meetings were crucial for ensuring the involvement of key actors in the project's implementation and decision-making processes. Representatives from various government departments were invited to participate, including agriculture, livestock services, fisheries, health, youth development, social services, family planning, and women's affairs. Additionally, representatives from local government

bodies such as Upazila Chairmen, Union Parishad Chairmen/Members, traditional leaders and notable individuals from the community were included.

While efforts were made to organise meetings in all targeted Upazilas, it was noted that one meeting in Lama Upazila could not be organised as planned. This was due to unforeseen circumstances, specifically transfer of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) during the national election that disrupted the scheduling process. Despite this setback, 7 meetings were successfully conducted, engaging stakeholders effectively.

These meetings gave stakeholders an understanding of the project's goals and objectives, strategy and highlighted the project's significance, and encouraged collaborative work with project stakeholders. In the long term, the clear understanding and sense of ownership developed among stakeholders will contribute to achieving the project goal of stakeholder ownership and their active involvement in benefiting or monitoring the project, ultimately leading to increased production and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

1.1.2. District level workshops: During the reporting period, two district-level workshops were organised in Rangamati and Bandarban district to form 173 Farmer Field School (FFS) clusters in two hill districts. Another workshop in Khagrachari District will be held in Y-2 according to the plan. These workshops aimed to identify 675 communities across three districts and designate 225 Farmer Field School (FFS) clusters to ensure the diversity and replication of project planning and approaches. Representatives from various government and non-government departments were invited, including the Department of Agricultural Extension, Department of Livestock Services, Department of Fisheries, Youth Development Department, Headmen/Karbaries, Social Welfare, Family Planning, Department of Women's Affairs, Upazila Chairmen, Union Parishad Chairmen/Members, Notable Individuals and Farmers.

Participants gained an understanding of the project's goals and significance, fostering a sense of collaboration and ownership among stakeholders. This engagement is crucial for the project's long-term success-, as it ensures active participation and commitment from all relevant stakeholders in implementing sustainable farming practices and improving livelihoods in the CHT areas. During the workshops, it was decided that three IFM-FFSs would be defined and integrated under each cluster that are validated by the participants. A Farmer facilitator will serve as cluster lead, responsible for managing and facilitating three FFSs.

1.1.3. Selection of Beneficiary Household: Beneficiary household selection is crucial for the PRLC project. A guideline was developed to streamline the beneficiary HH selection process, involving community input and feedback from project staff and UNDP. An orientation for project staff on the household selection guideline was conducted in October 2023 to ensure effective process implementation. As per the guidelines and orientation, all of the partner NGOs conducted the following process in 675 villages to select 20,000 eligible HH for the project:

- **Village and Para Selection:** The initiative commenced with identifying villages and paras based on pre-determined indicators, including poverty concentration and vulnerability factors of the particular areas, in close collaboration with the Union Parishad. A total of 675 villages were selected in the project areas after consultation with union parishad, local karbari and traditional leaders.
- **Community Engagement and Social Mapping:** The team engaged deeply with the community to collect essential data. We identified potential beneficiaries through social mapping and wealth ranking exercises, gaining insights into the community's dynamics, resources, and needs.
- **Identification of Target Households:** Leveraging the wealth ranking and social mapping data, the eligible households were identified based on community-derived classification, including ultra-poor, poor, middle class and wealthy.
- **Verification of Collected Data:** The information garnered from the social mapping and wealth ranking was meticulously verified, engaging local government and traditional authorities. This step ensured the precision of the identified households.
- **Compilation of Initially Selected Households:** A preliminary list of households was compiled and deemed eligible for the project's benefits following the verification process.

Validation of Data: A subset of the gathered data underwent a validation process, including sample HH visits, hanging the list in the para premises and consultation with local government representatives to confirm the integrity of the selection process and the veracity of the household data. During household visits, we also verified whether the beneficiaries were targeted by other NGOs to avoid overlapping. As part of the process, the preliminary list with the acknowledgement by the Karbari and Union Parishad and the copy of the final list will be shared with the respective HDC, which is scheduled for the first month of next year.

The MJF project team, including Project Coordinator, Technical Officers, Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinators, and Finance Managers, conducted field visits to ensure quality and address challenges in the selection process.

Throughout the process, the PNGOs encountered several challenges. One significant hurdle was the classification of vulnerable households, as community members strongly desired to be categorized into poor or extremely poor, complicating the prioritization process. Accessibility issues further complicated efforts, with some villages being difficult to reach due to poor communication infrastructure, making it challenging to conduct necessary meetings. Misinformation presented another obstacle, as instances of inaccurate disability information being provided were noted, which required careful verification. Additionally, the timing of the Jhum cultivation season meant that many potential participants were unavailable to attend meetings, preferring to focus on their agricultural activities.

1.1.4. Selection and recruitment of Farmer Facilitators: It is essential to recruit Farmer's Facilitators (FFs) prior to starting ToT for them. Throughout the reporting period, all PNGOs undertook the recruitment of FFs through an advertising and interviewing process. Most of these FFs were individuals with prior experience working as FFs under HDCs/UNDP projects. A total of 225 Farmer Facilitators were recruited across three hill districts by the PNGOs to conduct Season-long Learning (SLL) sessions for targeted groups/farmers, disseminating improved production techniques to extreme or poor farmers and establishing sustainable integrated farming practices. The recruitment distribution across districts is as follows:

District	Number of FFs recruited
Rangamati	88
Bandarban	85
Khagrachari	52

During the selection process the representative from respective line departments and local government are took part as selection board members. These farmer facilitators are expected to leverage their technical expertise to support beneficiaries in enhancing their agricultural practices and facilitate the adoption of new technologies to improve agricultural production.

1.1.5. Training needs assessment of farmers: In the second year of the project operations, PNGOs will conduct 78 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) to enhance farmers' capacity in various livelihood options.

1.1.6. Allowance/honorarium for 225 Farmer Facilitators: There has been no progress on this activity. After receiving the first spell of ToT training, the partners will finally select and recruit the Farmer Facilitators. The honorarium will be paid in the next year when the recruitment process is completed.

1.1.7. Individual support to CS-IFM-FFS participating households: As per the project design, all 3375 extremely poor beneficiary households will receive funding to implement their planned Income income-generating activities (IGAs). This funding will be distributed after the completion of the Farmer Field School (FFS) sessions and the submission and approval of the IGA plan by the project team.

1.1.8. HH profiling of CS-IFMF-FS members: The MJF's MIS team has developed an Android-based system to facilitate household (HH) profiling in consultation with UNDP. The implementation is expected to commence as scheduled in the upcoming year.

1.1.9. Provide IFM-FFS learning materials: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.10. Provide post IFM-FF learning support to the farmers: As per the project design, a certain amount of cash assistant will be provided to the farmers to apply their knowledge gained from FFS

sessions during the second and third years of the intervention. However, households must submit their Income Generating Activity (IGA) plans to access these funds and complete the FFS sessions.

1.1.11. Organise Farmers Field Days (FFDs): This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.12. Organise livestock vaccination/deworming campaign: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.13. Support to Field Trainer (Field Visit cost of Master Trainer): the support will be provided after commencing their works.

1.1.14. Organise training for selected participants on high value crop: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.15. Exchange /learning visit to advanced-level farmers: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.16. Skill development training on honeybee keeping: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.17. Skill development training on mushroom: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.18. Training for potential youth on nursery: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.19. Training for potential youth on vaccination: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

1.1.20. Community managed seed bank: Community managed seed bank will be established to increase access to the quality and diverse seeds by the farmers and youth. This initiative aims to safeguard local seed varieties that are at risk of extinction. The activity is scheduled for implementation in the upcoming year.

Output 1.2. Improved market linkages of targeted farmers

1.2.1 Assessment of current market place at district level and support for improvement

1.2.2 Support community-managed market collection points

1.2.3 Refreshers training/business Management Training for collection points operators and committee members

1.2.4 Support for improvement of the market place

1.2.5 Linkage building between buyers, market actors and market collection point operators

This output plays a vital role in the project by assisting farmers in the CHT region through the establishment of new market collection points and enhancing existing ones to maximize their effectiveness. The main activities of this output revolve around assessing current market collection points, including findings from three district-level markets to identify gaps and provide support to address them. No progress has been reported for these activities as they are scheduled to commence during years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

Output 1.3 Increased networking and knowledge dissemination within the targeted farmers

1.3.1 Organise bi-monthly FF coordination meetings at Upazila Level

1.3.2 Training on Digital Agricultural Solutions

1.3.3 Provide tab to market collection points, FF, etc.

1.3.4 Update database of farmers' facilitators

The above planned activities aim to build and strengthen Farmer Facilitators (FFs), many of whom have been developed through UNDP's previous projects since 2009 in the CHT region. The PRLC project aims to leverage these FFs and their network of knowledge platforms to support CHT farmers by providing access to digital agricultural solutions and market information. This network will be developed during the project's second year, and progress will be reported accordingly.

Output 1.4 Enhanced capacities of selected women farmers on entrepreneurship Development – both individual and collective

1.4.1 Training for selected participants on Entrepreneurship development

1.4.2 Organise Training for vermicomposting producers

1.4.3 Support to advance level Farmers to develop herself as quality breed supply entrepreneurs

1.4.4 Formation of Farmers' cooperative

The activities outlined above are designed to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of women participants in the project, both individually and collectively. Various trainings are scheduled to introduce new entrepreneurial opportunities, such as vermicomposting production and quality animal breed production. These trainings are set to begin in the upcoming year, so no progress has been reported yet.

Output 1.5. Strengthened capacities of line departments on technical services

1.5.1 Training for GoB line department officers on CS-IFM-FFS

1.5.2 Organise joint monitoring visit by GoB officers

1.5.3 Support to organise Union Development Coordination Committee meetings

1.5.4 Organise monitoring visit by 26 union development coordination committees and 8 Upazila Development Coordination Committees, UNOs

1.5.5 Organise Exchange visit on IFM- FFS learning

The planned activities mentioned above are intended to enhance the capacity of Government of Bangladesh (GoB) line department officials. These officials will play a crucial role in providing technical support to farmers engaged in CS-IFMFFS and monitoring their activities. However, their training and involvement are scheduled for the next year of the intervention, so no progress has been reported yet.

Output 1.6 Enhanced vocational skills of youth in the CHT districts

1.6.1 Youth skill need assessment

1.6.2 Skill development training for the selected youths on potential trades

1.6.3 Job fair to link trained youths with private sectors/or job providers

1.6.4 Community mobiliser for NGOs

The activities are aimed at improving the vocational skills of youth to involve them in Income Generating Activities (IGA). However, as all planned activities are scheduled for the second and third years of the intervention, no progress has been reported to date.

Output 2.1 Improved nutrition governance system in the CHT areas

MJF:

2.1.1 Identification of gaps in nutrition system through formative study: During the reporting period, a formative study was initiated to assess Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) and Nutrition Governance in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). This study aims to inform the development of an SBCC strategy and intervention design. The Terms of Reference (TOR) were developed, finalized, and shared with relevant personnel as part of the process. Subsequently, the TOR was advertised on Bbjobs.com to hire a consultant through a competitive process. The procurement team received 11 technical and financial proposals. Among them, six proposals were initially selected and forwarded to the technical committee, constituted by the procurement team of MJF, for review and scoring. The technical committee members provided scores during the reporting period, and the remaining steps of the procurement process are expected to be completed in the following year, including the selection of a consultant for this study.

2.2.2 Training and Refreshers for Paramedics:

During the reporting period, a module was developed to train paramedics and CNHPs to effectively disseminate messages among mothers and adolescent groups. The primary objective of these sessions is to increase beneficiaries' awareness and knowledge of nutrition. Before creating the module, MJF sought to understand its objectives and target audience. Given limited experience in nutrition-related work, MJF engaged with relevant organizations and gathered materials from local resources such as the LEAN project, Pathfinder, and Christian Hospital Chandraghona, along with reviewing government modules available online. Upon reviewing these documents, MJF found government modules to be highly informative and utilized some of their content. Subsequently, a draft content was shared with the MJF team for feedback, and development commenced based on contextual considerations. A nutrition expert also reviewed the module content. Throughout development, efforts were made to use simple language, incorporate local food examples, provide concise messaging, and avoid context-biased information. The module covers the following topics:

- Food and Nutrition

- Malnutrition
- Health and Nutrition for Pregnant and Lactating Mother
- Infant and Young Child Feeding
- Complementary feeding for child
- Food Diversity
- How to prepare quality food
- Adolescent Health and Nutrition
- Early Marriage and Gender Biased Violence

The outcome of implementing this module could include increased awareness and understanding of nutrition-related topics among Ma and Adolescent groups. As a result, participants may adopt healthier dietary practices, leading to improved nutritional status, reduced rates of malnutrition, and enhanced overall health outcomes for both mothers and children in the community.

Third parties:

2.1.1 Developing a comprehensive plan to address the need and gap: A comprehensive plan will be developed to address the need and gap and contribute to improve the nutrition governance at the local level. The plan will be developed through consultation with the local level actors and PNGO which is scheduled in the next year.

2.1.2 Conduct household census: The census questionnaire has been developed and already shared and finalised. MJF MIS team is now developing the system to collect data by ODK platform in android enabling tab or mobile. The data collection is scheduled in the first quarter of the next year.

2.1.3 Meeting with local government line departments to meet the gap and systematic process:

2.1.4 Meeting with community clinic management group: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

2.1.5 Coordination meeting with nutrition committees (Union): This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

2.1.6 Coordination Meeting with Nutrition Committee at Upazila: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

2.1.7 Coordination Meeting with Nutrition Committee at District: This activity is scheduled for years 2 and 3 of the intervention.

2.1.8 Recruitment of Paramedic: Nine paramedics have been recruited by the PNGOs through a competitive recruitment process. Their role will be to ensure better health services for the beneficiaries and provide regular follow-up and advice to the community and selected households. Additionally, they will supervise the tasks of Community Nutrition Health Promoters (CNHPs) on a regular basis.

2.1.9 Recruitment of CNHP (Health Worker): 26 CNHPs have been recruited by the PNGOs through a competitive recruitment process during the reporting year. Each CNHP will be assigned to a union to ensure door-to-door health services for the beneficiaries, providing regular follow-up and monitoring child health in the targeted households. Additionally, CNHPs will facilitate sessions with mothers, children, and adolescents in the community.

2.1.10 Training for CNHP: The MJF team has already developed a training module, as detailed in section 2.2.2. The training for CNHPs is scheduled for February 2024.

2.1.11 Refresher training for CNHP: The training is scheduled to be held in 2025 as per the plan.

Output 2.2 Increased awareness and knowledge of communities on nutrition and primary health care services in the CHT districts

MJF:

2.2.1 Developing SBCC materials: During the reporting year, a formative study was initiated to develop a SBCC strategy aimed at creating informed SBCC materials on Malnutrition, Undernutrition, and available services in the locality, particularly focusing on the socio-cultural context of CHT, including social taboos and rituals. It is anticipated that the study will be completed by April of the year 2024, after which the materials will be developed accordingly.

2.2.4 National Seminar on Implementation of National food and nutrition Security policy plan of

Action: The training is scheduled to be held in 2025 as per the plan.

2.2.5 National Nutrition Week: The week is scheduled to be held in 2024 and 2025 as per the plan.

2.2.6 Breast Feeding Week: This event is scheduled to be held in 2024 and 2025 as per the plan.

2.2.7 Vitamin A & Immunization Week: The week is scheduled to be held in 2024 and 2025 as per the plan.

2.2.8 International Food Day: The week is scheduled to be held in 2024 and 2025 as per the plan.

Third parties

2.2.1 Formation of mother and children (Maa ebong sishu) groups: Throughout this reporting period, partners completed forming 52 Maa and Sishu (Mother and Child) groups within their respective operational areas. Specifically, in Khagrachori, 12 Maa and Sishu Groups were formed, while in Rangamati and Bandarban, 20 Maa and Sishu groups were established. Each group consists of 20 participants. The primary objective behind forming these groups is to disseminate accurate information regarding nutrition through various sessions, thereby enhancing the awareness and knowledge of mothers and children regarding nutrition and primary healthcare, ultimately promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Prior to selecting the groups, MJF developed a comprehensive guideline for forming Maa and Sishu Groups, which included specific criteria for selecting group members. To ensure clarity and efficacy, an online meeting was conducted with partner organizations, during which the guidelines were shared for feedback. After receiving input from partners, MJF incorporated the suggestions and finalized the document. Subsequently, partners commenced the process of forming the groups.

During the group formation meetings, partners explained the objectives of group formation. They delineated the types of information participants would gain through regular sessions, emphasizing how this knowledge would contribute to their overall well-being. Following this explanation, facilitators invited interested participants to join the groups. From the pool of interested individuals, partners finalized the composition of the groups.

2.2.2 Selection of nutrition apa/lady (nutrition volunteers): In the reporting year, 52 Pusti Apa (Nutrition volunteers) have been recruited from the community to support project activities by conducting SBCC sessions and awareness sessions for various groups. They will disseminate relevant messages on nutrition and the health services available in the project area. Moreover, they will conduct regular visit to the community for growth monitoring and SAM- MAM identification.

2.2.3 Training/ for nutrition Apa (Nutrition volunteers): The training is scheduled in the next year to build their knowledge and capacity to facilitate the session and delivering the message among the groups and community. Regarding this, a training module is already developed by MJF, which will be shared with PNGOs.

2.2.4 Refresher training for nutrition APA/Lady (Nutrition volunteers): No progress is not mentioned here as the refresher is scheduled in the third year of the project.

2.2.5 Formation of adolescent's club with boys and girls: The nine PNGOs working under the PRLC project formed targeted adolescent clubs, comprising both boys and girls, in the project areas during the reporting period. Specifically, in Khagrachori, 12 adolescent groups were formed, while in Rangamati and Bandarban, 20 adolescent groups were formed. Each group consists of 20 participants. The primary aim behind establishing these adolescent clubs is to provide correct information related to nutrition through various sessions, thereby enhancing awareness and knowledge among adolescents regarding nutrition and primary healthcare, ultimately fostering a healthier lifestyle.

A comprehensive guideline was developed and shared with all partners to ensure the effective formation of adolescent groups. The participation ratio of girls to boys was fixed at 70% and 30%, respectively, to ensure gender equity and inclusivity.

During the group formation process, facilitators shared the objectives, various activities, and benefits of participating in the sessions. Upon understanding the objectives and potential benefits of the sessions, most participants expressed keen interest and eagerly sought to join the groups.

2.2.6 Awareness raising session with Maa ebong Sishu forum and adolescents club: Group formation has been completed. Starting from the second year of the intervention, a series of sessions will be conducted to raise awareness on various health and nutrition issues and to improve behaviour in

these aspects. These sessions will be organised by the PNGOs on a monthly basis and will be regularly monitored by PNGO staff using a checklist.

2.2.7 Mass awareness on nutrition and primary health care service: Community-level mass awareness activities, such as street dramas and folk songs, are scheduled for the upcoming year to disseminate messages aimed at improving health and nutrition-seeking behaviour among the common people of the project.

Output 2.3 Improved nutritional care of children under five, and women of childbearing age

2.3.1. Demonstration on preparing quality food and selection of nutritious food: Cooking demonstrations will be conducted in the project areas starting next year, and reports on these activities will be provided thereafter.

2.3.2 Kit box for Paramedic & CNHP: In the previous year, MJF took the initiative to procure kit boxes for CNHPs and paramedics to ensure equipment quality. For the paramedics' kit boxes, MJF communicated with a government health service provider (UNHFPO) to create a list of items. After receiving feedback from UNHFPO, MJF shared the list with partners and incorporated their suggestions. Once the items were finalized, MJF initiated the procurement process. Following proper procedures, the procurement committee selected a vendor to purchase the items. The kit boxes contain essential tools such as thermometers, blood pressure machines, stethoscopes, height measuring scales, weight machines, MUAC tapes, oxygen saturation machines, gloves, microspores, cotton rolls, scissors, etc. All items have been purchased and handed over to the partners from the nine organizations for use by paramedics during their visits, providing primary healthcare services to the community.

2.3.3 Home visit for growth monitoring of the children- Paramedic and CNHP: Conducting growth-monitoring visits is a crucial aspect of the PRLC project's operations. These visits, conducted by Nutrition Apas, involve monitoring the growth and vaccination status of children under 5-year old, as well as pregnant women. The Nutrition Apas are tasked with identifying severely acute malnourished (SAM) and moderately acute malnourished (MAM) children through regular home visits in their designated areas. During the reporting period, the project focused on equipping paramedics and community health workers with essential equipment to enhance the effectiveness of this activity. These essential items, including weight machines, height machines, and MUAC tapes, are indispensable for ensuring precise and thorough growth monitoring procedures. Prior to the procurement process, MJF compiled a list of necessary items for growth monitoring, which was shared with partners for review. Subsequently, the central procurement committee of MJF selected a vendor to procure these items. Initially, it was planned for paramedics and CNHPs to conduct the house visits and identify SAM and MAM children. However, considering the geographical challenges and area coverage, it was decided that Nutrition Apas would carry out these visits and oversee the children's growth monitoring process.

2.3.4 Linkage to community clinic/government agency: This activity is planned to take place during the second and third years of the project interventions.

2.3.5 Financial support for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) children: This activity is planned to take place during the second and third years of the project interventions.

2.3.6 Food package for MAM children: This activity is planned to take place during the second and third years of the project interventions.

2.3.7 Counselling for pregnant and lactating mother: This activity is planned to take place during the second and third years of the project interventions.

Output 2.4 Enhanced access to homestead farming for the targeted households

2.4.1 Training on homestead gardening, livestock-rearing, and small pond aquaculture

2.4.2 Input support for homestead gardening

2.4.3 Organise Nutrition fair

2.4.4 Satellite clinic/ health camp in the remote area

2.4.5 Linkage with the local government/ DPHE to establish WASH facilities in the community

No progress has been reported on the above activities, as they are not planned for the first year of the project.

Output 3.1 Strengthened capacities of communities on disaster preparedness and resilience in the CHT districts

3.1.1. Developing community volunteer groups on disaster preparedness and management: During the reporting period, 12 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Volunteer Groups formed in 12 disaster-prone areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) followed a systematic process outlined in a developed guideline.

The primary objective of forming these volunteer groups was to enhance disaster preparedness and management, ultimately reducing the loss of life and livelihoods during disasters and providing support to the Upazila Disaster Management Committees (UDMC) during emergency responses. The selection process involved community meetings convened with key community leaders such as Headmen, Karbaris, teachers, and members, alongside local residents. Young individuals aged 18-30 years with a volunteer mindset and experience were specifically invited to these meetings. Community leaders played a crucial role in identifying and selecting volunteers based on predetermined criteria. Discussions during these meetings elucidated the roles and responsibilities of the volunteers. Following thorough deliberation and obtaining consent from both the volunteers and the community, 15 volunteers were selected for each group, adhering to the guideline's requirement of including 50% female volunteers to ensure gender balance.

This meticulous process ensured the formation of well-rounded and inclusive DRR Volunteer Groups ready to contribute to disaster risk reduction efforts in their respective communities.

The MJF project team, as part of project implementation, **developed a comprehensive Volunteer Group Formation Guideline**, despite being a non-budgetary activity. This guideline was developed with the aim of offering technical assistance to ensure the quality and effectiveness of volunteer group formation, emphasizing community participation and consent.

It serves to provide a clear understanding of the process involved in forming disaster volunteer groups. The guideline outlines the background and intricacies of group formation processes in 12 disaster-prone areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), specifying the areas targeted for group formation and the qualifications required for volunteers. Additionally, it delineates the age criteria for volunteers, the total number of group members, and the percentage of female volunteers to be included.

Furthermore, the guideline elucidates the responsibilities entrusted to disaster volunteers. Primarily intended for PNGO staff, this guideline equips them with the necessary framework to facilitate the formation of effective and community-driven volunteer groups within their respective areas of operation.

3.1.2 Training for volunteer groups on gender sensitive disaster response

The training is scheduled in the 2nd year of the intervention. However, a two-day training module for a gender-sensitive disaster response for volunteer groups was developed by MJF team in the reporting year. The primary objective of this module is to provide orientation and enhance knowledge regarding gender and gender-sensitive disaster response among volunteer group members. The aim is to empower them to effectively respond during disasters, acting as a supportive force for the disaster-vulnerable populations in remote areas. This guideline is tailored specifically for members of the disaster volunteer groups.

Day	Training content
Day 1	Human identity and gender. Causes of unequal relationship between men and women. Social work/responsibility, Basic understanding/concept of disasters. (Terminology), Disaster in Chittagong Hill Tracts, Evaluating women's discrimination and women's work in disasters, Adaptation and survival. The role of women in disaster survival. Early warning programs and emergency response. Disaster response and women, warning signals and early warning. Dissemination of warning at institutional, social, and household levels. Components of a women-friendly early warning system. Role of UDMC and disaster volunteers in warning campaign.
Day 2	Gender-sensitive disaster migration and temporary shelter system, Evacuation, search, and rescue at institutional, social, and family levels. Risk of women in shelters. Relocation considerations in hill areas. Responsibilities of Union disaster management committee and disaster volunteers of relocation. Relief and Treatment, Emergency relief and treatment. Critical gender considerations in disaster relief distribution. Life search and rescue management considerations and emergency medical care (practical session), Task of UDMC in search and rescue, Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation, Type of

	assistance program, importance, and community involvement. Sources of assistance and rehabilitation activities. UDMC'S role in humanitarian relief and rehabilitation activities.
--	---

3.1.3 Equipment distribution to the volunteers: This activity is scheduled for the next year.

3.1.4 Quarterly meeting for volunteers: The meeting will be started from the next year of the interventions.

3.1.5 Organise yearly meeting with Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC): The UDMC meeting is scheduled to be held with support of the PRLC project from the next year.

3.1.6 Installing rainwater-harvesting system: The project plans to install rainwater-harvesting systems to help communities cope with water scarcity during the dry season. This initiative is scheduled for implementation in the second and third year of the project.

3.1.7 Orientation on rainwater harvesting system management: Orientation will be held for the management committee in the second and third years of the project after completing the establishment.

Output 3.2-Increased access to social security services for the most vulnerable households.

Output 3.2 focuses on improving access to social security services for vulnerable households in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region of Bangladesh. The initiative involves recruiting Program Coordination Officers to coordinate district-level activities with government representatives and traditional leaders. The PNGOs will facilitate dialogues, coordination meetings, and advocacy sessions to ensure access to social safety net programs. Training sessions will empower traditional and farmer leaders, while data gathering and public hearings will allow communities to voice concerns and hold service providers accountable.

MJF:

6.2.3.1. Program Coordination Officer-HDC & CRTRC: The project has planned to recruit four Coordination Officer in CHTRC and 3 HDCs for maintaining smooth collaboration and coordination with these institutions as well as the line department. Recruited is done by CHT and one staff member is working from November 2023 to work closely with the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC). This strategic position was recruited to support the project in organizing workshops, seminars, dialogues, and training sessions smoothly, engaging government stakeholders effectively. Another three Coordination Officers will be recruited by the HDCs in the next year.

Third parties:

3.2.1 District level dialogue with government institutes to avail government Social safety net program and other services CHTDC

3.2.2 District level coordination meeting with government institute, CHTRC and other stakeholders

3.2.3 District level sensitisation workshop with the traditional leader networks on access to different government services CHTDC

3.2.4 Meeting with Upazila based traditional leaders

3.2.5 Upazila based meeting with government services provider by Community/farmer leaders on access to government services

3.2.6 Training on gender, justice, social inclusion and accountability tools for traditional leaders

3.2.7 Local level advocacy meeting/ dialogue with Union parishad on SSNP

3.2.8 Information on government existing social safety net services sharing in regular group sessions/farmer class

3.2.9 Training /introduce on Social Accountability Tools (SAT) for government officer

3.2.10 Training /introduce on Social Accountability Tools (SAT)/ community level residential

3.2.11 Farmer leader capacity building training on SAT

3.2.12 Information gathering/input tracking on specific services

3.2.13 Community consultation on information validation

3.2.14 Meeting with service providers for sharing information

3.2.15 Public hearing among community and service providers

3.2.16 Report Publication on public Hearing

3.2.17 Installation of joint action plan/community action plan

3.2.18 National Consultation on Social Safety net Program (NSSP)

3.2.19 Promotional materials

3.2.20 Preparation of list of eligible persons/HHs for govt. SSNP at UP level

The activities outlined above, such as organizing social accountability tools training, advocacy meetings,

dialogues, and implementing SAT tools, were planned for years two and three of the intervention. Hence, no progress has been reported in this regard.

The project experienced the following learning and challenges during the inception period:

C. CHALLENGES & LEARNING:

Challenges:

- **MJF office set up in the project location:** Establishing the project office in the project location was a novel undertaking for MJF, and it encountered challenges in identifying a suitable office that met the minimum facility requirements and provided a conducive environment. Eventually, the office was relocated from its initial rented location due to disruptive noise in the surrounding environment.
- **Multifaceted Governance Systems:** The presence of various governance systems⁴ in the CHT areas poses challenges in terms of effectively collaborating with the diverse range of systems and stakeholders involved. Maintaining relationships with multiple systems is time-consuming and delays the project implementation process.
- **Approval from NGOAB:** Obtaining approval from NGOAB involved a time-consuming process. The project faced delays, as it required a "No Objection Certificate" (NoC) from CHTRC and MoCHTA in the CHT region before obtaining final approval from NGOAB. The protracted approval process resulted in a significant loss of project time.
- **NGOAB approval for exchange gain:** Due to exchange rate fluctuations, the project experienced an exchange gain, which required MJF to revise the project budget. This revision had to go through an approval process with NGOAB, causing further delays. These delays impacted the project's action plan, leading to a delay in signing agreements with partner organisations.
- **Approval of 40% of the Y-1 budget:** While MJF initially applied for 100% approval of the Year 1 (Y-1) budget, NGOAB approved only 40%. This forced MJF to adapt and create a customised plan for partner NGOs based on the reduced budget. The limitations imposed by the budget approval had consequences for implementing target activities within the established timeframes and potentially increased staff workloads in subsequent years.

Learning:

- **Effective Coordination and Collaboration:** The establishment of the project office underscored the importance of enhancing coordination and collaboration with stakeholders, ultimately resulting in the smoother implementation of activities.
- **Relationship Building:** Recognising the diverse governance systems in the CHT region, it became evident that building and nurturing relationships with these systems is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of projects.
- **Timely Approval Process Consideration:** The project experience emphasised the significance of factoring in the lengthy approval process from NGOAB when planning project timelines. Future projects should incorporate these potential delays into their schedules for future.

⁴ The governance structure in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) encompasses three main components. Firstly, there is the customary leadership system, with the circle chief serving as the top leader, alongside other local leaders like headmen and karbaris. Secondly, there is a parallel governance system led by the Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC), which acts as the apex body overseeing the region's administration. The CHT is divided into three hill districts: Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachari. Each district has its own Hill District Council responsible for local governance and development activities within its respective district. Thirdly, there is a governance system similar to the mainstream system in Bangladesh, which is headed by the district commissioner, with representation extending down to the ward level through elected members and commissioners.

2.3 Log frame Matrix

<i>Results</i>	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (2023)</i>	<i>Sources of data</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
<i>Impact (Overall objective)</i>	To contribute to poverty reduction and resilient livelihoods of extremely poor households in the three Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) districts of Bangladesh	1. Proportion of population below the international poverty line (disaggregated by sex, age, employment status and urban/rural) <i>(Aligned with SDG 1.1.1)</i>	TBD (2023)	30% (2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	<i>Not applicable</i>
		2. Prevalence of stunting among the children under five years <i>(Aligned with SDG 2.2.1)</i>	TBD (2023)	(2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	
		3. Prevalence of wasting among the children under five years <i>(Aligned with SDG 2.2.1)</i>	(2023)	(2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	
		4. Proportion of beneficiary households with increased resilience to climate change and other shocks <i>(Aligned with SDG 13)</i>	TBD (2023)	40% (2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	
<i>Outcome (s) (Specific objective(s))</i>	Outcome 1. Sustained livelihoods and income generation amongst the target households in the CHT districts	1.1. Number of full time equivalent (FTE) jobs created/sustained through the intervention supported producers, businesses and Vocational Education and Training (VET) graduates <i>(Aligned with GEF 2.13a)</i>	0 (2023)	(2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	No further severe external shocks to Bangladesh's economy. No major natural or man-made disasters. Disease outbreak (like COVID-19) situation will be recovered substantially and spillover effect of economic growth would have positive impact on income of extremely poor households.
		1.2 Percentage of beneficiary households in target communities with increased agricultural production (disaggregated by sex of household head)	TBD (2023)	40% (2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	

<i>Results</i>	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (2023)</i>	<i>Sources of data</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
		1.3. Percentage of beneficiary households in target communities whose mean monthly expenditure has increased (disaggregated by sex of household head)	TBD (2023)	45% (2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	Government services and opportunities for the rural people are continuously available.
	Outcome 2. Improved nutritional wellbeing of the target households, particularly women and children, in the CHT districts	2.1 Percentage of participant households food secured according to Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS))	TBD (2023)	30% (2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	
		2.2 Mean Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) in the target areas	(2023)	(2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	
		2.3 Percentage of children under two years of age who were exclusively breastfed in the target areas (disaggregated by sex and district)	TBD (2023)	20% (2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	
		2.4. Proportion of programme participant women demonstrating increased empowerment and household decision making authority (food purchasing, children's education and marriage, control over resources)	TBD (2023)	20% (2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	
		Outcome 3. Increased investment of resources by the Government aimed at the most vulnerable regions and population	3.1. Percentage of extremely poor households in the target communities that have access to safety net programme	TBD (2023)	10% (2026)	TBD	
	3.2. Percentage of extremely poor households in the target communities that have access to primary level healthcare facilities		TBD (2023)	50% (2026)	TBD	Baseline, midterm and end line surveys	

<i>Results</i>	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (2023)</i>	<i>Sources of data</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
	segments in the CHT districts	3.3. Percentage of budgetary allocation for the social safety net services for marginalised and ethnic people in the target areas	TBD (2023)	3% (2026)	TBD	FY budget document produced by the GoB	
	Outcome 4. Improved implementation of pro-poor policies, and social cohesion activities in the CHT areas	4.1. Number of harmonized laws, rules and regulations (disaggregated by concerned authority/level)	0 (2023)	(2026)	TBD	CHT institutions/MoCH TA documents/ briefs (Frequency-annual)	
		4.2. Number of community social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives implemented by Local Volunteer Mediators Forums (LVMF)	0 (2023)	(2026)	TBD	LVMF activity reports	
<i>Outputs</i>	Output 1.1. Strengthened capacities of targeted extremely poor households/farmers in improved agricultural practices and high value crop production	1.1.1. Number of Integrated Farm Management- Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS) trained farmers with increased knowledge and skills of agricultural practices (disaggregated by sex, age and district)	TBD (2023)	12,000 (2026)	TBD	Pre and post training assessment	Bangladesh maintains SDG1, SDG2, SDG5 and SDG13 as a priority in its overall policy and programming. The political situation does not deteriorate and remains conducive to implementation.
		1.1.2. Number of farmers trained on high value crop production, with increased knowledge and skills in the subject area (disaggregated by sex, age and district)	(2023)	(2026)	TBD	Pre and post training assessment	Market conditions facilitate income improvements and improved returns in agriculture. Real prices, for consumers facing extreme poverty for basic essentials remain stable.
		1.1.3. Number of farmers that have received cash grants to get involved in crop production, (disaggregated by sex, age, district and type of grant)	TBD (2023)	20,000 (Grant of 20,000 Taka: 3,375; Grant of 4,000 Taka: 16,625) (2026)	TBD	Payment receipts of cash grants	Climate change (variability) factors managed so as not to

<i>Results</i>	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (2023)</i>	<i>Sources of data</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
		1.1.4. Number of farmers that have benefitted from the community managed seed banks (disaggregated by sex, age and district)	0 (2023)	240 (2026)	TBD	Records of community seed banks	<p>significantly increase numbers of extreme poor.</p> <p>Emergency for COVID-19 pandemic is over and state and non-state organisations resume new-normal operations.</p> <p>Continued collaboration remains from line departments.</p>
	Output 1.2. Improved market linkages of targeted farmers	1.2.1 Number of collection points operated (bulking and trading) through community (on an average twice in a week, with at least 30% percent women in leadership roles), with the intervention support (disaggregated by district)	100 (2023)	115 (2026)	TBD	Collection point registers and records	
		1.2.2. Number of producers who have established linkages with market actors through the community operated collection points <i>(Aligned with GEF 2.1)</i>	0 (2023)	10,000 (2026)	TBD	Collection point registers and records	
	Output 1.3. Increased networking and knowledge dissemination within the targeted farmers	1.3.1. Number of farmers who received support from the farmers' networking digital platform (disaggregated by sex, age and district)	0 (2023)	10,000 (2026)	TBD	Digital platform visitors record	
	Output 1.4. Enhanced capacities of selected women farmers on entrepreneurship Development – both individual and collective	1.4.1. Number of selected women farmers trained on entrepreneurship development and having increased knowledge of the subject area (disaggregated by age, district and type of business)	TBD (2023)	150 (2026)	TBD	Pre and post training assessment	
		1.5.2. Number of small business established by the trained farmers	0 (2023)	105 (2026)	TBD	Beneficiary feedback survey	

<i>Results</i>	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (2023)</i>	<i>Sources of data</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
		with the intervention support (disaggregated by district and type of business)					
	Output 1.5. Strengthened capacities of line departments on technical services	1.5.1. Number of staff of line departments with increased knowledge on climate smart IFM-FFS implementation and their role in monitoring and backstopping as a result of training (disaggregated by sex, age, department and district)	(2023)	(2026)	TBD	Pre and post training assessment	
		1.5.2. Number of monitoring visits (DAE, DLS, DoF) and follow up support visits made to communities by the line department members, with the intervention support	TBD (2023)	1,350 (2026)	TBD	Field monitoring reports of line departments	
	Output 1.6. Enhanced vocational skills of youth in the CHT districts	1.6.1. Number of targeted youth graduated in VET from (accredited) partner institutions (disaggregated by sex, age, district and trade) <i>(Aligned with GEF 2.14a)</i>	0 (2023)	120 (2026)	TBD	Records of partner VET institutions	
		1.6.2. Number of VET graduates placed with relevant enterprises/businesses for apprenticeships (disaggregated by sex, age, district and trade)	0 (2023)	30 (2026)	TBD	Record of apprenticeship placements	
	Output 2.1. Improved nutrition	2.1.1. Number of comprehensive plans developed to improve	TBD (2023)	8 (2026)	TBD	Nutrition governance system plans	There is no unusual change in macroeconomic environment.

<i>Results</i>	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (2023)</i>	<i>Sources of data</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
	governance system in the CHT areas	nutrition focused governance system in the targeted areas					<p>Government policies are consistent with a focus on the multi-sectoral nutrition approach.</p> <p>Development partners, private sector actors and civil society remain committed to support nutrition interventions in multiple sectors.</p> <p>Improved social norms among household members prioritise access to food and consumption (increased production is consumed by women and children rather than being sold or consumed by others).</p> <p>Continuous cooperation remains from the duty bearers and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Complementary services for the rural people remain available.</p>
		2.1.2. Number of community groups supported to monitor community clinics in the targeted areas (disaggregated by district)	TBD (2023)	52 (2026)	TBD	Intervention progress reports	
	Output 2.2. Increased awareness and knowledge of communities on behavioural change and primary health care services in the CHT districts	2.2.1. Number of households with improved knowledge on nutrition and primary health care services (disaggregated by sex of head and district)	0 (2023)	4,000 (2026)	TBD	Lists of information session participants	
	Output 2.3. Improved nutritional care of children under five, and women of childbearing age	2.3.1. Number of pregnant mothers who received antenatal care at least three times and post-natal care at least one time by the intervention supported health care workers (disaggregated age and district)	TBD (2023)	(2026)	TBD	Patient records of health care workers	
		2.3.2. Percentage of targeted households that are supported to adopt at least one improved nutritious recipe in their daily cooking (disaggregated by sex of head and district)	TBD (2023)	60% above the baseline (2026)	TBD	Intervention progress reports	
	Output 2.4. Enhanced access to homestead farming	2.4.1. Number of households engaged in homestead gardening and poultry rearing following awareness raising and provision	TBD (2023)	80% above the baseline (2026)	TBD	Lists of input recipients	

<i>Results</i>	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (2023)</i>	<i>Sources of data</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
	for the targeted households	of inputs (disaggregated by sex of head and district)					
	Output 3.1. Strengthened capacities of communities on disaster preparedness in the CHT districts	3.1.1. Number of community volunteers with increased disaster preparedness knowledge and expertise as a result of orientations and training (disaggregated by sex, age and district)	TBD (2023)	180 (2026)	TBD	Pre and post training assessment	Political situation remains stable in the target areas. The Government allocates necessary fund for pro-poor development activities in climate vulnerable and geographically lagging regions as before, especially in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.
		3.1.2. Number of local level disaster management committees made functional at union and upzaila level through orientations	TBD (2023)	12 (2026)	TBD	Intervention progress reports	
	Output 3.2. Increased access to social security services for the most vulnerable households	3.2.1. Number of actions focussing on social security services jointly planned and implemented by the targeted social protection actors, with the intervention support	TBD (2023)	16 (2026)	TBD	Intervention progress reports	The Government is receptive to the advocacy efforts by key Stakeholders and civil society organisations. The Government frontline staff are available and deliver the planned policy benefits for the poor.
	Output 4.1. Recommendations for harmonization of laws elaborated	4.1.1. Number of recommendations agreed upon by the concerned stakeholders for harmonization of laws	4.1.1- 0 (2023)	4.1.1- 10 meetings (2026)	TBD	Workshop reports, meeting minutes,	Political situation remains stable in the target areas. The Government is receptive to the advocacy efforts by key stakeholders and civil society organisations.
	Output 4.2: Strengthened capacities of civil society organizations and human right activist on community cohesion and reconciliation	4.2.1. Number of Local Volunteer Mediators Forums (LVMF) with increased knowledge of conflict mediation and peacebuilding following trainings in the subject areas (disaggregated by type of forum and district)	4.2.1- 0 (2023)	4.2.1- 6 trainings (2026)	TBD	Pre and post training assessment	There is continued cooperation from duty bearers and other stakeholders.

<i>Results</i>	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (2023)</i>	<i>Sources of data</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
		4.2.2. Number of people with increased awareness through social cohesion and peacebuilding events (disaggregated by sex, age and district)	4.2.2- 0 (2023)	4.2.2- 72 events (2026)	TBD	Pre and post training assessment	

2.4 Activity Matrix

<i>What are the key activities to be carried out to produce the intended outputs?</i> <i>(*activities should be linked to corresponding output(s) through clear numbering)</i>	<i>Means</i> <i>Costs</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
<p>Output</p> <p>Output 1.1 Strengthened capacities of targeted extremely poor households/farmers in improved agricultural practices and high value crop production</p> <p>MJF:</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.1. Organise meetings to mobilise Union, Upazila and District Stakeholders</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.2. District level workshop to select 675 communities and formation of FFS cluster following the selection guideline</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.3. Selection of Beneficiary Household /Community mobilisation meetings and formation of Climate-smart Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field School (IFM-FFS) groups (at community level)</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.4. Selection and recruitment of Farmer Facilitators following the guidelines (with active engagement of GoB line dept., project staffs, HDC, MJF & UNDP's)</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.5. Training needs assessment of farmers</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.6. Allowance/honorarium for 225 Farmer Facilitators</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.7. Individual support to CS-IFM-FFS participating households</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.8. HH profiling of CS-IFMF-FS members engaging farmers facilitators</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.9. Provide IFM-FFS learning materials and cost to 675 farmers groups</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.10. Provide post IFM-FF learning support to the farmers</p> <p>6.3.5.1.1.11. Organise Farmers Field Days (FFDs)</p>		<p>Community people are willing to participate in the project intervention</p> <p>GoB Line departments will be cooperative</p> <p>No political or cultural barrier will be created</p> <p>NO natural calamity or disaster will hamper agricultural productions</p>

<p>6.3.5.1.1.12. Organise livestock vaccination/deworming campaign 6.3.5.1.1.13. Support to Field Trainer (Field Visit cost of Master Trainer) 6.3.5.1.1.14. Organise training for selected participants on high value crop 6.3.5.1.1.15. Exchange /learning visit to advanced level farmers 6.3.5.1.1.16. Skill development training on honeybee keeping 6.3.5.1.1.17. Skill development training on mushroom 6.3.5.1.1.18. Training/ refresher training for potential youth to develop as Nursery Growers Entrepreneurs 6.3.5.1.1.19. Training or Refreshers Training for potential youth to developing as Community Livestock Worker (CLW) 6.3.5.1.1.20. Community managed seed bank in selected FFS or locations Output 1.2. Improved market linkages of targeted farmers 6.3.5.1.2.1 Assessment of current market place at district level and support for improvement 6.3.5.1.2.2 Support community-managed market collection points 6.3.5.1.2.3 Refreshers training/business Management Training for collection points operators and committee members 6.3.5.1.2.4 Support for improvement of the market place 6.3.5.1.2.5 Linkage building between buyers, market actors and market collection point operators Output 1.3 Increased networking and knowledge dissemination within the targeted farmers 6.3.5.1.3.1 Organise bi-monthly FF coordination meetings at Upazila Level 6.3.5.1.3.2 Training on Digital Agricultural Solutions 6.3.5.1.3.3 Provide tab to market collection points,FF,etc 6.3.5.1.3.4 Update database of farmers’ facilitators Output 1.4 Enhanced capacities of selected women farmers on entrepreneurship Development – both individual and collective 6.3.5.1.4.1 Training for selected participants on Entrepreneurship development 6.3.5.1.4.2 Organise Training for vermicomposting producers 6.3.5.1.4.3 Support to advance level Farmers to develop herself as quality breed supply entrepreneurs Formation of Farmers’ cooperative Output 1.5. Strengthened capacities of line departments on technical services 6.3.5.1.5.1 Training for GoB line department officers on CS-IFM-FFS 6.3.5.1.5.2 Organise joint monitoring visit by GoB officers 6.3.5.1.5.3 Support to organise Union Development Coordination Committee meetings 6.3.5.1.5.4 Organise monitoring visit by 26 union development coordination committees and 8 Upazila Development Coordination Committees, UNOs 6.3.5.1.5.5 Organise Exchange visit on IFM- FFS learning Output 1.6 Enhanced vocational skills of youth in the CHT districts</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There are no natural calamities during implementation of social accountability tools •Local level committees will participate in the project interventions •Consultant hired timely and completed his/her review of CHT laws and harmonized. Key stakeholders are contributing in the dialogues •National level stakeholders including policy makers are responding to take the issues further •Consultant is onboard timely and provided his/her recommendations. •HDCs and MoCHTA Officials are proactive in supporting the process. •LVMFs are active and responsive to organise events and activities related to social cohesion, peacebuilding events. •Youths are participating in the innovative events to promote community cohesion and reconciliation
--	--	---

<p>6.3.5.1.6.1 Youth skill need assessment 6.3.5.1.6.2 Skill development training for the selected youths on potential trades 6.3.5.1.6.3 Job fair to link trained youths with private sectors/or job providers 6.3.5.1.6.4 Community mobiliser for NGOs Output 2.1 Improved nutrition governance system in the CHT areas MJF: 6.2.2.1 Identification of gaps in nutrition system through formative research methodology 6.2.2.2 Training + Refreshers for Paramedics PNGO: 6.3.5.2.1.1 Developing a comprehensive plan to address the need and gap 6.3.5.2.1.2 Conduct household census 6.3.5.2.1.3 Meeting with local government line departments to meet the gap and systematic process-Half yearly 6.3.5.2.1.4 Meeting with community clinic management group (6 monthly or Quarterly meeting) 6.3.5.2.1.5 Coordination meeting with nutrition committees (Union) 6.3.5.2.1.6 Coordination Meeting with Nutrition Committee at Upazila 6.3.5.2.1.7 Coordination Meeting with Nutrition Committee at District 6.3.5.2.1.8 Recruitment of Paramedic 6.3.5.2.1.9 Recruitment of CNHP (Health Worker) 6.3.5.2.1.10 Training for CNHP 6.3.5.2.1.11 Refresher training for CNHP Output 2.2 Increased awareness and knowledge of communities on nutrition and primary health care services in the CHT districts MJF: 6.2.2.3 Developing SBCC materials on Malnutrition, Undernutrition and service available in the locality 6.2.2.4 National Seminar on Implementation of National food and nutrition Security policy plan of Action 6.2.2.5 National Nutrition Week 6.2.2.6 Breast Feeding Week 6.2.2.7 Vitamin A & Immunization Week 6.2.2.8 International Food Day PNGO: 6.3.5.2.2.1 Formation of mother and children (Maa ebong sishu) forum with the targeted HH members 6.3.5.2.2.2 Selection of nutrition apa/lady (nutrition volunteers) 6.3.5.2.2.3 Training/ for nutrition Apa (Nutrition volunteers) 6.3.5.2.2.4 Refresher training for nutrition APA/Lady (Nutrition volunteers) 6.3.5.2.2.5 Formation of adolescent’s club with boys and girls</p>		
--	--	--

<p>6.3.5.2.2.6 Awareness raising session on malnutrition, IYCF, cultural taboos related to food , nutrition, WASH and homestead gardening for Maa ebong Sishu forum and adolescents club</p> <p>6.3.5.2.2.7 Mass awareness on nutrition and primary health care service (Street drama/theatre /poster)</p> <p>6.3.5.2.2.8 Promotional activity on nutrition (Billboard)</p> <p>Link to Community clinic for PHC services</p> <p>Output 2.3 Improved nutritional care of children under five, and women of childbearing age</p> <p>6.3.5.2.3.1. Demonstration on preparing quality food and selection of nutritious food</p> <p>6.3.5.2.3.2 Kit box for Paramedic & CNHP</p> <p>6.3.5.2.3.3 Home visit for growth monitoring of the children- Paramedic and CNHP</p> <p>6.3.5.2.3.4 Linkage to community clinic/government agency to provide micronutrient supplementation including deworming such as folic acid, vitamin A</p> <p>6.3.5.2.3.5 Financial support for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) children</p> <p>6.3.5.2.3.6 Food package for MAM children</p> <p>Counselling for pregnant and lactating mother</p> <p>Output 2.4 Enhanced access to homestead farming for the targeted households</p> <p>6.3.5.2.4.1 Training on homestead gardening, livestock-rearing, and small pond aquaculture 6.3.5.2.4.2 Input support for homestead gardening</p> <p>6.3.5.2.4.3 Organise Nutrition fair</p> <p>6.3.5.2.4.4 Satellite clinic/ health camp in the remote area</p> <p>Linkage with the local government/ DPHE to establish WASH facilities in the community</p> <p>Output 3.1 Strengthened capacities of communities on disaster preparedness and resilience in the CHT districts</p> <p>6.3.5.3.1.1. Developing community volunteer groups on disaster preparedness and management</p> <p>6.3.5.3.1.2 Training for volunteer groups on gender sensitive disaster response</p> <p>6.3.5.3.1.3 Equipment distribution to the volunteers</p> <p>6.3.5.3.1.4 Quarterly meeting for volunteers</p> <p>6.3.5.3.1.5 Organise yearly meeting with Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) 6.3.5.3.1.6 Installing rainwater harvesting system</p> <p>6.3.5.3.1.7 Orientation on rainwater harvesting system management</p> <p>Output 3.2 Increased access to social security services for the most vulnerable households.</p> <p>MJF:</p> <p>6.2.3.1. Program Coordination Officer-HDC & CRTRC</p> <p>PNGO:</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.1 District level dialogue with government institutes to avail government Social safety net program and other services CHTDC</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.2 District level coordination meeting with government institute, CHTRC and other stakeholders</p>		
---	--	--

<p>6.3.5.3.2.3 District level sensitisation workshop with the traditional leader networks on access to different government services CHTDC</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.4 Meeting with Upazila based traditional leaders</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.5 Upazila based meeting with government services provider by Community/farmer leaders on access to government services</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.6 Training on gender, justice, social inclusion and accountability tools for traditional leaders</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.7 Local level advocacy meeting/ dialogue with Union parishad on SSNP</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.8 Information on government existing social safety net services sharing in regular group sessions/farmer class</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.9 Training /introduce on Social Accountability Tools (SAT) for government officer</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.10 Training /introduce on Social Accountability Tools (SAT)/ community level residential</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.11 Farmer leader capacity building training on SAT</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.12 Information gathering/input tracking on specific services</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.13 Community consultation on information validation</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.14 Meeting with service providers for sharing information</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.15 Public hearing among community and service providers</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.16 Report Publication on public Hearing</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.17 Installation of joint action plan/community action plan</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.18 National Consultation on Social Safety net Program (NSSP)</p> <p>6.3.5.3.2.19 Promotional materials</p> <p>Preparation of list of eligible persons/HHs for govt. SSNP at UP level</p>		
---	--	--

2.5 Action plan for the year 2024 for PRLC Project

Project Title: Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT Region

Action Plan for Y2 (2024)															
Budget Head	Activity	# of units	Half Year-1						Half Year-2						Implementing Body
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
6.3.5.1.1	Output 1.1 Strengthened capacities of targeted extremely poor households/farmers in improved agricultural practices and high value crop production														
6.2.1.1	Review and update training curriculum and modules	-													MJF in Y-1
6.2.1.2	Printing of training modules	500													MJF
6.2.1.3	ToT for Master Trainers on Climate-smart IF-FFS(16 participants for 18 days residential)	1													MJF
6.2.1.4	ToT for 225 Farmer Facilitators on Climate-smart IF-FFS implementation (10 days each spell for 3 spells) in residential facilities (including master trainer cost)	9													MJF
6.2.1.5	Refresher TOT for 147 Farmer Facilitators on Climate-smart IF-FFS implementation including Agro Forestry (1 spell training for 5 days) in residential facilities (including master trainer cost)	-													MJF in Year -3
6.3.5.1.1.1	Organise meetings to mobilize Union, Upazila, District stakeholders (at upazila level)	1													PNGOs
6.3.5.1.1.2	District level workshop to select 675 communities and formation of FFS cluster following the selection guideline	1													PNGOs
6.3.5.1.1.3	Selection of Beneficiary HH/Community mobilization meetings and formation of Climate-smart IF-FFS groups (at community level)	543													PNGOs
6.3.5.1.1.4	Selection and recruitment of Farmer Facilitators following the guidelines (with active engagement of GoB line dept., project staffs, HDC, MJF & UNDP's)	-													Achieved in Y-1
6.3.5.1.1.5	Training needs assessment of farmers (FGDs and KII)	78													PNGOs
6.3.5.1.1.6	Allowance/honorarium for 225 Farmer Facilitators (including travel cost) at least 40% women, BDT. 5000	2,700													PNGOs
6.3.5.1.1.7	Individual support to at least 3375 Ultra-poor HHs by Climate smart IF-FFS groups (poverty graduation model chicken rearing, vermicomposting, koel rearing, pigeon rearing etc. BDT 20000 per ultrapoor HH)	2,000													PNGOs
6.3.5.1.1.8	HH profiling of Climate-smart IF-FFS members engaging Farmer Facilitators (using Kobo tool) N.B: Tabs provided under activity below will be used for this purpose	675	-												PNGOs
6.3.5.1.1.9	Provide IF-FFS learning materials and cost to 675 farmer groups (each group BDT 19000)	400													PNGOs

2.6 Where relevant, please provide any update to the self-evaluation questionnaire on SEA-H and related list of envisaged measures to improve the SEA-H policy within the organisation.

3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities, trainees and other cooperation

3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the coordinator or the affiliated entity statement)? Please provide specific information for each beneficiary/affiliated entity.

The project teams of nine partner organisations, including MJF and UNDP, have effectively established and maintained strong relations among themselves. The primary communication and collaboration channels were notably between MJF and those of its partners in CHT. Communication was facilitated through various platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, WhatsApp, and email, ensuring swift exchanges among beneficiaries. Collaborative efforts were evident in developing the Communication and action plan and M&E plan, with all organisations contributing and providing feedback on project documentation, notably the activity plan. MJF extended its collaboration efforts by establishing a field office in Rangamati and positioning Technical Officers in Khagrachari and Bandarban District councils to enhance stakeholder relationships and facilitate collaboration with PNGOs. This setup also enables seamless provision of technical support across districts. Monthly virtual and quarterly physical meetings with PNGOs were organised to develop action plans and prioritise field activities jointly. Technical Officers at MJF led the development of training modules and guidelines, finalised in consultation with partner organisations. Field activities were meticulously planned and executed jointly as per contractual agreements. Capacity-building training sessions were conducted for partner staff to enhance their knowledge and expertise, focusing on beneficiary selection process guidelines developed through consultative approaches with PNGOs and UNDP—these efforts aimed to bolster partner capacity and support flawless execution of project processes.

MJF also strengthened its relationship with UNDP, which is also a part of this project. MJF collaborated with UNDP to finalise beneficiary selection guidelines and develop a new FFS curriculum. This collaboration ensured that project activities were aligned with best practices and effectively met the target beneficiaries' needs. Furthermore, both parties maintain communication channels through electronic communication platforms and periodic cooperation meetings, fostering enhanced coordination and information exchange among stakeholders. Additionally, UNDP representatives actively participated in different events and sessions related to the project, offering valuable feedback and opinions to enrich project outcomes.

Regular visits by the project coordinators and TOs of the PRLC project further strengthened coordination and provided technical support to PNGOs during field events. The director of the program and M&E coordinator of MJF conducted multiple visits to project areas and offices to ensure efficient project implementation. Engagement with key stakeholders, including EDs of PNGOs and HDC Chairmen in three hill districts, and interactions with CHTRC officials were prioritised. The ED of MJF personally visited the CHT region, engaging with stakeholders and sharing insights during implementation management committee meetings in the reporting year.

3.2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the action countries? How has this relationship affected the action?

MJF and its nine implementing partners are collaborating closely with Government authorities as development partners, adhering to the requirement of submitting annual progress reports, financial audit reports, and certificates from local district/Upazila authorities under the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulations Rules, 1978 of Bangladesh. The project teams of the nine NGOs are working closely with various stakeholders, including the local administration, CHTRC, HDCs, traditional leaders, karbaries, CSOs, CBOs, locally elected bodies, different committees of Union Parishad, and relevant government departments in the targeted areas to engage them in field-level interventions. MJF and the implementing partners have established strong relationships with CHTRC and HDCs, local government bodies, traditional leaders, and karbaries in all targeted para and unions. This rapport facilitated the involvement of UP members and karbaries in the beneficiary selection process, with final verification and endorsement from the UP, while the HDC provides the final approval. This firm relationship enabled MJF to organise district-level workshops and consultation meetings while partners successfully conducted inception meetings at all levels within the first year. Presently, they actively participate in NGO coordination meetings at Upazila, contributing to the smooth implementation of the project.

3.3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the action:

Final beneficiaries and target groups: The implementing partners have established a strong connection with the targeted households selected through a comprehensive process. This connection will be strengthened in the upcoming years as FFS groups will be formed, and various trainings and interventions will be conducted for the beneficiaries. Additionally, UP chair, members, and karbaries are connected with the project team at all levels of implementation. MJF has also become connected with the beneficiaries, local governments, district administration, and the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries department to improve the curriculum for the FFS sessions. Besides that, locally elected bodies including UP Chairman and members are closely connected with the project team at all levels of implementation.

Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.): Three HDCs, CHTRC, 26 Union Parishad, and Eight Upazila administrations are closely involved in this intervention. MJF and nine PNGOs have already built a good rapport with HDC chairmen, CHTRC chairman and officials, Upazila administrations including UNO, Upazila Chairman, UP chairman, members, karbaries, and other Upazila-level government officials. The project staff of nine PNGOs have made a good connection with other NGOs by attending NGO coordination meetings at the Upazila level and participating different events. The Project Coordinator of MJF visited MOCHTA and participated in their periodic meetings and events to maintain networking and seek support as and when required during project implementation.

3.4. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

The PRLC project has established synergies with various other initiatives to maximize its impact. Specifically, it collaborates with UNDP's Agriculture and Food Security Project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (AFSP III) to enhance agricultural skills among targeted beneficiaries through IFM-FFS sessions, while also contributing to the improvement of market infrastructure constructed by UNDP across CHT. Additionally, the project aligns with the EU-funded Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition (LEAN) project to bolster nutritional knowledge and governance systems in the region. Moreover, the implementing partners of PRLC have experience with similar EU and UNDP-funded livelihoods and nutrition-focused projects in the CHT areas. Furthermore, the project's social protection component synergizes with Manusher Jonno Funded CREA (Community-based Resilience, Women's Empowerment and Action) project, aimed at enhancing social protection mechanisms and access to safety net services in the region.

3.5. If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).

Not applicable

3.6. Where applicable, include a traineeship report on each traineeship which ended in the reporting period to be prepared by the trainee including the result of the traineeship and assessment of the qualifications obtained by the trainee with a view to his/her future employment.

Not applicable

4. Visibility

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results (impact, outcomes, outputs) of actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.

This Interim Narrative Report has been prepared by Partnerships for Resilient Livelihoods (PRLC) Project, funded by European Union (EU) and implemented by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and its Partner Organisations (POs). Views expressed in this report are those of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of EU.

Report Published: February 2024

Snapshot of Publications:

অর্থীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামে সহনশীল জীবিকার জন্য সহায়তা

পটভূমি ও প্রাসঙ্গিকতা: পার্বত্য জেলায় অর্থীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে সহনশীল জীবিকার জন্য সহায়তা প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে... (Detailed text about the project's background and objectives in Bengali)

প্রকল্পের উদ্দেশ্য: পার্বত্য জেলায় অর্থীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে সহনশীল জীবিকার জন্য সহায়তা প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে... (Detailed text about the project's objectives in Bengali)


সহায়তা প্রাপ্ত: ১২২৪০১১১ জন (১২২৪০১১ জন)

অর্থীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামে সহনশীল জীবিকার জন্য সহায়তা

সহায়তা প্রাপ্ত: ১২২৪০১১১ জন (১২২৪০১১ জন)

ক্রম	উদ্দেশ্য	উপকরণ	সহায়তা প্রাপ্ত
১	সহনশীল জীবিকা	সহনশীল জীবিকা	সহনশীল জীবিকা
২	সহনশীল জীবিকা	সহনশীল জীবিকা	সহনশীল জীবিকা
৩	সহনশীল জীবিকা	সহনশীল জীবিকা	সহনশীল জীবিকা

অর্থীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে: অর্থীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে সহনশীল জীবিকার জন্য সহায়তা প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে... (Detailed text about the project's impact in Bengali)



Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT Region (PRLC)

Background and Rationale

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is located in the southeastern part of Bangladesh and consists of three hill districts: Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari. The terrain in this area is hilly, and in terms of geography, CHT is completely different from other parts of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has achieved significant success in reducing poverty in recent decades. The poverty rate in the country has plummeted from 49.5% in 1991 to 23.2% in 2010. However, the country's growth has not been uniform across the CHT, in particular, remains in the poorest regions. The poverty rate in Bandarban, Rangamati, and Khagrachari hill districts are 63.2%, 57.5%, and 28.5%, respectively, higher than the national poverty rate of 23.2%. A total of 42% of children under five were stunted in 2018, while 17% are underweight and 7% suffer from wasting. The highest poverty is experienced by indigenous populations, particularly in the poorest regions. The poverty rate in the CHT is significantly higher than the national poverty rate of 23.2%. A total of 42% of children under five were stunted in 2018, while 17% are underweight and 7% suffer from wasting. The highest poverty is experienced by indigenous populations, particularly in the poorest regions. The poverty rate in the CHT is significantly higher than the national poverty rate of 23.2%. A total of 42% of children under five were stunted in 2018, while 17% are underweight and 7% suffer from wasting. The highest poverty is experienced by indigenous populations, particularly in the poorest regions.

Expected Outcome

1. Sustained livelihoods and income generation amongst the target households in the CHT districts.
2. Increased and sustained nutrition practices for a better and healthy life for the extremely poor households in CHT region.
3. Increased investment of resources by local contractors and the Government aimed at the rural infrastructure and livelihood support in the CHT districts.
4. Sustained implementation of pro-poor policies, especially for the CHT areas.

(This action will be implemented by UNDP)

Project Details:

- Name of the Project: Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in CHT Region (PRLC)
- Duration of the Project: January 2023 - December 2026
- Funding Agency: The European Union
- Budget: EUR 6,666,611



Targeted Population & Household

86,000 population from 20,000 most vulnerable households in CHT.

Geographical Coverage

The project will implement in 8 Upazilas and 28 unions of the three Hill Districts.

District	Upazila	Union	Implementing Partner
Rangamati	Rangamati Sadar	Turdia Bhangra, Dakshin, Maghan	ADIRCA
	Bansachar, Juraikhal	Sakachar, Pava, Kanchachar, Juraichar, Sarajgachar, Madang, Dumdumya	481-Home, Progressive, Taungya
Bandarban	Bandarban Sadar	Mjoli, Jankhal	Turongbar
	Trasoa	Sagila, Laha, Saha, Faling, Solokha, Rongkhil, Thancha, Trakha	SNAS
Khagrachari	Lamchari	Lamchari, Barmachhi, Juyana	TUS
	Gurana	Shankhar, Indhar, Gurana	AID

Key Stakeholders

- Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MCAO-FA)
- Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC)
- Hill District Councils (HDC, R-HDC, B-HDC)
- Upazila and Union Fisheries
- GOE Line Departments
- Traditional Leaders (Headman and Ka Bari/Community Leaders)
- Other Government Agencies at Local and National Level.

Align with SDG

1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 13

CONTACT DETAIL

MJF Head Office
 Flat 2/3 & 4, 1st Floor, Avenue 3, Parkside, Mirsar Chhalla, Dhaka, 1212, Bangladesh.
 Phone: +88-02-88233131-96, Email: info@manusher.org, Website: www.manusher.org

MJF CHT Office
 100 Karmapara, Rajshahi Area, Rangamati Sadar Upazila, Rangamati Hill District

PRLC Project Beneficiaries and Stakeholder Groups

The project aims to help those who struggle to access services and resources, such as the extremely poor (males 30%, females 37.5%, transgender 0.5%, and persons with disabilities 2%), 10% of youth will be included, along with female-headed households, the elderly, the widowed, and those with disabilities.

The project intends to work closely with the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MCHTA), Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC), three Hill District Councils (HDCs), relevant line departments, local elites and leaders including teachers, Clinic Chiefs, traditional leaders such as Karbari, headman, community leaders, in CHT. At the national level, relevant ministries.

The project plans to hold policy dialogue to discuss capacity building for partners to advance the SDGs in CHT. The significant institutions, i.e., MCHTA, CHT Regional Council and three Hill District Councils, CHT Land Commission, Ministry of Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs through MCHTA, ERD, Planning Commission, elected representatives, traditional leaders, and women leaders, youth from both Ethnic and Bengali communities residing in the hot spots in the CHT. Volunteer mediator networks.

Major Project Components

- Resilient Livelihoods
- Nutrition
- Social Protection
- Advocacy

Intervention Area

- Rangamati
- Bandarban
- Khagrachari

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

Project Duration
January 2023 to December 2026

Background of PRLC project

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is a region of Bangladesh with a diverse culture and geography, housing steep hills and narrow valleys that are often remote and inaccessible. Unfortunately, the three districts of Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachari experience persistent poverty, with above-average mortality rates, seasonal food shortages leading to low income, and poor water and sanitation leading to preventable diseases in children. These conditions have caused rapid livelihood degradation and watershed management erosion in the CHT in order to address climate change and natural resource degradation. To alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of extremely low-income households in the CHT, MJF and UNDP have collaborated on the Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods in the CHT Region project since January 2023, with funding from the European Union. The program includes market access, climate-resilient agriculture, social safety nets, and the wellbeing of marginalized people with a particular focus on gender equality, women's empowerment, and accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The project will promote the UNDP's Integrated Farm Management Farmer Field School (IFMS) model for livelihood promotion, which has been implemented in the three hill districts since 2017 through the Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT) project. UNDP will provide technical assistance to support the livelihood promotion.

The project will reach 20,000 households and approximately 86,000 people focusing on improving the well-being of the poor and marginalized in eight Upazilas and 28 unions of the CHT.

Overall Objective

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

MANUSHER JONNO FOUNDATION (MJF)
 Plot 2/3 & 4, Avenue 3, 1st Floor, Parkside, Mirsar Chhalla, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
 Phone: +88-02-88233131-96, Email: info@manusher.org, Website: www.manusher.org

ACA/441-808

1 January to 31 December 2023

Name of the contact person for the action:

Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, MJF

Signature: 

Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Date report due: 28 February 2024

Date report sent: 28 February 2024.