



STORIES OF SUCCESS

Good Practices, Lessons Learned and Way Forwards from HFMLIP



Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (LGED Part)
Local Government Engineering Department
Local Government Division

Supported by: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Message



Local Government Engineering Department has been implementing the "Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project" (HFMLIP) for the improvement of the rural transport and trading Infrastructure and the fisheries activities in the Haor areas. The strategy is to achieve sustainable development of the region through integrated planning and implementation by multi-organizational involvement and community participation. In accordance with this direction of the Haor Master Plan, the Project aims to achieve the development of the Haor region through an integrated approach. Based on the needs identified in the Haor Master Plan and additional surveys conducted during the preparatory phase, priority areas were selected for infrastructure development and fisheries promotion under LGED. Since fisheries are one of the main income sources for the people of the Haor region and LGED has proven experience of community-based fisheries resources management, it has proved very effective to implement such activities contributing towards productivity enhancement together with the community infrastructure improvements. In this way the living standards and livelihoods of the targeted people have been improved to a greater extent.

I am delighted to know that the project management office (PMO) of HFMLIP has collected, reviewed and analyzed the significant and inspiring results generated from the project area activities implemented by the Project Implementation Units (PIU) throughout the Haor region.

The cooperation and support from JICA for the improvement of Rural Infrastructure and Fisheries Promotion initiatives in the Haor area are highly appreciated. I thank all of those who were involved in the design and implementation of the Project, especially the District administrations, UNOs and officials of DoF, and the PMO, PIUs, PUOs and consultants for managing the project in a coordinated manner.

The Good Practices and Lessons Learned from HFMLIP provide the framework for the Way Forwards. Their replication should be continued to improve the conditions of Haor areas. While the people are more articulate in their initiatives to change their future, the development partnership with stakeholders will be stronger; and the Project will feel more confident to achieve its ultimate goal. With ever increasing growth of social, financial and human capacities, the people are now confident to change their lives. If such trends are continued, we are hopeful to achieve the ultimate goal of the Project

In this context, I look forward to reading the next book of success stories. It is my desire to convey my heartfelt thanks and best wishes for continuing to improve the livelihoods of poor people living in the most vulnerable Haor region of Bangladesh.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sk. Md. Mohsin'.

Sk. Md. Mohsin

Chief Engineer

Local Government Engineering Department

Message



On behalf of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bangladesh Office, I would like to congratulate and appreciate to the efforts of the project team of " Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (HFMLIP)", successfully publishing this excellent piece of documentation work, " Stories of Success under HFMLIP".

The project has been implemented by the Local Government Division (LGD) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives for the Improvement and Rehabilitation of the rural roads and infrastructures, Fisheries promotional activities and Improvement of living standard and activation of economic activities in the Haor region. JICA feels happy to contribute a financial support of of JPY 76.39 billion for the implementation of the project.

This edition of success stories demonstrates the best practices, showcasing the joint efforts of all stakeholders to replicate and create further innovations. I believe HFMLIP has been functioning as the platform to bring different stakeholders together and an interface for integrating expertise and experiences for improving local resources.

JICA has been promoting and supporting livelihood improvement in various countries with the understanding that efficient management and improvement of local resources is inevitable for all societies to achieve sustainable and equitable socio-economic growth. In Bangladesh, the portfolio of JICA operations under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Division has been increased. With the strong leadership and commitment of LGD, JICA is very much proud of continuously working together. It is expected that the community would carry out the ongoing activities even after phasing out the project support for the improvement of their livelihoods. Their participation would be further increased in different sectors and institutions to make the system responsive to their rights and needs. The replication of good practices would be continued to improve the conditions of Haor areas. While the people are more articulate in their initiatives to change their future, development partnership with stakeholders would be stronger; the project would feel more confident to achieve its ultimate goal. With ever increasing growth of social, financial and human capacities, the people are now confident to change their life. If such trends are continued, we are hopeful to achieve the ultimate goal of the project

Finally, I wish to express my sincere gratitude again to the officials concerned of the Government of Bangladesh and HFMLIP colleagues for their sincere efforts to produce this valuable document, which I believe will become the reference for future activities to improve the Local Governance in Bangladesh.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Ichiguchi'.

Ichiguchi Tomohide
Chief Representative
JICA Bangladesh Office

FOREWORD



The Local Government Division (LGD), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has been implementing “Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project” with the financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

To improve access to social institutions and increase fisheries productivity Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (HFMLIP) (LGED part) was approved by ECNEC on 12-08-2014 under the financial assistances from JICA (Loan agreement BD-P80) and GOB. In line with the development plan for Haor region considering Haor Master Plan (2012), JICA identified 29 sub-projects to develop and to accomplish the objectives. The Project is being implemented by LGED as a joint member along with BWDB. To this context, the 35th ODA loan package was signed between JICA & GOB on 16th June 2014. The Project is being implemented for a period of eight (8) years covering five Haor Districts of Netrakona, Habiganj, Brahmanbaria, Kishorganj and Sunamganj starting from 2014-15 and expected to be completed by June 2024 with an aim to contribute to poverty reduction in the Haor Basin. The studies so far conducted revealed that the Haor Basin is one of the poorest regions of Bangladesh and deserves special attention for socio-economic development. Keeping this in view, the Government of Bangladesh has approved this project for the development of this region.

The Haor Master Plan (2012) aims to achieve sustainable development of the Haor areas through integrated planning and implementation by multi-organizational involvement and community participation. In accordance with the direction of the Haor Master Plan, the Project aims to achieve the development of the Haor areas through integrated approach. Based on the needs identified in the Master Plan and additional survey conducted during the preparatory phase, priority areas were selected for infrastructure development and fisheries promotion under LGED. Since fisheries are one of the main income sources for the people of the Haor areas and LGED has proven experience of community based fisheries resources management, it will be very effective to implement such activities contributing towards productivity enhancement together with community infrastructure improvement so that living standard and livelihood of the targeted people is improved to a greater extend.

The stories presented here depict the successful cases of projects under HFMLIP in different thematic areas. I am pleased to share with readers the stories of successes that would provide a bird's eye view of the project's achievements through the implementation of various sub-projects during the last 8 years. These stories will make the readers understand the way of the development partners have been contributing to assist our country for achieving the SDG goals. It would also portray the mechanism of successful partnership with different Government Departments adopted by HFMLIP to develop their capacities for better planning and service delivery.

These stories itself would also speak to the donors; to all the stakeholders that HFMLIP has been making the best use of its resources to ensure sustainable development for the people of Bangladesh. These stories would also inspire the both sides- the donors and the policy implementers-to work further in this endeavor.

Md Rayhan Shiddique

Project Director

Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (LGED Part)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Purpose of this Book	1
The Haor Areas	1
Context of Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project	2
Structure of HFMLIP -LGED Part	3
Expected Effects	4
Contents of each Case Study	5

Case Studies

1.	Rural Infrastructure Development	7
1.1	Improvement of Mithamoin-Kamalpur-Shantipur-Shingpur GC Road via Dubigram (Mithamoin Part) (Submersible road)	7
1.2	Improvement of Niamatpur-Gundhar GC Road via Fazilkhali Bazar Road (Submersible and non-submersible road)	9
1.3	Improvement of Rambhadrapur-Naihati Bazar Road (Non-submersible road)	11
1.4	Maintenance of Khaliajuri GC-Lipsa Bazar Road (Submersible and non-submersible road)	13
1.5	Improvement of Dasdona Edigah-Durgarampur Briddhasram Road (Non-submersible road)	15
1.6	Maintenance of Baliura GCM-Dowarabazar UUZ HQ Road and Bridge Construction (Non-submersible road)	17
1.7	Improvement of Haluargaon-Bitgonj GC via Shantigonj Bazar, Pirpur and Mollhapara UPC Road (Submersible road)	19
1.8	Improvement of Baniachong GC-Markuli Road (Kadirgonj GC) Road (Submersible road)	21
1.9	Improvement of Fakier-Sidly GC via Roypur UP Office Road (Non-submersible road)	23
1.10	Bridge Construction as part of Improvement of Habiganj Baniachong-R&H Vatipara Protapbur Road	25
1.11	Re-excavation of Dhoniarkona Kata Khal	27
1.12	Re-excavation of Mariya Beel to Roya Beel, Connecting Maria Otharia Zia Khal	29
1.13	Construction of Notun Bazar Ghat	31
1.14	Improvement of Mudirgaon Hat	33
1.15	Working in Labour Contracting Society (LCS)	35

	1.16	Working in Labour Contracting Society (LCS)	37
2.		Community -based Fisheries Resource Management	39
	2.1	Beel Management by Community BUG	39
	2.2	Community Beel Management and the Disabled	42
	2.3	Beel Management and Women	44
	2.4	Producing and Trading Dried Fish	46
	2.5	Producing and Trading Dried Fish with Improvement of Living Environment	48
	2.6	Animal Husbandry	50
	2.7	Duck Rearing	52
	2.8	Duckling Hatchery Business Using Rice Husk	54
	2.9	Goose Rearing	56
	2.10	Sheep Rearing	58
	2.11	Small-scale Trading	60
	2.12	Production of Fishing Gear	62
3.		Aquaculture	64
	3.1	Rayerchar Net-pen Aquaculture	64
	3.2	Puraton Kornagaon Floodplain Aquaculture	66
	3.3	Fish Farming in Homestead Pond	69
	3.4	Pond Aquaculture and Tailoring	71



Map of the Project Haor Areas

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Book

This book presents many success stories resulting from the activities of the Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project - LGED part (HFMLIP-LGED). The aim of this book is to give concrete images of the activities of the project and the resulting impacts on the livelihoods of people living in the haor areas, particularly poor people including women. The success stories, the good practices adopted, and the lessons learned, may serve as a reference when designing and implementing activities in the haor areas in the future..

First, we explain the Haor areas, and the project context and concept.

The Haor Areas

“Haors” are low-lying areas in the floodplain of north-eastern Bangladesh. Their unique characteristics is that seasonally they are inundated and deeply flooded, up to a depth of 9-10m by flash flooding in the pre-monsoon period, caused by severe rainfall in the mountainous areas of India north of the border.

When the floods recede they leave large depression (pockets) in the very low-lying areas known as “Beels” which are a valuable productive fisheries resource, connected by canals (known as “khal”) to the river system. The haor areas have a complex and very rich eco-system but it is under threat.



A haor village in the flood season



A beel during the dry season

Agriculture, especially paddy cultivation, and fisheries are the main economic activities in the northeast of Bangladesh. However the flash flooding frequently causes severe damage to the standing rice crops just before they can be harvested. Fisheries are a major resource of the region for subsistence and income-generation, but are threatened by habitat loss, reduced bio-diversity and a decline in fish stocks. These two factors make livelihoods extremely vulnerable in the haor areas. They limit the potential for agriculture and fisheries production and rural enterprise growth, and many rural households are very poor. Women are particularly disadvantaged

The rural infrastructure in haor areas is poorly developed with submersible rural roads providing some connectivity during the dry season and boats being the main means of communication during the flood season. The poor communication network limits the incentives for increasing production, discourages rural growth, and restricts access to markets, off-farm employment opportunities and existing social services, particularly health care and education. Improved rural infrastructure, proper management of the fisheries resource and securing existing livelihoods such as crop and animal production are critical needs for the poor rural households living in the haor basin.

Context of Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) formulated the Haor Master Plan (2012) to improve and develop the livelihoods of the people in the Haor region and to sustain its unique environment. In line with this master plan, the Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (HFMLIP)

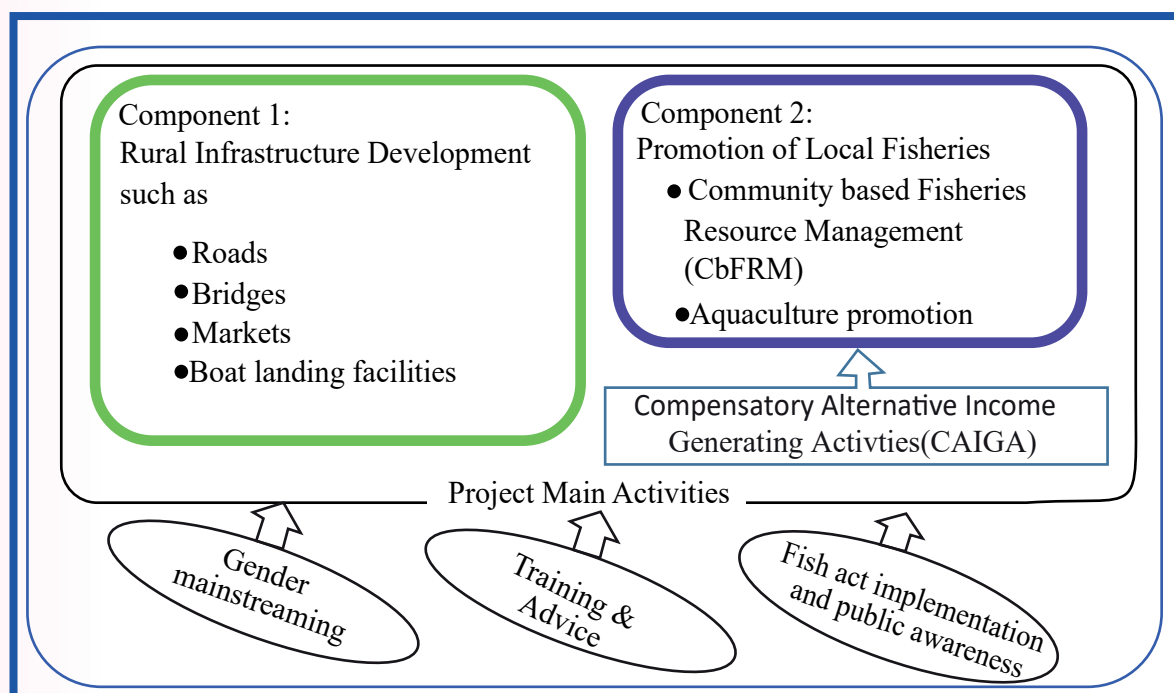
was designed and has been implemented in 29 Haor areas in the districts of Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Sunamganj and Brahmanbaria,. The project has been implemented with the assistance of an ODA loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the GoB.

The project consists of two parts, one part carried out by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the other by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED):

- BWDB has been responsible for construction and rehabilitation of flood management infrastructure and the promotion of improved livelihoods from agriculture.
- LGED has been responsible for the construction and rehabilitation of rural development infrastructure and the promotion of improved livelihoods from local fisheries. This book has been produced as one of the outputs of the LGED part of the project to describe the success stories with the impact and lessons learned from the activities.

Structure of HFMLIP-LGED part

The structure of HFMLIP-LGED part is as shown in the figure below.



Composition of Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project (LGED)

One main component of the project has been Rural Infrastructure Development, including the improvement of Upazila, Union and Village roads, construction of bridges and culverts, rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads, and improvement of markets (known as “hats”) and boat landing facilities (known as “ghats”). Connecting each

community with the government and social facilities, and markets and other commercial facilities, is aimed at establishing an efficient integrated transportation and trading network combining submersible dry season roads in the haors – which are under water during the flood season – with conventional all-weather roads that provide year-road access.

The other main component, the Promotion of Local Fisheries has two main parts:

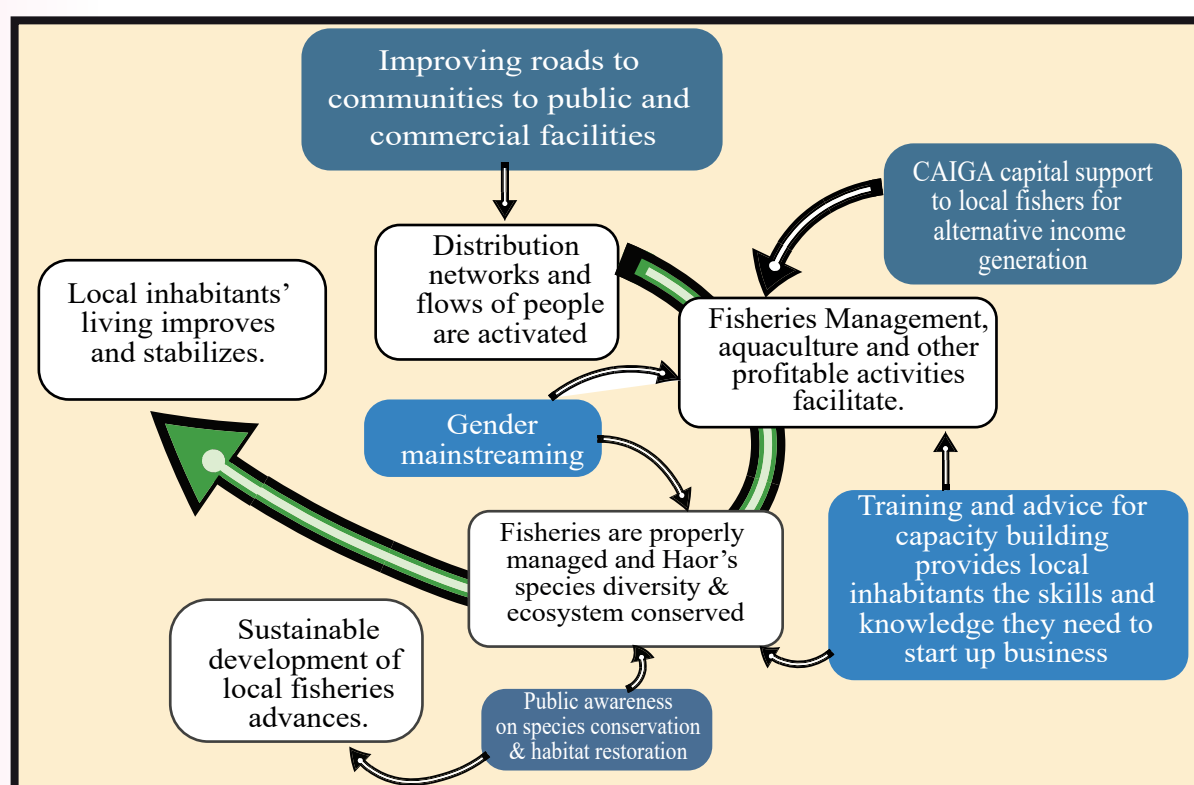
- Community based Fisheries Resource Management (CbFRM): leasing and management of a beel through rearing and harvesting of fish, by the community group, to increase production, generate income, and manage the resources sustainably.
- Aquaculture activities to generate income for poor people, particularly the women.

These have been complemented by Compensatory Alternative Income Generating Activities (CAIGA) that support local fishers to set up small businesses as another alternative source of income during fishing ban period. This encourages compliance with the imple-

mentation of annual fishing ban imposed to mitigate stock depletion of the resources. The project has also emphasized gender mainstreaming activities, training for capacity building, leadership development and public awareness building for community people.

Expected effects

The project has provided various inputs to impact on the lives of the target beneficiaries. The expected effects of the inputs are shown in the schematic diagram below.



The project inputs and expected effects

A wide range of assistance has been provided to support the formation and stabilization of income generation opportunities for beneficiaries and improve their livelihoods. Consideration has

also been given to the natural environment on which the people depend - the efficient and sustainable use of resources must be ensured.

Through various interventions, the project has aimed to increase the sustainable income generation opportunities for the people of the Haor areas while protecting the surrounding environment.

Contents of each Case Study

The book contains many success stories of people whose lives have been changed with the help of the project. Each case study contains the following items:

- Where the activity took place
- Background & Context
- Outcomes
- Good Practices
- The Success Story
- Impacts
- Lessons Learned

The symbols of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which are relevant to each case study are shown herewith.





Case Studies



Rural Infrastructure Development



1.1 Improvement of Mithamoin-Kamalpur-Shantipur-Shingpur GC Road via Dubigram (Mithamoin Part) (Submersible road), Road ID: 348332007

Location: Mithamoin upazila, Kishoreganj



Mithamoin-Kamalpur-Shantipur-Shingpur GC road via Dubigram (Mithamoin part)



Background & Context:

Connection of Mithamoin-Kamalpur-Shantipur-Shingpur was considered very important to stabilize and improve the lives of the residents of the surrounding area.

Before the road was improved, farmers had trouble in transporting their crops, and pre-monsoon floods often damaged them. It was very difficult for farmers to transport the crops from their farms to the market. School children and sick people spent a lot of time going to school and hospitals.

Outcomes

Before

- Farmers had trouble in transporting their crops, and floods often damaged their crops.
- It was difficult for farmers to transport the crops from their farms to the market.
- School children and sick people spent a lot of time going to school and hospitals.

Project Input:

- Road was paved by durable and strong RCC.
- RCC culverts were constructed



Good Practices:

HFMLIP-LGED part has carried out the construction of this road.

The road starts from Kamalpur in Mithamoin upazila and ends at Kashipur village in Shingpur union of Nikli upazila. The road has connected Mithamoin upazila with Nikli and Karimganj upazilas. The total length of the road is 6.127 km, 3.7m width. The road pavement is durable and strong 200mm Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC). A total of 18 RCC culverts and one 24m span RCC girder bridge have been also constructed to ensure sufficient cross-drainage capacity of the road and avoid waterlogging.

Success Story:

After construction of the road farmers can easily carry their fertilizers and seeds to field and they can harvest transport quickly and smoothly to their home. As a result they can save their



- RCC girder bridge was constructed.

Present:

- All of the earlier issues have been resolved
- The improved road has revitalized local rural industries and enriched people's welfare.

Impacts:

There are many water bodies beside the road. Fishermen can now catch fish and transport to the market easily; as a result they can prevent the fish from spoilage and obtain a handsome price. Vehicle movement has been increased after improvement of the road; as a result employment opportunities have been enhanced for people living in the influence area of the road.

Acres of land were unused only due to

crops when the flood comes early. Farmers also can easily carry the harvested crops along the road for selling in the markets of Mithamoin, Nikli and Karimganj.

High school and college students of Shingpur Union can now easily go to Mithamoin upazila for study.

The people of remote areas of Nikli and Karimganj are able to move frequently to Mithamoin Upazila for medical services using this road.

lack of good road access. Now farmers are becoming interested in cultivating those fields.

Due to the ease of transportation, various NGOs are traveling to the villages and are helping to empower men and women financially by providing micro-credit. Two pre-primary schools have been established so that the children who were deprived from education are now being educated.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Properly constructed roads can encourage the further development of previously flourishing and currently under-developed rural industrial activities, and the exploitation of under-utilized resources.
- Properly constructed roads make it easier for poor residents to receive aid from outside NGOs, and as a result help to reduce poverty.
- Properly constructed roads make it easier for people in remote areas to access government-provided educational and welfare facilities.



Rural Infrastructure Development



Improvement of Niamatpur-Gundhar GC Road via Fazilkhali Bazar road (Submersible and Non-Submersible road), Road ID: 348422008

Location: Karimganj upazila, Kishoreganj



Bridge on the Niamatpur-Gundhar GC road



Background & Context:

This poorly maintained road prevented the people of Itna and Karimganj from selling their fish and agricultural products in the Fazilkhali Bazar, Morichikari Bazar and Panahar Bazar markets.

Also, it was quite difficult to travel to market to buy daily necessities. In addition, there was a high risk of accidents, which made the road dangerous for those who used it, especially students travelling on a daily basis.

Outcomes

Before

- Poorly maintained road made it difficult for neighbours to sell their produce and buy daily necessities at the market.
- There was a high risk of accidents due to poorly maintained road.

Project Input:

- Road improvement by RCC
- Construction of RCC girder bridge
- Flood countermeasures (including submersible road)

Good Practices:

The road starts from Niamatpur on Kishoreganj-Karimganj road and joins Morichkhali Bazar on Karimganj-Gundhar road. 1.832 km (chainage: 2,408- 4,240m) of the road has been improved by constructing Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) pavement of which 800m passes through the village and the rest is submersible. The road also includes a 60m span RCC girder bridge. Due to the difference in level at the junction of the last part of the submersible road at Fazilkhali Bazar, there was a possibility that the water in the Haor would breach the road by wave action, defeating the purpose of the road. Therefore, a 60m ramp was later constructed at this location (chainage: 4,100-4,160 m). RCC walls on both sides of the ramp have saved the road from damage. The 1,300m section of the road from chainage: 4,240m to 5,540 m has been filled with earth and made usable at all times and protection has been provided with CC blocks on one side of the embankment.



- Canal protection with CC blocks

Present:

- All of the previous issues have been resolved
- People's risk of traffic accidents has decreased
- The investment has enriched people's welfare.

Good Practices:

The 600m (chainage: 7,278-7,878m) of the road adjacent to the Morichkhali Bazar Bridge is on the bank of the canal, where the road is protected from collapsing into the canal by CC blocks. 162 m (chainage: 7,878- 8,240m) of RCC pavement has been cast in Morichkhali Bazar to increase the durability of the bazar section of the road.

Success Story:

As a result of the improvement of the road, every day thousands of people from Itna and Karimganj bring fish and raw materials to Fazilkhali Bazar, Morichkhali Bazar and Panahar Bazar and can buy and carry their daily necessities. By using the road, thousands of students are able to commute to three schools and a madrasa, where previously there was often a chance of accidents due to the use of boats. Worshippers can easily go to pray in some mosques located along the road. The people of Niamatpur and Gundhar Unions used to face indescribable hardships to go to hospital for treatment, now they can reach the hospital easily and cheaply by road.

Impacts:

The construction of the bridge has made it possible to connect the villages on both sides, and the road is always usable.

Paddy and other crops from the vast area of Haor can be easily transported along the road, which will play a major role in the economic development of the area. Many villages have been saved from collapse due to flooding.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Along with road development, various flood countermeasures including submersible road greatly contribute to disaster prevention and mitigation in the target area.
- Improvements of road reduces the chances of traffic accidents, contributing to people's safety.
- Thus, it can be said that infrastructure development is directly linked to people's security.





Rural Infrastructure Development



1.3 Improvement of Rambhadrapur-Naihati Bazar Road (Non submersible road), Road ID: 372094015

Location: Barhatta upazila, Netrakona



Rambhadrapur to Naihati Bazar non-submersible road



Children's lives have been improved by using this road

Background & Context:

This is a non-submersible road from Rambhadrapur to Naihati Bazar with a total length of 8.450 km. It has connected Baushi, Asma union parishad, Naihati bazar, Baghamara primary school and Dharmopasha upazila with Barhatta upazila.

Previously 1.790 km length of the road was paved, but the remaining 5.440 km was not

paved. The unpaved section became muddy in the rainy season even after a little rain. So that it was difficult for the inhabitants of the area to move, especially children going to school. Farmers also faced trouble to transfer their agricultural products to the market. In the past, cycle rickshaws and battery-powered auto-rickshaws were the only modes of transportation available on this road.

Outcomes

Before

- The unpaved road became muddy, making it difficult for children to get to school, and transfer produce to market, especially during the monsoon season.
- The only means of transportation were cycle rickshaws and battery-powered auto-rickshaws.

Project Input:

- The unpaved portion of this road has been paved.
- RCC box culverts, U-drains and slope protection were constructed where required.

Good Practices:

The unpaved portion of this road (5,440 m long) has been paved by the project with bituminous carpeting providing all-weather access. RCC box culverts and U-drains were constructed at different chainages. To ensure the durability of the road, RCC slope protection walls were constructed at different chainages.

Success Story:

It is much easier for children to go to school than it used to be.

Many motorized rickshaws, more autos and mini-trucks are also running on this paved road which now connects people with different facilities and services easily and quickly.



Present:

- Children can go to school easily.
- Paved roads connect people easily and quickly to various facilities and services.
- The living standards of the people in the area have improved.

Impacts:

Due to this road construction, communication of Baushi and Asma unions with Thakurkuna union and the district headquarters has been improved. The people of the area are getting multiple benefits and improved their livelihoods due to the road. Thus the standard of living of the people of the area has been improved.



Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Improved roads have made it much easier for children in remote areas to go to school. The development of such basic infrastructure will improve children's learning opportunities.
- By improving roads, more efficient vehicles that were previously unable to operate will provide quicker and cheaper transport services, and physical distribution will flourish.





Rural Infrastructure Development



1.4. Maintenance of Khaliajuri GC-Lipsa Bazar Road (Submersible and Non-submersible road), Road ID: 372744087

Location: Khaliajuri upazila, Netrakona



Khaliajuri GC to Lipsa Bazar Road

Background & Context:

The road was essential to improving the livelihoods of 55,000 people in neighbouring villages. Thousands of people used the road daily by bicycles, rickshaws and rickshaw vans, and motorcycles to travel to work and transport goods

There were also some small markets on the

side of the road. However, flooding in recent years caused extensive damage to this road from Khaliajuri GC to Lipsa Bazar. As a result, farmers could not harvest their crops from their fields and could not bring them to market. Students could not go to school and patients could not go to hospitals for treatment. The damage to this road caused a great deal of trouble to people's lives..

Outcomes

Before

- Road was badly damaged by several floods
- Farmers could not harvest their crops from field.
- They also lost sales opportunities at the market.
- Students could not go to school regularly.

Project Input:

- Rehabilitation and maintenance of 10 km of road.

Good Practices:

News of the damage to the road from Khaliajuri GC to Lipsa Bazar road reached to Honourable Prime Minister who promised to repair the road.

To carry out the promise of Prime Minister, the project rehabilitated the 10 km road to good condition under two maintenance contract packages. Part of the road is submersible RCC pavement providing dry season access, the remainder is all-weather standard. One package is completed, the other is almost complete.

Success Story:

After the rehabilitation of this road, people's lives have improved. Traffic by bicycles, motorcycles, hand trolley, rickshaws and rickshaw vans has resumed and farmers in Rouail, Kadipur, Adaura, Jugimara,





Present:

- The access problems have all been resolved
- The road has revitalized local rural industries and enriched people's welfare.

Vobanipur and adjacent areas are able to easily sell their crops in the market Fisherman are able to easily take home their catches. Students can now easily attend schools and colleges, and sick people can receive appropriate treatment in hospitals.

Impacts:

After the construction of this road, the distribution of goods and the flow of people have improved, resulting in continuing social and economic development. For example, local farmers are now able to harvest and sell more per season.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

It is clear that such road repairs revitalize local agriculture and fisheries industries and enhance people's welfare.



Rural Infrastructure Development



1.5 Improvement of Dasdona Edigah–Durgarampur Briddhasram Road (Non-submersible road), Road ID: 412044098

Location: Bancharampur Upazila, Brahmanbaria



Dasdona Edigah–Durgarampur Briddhasram Road



Background & Context:

Durgarampur village and Dasdona village are two adjacent and traditional villages of Bancharampur Upazila. However, in the past there was only a circuitous earthen route connecting the two villages and inhabitants had to travel on foot.

Outcomes

Before

- There was only an earthen track, and users travelled on foot but only during the dry season. Boats were used during the flood season.
- The access to the old people's home between the two villages was very poor, with little movement of people and goods, making life miserable for the elderly.

Project Input:

- The road has been improved by 1.900 km RCC pavement, 4 RCC box culverts, and 1.320 km of protective works.

As a result, communication between these two villages was time-consuming and costly. It was also difficult for students to go to school and sick people - particularly those living in the old people's home located on the road - to attend hospital.

Good Practices:

The road starts from Durgarampur village and connects Desdona high school, Desdona government primary school to Desdona Eidgah. The road also connects Durgarampur madrasa and Dariyadaulat union. The 1.900 km road has been improved by through the construction of a Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) pavement plus 4 RCC box culverts and 1.320 km of embankment protective works.

Success Story:

After construction of this road, children can travel easily to school, and sick people can quickly be taken to the nearest health centre or hospital. The old people's home can now provide much better care to the elderly who live there. And it has become easier for local people to obtain daily necessities.



- After improvement of this road the travel distance between Durgarampur village and Dasdona village has been reduced.
- Farmers are able to market their produce very easily and in less time.
- The old people's home now provides much better service.



Impacts:

Agricultural and fishery production have increased after construction of the road. As a result, economic activity in the surrounding area has increased. Grass and shrubs have grown naturally on both sides of the road, strengthening the shoulder of the road and enhancing the natural landscape.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- A well planned road can completely change the quality of life of the people living in the area adjacent to the road.
- Providing the road facilitates the movements of people living in the area and contribution for the improvement of their economic livelihoods can be enhanced.
- An improved road can motivate children to learn.
- An improved road can play an important role in maintaining the balance of environment.



Rural Infrastructure Development



Maintenance of Baliura GCM-Dowarabazar UZ HQ Road and Bridge Construction (Non-submersible road), Road ID: 690332002

Location: Dowarabazar upazila, Sunamganj



Baliura GCM-Dowarabazar UZ HQ Road



Background & Context:

The Baliura GCM to Dowarabazar UZ HQ Road is an important road for the Dowarabazar and Banglabazar Unions of Dowarabazar Upazila. However, it

was not well maintained and was severely damaged. People living in the influence area had a hard time for carrying goods into Baliura Growth Centre Market.

Outcomes

Before

- People experienced great difficulties to use Baliura GCM-Dowarabazar UZ HQ road because it was badly damaged.
- People travelling and carrying goods for commercial purposes had to use a much longer roundabout route.

Project Input:

- Road was improved over 10.600 km length with a strong RCC pavement.
- Road has been protected by Geotextile and CC Blocks.
- Under a separate HFMLIP contract a bridge has been constructed.

Good Practices:

The project has rehabilitated and maintained the 10.600 km long road, 3.20m width with strong RCC cast pavement. The road embankment has been protected on both sides with geotextile and CC blocks. Under a separate contract a 45m bridge has been constructed on this road. The road is now in good condition providing all-year-round access, and connections to other all-weather and earthen roads.

Success Story:

After construction of this road, travel distances and times, and safety have greatly been improved. Peoples now can easily carry their goods to and from different markets - Tablai Bazar, British Point, Chattak, Borobond, Birchhangergaon and Parmessar Daliargaon, and have a very good access to Dowarabazar upazila and Sunamganj headquarters.



Present:

- The road now provides good all-weather access and connects with other roads in the network.
- Travel distance, time and safety have improved significantly.
- Businessmen can easily transport all agricultural and fisheries products, and their transportation costs have decreased.

Impacts:

Travel distance, time and safety have improved significantly. The decrease in transportation costs and the increase in traffic volume due to the rehabilitated road and bridge have greatly contributed to the improvement of people's livelihoods in the surrounding area. Peoples involved in business are benefitting financially by carrying their products easily. The incomes of fishermen, farmers, motorcycle riders, and rickshaw, Tom Tom, CNG, taxi and truck drivers have increased significantly. People in the remote areas can now reach hospitals quickly and securely.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- A properly rehabilitated and maintained road can change the scenario of the local economy and improve people's livelihoods.
- People can move comfortably, cheaply, quickly and safely on a good road.



Rural Infrastructure Development



Improvement of Haluargaon-Bitgonj GC via Shantigonj Bazar, Pirpur and Mollahapara UPC Road (Submersible road) Road ID: 690892011

Location: Sadar upazila, Sunamganj



Haluargaon-Bitgonj GC via Shantigonj Bazar, Pirpur and Mollahapara UPC Road



Background & Context:

Haluargaon-Bitgonj GC via Shantigonj Bazar road is an important road for Laxman Shree Union. However, people

had a hard time for carrying goods to Shantigonj Bazar from the area because of the poor condition of this earthen road.

Outcomes

Before

- Peoples were in great difficulties to use this road because it was earthen and in poor condition.
- Businessmen had to use much longer routes because of the difficulties of the road.

Project Input:

- The road was improved with a strong 3.000 km long RCC pavement and 3.0m wide.
- The road embankment has been protected with geotextile and cement-concrete blocks.

Good Practices:

The 3.000 km road has been improved by the project to facilitate dry season access standard with a 3.0m wide RCC pavement. The embankments have been protected by geotextile and CC Blocks. The road is connected to the Sunamganj- Sylhet Highway and three other RCC roads.

Success Story:

The road is already being used by people of Sunamganj district. People now can carry their goods from Islampur, Goarchora, Rowarpar, Pirpur, and Mullapara to Sunamganj district HQ using this road. People have reaped a financial benefit by being able to carry their products easily – quickly, cheaply and reliably.



Present:

- Peoples have been using this road conveniently for many different purposes, and very much pleased with the project
- All local products such as crops, vegetables and fish are now easily transported at reduced cost and time

Impacts:

This road has greatly improved the livelihoods of local people. The income of local people including fishermen, farmers, and operators of local transport services has increased significantly. Access to schools and colleges, health centres and hospitals is now much easier. The local people are very pleased with their improved road.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Good quality, RCC paved submersible roads providing reliable dry season access can impact positively on the local economy and improve haor people's economic livelihoods.
- The safe convenient and reliable movement of people and goods that they provide gives haor people much better access to education and health facilities.



Rural Infrastructure Development



1.8 Improvement of Baniachong GC-Markuli Road (Kadirgonj GC) Road (Submersible road), Road ID: 636112003

Location: Baniachong Upazila, Habiganj



Baniachong GC-Markuli Road



Background & Context:

This road serves three unions of Baniachong Upazila - Doulatpur union, Baniachong North East union and Kagapasha union. So, people living in this area use this road to go to Baniachong Upazila and Habiganj District Headquarters.

However, it was an unsurfaced earthen road and local people could only go to Baniachong Upazila HQ from their villages on foot. People had difficulty to transport their agriculture and fisheries products to the Upazila market, and could not get sick family members to hospital even in an emergency.

Outcomes

Before

- It was difficult for people to go to Baniachong Upazila from their villages.
- They were unable to respond appropriately when emergencies such as illness or injury occurred.
- People could not supply their agricultural and fisheries products to Upazila Bazar.

Project Input:

- Road was improved by 4.142 km length RCC pavement and 6 culverts.

Good Practices:

The project constructed a 4.142 km road with Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) pavement, together with six culverts.

Success Story:

After construction of this road, people can now comfortably go to Baniachong Upazila and Habiganj District for their various activities. Farmers have been able to supply easily their products to the nearby market. Students have been able to go to their schools and colleges easily and safely.



Present:

- Peoples have been using this road conveniently to go Baniachong Upazila.
- People can carry their agricultural and fisheries products quickly and cheaply to the markets.

Impacts:

After construction of this road, a good amount of agricultural and fisheries products have been put into circulation in this area. As a result, agricultural and fisheries production have increased. People have been benefitting financially and have easy access to Baniachong Upazila. This road has greatly improved the livelihoods of local people.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Properly paved and managed roads improve human livelihoods and security.
- Such roads can improve the distribution network promoting development of the surrounding rural industries and economic development of the area can be accelerated.



Rural Infrastructure Development



Improvement of Fakier-Sidly GC via Roypur UP Office Road
(Non-submersible road), Road ID: 372093007

Location: Barhatta Upazila, Netrakona.



Fakier-Sidly GC via Roypur UP Office road

Background & Context:

Previously, people of Roypur Union had to travel to the district town through Uradighi Bazar and Thakurkona Bazar. Along the way, they had to change vehicles several times and it took a lot of time and was costly. It was also difficult for them to reach nearby Kalmakanda Upazila because there

was no bridge over the Gumai River that they had to cross. As a result, it took a lot of time and money to move people and goods. Since the roads connecting many villages within the Roypur Union were unpaved, villagers had to travel on foot and had limited access to the Union's public services and facilities.



28m span pre-stressed concrete girder bridge over Gumai River

The villages of Semiya, Dudhkora and Beltal depended mainly on agriculture, but due to earthen roads there were few transport services, fares were high, and it was difficult to carry goods. Farmers had to walk to the market with rice and other produce on their heads and it was not possible to sell their agricultural products immediately and at a fair price. Farmers in the villages therefore

lost their economic competitiveness, and as a result they were losing interest in farming day-by-day. Furthermore, in Semiya and Dudhkora, light rains mudded the roads and reduced traffic in the village markets.

Roypur Union has a police outpost, but because of the earthen roads in the villages the police could not provide adequate security for these people.




Outcomes

Before:

- It took time and money to travel because there were no good roads.
- Since there was no bridge over the Gumai River, it was difficult to reach the opposite bank and the nearby Upazila.
- Villagers had to walk because the roads were not paved.
- It was difficult to carry crops.
- Poor access prevented the police from providing adequate security to the residents.

Project Input:

- 
- Improvement of bad road to reliable all-weather standard.
 - Construction of a bridge to span an access 'gap'.

Present:

- The problems have all been resolved through improvement of the road and construction of the bridge.
- There is much easier communication between many villages and unions.
- Residents on the remote areas now have easy access to public welfare facilities.

Impacts:

As this road connects two bordering Upazilas, communications among many villages and unions of the two Upazilas have become easier. The travelling distance and time between the two Upazilas have been shortened.

Due to the paved road, there is much better communication with the area's public markets, hospital, Union Parishads, Upazila Parishad, District town, emergency service organizations and various government social institutions. Now all types of vehicles move on the road.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- The new bridge has fulfilled a long-standing demand of the people of this area.
- Improving the road and building the bridge are constantly contributing to improving the quality of life of the rural people and providing the benefits of urbanization – an effective road network has been established.
- A good local road network with no 'gaps' is a prerequisite for the development of any rural area. This case study is an example of that extend.

Good Practices:

Fakier-Sidly GC via Roypur UP Office road runs from Semiya village of Raipur union to Kelati Union of Kalmakanda upazila and on to Beltali village. The road connects Challish, Kahnua, Semiya and Dudhkora villages of Raipur Unions and Beltali village of Kelati Union.

Improvement of the section from 2.840 km to 5.340 km to all-weather standard was undertaken by the project by constructing a bituminous carpeting pavement.

A 28m span pre-stressed concrete girder bridge was constructed over the Gumai River as it flows between Dudhkora and Beltali villages.

Success Story:

Improvement of the road and construction of the bridge, the transportation system of the residents of Roypur Union through Sidly to Netrakona district has been improved.

As the road is paved now, the villagers of Semiya and Dudhkora villages are able easily to transport the vegetables, fruits, fish and other products they produce to Roypur Union's oldest market, Fakier Bazar. This has enabled farmers to sell their products at the right time and for a fair price.

People from different companies are able to come to Dudhkora market with various products, medicine and essential items using the paved road. As a result the local shopkeepers have been benefiting a lot by being able to sell more products.

Ailing patients and pregnant mothers can travel safely and quickly to the Upazila Health Complex or the District Hospital. Muslims are able to offer prayers in the mosque day and night safely and comfortably.

Fakir Asraf Degree College is located in Roypur Union. the busiest in Barhatta district. Now that the roads in Semiya and Dudhkora villages have been paved, students have the opportunity to study at this college because they have easy and reliable access to the Union HQ.

The officers of the police outpost can reach the spot in a very short time for any problem in the village. As a result of which theft, drug misuse, abuse of women and other criminal activities have reduced significantly and the village has come under the protection of public security.





Rural Infrastructure Development



Bridge Construction as part of Improvement of Habiganj Baniachong-R&H Vatipara Protapbur Road. Road ID: 636115051

Location: Baniachong upazila, Habiganj



84m span Pre-stressed Concrete Girder Bridge



Background & Context:

It was difficult for people living in Protalpur village and the surrounding area to go to Baniachong upazila HQ and Habiganj district HQ because the only way to cross the river was by boat, and boats were

often not available. Therefore people could not supply their agricultural and fishery products to the nearby market. Women and children suffered more because crossing the river by boat was very uncomfortable for them.

Outcomes

Before:

- The village people could not move easily because only way to cross the river was by boat.
- People could not supply their agricultural and fishery products to nearby market.

Project Input:

- 84m span PSC girder bridge has been constructed.

Present:

- Peoples are using this Bridge conveniently to go Baniachong Upazila and Habiganj District HQ

Good Practices:

The project constructed a 84m span pre-stressed concrete girder bridge across the river.

Success Story:

After construction of this bridge, people have been able to travel easily to Baniachong Upazila HQ and Habiganj District HQ. With this good access students have been able to go to their schools and colleges. All kinds of vehicles and transport services now have easy access to this village. People are able to transport their products to different markets quickly and cheaply, and purchase the commodities that they need. This bridge has greatly improved people's livelihoods.

- People have no problems to carry their agricultural and fisheries products to market.
- Students can travel easily and safely to nearby schools and colleges.



Impacts:

The bridge has greatly improved mobility for people in the area. This has helped to save travel costs and time, and improved the efficiency of logistics to the surrounding markets. As a result, the trading volume of commodities in the surrounding markets has improved and economic activities in the surrounding area have increased. Such improvements in the transportation system also provided people a sense of security even in the event of an emergency.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Properly planned and designed bridges can remove barriers to good access and can greatly improve the economic and social livelihoods of people living on both sides of a river.
- Such improvements in the transportation system also ensure human security.



Rural Infrastructure Development

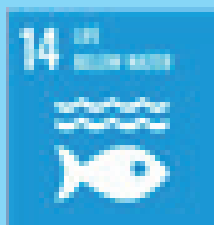


Re-Excavation of Dhoniarkona Kata Khal

Location: Raytuti Union, Itna Upazila, Kishoreganj



Re-excavation of Dhoniarkona Kata Khal at Ch.000-700m



Background & Context:

Dhoniarkona Kata Khal is an important canal. It starts from Dhoniarkona Beel and runs to Dudhai Nodi.

This khal was heavily silted due to the annual flooding of the Haor and had not been dredged for several years. As a result

its capacity was very limited with shallow standing water in some places but no water flow. The water quality deteriorated and the fish population was greatly decreased. It was not possible to transport crops by boat along the khal.

Outcomes

Before:

- The khal had silted up over the time, and had limited capacity with only standing water in some places.
- Fish movement was disrupted due to lack of water.
- Carrying of crops by boat was difficult.

Project Input:

- 700m of khal has been re-excavated having 7m top width and 3m bottom width, with required depth.
- Excavated earth has been used to develop a road beside the khal.

Good Practices:

The project re-excavated this khal over a length of 700m to give a top width of 7m and a bed width of 3m. The excavated soil has been used to build an earthen road alongside the khal. After re-excavation the water retention capacity of this khal has been greatly increased.

Success Story:

A connection has been re-established between Dhoniarkona Beel and Dudhai river by the re-excavation of this khal. Fish breeding and migration have been facilitated, and fish species diversity has been increased. Aaquatic vegetation is now growing. This khal also provides a convenient water reservoir for the low-cost irrigation of about 150 acres of paddy fields.



Present:

- This khal is now fully functional.
- Migration of fish and movement of other aquatic life has re-started.
- Irrigation of paddy land can now be done efficiently using the water in this khal.



Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Re-excavation of a khal increases fish breeding and migration which leads increased fish production and species diversity.
- Use of the water flowing through the khal for irrigation is low-cost and reduces the use of groundwater.



Impacts:

Increased fish breeding and movement in this khal has contributed largely for increased fish production in the area. Paddy cultivation has also been increased by efficient irrigation using the water of the khal. Crops can now be transported easily by boat along the khal and into the river system. These positive effects have improved people's lives and livelihood to a greater extend.



Rural Infrastructure Development



1.12 Re-excavation of Mariya Beel to Roya Beel, Connecting Maria Otharia Zia Khal

Location: Mariya and Chouddashoto Unions, Sadar Upazila,



The khal after re-excavation

Background & Context:

Mariya Beel to Roya Beel connecting Maria Otharia Zia Khal is an ancient and important khal. It starts from Otharia beel to Roya Beel via Mariya, Prapoba-

nondo, Sultanpur and Zinarai village. However, the khal was heavily silted and no longer functional because it had not been re-excavated for several years.

Outcomes

Before:

- The khal was filled by silt and household wastes, it had no depth and water could not flow.
- Fish migration was blocked.
- A large area of adjacent land was not cultivated due to the scarcity of irrigation water.

Project Input:

- Khal has been re-excavated over a length of 4.600 km having 12m top width and 6m bottom width with required depth.
- Excavated earth has been used by local people to develop their homestead land.

Good Practices:

The project re-excavated 4.600 km length of the khal, with a 12m top width and 6m bottom width, with required depth. Excavated earth was used by local people to develop and raise their plots of homestead land.

Success Story:

The re-excavation of this khal returned it to full functioning condition, cleaned of silt and debris. Its water retention capacity has been greatly increased, and water flows freely along the khal. Adjacent fields have been cultivated using water from the khal for irrigation the reduced cost.



**Present:**

- Fish breeding and movement of other aquatic species has re-started.
- Surrounding land is being irrigated using the khal as the water reservoir with low cost facility.

**Impacts:**

Because of migration and breeding of fish following the re-excavation, the production of fish for consumption and sale has increased. Paddy cultivation has also been increased through low cost irrigation using the available water of the Khal.

**Lessons Learned for way forwards:**

- Re-excavating a khal and bringing it into fully functioning condition so that water flows freely improves the aquatic environment. This can be expected to result in an increase in the abundance and diversity of fish and other aquatic organisms in the surrounding area.
- A khal in fully functioning order provides a convenient source of water for low-cost irrigation of surrounding paddy fields.
- The benefits of a functioning khal improve people's livelihoods.





Rural Infrastructure Development



Construction of Notun Bazar Ghat

Location: Itna Sadar Union, Itna Upazila, Kishoreganj



The improved Notun Bazar Ghat



Background & Context:

Notun Bazar is an ancient and important market at Itna Sadar union of Itna Uazila. However, people coming to and from the market by boat had a difficult time to load

and unload goods at the bazar as there were no proper boat landing facilities. Also it was difficult and unsafe for people to board boats and disembark, particularly for women and children..

Outcomes

Before:

- Peoples had a hard time for loading and unloading goods at the bazar due to the absence of a ghat.
- It was unsafe for passengers to board and disembark from boats.

Project Input:

A well-designed and safe boat landing facility was constructed.

Present:

- Traders and local people can carry their goods from different markets by boat.
- Passenger boats are now operating at this ghat and people are comfortable to use the service.

Good Practices:

The project constructed a well-designed ghat with good access to Notun Bazar and to the nearby road. It provides a safe and efficient boat landing facility for buyers and sellers using Notun Bazar.

Success Story:

After construction of this ghat, traders and local people can carry their goods from different markets - Chamra Bandar, Tarail Upazila, Khaliajuri, Azmiriganj and Sunamganj District HQ by boat. Passenger boats are now using this ghat. Local people, including women and children are comfortable to use this service because it is safe and hygienic.



Impacts:

As the loading and unloading of products has become easier, it can be expected that the volume and efficiency of the distribution of products will increase, leading to economic development in the area. Travel by boat is now safer for passengers.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- A market that gathering local products needs facilities that support logistics. The provision of an efficient and safe ghat will facilitate the cost-effective distribution of a greater volume of products, which is expected to raise the level of economic development in the area.



Rural Infrastructure Development



Improvement of Mudirgaon Hat

Location: Joyshiddhi Union, Itna Upazila, Kishoreganj



Mudirgaon Hat



Background & Context:

Mudirgaon hat was an important market situated at Joyshiddhi Union in Itna Upazila. Every Friday and Monday a market was held at the Hat, where people gathered from villages in the surrounding area - Mudirgaon, Oara, Pagolsi, Barbaira, Agolfa and

Kamalpur. However, as the hat got older, the conditions deteriorated, the number of users decreased and there were only a few stores. Due to the lack of toilets and permanent storage space, usability was very poor. Also, the market was closed during the monsoon because it would be flooded.

Outcomes

Before:

As the hat got older, it deteriorated and numbers of users decreased.

- Poor usability such as lack of toilets and storage space.
- It could not be used during monsoon season due to flood.

Project Input:

- Various upgrades were made - earth filling and flood protection, better internal roads, sheds for selling different types of produce, toilet block.

Good Practices:

The project has implemented various improvements at Mudirgaon hat - earth filling and raising and flood protection; improvement of internal roads and drainage; construction of fish shed, meat shed, multipurpose shed and toilet block.

Success Story:

After these improvements, the market provides a more efficient and hygienic environment for buyers and sellers. Use of the market including by women, and the trading volume have increased.



Present:

- The issues that caused use of the market to decrease have been addressed and it is now more active and operating all-year-round.
- More efficient trading conditions stimulate local business enterprises and income-generating activities.



Impacts:

Traders and local people can buy and sell produce and other products efficiently, and in a hygienic environment. They can now use the market all-year-round and do not have to go to other markets in the flood season.

The market has improved the overall effectiveness of the rural transport and trading system in the area. This improved the livelihoods of the local people – increased sales of their produce at better prices, easier access to daily necessities, household goods and other products imported into the area, and the opportunity to participate in income-generating activities at this market.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- When market facilities are improved, more shops will open, more people will gather, and local business enterprises and income-generating activities will be stimulated.
- Regular maintenance is required to keep the market facilities in good condition.



Rural Infrastructure Development



Working in Labour Contracting Society (LCS)

Location: Hobotpur village, Sadar Upazila, Sunamganj



Swapna Begum working on her sewing machine at home

Background & Context:

Nusrat Begum Swapna studied up to the fifth standard and married at the age of 14 with Syedur Rahman, an agricultural worker from Hobotpur village. Time went by and she became the mother of two

children. But when her husband, the sole breadwinner, suddenly became physically ill it was difficult for her to run the family. She had no work and did not know what she could do to earn an income.

Outcomes

Before:

- When Swapna's husband, the sole breadwinner, suddenly became physically ill, she and her family lost their income.

Project Input:

- Formed LCS, with Swapna as a member, to improve a Village Road, providing her with a temporary income and a share of the profit of the LCS.
- Project field staff provided support.
- Project provided sewing training on tailoring.

Good Practices:

At that time, she learned that the HFMLIP (LGED part) was going to improve the Takerghat- Bahadurpur Village Road near her house utilising the services of a Labour Contracting Society (LCS). LCS are a standard LGED method of carrying out labour-intensive civil works, such as simple road construction activities, off-pavement routine road maintenance, and earth excavation. An LCS is formed as a group of local poor men and women and is contracted with LGED to carry out the works on a paid basis. Swapna joined the LCS for the improvement of the road with the encouragement of the project field staff. She was also given training in sewing by the project.



Present:

- Swapna used the income from LCS work to meet immediate family needs and schooling costs, and her share of the LCS profit to buy a sewing machine.
- She now earns a stable income and can care for her family.
- She won 2nd place in the LGED Water Resource Development category on International Women's Day 2018.



Success Story:

She worked as a LCS labourer for a total of 35 days and received Taka 9,800 as remuneration for the work. She used the money to pay for the schooling of her children and to meet essential living expenses. After the completion of the road work, she received a further Taka 10,120 as her share of the financial profit of the LCS. She used Taka 6,500 of this money to buy a sewing machine, and started a sewing business in her home.

Swapna now earns about Taka 6,000 per month from her business. With hard work and self-motivation she now earns a regular income from her business and can take care of the needs of her family.

Impacts:

Swapna's status and position in her family and society has been strengthened, and the livelihood of her family has improved.

She won Second Place in the water resources development sector of LGED on International Women's Day 2018 for her success in establishing herself as a self-reliant woman.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Labour Contracting Societies are an effective way to channel temporary additional income to poor local people, particularly women. The share of LCS profit that the members achieve provides a capital sum to invest in a long-term income-generating activity.
- LCS were used in the early part of the project period for some village road improvement schemes. But they have been used most extensively, and with great success, for the excavation of beels and re-excavation of khals.



Rural Infrastructure Development



Working in Labour Contracting Society (LCS)

Location: Shahala village, Hathhala union, Purbodhala upazila, Netrakona



Anowara Khatun and her cow



Background & Context:

Anowara Khatun lived with her husband, the now deceased Saiful Islam, and their four children in Shahala village.

She earned money as a maidservant working in the homes of others, and the family caught fish in the Haor during the flood

season. But the income was insufficient to meet the family's food needs and her children could not go to school. The family lived with the continual struggle of poverty, sorrow and having to deal with various adverse situations.

Outcomes

Before:

- Anowara's income was not sufficient for her family's food demand.
- Her children had could not go to school

Project Input:

- Provision of technical training for village road construction.
- Daily wage employment for road construction. Distribution of the LCS profit to the members after completion of the road construction.

Good Practices:

Anowara was introduced to a Labour Contracting Society (LCS) Organizer when the HFMLIP-LGED part was working for the improvement of a village road.. She was selected as a member of the LCS for the village road construction and received one day of related technical training. Following this training, she started work on the road with the other members of the LCS.

Success Story:

Each member of the LCS, including Anowara Khatun, received Taka ³⁵⁰ as the daily wage for their work. When the road improvement was completed, she received Taka ^{6,100} as her share of the distribution of the profit made by the LCS.

Present:

- She now earns an income from owning two cows and cultivating rice on leased land.
- She has grown in confidence to plan a better future for her family.

Thanks to being a member of the LCS Anowara had accumulated sufficient savings to buy a pregnant cow for Taka 21,000. She now has two cows, and has leased 64 decimals of agricultural land which produces about 1,200kg of rice every harvesting season.

Impacts:

With the income she now earns, the widow Anowara Khatun is able to feed her family well.

She is now self-sufficient and has developed the greater confidence to plan for a better future for herself and her family compared to her previous miserable life. She is planning to set up a grocery store near her bazar and to send her children back to school.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- LCS is effective in securing construction workers and providing temporary a source of income for the local poor, particularly women. More important, their share of the profit from the LCS gives the members a capital sum to invest in generating a regular income..
- With the right support and advice from the project, members can start new businesses based on the funds received from the LCS.
- LCS were used in the early part of the project period for some village road improvement schemes. But they have been used most extensively, and with great success, for the excavation of beels and re-excavation of khals.





Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Beel Management by Community BUG

Location: Kashipur village, Singpur Union, Nikli upazila, Kishoreganj



Swamp tree saplings planted on the edge of the beel



Fish caught by local fishers in their beel

Background & Context:

Kashipur village was completely destroyed in a major flood in 1988. This forced all ³¹⁵ families living in the village to leave, with 200 of these families relocating temporarily to Indra village of Karimganj and the rest to other parts of the country including Nikli, Kishoreganj. Since 1988, Kashipur village has been under water for approximately 6 to 7 months of each year. So these families have been living temporarily in Kashipur village

Outcomes

Before:

- Families of Kashipur village were unable to settle in their villages due to flooding.
- They could not have a national ID card without permanent address.
- They could not have a fisher ID card without permanent address.
- They had no income

during the dry season when the water recedes, but had not been able to settle permanently for about ³⁰ years. Without permanent address, they were unable to have a national ID card and were denied access to most welfare benefits. Also, although they were originally fishermen, they could not have a fisher's ID card without a permanent address, nor did they have the right to fish in the nearby beel or rivers. So they had no source of income.

Good Practices:

Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Land, the project organized a management measure for Atharobeki Failla Beel to be leased and managed by the fishers of Kashipur village from the start of Bengali Year 1424 for the purpose of Community-based Fisheries Resource Management (CbFRM), one of the activities of HFMLIP-LGED part.



Project Input:

- The beel was leased to Beel User Group (BUG)
- Beel was properly managed by the BUG under the guidance of the project.
- Several civil works were undertaken by inhabitants under the guidance of the project to keep the beel in proper condition.

Present:

- At present, about 200 families are living permanently in the village.
- As can be seen in the table below, the income from fishing is increasing year by year.

Year	Annual Lease Price	Fish Harvest (kg)	Sales Value (Tk)	Profit for Distribution (Tk)
2017	4,72,501	4,284	4,10,510	0
2018	4,72,501	4,500	8,00,000	0
2019	4,72,501	8,404	19,83,110	8,60,000
2020	4,72,501	12,850	18,84,250	6,45,000
2021	4,72,501	15,672	25,04,000	12,90,000

In financial year 2017-18, Atharobeki Failla beel and the 650m long beel connecting khal were re-excavated to increase their depth, financed by the project. About 3 acres of Kashipur village has been embanked and homestead plots raised to protect from future flooding with the earth re-excavated from the beel and canal. At present, about 200 families have been living permanently in the village. One mosque and two pre-primary schools have been established through private NGOs in the village and 57 students have been studying currently.

One permanent fish sanctuary has been estab-

Atharobeki Failla Beel User Group (BUG) was formed with a total of 43 fishers comprising 32 male and 11 female members from Kashipur village, for the management of the water body. Thereafter they have paid Taka 4,72,501 to the Government Treasury as lease value of the beel every year.

The BUG members organized the election of their leaders in the form of the Beel Management Committee, comprising 6 men and 3 women members. The committee members were then trained by the project in team management, leadership development and accounting.

In the monthly meetings, beel management and various issues of village development are discussed and decisions are taken.

Success Story:

Each member contributes savings at monthly meetings to form a permanent fund. Such activities instil in them a habit of regular saving. This BUG has its own bank account and currently has Taka 2,58,000 in savings.

lished in the beel with financial support of the project. Through the project, around 10 acres of land along the bank of the beel and canal have been planted with various swamp trees. An office building has been constructed for various social functions of the village including monthly meetings. The boundaries of the beel have been determined by the surveyor of the Upazila Land Office. Apart from this, the BUG is committed for the implementation of the Fish Protection and Conservation Act, respecting the annual ban on the harvesting of fish in accordance with this Act.



Impacts:

Re-excavation of beel and khal, establishment of permanent sanctuary, planting swamp trees on the edge of water bodies, and proper beel management have increased the production and species diversity of Atharobeki Failla beel. During the year 2017 when this beel was first managed by the community, they harvested 4,284kg fish. After the project interventions, and with proper management of the beel, the fish harvest progressively increased and in 2021 it was 15,672kg.

Some of the harvested fish is consumed by the community which improves nutrition particularly for women and children. But most of the fish is sold for a profit in the market. There is an annual

distribution of profit to the BUG members.

The BUG members have future plans for further development of the beel:

- To increase fish production through afforestation of permanent swamp hijal and karach tree in the entire beel area.
 - To protect the village from waves, plans are underway to build a permanent defence wall to prevent the village from being washed away again.
 - To establish good quality schools for village children
- Apart from this, the BUG would like to be registered as Fisheries Co-operative Society under the Department of Co-operatives in future.

Lessons Learned:

- Appropriate project interventions can revitalize villages that have been rendered uninhabitable by floods. They can become strong and sustainable through the combination of public works by the government, provision of labour by resident groups, and community management of productive natural resources.

- Community-based management of beels generates economic, social and

environmental benefits. To be effective it requires training, following by on-going motivational support and advice from the project.

- Continuous management support by members of the community can contribute for the conservation of the natural environment of Haors, increased fish production, and improved livelihoods for the villagers.



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Community Beel Management and the Disabled

Location: Kashipur village, Singpur Union, Nikli Upazila, Kishoreganj



Lal Mia in his yard

Outcomes

Before:

- Flood prevented the settlement of the village.
- Unable to work much due to disability.
- His family was very poor.

Project Input:

- Leasing Beel to Villagers and Establishing BUG
- Advice and support for BUG
- Providing training

Present:

- Lal Mia is earning income regularly and improving the livelihood of his family
- Lal Mia has proposed various initiatives to improve life in the village, and is recognized by the villagers as one of the key members.

Background & Context:

Kashipur village was completely wiped out during the devastating floods of 1988. All ³¹⁵ families of the village were forced to leave the village. 200 families of the village, including Lal Mia's family, built temporary residences in Indra village of the neighboring Karimganj upazila. These families were living temporarily in Kashipur village during the dry season for about ⁵⁻⁶ months of the year. Having no permanent residential address, they had no national identity card or fisher's ID card.

Lal Mia's family consists of seven members with father - Abdul Gani - two sons and three daughters. He could not work much due to the disability of a congenital leg problem. His family had to go around asking neighbours for livelihood support. Under these circumstances, he and his family were trapped in poverty. Lal Mia was looking for a way out.

Good Practices:

Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Land, in Bangla year ¹⁴²⁴ Atharobeki Failla Beel was handed over to the fishers' group of Kashipur village for the purpose of Community-based Fisheries Resource Management (CbFRM). Being a disabled fisherman, Lal Mia became a member of Atharobeki Failla Beel User Group (BUG) formed through the project. After joining the BUG, the project encouraged and supported him to actively participate in BUG meetings and activities. Apart from this, he also received social awareness training including leadership development and team management, accounting, and gender mainstreaming, provided by the project.



Success Story:

After becoming a BUG member, Lal Mia gradually regained his mental strength and attended regular meetings and started saving. The BUG hired Lal Mia as a guard to maintain the swamp trees on the bank of the beel with a salary of Taka 8,000 per month. Lal Mia also received Taka 5,000 as a share of profit from the beel fishing and 30,000 taka as wages for selling fish. Under the support of compensatory alternative income generating activity for the BUG members, Mr. Lal Mia was provided with an amount of Tk. 10,000 during the year 2021 for earning alternative income during the fishing Ban period. Mr. Lal Mia then started a social business of cow fattening. He added his savings of Taka 15,000 and bought a cow for a total cost of Taka 25,000. He feeds and tends the cow regularly. Currently the value of the cow is Taka 40,000. Lal Mia has deposited Taka 7,000 as personal savings in the BUG. In this way, Lal Mia's family is slowly moving towards improved economic livelihood.

Lal Mia can now run his family on his own without the help of others. His sons and daughters are going to school and one daughter is married. As his income has increased he is able to meet the demand of his family for a balanced diet. Lal Mia has constructed a new tin shed room on his house, purchased some furniture for the room and plans to install a sanitary latrine.

Impacts:

After becoming a member of the Atharobeki Failla BUG, Lal Mia informed about the activities of CbFRM and the BUG to the disabled community of Kashi-pur village regularly and has become a source of inspiration for the people. Not only that, but he has become a known person to everyone in the village as an ideal man who proposes various initiatives to improve the life of the villagers.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- By providing appropriate training and information, and by recognizing good performance within the group, even those who have struggled with their disabilities can make a positive impact on their communities and improve the livelihoods of their families.
- This is a demonstration for other disabled people in the community of what they can achieve.
- Making effective use of the capabilities of disabled people contributes to the development of a community.

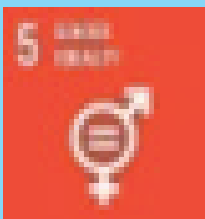


Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Beel Management and Women

Location: Pachat village, Gaziper Union, ,Khaliajuri Upazila, Netrakona



Rupna Begum with her own sewing machine

Outcomes

Before:

- Her family was very poor
- She could not provide enough food for her family.

Project Input:

- BUG establishment and activity guidance
- Providing various training opportunities
- Advice about work.
- Creation of a loan scheme.

Present:

- She bought a sewing machine and started tailoring
- She was then able to start cow farming.
- She now earns regular income.
- She can provide her family with enough food.
- She has greater confidence in planning for the future

Background & Context:

Rupna Begum was born in a poor family at Pachat Village and completed class eight schooling. However, her family could not bear the cost of continuing her education after this. At the age of 16, she married Ishaq Mia of the same village. She then had three sons and one daughter. Her husband was an agricultural labourer working as day labour.

Being very poor, she was unable to provide enough food for her family. She and her family had to quickly find something to alleviate their difficult situation.

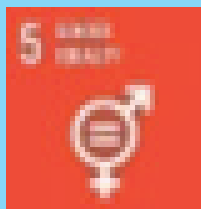
Good Practices:

The project initiated activities in Pachat village in 2017 by establishing a Beel User Group (BUG) to lease Gagani beel, under the CbFRM initiative. Rupna joined as a member of the BUG and after some days she was appointed as secretary. She then could earn income from beel fishing. She also received training such as team management, leadership, and beel management under the project.

Success Story:

Rupna received a loan of Taka 10,000 from the project. She then added Taka 5,155 from her personal savings.. With this money, she bought a sewing machine.

She then practiced her sewing technique hard, since she was desperate to overcome her adversity, and started a tailoring business. The earnings from her sewing work and profit sharing from the activities at the BUG enabled her to earn a regular income.



This allowed her to provide sufficient food for her family, improved their situation dramatically.

As her situation improved, Rupna also took up cow farming on leased land.

Impacts:

- She now has greater confidence in planning for the future of herself and her family compared to her previous miserable life.
- Her future plans are to set up a grocery store near the bazaar and to send her children back to school. She can look forward to enjoying a better life.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Participation in an income-generating activity, combined with training and advice provided by the project, increases the confidence of poor women and their capacity to take greater control of their lives. It opens up new possibilities for the women and improves their family livelihoods.
- Capacity building, combining training with continuing advisory support from the project, is essential to sustaining community-level development efforts.



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



2.4. Producing and Trading Dried Fish

Location: Bhatipara village, Subidpur Union,
Baniachong Upazila, Habiganj



Tulona Rani Das drying fish.



Background & Context:

Tulona Rani Das married Krisnapod Das, a poor fisherman, about 30 years ago when she was 15 years old. She moved from a poor family to another poor family. Tulona became a mother of 3 children. She lived with her husband, children, father-in-law and, mother-in-law. It was very difficult for

the seven members of family to buy the basic commodities they needed as Tulona's husband was the only earner in the family, Poverty was a constant companion. Tulona was not in a good position in family and society, and had to struggle a lot to run the family. She was even afraid to dream about a better life.

Outcomes

Before:

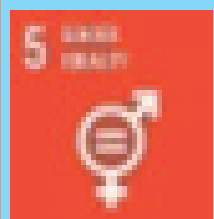
- It was very difficult for the seven members of family to buy the basic commodities.
- She was not in a good position in family and society.

Project Input:

- Establishment of BUG and generation of profit.
- Provision of training
- Financial assistance through CAIGA.

Good Practices:

In August, 2016, Tulona was selected as a member of the Andaura Beel User Group (BUG) under the CbFRM activities of HFMLIP-LGED. She received training on several aspects of skill development including fisheries management and gender equality. She was also trained on preparing hygienic dry fish, packaging, and marketing. In February, 2018, Tulona received Taka 10,000 as financial assistance to start a business under the 'Compensatory Alternative Income-generating Activities (CAIGA) scheme in HFMLIP-LGED.



Present:

- She now earns stable income by processing dry fish.
- She also receives a share of profit from the sale of fish harvested by the BUG.
- Her status and position in family and society have been strengthened.

Success Story:

With the funds received from the project, and some of her own money, Tulona started to process dried fish in 2018. Every year she has processed dried fish for six months and earned an annual profit of around Taka 60,000 after deducting all her expenses, i.e. a total income of about Taka 3,00,000 from 2018 to 2022. Also, during that time, she received a total of Taka 30,000 as her share of the profit from the sale of harvested fish by the BUG. From these incomes, Tulona has become able to bear all expenses of her children's education and her family's daily needs. She has bought several items of furniture, two mobile phones, one television set, and made a new house.

Impacts:

Within the family and community, her actions and opinions are now much more respected. Other women in her village come to seek her advice. Now she can dream of expanding her business and improving her livelihood further.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Inputs from the project can improve and strengthen the status of women in the family and society.
- Multiple sources of income make life more stable for poor women.



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Producing and Trading Dried Fish, with Improvement of Living Environment

Location: Kashipur village, Singpur union, Nikli upazila, Kishoreganj



Drying fish



Fish prepared for drying

Background & Context:

Kashipur village was completely destroyed in the devastating floods of 1988. All 315 families in the village were forced to leave the village. 200 families built temporary shelter in Indra village, Karimganj. The rest moved to other parts of the country such as Nikli and Kishoreganj.

Since 1988, the village has been submerged for about six to seven months of the year. The families had temporarily lived in Kashipur village during the dry seasons for about 30 years. They did not have permanent

residency, so they did not have a national ID card.

Jahura, one of inhabitants of this village, married while studying in class 8. Her family consists of six members, her husband Md Abdul Hakim and two sons and two daughters. Her husband, a poor day labourer, was unable to afford nutritious food for her children. Jahura, along with her children, was malnourished and not very healthy.

Good Practices:

In this situation, HFMLIP-LGED intervened to support the village. A Beel User Group (BUG) was formed from local fishers, and the project arranged for the BUG to lease Atharobeki Failla Beel from Bengali Year ¹⁴²⁴ for the purpose of community-based fisheries resource management. The beel was excavated, and the khal connecting the beel was re-excavated, and the soil was used to raise the level of

Outcomes

Before:

- Flooding prevented the community from living permanently in the village
- Poor and malnourished family.



Project Input:

- Establishment of BUG.
- Excavation of beel and beel connecting khal, soil used to raise the level of residential areas to protect the village from flooding.
- Provision of training.
- Financial assistance through CAIGA.
- Profit sharing by BUG.
- Advice and guidance from project staff.

Present:

- Villagers can now settle without worrying about flooding.
- People can now find various business opportunities.
- Economic stability promotes better nutrition for at people and educational opportunities for children.

Success Story:

In February 2018, Jahura received Taka 10,000 as financial assistance under the Compensatory Alternative Income-generating Activities (CAIGA) scheme of HFMLIP-LGED. She also received Taka 10,000 as profit sharing from the sale of fish harvested by the BUG. The money was used to buy a fish dryer, and she and her husband started the dry fish preparation and processing business.

During the five months of dry season from November to March they collected about 2,500kg of small fish, sliced them and dried them in the sun, producing about 1,100kg dried fish which they sold for a profit of approximately Taka 70,000. Jahura and her husband work together, and her husband sells the products in the

flooding. Jahura was included as an honorary member of the BUG because her husband was a fisherman. After joining the group she attended several BUG meetings and received skill development training on fisheries management, gender development and accounting. She was also trained in preparing hygienic dry fish, packaging and marketing. After this training, Jahura and her husband were motivated to start a business. A lot of small fish are available during the fishing season in Atharbeki Failla Beel and the nearby Jalmahal. Jahura noticed that most of these small fish perished before they could be sold due to lack of ice and cold storage and were sold at a very low price. She, therefore, planned with her husband to produce and trade dry fish business.

market. In this way slowly their livelihood has been improving. They have become self-reliant and improved their quality of life by working together. They have constructed a new tin shed house and bought some furniture. They are now planning to install a sanitary latrine.

Impacts:

Through the activities of HFMLIP-LGED part, the homestead area of the village has been raised and most of the villagers have been able to settle permanently. It is now possible for them to obtain a national ID card as well as Fishermen ID card.

The combined income of Jahura and her husband Abdul Hakim is better than before. The family's nutritional status has been improved dramatically. Their sons can go to school and two daughters have been married.

Many others are encouraged by their activities and have been preparing dry fish for making a better living.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Planned civil works have ultimately improved the lives of the villagers displaced by the floods.
- With proper capacity building training, people can find various business possibilities.
- Economic security promotes better nutrition for people and educational opportunities for children



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Animal Husbandry

Location: Kutubpur village, Shimulbak union, Shantiganj upazila, Sunamganj



Jasmina repairing flood damaged roads under RERMP-3 Project.



Jasmina with her own animals

Background & Context:

Jasmina Begum lives in Kutubpur village. Her husband, Akkal Ali, was a farmer, but did not have his own land. It was very difficult for him to sustain a family with 6 members including 4 children by farming on leased land, earning daily wages and fishing.

Due to various calamities such as early floods,


droughts and hailstorms in Sunamganj it is very difficult to cultivate the land and produce crops efficiently. As a result, Akkal Ali had to borrow money at high interest rates from the local money lender to cover the costs of leasing land and supporting for his family members.

Outcomes

Before:

- It was hard for Jasmina's husband to earn enough money to support his family.
- There was high interest debt for land rent and living expenses.

Project Input:

- 
- Establishment of BUG.
 - Awareness development to start alternative income earning business
 - Training for skill development.
 - Financial assistance through CAIGA.

Good Practices:

Under the advice of HFMLIP-LGED, a general meeting was held in the village to implement beel management activities. That was the turning point where Mr. Akkal Ali found out about the project. During June 2016, he became a member of Nalua Beel Users Group (BUG) and participated in its activities. His wife, Jasmina Begum, then took one-day training on animal husbandry organized by the project. At the BUG's monthly meetings there were various discussions about different ways to increase income. Accordingly, Mr. Akkal Ali was provided with an amount of Tk. 10000 as capital for a new business of sheep and goat rearing under CAIGA scheme. Besides, Akkal Ali also received Taka 10,000 as profit sharing from his BUG from sale of fish harvested from the beel. To compensate the BUG members during fishing ban period, a financial support of Tk. 10000 was provided to each BUG members to earn alternative income.



Present:

- Economic stability of residents.
- Establishment of BUG has allowed community response to sudden natural disasters and family misfortunes.

Success Story:

Based on these funds, Akkal Ali and Jasmina Begum started raising goats and sheep. They began to earn a steady income from this, from wages for harvesting the Nalua beel fish, and from BUG profit sharing. Their standard of living, like that of the rest of the group, began to improve. However, their lives were then again hit with a major roadblock.

Akkal Ali passed away suddenly on March 26, 2018. The Nalua Beel BUG responded to this difficult situation in the spirit of mutual aid. This was unprecedented for a BUG. Nalua BUG provided financial support for the funeral and burial expenses for its member Akkal Ali.

Impacts:

Sunamganj district was hit by severe flooding in 2022. Nalua BUG members suffered damage to their homes, furniture, livestock hay and paddy fields. It is very difficult for an individual to recover from such flood damage. But the Nalua BUG members each received Taka 22,000 profit share from the sale of fish harvested in their beel. With this money, they helped each other to overcome the difficulties.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- The establishment of a BUG and its economic activities enable mutual aid in response to natural disasters and individual family misfortunes.
- Economic independence of residents is very important for children's education.

After the sudden death of her husband, Jasmina Begum was inducted as a member of the Nalua BUG.

Jasmina Begum bought 5 goats with the money she and her husband had saved, and supported by the project. After rearing, she sold 3 goats and earned a profit. She also took employment on another LGED project, the Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Project (RERMP-3), earning a monthly income of Taka 5,500. With the income she repaired her house and bought two cows. She continued these businesses and gradually stabilized her family's life even after the loss of her husband. Currently she has 2 goats and 2 cows.

Jasmina was able to repair her house and buy paddy fields and cattle. In this way, the activities of the HFMLIP-LGED have had a positive impact on the stability, welfare and security of the community.

Jasmina Begum plans to raise ducks, chickens, cows and goats when the flood waters recede, and hopes to save a little more in the future so her children can go to school..



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Duck Rearing

Location: Bhatipara village, Subidpur Union, Baniachong Upazila, and Lalpur village, Snanghat Union, Bahubal Upazila, Habiganj



Lalmohon Das and Shorgotara Rani Das
with their ducks



Sabitri Rani Das and her ducks



Background & Context:

Lalmohon Das and Shorgotara Rani Das are husband and wife with three children. They live in Bhatipara village, Subidpur union, Baniachong upazila, Habiganj.

Monoronjjon Das and Sabitri Rani Das are husband and wife with two children. They live in Lalpur village, Snanghat union,

Bahubal Upazila, Habiganj.

Both husbands were fishermen and farmers and each husband was the sole income earner in the family, but they could not earn enough and the families did not have enough to eat. Their wives were trying to earn money, but they could not find any income sources.

Outcomes

Before:

- The families were poor
- It was very difficult for the families to buy the essential commodities of life

Project Input:



- Establishment of BUG and generation of profit.
- Training for capacity development.
- Financial assistance through CAIGA.

Good Practices:

HFMLIP-LGED commenced activities and established a Beel User Group (BUG) for the Ratna Beel and Boro Paika Beel in Bhatipara village and Lalpur village respectively. Shorgotara and Sabitri joined the BUG in the communities where they lived. They received various types of training from the project, including management of a beel and income-generating activities.

The Haor region is fully dependent on one rice crop – the Boro crop from November to April. For the rest of the year crops cannot be cultivated as the lowland areas are inundated by flash floods. The project staff encouraged the trained BUG members to raise ducks in order to diversify their income sources. The duck rearing business has been found to be one of most suitable livelihood opportunities in the Haor region - ducks can adapt to different environmental conditions



Present:

- The families were able to earn enough money to meet their needs.
- Capacity building program increased their awareness and motivation.
- The training and advice from the project helped them to run their businesses successfully.
- Using them as role models, other people started working to improve their livelihoods.
- The status of women has improved through their business activities.

Success Story:

Lalmohon and Shorgotara started their operation with 400 ducklings in 2018. They sold the grown ducks earning Taka 60,000 profit after six months. From 2018 to 2022 they earned a total profit of Taka 2,20,000 from duck rearing. They also earned a total amount of Taka 30,100 over the same period as their share of the profit made by their BUG from the sale of harvested fish. With these additional incomes Lalmohon and Shorgotara were able to bear all their family expenses including children's education and health care. They also purchased 10 decimal of agricultural land and a cow. They have bought several pieces of furniture, two mobile phones and a television set, and made a new slab latrine. Monoronjjon and Sabitri bought 300 ducklings and started rearing. After 3 months they sold 280 ducks for a net profit of Taka 33,500. In a year they reared two batches and made a profit of about Taka 1,20,000. From 2018 to June 2022, they earned a total profit of Taka 5,20,000 from their duck rearing business and received Taka 25,000 as their share of the profit from sale of fish harvested by the BUG.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Training for capacity building is very effective to expand the livelihood possibilities for poor families.
- The advice and consultation of the project staff is important, though the beneficiaries' own determination and hard work are indispensable.
- Having multiple sources of income makes family livelihoods more stable and secure.
- The appearance of role models stimulates the expansion of income-generating activities to other members of the community.

and can collect food from water bodies which reduce the cost of their rearing.

The skill and knowledge developed from the training enhanced their confidence, so each family decided to try duck rearing. The project then provided additional day-long training on duck rearing and farm management with the help of the Department of Livestock Services (DLS).

Each family was provided with Taka 10,000 in 2018 as financial assistance to start duck rearing under the Compensatory Alternative Income Generating Activities (CAIGA) scheme implemented by each BUG under HFMLIP-LGED.

Impacts:

Both families became able to bear their family expenses including education for their children, and medication for the family members, and to improve their living conditions. Each family's food security has significantly improved and their diet now includes fish and vegetables. Each wife has become an example of a successful woman due to their strong determination and HFMLIP-LGED support, and by working with their husbands. They now have strong desire to expand their business on a larger scale.

Some BUG members in one village were initially just observing duck rearing, feeding, and other practices. However, seeing the success of the two families and the profits made with the supervision service provided by HFMLIP-LGED and DLS officials, they and some non-BUG members in the village have taken up duck farming. They are now earning a good income that is changing their livelihoods significantly. Gradually the whole village is becoming known as "the duck village".



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Duckling Hatchery Business Using Rice Husk

Location: Bhatipara village, Subidpur Union, Baniachong Upazila, Habiganj



Suluxmy Rani Das taking care of duck eggs



Sonka Rani Das organizing eggs

Background & Context:

Suluxmy Rani Das is the wife of Brindaban Das who is a fisherman. Suluxmy is the mother of four children, But it was very difficult for the six member family to buy the basic necessities such as rice, clothes and medication since the husband was the only earner. Suluxmy's husband had to borrow Taka 70,000 from the village money lenders and NGOs with high rates of inter-

est. She constantly thinking how she could overcome her family's poverty.

Sonka Rani Das and her husband Promod Das, a poor fisherman, were constantly on the brink of financial ruin. The husband's income was insufficient for maintaining their family conditions, they could neither educate their children nor afford proper medication.

Good Practices:

In August, 2016, Suluxmy and Sonka were included as members of the Andaura Beel User Group (BUG) under HFMLIP-LGED. After joining the BUG, they received skill development training in fisheries management, gender development, and income-generating activities. The training enhanced their capacity and confidence.

In February, 2018, Suluxmy and Sonka each received Taka 10,000 as financial assistance to start up a business under the Compensatory Alternative Income Generating Activities' (CAIGA) implemented by Andaura Beel BUG under HFMLIP-LGED. Using this capital, along with the money they had earned as their share of the profit from BUG beel fishing and their own funds, they each started a duck hatchery business using rice husk.

Outcomes

Before:

- Families of Suluxmy and Sonka were very poor.
- They did not have sufficient incomes.

Project Input:



- Establishment of BUG
- Several trainings for skill development
- Financial assistance through CAIGA.



Present:

- They are able to earn a steady income from duckling hatchery and BUG activities.
- Their family's nutritional status improved dramatically.
- They are respected as role models in their communities.

Success Story:

Suluxmy started her hatchery with 5,000 duck eggs in 2018. She then sold ducklings every 28 days. The hatching rate was approximately 75%. The profit per batch of ducklings sold was about Taka 35,000. Duckling production can only be done for about six months each year. Therefore, from 2018 to 2022, her total net profit from her duckling hatchery business was about Taka 10,50,000. She also received Taka 30,000 in the

same period as profit from the sale of fish harvested by the BUG. From this income, Suluxmy was able to pay back her loans, and cover the expenses for her children's education, medication and daily family needs. She has improved her house, and bought furniture, a television set and a mobile phone as well.

Sonka started her hatchery in 2018 with 2,000 eggs. She sold ducklings every 28 days at a profit of about Taka 15,000 per batch, or about Taka 90,000 a year. From 2018 to 2022, she also received a total of Taka 25,000 as her share of the profit from sale of fish harvested by the BUG. With this income her family is no longer financially vulnerable, her children are being educated, and she is able to pay medical bills as required. She has also improved and furnished the family house.

Impacts:

Suluxmy and Sonka each had struggled, but now they do not have to worry about lack of money to take care of their families or to pay the interest on their loans. Their families now eat more fish, meat and vegetables on a daily basis and their food security has improved. Their opinions have come to be respected both in their families and in society and other women in the society respect and try to follow them.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Inputs from HFMLIP-LGED have improved and strengthened the status of women in the family and society.
- The CAIGA initiative, and the profits earned from BUG membership, allow women to start-up and develop small businesses and generate a regular and reliable income.
- The emergence of role models such as Suluxmy and Sonka, becoming known as successful women in the area, has a strong influence on other women in the village.



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Goose Rearing

Location: Bhatipara village in Baniachong Upazila, and Lalpur village in Bahubal Upazila, Habiganj



Bipula Rani Das and her geese and goslings



Lucky Rani Das and her geese and goslings

Background & Context:

Bipula Rani Das was married with a poor fisherman Loni Das in Bhatipara village, Subidpur union, Baniachong upazila, Habiganj. She became the mother of four children. It was hard for the young husband and wife to support a family of six with just Loni's income.

In a similar fashion, Lucky Rani Das was married with a poor fisherman Ramkrisno Das

in Lalpur village, Bahubal upazila, Habiganj.

They had four children, but they did not have a steady income source to support a family of six. They were unable to give their children adequate education and necessary medical care.

In these situations, both families tried to find any income sources to support their household budget, but were not able to find any. They became so tired of living.

Outcomes

Before:

- The families were poor.
- It was very difficult for the families to buy the essential commodities of life.

Project Input:

- Establishment of BUG.
- Provision of training for capacity enhancement.
- Financial assistance. through CAIGA.

Good Practices:

In March 2016, HFMLIP-LGED organized Beel User Groups (BUG) at Ratna beel and Kaimali beel in Bhatipara village and Lalpur village respectively. The two husbands and wives were included as members and beneficiaries of these BUGs. They were provided with various types of training from the project, including managing of beel, raising livestock, raising cows, and homestead gardening. The two married couples each then received Taka 10,000 as financial assistance to start a business under the 'Compensatory Alternative Income Generating Activities (CAIGA) implemented by the Project for each BUG. Each family added some of their own money and started goose rearing businesses, which have played an important role in their poverty reduction.



Present:

- The training and advice from the project helped the two families to run their businesses successfully and gave them greater confidence.
- The two families now have a regular income to meet essential needs and improve their lives.
- Using them as role models, other families have started working to improve their livelihoods.
- The status of the women has improved through running a business.

Success Story: Start-up

Loni and Bipula started rearing 80 goslings. Within the year, they sold 70 grown geese and earned Taka 49,000 as net profit. Subsequently, every year they would purchase and rear goslings, then sell the grown geese after one year. From 2018 to 2021, they earned around Taka 2,00,000 from this business. Moreover, in that time, they received a total of Taka 25,000 as their share of the profit from the sale of the beel fish harvest. Based on these two income sources, Loni and Bipula have become able to feed their family well, and bear all expenses of their children's education. They have bought various pieces of furniture, and repaired their house.

For Ramkrisno and Lucky, their training and the diverse knowledge gained gave them the confidence to start their own business. They received Taka 4,000 as their share of profit from the fish harvest by the BUG. They purchased 40 goslings for rearing. Eight months later they sold 26 geese for Taka 22,000. They have continued their goose farming every year and have made a profit of Taka 1,00,000 by the sale of geese and vegetables. As member of BUG, she has been provided with Tk. 10000 as financial assistance under CAIGA program for alternative income earning. With this assistance she has purchased heifers and has been trying to expand her business for better income earning.

Impacts:

Each family's food security has significantly improved and their diet now includes fish and vegetables.

They improved their family houses, and purchased mobile phones, television sets, and essential furniture.

The status of Bipula and Lucky in family and society has been strengthened. Each of them has become recognized as a successful person by other members of the community.

By working together, each husband and wife has significantly improved the livelihood of their family.

Other people in the village respect and follow their activities, and recognize the benefits of husbands and wives working together as partners.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Inputs from HFMLIP-LGED improves and strengthens the status of women in the family and society though their own determination and hard work were also important.
- Having multiple sources of income makes her business and living more stable.
- The emergences of role models such as Bipula and Lucky becoming known as one of successful women in the area, has a strong influence on other women in the village.



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Sheep Rearing

Location: Hosenpur village, Snanghat union, Bahubal Upazila, Hobigonj



Sheli Rani Das and her sheep



Shipra Rani Das and her sheep

Background & Context:

In Hosenpur Village, many families live in poverty.

For example, Dharendra Das and his wife Sheli Rani Das ran a small fishery and cultivated land. Dharendra Das cultivated ⁴⁵ decimal of sharecrop land, but his wife had only ³ decimal of homestead land. They grew paddy and vegetables, but before joining HFMLIP-LGED their income was

barely enough to survive.

Shipra Rani Das's family consists of six members including her two sons and two daughters. Her husband was a poor fisherman and his income was insufficient for maintaining the family for food, education, and health care. The family does not have land for cultivation and they were trapped in poverty.

Good Practices:

Good Practices: Receive trainings and assistances from the project

In 2017 HFMLIP-LGED started beel management activities in Bahubal upazila. Sheli and Shipra joined as members in the Beel User Group (BUG) of the "Boro Paika" Beel. The project provided training to all members of BUG in beel management, open water fisheries management, and gender development. Members also had the opportunity to learn about duck, sheep, goat and cow rearing. The training enhanced their capacity and confidence. Project staff influenced Sheli and Shipra to take up sheep rearing because sheep grow fast, are disease resistant, consume all types of food and are well-adapted to haor conditions. Therefore, sheep are easy for women to rear.

Outcomes

Before:

- Their income was barely enough to survive.

Project Input:

- Establishment of BUG.
- Provision of training for capacity building.
- Financial assistance. through CAIGA.





Present:

- The training and advice from the project helped the two families to run their businesses successfully and gave them greater confidence.
- The two families now have a regular income to meet essential needs and improve their lives.
- Using them as role models, other families have started working to improve their livelihoods.
- The status of the women has improved through running a business.

Impacts:

The two families have been coming out of poverty. With the income earned they are able to pay educational expenses for their children, and have installed a tube well and a hygienic latrine.

Sheli and Shipra mentioned that the sheep farming has enhanced their dignity among their own families as well as in the society. They both expressed their hopes that they will expand their modern method of sheep farming in the future.

Other women of the area have started sheep farming after seeing their success.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Training and financial support provided to poor women by the project was of benefit in giving them confidence to start up income-generating activities.
- Ongoing advice from the experienced project staff boosted the motivation of the beneficiaries.
- Their own determination and hard work were also important.
- Inputs from the project have strengthened the status of women and improved their family livelihoods.

In December 2018, Sheli and Shipra each received Taka 10,000 as financial assistance under the 'Compensatory Alternative Income-generating Activities (CAIGA) of the project.

Success Story:

In December 2018, Sheli and Shipra purchased 5 sheep and 4 sheep respectively using the project financial assistance and is built homestead "mini-farms" to take care of the animals - they wanted to be self-reliant. The sheep gave birth to lambs and the stocks multiplied.

From 2019 to 2022, Sheli sold 12, 15, 20 and 12 adult sheep and profited by Taka 60,000, 90,000, 1,50,000 and 90,000 respectively. Her monthly income is now about Taka 14,000 from sheep farming.

In the same manner, Shipra sold 9, 12, 15 and 8 adult sheep and profited by about Taka 45,000, 75,000, 1,10,000 and 60,000 respectively. Her monthly income is now around Taka 10,000 from sheep farming.



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Small-scale Trading

Location: Lalpur village, Bahubal Upzila, Habigonj



Krisna Rani Das's shop

Outcomes

Before:

- Their income was barely enough to support their family.
- There was a debt of Taka 30,000 to money lenders.

Project Input:

- Establishment of BUG, generating profits for members from the fish harvest.
- Provision of training.
- Financial assistance through CAIGA.

Present:

- Stable and reliable income from their grocery store.
- Monthly income now Taka 8,000-10,000.
- Family's food security and livelihood has greatly improved.

Background & Context:

Dhirendra Das and Krisna Rani Das, husband and wife, have two sons and one daughter. Dhirendra is a fisherman and agricultural labourer. They only had three decimal homestead land. Their income was barely enough to support their family. They had to borrow Taka 30,000 at a high interest rate from local money lenders to meet essential needs for living. The family was sinking under the burden of debt.

Good Practices:

In July 2016, HFMLIP-LGED part formed Toilokuma Beel User Group (BUG) at Lalpur village and Krisna was included as a member of the group in July 2017. The project provided skill development training including beel management, financial record keeping, business ethics and gender development. There was also the opportunity to learn about small-scale trading. Dhirendra and Krisna received Taka 10,000 as financial assistance under Compensatory Alternative Income Generating Activities (CAIGA) of the project.

Success Story:

With this project funding, plus Taka 5,000 from their share of the BUG fish harvest profit, Dhirendra and Krisna opened a small grocery shop in their homestead area with their family, applying the knowledge accumulated through the training. They purchase grocery items from the Upazila market and sell them in their shop. Dhirendra and Krisna earned Taka 6,000 in the first month. Gradually they gradually increased the number of products they handled based on their earnings and business experience. They spend maximum time in the grocery shop, working long hours, and now earn Taka 8,000-10,000 per month.



Impacts:

Krisna has become so busy running the grocery store that she has hired a girl to help her with the household chores.

The family no longer depend on money lenders. Their food security has greatly improved, as fish and vegetables are now a regular part of the family's dinner table. They have raised their house with a brick wall and bought a TV set and other household assets. They have now purchased two cows as another income-generating activity.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- The training on business management was very effective.
- Inputs from HFMLIP-LGED have created opportunities for poor families progressively to increase their income and improve their livelihoods.
- The determination, motivation and hard work of the beneficiaries is also important.



Community-based Fisheries Resource Management



Production of Fishing Ggear

Location: Autithpur village, Sadar Union, Barhatta Upazila,



Nurnahar making bamboo fishing gear

Background & Context:

When Nurnahar was 7 years old, her father passed away and that caused financial problems for her family, and she could not continue her studies. At the age of 15, she married Md. Arshad Khan from Autithpur village, who was unemployed. She became a mother of four children. The family were so poor that it was very difficult to provide enough food for her five family members and Nurnahar only ate one meal every day. To earn some extra income, she asked her

husband to open a small shop selling fishing gear at Autithpur Bazar. However, Nurnahar's position in the family and society was very weak and never good. So she was desperate about her life and was very worried about her children's health and education.

Good Practices:

On May 2016, with the encouragement of the field staff of HFMLIP-LGED, the village community formed the Autithpur Neem Beel User Group (BUG) with 23 members. including Nurnahar. She was then appointed the Treasurer of the BUG. She received training on various social awareness topics including leadership development and team management, enhancing her capacity. She also received training in accounting and management of an organization. Nurnahar was selected by the BUG to receive Taka 10,000 as financial assistance under Compensatory Alternative Income-Generating Activities (CAIGA) scheme of the project, to which she added personal savings of Taka 1,800.

Before:

- The family income was barely enough to meet essential daily needs, including food.
- Her position in the family and society was very weak and never good.

Project Input:

- Establishment of BUG.
- Provision of training
- Financial assistance through CAIGA.





Present:

- She had the opportunity to earn her own income, now earning Taka 10,000 per month.
- Her family's food security has greatly improved.
- Her position within her family and within her community has improved.

Success Story:

With this money Nurnahar started a business making fishing gear at home. She applied the training she had received under the project which had significantly improved her knowledge and skills, and through which she had gained confidence in herself. With ongoing advisory support from the project, she was able to move

forward with her business. Despite many adversities, she began selling fishing tackle at a relatively low profit to poor fishermen in the remote area. She now sells at least 60 sets of fishing gear every month with a profit of Taka 10,000 after deducting all costs of making the gear.

Impacts:

Nurnahar currently employs 2 workers, so she is giving job opportunities to other poor people in the area. Her situation within her family and within her community has improved.

Today, her family owns some gold jewellery, a variety of furniture, domestic chickens and two mobile phones.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- The project training on business management is very effective for beneficiaries aiming to start income generating activities.
- Inputs from HFMLIP-LGED have generated opportunities to find new income sources for poor women who are determined and hard-working.



Aquaculture



Rayerchar Net-pen Aquaculture

Location: Rayerchar village, Uchmanpur union, Kuliarchar Upazila, Kishoreganj



Rayerchar Net Pen Fisher's Group catching fish.



Background & Context:

In recent years, there are concerns about the depletion of fisheries resources due to environmental deterioration and over-fishing in the Haor region. It is an urgent task to ensure that the livelihoods of the Haor people can be stabilized and improved through sustainable fishing.

In Rayerchar village of Uchmanpur Union of Kuliarchar Upazila under Kishoreganj

District, a net-pen fish culture unit has been established with the support of the HFM-LIP-LGED part.

In January 2020, the project mobilized the community to form the "Rayerchar Net-Pen Aquaculture Group". The total number of members of the organization is 20, out of which 14 are male and 6 are female. Total area of net-pen is 16 acres.

Good Practices:

The net-pen was prepared for fish farming by utilizing the knowledge gained through training and capital funding support received from the project. Ongoing activities such as (1) repairing the dikes and bottom of the net pen, (2) clearing the weeds, (3) removing the predatory fish with medicine, pulling the net and drying, (4) applying lime to the net-pen, and (6) applying fertilizers are carried out.

Stocking of fingerlings in the net-pen: The members have learned from the training how many fish fingerlings are to be released per decimal of the net-pen area based on their feeding habit.

Outcomes

Before:

- There were concerns about the depletion of fisheries resources due to environmental degradation and overfishing in the Haor area.
- Livelihoods of the inhabitants were unstable due to the harsh weather in Haor area.



Project Input:

- Training was provided by the project.
- Advice was given by the knowledgeable and experienced project staff about net-pen aquaculture.
- The project provided capital funding support.
- Monitoring activities were carried out by members of the group with guidance from project staff.

Success Story:

During the financial year 2020-21, fish worth Taka 19,47,033 were sold. The total expenditure was Taka 14,21,371 and the profit was Taka 5,25,662. Each member of the group received Taka 20,000 as profit share and the remaining amount was deposited in the organization's own bank account for fish farming. About Taka 2,00,000 was earned by the group as wages while preparing the net-pen, fishing, transporting and selling.

In the financial year 2021-22, fish worth Taka 21,06,601 taka were sold. The total expenditure was Taka 15,55,633 and the profit was Taka 5,50,968. Each member received Taka 25,000 as profit sharing and the remaining amount was deposited in the organization's own bank

Present:

- The group members jointly carry out the fish farming activities.
- Group members are now guaranteed a stable income.
- The activity contributes to the conservation of the surrounding environment and management of fisheries resources.
- It is expected that the scheme will become a model case for such activities and spread to the surrounding area.

Impacts:

The reputation of the members as net-pen fish farmers in the area has spread.

The Rayerchar Net-Pen Aquaculture Group have been recognized as successful fish farmers in the society. They have made the local people aware about the benefits of men and women working together on development activities. By participating in

various rituals and events, they have been able to play an active role in the local affairs. For example, if abuse of women, child marriage or polygamy occurs, they report the matter to the Union Council. Residents have been aware to register births and marriages. The members participate in anti-dowry activities.

Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- By collaborating with the local community on fish culture activities in this way, a stable income can be secured, while at the same time contributing to the conservation of the surrounding environment and the management of fisheries resources.
- It is hoped that this group will become a model case for such activities and spread to the surrounding area.

As per the training and the advice of the project staff, fingerlings of the specified size and number are stocked in the net-pen and fed regularly in fixed time and place with specified ratio. Sampling of fingerlings in the net-pen: 4 members regularly look after the net-pen, and monitor fish growth (length and weight) and test the water quality every 15 days interval. As a result of this intensive care, the fish become marketable size within 4-5 months of rearing.

account for fish farming. About Taka 2,10,000 was earned by group as wages while preparing the net-pen, fishing, transporting and selling.. The group income is expected to increase gradually each year.

As the capacity of the members increases, so does their experience in fish farming. Many group members are now engaging in other income-generating activities as well with the profit earned from fish farming.

Regular consumption of fish caught in the net pen by the members not only meets their nutritional needs but also saves money from fish buying. By the grace of Allah and with the help of the project, they are now well-fed and can save some money in the bank every year.



Aquaculture



Puraton Kornagaon Floodplain Aquaculture

Location: Puraton Kornagaon village, Karimpur union, Derai upazila, Sunamganj



Puraton Kornagaon floodplain aquaculture area



Fish reared and harvested by floodplain aquaculture

Background & Context:

There were a total of 22 households in this community, with an average of 6-7 members per household. Most of the inhabitants were engaged in agriculture and fisheries. However, during the seven months of the monsoon season, the surrounding land was often submerged under water and could not be used for agriculture. Furthermore, when there was an early flood, all the crops, including rice farmed on limited land, were

washed away. As a result, many inhabitants gave up farming. Since floods also washed away most of the fish in the surrounding area, it was often difficult to catch fish, and there was no custom to manage such fisheries. Many of the inhabitants did not have a stable source of income and were very poor, suffering from hunger and malnutrition. They were unable to have three meals a day, and it was almost impossible to pay for their children's education cost, or to buy any commodities

Outcomes

Before:

- Rice production had decreased due to natural calamities of heavy floods.
- Many families in the community did not have a stable source of income and suffered from poverty.
- There was a decline in fish production due to environmental degradation and human interventions in the area.

Good Practices:

In April, 2019 Puraton Kornagaon floodplain-area under the village of Puraton Kornagaon was selected to implement a community-based floodplain aquaculture activity under the assistance and support of HFM-LIP-LGED Part, following several visits and discussions with the community members by project staff. The "Puraton Kornagaon Floodplain Aquaculture Group" was then formed in May 2019. Total number of the members of the organization is 22, of which 16 are male and 6 are female. Total area of the floodplain is 10 acres.



Project Input:

- Training was conducted for the promotion and management of floodplain area.
- Financial support of Taka 8,87,700 was provided to the group towards the investment cost.
- Supervision, guidance and advisory services were provided by the knowledgeable and experienced staff.
- Fisheries management activities were carried out by the group members.

Success Story:

The "Puraton Kornagaon Floodplain Aquaculture Group" then commenced the following activities, namely (a) dike repairing and bottom levelling, (b) aquatic weed cleaning, (c) lime application, (d) fertilizing, (e) establishment of guard shed and store-house, and (f) boat purchase. Besides, supervision and monitoring activities have been carried out regularly by the field level project staff. After stocking of fingerlings, formulated feeds have been provided twice daily in specified ratio at specified time and place. The fingerlings have been sampled fortnightly to monitor their growth in weight and length along with water testing. Supplied feeds have been adjusted accordingly. Under this management system, the growth rates of the fish have been accelerated and the fish reach marketable size within 4-5 months of stocking.

Through these activities, the group's catch volume and sales have increased year by year.

During the financial year 2019-20 an amount of 6,460 kg of fish was produced generating sales of Taka 9,04,400. Total expenditure for the year was Taka 7,10,000 and the total profit was Taka 1,94,400. An amount of Taka 5,000 per member was distributed as profit share and the remaining amount was deposited in the organization's bank

The members of the group were trained and provided with guidelines on modern techniques of floodplain aquaculture, and financial support of Taka 8,87,700 was provided by the project. The floodplain area was developed for fish culture by the group utilizing the knowledge gained through technical training and the capital funding support. The members of the group learned the appropriate stocking density along with the fingerling size to be stocked per decimal of floodplain area, and post-stocking management.

account for future fish farming. Besides, an amount of Taka 1,20,000 was earned by the members of the group as wages in floodplain preparation, fish harvesting, transporting to the market and selling.

During the year 2020-21 total expenditure for fish farming was Taka 9,15,000 while an amount of Taka 12,36,900 was earned by selling 7,980 kg of fish, giving a profit margin of Taka 3,21,900. Profit share for each member was Taka 10,000 and the remaining amount was deposited in the group bank account for fish farming. Additionally an amount of Taka 1,95,000 was earned by members of the group as wages for preparation, fish harvesting, transporting and selling in the market.

During the year 2021-22 total expenditure was Taka 11,37,706 while an amount of Taka 15,77,706 was earned by selling 12,804 kg of fish providing a profit of Taka 4,40,000 which was distributed equally to the member @ of Taka 20,000 each. In addition, an amount of Taka 1,86,000 taka was earned by the members of the group as wages for preparation, fish harvesting, transporting and selling in the market.

This has enriched the lives of the group members, and the shortages of food, and of cash for educational and medical expenses, have been relieved.

Present:

- Group members jointly carry out aquaculture activities in the floodplain area and the fish production and income of the group have both increased many fold.
- The quantum of fish farming in the previously unutilized seasonal floodplain area is increasing and fish consumption and nutritional status of the community have therefore improved.
- Rice production of the floodplain area is also increasing
- The natural surroundings are improved and the floodplain area has provided a nursery ground for breeding and rearing a wide range of aquatic resources.
- It is hoped that this could be a model case for such activities and be disseminated to the surrounding area.



Impacts:

Forming a group to implement floodplain aquaculture has allowed both community and individual capacity-building and awareness-raising using a hitherto largely underutilized community resource – the seasonal floodplain area.

Increased fish production in the floodplain has consequently reduced poverty and has improved the livelihoods of a poor rural community, and the group work has reduced inequality in the community. These developments have strengthened social safety nets and community networks, leading to increased engagement and empowerment of women in the rural community.

Furthermore, proper management of the floodplain has also preserved aquatic biodiversity and increased species diversity.



Lessons Learned for way forwards:

- Seasonal floodplain areas should be brought under community-based management system as they are a valuable tool to bring about dramatic positive change in the overall productivity, nutritional status and livelihoods for poorer communities of Haor area.
- Follow-up activity relating to the expansion and promotion of floodplain aquaculture is very much needed.
- Capacity building and organization strengthening are priority inputs for achieving success.





Aquaculture



Fish Culture in Homestead Pond

Location: Mandarkandi village, Burudiya union, Pakundia upazila, Kishoreganj



Rujina Khatun working in her pond.



Rujina was awarded a first prize as “Self-Reliant Woman” from LGED.

Background & Context:

Rujina Khatun lives in Mandarkandi village in Burudiya Union of Pakundia Upazila of Kishoreganj District. She was the youngest of eight children of a poor family. She married at the age of 14 with Md. Swapan Mia, a poor day labourer, while she was studying in class five. Swapan Mia had no regular work and his income was low so the family was very poor. In this poor family, Rujina's husband became involved in various addictions including playing cards. There was no chance that Rujina could do

anything outside the house. Her life was spent in extreme poverty. For many days there was no provision for two meals a day. She was living an uncertain life with her family. If she was sick, she could not afford treatment. The financial situation was so bad that even though her daughter's marriage was completed in 2015, it was not possible to send her to her father-in-law's house. And due to economic fallout, her husband was sent away from home to Sylhet three years ago to learn auto-repair while studying in class nine.

Outcomes

Before 2017:

- Rujina Khatun and her family were very poor
- She had no chance to go out and work.

Project Input:

- Training
 - Pond preparation
 - Fingerling stocking methods
 - Feed application,
 - Control of various diseases.
- Financial assistance scheme

Good Practices:

One day in 2016 HFMLIP(-LGED part) staff came to Rujina's house to select a pond to implement an aquaculture scheme in the backyard of the house where she lived. . Rujina's husband, who was drunk behind the pond, saw them and ran into the house thinking they were policemen. He ordered Rujina to tell the visitors that she did not know where he was. However, when the project staff asked about the pond, the husband came out of the house.



Present:

- Rujima and her husband are successfully managing three homestead fish ponds.
- They also earn additional income from rearing chickens.
- They earn Taka 3 lakh per year.
- Rujima is now a respected and influential woman in society.

After hearing the description of pond management through the project, Swapan Mia expressed interest in participating. Project staff said grants are not given unless the beneficiary owns a pond. Then Rujima's father-in-law allowed 20 decimal of the pond

Success Story:

Rujima prepared the pond for fish culture using the funding support received and the knowledge gained through training as follows: (1) Repairing the banks and bottom of the pond, (2) Cleaning the weeds, (3) Removing the predatory fish by applying medicine, pulling nets, and drying the pond, (4) applying lime to the pond, (5) applying fertilizers, and (6) stocking the fingerlings. Specified size and number of fish fingerlings were released into the pond based on their feeding habits. Feeds were provided daily in the form of pellets on a rigid schedule based on their body weight. Rujima regularly took care of the pond, observed the growth (length and weight) of the fish every 15 days, and tested the water quality. Based on the sampling results,

Impacts:

Rujima's reputation as a model fish farmer in the area has spread. The people of the area have started to recognize Rujima as a successful woman entrepreneur. Rujima was awarded a first prize as a Self-Reliant Woman by LGED on the occasion of International Women's Day 2020. She received the award from the Honourable Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Mr. Tajul Islam. Her position in the family and in society has been strengthened. Many neighbours now come to her for advice on various matters

Lessons Learned:

- In order to contribute to the capacity building of the poor, it is necessary to provide appropriate and easy-to-understand training and to continue to provide advice from specialist instructors as necessary.
- At the same time, the beneficiary's strong will and serious efforts are essential.

thinking they were policemen. He ordered Rujima to tell the visitors that she did not know where he was. However, when the project staff asked about the pond, the husband came out of the house.

to be put in Rujima's name to cultivate fish for 3 years. In April 2016, the project provided Rujima with a funding support of Taka 46,608 and she received 3 days training on "fish culture in backyard homestead ponds".

quantity of feed supplied was adjusted fortnightly.

As a result of this intensive care, the fish become marketable size within 3 months of rearing. In the 1st year an amount of 865 kg fish was produced giving a sale price of Tk. 170773. In the second year Rujima's husband leased two more ponds from his brothers, and by the third year an amount of 2960kg fish was produced having a sale price of Tk. 370000. Total profit earned was about Tk.

As Rujima's capacity and experience in fish farming has increased, she has continued fish culture very successfully in three ponds. But with the profit from fish farming she has also started rearing chickens @ of 2,000 chickens in each batch.

including fish culture. She can now spend freely, make decisions. The annual household income of her family is now more than Taka 3 lakh per annum and she has a savings of Taka 35,000. NGOs were previously unwilling to lend her money because her husband was once a drug addict. But her husband now engages as her partner in the poultry and fish farming. Rujima uses her position as a well-known successful woman in the society to make the local people aware about gender mainstreaming.



Aquaculture



Pond Aquaculture and Tailoring

Location: Nayanagar village, Ajmiriganj Upazila, Habiganj



Women members of Basatbari Pond Fish Culture Group harvesting fish

Background & Context:

There are many poor women and their families in Nayanagar village of Ajmiriganj. For example, Mst. Lalbanu is a poor woman who studied up to class 5 and married with Md. Siddique Ali, an agricultural worker. She became a mother of four children. However, it was difficult to support a family of six on her husband's meagre income alone.

Outcomes

Before 2017:

- The women and their families were very poor
- The women had no chance to go out and work.

Project Input:

- Training in:
pond preparation,
fingerling stocking methods
feed preparation and application,
control of various diseases.
- Financial assistance scheme.

Present:

- Leader of the group expanded her business and earned Taka 1,55,000 in 2021.
- The average income of another member of the group is around Taka 17,000 per month in total.

Similarly, Mst. Dilbahar married with Md. Astak Ali who studied with her up to class 8. He is a marginal farmer and they have had three children. It was difficult for Dilbahar to take care of her family because she did not have the opportunity to go out and work. She was exhausted from maintaining the basic living of the family.

Good Practices:

In March 2017, field level staff of the HFM-LIP-LGED came to survey the available ponds of the area for the project. They met Lalbanu and Dilbahar and selected them as members of "Homestead Pond Fish Culture Group" with two other women (Mst. Nasreen Akhter and Mst. Lipi Akhter). The area of the pond was 1.30 acre. During April 2017, the Project provided the group with a financial support of Tk. 197291 for a period of three years for Homestead pond fish culture activity under the Project. The project also imparted training to them on pond preparation, fingerling stocking methods and feed preparation, fish feeding, and control of various diseases.



Success Story:

After the training, the four members of Homestead Pond Fish Culture Group started fish culture activities under the leadership of Lalbanu. In the first year (2017), the total joint investment for pond preparation, fingerling stocking, feed and other expenses was Taka 1,95,000. After harvesting, an amount of 3051kg fish was produced giving a sale price of Tk. 335850. Net profit of the operation was Tk.140859 and each member received Taka 23,250 as profit after sale of the harvested fish. Same way they continued the fish culture activity till 2020 and earned a profit of Taka 41861, 51200 and 60523 during the year 2018, 2019 and 2020 respec-

tively. During 2021, she took lease of another two ponds of 140 decimal for two years and cultivated fish. During the period a total amount of Taka 1,55,000 was earned as profit from the three ponds.

In case of Dilbahar, she bought a sewing machine by using her profit from aquaculture and started tailoring at home in 2017. Her monthly income by tailoring was around Taka 4,000. From this income, she bought two additional sewing machines within a year. At present her average income is around Taka 12,000 per month from tailoring and around Taka 5,000 per month from aquaculture. Now her total income stands to around Taka 17,000 per month.



Mst. Lalbanu awarded by LGED as Best Independent Woman on International Women's Day 2022



Mst. Dilbahar's tailoring business with her sewing machines

Impacts:

Mst. Lalbanu was selected as the successful and best fish farmer of Ajmiriganj upazila in 2018 and the Upazila administration gave her an award. She was selected as the best independent woman on International Women's Day 2022 celebrated by LGED and received an award. Now one of her son and one daughter have been studying in college and she has been preparing for the marriage of her eldest daughter, who has already passed class 10, and her second daughter, who has passed the SSC. She can now spend her money on various household activities. In addition, she has invested Taka 60,000 as working capital for cow rearing, poultry rearing and vegetable cultivation. Moreover, she has extended the living room of her house.

Mst. Dilbahar has generated her own income and has provided a source of income for two more unemployed women by training them in tailoring. She has also improved the living room of her house. Sustaining her family and paying education expenses for her children are no longer a burden for Dilbahar. Her status and position in the family and society have been strengthened. Dilbahar has started building her dreams with clear insight and vision. She is grateful to the Project for its generous impact to her fate.

Mst. Lalbanu and Mst. Dilbahar are examples of successful women today due to their strong determination and hard work, as well as the encouragements and guidance of the Project staff.



Lessons Learned:

- Training in pond aquaculture provided by HFMLIP-LGED has been of benefit to poor women in starting up income-generating activities.
- The training fostered their ideas and motivation to start up new businesses.
- Financial support is a valuable source of capital for poor women to start up new businesses.
- Having multiple sources of income, it has made the women's businesses more stable and their lives more secure.
- The determination and hard work of the women has been very important.

