

Project Completion Report on Improving wellbeing of Ethnic Women and Girls in the Chottogram Hill Tracts

Reporting Period:
2020 September to 2021 December



Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha

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Project Completion Report: Improving Wellbeing of Ethnic Women and Girls in the Chottogram Hill Tracts

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Executive Summary

The project focus is to reduce gender based violence and improve wellbeing of ethnic women and girls in the Chittogram Hill Tracts (CHT). The CHT is the South-Eastern part of Bangladesh comprises of the three hill districts. It shares common international border with Myanmar and India. The region is largely hilly, mountainous and with rich cultural-diversity. According to the 2011 census, the country's ethnic population is 1,586,141, which represents 1.8% of the total population of the country. However, ethnic people claim that their population stands at about 5 million. Approximately 80% of the ethnic population live in the plain land districts of the north and southeast of the country and the remaining population is residing in the CHT. The CHT region is significantly different from rest of the country demographically, geographically, administratively, and has a distinct pre and post-colonial history. It is ethnically the most diverse part of the country and home of 15 different ethnic groups. Bengali population has changed drastically from 98% in 1971 to 48% in 2011. The ratio is now estimated approximately at an average of 50-50. The history of armed conflict has resulted in a high degree of militarization of the region that continues to this day. Although the conflict officially ended with the signing of the CHT Accord on 2nd December, 1997. Particularly the human rights situation of ethnic women and girls remains a huge concern in CHT since they encounter discrimination on all forms, due to their gender, religion and social status as an ethnic minority. They are also victims of different forms of gender based violence (GBV).

In this circumstance, TUS implemented the 'Improving Wellbeing of Ethnic Women and Girls in the Chittogram Hill Tracts' project supported by the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in September 2020. Through this project TUS formed 15 women groups, conducted inception workshop with all stakeholders and administration at Khagrachari sadar Upazila, capacity building training on leadership with the executive committee members and awareness sessions among 15 groups. TUS observed international women day, international rural day and sixteen days of activism successfully in project areas. TUS made 800 masks, 200 festoons and 30 show pieces for stakeholders and beneficiaries. TUS staged popular theatre in four different places of Khagrachari as per plan and installed an information hub in Khagrachari sadar Union Parishad. TUS conducted 3 days long IGA training on livestock and agriculture in 15 groups. TUS conducted workshops on GBV, gender issues, women rights and access to legal aid services with Traditional leaders, stakeholders, government officials, networks/platforms and beneficiaries. TUS conducted linkage workshop to create linkage with different CSOs and strengthen SANAK and YES committee to address GBV at local level.

The project team faced many difficulties in the field areas to achieve the targets within timeline due to the pandemic of COVID situation. Through this project community peoples are aware on gender based violence particularly domestic violence and changed attitude among peoples in project areas.

Hence, we would like to express our gratitude to all government line department officials, stakeholders, donor and local administration for their heartfelt cooperation. We would like to thanks project staffs and volunteers for their hard work, dedication and commitment.

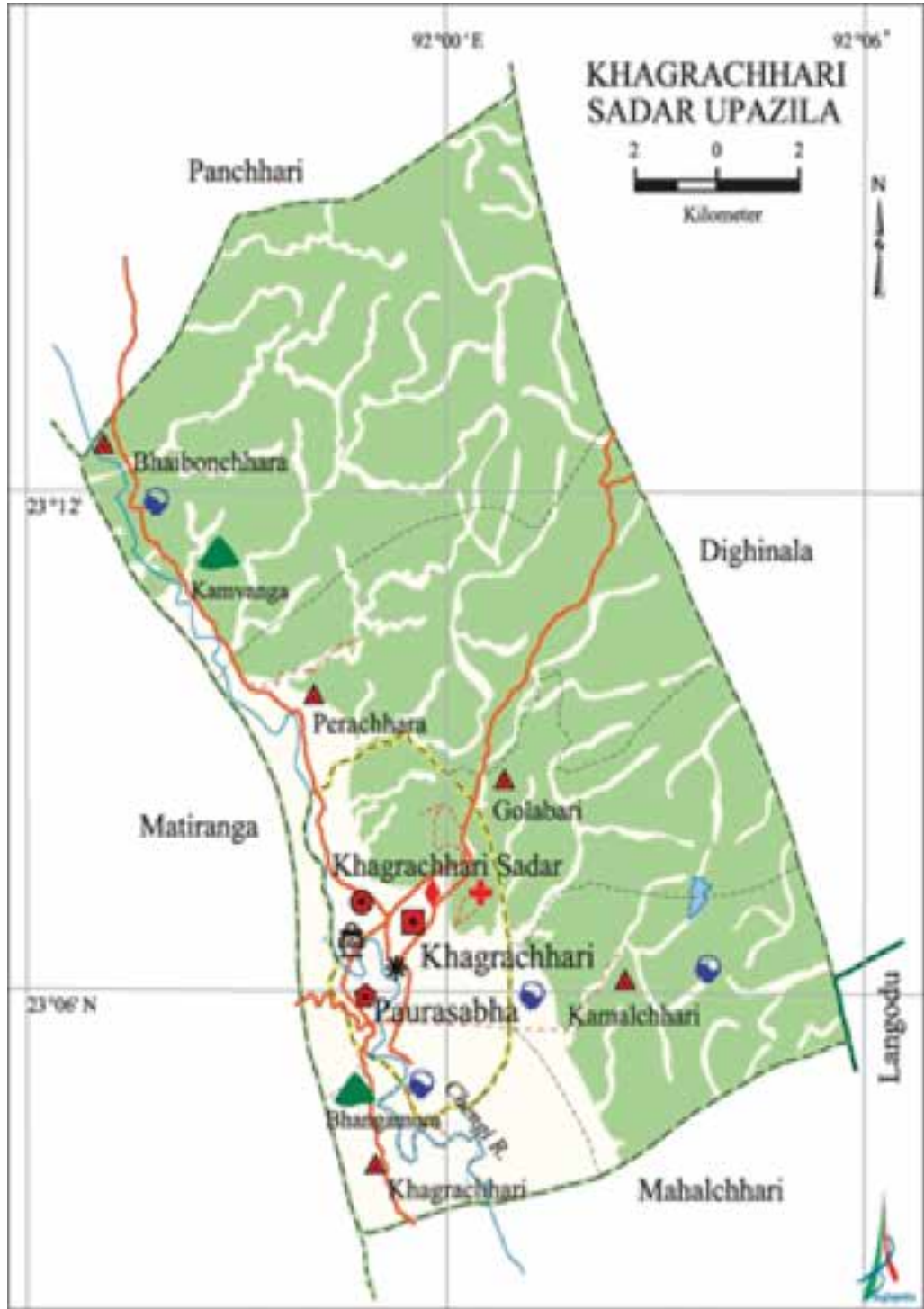
Key Terms and Acronyms

CHT	: Chottogram Hill Tracts
Community	: All people living in one Para are considered as one community
Community Solidarity Fund	: An alternative community savings mechanism to micro-credit, created by a monthly contribution from each household and managed by Para Development Committees (PDCs)
Government line departments	: Government agencies responsible for different services, including agriculture, livestock, health and education
GBV	: Gender based violence
Headman	: Traditional CHT leader at Mouza level
Karbari	: Traditional CHT leader at village level
Mouza	: An area encompassing several villages, used in the CHT traditional administrative system
M&E	: Monitoring and Evaluation
Para	: Para means Village. According to Community Empowerment guidelines by UNDP-CHTDF, a Para must have three elements: one Karbari, a definite boundary, and recognition from a mouza Headman.
SDC	: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Traditional leaders	: There are three levels of traditional leaders in the CHT: 'Karbari' at village level, 'Headman' at mouza level, and 'circle chief' at circle level
TUS	: Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha
UP	: Union Parishad is a lowest level of local government unit in Bangladesh
Upazilla	: Sub-district

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Map of the project working areas:



1. INTRODUCTION

According to the Human Rights Report 2018 on Ethnic Peoples in Bangladesh, published by Kapaeeng Foundation, supported by MJF, a total of 24 cases of violence against Ethnic women occurred in the CHT. The age of the victims varied from 3 to 75 years. The majority of the alleged perpetrators were from outside of the victims' communities. Usually, the 'Karbari' the 'Headman' and the 'Circle Chief' (Raja) play key role in the traditional justice system in the CHT. The participation and role of women is very limited in such structures. However, the majority of the people surveyed do not know where victims of GBV could seek support services, except from the police stations and hospitals. It is reported that only about 35% of the survivors and their family members sought remedy from the traditional justice system and only 3% from legal courts. The survivors go to the formal justice system mostly for very serious violations such as rape and severe physical torture. They are reluctant to go to court due to the high financial costs, lengthy process, discriminatory attitudes, and language barriers. Awareness on GBV prevention information and services, such as traditional justice system, Salish (community/social arbitration), in general are very low. The focus of the organization is to reduce gender-based violence and ensure human rights and access to public services of marginalized communities, which includes persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, etc. In the last 15 years, MJF has successfully facilitated programmes on rights of the ethnic peoples in CHT focusing on their economic livelihood, quality primary education, human rights, combating gender based violence, preservation of tradition and culture, and access to resources and services with the financial support from UKAID and the SIDA. The project contributed to prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV), improving economic empowerment of women through skills training for Income generating Activities (IGA) and access to services and resources.



2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Chittogram Hill Tracts comprises the three Hill Districts accordingly Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari and it is located in the South Eastern part of Bangladesh. It shares common international border with Myanmar and India (the states of Mizoram and Tripura). The region is largely hilly and mountains, with the principal rivers flowing between hill ranges, forming fertile valleys which constitute most of the fertile lands for paddy cultivation.

The population of the region is diverse ethnically; in total 15 ethnic groups inhabit the region including the Bangalees who are majority. Each of the ethnic groups has their own distinct languages and traditional lifestyles. The total population of the region is about 1.6 million, living in an area of 13,295 square kilometres which constitute about one tenth of the territory of Bangladesh.

The total population of CHT, as per the 2011 census is approximately 1.6 million. There is no ethnically disaggregated data in this census. However, inferring from the previous census data of 1991, it is generally believed that the overall population is evenly divided along Ethnic minorities and the majority Bangalees, with the latter group at present, possibly, having a slight majority. Of 15 ethnic groups living in the region, the CHT peace accord recognize 11 as Ethnic or Tribes to the region; 1) Chakma, 2) Marma, 3) Tripura, 4) Mro, 5) Bawm, 6) Khyang, 7) Tanchangya, 8) Pankho, 9) Lusai, 10) Chak and 11) Khumi. In addition, 4 other ethnic groups – 1) Gurka, 2) Asam, 3) Santals and 4) Rakhain – also live in the CHT.

Among the Ethnic groups, the Chakmas are the largest group, followed by the Marmas and the Tripuras. These three groups together constitute roughly 80% of the total Ethnic population, with the Chakmas alone making about 50%.

The majority Bangalees – largely follow Islam with a minority adhering to Hinduism and Buddhism. Among the Ethnic groups; the Chakmas, Tanchangyas, Marmas, Khyangs and Chaks are followers of Theravada Buddhism while the Tripuras follow Hinduism. Christianity is largely confined to a number of smaller ethnic groups; Lusai, Pankho and Bawm. The Mros and Khumis traditionally used to follow Buddhism, mixed with animistic beliefs. Subsequently, since mid-1980s, they started to follow a new religion called 'Krama'. But in recent years, many of them have been converting to various Christian denominations. This is also equally true for a portion of the Tripura, Chakma and the Khyang peoples.

The evolution of the demographic situation of the region has a historical pattern. The region was awarded to the erstwhile East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) during the 1947 partition. However at that time, Bangalees constituted a negligible percentage of the region's total population. During the entire Pakistan period in-migration from the plain areas continued, albeit in a constrained manner, but nevertheless making the Bangalees about 20% of the total population at the time of the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. During the post-independence period, following the turmoil's of 1975 and the onset insurgency in the subsequent years, the Government reportedly sponsored a program of rehabilitating about 300,000 Bangalees inside CHT from the different parts of the country. The program brought about dramatic shift in the demography of the region and by 1991; they were 49% of the total population. The subsequent censuses did not include ethnically disaggregated data, but now it is generally agreed that the Bangalees constitute the majority in the CHT.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES:

Project Name: Improving wellbeing of ethnic women & girls in the CHT
Agreement no: 03.07.2666.665.68.248.20-961
Total Budget: BDT : 46,06,033.00/
Project Duration: LOA -1 September 2020 to 31 December 2021
Project Objective: The overall objective of the project is to improve wellbeing of ethnic women and girls in the project areas.
Project outcome: Outcome 1: Beneficiary groups (people's organizations) are capable to prevent and respond to gender based violence in the project areas.
Outcome 2: Ethnic women and youth have enhanced economic opportunities.
Outcome 3: Women and girls who are victims of gender based violence have access to information, support services and resources.



4. PROJECT WORKING AREA AND BENEFICIARIES:

During the project period, we were able to motivate chairmen and members of Union Parishad to select as our criteria basis of the Group formation as per project recommendation, 2020. It was done in three Unions of our working area.

Working Area			
Name of District	Name of Upazila	Name of Union	Name of the Groups
		Perachara Up	Yubaraj para
		Kamalchari UP	Christian para
			Uper betchari Para
			Headman para
			Vuyachari Marma para
			Mangalchan para
Khagrachari	Sadar Khagrachari Upazila	1.No Khagrachari	Gamari Dhala
			Sajek para
			Nunchari Headman para
			Jatindra Member para
			Master para
			Akbari Para
			Thakurchara
			Niyong Karbari Para
			1 No Prkalpa Para



5. PROJECT TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Target	Achievement Description
Group formation	15 women groups were formed successfully.
Project inception workshop	Conducted inception workshop with all stakeholders & administration at Upazila level
Capacity Building Training for project personnel	Conducted the capacity building training successfully
Organize capacity building training on group management, leadership, gender issues, GBV	Conducted the capacity building training on leadership with the members of executive committees
Monthly awareness sessions on rights and entitlement issues	Monthly awareness sessions conducted in 15 groups and continuing till now
Organize different relevant national and international day observation events with platforms	Observed international women day, international rural day and sixteen days of activism successfully.
Develop and disseminate IEC materials	TUS management made 800 mask, 200 festoon and 30 mugs for stakeholders and beneficiaries.
Street theatre /cultural show	The theatre/cultural shows were staged in four different places of Khagrachari as per work plan 2021. The message or the inner concept of the drama was specific and clearly understandable to everyone those were witness of the shows.
Establish community information hub	Established an information hub successfully.
Skill development training to 300 ethnic women, girls and youth and input support for income generation	Conducted 3 days long IGA training on livestock and agriculture in 15 groups successfully.
Workshops with traditional leaders, bodies and networks on reducing GBV	Completed the workshop on GBV with Traditional leaders, stakeholders and government officers.
Dialogue with district legal aid committee, lawyers and Law enforcement agencies.	Completed the workshop with beneficiaries on legal aid services.
Dialogue with formal and traditional leaders governance system on access to services	Completed the workshop on access to services with Traditional leaders, stakeholders and government officers.
Sensitization workshop with relevant networks/ platforms on gender issues, women rights, GBV for mobilization and collective actions	Conducted day long workshop with relevant networks/platforms on gender issues, women rights, GBV for mobilization and collective actions successfully.
Create linkage with different CSOs and strengthen SANAK and YES committee to address GBV at local level	Conducted day long linkage workshop to create linkage with different CSOs and strengthen SANAK and YES committee to address GBV at local level successfully

6. TUS ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PROJECT PERIOD

6.1 Monthly awareness raising sessions:

We launched this project on 1st October 2020 to protect and reduce violence against women & girls in the Ethnic societies of CHT. This is also good to be mentioned that particularly the women of the Chakma and Tripura communities in CHT do not have rights on their father's property and the opinions of women in the society are not recognized yet.

Therefore, at first they become sufferers of violence in the family and then in other places too. We observed that if a woman can earn and contribute to the family then the family members respect to her and recognize her contribution. In a way, a woman becomes a part of family in the decision making process.

For an example, before the formation of group a youth member Mr. Dibendu Chakma did not even think about sharing of property with his sister. But after becoming member of the group and attending several awareness raising sessions, meetings and seminars he is also encouraging others to do the same like him. He has already shared his father's property with his sister. In addition to that, the group members have started raising their voices against domestic violence and have taken different initiatives to protect child marriage. They succeeded to make the male group members to understand and rectify themselves particularly who beat their wives.

The following issues were covered in the awareness sessions:

1. Trafficking of women, girls and child,
2. Value of household chores,
3. Reproductive health rights of women and girls.
4. Discrimination of women in getting any opportunity,
5. Discrimination of labor's remuneration and
6. Early child marriage.



6.2 Project inception workshop:

TUS conducted a day long inception workshop of “Improving wellbeing of Ethnic Women and Girls in the Chittogram Hill Tracts” project on 3rd November 2020 with the government officials, stakeholders and project participants at Upazila hall room in Khagrachari sadar Upazila.



Photo 2: An inception workshop at Khagrachari sadar Upazila

Md. Shane Alam, Upazila Chairman, Khagrachari sadar Upazila Parishad was present as chief guest and Ms. Rabeya Afsar Saima, UNO (in charge) and Assistant Commissioner (land), Khagrachari sadar Upazila was present as special guest, Mr. Tapan Bikash Tripura, Union Chairman, Perachara Union Parishad, Mr. Ammya Marma, Union Chairman, 1 no. Khagrachari Union Parishad, Mr. Parimal Tripura, Bhaibon Chara Union Parishad and Mr. Anika Ranjan Chakma, Panel Chairman, Kamalchari Union Parishad were present as guest while Mr. Ripan Chakma presided over the workshop.

Ms. Kirtika Chakma, Project Coordinator, IWEWG, TUS briefed on project objectives and key activities through a power point presentation to the audiences. There are 47 (male-21 and female-26) participants were participated from government line departments, local government institutions, traditional institutions and NGOs at the workshop. In the workshop Mr. Mathura Bikash Tripura, Executive Director, Zabarang, Ms. Shefalika Tripura, Executive Director, Khagrapur Mohila Kalyan Samittee (KMKS), Mr. Ronik Tripura, Chairperson, Karbari Association, Mr. Mahfuz Motin, Upazila Livestock Officer, Dr. Beauty Chakma, Medical Officer, Mr. Dibendu Chakma, Upazila Youth Development Officer, Mr. Tapan Bikash Tripura, Chairman, Perachara Union Parishad, Mr. Parimal Tripura, Chairman, Bhaibonchara Union Parishad and Mr. Ammya Marma, Chairman, 1 no. Khagrachari Union Parishad were present.

During the open discussion sessions Mr. Mathura Bikash Tripura, Executive Director, Zabarang, Ms. Shefalika Tripura, Executive Director, Khagrapur Mohila Kalyan Samittee (KMKS), Mr. Ronik Tripura, Chairperson, Karbari Association, Mr. Dibendu Chakma, Upazila Youth Development Officer, Mr. Tapan Bikash Tripura, Chairman, Perachara Union Parishad and Mr. Anika Ranjan Chakma, Penal Chairman, Kamalchari Union Parishad were participated.

Mr. Mathura Bikash Tripura, Executive Director, Zabarang said men attitude and mentality should be changed first because the patriarchal society allows dominancy to women and the men eager to enjoy the power to dominant women.

Ms. Shefalika Tripura, Executive Director of KMKS said women should be aware about domestic violence and needs to be educated to reduce it. I think this project will give emphasis on women empowerment and leadership so that women can tackle the situation what they faced. She also added that women are the half portion of the society. So, it is not possible to develop society leaving behind the women.

Mr. Ronik Tripura, President, CHT Karbari Association said, through this intervention women at community level will be benefited and confident. I thanked TUS for inviting me in the inception workshop. Mr. Dibendu Chakma, Upazila Youth Development Officer said I have no doubt the project participants will be benefited by this project. He requested to the concerned organization to aware community peoples on child marriage, child trafficking and violence against women as well as provide legal support to victims. He also requested to include youth in this processes.

Mr. Tapan Bikash Tripura, Chairman, Perachara Union Parishad said the government providing facilities to girls for education so that the ratio of school going girls increasing day by day. I think if we respect women and treat equally then women empowerment will be established automatically.

Mr. Anika Ranjan Chakma, Panel Chairman, Kamalchari Union Parishad said, the project goal and objectives can be achieved, if the project beneficiaries become aware and active through this initiative. But the women empowerment is still a long way to achieve.



Photo 3: Md. Shane Alam, Upazila Chairman, Khagrachari Sadar was present as chief guest and Ms. Rabeya Afsar Saima, UNO (in charge), Khagrachari Sadar Upazila, Khagrachari was present as special guest

Ms. Rabeya Afsar Saima, Assistant Commissioner (land), Khagrachari sadar Upazila said team work is important to success the project intervention. She added that she was happy to participate at the workshop and thanked the organizer for inviting her at the program.

Mr. Shane Alam, Chairman, Upazila Parishad, Khagrachari sadar Upazila, thanked TUS management for inviting him in such important workshop. In his speech he said that women empowerment is not possible without participation of male in this processes. He emphasised that education should be first priority for women empowerment. Education can support them to be self-confident and self-reliant. If we can educate them properly then the women will be empowered automatically and there will be no violence. Equal opportunity and participation for both men and women is essential to reduce poverty and to ensure development of the country.

Mr. Ripan Chakma, Executive Director, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha delivered closing speech as chair of the workshop. He expressed his satisfaction for having most of the stakeholders and respected officials being present in the workshop. At the same time he expressed his gratitude to all concerned for their outstanding support since 1997 TUS started work at Sadar Upazila & coverage of Khagrachari Hill District. He added TUS had always been sincere to provide best services to the ultra-poor, person with disability, children and women. He hoped that the continuation of such type of support from the respective stakeholders shall be continued in the future as well.

6.3 Workshop with traditional leaders, bodies and networks on reducing GBV:

TUS conducted a day long workshop on 25th January 2021 with traditional leaders, bodies and networks on reducing Gender Based Violence under “Improving wellbeing of Ethnic Women and Girls in the Chottogram Hill Tracts” project at Marma Community Center in Khagrachari sadar Upazila. Md. Shane Alam, Chairman, Khagrachari Sadar Upazila Parishad was present as chief guest, Ms. Shefelika Tripura, Executive Director, Khagrachari Mohila Kalyan Samittee, Mr. Khetro Mohon Roaza, Headman, Nunchari mouza, Dhruv Ranjan Dewan, Headman, Gamari Dhala mouza, Mr. Ronik Tripura, President, Karbari Association, Ms. Sucharita Chakma, Karbari, Ms. Gitika Tripura, WRN member, Ms. Abola Chakma,



Photo 4 Ms. Bashari Marma, Mr. Ranik Tripura, Ms. Shefalika Tripura, Md. Shane Alam, Mr. Dhruv Ranjan Dewan and Ms. Chandana Tripura

Karbari, Ms. Aparna Chakma, Karbari, Mr. Bihari Tripura, Karbari, Ms. Tribeni Roaza, Karbari, Ms. Chanita Tripura, Karbari, Mr. Hemo Ranjan Chakma, Karbari, Mr. Chaiyong Marma, Karbari, Ms. Chandana Tripura, Women Councillor, Ms. Bipina Chakma, Women Councillor also present. There are 45 (male-17 and female-28) participants from traditional institutions, Union councils and networks participated at the dialogue.

Open Discussion:

Ms. Shefalika Tripura, Executive Director of KMKS said that in our society particularly the Chakma and the Tripura's women didn't get father's property hereditary. We should change the custom and treat men and women equally.

Ms. Bipina Chakma, Women Councillor said that in our Chakma society the Chakma women usually played remarkable contributions in domestic works such as jhum field, homestead gardening, fetching water, gather firewood, cooking etc. but we have no recognition that is why the women disregarded.

Mr. Dhrub Ranjan Dewan, Headman, Gamari Dhala mouza said that it is true that the equal rights for women has not yet been established in our society. The women are lacking behind then men because of illiteracy, poverty, social restriction and empowerment. For this reasons they are discriminated and dominated.

Mr. Rannik Tripura, President of Karbari Association said that the government of Bangladesh and many NGOs are doing a lot work for reducing on GBV but how much improved. I think that without support and cooperation of men and women it is not possible to reduce the domestic violence.

6.4 Dialogue with district legal aid committee, lawyers and law enforcement agencies.

TUS conducted a day long dialogue on 9th December 2021 with legal aid committee members, lawyers and law enforcement agencies on reducing Gender Based Violence under "Improving wellbeing of Ethnic



Photo 5 Mr. Uddipon Chakma, Advocate, Khagrachari Judge Court briefing to the audience on legal services

Women and Girls in the Chottogram Hill Tracts” project at Marma Community Center in Khagrachari sadar Upazila. Ms. Chameli Tripura, Vice-chair person, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha was present as chief guest, Mr. Uddipon Chakma, Advocate, Khagrachari Judge Court and representatives from different groups were present. There are 40 (14 male and 26 female) participants from Union council, traditional institutions and government line departments participated at the dialogue.

6.5 Dialogue with formal and traditional leader’s governance system on access to services:



Photo 6 Ms. Kirtika Chakma, PC, facilitated the dialogue



Photo 7 Ms. Mahfuja Motin, UNO, Khagrachari Sadar was present as chief guest

TUS conducted a day long dialogue on 15th September 2021 with formal and traditional leaders on governance system on access to services under “Improving wellbeing of Ethnic Women and Girls in the Chottogram Hill Tracts” project at Marma Community Center in Khagrachari sadar Upazila. Ms. Mahfuja Motin, UNO, Khagrachari Sadar Upazila was present as chief guest, Ms. Mukta Chakma, Upzila Agriculture Officer, Mr. Bipendu Chakma, Upzila Youth Development Officer, Dr. Sarker Ashraful Islam, Upazila Livestock Officer, Mr. Niti Bhusan Chakma, Sub-assistant Agriculture Officer, Mr. Swadesh Prity Chakma, Headman, Mr. Chaithowai Chowdhury, Headman, Mr. Arja Mitra Chakma, Headmen, Mr. Udoy Sanker Chakma, Headman, Mr. Alonga Bhushan Dewan, Headman, Mr. Memo Ranjan Chakma, Karbari, Ms. Chandana Tripura, Women Councillor, Ms. Pramita Chakma, Women Councillor and Ms. Bipina Chakma, Women Councillor were also present. There are 47 (16 male and 31 female) participants from Union council, traditional institutions and government line departments participated at the dialogue.

6.6 Sensitization workshop with relevant networks or platforms on gender issues, women rights, GBV for mobilization and collective actions:

TUS conducted day long sensitization workshop on 7th October 2021 with relevant networks or platforms on gender issues, women rights, Gender Based Violence (GBV) for mobilization and collective actions at Ashish Hall Room, TUS premises. In this workshop Ms. Namita Chakma, Coordinator, Durbar Network, Khagrachari, Ms. Madhabi Chakma, Women Councillor, 1 no. Khagrachari Union Parishad, Ms. Chandana Tripura, Women Councillor, 1 no. Khagrachari Union Parishad, Ms. Bipina Chakma, Women Councillor, 1 no. Khagrachari Union Parishad, Mr. Pradip Tripura, Headman, Nunchari Mouza, Mr. Hemo Ranjan Chakma, Headman and Mr. Ronik Tripura, President, Karbari Association, Khagrachari also present at the workshop while Mr. Ripan Chakma presided over the workshop. There are 40 (male-8, female-32) participants participated at the workshop.

Ms Chumki Chakma, Community Facilitator briefed on the project activities and emphasised on the necessity of such intervention to reduce GBV and enhance women empowerment in the society by building capacity on leadership quality.

Mr. Pradip Tripura, Headman, Nunchari Mouza said that it is very emergency to prevent violence against women and girls in community level during the pandemic because it increased during the pandemic due to economic crisis. She added that at first we should aware community peoples then need discussion to identify issues or gaps after that should develop community action plans to reduce GBV.



Photo 8 Ms. Chumki Chakma briefed the sensitization workshop

Ms. Chandana Tripura, Women Councillor said that it is not possible to reduce domestic violence against women without cooperation of males in our society.

Ms. Bipina Chakma, Women Councillor said that in our patriarchal society sometime women played role as men and tortured daughter-in-law by mentally and physically because they retained patriarchal mentality. She added that nowadays I observed early marriage is increasing unimaginably in both community Ethnic and Bengali which is worried to me. I am committed to work together with TUS on such type of activities in the upcoming days.

Ms. Namita Chakma thanked TUS for inviting her in such important workshop. At first she welcomed to everybody and said, women's empowerment is not possible without women participation in development processes. First of all women should give priority to education which give you self-confidence and courage. If we educate them properly then women will be empowered automatically. She also added that equal opportunity and participation of women in decision making processes will be reduced gender based and domestic violence against women.

Mr. Ripan Chakma, Executive Director, TUS delivered closing speech as president of the workshop. He thanked to all for their patience and being participate at the workshop. He also said that CHT women and girls are more vulnerable here in terms of power, rights, capacity, economy and opportunity. They are not concern about their rights and cannot raise their voice. But it is right time to come forward with their demand and we should help them to do so. Therefore, the Improving wellbeing of ethnic women and girls in the CHT project is a very crucial to raise their voice and ensure their rights in the society by enhancing their capacity and leadership skills.

Most of the participants are aware on Gender Based Violence against women and girls in our society. They realised the necessity of education, economic freedom, rights on properties and equal opportunities for reducing GBV in the society.

6.7 Create linkage with different CSOs and strengthen SANAK and YES committee to address GBV at local level

TUS conducted a day long workshop on 23th September 2021 with different CSOs, SANAK and YES committee to address Gender Based Violence at local level under "Improving wellbeing of Ethnic Women and Girls in the Chottogram Hill Tracts" project at Marma Community Center in Khagrachari sadar Upazila. Md. Shane Alam, Chairman, Upazila Parishad, Khagrachari Sadar Upazila was present as chief guest, Mr. Modhu Mongal Chakma, Associate Professor(Rtd.) and member of SONAK, Khagrachari, Md. Jahurul Alam, Reporter, Daily Purbo and member of SONAK, Khagrachari, Ms. Ching Mey Pru Marma, Reporter of Ekhushey TV and member of Women Resource Network (WRN), Ms. Chandana Tripura, women councillor, Md. Monir Hossain, YES member, Md. Al Amin, YES member, Mr. Ramu Tripura, YES Deputy Leader, Md. Sohaq, YES member, Ms. Nishi Tripura, YES member, Mr. Soikat Sheel, YES member, Mr. Priyo Mohan Tripura, YES leader, Mr. Khetro Mohon Roaza, Heaman, Nunchari Mouza, and Mr. Dhruva Ranjan Dewan, Headmen, Gamari Dhala mouza were present while Mr. Ripan Chakma presided over the workshop. There are 48 (20 male and 28 female) participants from different CSOs, SANAK and YES committee participated at the workshop.

A case study of social arbitration

A married man (40 years old) from Marma community came to introduce with a young Marma woman (25 years old) through social media facebook and fallen love in each other. They did not know each other before their relationship. During the relationship the man hid his marital status to the woman. After couples of years they both came into a close relationship and started live together. They enjoyed eating and dating everywhere but the woman was dim about the family background and marital status of the man. The man was playing dual role with two women. One day the woman discovered herself about the man and cut off relationship with the man. But the man forced to continue the relationship. When the woman deny to continue the relationship then the man disclosed some personal nude pictures in social media and sent to the relative of the woman. In this way this illegal relationship brought out attention to the community leaders.

The community leaders called on a social arbitration and asked the man to pay five lakhs taka to the woman as penalty for humiliation of the woman's dignity. However, the man agreed to pay two lakhs and five thousand taka instead of five lakhs taka. When the community leaders agreed then he handed over two lakhs and five thousand taka to the community leaders. On the other hand, the community leaders received the taka from the man but they did not handover the penalty taka to the woman. Even they forced the neighbors to avoid the family of the woman socially. In this circumstance, the victim's mother pursue support to the project team. Then the project staffs started advocacy and negotiations with the community leaders and tried to understand the community leaders that it was supposed to be an injustice against the victim woman.

After a series of dialogues the community leaders convinced to hand over the taka to the victimized woman. Her mother expressed her gratitude to the project team for the solution. Now, the matter is resolved by the community and the victimized woman is free from the social castigation.

6.8 Day Observations:

"Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world" by highlighting this theme, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS) organized rally and discussion on the occasion of International Women's Day 2020 and 2021 at 1 No. Khagrachari Union Parishad and Upazila Complex premises. Raise your hands high to show you're in and that you commit to choose to challenge and call out inequality.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements and rallied for women's equality despite these contributions. The COVID-19 pandemic has in many ways negatively impacted Bangladeshi women and girls including in the CHT. Nowadays International Women's Day is not for a country, group, nor organization specific. Every government, NGO, charity, corporation, academic institution, women's network, or media hub is solely responsible for International Women's Day observation.



Photo 9 Md. Shane Alam, Upazila Chairman, Khagrachari Sadar was present as chief guest and Ms. Rabeya Afsar Saima, UNO (in charge), Khagrachari Sadar Upazila, Khagrachari was present as special guest at International women day 2020

The following areas were covered:

1. Awareness on women’s rights,
2. Information dissemination on government interventions such as one stop crisis, hotline numbers 999,109 etc.,
3. Celebrate women's achievements,
4. Gender discrimination and equality.



Photo 10 Rally on International Women Day 2021

6.9 Sixteen days of activism:

TUS organized the sixteen days of activism program two times in 2020 and 2021 under this project below- The Sixteen days of activism against gender-based violence is a global campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25th November to 10th December on the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In 2020, the theme of the United Nations Campaign was "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"

Human chain and discussion session:

TUS organised a human chained and discussion session in collaboration with local NGOs i.e. Zabarang and Khagrapur Mohila Kolyan Samittee on 29th November 2021 at Officer's Club, Khagrachari as a part of sixteen days activism program under the theme of "Orange the World: Protection and Healing of Women and Girls during COVID-19. Mr. Mongsui Prue Chowdhury, Chairman, Khagrachari Hill District Council was present as chief guest, Md. Shane Alam, Upazila Chairman, Khagrachari sadar Upazila was present as special guest while Md. Bashirul Hoque Bhuyan, Chief Executive Officer, Hill District Council, Khagrachari presided over the program.

There are 108 participants (male-26 and female-82) participated at the human chain and discussion sessions. During the discussion sessions TUS highlighted and discussed about how to reduce violence against women and girls in our society and how to provide capacity building training to women for income generation focussing the marginalized groups in the relevant sectors.

Ms. Kirtika Chakma, Project Coordinator of IWEWG project delivered speech briefing the importance of sixteen day activism and discussed how to reduce violence against women and girls in our society as well as how to protect the girls and women from it. She also said that we have to think generally in our society how to engage men to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls.



Photo 11 Sixteen day activism program



Photo 12 A cultural program during sixteen days activism program

Mr. Jiten Baruan, President of Khagrachari Press club said “we generally observed women abused by men on the contrary sometime men also abused by women in mentally and physically. That is why we have to aware and protect all types of violence which destroys the social cohesions”.

Mr. Mathura Bikash Tripura, Executive Director of Zabarang sadi “in our ethnic society the husband considered and believed that it is his right to beat his wife. He added that we need to change this obsessive thoughts and attitudes”.

Mr. Ripan Chakma, Executive Director of TUS said “our women and girls feel shy to share the domestic violence to neighbours and think that it is discredit for her in society. They basically considered as family matters and personal which not shareable to others and neighbours may whispered. That is why the domestic violence increasing day by day in our society”.

Ms. Namita Chakma, President of Durbar Network, Khagrachari said “we have to build leadership quality among women to establish women’s empowerment in the society. We are the half portion of the society. So, real development is not possible leaving behind women in the society”.

Ms. Shato Rupa Chakma, member of Khagrachari Hill District Council was present chief guest and said “my dear honourable Chair, distinguish guests and welcome everyone as well as thank TUS for inviting me here. Domestic violence and violence against women and girls will be stopped when men’s attitude and mentality will be changed”. She added that first of all quality education for women should be emphasized. Education changes lives and makes self-reliant women. If we educate them properly then women will be empowered automatically. We have to ensure equal opportunity and participation in decision making processes to reduce poverty and violence against women in society”.

Ms. Shefalika Tripura, Executive Director of Khagrapur Mohila Kalyan Somittee (KMKS) chaired the program. She said “women are also most vulnerable in our family and society as well. They are not concern about their rights and cannot able to raise their voice. It is the right time to come forward their demand and provide assistance to raise voices”.

Major Challenges: TUS organised the event during the pandemic of COVID-19 so that we faced challenges to maintain social distancing and providing travel cost to the participants due to limited budget. In

patriarchal society it was challenge to understand the community peoples on women’s rights, gender based violence and domestic violence issues.

Output of the event: TUS able to provide the massage of the sixteen days activism program as per theme. Most of the participants are aware about domestic violence, gender based violence and violence against women and girls in our society. TUS disseminated information on GoB frontline telephone numbers (999,109 etc.) and one stop crisis center.

Street Drama and cultural show:



Photo 13 Street drama and cultural show

TUS played a Street Drama titled “Ajhar Dharaj” means immense of hope in Chakma dialect and cultural program on 9th December 2020 by Dhudhuk Singya Hengarong Drama Group at 1 No. Khagrachari Union Parishad in Khagrachari District on the occasion of the sixteen days activism campaign. It was observed that the community peoples enjoyed it very much and sometimes the audience feel emotional realizing the domestic violence in family level. Sometime the audience responded by shouting and commenting during the show regarding the drama topic. This type of intervention is more interactive and communicate to the project participants at community level.



Photo 14 The audience at Street Drama and Cultural Show during sixteen days activism

6.10 Street drama:



Photo 15 A street drama show by Dhudhuk Shinga Hengorong Cultural group



Photo 16 A street drama and cultural show

TUS organized four numbers of street drama shows at different public places i.e. premises of 1 no. Khagrachari Union Parishad, and Christian para at community level by the 'Dhudhu Shinga Hengarong Drama Group'. The drama named "Ajhar Dharaj" means immense of hope in the Chakma dialect. The drama script was written by Mr. Layas Dewan a prominent drama artist and teacher of Pera Chara High School. The draft script was shared with TUS management before finalized.

The message of the drama was simple and easy to understand at community level. Mr. Anika Ranjan, Union Parishad Member, Christian para under Kamalchari Union at Khagrachari hill district said that this was an excellent performance performed by the "Dhuk Shingya Hengarang" performers. The dialect and the messages were well transmitted through this drama also it was easily understandable to all. He requested TUS and "Dhuk Shingya Hengarang" authority to provide them a

video copy of this show so that they can display this in different events to make mass awareness.

It was observed that the audience enjoyed drama a lot. Sometimes the audience shows solidarity with the artist and feel emotional realizing the domestic violence in family level. The street drama is effective and interactive to communicate with the participants at community level. They understood and aware on women's rights, domestic violence and gender based violence issues. Particularly the young girls and boys understood the issues and they felt confident to face the situation avoiding the violence in family.

7. CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON GROUP MANAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP, GENDER AND GBV



Photo 17 A training on Gender and Gender Based Violence

TUS conducted capacity building training on group management, leadership, gender based violence and gender issues among group members on 17th November 2020, 18th November 2020, 10th December 2020, 13th December 2020, 14th December 2020, 14th December 2020, 17th December 2020, 18th December 2020, 7th January 2021 accordingly at Thakurchara para, Yuboraj para, Yuboraj para, Nunchari Headman para, Mongalchan para, Headman para, 1no. prakalpa para, Vuyachari mukh para and Gamaridala para in Khagrachari Sadar Upazila. There are 183 (male-45 and female-138) trainees were participated from Thakurchara para 25(male-7, female-18), Yuboraj para 20 (male-5, female-15), Yuboraj para 20 (male-5, female-15), Nunchari Headman para 19 (male-4, female-15), Mongalchan para 20 (male-5, female-15), Headman para 20 (male-5, female-15), 1no. prakalpa para 20 (male-5, female-15), Bhuyachari mukh para 20 (male-5, female-15), and Gamaridala para 19 (male-4, female-15) accordingly at the said training.

The objective of the training is to aware community people on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and capable the community peoples so that they can protect and reduce gender based violence and access to services from government department. Capacity development is essential for making a sustainable contribution for addressing violence against women and girls. The training was very effective for the group members.

Ms. Kirtika Chakma, Project Coordinator facilitated the training sessions. She briefed the objective and content of the training. Ms. Chakma discussed about gender, gender based violence, women rights and leadership.

Some Observation on Capacity development training:

1. TUS volunteers were attentive and enthusiastic during the training session.
2. Most of the participants appreciated such initiatives and they seem to be happy to have the

opportunity to express their opinion and experience as well.

3. All of the participants have demanded training after certain period of the time.

Challenges:

Language is the big barrier to communicate with each other. Most of participants feel shy to speak in Bangla. Level of understanding of the participants are not equal.



Photo 18 Ms. Chameli Tripura, vice-chairperson, TUS, briefing the meeting

8. A CASE STUDY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Introduction:

Nunchori headman para (village) is situated under 1 no. Khagrachori Union of Khagrachori sadar Upazila. It is a growing village of Tripura community. Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS) launched the project first in the community titled "Improving wellbeing of ethnic women and girls in the CHT".



Photo 19 An awareness session of women group at Nunchori Headman para

Project Objective:

The objective of this project is to reduce domestic violence against the ethnic communities like women and girls in the CHT. This project started in October 2020. The project works with specific work plan.

The incident started:

One of the member of this group is Ms. Tripti Tripura. Usually, she purchases banana from the village and sells them in the Market. Her husband used to spend all her income taking alcohol. If she protests, her husband begin to torture her. One day she asked for justice from the group's president. Since there should be a solution to this problem the president called on her husband. But her husband deny to come. Later all the members of the group went to Tripti's house and threaten to Tripti's husband. Then he given bone sign in front of all group members that never torture to his wife again.

Conclusion:

In fact, peoples can turn around if they get opportunity. Here President Ms. Chayanuka Tripura actively leded the group and tried to reduce domestic violence in her village. That is why domestic violence notably reduced, if more awareness raising sessions are conducted on women and men in the remote areas of Khagrachari the GBV could be reduced.

9. INFORMATION HUB:

Information HUB plays a very important role in remote areas, where there is lack of modern technology. It provides services to our beneficiaries in the remote areas. They are taking services on making national ID card, health, agriculture and GBV information from the information hub. They received referral systems and frontline numbers and COVID-19 vaccination registration all information from HUB.



Photo 20 TUS project team handover printer and stationeries to Chairman of 1no. Khagrachari Union Parishad for information Hub

10. TRAINING ON INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES (IGA):



Photo 21 A practical session of livestock training

TUS conducted two days long training on income generating activity for seven batches with the support of government line department officers dated on 22-23 February 2021, 2-3 March 2021, 09-10 March 2021, 18-19 May 2021, 25-26 May 2021, 27-28 May 2021 and 1-2 June 2021 accordingly at Yuboraj para kendra and Upazila Recourse center in Khagrachari sadar Upazila. There are 189 trainees in seven batches were participated i.e. 25 trainees (male-10, female-15), 25 trainees (male-8, female-17), 26 trainees (male-10, female-16), 25 trainees (male-3, female-22), 32 trainees (male-4, female-28), 28 trainees (male-5, female-23) and 28 trainees (male-4, female-24) accordingly.

Mr. Niti Bushan Chakma, Sub Assistance Agriculture Extension Officer (SAAEO) and Mr. Dipangkar Khisa Livestock Officer Khagrachari sadar Upazila, both of them were facilitated the training on different types of income generating activities. There were participants from 15 groups participated in the training.

Mr. Khisa, Livestock Officer explained the audience, why ensuring chicken vaccinations so important? What is our income generating source of remote areas? He told that most of chicken raisers ask this question, and simply assume that they are unimportant.

Mr. Khisa told “Chicken vaccinations are actually very important!” They ensure your flock immunity or increase some immunity against disease, prevent chicken from disease outbreaks, and facilitate taking care of chickens.

The main objectives of the training were;

Livestock

- How to vaccinate chicken (step by step)
- How to manage disease on Chicken and goat rearing
- Importance and benefits of livestock training, especially chicken and goat rearing system and disease.

Agriculture:

- Importance and benefits homestead gardening
- Disease identification.
- Nutrition balance of vegetables.

11. INPUT SUPPORT FOR IGA:

After receiving the training on IGA, TUS provided grants support for income generating activities among 300 beneficiaries. TUS distributed about Tk. 6,00,000.00 (six lakh taka) for livestock rearing i.e. chicken rearing, goat rearing and agriculture production purpose. There are 300 beneficiaries or trainee received Tk.2,000 (two thousand taka) grants support each for income generation activities and improve their livelihood.



Photo 22 Chicken rearing



Photo 23 Goat rearing



Photo 24 Vegetable gardening



Photo 25 Pig rearing

12. A SUCCESSFUL CASE STUDY OF HOMESTEAD GARDENING:

Introduction: Gamaridhala is a Chakma community populated village of Khagrachori Union. As the people of this village lives far-away from the sadar (headquarter) they are extremely marginalized in terms of development. TUS formed a group in this village with the support from the local Union council member. The number of Woman and Adolescent Girls are 15 and 5 youths. As per the guideline a committee also formed in the village in beginning November 2020. The journey started since then.

Objective: The objective of the group is to protect domestic violence.

Overall Achievement: They received capacity building training and the committee members received two day long training on leadership skill development from TUS. The training facilitated by a government officer Mr. Niti Bhushan Chakma, SAAO on income generating activities for life standard development. The trainer focused on agriculture how to produce much more vegetables by doing gardening in the homesteads. Then each family received 2000/- taka from TUS. They started doing vegetable gardening with that. But because of the sudden flash flood of August 2021 their all products washed away under the Chengy River and they got frustrated. After verification considering their condition 40,000/- Taka were distributed among twenty beneficiaries again. Ms. Snigdha Chakna who reinvested in vegetable gardening with that Tk. 2,000/- got benefited with an amount of Tk. 12,000/-.

Then she purchased a calf with that taka. This initiative is still running with around 15/16 thousand Taka benefits. Besides, she participated awareness raising discussion session to stop domestic violence in their monthly regular meetings.

Conclusion: They arrange different conference for women and adolescent girls developing life status. The group members attended in those conferences. They are continuously working on economic development of women.



Photo 26 Ms. Snigdha Chakma, group member in front of her vegetable garden

13. PROJECT PLANNING STRATEGIC WORKSHOP:



Photo 27 Ms. Chumki Chakma presenting TUS achievements during planning strategic workshop at Sreemangal

A learning and sharing workshop organised in Sreemangal in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) on 22-24 November 2021. The Project staffs and senior management staff of MJF attended at the said workshop. It was a good sharing workshop to identify the success and things that could have been taken well care of.

14. MONITORING VISIT BY SDC:

A team led by Ms. Lubna Sabina, program manager, SDC accompanied with Md. Monzurul Islam, Program Manager and Md. Hahed Hasan, Program Manager, Manusher Jonno Foundation visited Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS) on 25th July 2021. The team arrived at TUS's office around 5.00 PM on the said date. Mr. Ripan

Chakma, Executive Director of TUS welcomed the team with warm greetings. The team introduced with the project's staffs and senior management team of TUS. Mr. Chakma, briefed shortly about the TUS's vision, mission and goal as well as project's achievements and successes while Ms. Kirtika Chakma, Project Coordinator facilitated the program



Photo 28 A discussion meeting with monitoring visit team

and sometimes she briefed the project progress and achievements as well.

The team visited the Nunchari Headman para and Gamari Dhala villages under 1 no. Khagrachari sadar Union Parishad on 26th July 2021. On the way to the Nunchari Headman para the visit team members had meeting with the Chairman and wards councilors of 1 no. Khagrachari Union Parishad after that they visited the information hub and talked with the designated staff for the information hub. After the meeting the team left for Nunchari Headman Para. It took around half an hour from the premises of Union Parishad. When the team arrived at Nunchari Headman para on around 10 AM, the community gave a warm reception with flowers and entertained with local fruits and traditional cake of Tripura. The community arranged the meeting at under a Litchi tree which was interactive discussions. Ms. Kirtika Chakma, Project Coordinator, facilitated the meeting. The group members introduced themselves willingly. They were so happy to have the team specially the delegate of SDC. Ms. Lubna Sabina, Program Manager, SDC talked with the women and asked many questions regarding on their problems, roles, progress, sustainability and so on. The women group members replied smartly and participated in discussion interactively. Particularly Ms Chayanika Tripura, Chairperson of the women group, briefed their activities, progress, problems and how way they overcome their problems. She said at the beginning don't know about Gender and Gender Based Violence (GBV) through this project they received training on GBV and became aware on gender issues as well as women rights through awareness sessions. She added that we know about referral service system, emergency contact number which provided Community field facilitator Ms. Chumki Chakma.

On the way to Khagrachari the visit team visited Gamari Dhala para or village. When the team arrived at Gamari Dhala para or village on around 12 AM, the community gave a warm reception with flowers and entertained with local fruits and traditional cake of Chakma. The community arranged the meeting at Primary School premises which was interactive discussions with the group members. Ms. Kirtika Chakma, Project Coordinator, facilitated the meeting. The group members introduced themselves and expressed their feelings for having the team. Ms. Lubna Sabina, Program Manager, SDC talked with the women and asked many questions regarding on their problems, roles, progress, sustainability, future plan etc. and the women group members replied spontaneously. Ms. Snigdha Chakma, Chairperson of the women group, briefed their activities what they did, achievements and problems what they faced. She said they received training on livelihood and received grants for homestead gardening. They are just getting productions but

last flash flood waste away their vegetables. No the have no alternative option to recover it if they get grants again then they can recover their losses. Ms. Lubna Sabina, Program Manager, SDC asked to the group members what is your future plan now. The Secretary of the group said that they are doing saving 100 taka per month each. They have a plan to make a revolving fund it so that they can borrow loan from it with less interest easily.



Photo 29 A warm reception at Gamari Dhala

15. AMBASSADORS VISIT:

Ambassador Ms. Nathalie Chuard of Switzerland and Ambassador Ms. Alexandra Berg von Linde of Sweden jointly visited Yuboraj Para or village under Perachara Union and Khagrachari Sadar Upazila on 25th October 2021 to observe the activities of 'Improving wellbeing of Ethnic Women and Girls in the



Photo 30 A warm reception to the honourable Ambassadors at Yuboraj Para

Chottogram Hill Tracts' project implemented by Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha, supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The delegate arrived around 11.45 AM at Yuboraj Para. The villager led by 'Fulbareng Women Development Group' welcomed the delegate with warm greetings in traditional way. Ms.

Kirtika Chakma, facilitated the program and gave a short brief about the project achievements and successes while Ms. Nidhi Chakma interpreted the discussions.

The honourable Ambassador Ms. Nathalie Chuard of Switzerland asked many questions to the women group members regarding the project interventions, socio-economic issues and challenges. She said '*I am very happy being here, it was like a dream to visit Khagrachari*'.

The honourable Ambassador Ms. Alexandra Berg von Linde of Sweden said '*I am pleased to see that competency has increased among the women group members with in a short time.*'

During the visit Mr. Sudipto Mukarjee, Resident Representative of UNDP, Ms. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Ms. Rahena Khan, Program Officer (gender equity, human rights and democracy), Sweden Embassy, Mr. Khaled Chowdhury, Senior Political, Economic and Communication Officer, Switzerland Embassy, Ms. Lubna Sabina, Program Manager, SDC, Mr. Prasenjit Chakma, Assist Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Biplob Chakma, National Project Director (in charge), SID-CHT, UNDP, Mr. Priyatar Chakma, District Manager, SID-CHT, UNDP, Khagrachari, Md. Monzurul Islam, Program Manager, MJF and Md. Hahed Hasan, Program Manager, MJF, Ms. Chameli Tripura, Vice-chairperson of TUS, Mr. Ripan Chakma, Executive Director of TUS and Mr. Tapan Bikash Tripura, Chairman of Perachara Union Parishad also present.

After the program the delegate met with Chairman of Hill District Council, Khagrachari, and government officials to get an overview of the socio-economic context of the region.

Both countries work with cooperation partners in the CHT to address some key development issues, including civic engagement to promote transparency and accountability, the well-being and rights of the ethnic women and girls, and building resilience to the effects of climate change.



Photo 31 A warm reception with traditional attire to the honourable Ambassadors at Yuboraj Para

16. OVER ALL MAJOR CHALLENGES:

- It was a challenge to avoid nepotism, biasness and political influence to solve GBV cases.
- It was a big challenge to reduce gender based violence in within short period.
- It was a challenge to involve male in GBV processes.
- It was a challenge to achieve the targets within timeline due to the pandemic of COVID situation.

17. SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 300 women and youths are aware on domestic violence and have knowledge to prevent and response Gender Based Violence.
- 300 women and youths received training on livelihood and received grants for input supports.
- The information hub is functional and providing services to beneficiaries.
- Established linkage with government and non-government agencies to avail services on GBV.
- Eight cases on GBV were resolved by the community successfully by this project period.

18. MAJOR LEARNINGS:

- This project is highly appreciated by the government line departments and other stakeholders as well.
- Information hub is an innovative idea which is very effective for community peoples and brought a positive changes at community level and created a good impression among the community peoples.
- Group members are aware of their rights and have access to services provided by government line department.
- Awareness raising sessions reduced GBV at community level which is a positive impact in the project areas.
- Most of the victims not feel easy to share information on GBV cases.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Considering the social context, culture and remoteness of the CHT the project should be expanded in large coverage.
- Sharing information concerning women's rights and legal tools through community-level training courses could be an effective way to mitigate GBV.
- Sharing stories of female leaders could help female citizens to gain trust in institutions and younger generations to acquire a gender-equitable vision for society.
- Drama workshops are specifically effective in remote areas of CHT with low literacy rates, as messages regarding gender norms, GBV laws may be conveyed in dramatized plays in local languages.
- An effective method to educate a non-violent culture would be to create counseling services for men where they could identify the causes of their violent behaviors and learn how to control their violent attitudes.
- Greater research on gender norms in the CHT is needed, especially in the remote areas. Research on GBV experienced by individuals is also lacking.

20. CONCLUSION:

Forty-four percentages of women of the ethnic minority communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) have experienced violence at home at least once in their lifetime, a survey by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has revealed. So, it is very difficult to reduce GBV by a short time. It is a social burning issue in the ethnic communities. But this project has already been marked few changes of positive attitude. Especially youth groups who play mentoring roll in the project areas. On the other side, the majority of the community members in the project working areas are poor and lives in remote areas. Over all, they had limited access to government and NGO facilities and services due to the remoteness. TUS conducted regular meetings and awareness session at community level. And progress is marked through Govt. service accesses including referral services established by beneficiary to the relevant sources.

21. Photographs:



Photo 32 International Women Day 2021



Photo 33 Warm reception at Nunchari Headman para



Photo 34 A women group member offering a gift



Photo 35 Group photo with Ambassadors



Photo 36 Group photo at Gamari Dhala



Photo 37 Warm reception at Nunchari Headman para

22. News Paper clips:

সমকাল বাংলাদেশ স্বাধীনতা কর্মসূচি আন্তর্জাতিক মেডা বিসেসন সাময়িক মতামত প্রকাশ বাজার

৯ / বাংলাদেশ / খাগড়াছড়িতে চলমান উন্নয়ন কাজ পরিদর্শন করেছেন সুইডেনের রাষ্ট্রদূত মার্টিন হুইটম্যান এবং সুইজারল্যান্ডের রাষ্ট্রদূত নাথালিয়ারে হোভার্ড। ছবি: সমকাল

খাগড়াছড়িতে তৃণমূল উন্নয়ন সংস্থার প্রকল্প পরিদর্শনে দুই রাষ্ট্রদূত

খাগড়াছড়ি প্রতিদিন

০ প্রকাশ: ২৬ অক্টোবর ২১ | ১৯:০০ | আপডেট: ২৬ অক্টোবর ২১ | ১৯:০০

ফেসবুক টুইট গুগল+ ইমেইল

সুইডেনের রাষ্ট্রদূত মার্টিন হুইটম্যান এবং সুইজারল্যান্ডের রাষ্ট্রদূত নাথালিয়ারে হোভার্ড খাগড়াছড়িতে চলমান উন্নয়ন কাজ পরিদর্শন করেছেন।



খাগড়াছড়িতে চলমান উন্নয়ন কাজ পরিদর্শন করেছেন সুইডেনের রাষ্ট্রদূত মার্টিন হুইটম্যান এবং সুইজারল্যান্ডের রাষ্ট্রদূত নাথালিয়ারে হোভার্ড। ছবি: সমকাল

সাময়িক

খাগড়াছড়িতে সুইডেন ও সুইজারল্যান্ডের রাষ্ট্রদূতের সফর

পাহাড়ে নারী উন্নয়ন ও সক্ষমতা বাড়াতে সহযোগিতা বৃদ্ধির তাগিদ

প্রকাশ: ২৬ অক্টোবর, ২০২১ ০৫:৪৪:২৫ | আপডেট: ২৮ জুলাই, ২০২২ ০৫:০৪:৪৮ | ৩৭৭



সিএইচটি টুডে ডট কম, খাগড়াছড়ি। সমাজে ও পরিবারের মধ্যে নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নারীদের মাঝে সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি ও আত্মকর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে খাগড়াছড়িতে চলমান উন্নয়ন কাজ পরিদর্শন করেছেন, সুইডেন ও সুইজারল্যান্ড দূতাবাসের কূটনৈতিকরা।

