

INSIGHTS



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Jan'23 - Apr'23

“Knowledge is like paint.
It does no good unless
it’s applied.”

Learning is a continuous process. As a learning organization, CODEC has always been keen to incorporate modern mechanisms into its learning cycle. The Knowledge Management, Program Development and Technical Team (KMPD TT) was formed in 2020 to guide this cycle. The KMPD TT team organized a workshop and selected some KM champions on August 2022. These KM champions agreed to contribute to CODEC by providing important information and support for continuing CODEC’s learning progress. As part of the activity, this quarterly KM report is published to keep on track with the current issues from different project activities. This report contains stories, lessons learnt and after action reviews from CODEC’s projects and programs all over Bangladesh.

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Head of KMPD TT's Foreword

I am delighted to share the quarterly report for the Knowledge Management (KM) team, highlighting our achievements and success attained during the first four months of 2023. As the Head of Knowledge Management, Program Development & Technical Team of CODEC, since its establishment in 2022, we are working dedicatedly to enhance our internal learning and sharing, network establishment, and collaboration among all members of different projects and KM champions.

Our focus has been on fostering a culture of knowledge sharing and collaboration within the organization. We implemented initiatives and platforms for effective knowledge flow across projects and teams. Through workshops, regular meetings, and sharing of success stories, LLR and AAR, employees gained the skills and tools for capturing, organizing, and sharing knowledge. Subject matter experts have had the opportunity to share insights, nurturing a learning environment.

Additionally, we established a robust network of knowledge practitioners. Our knowledge-sharing forums facilitated connections, knowledge exchange, and collaboration. This network has already fostered innovation and problem-solving. The diversity of our personnel and KM champions has been valuable. We leveraged their backgrounds and expertise, resulting in a knowledge base rich in insights and ideas. This approach has enhanced our ability to address complex challenges and seize opportunities. Moving forward, we remain committed to advancing KM efforts. We will refine knowledge-sharing platforms, explore emerging technologies, and expand efforts to capture and share tacit knowledge. Our aim is to ensure valuable expertise and experience are accessible to all.

In conclusion, our KM team has made significant progress in fostering a culture of learning and knowledge sharing within the organization. I extend my gratitude to the KM team, CODEC personnels, and KM champions for their dedication. Together, we will continue harnessing the power of knowledge and collaboration for organizational success so that we can provide better and appropriate services for the most vulnerable people we serve.

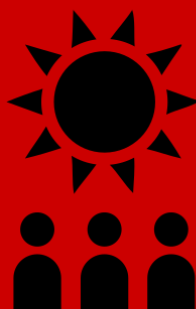
Quazi Wafiq Alam

Head of Knowledge Management, Program Development & Technical Team
Community Development Centre - CODEC



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Stories that Inspire

This chapter comprises a compilation of stories gathered from our dedicated team members scattered across Bangladesh. These stories highlight the diverse initiatives we have implemented in collaboration with the people and communities we work alongside. Each narrative sheds light on the individuals and groups we have partnered with, showcasing the growth and progress we have experienced together on a daily basis. These stories serve as a testament to the impact of our collective efforts and the inspiring journeys of the individuals and communities we serve.



Khukumoni's Journey

Living in along the coast of Mongla is a unique community – the Pakkhali Abashon, which is a housing initiative by the government for the homeless.

The people of this community have come from all over Bangladesh, with only one thing in common – being victims of homelessness. Khukumoni and her family are one of the many families living here. They moved to this community during COVID-19, after which Khukumoni dropped out from school.

Khukumoni's father, Mr. Khokon Hawladar is a carpenter by profession and the breadwinner of the family. With his little income, the family is struggling to make ends meet, hence Khukumoni had to drop out. Many children within the community are unable to continue their education because of similar family situations. Khukumoni is a first-generation school-goer, hence, no one within the family is able to support her studies. This had caused a gap of six months in her education.

The Shopnojatra project has four Education Support Centers in Rampal and Mongla Upazila. Shopner Siri Education Support Center was established at the beginning of 2021 at Pakkhali Abashon. This brought new hope to the children within the community. Khukumoni enrolled at the center.

“Hard work always brings positive results. Khukumoni studied really hard. She is a special child. She was always attentive to her studies. Even when the final examination was over, she kept studying for the scholarship. I know her future is very bright.”

- Liea Akter, Teacher, Shopner Siri Education Support Center

Education support centers provide tuition facilities with special care to children who are lagging behind in their studies.

Shopner Siri

EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTER

17 GRADUATES WITH

GPA - 5



Tale of an Unbreakable Spirit

Mohammad Khokon, a 13-year-old boy, is the older son of Jafor Ahmed and Manowara Begum. Unexpectedly, Jafor Ahmed disappeared to Malaysia, severing all contact with his acquaintances for the past five years. In the absence of Khokon's father, Manowara Begum's in-laws subjected her to mental and physical abuse, which became unbearable. This led Manowara to flee her in-laws' home and seek refuge with her sons in a small tent in Shamlapur.

Unfortunately, providing enough food for the three of them became a daily challenge, and they often went hungry. To make ends meet, Khokon was forced to drop out of school and engage in hazardous labor at the tom-tom workshops. In this harsh environment, Khokon endured excruciating physical abuse and was frequently coerced into driving the tom-tom vehicles from the garage. As a result, his health deteriorated day by day.



The project's initiative included various forms of direct support and referrals for Khokon and his family. One of the immediate actions taken by the case worker, in collaboration with the community, was to halt child labor. The next step was addressing the medical concerns. Since Khokon was suffering from physical ailments and psychological distress, he received support through psychological first aid, psychosocial support services, and was fully funded for re-admission to school. Additionally, he was involved in socio-emotional learning platforms such as life skills training and structured sessions on psychosocial support.

For Khokon's mother, she was provided with opportunities for skill development through engagement in tailoring activities facilitated by a graduate learner from our multi-purpose center. She was also referred to KBKH (Kajer binmoy khaddo), a government program that offers food and cash assistance in exchange for day labor. Furthermore, efforts were made to connect her with local government representatives to establish a safe house for her and her family. Manowara was also linked to government food and cash assistance programs, and awareness campaigns were conducted along with consistent follow-ups as part of the intervention.





“I am thrilled that I can now attend school like my other friends. I no longer have to work. My heartfelt wish is to become a teacher in the future, so I can educate children who are unable to pursue their education due to financial difficulties. ”

- Mohammad Khokon

The intervention plan was successful. Khokon is no longer involved in child labor. His health has improved, and he has been successfully re-enrolled in Shamlapur Government High School, now studying in the 6th grade. He attends school regularly and also visits the project's Multi-Purpose Center (MPC).

Khokon's teachers have noticed his attentiveness and bright demeanor. The local government has provided support to his family by offering a safe shelter, food, and cash assistance. With a portion of the cash, Manowara Begum purchased a sewing machine. Currently, she is working at KBKH and showcasing her tailoring skills from home. She is capable of independently supporting the education and well-being of both her sons.

“The changes in my life feel like a dream to me. I am immensely grateful to CODEC for standing by my side and providing unconditional support. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

- Manowara Begum

Reclaiming Childhood

Abdu Rahman is a refugee child, living in Bhasanchar as part of the government's resettlement process. He has been living in adverse circumstances in a small room, which is highly congested with no breathing space. There is a lack of child-friendly space in his home and no access to play. As a result, Abdu Rahman has been experiencing mental and psychological distress and showing aggressive behavior. This has affected his hygiene and performance at school.

Rahman would always remain isolated, not socializing with other children of his age. After engaging with the EPRC project, he started receiving Psychosocial support sessions, art sessions, and, doing recreational activities. Furthermore, he has also been made aware of appropriate hygiene practices. These initiatives brought significant behavioral changes in Rahman. After receiving care, learnings and being under observation for 6 days, Abdu Rahman started to change. Now, he socializes and interacts with people from all ages around him and practicing appropriate hygiene habits.



“When I would be angry before, I didn't know how to control my feelings. Now, I have learned how to calm myself. I have learned how to be better, by learning, playing, and keeping clean”



All children deserve affection. The EPRC project is implementing a specialized Child Friendly Space (CFS) to promote refugee children's mental and psychological well-being.



Trauma to Hope

Rasel* is an 11 year old child who lives in the Kutupalong camp with his father and stepmother. He has two brothers and three sisters. He would often be abused by his stepmother and step sisters. As a result, he become distressed and no longer wanted to be with his family.

One day he stole some money from the house and ran away. He was contacted by an unknown person who gave him an offer to work in a tea stall outside the camp in an unknown location. Rasel* started working there but not allowed to communicate with his father. Rasel* suspected that he was at risk of being trafficked. He communicated with his father secretly and informed him about his whereabouts. Rasel*'s father immediately informed the Child Protection unit of EPRC project in Cox's Bazar. The project team then successfully rescued Rasel* from Satkania with the help of CiC (Camp in-charge).

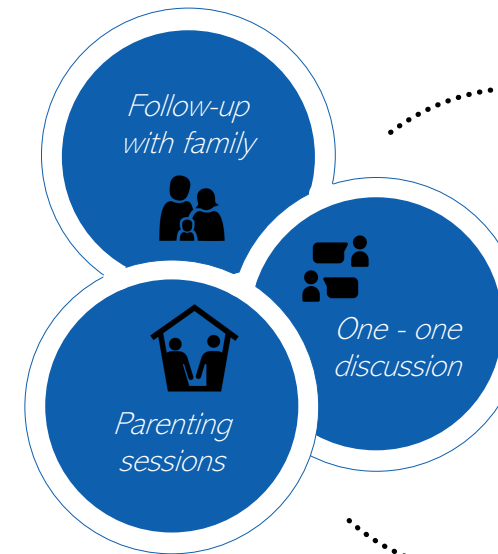
When Rasel* returned in camp, the team observed that he had become psychologically distressed because of what he experienced. After analyzing his situation, the project team comprehensively assessed Rasel*'s development needs, his parent's parenting capacity, economic factors, social and cultural context. Based on the assessment, an individual case plan was developed for Rasel*.

* The child's name is changed following child safeguarding policy.





JOURNEY TOWARDS HOPE



Admitted to Dalia Learning Centre



Creation of a child - friendly environment

Transforming Food Access

Jubaida Khatun is an elderly woman residing in a refugee camp along with her son, who is mentally challenged. She is entitled to receive her ration from Modhurchara 4 outlet. Given her advanced age, she faces significant difficulties in transporting her food assistance from the outlet to her shelter. This poses a significant challenge to ensuring her food security, as she is unable to carry out her monthly ration from the outlet to her house, her timely access to food assistance is severely hindered.

To facilitate her, Jubaida Khatun has been issued a blue color token that enables fast tracking at all service points. Furthermore, to ensure accountability and security, a porter service register is being maintained, documenting her porter's details and the services provided. During the transaction period, Jubaida Khatun is issued a card (Beneficiary Porter Support Card) that she is required to hold until she reaches her shelter safely. Once Jubaida Khatun has received all her food baskets at her doorstep, with the assistance of the porter, she can return the card to the porter. The porter will then return the card to the outlet as part of the accountability and security measures in place.





“Before the porter service, I would sell 1kg red lentil or sugar to pay the local labor cost. Porter’s support made everyday easy for me.”

- Jubaida Khatun



Shamoli's Way to Enrichment

In the Bashbaria village of Santashpur, women are involved in rearing chickens at home. This culture started as an alternative way to meet the nutritional needs of a family. However, many do not know about the proper rearing method. As a result, their chickens died, contracted diseases, did not lay enough eggs, and were often preyed upon by ferocious animals. When Shamoli Mollik, a village resident started chicken farming, she too faced similar problems. Within a few days of purchasing chickens, all her chickens died.

Shamoli Mollik became acquainted with CODEC when she received training in vegetable farming through CODEC -Enrich Programme's income generation program. When she faced problems with chicken farming, Shamoli Mollik shared it with a CODEC Enrich Officer in hopes of a solution. With direction from the officer, Shamoli Mollik started the journey of chicken farming in a new way.

Shamoli took training on poultry farming on how to collect eggs, hatch them, and take care of them. With the methods she learnt in the training, Shamoli built a house for her chickens and started tending them. She regularly keeps up with necessary vaccinations in liaison with CODEC Enrich - Enterprise Development Officer. Now, her chickens do not die anymore, they lay healthy eggs and, are protected from ferocious animals.



Currently, Shamoli has 29 chickens and 15 chicks. This venture has not only ensured food security for Shamoli's family, but also helped her become financially independent by selling the surplus.

“When my chickens first died, I had lost all hope. I almost gave up. But after coming across CODEC’s training program, I learned how to grow them properly. Now I do not have to worry when guests come to my house. We have so much now that I can share the surplus with my neighbors and sell them too!”

- Shamoli Mollik





Traps that Triumph

Farmers of the Charinduria village were facing a growing challenge with time. The crop and vegetable fields of the village were being attacked by various harmful insects like fly bugs, caterpillar bugs, leaf rot bugs etc.

The pesticides purchased from local markets proved ineffective. Farmers Idris, Mustafa, Nizam, Yunus and others of the village decided to try out a new method - pheromone traps, which were introduced by CODEC. This method is seeing an increasing popularity for pest control in Lakshmipur. It suppresses harmful insects and protects crops giving farmers huge benefits. The primary reason for a growing interest of pheromone traps among farmers is due to its low cost.

Through CODEC's initiative, as farmers get further training about this method, this solution is slowly scaling up.

Farmers are tackling environmental pollution with pheromone traps. These have now become a staple of farmers to produce various crops including bitter gourd, rekha, pumpkin, bean, chichinga, brinjal, shrimp and kakarol.



“At one time, I started facing difficulties farming my 2 acre field. My vegetables were being attacked by harmful insects. None of the pesticides worked. However when CODEC introduced me to pheromone traps, I found this to be highly effective. My fields are returning to the way it was.”

- Md. Liton, Farmer

“Pheromone traps are an effective method for growing vegetable crops. Using this trap does not require the use of any additional pesticides. That is why we are encouraging farmers to use it.”

- Dr. Zakir Hossain, Deputy Director of Laxmipur Agricultural Extension Department





Md. Ali's Rahamania Nursery

As time goes by, we are slowly losing our variety of indigenous plant species, eventually causing a loss of local biodiversity. An increase in the production of exotic species like the Eucalyptus and Acacia have contributed to the cause of extinction of native species. To mitigate this problem, we could look to foster our local nurseries.

Several types of plantations can be found locally: forest, horticulture, medicinal, and agricultural crops. Seeds are often purchased in local markets or from individual sellers to grow local nurseries. However, when purchasing, most nursery owners lack knowledge in identifying healthy seeds that could be raised successfully. As a result, nurseries do not get their expected production, losing financially against long-term investment. Furthermore, a collective loss of multiple nurseries eventually set us back in our mitigation strategy.

One such nursery owner is Md. Ali. He calls his nursery Rahamania Nursery.

CODEC's Nature and Life project has been working with Md. Ali to address his nursery problems. The project has taken initiatives on various fronts by providing different types of training and financial support. In order to develop skills in quality seedling production, a 3-day long grafting training was provided at Balaghata Horticulture Centre in the Bandarban Hill Tracts. At the same time, Md. Ali and his fellow nursery owners received training on mother tree selection, seed collection, bamboo branch cutting, clump management, and bamboo cultivation.

Besides training, Md. Ali was also provided need-based in-kind support of approximately 38,000 BDT, along with a backward-forward market linkage through local service providers (LSP).

“The Rahamania Nursery is a reliable source of quality seedlings in the area. Its role is extremely vital as there is no other nursery like it, in a 10km radius in the Whykong area.”

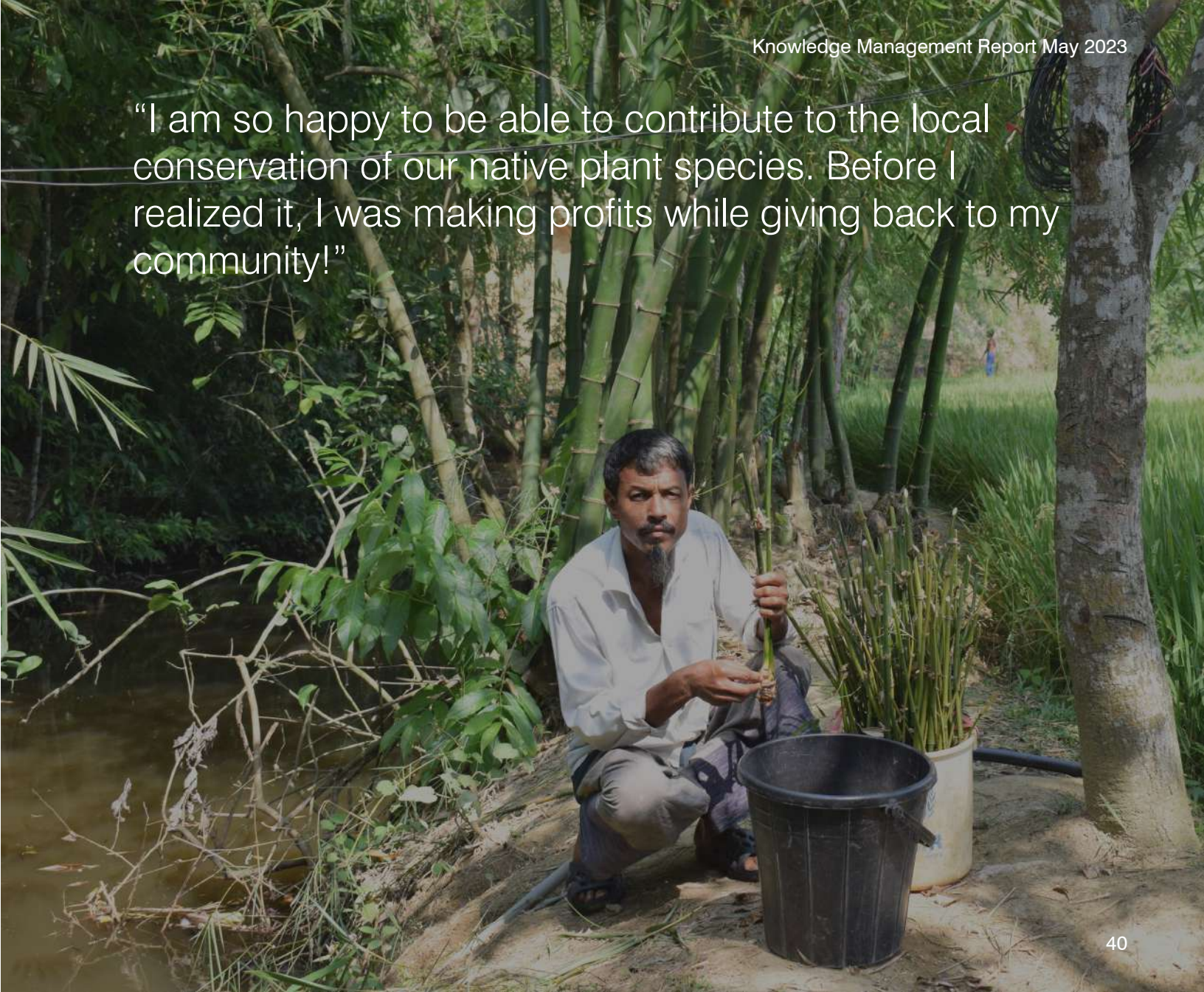
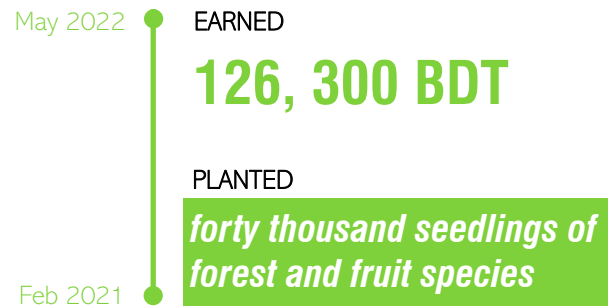
- Mr. Alamgir Chowdhury, President of Whykong CMC





Currently, Md. Ali has been successfully producing locally extinct species like Horitoki, Jam, Behera, Champa, Chikrashi, Talsur, and other local species like - Garjan, Raintree, Guava, Jambura, Bamboo, Mango, etc. He no longer produces exotic species.

There has been a boost in the number of bamboo trees in the area due to an increased supply of healthy bamboo saplings. This has further contributed to reduced dependency on forest bamboo, eventually improving the biodiversity of the region.



“I am so happy to be able to contribute to the local conservation of our native plant species. Before I realized it, I was making profits while giving back to my community!”

Turning Setbacks into Success

After graduating from university in 1996, Md. Maruf Hossain (pictured middle) started working for an NGO. Besides this, he also ran a small business of traditional red burnt bricks. When this small business became profitable, Hossain quit his job in 2007 and extended his business, building a brick kiln. However, by this time, the traditional bricks which were made from burnt topsoil were banned by the Government of Bangladesh. This business had become an illegal one. Even so, Hossain continued his work for five years, until the legal authorities came to his door. Due to conducting an illegal business, Hossain was fined and imprisoned. The government further confiscated 200,000 bricks and other materials. Hossain had lost around 600,000 BDT.

After this incident, Hossain started to look for new venture ideas, which is when he came across the concrete block business – which was legal, and highly encouraged by the government. However, this new venture idea brought new challenges.

Hossain did not have any prior knowledge, experience, or training on how to start block production. He was inspired when he met a fellow entrepreneur, Mahabub Alam, and learned about his concrete block business. Alam introduced Hossain to the CODEC SEP Team. Hossain later acquired technical support, training, and supervision from the project.



*The project provided two-day long skills development **basic training on eco-friendly construction materials**, to masons and micro-entrepreneurs like Hossain to keep them up with environmental compliance.*

“After facing reprimands for participating in an illegal brick business, I made a firm decision to never be involved in such activities that harm the environment. It was at that moment that I chose to pursue a concrete block business instead.”

- Md. Maruf Hossain



Hossain has started his own business and is now producing hollow blocks using hand press machines. A beautiful house was successfully constructed at Bishnupur using Hossain's hollow block production.



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Navigating Economic
Challenges and
Empowering Youth
in
RAISE

Lessons Learned

This study aims to enhance the lessons learned from the projects by exploring key questions related to project implementation challenges and outcomes. It provides valuable insights into the strategic implementation process and examines the challenges faced during the project. Furthermore, it explores how these challenges were addressed and provides a comprehensive understanding of the lessons learned. Additionally, the study seeks to identify potential next steps based on the context-driven outcomes. By addressing these, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of project implementation and offers valuable recommendations for future endeavors.

Unlocking Learner Engagement

Identify reasons for disinterested learners during enrollment and Implementing alternative strategies to reach project goals

Enrolling adolescent and youth learners, especially at a specific CTA center, for ICT education has been a recurring challenge. The training schedule from 9 am to 4 pm clashes with learners' regular morning classes until 2 pm, prompting a preference for afternoon sessions. As a result, the center's capacity is insufficient, leading to reluctance among learners to enroll. This yearly challenge contributes to a decline in attendance rates, with the project recognizing the diminishing demand due to the conflict between training and school/college schedules.



Enrollment of Madrasa students



Enrollment campaign

The project successfully identified the cause of low attendance. Discussions with learners and educational authorities revealed a preference for afternoon classes, resulting in fewer morning attendees. To address this, alternative options such as Madrashas were explored. Enrollment campaigns were conducted, and the Madrasa committee adjusted schedules to align with CTA classes. As a result, two batches of Madrasa students enrolled at the CTA center, with 25 students receiving ICT education since January.

This new strategy teaches us a valuable lesson: The project must be more vigilant in recognizing alternative opportunities that can help achieve the targeted goals.

The project has successfully identified the issue and intends to implement this strategy in the upcoming years to deliver meaningful and effective services as promised.



Morning shift ICT training class for Madrasha students

With the implementation of the new strategy, the project has observed significant changes in learners' attendance rates. Currently, morning classes are designed for madrasha students, while afternoon classes are designed for school/college-going students.



Enrollment of Madrasha students

Both the morning and afternoon shifts are filled with attendees as there is no struggle for learners' availability. The center has regained its reputation among the community and has become more eventful than ever.








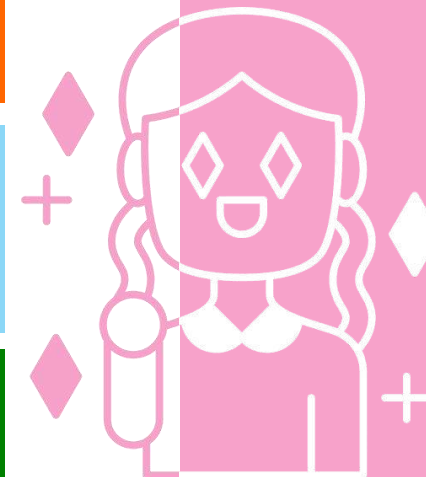
Empowering Children

*A Heartwarming Tale of Support, Compassion,
and Educational Transformation*

The children participating in the Shopnojatra project are taught various subjects in their centers. Occasionally, they discuss matters beyond their scheduled sessions.

Though the children are young, they possess the potential to make a significant impact on the community. While their individual efforts may not appear substantial, the outcomes they strive to achieve can be immense.

-  Child Rights
-  Child Marriage
-  Health and Hygiene
-  Climate Change
-  Disaster Risk Reduction



During a discussion about real-life scenarios, the children became aware that a girl named Jhumur Das in their community was not attending school. Taking initiative, the children from the centers decided to investigate the reason for her absence and discovered that Jhumur did not have a school dress. The school's teacher confirmed that she couldn't attend without one.

The children convened a meeting in their center and decided to assist Jhumur, forming a Child Protection Fund. They saved their tiffin money for a day and deposited it into the fund. With the collected funds, they purchased clothes for Jhumur's school dress from a local market. They accompanied her to a tailor, who was surprised to see the children bringing a child for whom they needed a dress. Curious, the tailor inquired about the situation. Aysha Akter Nizhum, one of the child ambassadors, explained the entire situation. The tailor was deeply inspired by such humanitarian activities and declared that she would waive any fees for the dress. She praised the children's initiative and expressed a desire to visit the child center.

Finally, the children handed over the dress to Jhumur Das, ensuring she could now attend school without any hindrance.



Initiation of Beekeeping Demonstration Plots *and unanticipated setbacks*

TAKING HANDS-ON TRAINING IN BEEKEEPING



With assistance from Noor Mau, two beekeeping demonstration plots were established. One plot was set up at Momtaz Mia's house in Shilkhali, and the other at Mr. Babur's house in Ghilatali VCF of Whykong site. Prior to setting up the plots, farmers underwent training to equip them with the necessary skills for beekeeping and honey production. The training included hands-on experience covering various aspects, such as managing bee boxes and bees, introducing queen bees, implementing systems to catch or release the queen bee in case she climbs a tree or escapes, understanding the concept of primary bee colonies, utilizing different tools, and addressing challenges related to the business.



The farmers were also trained on the process of creating queen bees within a span of 13 days in case a box lacks one. Additionally, they were educated on using natural ingredients to treat bees if they are affected by any issues.

Initially, the demonstration plots showed promise, but starting from April 2022, as temperatures increased, the bees began to perish. In response, Noor Mau's owner, Mr. Noor Hossain Mistry, was contacted for support in managing the plots. Despite the beneficiaries' efforts to care for the bees based on his advice, they were unable to sustain their colonies. From June to September 2022, both demonstration plots were destroyed.

A bee production value chain and market development facilitator, Mr. Suman Priya Chakma, visited the beekeeping demonstration plot on the recommendation of Noor Mau. Mr. Chakma identified several factors that contributed to the damage of the two beekeeping demonstration plots.



Contributing factors to beekeeping plot damage:

1. Insufficient honey crop availability in the area.
2. Infestation of fire ants and hornets.
3. Lack of beekeeping expertise and knowledge, requiring ongoing training and supervision by specialists.
4. Adverse impacts of hot and saline weather on bee colonies.

Proposed solutions:

1. Introduce Syerana bees as an alternative to Melifera bees for better survival in hilly areas.
2. Improve technical observation and monitoring of beekeeping activities.
3. Explore the possibility of relocating the demonstration plot to a new site.

Navigating Economic Challenges and Empowering Youth

Tackling disruptions on the path to resilience

Poverty reduction has slowed while urban growth accelerated in recent years. Bangladesh had a strong macroeconomic position before the COVID-19 crisis, but the pandemic caused significant disruptions to domestic economic activity. Microenterprises nationwide have been heavily impacted by the outbreak. Challenges persist in terms of job quality and inclusion, particularly for low-income urban youth who face complex constraints different from other labor market segments. With an average education level of only 6.8 years, youth lack essential life skills crucial for employment outcomes. Gender gaps in labor market outcomes are substantial. Self-employment and microenterprises are important sources of jobs for youth, but low-income urban youth face multiple constraints that limit their employment opportunities and confine them to low-paying economic activities.



Family Income

< 20,000

18 - 35 year-old



Youths

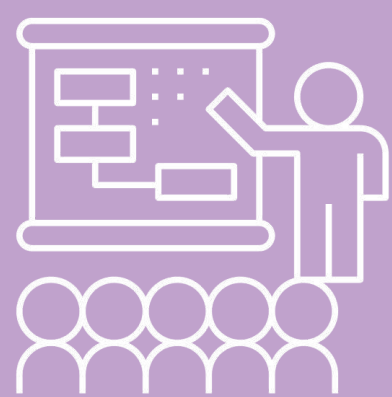
40 Youths from



18 Branches



20 Teachers



The families of disadvantaged individuals affected by the crisis expressed satisfaction with their sons and daughters undertaking new initiatives. With their improved skills and qualifications, these individuals can now pursue employment opportunities aligned with their capabilities.

01

02

03

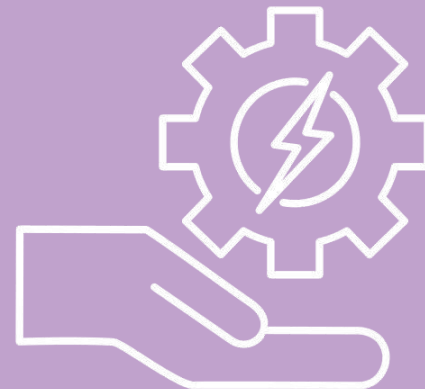
Training

Risk management and business continuity training in February empowered entrepreneurs with goal setting and action planning, enabling them to assess and mitigate business risks. Families of disadvantaged individuals affected by the crisis are pleased with their sons and daughters pursuing new initiatives, finding employment based on their skills. The training promotes gender equality, with active participation from both men and women, fostering the generation of innovative business ideas.



Partnerships

Acquaintance with local public representatives, dignitaries, religious leaders, and small industrial entrepreneurs is growing, increasing the project's familiarity and acceptability among everyone. This enhanced recognition will facilitate the smooth implementation of our activities. The loan program offered by our organization is well-known, and there is a growing interest among many individuals to avail loans. This presents an opportunity for business owners to settle significant debts.



Apprenticeship Program

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Distribution Against All
Odds
in
*School Feeding
Programme*

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Seeds of Wellness
Blossom
from
*Pathways to Prosperity
for Extreme Poor People*

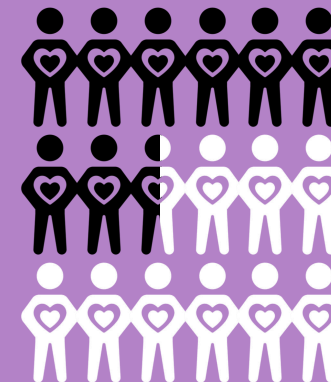
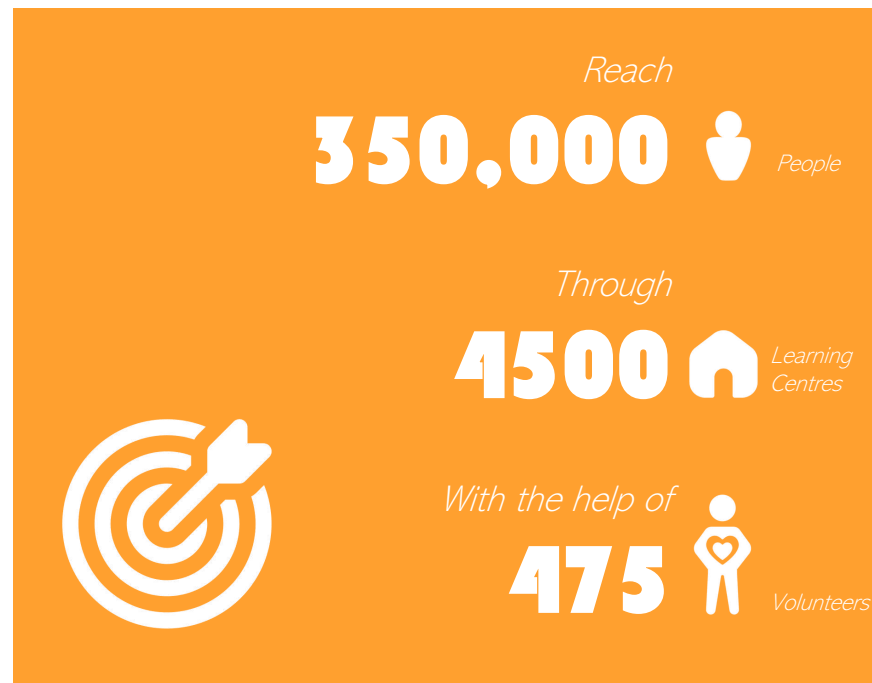
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*Sustainable Enterprise
Project (Eco-friendly
construction materials)*

After Action Review

In this study, the collection of project action-oriented challenges and outcomes is facilitated through the utilization of the After-Action Review (AAR) tool. After the completion of each project activity, the project staff, under the guidance of the KM champion, conducted an AAR. The primary objective of the AAR report was to address four fundamental questions: determining the intended actions, assessing the actual occurrences, understanding the reasons behind any disparities, and identifying potential areas of improvement along with corresponding strategies.

Ensuring Biscuit Distribution Against All Odds

Since January 2017, the CODEC WFP School Feeding Programme has distributed Micronutrient Fortified Biscuits at various camps, including Kutupalong Reg. Camp, Nayapara Reg. Camp, Kutupalong Makeshift camp, Modhur Chara, Balukhali Makeshift camp, Shalbagan, Jadimura, Leda, Unchiprang, Chakmarkul Makeshift camp, and Shamlapur Makeshift camp. After an influx of refugees in August 2017, the program expanded to encompass all camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazila, providing WFP Fortified Biscuits to students in ongoing Learning Centers across the 33 camps.



47%

Of the initially intended number of volunteers

WFP permitted only 225 FDMN Volunteers as distribution assistants. It is crucial for the project to distribute fortified biscuits at the Learning Centers before their opening or shift starts. However, due to the limited number of volunteers, distributing biscuits at all covered Learning Centers had become quite challenging.

but WHY?

Due to a decrease in funding from WFP for various reasons, the project has been affected. WFP has expressed unwillingness to allow more than 225 FDMN volunteers. The coverage of Learning Centers has decreased, with approximately 1,518 Learning Centers and 29,725 learners being affected compared to previous years. Despite the reduction in the number of volunteers, the coverage decrease was not proportional.



The project is actively addressing the challenge by engaging in communication with WFP and using the existing volunteers. The volunteers are being provided with orientation and training to adapt to their new responsibilities.

Seeds of Wellness Blossom

The Inspiring Nutrition Garden at Ahed Haulader Bari Community Clinic

A nutrition garden has been created at Ahed Haulader Bari Community Clinic in Amkhola, Galachipa, Patuakhali. This garden serves as a shining example of a model nutrition garden, where vegetables are grown year-round in specially designed loft and bed structures. The garden not only provides a sustainable source of fresh and nutritious vegetables, but it also adds beauty and aesthetic value to the community clinic.



PRODUCTION UNDERWAY, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO GENERATE INCOME



The nutrition garden at the community clinic features a bed system for growing vegetables. However, currently, there is no provision for a loft system to cultivate vegetables.

Many who visit the clinic express their interest in creating their own home-based nutrition gardens. The current focus is on providing fresh and nutritious vegetables and contributing to a pleasant atmosphere for the community's well-being rather than financial gain.

Promoting Success and Commitment

Empowering Micro-entrepreneurs in Hollow Block Construction

On January 18-19, 2023, a two-day Skill Development Basic Training took place at the CODEC Training Center in Bagerhat. The training was attended by entrepreneurs, engineers, masons, and other members.

The meeting commenced with an overview of the project's activities and objectives through a presentation. Following that, product production, various machines and techniques were discussed. The attendees were introduced to the project's website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel, and also made aware of environmental practices during the training.



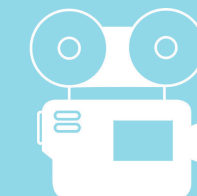
Strategies to make the training interesting

01



Practical
Participatory
Sessions

02



Video
Demonstrations



The training incorporated interactive activities to enhance engagement and alleviate potential boredom during lengthy sessions. Held at the CODEC resource center, participants gained hands-on experience in live production and access to essential facilities. The positive response from most Micro-entrepreneurs (MEs) upon witnessing hollow block wall construction has motivated some to invest in new machinery for their businesses. Furthermore, trainees have shown strong commitment to actively participate and apply acquired skills in alignment with project objectives.

We thank the individuals,
communities and partners for the
continued support throughout the
years