

# INSIGHT



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT REPORT

May '23 - Aug '23

“Knowledge is the key to  
unlock the golden door of  
freedom.”

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Begum Rokeya

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.

## CREDIT LINE

**Editors** **Quazi Wafiq Alam**, Director, Program and Knowledge Management

**Nowshin Matin**, M&E Officer, M&E

**Contributors** **All KM Champions, MEAL focal and Project Leads**

**Reviewer Panel** **Quazi Wafiq Alam**, Director, Program and Knowledge Management

**Tasadduk Hossain Dulu**, Director - Education

**Parsha Shanjana**, Senior Manager, KMPDTT

**Abdullah Al Adnan**, Program Officer, KMPDTT

**Md. Raisul Islam Shamrat**, Sr. Program Officer, M&E

**Minhazur Rahman Rezvi**, Sr. Program Officer, M&E

**Nowshin Matin**, M&E Officer, M&E

**Graphics and Design** **Nowshin Matin**, M&E Officer, M&E

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## Foreword from Director of Program and Knowledge Management

Welcome to the second edition of our Knowledge Management report, "INSIGHT" covering the period May 2023 to August 2023. This edition, like its predecessor, stands as a testament to our commitment to advancing knowledge sharing and organizational learning. In the ever-evolving landscape of development and humanitarian work, the importance of capturing insights, sharing experiences, and learning from our endeavors cannot be overstated. In this second edition of INSIGHT, we delve deeper into a diverse range of topics that have shaped our experiences and understanding over the past months. These topics represent a cross-section of our engagement with the communities we serve, highlighting the challenges we've encountered and the invaluable lessons we've gleaned along the way.

In a close examination of the "Education Challenges in Coastal Bangladesh.", we explored the intricacies of the Showpner Thikana Project, shedding light on the hurdles faced during the construction phase of our Bridge Schools. This phase of the project was quite interesting where we involved the community, especially the children in the design development and construction of the schools. We learned a lot from each other. The Year-End Assessment of the Education and Protection for Refugee Children (EPRC) in Bhashanchar has proven to be an invaluable tool for evaluating the competencies of refugee learners and drawing attention to their educational progress and needs. In "Advancing the Housing Initiative," we take a critical look at the gaps encountered during the piloting phase, uncovering key insights that can guide us toward a more successful implementation of this program in the future. Another topic we explored is "Enhancing Focus for Alternate Collectors Token Distribution in the General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme " This analysis explored the challenges the program faces in ensuring the equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable individuals, there by safeguarding the program's intended goals. We expand further with "Strategies for Strengthening EdTech Program Implementation, Monitoring, and Community Engagement in UNICEF Education Project." We explored how the Education in Technology (Ed-Tech) program could have been initiated prior to the COVID-19 outbreak and seek to draw general approval for its implementation by all partners. Amid these challenges and lessons, INSIGHT also brings forth several success stories from our engagement in various domains, including Environment, Climate Emergency, Biodiversity, Disaster Management, Health and Nutrition, Social Entrepreneurship, and Micro-Finance. These stories exemplify our commitment to making a positive impact on the communities we serve and serve as a beacon of hope for what we can achieve when we come together with determination and compassion.

As we present the second edition of INSIGHT, we invite you to embark on this journey of knowledge and discovery with us. May the insights shared within these pages inspire you, challenge your perceptions, and fuel your commitment to the vital work of improving lives and fostering positive change. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the KM team, CODEC personnel, and KM champions for their unwavering dedication. Together, we will persist in leveraging the potential of knowledge and collaboration to achieve organizational success. This, in turn, will enable us to offer improved and more suitable services to the vulnerable individuals we serve.

**Quazi Wafiq Alam**

Director, Program and Knowledge Management  
Community Development Centre (CODEC)



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## 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.

## Education Challenges in Coastal Bangladesh: A Closer Look at the Showpner Thikana Project

The Showpner Thikana Bridge School project was conceived from the need to make education accessible to the most vulnerable and aims to accommodate the dropped-out students of disadvantaged coastal communities. The long-term goal of this project is “Empowering school dropout students and communities of coastal areas through collective actions for a better future.” The schools were envisioned with the community, by arranging participatory design development workshops with the children, parents, and teachers. Each school will accommodate 320 students each year, who will be engaged in several extracurricular activities along with their regular academic curriculum. These schools are built across eight locations on lands contributed by the respective community. This initiative, aimed at improving educational access and quality for school dropout children, has **encountered various challenges during its implementation, including construction related issues.**



THE CONSTRUCTION FACED A COMPLEX ARRAY OF CHALLENGES, COMPOUNDED BY THE COVID-19. UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER PATTERNS CAUSED PROJECT DELAYS AND ADDED INTRICACIES TO CONSTRUCTION. WHILE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WAS ESSENTIAL, IT SOMETIMES LED TO ON-SITE DISRUPTIONS, NECESSITATING CAREFUL MANAGEMENT. THE PANDEMIC FURTHER COMPLICATED MATTERS, AFFECTING LABOR AVAILABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, ADDRESSING THE LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL MASONS IN MATERIAL HANDLING WAS A CHALLENGE THAT COULD IMPACT CONSTRUCTION QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY.



### Community Ownership and Location Selection

Engaging school dropout children, parents, and community members in participatory design development workshops allowed for a deeper understanding of their needs, ideas, and expectations. **Community involvement extended to donating land**, which, while demonstrating a sense of project ownership, occasionally led to **disruption of activities on-site**.



### Setbacks Due to Weather-Related Factors

Construction crews often had to contend with sudden downpours, and even cyclone warnings, which necessitated the suspension of work. These **interruptions not only impeded progress but also required meticulous planning and resource management** to safeguard both the construction site and the well-being of the workers.



### Budget Management Amidst Price Escalation

Throughout the construction, the team faced multiple challenges, including sourcing materials, weather-related issues, and communication gaps. Yet, one of the most significant hurdles was **managing the project budget, exacerbated by escalating material prices** during construction. This required meticulous cost control and resource allocation.



### Lack of Local Masons' Knowledge

The limited knowledge of local masons regarding proper material handling. **Construction quality and efficiency suffered** as the workforce lacked the necessary skills and expertise to handle construction materials effectively. addressing this knowledge gap and providing guidance to local masons was paramount to ensure standards are met.





## Lessons Learned from Year-End Assessment: Enhancing Education and Protection for Refugee Children (EPRC) in Bhashanchar

In the Education and Protection for Refugee Children (EPRC) project, significant insights have been gained through the Year-End Assessment of Learners in Bhasanchar. This endeavor forms a pivotal aspect of the larger project, with a focus on facilitating education for forcibly displaced Rohingya children. The EPRC project, executed in collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP, sought to address this pressing concern through diverse initiatives, such as learning centers, child-friendly spaces, and adolescent centers. Guided by the Myanmar Curriculum Roadmap, the education sector in Bhasanchar took steps to implement the Myanmar Curriculum, enrolling learners across various grades. Notably, this year marked the first-ever Year-End Assessment in the region, offering a momentous opportunity to glean valuable lessons. The assessment emerged as a crucial tool for evaluating learners' competencies, drawing attention to their educational progress and needs.



The strategy employed for the Year-End Assessment was multifaceted. A comprehensive guideline set by the education sector directed the process. An extensive orientation was conducted for partners, teachers, and community leaders, facilitated by UNICEF. The assessment encompassed a series of steps, including registration, assessment, data analysis, and the placement of children into appropriate grades. The results of this effort were promising. Six learning centers were covered, with a total of 229 grade 3 learners and 27 grade 6 learners participating in the assessment. Furthermore, 127 out-of-school children engaged in the placement test.



### Community Engagement

The significance of effectively communicating with and involving community leaders such as Maji and Imam in the assessment process has been recognized as an invaluable lesson.



### Awareness Initiatives

The initiation of awareness programs to mobilize both community members and parents has proven to be a pivotal approach to fostering active participation in the assessment activities.



### Emphasizing Value

Providing students with admit cards prior to taking the exam emerged as a potent strategy to underscore the importance of the year-end assessment in their educational journey.



### Encouragement through Rewards

Rewarding students by offering practical gifts such as pencils, erasers, sharpeners, and pens after exams, with the participation of community leaders, has added an incentivizing aspect to the assessment experience. Providing a special snack or food package after each year-end assessment has served as a tangible form of encouragement for learners.



### Quality Enhancement

Enhancing the capability of teachers to effectively engage as invigilators during assessments has been identified as a crucial step in ensuring a smooth and productive process. The rotation of teachers to introduce different teaching styles and increasing the involvement of female teachers as invigilators has highlighted the importance of diverse representation in assessment processes.



### Inclusive Assessment

The inclusion of KG and Grade I students and the design of subject-based test questions aligned with students' and teachers' skill contexts has highlighted the significance of a holistic evaluation approach across various educational levels. Establishing separate marking criteria for co-curricular activities of students has ensured a comprehensive evaluation of their multifaceted development.



### Preparation Support

The provision of extra classes to aid student improvement prior to the exam, conducting preparatory tests before the final year-end assessment, expanding the coverage of examinations to include all subjects and, regular and more frequent various assessments throughout the academic year has demonstrated the value of helping students become familiar with the assessment format.



### Administrative Support

Supplying tools like clipboards and temporary ribbons for student identification has demonstrated the importance of efficient logistics and administration during assessments. Providing appropriate seating benches and ensuring suitable lighting, especially during adverse weather, has been acknowledged as fundamental for an effective assessment environment.



### Curriculum Alignment

Adjusting session plans to align with the year-end assessment, including reviewing and further designing sessions, has demonstrated the importance of maintaining congruence between teaching and evaluation. Ensuring math question papers are appropriately balanced in terms of difficulty has contributed to fair and accurate assessment results.

SEVERAL VALUABLE LESSONS EMERGED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE. WHILE THE ASSESSMENT SUCCESSFULLY INCLUDED SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES, THE BALANCE OF THE SUBJECTIVE TESTS BROUGHT ATTENTION. ADDITIONALLY, THE EFFICACY OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES WITHIN SHORT NOTICE HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION. THE NEED FOR ENHANCED QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENTS WAS EVIDENT, SHOWING THE IMPORTANCE OF A CONTINUOUS MONITORING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. TO ADDRESS THESE LESSONS, A RANGE OF MEASURES WERE PROPOSED, FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS TO INVOLVING MORE FEMALE TEACHER INVIGILATORS AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF SUBJECTS IN THE EXAM.

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## 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.

## Advancing the Housing Initiative: Strategies for Enhancing Implementation and Overcoming Challenges

The Housing Initiative in Bangladesh's coastal regions is a comprehensive approach aimed at addressing the challenges posed by environmental sustainability and climate resilience. These vulnerable areas are prone to cyclones and the loss of homes during disasters. Traditional housing structures are not effective in withstanding cyclonic winds and elevated salinity levels. This leads to a significant loss for families residing in these disadvantaged rural communities. To tackle these issues, the initiative collaborates with **Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP)** and the **Microfinance Program** to promote the adoption of more resilient and sustainable building materials, specifically cement blocks.



### THE INITIATIVE FOCUSES ON SEVERAL KEY COMPONENTS TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS

1

#### Model Houses

The initiative plans to construct **10 model houses** in the first year as part of a participatory process. This approach involves users, builders, and the design team working together to find solutions. These model houses serve as examples for the community and help build trust in cement blocks as a viable building material.

2

#### Long-Term Impact

The ultimate goal of the initiative is to establish cement blocks as a trusted and widely used building material within the local communities. This would contribute to long-term housing sustainability and affordability for low-income coastal populations.



3

#### Alternative Building Materials

The project promotes the use of cement blocks as a substitute for traditional materials like corrugated sheets, timber, and golpata. These materials are more resilient and can better withstand cyclones and salinity, offering enhanced protection to families during disasters.



4

#### Technology and Resources

The project works on improving the capacity of cement block microenterprises to produce these blocks efficiently by providing access to modern technologies and resources. This helps in increasing the availability of these blocks for construction.

5

#### Microfinance Program

The financing model involves a 3:2 ratio, where families contribute two parts of the construction costs, and the rest is financed through a loan. The loan is repayable over three years with declining interest rates.

6

#### Private Sector Partnerships

The project collaborates with the private sector to create partnerships that support the adoption of cement blocks. By connecting local producers with buyers, including families participating in the housing program.

7

#### Environmental Awareness

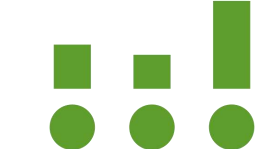
The initiative fosters environmental awareness within the community, emphasizing the importance of sustainable building practices and materials leading to long-term positive changes in building habits.

DURING THE INITIATIVE'S IMPLEMENTATION, SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS UNFOLDED. NOTABLY, THE PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF **FOUR HOUSES** IN ITS INITIAL PHASE, MARKING A **POSITIVE STEP FORWARD**. **HOWEVER, EVEN WITH THIS ACHIEVEMENT, THE INITIATIVE ENCOUNTERED CHALLENGES THAT IMPACTED ITS REACH AND OUTCOMES**



### Challenges in Reaching Vulnerable Communities

One of the major challenges that emerged was the difficulty in extending assistance to the most vulnerable members of the coastal communities. Due to various constraints, the project faced obstacles in providing its benefits to those who were most in need. This resulted in an **unintended gap in the initiative's intended coverage**.




### Selection Process and Unintended Exclusions

The process of selecting families to benefit from the initiative introduced another layer of complexity. The preference for households with a proven track record of timely loan repayment was intended to ensure financial capacity for effective participation. However, this criterion inadvertently **excluded some of the most vulnerable families** who lacked a strong repayment history.



### Adaptive House Designs and Cost Implications

A challenge arose from families themselves making alterations to the original house designs during the construction phase. While this flexibility aimed to align with their preferences, it introduced unforeseen additional costs that had not been initially accounted for in the project's planning. This **illustrated need for clearer communication and cost management strategies**.




### Unplanned Material Adaptation and Challenges

The incorporation of red bricks into certain construction aspects was an unplanned deviation from the initial strategy. The introduction of new building materials posed communication challenges. Transformation of the financial model introduced unexpected complexities. Driven by unforeseen circumstances, this adaptation highlighted the **necessity of being flexible** to changes




### Long-Term Implications and Community Relationships

A significant concern that emerged was the potential impact of any execution shortcomings on future relationships with coastal communities. The realization that the project's **success held implications beyond its immediate goals** underscored the need to carefully manage and nurture community relationships for sustained cooperation.



### Discrepancies in Construction Outcome

Despite efforts to adhere to the intended design, the constructed houses did not align with the initial vision. This was due to limitations in the material handling skills of local masons in the construction process. Additionally, **disparities between the original design team's drawings and the local masons' comprehension** contributed to this variation.



### Unplanned Design Changes and Family Aspirations

Significant design changes introduced during the construction phase, especially in **areas not previously discussed with other members of beneficiary families**, added to the complexity. Occasional clashes between the modifications and family preferences highlighted the need for clearer communication and collaboration.



## Budgetary Implications and Material Quality

Budgetary strain emerged due to the **transportation cost of cement blocks exceeding the allocated budget**. This expense had implications for the overall financial feasibility of the initiative. Additionally, issues with the quality of the cement blocks themselves emerged as a challenge, underscoring a **need for enhanced production and quality control measures**.



## Families' Aspirations for Adaptability

It was observed that families tended to modify the structure of their houses with future extensions in mind. This showed that they had **aspirations for adaptability and growth, which was not fully anticipated during the initial planning stages** of the initiative. This shows the importance of considering the needs and aspirations of families when planning initiatives.

**The initiative's implementation underscored the complexity of executing community-centered initiatives. The need of flexibility, active community engagement, and a deep understanding of local dynamics became evident.**

**Challenges spanning material costs, unfamiliarity with new materials, family engagement, local practices, and quality control highlighted the intricate nature of such endeavors within a dynamic community context.**

An essential aspect that emerged was the careful consideration of the project team's mindset when selecting beneficiary families. The commitment to a three-year financial engagement underscored the significance of establishing enduring relationships between the families and the organization. The realization that disruptions could hinder both ongoing construction and the organization's broader efforts within the neighborhood emphasized the delicate equilibrium that needed to be maintained.



### Introducing Unfamiliar Building Materials:

Introducing new building materials to a community can be challenging. The local community may not be familiar with these materials. This lack of familiarity can create a barrier to the smooth adoption of these materials. Therefore, it is essential to have effective communication and proactive community engagement to bridge this gap and overcome any obstacles in the adoption process.

### Navigating Material Price Fluctuations:

The project faced an unexpected challenge due to unforeseen shifts in material prices. The initial planning did not consider these fluctuations, resulting in a financial hurdle that required adjustments to the project's budget. The sudden increase in material costs posed a pressing financial challenge, which compelled the project team to reassess their financial strategies. As a result, the project team has learned the importance of considering potential fluctuations in material prices during the planning phase of future projects.

**Understanding Local Mason Practices:**

An obstacle that surfaced was the inadequate understanding of the mindset and practices of local masons. Despite the initial assumption that these masons were aligned with the Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP), it became evident that a deeper orientation or training was necessary. Bridging the gap between their existing practices and the project's objectives required a more thorough approach to ensure successful collaboration.



Family Mason



Architect

User

**Multi-Layered Dynamics and External Interference:**

Surprisingly, the involvement of relatives of beneficiary family members, particularly those trained as engineers, added complexity to the decision-making process. This external interference highlighted the multi-layered dynamics within the community, adding an additional layer of complexity to navigate. Balancing these dynamics became essential for ensuring smooth project execution.



Engineer

**Emotional Investment and Seeking Reassurance:**

The families' emotional investment in housing emerged as a significant aspect. Seeking reassurance from other family members or the broader community highlighted the profound significance of housing in relation to their future aspirations. This emphasized the necessity for continuous communication and understanding to address their emotional and aspirational needs.



Facilitator

User

**Challenges in Material Sourcing:**

Material sourcing posed challenges for the initiative. The failure to identify the location for acquiring necessary materials beforehand resulted in logistical hurdles that affected the construction timeline. This highlighted the importance of meticulous pre-planning to ensure the smooth flow of materials and construction processes.

**Ensuring Material Quality Control:**

Quality control of materials used in construction emerged as a crucial factor that had not been adequately addressed. The absence of a robust quality check mechanism impacted the overall durability and effectiveness of the houses constructed. Ensuring consistent and high-quality materials became imperative for the project's success.



# AREAS TO INNOVATE

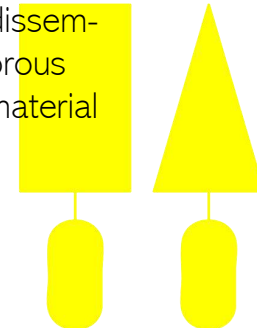
**1** Implement a subsidized loan process for families with weaker repayment histories.



Be more flexible in adapting the financial model.



**3** Train local masons to become knowledgeable disseminators, implement rigorous quality-checks during material sourcing, and enhance transparency between suppliers and families



**4** Engage in on-site design discussions, utilize modern tools like 3D models to visualize the design, and involve local masons in the design discussion from the beginning of the project, providing them with a deeper understanding of the project's objectives.



Involve perspectives from all stakeholders in policy development.



It is important to reflect on the significance of **reevaluating the initial strategy**. By incorporating the valuable lessons gained from the implementation phase, we can make the necessary adjustments to better suit the preferences of families, the capabilities of masons, and other community-specific factors. Together, we can work towards creating a truly exceptional and impactful solution.







## Enhancing Focus for Alternate Collectors Token Distribution in the General Food Assistance (GFA) Programme

The General Food Assistance (GFA) program was created to address food insecurity among vulnerable individuals, specifically the Rohingya community. However, the program faces challenges during outreach due to ground context. In some cases, community mobilizers may mistakenly provide the mobilization token to an alternate collector, which is not the regular practice.

The initiative aims to provide food assistance to vulnerable individuals who are facing food insecurity. In some cases, beneficiaries may have difficulty collecting their food from the designated outlet due to age, disability, or other reasons. To address this issue, the program allows for the selection of an alternate food collector who will be registered to collect the food on behalf of the beneficiary.



Alleviating food insecurity through assistance

**Strategy Adopted**

01



Alternate collectors aid beneficiary challenges

02



Beneficiary consent vital for alternate collector selection

03



While often a family member, the choice of an alternate collector should prioritize the beneficiary's preferences and well-being, ensuring a safe and efficient process.

04



Invitation token provided to beneficiaries, serving as evidence for the alternate collector to access food from the designated outlet on behalf of the beneficiary.

## What unfolded and what were the driving factors?

**The community mobilizer mistakenly provided the invitation token to the alternate collector instead of the principal beneficiary. This was not the regular practice, as it is the responsibility of the mobilizer to provide the token to the beneficiary.**



IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR COMMUNITY MOBILIZERS TO **DISTRIBUTE INVITATION TOKENS MORE CAREFULLY** TO PREVENT SIMILAR ERRORS IN THE FUTURE

- 1 Community Mobilizer mistakenly gave token to alternate collector instead of beneficiary.
- 2 The original beneficiary informed the outlet staff of their preference for an alternate collector.
- 3 Beneficiaries may forget about their entitlements, so sensitization is important.
- 4 The beneficiary had requested their invitation tokens to receive their entitled food on the mobilization date.
- 5 An error occurred when the Community Mobilizer mistakenly issued the invitation token to the wrong person during token distribution.
- 6 It is necessary to conduct an assessment to determine the principal beneficiary and alternate collector status.

**CFM OFFICER WILL ENHANCE THE TRACKING AND CONTINUE TO HANDLE ALL THE ALTERNATE COLLECTOR BENEFICIARY DOCUMENTS MORE CAREFULLY AS WELL AS CONSENT FORM WILL BE FILLED BY THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY.**

## AREAS THAT CAN UNDERGO ENHANCEMENT



It is essential to distribute invitation tokens directly to the original beneficiary. This will ensure that beneficiaries are aware of who is collecting their food on their behalf and prevent unauthorized collectors from accessing the assistance.



The invitation token distributor must check the principal beneficiary's face and verify their identity before providing the tokens. This will prevent the possibility of fraud and ensure that the tokens are handed to the original beneficiary



Community mobilizers must keep track of invitation token distribution to prevent any probability of misuse by volunteers or others.

THERE IS A NEED TO IMPROVE THE DOCUMENT CHECKING SYSTEM AT THE OUTLET ENTRY GATE. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE PLANS TO **ENHANCE VISITS TO THE SUB-BLOCK LEVEL AND CONTINUE TO OVERSEE** THE REGULAR TOKEN DISTRIBUTION PROCESS.

## Strategies for Strengthening EdTech Program Implementation, Monitoring, and Community Engagement in UNICEF Education Project

The CODEC-UNICEF Education Project could have initiated the Education in Technology (Ed-Tech) program prior to the COVID-19 outbreak and sought general approval from RRRC for its implementation by all partners. Moreover, UNICEF needed to create relevant content for learners, teachers, and parents/caregivers, while also organizing EdTech-related training for staff and teachers prior to the pandemic's onset.

FOLLOWING THE IDENTIFICATION OF A LEARNING GAP, PROJECT MANAGEMENT ENHANCED THE PROGRAM ORGANIZER'S (PO) CAPACITY FOR PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS MEETINGS, WITH COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FROM THE BURMESE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR AND HOST COMMUNITY TEACHER MOTIVATING PARTICIPANTS. NEW EPISODES FOCUSED ON EDUCATION, CHILDCARE, ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT, AND LIFE ORIENTED MESSAGES, INCORPORATING PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS' SUGGESTIONS THROUGH UNICEF



The COVID-19 outbreak led to substantial disruptions in the education system.



At first, CiC and RRRC were reluctant to give approval for operating EdTech program in camps due to lack of comprehensive orientation



Limited participation of parents/caregivers in early stages.



Limited set of skills of Burmese Language Instructor (BLI) and Host Community Teacher on EdTech

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**Nurturing Resilience**  
from  
*Pathways to Prosperity  
for Extreme Poor People  
(PPEPP)*

## Stories that Inspire

This section consists of a collection of tales sourced from our committed team spread throughout Bangladesh. These accounts showcase the various projects we've undertaken in partnership with the local people and communities we cooperate with. Each story provides insight into the people and groups we've joined forces with, revealing the shared development and advancement we've encountered in our day-to-day work. These narratives stand as evidence of the influence generated by our combined endeavors and the motivating voyages of the individuals and communities we support.

## From Struggle to Abundance

Kiran Bala's story resonates deeply with those who've devoted their lives to work, only to find themselves reliant on others due to financial constraints. The Probin Income Generating Loan program seeks to restore their financial independence and dignity. Kiran Bala, hailing from the humble Dari Umajuri village in Chitalmari upazila, Bagerhat district, was born into modest circumstances, embarking on life's challenges early. Despite enduring financial struggles, his family thrived on his and his eldest child's income. However, a life-altering road accident at age 63 in 2020 shattered his leg, plunging him into worries about his family's future. During a Probin meeting organized by CODEC-Enrich's Prince Halder, Kiran Bala voiced his concerns. Following Prince Halder's guidance, he secured a 30,000 Taka loan and started cultivating vegetables on his property and fallow land. Guided by CODEC-Enrich Enterprise Development Officer Avijit Majumder's advice and fueled by his family's support, Kiran Bala's efforts transformed the venture into a reliable income source. Now free from the shackles of financial burdens, Kiran Bala tends to tomato, pumpkin, and bitter gourd seedlings on his vegetable farm, standing proudly alongside his family in his later years.



*The essence lies in shifting the elderly from burdens to become society's pillars, and crafting economic partnerships that harness their wisdom and experience.*

**28, 87, 000 BDT**

*DISTRIBUTED BY THE PROGRAM BECAME  
SOURCE OF INCOME THROUGH THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS*

**INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES**

**108**

**ELDERS  
IMPACTED**

**“Returning my family to prosperity and ensuring my son's education would have been impossible without CODEC's unwavering financial support during my challenging times; now, I am content with my present circumstances, possessing ample funds for personal use without any constraints.”**

- Kiran Bala

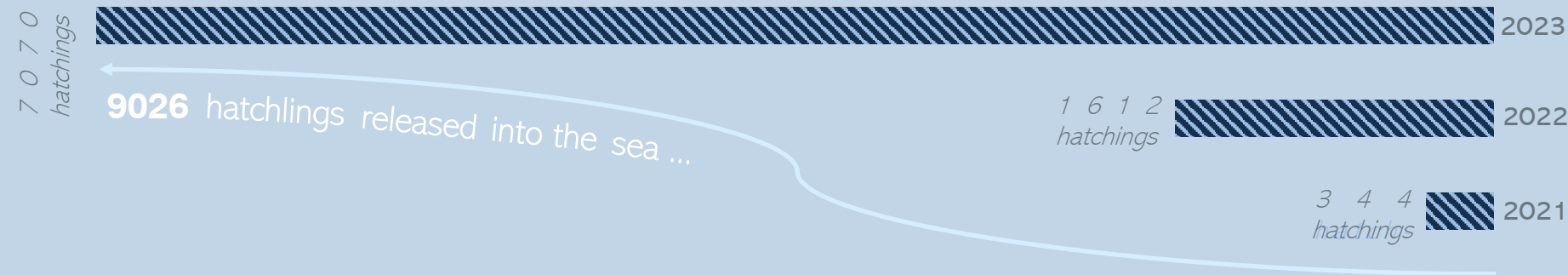


## Safeguarding Marine Turtles

Marine turtles are globally threatened species. As a CMS\* signatory, Bangladesh commits to safeguarding migratory species, including these vulnerable turtles. The Nature and Life project took on the challenge of restoring their habitat in a 30-km coastal zone from Motherbunia to Kurermuk in Ukhia and Teknaf Upazilla, Cox's Bazar.



The Nature and Life Project has been working to raise awareness within the community, primarily focusing on the fishing community, about marine turtle conservation. This is achieved through activities such as increasing community awareness, motivating fishermen to safely release turtles from nets, protecting nesting grounds, and collecting eggs from critical nesting sites for ex-situ hatchling production. The ex-situ hatchling production is facilitated by three turtle guards to oversee their operation. The project has also developed various materials, including leaflets, brochures, festoons, and message boards. It also observes World Turtle Day to disseminate knowledge and sensitize the local community to the importance of turtle conservation. Turtles' eggs typically hatch within an average of 60 days. Department of Environment and Forest, along with various fisheries, are actively involved in turtle conservation activities.



*The growing hatching rates demonstrates the increased public interest in the conservation of marine turtles.*

With the support of the Nature and Life Project, Professor Md. Farid Ahsan from the Department of Zoology at the University of Chittagong conducted a study on sea turtle conservation along the beach areas spanning from Sonadia Island to Saint Martin's Island in Bangladesh during 2022. In his study's conclusion, he emphasized,

*"Community-based conservation emerges as the optimal approach to safeguarding these distinct denizens of the oceanic realm. Enhanced effectiveness can be achieved by the integration of initiatives related to sea turtle preservation."*



Md Safiul Alam, a Turtle Guard at Sepotkhali Hatchery, Ukhiya, emphasizes marine turtles as crucial sea cleaners, enhancing fish production by consuming species like Nunnya (Jale Fish). He urges turtle protection for our benefit, inviting all to embrace their inner connection with these fascinating creatures.

Md. Sahajan, a Member of Whykong PF, expressed his deep affinity for marine turtles. He has carried a passion for wildlife and nature preservation since childhood. Since 2010, he has successfully rescued over 300 diverse wild animals, including snakes, an infant elephant, turtles, snails, oysters, and birds, ensuring their safe release into their natural habitat.



## Fostering Nutrition

CODEC-SFP is implementing a School Feeding Programme (SFP) in 70 schools (63 GPS & 7 NGPS) within Teknaf Upazila. Around 18,673 students (9,169 boys & 9,594 girls) receive a 75g fortified biscuit containing 16 vitamins and minerals. In June 2023, the World Food Programme (WFP) informed CODEC-SFP about receiving 36,996 MT of dates from Qatar Found for Development to distribute among these schools. A rapid distribution was required according to WFP's instructions, posing a challenge. CODEC-SFP swiftly devised a plan for receiving, storing, and distributing the dates, arranging an inauguration ceremony at Mymuna GPS. Notable attendees included Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mr. Md. Kamaruzzaman, Thana Education Officer (TEO) Mr. Gaura Chandra Dey, Assistant Upazila Education Officer (ATEO) Mr. Ashis Bosh, and Mr. George Suman Karmaker, Unit Head of School Feeding Programme in Cox's Bazar. The distribution aimed to provide 2 packets of dates to each student. The inauguration took place at Mymuna GPS, distributing 512 kg of dates among 256 students. Future distributions will follow suit, involving government officials, community leaders, and school management committees.

The project successfully distributed **36, 999 MT Dates** received from WFP among **18, 673 Primary School Students** of Teknaf Upazila among which 9169 are boys & 9594 are girls.





## Nasima's Inspiring Journey

Income Generating Activities (IGAs) encompass small-scale ventures managed by individuals or groups to enhance household income by diversifying livelihoods. The CODEC-Shapnojatra initiative has extended financial aid to 90 Ambassadors and their families, who faced reduced work opportunities due to the pandemic. Among them is Nasima Akter, a Child Ambassador from the Chouridanga Attobishashi Child Center in Mongla Upazila. Nasima received 7500 BDT from the project, with her family contributing 1500 BDT. This sum was utilized to acquire goats, overseen mainly by Nasima's parents, with her occasional assistance. The family diligently maintains a ledger to record weekly expenditures and goat-related earnings. Center Facilitators provide regular oversight and guidance based on this record. Starting with two goats, Nasima's family now plans to sell six, utilizing the proceeds, along with additional funds, to purchase a cow. This step aims to further enrich their farm. The family, advised on vaccinations and following veterinary guidelines, transformed their farm into a community role model. Selling six goats at a market value of 28,000 BDT, they intend to acquire a new cow valued at over 30,000 BDT, significantly advancing their farm's growth. Despite challenges, Nasima's family ensures their goats' well-being through vaccinations and consultation with local veterinarians. The family sources fresh feed from their surroundings, nurturing the farm's success. Their tenacity and hard work exemplify how consistent effort can reshape one's destiny. In the realm of livestock farming, timely vaccination and proper nutrition are paramount. Nasima's family showcases teamwork and determination in their farm's establishment and development, underlining the importance of collective endeavors.

**"I used to raise goats before, but this time it was a unique experience due to the Covid-19 challenges. Our lives turned challenging, and fear enveloped us. We diligently adhered to the advice from CODEC and the veterinarian, ensuring timely vaccinations for our goats. Considering limited space, I've opted to sell some goats to acquire a cow."**

- Munzila Begum, Mother of Nasima

**"This family has put in tremendous effort to raise their goats, and I am truly delighted to witness the flourishing condition of all their goats. Nasima's parents extend their support to her studies, and now, they are reaping the benefits of their farming endeavor. I have every confidence that Nasima will excel in her forthcoming exams."**

- Rohima Akter, Center Facilitator, Chouridanga Attobishashi Child Center



## Nurturing Resilience

PPEPP Project works with vulnerable populations at the community level to eradicate extreme poverty. Since this project focuses on vulnerable populations, they are often unaware of Income Generating Activities, Health, Nutrition, easy access to local service providers, Gender Discrimination, and Disaster management. Financial problems at this level are a significant issue for many families, including Abdur Rahoman's family. He and his wife, Bella Begum, have experienced poverty and, being elderly, also suffer from various health issues. Consequently, they require a source of income and medical care support, making their circumstances challenging. Through the Prosperity Project, Abdur Rahoman received twelve days of farm training from August 28, 2020, to September 8, 2020. He initiated these activities, focusing on Bamboo & Cane materials, in his home and weekly sells his products in the local market. Bella Begum, Abdur Rahoman's wife, also received support from the project in the form of a goat rearing package (including four mother goats with shelter, grass cutting, and other essentials) on October 30, 2021. This initiative enabled her to purchase a buck for breeding, leading to the sale of four to five goat kids per year. Furthermore, Abdur Rahoman's family benefited from the project's assistance with primary health and nutrition care, as well as engaging in discussions on gender and social awareness.





*Abdur Rahoman's off-farm ventures yield a monthly income of seven to eight thousand taka, and his wife's annual goat sales add over forty thousand taka.*

**"I am so happy now. My wife and I have a regular income-generating activity, and we also have the opportunity to take time off depending on my physical condition. I am grateful to the Prosperity Project."**

- Abdur Rahoman

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CODEC Bhaban  
Lake Valley R/A  
Khulshi  
Chattogram - 4202  
Bangladesh

**T** : 880-02-334466485  
**E** : info@codec.org.bd  
**W** : www.codec.org.bd

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