

# CDSP IV

## Char Development and Settlement Project Phase IV

The **overall objective** of CDSP IV is to:

“reduce poverty and hunger among poor people living on newly accreted chars.”

### Description

The central part of the coastal zone of Bangladesh, where the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Rivers flow into the Bay of Bengal, is constantly changing. Satellite pictures show that each year there is a net accretion of around 20 km<sup>2</sup>, which is the balance of newly formed land of about 52 km<sup>2</sup> minus eroded land of around 32 km<sup>2</sup>. The latter figure means that with an assumed density of 800 people per km<sup>2</sup>, each year approximately 26,000 people (about 4,500 households) lose their land in the estuary. Many of them move to newly emerged lands, or chars, as these are called in Bangla.

By law, the newly accreted land belongs to the government and is transferred to the Forest Department for a period of 20 years. The Forest Department plants trees, especially mangroves, to stabilize the land and protect it against storms. But given the high demand for land, many families that have fallen victim to river erosion start occupying land before the land has officially been cleared for settlement. These families have to face difficult living conditions. Institutions are largely lacking, as are basic health and social services. The land, with usually a level of less than 3m PWD, is subject to regular flooding. There is no access to drinking water, agricultural inputs or communication systems. In addition, the occupation of the land is illegal, thus the families do not know if they can stay.

In its current fourth phase, the Char Development and Settlement Project IV (CDSP IV), aims to reduce poverty and hunger of the women, men and children living on the newly accreted chars. With this objective in mind, and following an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach, a multi-sector and multi-agency program of interventions has been put in place. Since 2011, the project is working to put in place effective management of water resources, protection against tidal and storm surges as well as improved drainage; to build a climate resilient internal infrastructure for communication, markets, cyclone shelters, provision of potable water and hygienic sanitation; to provide the settlers with a legal title to the land they are occupying; to improve the resilience of livelihoods and households; to build field institutions and to conduct surveys and studies to contribute to learning around the ICZM efforts.

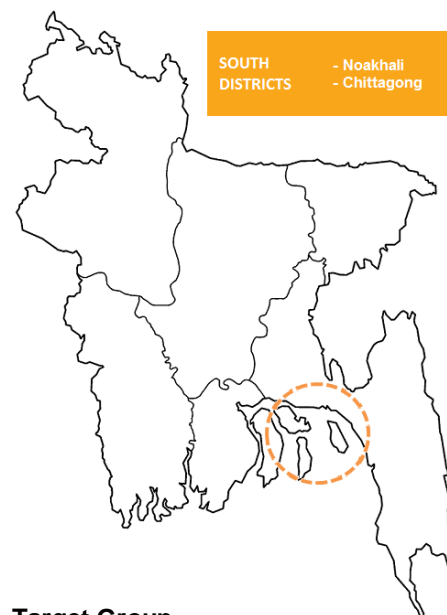
### Programme Components

1. Protection from Climate Change: The protection from climate change is enhanced by building embankments, drainage sluices and channels as well as closures. Water Management Groups are formed to operate and maintain the infrastructure. In addition, protective plantations of trees are established

### Duration

January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2017  
(7 years)

### Program Area



### Target Group

155.000 people (or 28.000 households)

### Partners

#### Principal Donors:



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) & International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

#### Main Implementing Partners:



Ministry of Water Resources, through Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) & IFAD

on mud flats, foreshores and embankments, which also offer the possibility of income generation for Social Forestry Groups.

2. **Climate-resilient Infrastructure**: CDSP IV is building roads, bridges, culverts, cyclone shelters-cum schools, killas (cyclone refuges for livestock), markets, boat landing ghats, bus stands and Upazilla offices. This infrastructure will improve the communication both inside the area and with the surrounding areas and will allow settlers to access to outside markets to sell their own products and to buy necessary goods. In addition, deep tube wells and hygienic latrines are established.
3. **Land settlement and titling**: Following an extensive plot-to-plot survey to identify pieces of land and their current occupiers, CDSP IV leads the administrative process for the official registration of the land titles. Successful innovations made during previous phases under the project, such as the public hearings to confirm the landless households, registering the title in both wife's and husband's name and the electronic land record management system are continued.
4. **Livelihood support**: The agricultural support subcomponent aims at enabling farmers to make better use of their land resources. Farmer Forums are established and a programme to promote agricultural technologies that are adapted to saline conditions and resilient to climate change is implemented. Under the social and livelihood support subcomponent four NGOs provide micro-finance services, provide training on income-generating activities and disaster management, raise awareness for legal rights and extend health and family planning services.
5. **Field Level Institutions**: To ensure people's participation in the project's interventions, community based groups, such as Water Management -, Social Forestry -, Micro Finance - and Tube Well User Groups are formed. They are closely involved in planning and implementing the project as well as in operation and maintenance upon the completion of interventions. While forming these field level institutions, female participation is ensured.
6. **Surveys and Studies, operation and maintenance**: The project continues its support for CDSP I, II and III areas for operation and maintenance activities and land settlement (in particular in Boyer Char). Feasibility studies are undertaken to identify and preliminarily formulate programmes for future interventions in the coastal char areas.

#### **Contribution to National 'Food Security' Policy Programs**

- National Food Policy
- Country Investment Plan for Agriculture, Food security and Nutrition

#### **Partner Information**

**BWDB** is a part of the Ministry of Water Resources and is responsible for the implementation of water projects that exceed 10 km<sup>2</sup> in size.

**IFAD** is a United Nations agency specialized in eradicating rural poverty in developing countries. IFAD has been working in Bangladesh for more than 30 years and has developed in-depth knowledge of the country's needs in the areas of infrastructure, inland fisheries, agriculture, markets, microfinance and gender. Based on this experience, and in full alignment with the government's sixth five-year plan, IFAD is committed to supporting more commercial and remunerative livelihoods for farmers and fishers.

#### **Program ID**

Activity No. Pir 21604

Contract No. DHA0112047/48

#### **Budget**

USD 89.2 million

#### **Contributing Donors**

EKN, IFAD & Gov. of Bangladesh

#### **Further Information**

For further information please visit:

[www.cdsp.org.bd](http://www.cdsp.org.bd)

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