

Char Development and Settlement Project Phase IV

At a Glance

The Chars in the Bay of Bengal

The central part of Bangladesh' coastal zone, where the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna rivers flow into the Bay of Bengal, is continuously changing. Satellite pictures show that each year about 52 km² of newly formed land accretes, and about 32 km² erodes from the coasts. This results in a net growth of about 20 km² per year.

When considering the erosion rate of 32 km² and an assumed density of 800 people per km², approximately 26,000 inhabitants of Bangladesh (nearly 4,500 households) annually lose their lands in the estuaries. Many of these new landless people move to the newly emerging land, 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 (FD) for a period of 20 years. The Forest Department plants trees, especially Mangroves, to stabilize the land and protect it against storms. However, due to the high demand for land, many river-eroded families start occupying the new land before it has been officially cleared as sustainable for settlement.

As the FD holds ownership over the newly emerging chars, the occupation of the land is illegal, adding uncertainty to the already unstable lives of the char dwelling families. Due to the remote locations, the law and order situation on the chars is fragile.

These families have to face a number of challenging living conditions. Institutions, basic health and social services are mostly lacking, with the exception of some 'Samaj' (local communities) and mosque- and madrassa committees. There is no access to drinking water, especially in winter, lack of communication systems and infrastructures, barely agricultural support and water sanitation, illegal land titling and environmental hazards. As whole a vulnerable livelihood persist there.

Initially the chars have a level of less than 3m PWD, and are thus subject to regular flooding. This results in high soil salinity levels, making agriculture difficult.



CDSP IV

The Char Development and Settlement Project Phase IV (CDSP IV) is the fourth phase in a series of projects that have been developing newly accreted land (chars) in the coastal

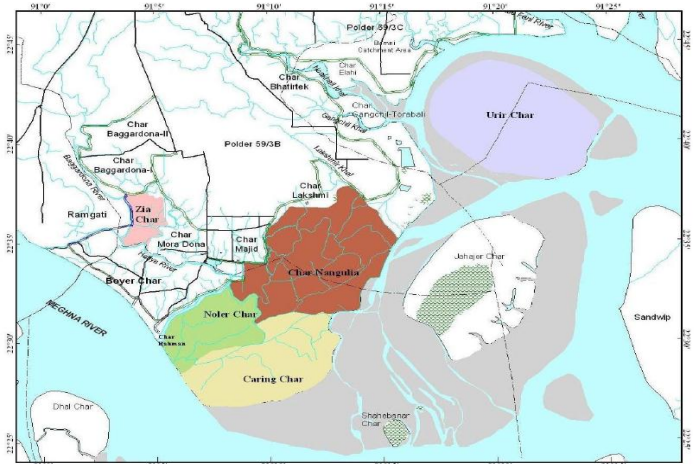
area of Bangladesh for over two decades. CDSP IV started back in March 2011 and is co-financed by the Government of Bangladesh, the Government of the Netherlands, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

CDSP IV aims to reduce poverty and hunger for poor people living on newly accreted coastal chars, which will be achieved via improved and more secure livelihoods. With this objective in mind, an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approach, a multi-sector and a multi-agency program of interventions has been put in place.

The purpose of the project is to improve and enhance the security of the livelihoods of the settlers in the project areas. This purpose is achieved through the following outputs:

- effective management of water resources, protection against tidal and storm surges, improved drainage;
- climate resilient internal infrastructure for communication, markets, cyclone shelters, provision of potable water and an improved hygienic situation;
- provision to the settlers of a legal title to land;
- improved livelihoods and household resilience;
- institutional development in order to create an enabling institutional environment;
- knowledge management through undertaking and disseminating surveys and studies and by learning from and contributing to ICZM efforts.

The project activities of CDSP IV focus on the development of five new chars: Char Nangulia, Noler Char, Caring Char, Urir Char and Char Ziauddin.



The CDSP IV chars

These five areas encompass around 30,000 ha, with an estimated population of 155,000 persons in 28,000 households.

The activities are divided under six project components: 1. Protection for Climate Change, 2. Climate-resilient Infrastructure, 3. Land Settlement and Titling, 4. Livelihood Support, 5. Field Level Institutions, and 6. Surveys and Studies, Operation and Maintenance.



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Fast Facts of CDSP IV	
USD 89.2 million	Total project cost, co-financed by the Government of Bangladesh, the Government of the Netherlands, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
155,000 people	To benefit (or 28,000 households)
30,000 hectares	Char land to be developed
6 implementing agencies	1. Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), 2. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), 3. Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), 4. Ministry of Land (MoL), 5. Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), and 6. the Forest Department (FD)
7 years	Project duration from 2011 – 2018
6 components	1. Protection from Climate Change, 2. Climate-resilient Infrastructure, 3. Land Settlement and Titling, 4. Livelihood Support, 5. Field Level Institutions, and 6. Surveys and Studies, Operation and Maintenance
1 objective	'To reduce poverty and hunger among poor people living on newly accreted chars'

Project activities overview

1. Protection from climate change

The protection from climate change on the chars is enhanced by building embankments, drainage sluices, channels, and closures. Water Management Groups are formed to operate and maintain the developed infrastructure. In addition, protective plantations of trees are established on mud flats, foreshores and embankments, which also provide income generation possibilities for Social Forestry Groups.

2. Climate-resilient infrastructure

The project builds roads, bridges, culverts, cyclone shelters / schools, killas (cyclone refuges for livestock), markets, boat landing ghats, bus stands, and UP complex. This infrastructure will improve the communication both inside the area and with the surrounding areas. This allows settlers access to outside markets to sell their products and to buy necessary goods. Furthermore deep tube wells and hygienic latrines are established to improve the living conditions of the settlers.

3. Land settlement and titling

Following an extensive plot-to-plot survey to identify pieces of land and their current occupants, CDSP IV leads the administrative process for the official registration of the land titles. Successful innovations (good practice) made during previous phases of the project are continued. These include public hearings to confirm the landless households, registering the title in both wife's and husband's name, and the digital land record management system.

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 is implemented. These technologies are specifically adapted to saline conditions and for resilience

to climate change. Under the social and livelihood support subcomponent four P-NGOs provide micro-finance services, training on income-generating activities and disaster management, raise awareness for legal rights, and extend health and family planning services, fisheries and livestock development programme.

5. Field level institutions

To ensure people's participation in the project's interventions, community based groups, such as Water Management (Farmers Forum, Labor Contacting Society) -, 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 promoted.

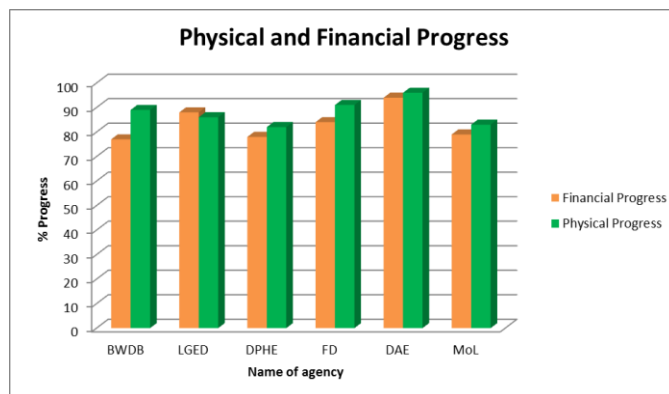
6. Surveys and studies, operation and maintenance

The project continues its support in 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.

Institutional set-up

As with the previous phase, CDSP IV draws on the experience and expertise of six implementing agencies as described in the 'Fast Facts of CDSP IV' table on the left.

A technical advisory team (TA Team) supports the work of the implementing agencies and coordinates the involved Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). An Inter Ministerial Steering Committee and a Project Management Committee ensure an effective coordination among all implementing partners.



Latest information and contact details

If interested in the latest CDSP IV news and progress updates, please visit our website on www.cdsp.org.bd.

For questions or comments please contact us directly through:

Project Coordinating Director

Char Development and Settlement Project IV – BWDB
Office: 23/1, Motijheel Commercial Area, Hasan Court (2nd floor), Dhaka 1000 Bangladesh.

☎ (+880)-2-9559298 cdsp.noa@gmail.com

