

# Small & Ethnic Community Development Framework

Sustainable Coastal & Marine Fisheries Project (SCMFP)

*Component-3: Community Empowerment & Livelihoods Transformation*



**Implemented By**

**Department of Fisheries (DoF)**

**&**

**Social Development Foundation (SDF)**

## **Table of Content**

Introduction.....	3
Ethnic and Indigenous Policy .....	3
The objectives of the development framework for small communities.....	3
Project Area and about Ethnic Community .....	4
Information Dissemination and Communication Strategy.....	5
Social Impact of the Project and Expectations of the Small and Ethnic Community .....	6
Activities for Small & Ethnic Community in the project framework .....	6
Management & Implementation.....	9
Action plan and implementation timeline.....	10
Budget & Financial Management .....	10

## Introduction

The "Bangladesh Sustainable Coastal & Marine Fisheries Project" (BSCMFP) has been implementing with a financial support of the Government of Bangladesh and the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank. The main objective of this project is to enhance fish resources and conservation, poverty alleviation, and increase environmental sustainability through improving fisheries management at coastal and marine areas. The Department of Fisheries (DoF) and the Social Development Foundation (SDF) are the key implementing agencies of implementing the component-3 titled "Community Empowerment and Livelihoods Transformation."

The project aims to benefit the marginalized and extremely poor fisher's household who dependent on marine fish resources. It is observed that most of the small and ethnic communities residing in the target area are fisher communities. Therefore, in line with the Small and Ethnic Community Development Policy of the World Bank, the project has adopted the Small Ethnic Community Development Framework (SECDF) to ensure the protection of their rights and enhance the expected benefits for the small fisher's communities. A development plan has been formulated to mitigate potential damages and ensure the anticipated benefits for the beneficiaries of component-3 in the respective area.

Among the various small ethnic communities residing in the target area, the Rakhaine community has a stronger association with fishing activities in marine areas. The Rakhaine community is a group of people from both Bangladesh and Myanmar. They are also known as "Mag" people. In the late 18th century, they migrated from Arakan and settled in Cox's Bazar and Patuakhali districts of Bangladesh. Currently, the Rakhaine community predominantly resides in Cox's Bazar, Patuakhali, and Barguna districts. Their primary occupation is fishing and fish product production, such as dried fish and fish paste (Nappi).

Comparatively, these small communities, excluding the Chakma community, are relatively lagging behind in overall development. Therefore, by identifying and distinguishing these disadvantaged and extremely poor fisher communities, the project aims to undertake separate development planning and implementation to achieve the project's objectives in their social and economic development.

## Ethnic and Indigenous Policy

According to the World Bank's policy (OP/BP 4.10) on indigenous peoples, projects should aim to enhance the quality of life and promote the preservation of human rights, dignity, self-identity, culture, and sustainable livelihoods. The policy emphasizes the need to minimize or fully address any adverse impacts on these small communities and indigenous peoples. It also highlights the importance of their active participation, inclusion, consultation, and consent for the development projects' success.

## The objectives of the development framework for small communities

The project will identify small communities and indigenous peoples who speak indigenous languages, possess distinct cultures, and engage in specific occupations, for the purpose of achieving their social and economic development. By forming separate groups for the identified small communities within the

project, their needs will be assessed at the local level, thereby addressing and highlighting their social and economic issues. The objectives of this plan is as following

1. Encourage and ensure active participation of Rakhaine community in the project activities.
2. Identify the social and family development needs of the Rakhaine community and accordingly implement local programs and initiatives for their realization.
3. Form groups and institutions with members from the Rakhaine community, enhancing their capabilities and utilizing them for the implementation of activities.
4. Provide assistance in preserving the social and cultural heritage of the Rakhaine community.

## **Project Area and about Ethnic Community**

In Bangladesh, there are several distinct ethnic communities, castes, and tribes who reside and possess their own languages and rich cultures. According to various sources, there are approximately 54 different indigenous groups living in the country, and it is still heard that around 35 of them speak their own ancestral languages. However, most of these indigenous languages lack their own scripts or written materials. According to the 2011 national census, the indigenous population in Bangladesh is less than 2% of the total population. Although many of them reside in the hilly regions of Chittagong, some communities also live in the coastal and offshore areas of the country. The daily lives, customs, and traditions of these small communities are notable for their indigenous characteristics. However, among them, many people lack certain characteristic features mentioned in the World Bank's indigenous people policy. Especially in terms of ancestral land ownership, many have been displaced from the mountainous regions. With the passage of time, particularly in the realm of language, many individuals from these small communities have adopted the use of the Bengali language. However, recently, a few primary schools in the hill areas have incorporated textbooks that introduce the recognition of some indigenous languages and cultures.

Component-3: (Community Empowerment & Livelihood Transformation) of the project is being implemented in a total of 13 districts in the coastal areas. According to the information from the 2011 census, the project area is inhabited by several small indigenous communities, including Mro, Chakma, Bawm, Khumi, Saotal, Malpahari, Dolu, Tripura, Tangchangya, and other small ethnic groups. They constitute approximately 0.11% of the total population of the region. Through social analysis and selection process, it has been observed that the village of Dakshin Rakhaine para in Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila of Cox's Bazar district has the highest concentration of people from small indigenous communities.

The village of "Dakshin Rakhaine Para" located in the Chawfoldondi Union under Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila is predominantly inhabited by the Rakhaine Community. Approximately 6,000 Rakhaine people reside in a total of 1,227 households in this village. Their primary livelihood is fishing. Through the process of Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP), a total of 131 poor and extremely poor Rakhaine fisher households were identified and included in the project activities.

The word "Rakhaine" originates from the Pali language. Initially, they were referred to as "Rokkhaine" meaning a protected race. Their own language is called Rakhaine. Traditional attire plays a significant role in their distinct culture, with various colorful designs made from cotton thread. Rakhaine youth wear lungi (a traditional wrap-around garment) along with shirts. During prayers or various religious ceremonies, they wear a pagri (turban) on their heads, which is a symbol of their tradition. On the other hand, women wear lungi (thaving), blouse (bedai-enji), and other clothd. They also prefer fresh flowers, gold, silver ornaments, and jewelry made of shells as adornments. The unique feature of their dwellings is the two-storyed bamboo and wood houses. Rakhaine people prefer to consume rice as their main staple, along with sea fish (such as crabs, shrimp, shark, hilsa, and other marine fishes) as well as meat from various animals (chicken, pigeons, ducks, goats) along with vegetables, fruits, bamboo shoots, wild roots, and leaves. They also consume homemade wine prepared by themselves. Dance is an integral part of their daily life and all social ceremonies. They have their own language and books, as well as their own calendar. They celebrate the festival of Jal Kheli (water festival) during the rainy season. Jal Kheli, also known as Sanggeng, is not a religious ritual but a social event celebrated according to their social customs. Flying lanterns are a significant part of their religious festivals. Some of the economic activities of Rakhaine families include shrimp processing, fishing, crab processing, making Nappi (a traditional mat made of bamboo), handicrafts, tea shops, gold-smiting, shooting gun production and sales, and employment in government and non-governmental organizations. Currently, most of the inhabited land of the Rakhaine families and settlement areas are privately owned, while some are owned by the Water Development Board.

They utilize natural resources by fishing from the sea, including shrimp, shark, and prawns. They adhere to government laws and regulations regarding the utilization of natural resources. They engage in small-scale prawn processing and produce and sell Nappi in the market. They maintain a close relationship with the local community.

## **Information Dissemination and Communication Strategy**

In the project area, there are social and human rights organizations, as well as individuals and institutions, that work with Rakhaine communities and their interests. These include the Mandir Committee and the Social Committee. Additionally, some development organizations, such as ASA, BRAC, and Grameen Bank, are implementing microcredit programs in the mentioned village. The elected representative of the community is also present in the Union Parishad (Local Government). The Union Parishad is implementing various social and infrastructure development programs for the welfare of the village. Information dissemination and communication are crucial for the development of small and ethnic communities. The project aims to promote the empowerment of the fisher's community in the village through effective communication and knowledge exchange. The following Information Dissemination and Communication strategy they can adopt.

- a) Discussing the rights and demands of the Rakhaine Fisher's community in the Village Fisheries Co-Management Committees (VFCC) and presenting their rights and demands to the Upazila Fisheries Co-Management Committees (UFCC)
- b) Establishing a complaint box in the mentioned village committee and forming a committee for receiving and resolving complaints.
- c) Organizing human chains, rallies at the Upazila/District level to ensure dissemination of information regarding of rights and demands of the Rakhaine communities.
- d) Ensure participation of at least two representatives from the mentioned village to the Upazila and Divisional level Fisher's Federation.
- e) Establishing a cultural organization for information dissemination and, ensuring the presence of government and non-governmental representatives at various social events including community representatives.

## **Social Impact of the Project and Expectations of the Rakhaine Community**

The Rakhaine community lags behind in their social and economic development due to lack of organized efforts. Through Component-3, the SCMFP project aims to facilitate the organizational development of the Rakhaine Fishers Village. A Fisher Village Organization (FVO) will be established and strengthened for their organizational development. The main objective of the project's component-3 is to promote their livelihood development through community finance and transform fishing occupation of fishers into alternative livelihood options. Various activities will be undertaken for their social and economic development of the community.

- a. Prepare a list of all small and ethnic groups in the village.
- b. Inclusion of all poor and extremely poor fisher household in the Fisher Group (FG) in the village.
- c. Ensure the participation of small and ethnic fisher of fisher group in leadership positions in various committees (FVS, FVCO, VFCC etc).
- d. Ensure participation in vocational and skill development training and create employment opportunities for unemployed youth of small and ethnic communities.
- e. Inclusion of all small and ethnic fishers into groups through providing revolving loan supports to mainstream them into alternative income-generating activities.
- f. Formation of Producer Groups involving small and ethnic fisher households

## **Activities for Small & Ethnic Community in the project framework**

The project will identify and prioritize the specific goals for social and economic development of Rakhaine communities residing in the project area, based on their indigenous language, culture, and occupation. A separate group will be formed for the general population of the identified Rakhaine communities, taking into account their needs through proper assessment, to address their social and economic issues. The objectives of this plan are as follows.

SL No	Indicator	Target	Deadline	Responsible Organization/ Individuals	Remarks
<b>Project Inclusion and Institutional Capacity Building.</b>					
1	Create a list of all small and ethnic communities in the village, including the names of the household heads, the number of family members, the gender distribution (male/female), occupations, and income, etc.	01 List of all small and ethnic communities	At the initial period of the project	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
2	Incorporate all the poor and extremely poor small and ethnic fisher's communities of the village into the Fisher Group (FG).	All identified poor and extreme poor fisher's households	At the initial period of the project	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
3	Ensuring the participation of small and ethnic fisher's community in different (FVS, VFCC and others) committees in leadership position.	At least 50%	Continuous	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
4	Ensuring participation in various workshops at the Village, Union, Upazila, District, Division, and national levels.	As required	Continuous	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
5	Participation in awareness programs such as rallies, discussions, distribution of leaflets, placement of posters in important locations, and organize folk music, street plays, etc.	As required	Continuous	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
<b>Participation in alternative employment and income generation activities.</b>					
6	Ensure participation of youth and fishers in vocational and skill development training and create employment opportunities.	Identified all unemployed youths	June/23	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
7	Engaging small and ethnic community in different alternative income-generating activities through the providing of revolving loan.	Mobilized all small & ethnic fisher's household	June/23	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
8	Formation of producer groups with small and ethnic community	A producer group will be formed with a least 10 small &	June/23	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	

		households			
9	Establishing market linkages for the marketing and getting proper price of fisheries and fishery products.	As required	Continuous	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
10	Promoting a Fisheries Management Development Plan with a primary focus on improving the quality of life for ethnic fisher's communities.	Development of 01 Fisheries Management Development Plan (FMDP)	June/23	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
11	Engaging small and fisher's communities in alternative livelihoods and promoting community-based eco-tourism for their household's income enhancement.	Establishment of a community based eco-tourism.	December/23	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
12	Promoting business and household's income growth by reaching the products (fresh fish, dried fish etc) produced by producer group to the distant markets through covered van	Purchase of a Covered Van sharing cost with neighboring village	December/23	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
13	Formation of an active Nutrition Committee with the aim of ensuring primary healthcare services for all small and ethnic communities in the village.	Formation a Nutrition Committee	June/23	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
14	Organizing regular meeting by Nutrition Committee	2 meeting in each month	Continuous	Nutrition Committee	
15	Ensuring access to primary education for all children of small and ethnic communities and providing scholarships to prevent dropout rates from primary education.	20 Students	Continuous	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
16	Providing scholarships for academically talented students from small and ethnic fisher's communities to pursue higher education.	As required	Continuous	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
17	Prevention of child marriage through awareness meetings, ensuring legal assistance, and organizing various awareness-raising events.	100%	Continuous	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	



18	Establishing a Disaster Management Committee with the small and ethnic community and ensure active disaster management.	As required	Continuous	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
19	Forming a cultural club with the aim of promoting the indigenous culture of small and ethnic communities.	1 active cultural club	June/25	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
20	Forming a plastic/polythene collection team to protect the environment, collecting plastic/polythene from the beach and its surrounding areas for recycling or storing in designated locations	01 plastic/polythene collection team	June/25	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
21	Establishing a Rakhanie Development Organization for the comprehensive development of the Rakhanie community.	01 Rakhanie Development Organization	June/25	Fisher's Village Organization (FVO)	
<b>Conservation and management of fisheries resources.</b>					
22	Providing training to members of small and ethnic communities on the conservation and management of fisheries resources.	01 per year	Continuous	VFCC and FVO	
23	Implementation of programs involving members of small and ethnic fisher's communities on various national days	As required	Continuous	VFCC and FVO	

## Management & Implementation

Rakhaine Fisher Village Organization will implement and manage the action plan for the development of their communities. A committee will be formed by the Fisher Village Organization to oversee the implementation and management of the action plan. The committee will hold at least one meeting per month to discuss the progress and issues related to the implementation and management. The implementation and management committee will prepare a quarterly report every three months and submit the report to the Fisher Village Organization (FVO).

## Action plan and implementation timeline

The time line of implementation of plan June/22 to June/25

SL No	Action	Implementation Timeframe	Responsible individual/organization/committee
1	Development of Small & Ethnic Community Development Plan (SECDP)	March/23	Village Fisheries Co-Management Committee (VFCC) and Fisher Village Organization (FVO)
2	Finalization of Small & Ethnic Community Development Plan (SECDP)	July/23	Fisher Village Organization (FVO)
3	Formation of Management committee for plan implementation.	August/23	Fisher Village Organization (FVO)
4	Monthly progress review meeting	01 in each month	SECDP Implementation and Management Committee
5	Intermediate evaluation of Small & Ethnic Community Development Plan	December/2023	Fisher Village Organization (FVO and SECDP Implementation and Management Committee
6	Final evaluation of Small & Ethnic Community Development Plan	March/25	Fisher Village Organization (FVO and SECDP Implementation and Management Committee

## Budget & Financial Management

The financial management for implementing the aforementioned plan will be established by the Fisher Village Organization. Funds will be allocated from the Institutional Development Fund and Appropriate Fishing Intervention Support Fund. The estimated expenses for plan implementation will be approved in the meeting of the Fisher Village Organization. The expenses may occur under the mentioned potential budgetary items.

SL No	Item	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1	Monthly progress review meeting	45	1,000/-	45000/-
2	Organizing of Cultural Events	3	20,000/-	60,000/-
3	Participation of representative of Rakhaine Community at Upazila/District I level events	200 Persons	200/-	40,000/-
4	Transformation of Alternative Livelihoods, Implementation of Fisheries Management Development Plan, Promoting Culture and management of fish conservation.	As required	-----	35,00,000/-
5	Others	1	10,000/-	10,000/-
<b>Total</b>				<b>36,55,000/-</b>