

iCARE Innovation Fund

Project Name

**Digital and Spatial Technologies for Anticipatory
Action (DASTAA)**

Monthly Progress Report

Reporting Period

1 April, 2024 - 30 April, 2024

Prepared by: NAXA Private Limited

2. Key Achievements

In April, a mapathon was successfully organized involving youths from Nepal and Bangladesh to collect geospatial datasets on critical infrastructure in Tahirpur Sadar and Dakshin Shreepur Union in Bangladesh. A scoping visit was conducted by the Field Ready Bangladesh team to assess project locations in Tahirpur. Furthermore, the project team successfully executed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DCA Nepal and Parshuram Municipality for conducting risk assessment of each household in the whole municipality. The DASTAA platform (a public dashboard, a municipal dashboard, and a mobile app) was customized to share timely risk and weather information to households, government agencies, and relevant stakeholders, with recommendations for anticipatory measures. Moreover, a refined version of the DASTAA platform was released after the fixing of identified bugs.

Some of the major activities/deliverables achieved during this period are:

- Trained 17 youths from Nepal and Bangladesh to digitize elements-at-risk in Tahirpur Sadar and Dakshin Shreepur Union in Bangladesh.
- Scoping Visit in Tahirpur Sadar and Dakshin Sreepur and hiring of project human resources in Bangladesh.
- Signed MoU with Parshuram Municipality Office and DCA Nepal ensuring smooth implementation of the project.
- Completion of software upgrade of DASTAA as per identified features.
- Finalized version of upgraded DASTAA platform released after all identified bugs are fixed.

3. Implementation Progress

Table 1: Monthly activity progress and Future Plans

Activity Title	Last Month Progress	Current Month Progress	Activities, and Events, planed for the subsequent month
Activity 1.1.1: Inception meeting with the iCARE project team (Dec 2023)	Completed	Completed	N/A
Activity 1.1.2: Finalization and formalization of partnerships (local and international partnerships) (Dec 2023)	Completed	Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed MoU with Parshuram Municipality and DCA Nepal. 	N/A
Activity 1.1.3: Comprehensive literature review and desk study, Explore the availability of HH level information (Dec 2023)	Completed	Completed	N/A
Activity 1.1.4: Finalize data collection protocol and ethical guidelines	Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise data collection protocol and ethical guidelines for Tahirpur, Bangladesh. 	

<p>Activity 1.1.5: Scoping visit to project locations: kick-off meeting, hiring of local coordinators and collection of relevant secondary datasets.</p> <p>(Dec 2023 – Jan 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Progress • Collect secondary datasets in Bangladesh 	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted scoping visit to project locations in Tahirpur, Bangladesh. <p>In-Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan project kick-off meeting in Tahirpur Upazila, Bangladesh. • The project implementation has been splitted to 1000 households in Tahirpur Union, and 1000 households in Sreepur Union. This is because of the interest of the Tahirpur Upazila Executive officer. 	<p>Planned in May 2024</p> <p>Kick of Meeting in Project locations i.e. Tahirpur Sadar and Dakshin Sreepur.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1.6: Submission of Inception report</p> <p>(Jan 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.2.1: Online workshop including all project partners to understand upgrades required in the software for scaling to proposed locations</p> <p>(Jan 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Progress • Online Workshop scheduled. 	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop to understand the system upgrades required to scale in Nepal as well as Bangladesh. 	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Activity 1.2.2: Onl Design of upgraded system mockups and graphical layouts and finalization. (Jan 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.2.3: Integration of Weather forecast and near real time observation information. (Feb 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.2.4: Customization of DASTAA based on identified features (Apr 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Progress • Significant progress in development of Municipal Dashboard and Public Dashboard for data visualisation 	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customized DASTAA based on the requirements identified from relevant stakeholders. 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.2.5: Release of finalized software version after fixing of bugs. (Apr 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (S-D2) : Finalized version of upgraded DASTAA platform released after all identified bugs are fixed. 	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Activity 1.3.1: Conduct all relevant secondary datasets (Jan – Feb 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.2: Organize a mapathon activities engaging youths from multiple countries of South Asia for the collection of geospatial datasets on Critical Infrastructure (Feb – Mar 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Progress • Started Mapathon activity in Tahirpur Union, Bangladesh. 	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a mapathon in Tahirpur Union at Tahirpur, Bangladesh. Digitized critical infrastructure in Tahirpur, Bangladesh. 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.3: Identify and train local youths for data collection activities: Climate Change and DRR Fellows (Jan – March 2024)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Progress • 	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Progress • Planning to hire and train local youths for data collection activities in Bangladesh. 	<p>Planned in May 2024 Hire and Train local youths for data collection activities in Bangladesh.</p>
<p>Activity 1.3.4: Conduct data collection activities: Participatory Rural Appraisal, Field data collection through FGDs, KII, interactions (locals, women, and other disadvantaged groups, vulnerable groups, indigenous communities), HH Survey, multi-</p>	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Progress • Started household level data collection in Dodhara Chandani Municipality. 	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Progress • Started household level data collection in Parshuram Municipality as well. 	<p>Conduct household level data collection in Tahirpur, Bangladesh.</p>

hazard related information (Mar – May 2024)			
Activity 1.3.5: Preparation of Integrated Geodatabase (Spatial as well as datasets). (May 2024)	Planned in May 2024	Planned in May 2024	N/A
Activity 1.4.1: Identification and Visualization of disaster hotspots, Vulnerability Functions, Exposure and Risk Assessment, Derivation of Thresholds for the disasters like floods and landslides. (May 2024)	Planned in May 2024	Planned in May 2024	N/A
Activity 1.4.2: Identification of Local led Adaptation Activities (Nbs Based adaptation measures) (May 2024)	Planned in May 2024	Planned in May 2024	N/A
Activity 1.4.3: Report Generation of at-risk-households and communities for Early Action, CSV exports for the SMS Gateway (Jun 2024)	Planned in June 2024	Planned in June 2024	N/A

<p>Activity 1.4.4: Monitoring of thresholds and triggers, Generation of Weather Outlook combined with the risk and impact information</p> <p>(Jul – Oct 2024)</p>	<p>Planned in July 2024</p>	<p>Planned in July 2024</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.4.5: Synthesis of Findings from Nepal and Pakistan and Bangaldesh</p> <p>(Oct- Nov 2024)</p>	<p>Planned in Oct 2024</p>	<p>Planned in Oct 2024</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.4.6: "Validation & Sharing - Workshop and Webinars a. Validation of outputs through local sharing workshops at each project locations b. International webinar to discuss and share preliminary project findings "</p> <p>(Nov – Dec 2024)</p>	<p>Planned in Nov 2024</p>	<p>Planned in Nov 2024</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Activity 1.5.1: Capacity building training sessions for stakeholders, users, and administrators at each local level</p> <p>(Nov – Dec 2024)</p>	<p>Planned in Nov 2024</p>	<p>Planned in Nov 2024</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Activity 1.5.2: Preparation and Finalization of draft report (Dec 2024)	Planned in Dec 2024	Planned in Dec 2024	N/A
Activity 1.5.3: Incorporate Feedbacks and revise all deliverables. (Dec 2024 - Jan 2025)	Planned in Nov 2024	Planned in Nov 2024	N/A
Activity 1.5.4: Preparation of Standard Operational Manuals of the technological system along with necessary user manuals for users and administrators (Jan 2025)	Planned in Dec 2024	Planned in Dec 2024	N/A
Activity 1.5.5: Submission of the final report (Feb 2024)	Planned in Jan 2025	Planned in Jan 2025	

4. Results Framework Indicators Progress

The results framework for DASTAA has been finalized by the NAXA team. The project team has concluded the framework to commence reporting the progress of the indicators, as given in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Results Framework

PDO Indicator Description: Government agencies who have access to climate-resilient solutions tested under the project and citizens (household heads)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value		0	0	Government Agencies: 3 Citizens: 2700
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments				
Outcome 1 Indicator Description: Improved Household Resilience to Flooding based on i. Number of households with access to their household risk profiles with respect to flooding. ii. Number of households receiving customized weather information/ alerts.				
Value		0	0	2700
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments				
Value		0	0	SMS - 5000
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments				
Output 1.1 Indicator Description: Establishment of Coordination Mechanisms based on i. Number of partnership agreements with government and non-government organizations including partners to implement the generated risk information. ii. Number of joint disaster management plans developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders				
Value		1	6	5
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	MoU was signed with NNSWA before the project started and in February MoU between NAXA Pvt. Ltd and Dodhara Chandani Municipality and Nepal Flying Labs. In March MoU was signed with Field Ready Bangladesh. Additionally, MoU was signed with Parshuram Municipality and DCA Nepal in April.			
Value		0	0	4
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments				
Output 1.2 Indicator Description: Standardized Disaster Management Solution for Implementation in South Asia based on i. Number of countries for implementing DASTAA in disaster management ii. Number of people trained (hybrid) (by gender, country, topic, year, participant category) for system implementation				
Value		1	1	2

Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	DASTAA System has been implemented in Nepal for different projects initiated by NAXA Pvt. Ltd. along with its partner IHRR.			
Value		0	84	140
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	18 people from Dodhara Chandani and 33 from Parshuram Municipality were selected as Climate Change and DRR Fellows and trained for household data collection using the DASTAA app. 27 people from Parshuram Municipality were trained about DASTAA project activities, DASTAA system and its benefit to the municipality. 4 people from NNSWA were trained on the use of DASTAA and its application for informed decision-making in Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). 2 persons from NNSWA were trained for HH survey monitoring in March 2024.			
Output 1.3 Indicator Description: Completed Household Data Integration into DASTAA Platform				
Value		0	8176	9000
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	Our trained Climate Change and DRR Fellows surveyed 3581 and 4595 households respectively in Dodhara Chandani Municipality and Parshuram Municipality, till 30 April 2024.			
Output 1.4 Indicator Description: Household Risk and Vulnerability Profiles Developed.				
Value		0	0	2700
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments				
Outcome 2 Indicator Description: Enhanced Capacity for Designing Targeted Intervention based on i. Number of people/organizations provided with knowledge products (by recipient category, type of knowledge product, country, theme)				
Value		2	6	Organizations: 12
Date		31 Mar 2024 31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025 15 Jan 2025
Comments	NAXA and IHRR have been previously using the DASTAA platform before the project started, and now NNSWA, DCA Nepal, and NFL are using the			

	DASTAA platform. Dodhara Chandani Municipality Office has also been given access to the platform.			
Number of stakeholders with access to risk information and profiles.				
Value				
Date				
Comments				
Number of stakeholders with access to risk information and profiles.				
Value				
Date				
Comments				
Value		2	4	6
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	Since NAXA and IHRR have been using the DASTAA platform, they have had the access to risk information and profiles of areas in earlier projects. The DASTAA platform is shared with DCA Nepal and NFL in April.			
Output 2.1 Indicator Description: Trained stakeholders on the use of DASTAA and its application to inform decisions for Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) based on				
i. Number of people trained (in person) (by sex, country, topic, year, participant category)				
ii. Number of people trained (online) (by gender, country, topic, year, participant category)				
iii. Number of events supported (by type, year, theme, country)				
iv. Number of people participating in supported events (by participant category, gender, year, theme, country)				
v. Number of knowledge products provided (by type of product, theme, country)				
Value		0	12	50
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	At the Inception meeting held at Parshuram, a total of 8 participants were sensitized on the DASTAA platform, the DASTAA project, and its impacts. Similarly, an additional 4 participants were provided detailed orientation regarding the DASTAA platform and project in the Inception meeting at Dodhara-Chandani Municipality. The inception meeting provided an opportunity to present the technical elements, objectives, expected outcomes and goals of the project.			
Value		0	38	30
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	21 youth were identified and trained in Mapathon in January, 2024. Similarly, the 17 Digital volunteers in Mapathon on April 2024, digitized critical infrastructures including 105 roadways, 63 waterways, 72 land-use features, and a total of 2404 building footprints in Tahirpur Union, Bangladesh.			

Value		0	4	8
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	2 inception meetings at Dodhara Chandani Municipality as well as in Parshuram Municipality were conducted in January 2024. 2 data collection trainings were also conducted in both municipalities in February 2024.			
Value		0	16	150
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments	4 people from NNSWA were demonstrated and trained on the functionalities of the DASTAA system Demonstration. At the Inception meeting held at Parshuram, a total of 8 participants were sensitized on the DASTAA platform, the DASTAA project, and its impacts. Similarly, an additional 4 participants were provided detailed orientation regarding the DASTAA platform and project in the Inception meeting at Dodhara-Chandani Municipality.			
Value		0	0	3
Date		31 Mar 2024	30 April 2024	15 Jan 2025
Comments				

5. Challenges, Lessons Learned and Way Forward

Table 3: Challenges, Lessons Learned and Way Forward

S. N.	Challenges	Lessons Learned	Way Forward
1.	Festivals such as Ramadan pose temporary halts in project implementation activities in Bangladesh.	Maintain a shared holiday calendar which might impact project implementation.	Plan ahead and implement multiple activities simultaneously to ensure the project is on track.
2.	The wheat harvesting season and enumerators exam in Nepal caused delays in the household level survey. Many of the enumerators are high school students and they have to attend their board exams.	Prioritize coordination with local stakeholders to anticipate and solve potential scheduling conflicts arising from agricultural cycles and enumerator commitments.	Allocate enough time for data collection survey time and hire more enumerators to compensate for this issue.
3.	Geographical topography including lack of access to electricity in some parts of Parshuram Municipality, poses challenges for data collection, supervision, and validation. Enumerators have to walk for 2-3 hours to reach the assigned area for survey, and mobile charge decline hinders the data collection activities.	Have battery backups in place.	Distribute battery backups to the enumerators and mobilize more enumerators in the area.

Annexures:

1. Mapathon: Hiring and Training of Youths for digitizing building footprints in Tahirpur Bangladesh

The Digital Volunteers Campaign was conducted as part of a mapathon activity between March 28 to April 5, 2024. The campaign provided an overview of the project's objectives to 20 youths (disaggregation is provided in Table 4) and trained these youths on using HOT Tasking Manager for mapping critical infrastructure of an area. 17 youths mapped a total of 105 roadways, 63 waterways, 72 land-use features, and a total of 2404 building footprints) in Tahirpur Union, Bangladesh.

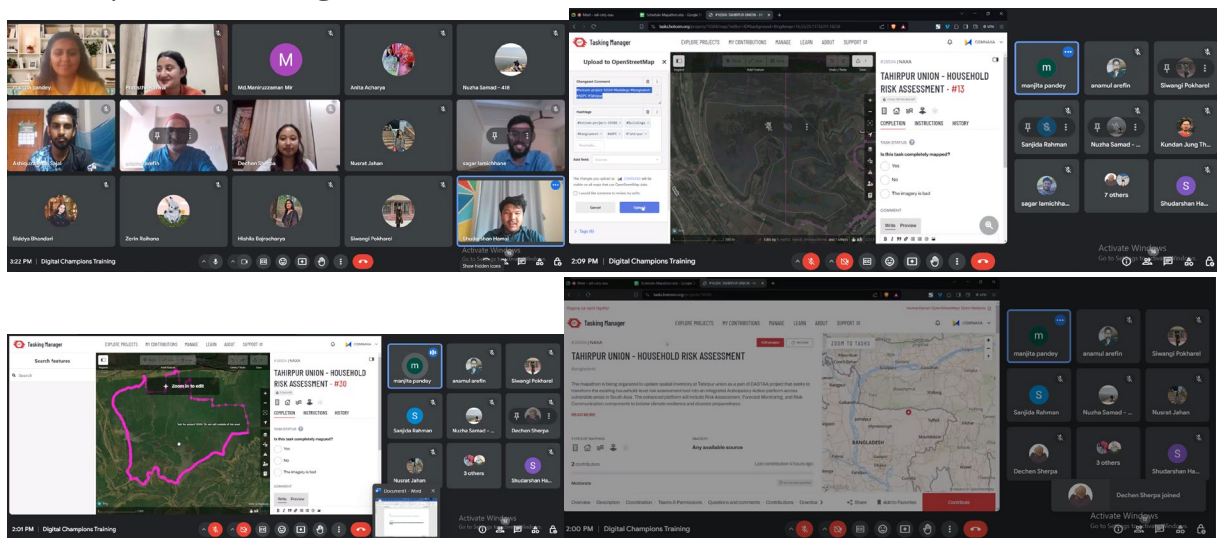


Figure 1: Digital Volunteers Training

2. Project Team Introduction Meeting between NAXA Pvt. Ltd. and Field Ready Bangladesh

During the Team Introduction Meeting, members from NAXA Pvt. Ltd. and Field Ready Bangladesh shared their past experiences and their roles in the DASTAA Project. Md. Nazrul Islam, DRR and Climate Change Expert shared insights from his 43 years of climate smart agriculture experience. Md. Maniruzzaman also shared his experiences in the community engagement. The DASTAA platform multi-sector integration and its benefits for local governments, especially in Tahirpur, were emphasized. Plans for questionnaire revision, system demonstration, and a kick-off meeting were discussed, aiming for completion before the monsoon season.

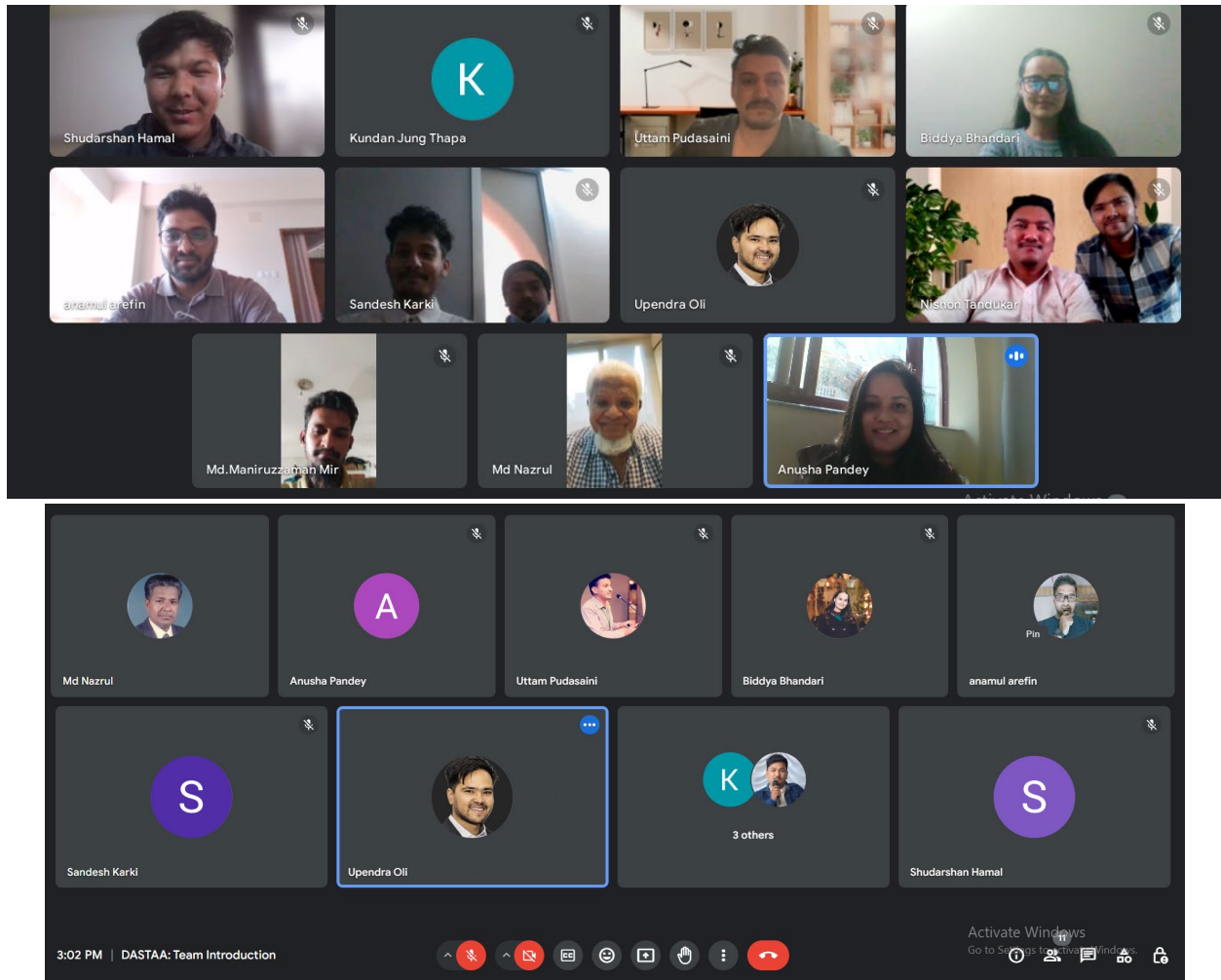


Figure 2: DASTAA Project Team Introduction

Table 4: Disaggregation of Participants in the Supported Event

S N	Event title	Type	Date	Theme	Country	Number of Participants			Objectives	Outcome
						Male	Female	Total		
1	Organize a mapathon activities engaging youths from multiple countries of South Asia for the collection of geospatial datasets on Critical Infrastructure.	Online	28th March - April 8, 2024	Trained Youths for collection of geospatial datasets on Critical Infrastructure.	Nepal & Bangladesh	5	12	17	To engage youths from Nepal and Bangladesh in mapathon activities by using HOT Tasking Manager for collecting geospatial datasets on elements-at-risk in Tahirpur Sadar and Dakshin Sreepur, Bangladesh.	1. Trained 17 youths and equipped them with the skills to use the HOT Tasking Manager for future mapping activities. 2. Digitized elements-of-risk (105 roadways, 63 waterways, 72 land-use features, and a total of 2404 building footprints) in Tahirpur Union, Bangladesh.

Glossary

Project Title	means	Exact and full name of the project as defined in the Sub Grant Agreement
Project Code	means	A five-digit code assigned by ADPC
Partner Organization	means	The lead agency(ies) responsible for the implementation of the project
Key Achievements	means	The actual outcome or impact of your work, such as reaching a PDO, or outcome or output defined in the final and agreed Results Framework.
Implementation Progress	means	Implementation progress means the steps or actions taken to achieve the PDO or outcomes or outputs. In this case it would be the list of activities defined in the final and approved work plan
Challenges	means	The most significant and persistent areas of risk that affect the project's ability to achieve its objectives. Challenges could be related to managing the Sub Grant, sustaining development gains, coordinating with stakeholders, and implementing core management functions. Please also discuss the solutions to mitigate these risks.
Lessons Learned	means	Lessons learned are contextual or operational information that may affect planning and future performance. They highlight the insights gained from the activity's implementation practices and progress, such as staff feedback, stakeholder interviews, data analysis, and success stories. They also include any changes required by or support requested from ADPC or partners.



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