



**KHASI HILLS**  
**COMMUNITY REDD+ PROJECT**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER REPORT**  
**JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025**

*The Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project is implemented by Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam Mawphlang Welfare Society, a Federation of 10 indigenous Khasi governments (Hima) representing 86 participating communities guided by their village councils (Durbar).*

<https://synjukmawphlangociety.com>



## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project has completed over 12 years of successful operation. The project has mobilized over 8,000 families to protect and restore 2,847 hectares of old-growth, montane cloud forests in the Umiam River Watershed. In addition, project communities are working to regenerate over 9,000 hectares of open forest. In return for their efforts to save their community forests from logging, forest fires, mining, and conversion to agriculture, the project provides communities with a diverse set of social and economic activities. The project is reaching its goal of increasing household income as new village surveys show that 61 percent of the families are below India's poverty line, compared to early project numbers of 90 percent.

The project also seeks to improve public health through the provision of clean drinking water systems and smokeless cooking technologies, such as LPG cooktops and rice cookers, to reduce household air pollution. During this quarter, the project has conducted 2 free medical check-up providing check-ups to community members within the project area. Details will be provided in the project updates.



### **Forest Habitat and Wildlife Conservation**

Conserving the montane cloud forests along the steep banks of the Umiam River is a major goal of the project. The dense forests drop over 500 meters to the rushing waters of the river which subsequently flows into Bangladesh. Forest preservation is complemented by community efforts to restore forest fragments on the hill tops above the river, creating a wildlife corridor that extends from the 2,000-meter plateau down to the plains of Bangladesh. This habitat supports a broad range of birdlife, reptiles, and mammals, as well as amphibians, fish, and orchids, some of which are endemic to the project area.

The project, during the past few years, has started to monitor the faunal biodiversity in the project area through sightings by project participants and by using camera traps. The forestry team, Community Facilitators (CFs), and Youth Volunteers have installed several camera traps throughout the project area to better understand the fauna living and moving

through the project. Community members and CFs continue to rescue injured wildlife, coordinate with the state wildlife department, and take notes of their location.

Awareness programs during this third quarter normally coincide with planting projects, school tree-adoption programs, monitoring, or training. During these programs, the socio-economic team, forestry team and project director speak on the project activities and the benefits provided towards communities for conservation of forests and habitats. The village headmen and the local CFs often lead the discussion and provide a platform for the project to communicate with community members. During school programs students are taught the importance of conservation of forests and the local ecosystem. In addition, the third quarter is marked by active plantation activities in various villages across the project area.



An important project strategy to reduce deforestation and forest degradation is community-based forest fire control. This third quarter is characterized by the heavy rains of the monsoon in July to the last rains into October. Continuing awareness programmes are being implemented to raise awareness on fire safety throughout the communities, particularly to reduce the spread of forest fires that often occur during the dry winter months. In addition, the project has continued to train local CFs in monitoring the production, transport, and use of charcoal within the project area.

### **Degraded Forest Restoration**

With nearly 9,000 hectares of open forest land, the project seeks to restore these areas to improve wildlife habitat, increase the hydrological function of the watershed, and sequester atmospheric carbon. Each participating village identifies the degraded community forests that they want to restore through Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) and agrees to close the land to firewood collection, grazing, and agriculture. CFs also met with those involved in charcoal and quarrying to discuss alternative methods of income and possibilities of regeneration of forest areas. For many, the reason for participating in charcoal production or quarrying is due to unemployment, and some are interested in transitioning to the activities promoted by the project team.

Many of the tree species that are planted in ANR areas come from locally collected seed which is distributed among the home-based nurseries (HBN) within the project area. During this quarter the forestry team collected saplings for transplanting into ANR area and school tree adoption programs, distributed supplies for sapling production, and monitored the nurseries. The tree species planted in these nurseries are: *Alnus nepalensis*, *Prunus sp.*, *Pinus petula*, *Quercus sp.*, *Schima khasiana*, *Castanopsis indica*, *Myrica esculenta*, *Symplocos sp.*, *Citrus sp.*, *Engelherdtia spicata*, and *Alnus nepalensis*.



### **Clean Energy Transition**

Firewood consumption for cooking, heating, and drying is one of the drivers of deforestation in the project area as well as contributing to indoor smoke pollution that causes respiratory illness. Furthermore, fuelwood burning is also a major source of carbon emissions. The project has been very successful in addressing these issues by working to supply all project families with LPG cooktops, LPG cylinders, or electric rice cookers. During the year 2024-2025 survey, the team found that adoption of gas cooktops has reduced firewood consumption an average 1kg of fuelwood per day for each household. Since 2021, the team has also started providing commercial LPG cylinders to Integrated Child Development Services, schools, Village Durbar, and other agencies involved in preparing mid-day and school meals for children. Surveys conducted by the CFs indicate that this initiative has reduced fuelwood consumption by 35 kgs per day for these institutions and agencies.

The CFs play an important role in monitoring and following up on alternative energy practices and most report that the beneficiaries are using the alternatives for cooking and that it has reduced time spent gathering fuel wood and cooking.

## Sustainable Agriculture

With most families' dependent on farming for their income, improving agricultural practices has been a project priority. The project team seeks to assist families and Self-help Groups (SHGs) from a heavy dependence on low value potato cultivation to diversify into horticulture, polyhouse and shade-net vegetable growing, and organic farming. Besides vegetables like mustard leaves, radishes, various chilies, and herbs other beneficiaries are using their polyhouses and shadenets for floriculture production, including jalbera, chrysanthemum, alstroemeria, ferns, and ornamental plants which fetch a good price among customers.

During this quarter, six new SHGs joined the project. The goal is to work with SHGs to enhance micro- and inter-loaning, promote convergence with available schemes, and train the members in sustainable agricultural techniques and book-keeping.

Throughout this quarter, the Socio-economic team monitored many of the small enterprises to assist with guidance and to assess overall benefits to the community members. Most beneficiaries are doing well and have put the advice of the project team into practice to succeed in their various livelihoods. Beneficiaries are also involved with vermi-composting to increase value-added products to their marketable goods and for use in their own agricultural practices. Others are involved in poultry rearing for both egg and meat production and several are starting to take up pig breeding and pig farming.



During this quarter, the socio-economic team distributed 11 vermi-beds to 11 beneficiaries from Hima Mawphlang and Hima Lyngiong.



Examples of the results and benefits of livelihood activities to participants include: In August 2025, one beneficiary sold 1 pig at Rs. 30,000. Another sold 15 packets of strawberries at Rs. 2,250.

### **Community Horticulture**

As part of the project's sustainable agriculture program which includes organic farming techniques, the project team is also providing high value fruit trees to project families. This helps diversify farm produce in case of failure due to weather, disease, or pests. Fruit trees also provide produce that can be converted to value-added jams, pickles, or dried fruit. Many of the participants who took part in the food processing training in the past year have continued producing pickles, jams, and juices.

In September 2025, one beneficiary harvested 18 kg of kiwi and sold them for Rs. 250/kg.



### **Mushroom Cultivation**

The project continues to oversee a mushroom cultivation programme and has been expanding this high value production system given the conducive moist, high elevation environment. Oyster mushrooms bring in a good return for local families once the simple and affordable mushroom house has been constructed. More beneficiaries are becoming interested in this activity and many are continuing to purchase their own spawn to increase production. The oyster mushrooms sell for around Rs. 300-400/kg.

## Eco-Tourism and Cultural Conservation

The Tourism Development Team has been actively engaged in the implementation of various initiatives. The team has also undertaken site inspections, surveys, and the mapping of newly identified tourist destinations within the project area. Furthermore, the team continues to carry out regular monitoring activities at the Wellness Centre.

## Capacity Building

During the third quarter, the Socio-Economic Team organized a training on vermicomposting to 28 beneficiaries from across the 10 Hima at the Community Resource & Knowledge Centre, Nongrum Mawphlang. The resource person was Mr. Bandramus Syngkli.



The Socio-Economic Team along with 18 beneficiaries from the Project area attended a one-day training on shitake mushroom production at the Farmer's Training Centre, Upper Shillong.



A one-day training program on poultry rearing was organized by the Socio-Economic Team at the Community Resource & Knowledge Centre, Nongrum Mawphlang. The training was provided to 20 beneficiaries across the 10 Hima. The resource person was Dr. R. J. Kharbhih (Veterinarian).



The Tourism Team organized a one-day Tour Guide Training for 32 tour guides of Hima Lyngiong at Phanniewlah Neng, Hima Lyngiong. The training was also attended by the Project Director, the Community Facilitators (CFs) and 6 Youth Volunteers (YVs) of Hima Lyngiong. The resource person was Mr. K. Kharsyntiew.



Ka Synjuk Ki Hima Arliang Wah Umiam-Mawphlang Welfare Society in collaboration with the Iatreilang Foundation organized a one-day training on hospitality for 26 interested individuals at Nongrum, Mawphlang.



### Hydrology

The project is interested in learning more about how forest cover and conservation are affecting the water sources in the project area. The team is continuing to monitor the physiography of the watershed in terms of land use, soil characteristics, tree species surrounding the area, and the number of households that benefit from the ponds. The CFs are also continuing to document the sources of drinking water throughout the project area for better monitoring.

### Biodiversity Monitoring

Throughout the third quarter, the forestry team continued to set up and monitor several camera traps in the project area to understand the movements of fauna in the forests.

### Project Updates for Quarter 3, July-September 2025

Throughout the third quarter, the Forestry Team monitored the tree plantation across the project area.



### July-August 2025

During July and August, the Socio-Economic Team (SET) completed the Self-Help Group (SHG) Orientation across the project area. The objective was to provide information and raise awareness among SHG members about the various activities being implemented by the Synjuk and to engage all SHGs within the targeted villages, including those already affiliated with the Synjuk as well as those that have not yet joined.



### July-August 2025

During July and August, the SET monitored the temperate fruit trees at Hima Laitkroh, Hima Nonglwai, Hima Lyngiong, and Hima Nongspung which were distributed on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025.



### July-August 2025

During July and August, the Forestry Team transported tree saplings from the home-based nurseries from Syntung village, Mawlang village and Sohrarim village to the central nursery in Nongrum, Mawphlang for distribution for tree plantation activities.



### July & September 2025

The tourism team along with the CF and Youth Volunteer surveyed the new tourist spots:

1. "Ka Jingkieng Syiem" which is in Laitlyndop, Hima Sohra.
2. "Ka Wah Kshaid" which is in Laitsohum, Hima Nonglwai.
3. "Thwei Thabalieh" which is in Kukon, Hima Nonglwai.



### 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025

The forestry team along with the Project Director, the CFs and all the project team attended the tree adoption programme held in Laitmawhing, Hima Lyngiong. In this programme about 64 attendees were present; of which 64 are school students from Laitsohum Laitmawhing L.P/U. P School.



### 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Ka Synjuk in collaboration with the SELCO Foundation organized an awareness programme on livelihood activities (farm and non-farm). A total of 210 participants attended the programme which included SHG members, individuals, Community Facilitators (CFs) and Youth Volunteers (YVs) of the project area.



### 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

The Forestry Team distributed 2,609 tree saplings to 14 private land owners in Rangblang.



**18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The Tourism Team monitored the Ambulance of Hima Pamsangut, Hima Lyngiong, Hima Mawbeh, Hima Sohra, Hima Laitkroh and Hima Mawphlang.



**25<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The Forestry Team transported 150 tree saplings for plantation in Ladmawphlang village, Hima Sohra.



**29<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The SET distributed 11 vermi-beds to 11 beneficiaries from Hima Lyngiong and Hima Mawphlang.



**30<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The SET monitored poultry and polyhouse at Hima Lyngiong.



**30<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The Tourism Team along with Project Director attended the meeting with the Laitkynsew Tourism committee at Laitkynsew community hall. Twelve members attended the meeting. The main agenda items discussed were forming of Laitkynsew Laitkroh Tourism Society, discussion regarding hospitality facilities for temporary homestay, discussion about the conflict on tourist spot at Wahniangleng and Wahtwa viewpoint, development of the existing tourism spots in Laitkynsew.



**7<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The SET followed up on the implementation of the four power tillers in Mawsadang Cluster of Hima Nongspung, Umlangmar Cluster of Hima Nongspung, Mawlum Tyrsad Cluster of Hima Myllem and Nonglwai-Laitsohum Cluster of Hima Nonglwai.



**7<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The Tourism Team visited Mawbri village, Hima Sohra to collect information and images of areas to apply community led tourism infrastructure development scheme.



**7<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The Forestry Team met with the CF of Hima Sohra to enquire about the ANR, with the headman of Mawspong, Hima Sohra to take GPS coordinates of the ANR, with the CF and YV of Sohrarim, Hima Nongkhlaw to enquire about the ANR, and with the YV of Hima Pamsangut for mapping the ANR in their village.



**8<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The tourism team distributed a solar light for the kiosk at Umsawmat village, Hima Lyngiong. The solar light is for use inside the kiosk as there is no electric connectivity.



**8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The SET monitored pig-breeding, vermicomposting, bee-keeping, and polyhouse at Hima Laitkroh and Hima Lyngiong.



**13<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The Project Director along with the forestry team met with the representative regarding the extension programme in Ukhrul district, Manipur.



**19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

The Tourism Team along with the CF and youth volunteers completed the signboard installation of Mawbri tourists' attraction at Mawmihthied village, for Mawbeh tourist attraction at Mawkdok village and for the wellness centre at Tyrsad Umkseh, Hima Pamsangut.



**20<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The SET conducted an inspection on the house of the beneficiaries who requested a solar light from Hima Nonglwai. The team also inspected the piggery shed of a beneficiary who applied for revolving fund.



**26<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The forestry team met with the headman of Kyntonsyrwa village, Hima Laitkroh for enquiry about the CDF in the village.



**26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The Forestry Team met with the headman of Kukon village, Hima Nonglwai and the headman of Mawsadang village, Hima Nongspung for the site inspection of the free medical check-up to be held in Kukon LP Government School and Kukon UP SSA School on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and in Mawsadang LP School and Mawsadang Secondary School on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 respectively.



**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The SET delivered letters to the office of the CHC Mawphlang, PHC Laitryngew, Robert Hospital, Bethany Hospital for the upcoming Free Medical Check-up that will be held at Mawsadang U.P and L.P School and Kukon L.P School.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The Forestry Team monitored the home-based nursery (HBN) at Mawlum Tyrsad, Hima Myllem and at Mawmysiang, Hima Laitkroh.



**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

The SET along with the SELCO Foundation monitored the beneficiaries who requested support in pig-breeding, tailoring, food processing, and stationary store.



**11<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The Tourism Team visited the two fellowship interns from Green Hub X Royal Enfield at Umsawmat, Hima Lyngiong.



**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The Forestry Team along with the Assist. CF of Hima Sohra monitored the CDF at Jathang village, Hima Sohra which is construction of the footpath to the spring shed and the site in Hima Mawbeh for the proposed construction of the toilet. Also, the team along with the Assist. CF of Hima Sohra inspected the site of Lawkyntang at Laitlyndop village for the construction of footpath.



### 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The SET along with the Forestry Team held a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> with the CFs and YVs of Hima Nongspung at Tyrsad Umkseh Community Hall and on the 16<sup>th</sup> with the CFs and YVs of Hima Mawbeh, Hima Sohra and Hima Nonglwai at Mawbeh Community Hall. The objective of the meeting was to allocate tasks and responsibilities for the upcoming Free Medical Health Check-up scheduled to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Mawsadang U.P and L.P School, Hima Nongspung and Kukon L.P School, Hima Nonglwai respectively.



### 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The Tourism Team has completed the mapping of the Herbal Garden at Mawsadang, Hima Nongspung, and Perkseh Hima Lyngiong.



### 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Ka Synjuk through the SET organized a one-day Free Medical Check-up at Mawsadang Govt. L.P and U.P school, Hima Nongspung and at Kukon L.P School, Hima Nonglwai. The event was aimed at providing health services to both the local community members and school students. More than 700 community people received comprehensive medical checkups, including weight, height, and blood sugar measurements and were treated by the medical team. Among them were school students who underwent blood group testing as part of the program. The Free Medical Check-up was supported by a team of five specialist doctors, including Ophthalmology, Gynaecology, Dentistry, and two general physicians from the Community Health Centre (CHC) Mawphlang, Mawsadang Sub-centre, Bethany Hospital, Primary Health Centre (PHC) Laitryngew and Nethralaya Eye Care Mission.



### 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The Forestry Team met with the private land owners for the base line survey at Rangblang village. The team also monitored the tree plantation in the area.

