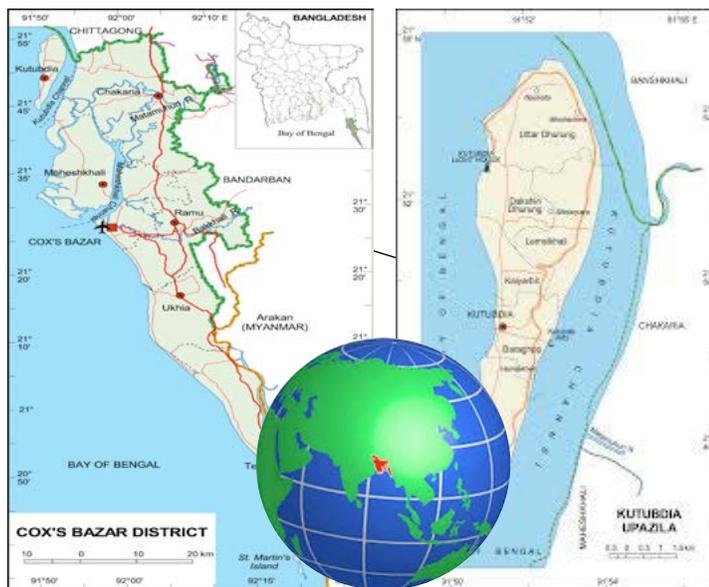


Going Against Tide; Concentration in Water, Sanitation and Advocacy

COAST Response to Cyclone “Roanu” in Kutubdia Island

1. Summary of humanitarian response:

COAST addressed acute needs of the affected community of Kutubdia. Shelter management and evacuation, water and sanitation, humanitarian advocacy, community assets building and kits distribution for primary school children were evidential needs of the community among others. Significances of COAST’s working approaches include coordinating and involving government authority, elected leaders, policy makers and affected people in meaningful ways. As a result, community and stakeholders of Kutubdia Island felt ownership.



On the other hand most of the others efforts went through cash distribution and household building support which hardly address the acute needs of the community. The household affected as individual might adapt with such assistance. But this assistance may be considered as humanitarian charity. It ignored appropriate involvement of the community and stakeholders bypassing the real demand of the affected community and their ownership.

During community and stakeholder consultations, meetings and roundtables focusing on post cyclone



rehabilitation, no one said that Cyclone Roanu have rendered the community of Kutubdia in inhuman condition of scarcity of food and shelters. But most of the fund from especially international sources used as cash distribution and cyclone shelter development support. As poverty stricken community they are in need of cash during normal time also. All INGOs who came with humanitarian assistance were approached by COAST with the proposal addressed acute needs of the community as above. But INGOs hardly considered COAST proposal rather worked through NGOs who are outsider to Kutubdia based on the logic of partnership with them before. These NGOs came and completed their targeted works and left. But Since 2000 COAST has been working in Kutubdia till today with intensive coverage of all the community. Local need, local capacity building and commitment of localization by global humanitarian community has been hardly respected.

2. Impacts of Cyclone Roanu:

Tropical cyclone Roanu hit Bangladesh coast on May 21' 2016. Government and the community took advance preparation and protective measures so that the death toll was limited to 24 in number.

The cyclone damaged approximately 83,978 houses and affected 139,852 families in the impoverished 15 districts of south central and south east coast of the country. Bhola and Cox's Bazar among the 15 districts faced worst impact due to collapse of embankments. In Bhola 134 km and in Cox's Bazar 95 km of embankment had been fully or partially washed out. Especially 25 km of embankment collapsed in Kutubdia Island, in Cox's Bazar district, caused multifold suffering for 70 thousand people in five unions. Kutubdia community alone incurred a loss of asset of BDT 50 million.

3. COAST mandate and needs of affected people:

Since its inception in 1998 COAST Trust has been working with the marginalized coastal community especially for women and children for their wellbeing of livelihood, empowerment and enhancing their capacity. Due to working in disaster prone areas, COAST has integrated

disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response to all its programs. After cyclone Roanu hit on 23 May 2016, COAST started its intervention and response activities as a first responder from 21 May by taking precautionary measures. With organization's minimum capacity, COAST participated in cyclone shelter management, evacuation and food assistance for people gathered in the shelters





in collaboration with local government authority. Immediately after cyclone hit, COAST field staffs distributed dry food and pure drinking water among the victims and developed need assessment report.

Based on the needs COAST accelerated its response works through engaging more water purifying machines, satellite medical teams, dewatering saline water from ponds, repaired tube wells and constructed bath cubes around the tube well for ensuring bathing facilities for women.

Water and Sanitation came as the core need of the community as immediate response, dewatering of ponds with raising pond bank came as 2nd priority and future protection of sweet water and construction of damaged embankments were considered as thrust need.

People said that they don't need food but construction of embankment. COAST developed proposal and requested many INGOs and donors and started humanitarian advocacy for immediate construction of damaged embankments and budget allocation for Kutubdia through demonstration with human chain, press conference locally and nationally, organized stakeholders consultation at local level and Parliamentary caucus in National Parliament.

Responding to COAST proposal BRAC (an INGO) agreed to fund 'Cyclone Roanu Response and Rehabilitation Project' in June 2016 to January 2017 at Kutubdia. COAST implemented this project following key demands of the community. The activities includes recovering sunk tube well, dewatering and reexcavating ponds with lifted bank, construction of elevated latrines and bath cubes, distribute school kits and primary health and hygiene awareness programs.

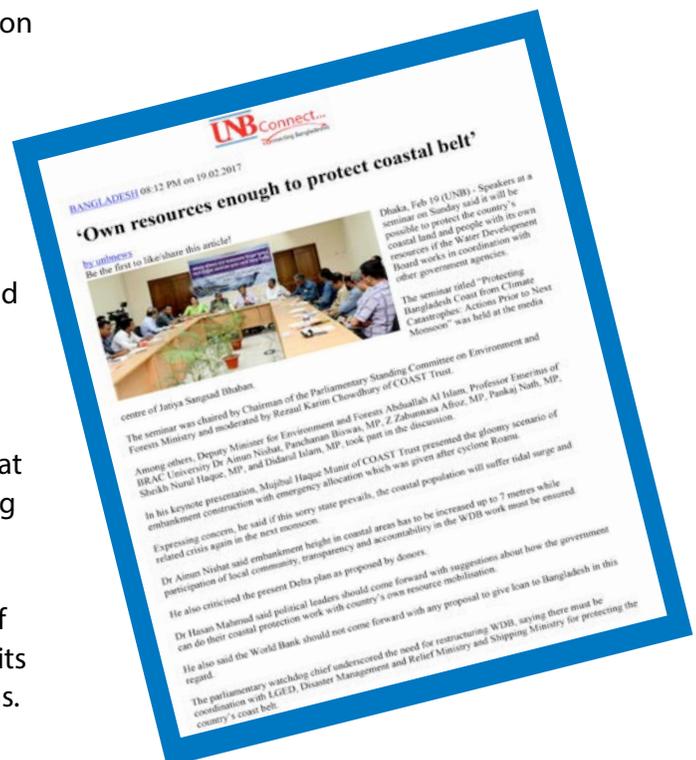
4. COAST self-funded response:

4.1 Preparedness stage:

COAST declared its principal office, Dhaka as the central control room and other four regional offices in Bhola, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong and Noakhali as regional control rooms. COAST started its initiatives from May 19, 2016. These control rooms tracked cyclone paths, signals and coordinated with local administration for supporting evacuation and shelter management.

4.2 Radio Meghna operation during cyclone period:

COAST operated Radio Meghna (www.radiomeghna.net) circulated government





weather bulletin received from “Bangladesh Betar (National Radio)”. Radio Meghna kept its operations on 24 hours to forecast about cyclone Roanu, preparedness and rehabilitation works after the disaster. Radio Meghna took mobile interview of local officials and elected leaders of Kutubdia on their preparation to respond to Cyclone Roanu.

4.3 Cyclone shelter management support:

Seven COAST offices were turned into cyclone shelters and served two thousand people with dry food and drinking water for the day. COAST supported government initiatives at local level for evacuation and shelter management and kept standby its 1200 staffs for providing district any support deemed necessary by the government and others.

4.4 Dry food distribution at Kutubdia:

COAST provided emergency relief to 1800 families in the North Dhurong, South Dhurong and Ali Akbar Dail unions of Kutubdia. COAST provided dry foods and bottled water through the local administration. COAST staffs also supported Upazila (sub-district) administration during distributing 65 metric tons of rice.

4.5 Distribution of drinking water:

COAST staffs continuously distributed pure drinking water with operating two water purifying machines in five unions of Kutubdia Upazila, Cox’s Bazar. 11 days after cyclone, COAST distributed 26,500 liters of drinking water among affected people. COAST purchased 2 water purifier machine at a cost of taka US\$6582.00 and spent US\$- 279.00 for trolley and labor cost for carrying the machines and water.



4.6 Dewatering of ponds:

Maximum ponds and sweet water sources had been overwhelmed by saline water. COAST have done dewatering of these ponds flooded by saline water. Till to date 38 ponds have been cleaned. COAST purchased 6 pump machines costing US\$2279.00 The community had supported with fuel and machine carrying cost for dewatering these ponds.

4.7 Operating Primary health camp and satellite clinic:

COAST operated 10 health camps at different growth centers in the affected areas of Kutubdia Upazilla. Three doctors with Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) degree from the Upazila health complex and three medical assistants along with 7 paramedics and community health volunteers were worked at these camps. About 6000 people took health services from these camps. During medical team assistance COAST also provided essential medicines free of cost of an amount of US\$-380/-.

4.8 Water and Sanitation campaign:

45 Early Child Development centers’



teachers divided in 9 groups campaigned for 2 days on negative impact of using saline water for dirking and using. They announced and warned people through courtyard meeting in four affected unions of Kutubdia; Koiarbill, Lemshi, Dakhsin Dhurang and Uttar Dhuran.

4.9 Tube Well repair:

Since 23rd May COAST colleagues along with local mechanics visited the damaged tube well of the affected unions. Finally took initiatives to repair four tube-wells in most affected areas with costing of USD 254.00. These tube wells are benefiting 2000 people.

4.10 Construction of bath cube:

Immediately after Roanu hit, affected people of kutubdia especially women had faced an acute problem of washing and bathing. All the ponds were infested with saline water. Even two three days women in 3 affected unions could not take bath. To address the demand of the affected people COAST constructed bath cube adjacent to 20 tube wells so that women can use those for bathing and fetching drinking water. COAST spent BDT- US\$ 2278.00 for bath cube construction.

4.11 Advocacy for budget allocation in FY 2016-17 for embankment construction in the coast:

Finance minister announced National Budget for FY2016-17 on 2nd June'16. COAST studied the budget and found no adequate budget for addressing Roanu affected people especially for construction and reconstruction of damaged embankment. Along with coastal NGOs network. COAST has organized Human Chain processions in national level in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and Bhola. At the event speakers demanded allocation for embankment construction and reconstruction budget in FY2016-17. They also sought to engage the army for immediate construction work, to treat embankment construction as mega project, and other demands.

4.12 Mobilization of Humanitarian actors; INGOs and donors:

COAST prepared a proposal for immediate and long term response and rehabilitation activities for most affected community of Kutubdia Upazila of Cox'sbazar. The proposal had been promoted among INGOs working in Bangladesh; Oxfam, Care, Muslim Aid, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief, BRAC, World Vision, and among the donors; DFID and ECHO. (<http://coastbd.net/coast-immediate-response-to-roanu-affected-people-in-kutubdia-provides-pure-water-and-relief/> has all updates.)

4.13 Roundtable with Members of Parliament of coastal constituencies:

On 22 June 2016, a roundtable jointly organized by the Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on MoF&E (Ministry of Forest & Environment) and COAST Trust in the conference room of Parliament Media Center, Dhaka. The event was titled "Climate Change Impact, Recent Cyclone and Save Coast". Around 35 coastal Member of Parliaments (MP) said that they need embankment to protect coastal people, lands and livelihoods, not relief. This was also the number one demand of the local people. The roundtable was chaired by Dr Hasan Mahmud MP and the Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the



Ministry of Environment and forest and Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister Water Resource, was present as Chief Guest. COAST Executive Director Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury presented a key note paper. At his key note Mr. Chowdhury said almost all coastal districts or around 17 % of total land of the country will go under water by next 50 to 100 years due to the impact of climate change, but there are technology by which the coastal area could be saved, but it needs huge investment and political will. Critical infrastructure to protect people should also be a priority need along with the infrastructure for growth too. Around 28 % of total population of Cox's Bazar district has been affected by cyclone Roanu which is the highest in country, among the migrated people due to the cyclone the highest, 8 % is from this district, He showed that the worse impact was on Kutubdia island where everyday people are witnessing saline water surging in twice in three out of six unions. All documents can be found at <http://coastbd.net/all-coastal-mps-said-we-want-embankment-not-the-relief/>.

4.14 Consultation meeting to protect Kutubdia

On 30 January 2017, COAST organized a consultation meeting jointly with local administration at the hall room of Kutubdia upazila Office. Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) as well as a prominent economist and climate expert were present as key speaker. Local Member of Parliament Mr. Ashek Ullah Rafiq, Md. Abdul Karim, Managing Director, PKSF and former Principal Secretary, Mr. Al-Kadri, senior reporter, Bangladesh Television, Mr. M Nurul Basar

Chowdhury, elected Upzilla Chairman of Kutubdia were present among the distinguished guests. These prominent persons, politicians and high officials identified many ways to save Kutubdia Island.

In the moderator speech, Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury drew attention of the participants by exploring some potentials and threats of Kutubdia. He said that 10% of salt, 25-30% of dry fish of the country are produced here. He added that nearby "Shangu" gas field is containing 1000 trillion cubic meters of natural gas but the Island is getting smaller geographically by sea erosion. Kutubdia has lost 50% of it land during the last 100 years and by 2050 it will be in risk of losing more than 50% of it's existing land. Member of Parliament, key speaker and other participants agreed on three core demands of Kutubdia. These are embankment construction, forestation, communication and electricity. The relevant documents can be found at the link:





<http://coastbd.net/a-discussion-meeting-on-searching-way-to-save-kutubdia/>

4.15 Seminar with Members of Parliament (MP) and civil society on anticipatory crisis in Bangladesh coast in next monsoon:

Continuation of COAST humanitarian advocacy for protection of coastal people, it organized the above seminar jointly with the office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, Ministry of Forest and Environment of Bangladesh Government. This seminar was for demanding immediate actions from Water Development Board authority to complete the embankment works before rainy season. Otherwise peoples of Kutubdia and other coastal belt will be suffering because of cyclone Roanu created issues and washed way embankments are still open to enter saline water even in normal tide.

The seminar held on 19 February' 2017, at the media center of National Parliament of Bangladesh. The title was "Protecting Bangladesh Coast from Climate Catastrophes: Actions Prior to Next Monsoon". At the seminar, speakers emphasized the protection of coastal land and people. It could be done from country's own resources, and in this regard Water Development Board has to be restructured and must coordinate with other government ministries. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Hasan Mahmud MP and the Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Environment and forest, moderated by Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of COAST Trust. Special Guest of the seminar was Mr Abdullah Al Islam, MP, Deputy

Minister, MoFE. Other speakers are Dr Aunur Nishat. Emeritus professor of BRAC University; Mr. Ponchanon Biswas MP; Mrs Zebunnesa Afroz MP, Mr Ponkaz Nath MP; Mr Shiekh Nurul Haque MP and Mr. Didarul Islam MP. Mr Mujibul Haque Munir of COAST Trust gave the key note presentation. All documents of the seminar including media clips have been uploaded in the link: <http://coastbd.net/wdb-has-to-be-restructured-and-coordinate-with-other-must-take-anticipatory-action-to-save-coastal-population/>

5. BRAC funded COAST response:

5.1 Cash for Work activities:

A total of 583 beneficiaries were identified for engagement in Cash for Work activities. In that time we increased 24 beneficiaries for finishing the Cash for Work activities in just time. Total 607 beneficiaries had been divided in 21 groups at Aliakbar Dail and North Dhurang union.

US\$6.00 was paid to every beneficiary per day for their work. On the other hand, common useable pond was excavated by lifting pond bank at such



a level that the risk of normal tidal saline water intrusion during tidal period was reduced. Up to this Project period, a total of 75 ponds were dewatered to free saline water and were prepared for excavation.

5.2 Elevated Toilet Construction:

35 intended sanitary toilets have been built for 35 families. The toilet sites were selected by local community leaders. These toilets were constructed after raising the plinth to protect from tidal water.

5.3 Installation of Deep Tube well and Bath cube:

Total 10 tube wells including 12 bathing cube have been installed. Tube well sites were also indentified by the community themselves and at needy areas. Beside each of the tube wells one bath cube was also constructed so that women could use those bath cubes for bathing and wash clothes. But 1 out of 10 tube wells was rendered unusable due to saline water intrusion. According to our agreement vendor installed a tube well in that place.

5.4 Distribution of School Kit (education materials) to the victimized 1100 primary school students:

Total 1100 primary students have got education materials. For each of the students, one set of school dress, 1 School Bag, 1 pencil, 4 pens, 1 eraser, 1 sharpener, and 4 Note books were provide. As a result students have gone back to

school and overcame the losses of their education materials that were selected by Upazila Education office, local leaders, Teachers and SMC members.

5.5 Providing awareness training on Sanitation, DRR and personal health hygiene:

Among the victim families the project organized two batches (30 participants in one batch) of training. At those trainings, BRAC learning materials were used to improve knowledge and skills on disaster preparedness and risk reduction approaches.

