

★ People's Participation ★ Accuracy & Accountability ★ Excluded People's Rights



COAST Foundation has been implementing a project named “Citizen’s Engagement in Public Institutions (CEPI) Project” from January 2019 which is technically supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and financially supported by FCDO. The project runs its activities in Bhola Sadar, Daulatkhan and Lalmohan Upazila under Bhola District. Its goal is to uphold the poor, marginalized and socially excluded people obtaining rights and access to materials, resources and services from responsive public institutions.

Ward Shavas were held to ensure participation of local citizens in ward development plan on a priority basis

Ward Shavas were held in different upazilas of Bhola district to ensure the participation of citizens from all walks of life in



Ward shava of Veduria Union was held with active participation of people and taking views. Photo: Shohag Hossain-PF, 25 May 2021

the development plan organized by Union Parishad and in collaboration with the COAST Foundation and Manusher Jonno Foundation. Ordinary citizens, the poor, women and the marginalized expressed their views. A list of social safety net beneficiaries prepared according to local needs on priorities basis.

The concerned ward member said that the issue of people's participation in development is becoming more important day by day. It is almost impossible to make development welfare oriented without the effective participation of the people. Therefore, it is important to give people the opportunity to participate in various stages of development



People of North Joynagar Union presented demands to the local people's representatives. Photo: Neepa Begum-PF, 30 May 2021

programs. In continuation of this, we would like to ensure transparency and accountability of our work to all through ward meetings, pre-budget discussion meetings and open budget announcements on behalf of the North Jayanagar Union Parishad to ensure people's participation in the development. The views of the general public are taken into account on the overall development of the process and what steps can be taken to make it more fruitful in the future.

Moyful Begum has changed herself to raise ducks with the financial support of COAST Foundation

Moyful Begum (51), husband late Sadeque, lives in the village of Purba Charumed in Ward-7 of Ramagonj Union. Her husband died about 10 years ago and she has been fighting with poverty holding a son and two daughters ever since. She



Mayful Begum is self-sufficient in poultry rearing. Photo: Noman Sharif, Ramagonj Union, Lalmohan 16 May 2021

could not educated the boy and girls well and later got married the girls. The only son worked as a day laborer in Chittagong from childhood and his family depended on his income only. When the boy's work stopped due to COVID terrible clutches, there was a shortage in the family again. When an initiative was taken to help improving the quality of life through the COAST, CEPI Project as IGA support of 7,000/- then the local citizen forum reference to select her.

From the IGA support Moiful Begum bought 20 big and small ducks. He meets the needs of her family by selling duck's eggs in the market every week. By raising ducks, she increases her family's income, so she has no longer needs of people.

Union citizens' forum meeting was held to make easy the quality of services and bring transparency in UP

The bi-monthly meeting of the union citizens' forum was held to facilitate the quality of services in UP and highlight the rights of the citizens. The purpose of the citizens' forum meeting is to work for the welfare of the more vulnerable and



Fragments of discussions in citizen forums on facilitation of service quality. Photo: Noman Sharif-PF, Ramaganj Union, 28 May 2021

backward people to build an enlightened society. To take initiative to get the services and support of various government and non-government departments. To create awareness & take cooperative steps in epidemic of COVID.

To play a role in gender sensitivity and gender equality in the development activities of the council. To play a role in enhancing the overall development and creativity of women as a backward part of the society and to be well aware of the



Initiatives were taken to get services of various govt. departments. Photo: Sohag Hossain-PF, Vedurua Union, Bhola Sadar 28 May 2021

local government laws and activities to play an effective role in their respective councils. The quality of ward-based services, especially the target service sector of the project and the activity plan of the ward citizen forum are reviewed and action plans are taken.

The financial support of COAST has changed the life of Arju Begum during the COVID period

Arju Begum (26), a resident of Ward-1 of 2 No Elisha Union in Sadar Upazila of Bhola district She got married 11 years ago in the neighboring village of Sudar Hat. The cruel irony of fate is



Arju Begum is taking care of the farm. Photo: Md. Fazlul Haque-PC

that when the son and daughter of the family were about to grow up, her happy family broke up and Arju Begum became a destitute. But Arju Begum has a new dream about her family members and planned to go to her father's house and get involved in an income generating activities. In the meantime, with the help of Citizens Forum and local UP member Mostafa Miah, she received the support 7,000/- IGA through the COAST Foundation. Adding much money to this support, she started a chicken farm which now has about 450 chickens. She said that she started raising chicken on farm from Feb'21 & local people bought these from her house at 130 taka per kg. She added, "Now I have no problem teaching my son & daughter."

Taking feedback from the beneficiaries about the ongoing activities of project by ensuring hygiene

During the COVID period, feedback was received from the beneficiaries on the ongoing activities of project by ensuring social distance in compliance with hygiene rules. Whether the



The meetings is being held in every three months in Charsamaiya Union, Bhola Sadar. Photo: Abdur Rahman, 28 May 2021

beneficiaries have any comments about the project, what they have improved or lost through the project and what steps can be taken in the future to develop the project are discussed. Feedback is received continuously to achieve the annual improvement where the beneficiaries provide their feedback impartially.

CEPI Project Activities: Target and Achievement in May'21

Sl.	Activities	Target	Perform
1	Beneficiary receiving services	600	447
2	Ward development shava- 2021	69	49
3	Union citizen forum meeting	10	9
4	Ward citizen forum meeting	10	9
5	Livelihood beneficiary follow up	120	100

The project all staff coordinated providing necessary information to publish it.

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