

COAST FOUNDATION

ORIGIN & EVOLUTION

Presented in the 7th AGM
5-6 August, 2023



Phase One

Strategic Decision toward Nationalization from an INGO (1984-1994)

- Geof Wood reviewed and recommended for nationalization in 1994
- Phaseout Long-Term Plan in 1995
- Staff strike happened in 1994
- Indiscipline and overdue in microfinance (65% overdue)
- A new team including M Rezaul Karim Chowdhury as Project Director joined for leading to the nationalization



Phase Two

Reorganization (1995-1997)

- Participatory process of reorganization, planning and implementation
- Salary reduction and again staff strike in 1997
- All offices closed
- Mobilization to restore discipline and extensive support from the community and administration
- Registered with NGO Affairs Bureau on 24 February 1998
- **Integration of People's Organization**



Phase Three

Kick-off for Nationalization (1998-2001)

- Emerged as COAST Trust in 1998 and M Rezaul Karim Chowdhury placed as Executive Director.
- Established Central Office in Charfession, Bhola.
- Board formed with two members from ActionAid (Country Director-Ton Van Jutphen and Regional Director-Robi Narayan) and ED as Member Secretary in September 1998.
- Founding Chairperson was Ms. Tahera Yasmin (ex-CD-Oxfam) and one of the founder members was Professor Tofail Ahmed, Ph.D.
- ActionAid withdrew the funding support and from the board in 2000
- 80% operation costs from microfinance income
- **Expansion in Cox's Bazar through the support from** Stromme Foundation, Norway in 2021
- Approaching PKSF, first time denied and then started from Kutubdia in 2002



Phase Four

Integration of Primary Healthcare, Education Advocacy and Accountability (2002-2007)



- Taking the Char Project from Action Aid in 2002
- Providing Primary Health Care Support to the Outreach Char Islands
- Reorganization of monitoring, accountability, auditing and institutional management with the PKSF support
- Expansion in greater Noakhali and Patuakhali District
- Land purchased in Bhola
- Established the EquityBD for campaign and policy advocacy through positive engagement with the government in 2007
- Central Office shifted to Dhaka in 2007

Phase Five

Organization in track of sustainability (2008-2012)

- Received registration from the Micro Credit Regulatory Authority (MRA) in 2007
- Expansion in Chattogram Division in 2010
- Land purchase in Chakmarkul, **Cox's Bazar**
- Central Office shifted to its own flat in 2012 in Dhaka
- Balancing the branch offices between the growth centre and vulnerable coastal areas
- Surplus generated in the microfinance program



Phase Six

Improving the Quality of the Organization (2013-2019)

- Expansion in Barishal Division in 2017
- Established separate Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Accountability (MEAL)
- Involved with humanitarian support to the Rohingya people
- Automation of MIS & FIS in microfinance program
- Achieved quality performance recognition from CHS Alliance, HQAI, UN-ECOSOC etc.
- **Inclusion of People's Organization Leaders in the board**
- Two tier governing bodies like Executive Committee and General Council in 2019
- Own training centre established in Bhola town in a two-storied building



Phase Seven

Gaining Financial Sustainability (2020-2022)

- Error-free reporting
- Registered with Joint Stock Registration Act 1860 in 2021 and the name changed to COAST Foundation
- Land purchased in Sonarpara, **Cox's Bazar**
- Horizontal and vertical expansion of microfinance program with 115 branches and Tk. 490 crore of microfinance portfolio.
- Total 16 projects (6 in Rohingya Response) with development partners including UNICEF and UNHCR.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

