

COAST Trust has been implementing a project named "Citizen's Engagement in Public Institutions (CEPI) Project" which is technically supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation and financially supported by DFID. 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.

**Services will be provided on priority basis through the social service department, said the social service representative.**

On the initiative of Upazila Citizens Forum, a quarterly meeting was held on 26 November 2020 in the meeting room of Daulatkhan Upazila Hall in the presence of officials of various government departments under the chairmanship of Md. Bazlur Rahman, President of Upazila Citizens Forum. Upazila Agriculture Officer was present as the chief guest in the meeting along with representatives of Women and Children Affairs, Public Health Engineering, Social Services and representative of Upazila Nirbahi Officer. At the meeting, Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary of the Citizens' Forum, gave a constructive discussion on how the poor, helpless and deprived people can get services on priority basis.



*Photo: Quarterly Upazila meeting-Daulatkhan, Mahmud-PF*

In his various demands, the social service representative will take seriously the issue of finalizing the list by checking the members on priority basis from the list of the helpless. The Chief Guest Agriculture Officer said, "We can coordinate with the Citizens Forum to finalize the

members during the agricultural subsidy release, if they want to cooperate. Everyone agreed to have the Upazila Nirbahi Officer present at the next meeting and the President announced the end of the meeting by giving the responsibility especially to the Citizen Forum Secretary.

**Distribution of money among the families affected by the epidemic COVID-19 by the COAST in the presence of the Pourashava Mayor.**

Mr. Zakir Hossain Talukder, Mayor distributed cash among the COVID-19 affected and helpless 50 families as the chief guest.



*Photo: Cash distributed by Mayor, Mahmud-PF*

He said that those of you who are getting this help from the Coast Trust, you have saved some money from this money. You can buy goats / sheep so that you do not have to reach out to others later. Then the society and the nation will move forward as the dependency will be removed from the society. Corona, in particular, called for caution and compliance with government guidelines. Thanks to the implementing organization for working in our Pourashava area. He added that the Pourashava will continue to support COAST Trust in all its activities.

**During the blockade, it was decided to give rice to the fishermen through a dialogue meeting**

The government takes many important steps and decisions so that the people can get various government services easily and impartially in order to maintain the quality of life of the disadvantaged. Some inequalities were observed through interviews with service recipients at the field level.



Photo: Dialogue session at Ramaganj Union, Noman-PF

In order to eliminate that inequality, face-to-face dialogue is held with the service providers. Here are some suggestions on how to look or get an appointment for antique items. After detailed discussions, the government representatives providing the services said that they would work towards eliminating the existing inequalities and on a priority basis. The real fishermen will be blessed especially during the siege and no more than one service will be provided to the same family.

**Quarterly Union Development Meeting was held to improve the quality of service.**

Union development meetings were held in Bhola Sadar and Lalmohan Upazila No. 2 Ilisha and Lord Hadings Unions under the chairmanship of their respective chairmen. The meeting was attended by government officials, dignitaries and civil society representatives among others.



Photo: UDCC meeting at Lordhardinj, Noman-PF

At the beginning of the discussion, UCF Vice-President, Elisha, discussed the activities of the Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officers and made a number of recommendations. In response, the Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officer said, "We will ensure the provision of services at the office and field level in a roster system." Health assistants also agree to provide services. Asked about the status of the list at the beginning of the discussion on VGD, the UP members said that the online list is almost ready. Those who are actually eligible will then be assisted on the basis of deserving priority. At the end of the meeting, he said that the representatives of the government service providers should do what they have to do to serve the people properly. Under no circumstances will any irregularities be allowed in the provision of services.

**Disabled Nurrabi moving to forward.**

Md. Nurnabi, a disabled member of Ward 7 of Ramaganj Union in Larmohan Upazila, has started moving forward after getting Cash support. He used to sell small amount of chanachur, chocolate and cigarettes in the area as he could not do any work due to his disability. Corona used to keep the shops closed from time to time due to declining sales during the period.



Photo: Md. Nurnobi, Salim Mia-PO

He got BDT. 7500 through the project and bought goods with BDT. 5000 to start the shop. He buys and sells around 700-800 BDT. per day in his shop and earns 250-300 BDT. per day. Now his family is doing better than before. He is grateful to the partners.

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