

★ 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.

Pre-budget discussion meeting was held on the basis of people's participation and opinion in the development activities of Union Panishad

People's participation in development is becoming more important day by day. Without the effective participation of the people, development is almost impossible. Therefore, it is important to give people the opportunity to participate in various stages of development programs. In order to ensure people's participation in development, transparency and accountability of work should be ensured to the people through ward meetings, pre-budget discussion meetings and open budget announcements. The goals of the National Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved through the diligent and effective role of the people and local institutions



Chairman is speaking in pre-budgetary discussion meeting at North Joynagar UP, 05 June 2021, Photo: Nipa Begum- PF

at the local level. Following this, a pre-budget discussion meeting was held on the basis of public participation and views in the development activities of the Union Panishad and ensuring the presence of all members of the Union Development Coordinating Committee.

Open budget meeting was held with the participation of local people to ensure governance, transparency and accountability of the Union Parishad

An open budget announcement is an effective strategic step in the preparation of the annual budget of the Union Parishad to increase the acceptability of the people by ensuring

transparency and accountability of the Union Parishad. In this process, the draft budget of the Union Parishad was presented with the participation of the local people by inviting the stakeholders of the Union level as guests. Public



Chairman is speaking in open budget discussion meeting at North Digholdi UP, 09 June 2021, Photo: Abdur Rahman- PF

opinion can be taken about the prepared budget and the budget can be turned into a more people-oriented budget. In this process, the members including the chairman of the council provided information about the revenue and expenditure of the previous budget, the possible sources of revenue of the new budget and the details of various expenditures including development activities. In this case, after the announcement of the budget, the representatives of the council explain the various questions of the people. This is an effective step in ensuring transparency and accountability of the Union Parishad in establishing good governance. Which is described in Section 57 of the Union Parishad Act 2009.

UDCC meeting is held regularly and increased the participation of local development agency (LDA) and elected women members in decision making process

Union development coordination committee (UDCC) meeting is one of the major activity of LGIs which is organized bi-monthly basis. As we know that LGIs is working as per LGI Act, 2009 towards leading the LGI’s activities and the people’s satisfaction. In the starting period we could observe that UDCC meeting is not regular basis and most of the LDA

representatives were absent. The LGIs were taken decision without cooperation of women participation and LDA representatives.

In the initiative by COAST, CEPI Project to organize the meeting regularly invitation letter reaches to the LDA representatives and keep signature in the register prior at least 2-3 days. Discussion with respective chairman how to



Israt Jahan, Family Welfare Visitor (Charsamaiya) presenting her activities, 23 June 2021, Photo: Abdur Rahman- PF

regular them, the chairman phone them regular basis to present in the meeting. Now we can see that LDA representatives and women participation is increasing more than before. The decisions was taken with consultation of concern authority and effective action plan to perform these. The elected women members participate and provide their valuable feedback/opinion.

Union Parishad is following and implementing the five year plan which is prepared on priority basis in collaboration with COAST, CEPI Project

The Union Parishad is logically recognized as unit of local government. Development plan is very important for a Union Parishad. On the advice of Union Parishad representatives, secretaries and civil society and to determine local needs, in collaboration with CEPI project, held small meetings in the ward level, 9 ward shava of UP to determine the problems, needs and resources of the area. Therefore, annual plans has



The scheme is implemented from the five year plan of Union Parishad, Badarpur, Lalmohan, Photo: Kamrul Alam- PF

to be adopted and implemented from the five year plan which is prepared according to needs of people priority basis.

The total 368 infrastructural schemes was implemented from the five year plan in fiscal year 2020-21. It is hoped that the implementation of five year plan will play a vital role in

implementation of government's SDGs, including poverty reduction, expansion of infrastructure, modern irrigation system, prosperity in agriculture, improved education & access to health care, and reduction of gender inequality.

It is possible to solve local problems locally through joint initiative of public representative & citizen forum

Lordhardinj Union where there is a canal 5 km long from Chairman Bazar to Betua River. The canal needs to be re-dug for drainage and farmers to cultivate. In a social audit of Union's agricultural affairs (January 25, 2021) in collaboration with COAST, CEPI project, farmers complained that pond and canal project had entered their area of influence and there was a demand for the canal to be dug very quickly. The dialogue on Agriculture was held at Lordhardinj Union on 24 March 2021 where the President of Citizens' Forum recommended re-excavation of the canal.

The chairman said he would discuss with Upazila chairman and the MP so that immediate action could be taken. Later, the Pond and Canal Development Project for the financial year 2020-21 was implemented by the Department of Local Government Engineering. The excavation of this canal will benefit about 4700 farmers and about 12,000 people who are



Part of canal 5km long, Lordhardinj UP, Photo: Salim Mia-PO

dependent on water of this canal. Now 1120 hectors of land will come under aman cultivation and 650 hectors of land will have opportunity to cultivate boro iris during the Erie season.

CEPI Project Activities: Target and Achievement in June 2021

| Sl. | Activities | Target | Perform |
|-----|----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| 1 | Pre-budget discussion meeting | 11 | 10 |
| 2 | Open budget of union Parishad | 11 | 10 |
| 3 | UDCC meeting of union Parishad | 11 | 09 |
| 4 | Ward citizen forum meeting | 89 | 68 |
| 5 | Social audit on SSN sector | 11 | 09 |
| 6 | Upazila & district forum meeting | 04 | 04 |

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

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