

## People's Participation

## Accuracy & Accountability

## Excluded People's Rights



COAST Foundation has been implementing a project named "Citizens' 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 the responsive public institutions (LGIs).

**Project inception meeting and MoU was held with new LGI to establish excluded people's rights.**

Today 31 October 2021 Sunday at 10:30 AM, an inception meeting and memorandum of understanding



**The chairman is expressing same opinion with MoU. West Elisha UP, Bhola Sadar. Photo: Razib Gosh-PO**

for the CEPI project was held with the 3no West Elisha Union Parishad. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Md. Gias Uddin, Chairman, West Elisha Union Parishad, Bhola Sadar. All members of the council and concerned government representatives and representatives of local civil society actively participated in the meeting.

In the speech of the President Mr. Md. Gias Uddin Chairman, any project is conducted for the welfare of the people. We, the people's representatives are always working for the welfare of the people and will continue to do so in the future. As the UP Chairman, I agree to implement the project jointly with the CEPI project and pledge full cooperation in all aspects of the project. I hope that the implementation of this project will make it easier for the poor to access services and build the West Elisha Union Parishad as a more accountable institution. Finally, he thanked the COAST Foundation and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) for selecting as new LGI of the CEPI project and wished them all the best.

**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. In UDCC meeting most of the LDA representatives were absent and 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 5-7 days. Discussion with respective chairman how to regular them, the chairman phone them regular basis to present in the meeting. Now we can see that LDA representatives and women participation



**Taking next action plan from govt. representatives by the Badarpur UP, Lalmohan. Photo: Kamrul Alam-PF**

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.

## Shafiqul Islam got the required information following the Right to Information (RTI) Act from Veduria Union

The Right to Information (RTI) Act is a powerful tool in the hands of the right citizens. To ensure the rights of the people, the project has trained the staff on RTI Act



Neaz Morshed is submitting the required information to the applicant. Photo: Shohag Hossen-PF

and said that everyone will apply for information following RTI to the concerned government officials. The project celebrates RTI Day by setting up rallies, seminars and stalls at the upazila level where the general public has learned how and where to apply for information.

Md. Shafiqul Islam, a conscious citizen of Ward 3 of West Charkali village of Veduria Union. He submitted an application to the Union Administrative Officer (Secretary) for receiving the final budget copy of the



Union Parishad for the financial year 2021-22. He later photocopied it and gave it to her. Thus, we have already submitted 450 RTI applications to government officials through the public. The common man has not developed the feeling that every citizen has the right

to know all kinds of information related to the public interest. People's right to information is a prerequisite for establishment, development and democracy. We should make people aware of RTI through the best use of modern technology.

So it can be said that “The Right to Information Act is a bold protest against the culture of privacy. Information is everyone's right, there will be no one behind and People will get information”.

## Taking feedback from Program participant's about ongoing activities of project by ensuring hygiene

During the COVID period, feedback was received from the Program participant on the ongoing activities of project by ensuring social distance in compliance with hygiene rules. And also Program participant (beneficiary) feedback on their level of satisfaction, unintended negative effect, and Risk assessment. Whether the 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



Feedback session at ward no-5 of Ramagonj union, Lalmohan. Photo: Noman Sharif-PF

to develop the project are discussed. Feedback is received continuously to achieve the annual improvement where the beneficiaries provide their feedback impartially.

## Project Activities: Target & Perform in October 2021

Sl.	Activities	Target	Perform
1	Union citizen forum meeting	06	06
2	UDCC meeting of LGIs	04	03
3	Ward citizen forum meeting	33	33
4	Ward level awareness session	10	10
5	Tax micing and discussion	01	01
06	Agriculture dialogue with LGIs	01	01

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

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