

## 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).

### Rally and discussion meeting was held in Bhola to raise awareness on the occasion of International Right to Information Day 2021

Information is my right, everyone knows what. International Right to Information Day 2021 has been celebrated in Bhola with the slogan "Information is my right, everyone should know". A rally was organized by the district administration in collaboration with the COAST Foundation and District Citizen



IRTI Rally in the presence of Alhaz Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shawon (MP, Bhola-3). Photo: Salim Mia-PO

Forum to mark the day. Later, a discussion meeting was held on behalf of the deputy commissioner highlighting the significance of the day. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) presided over the meeting. The day is observed to raise awareness about the right to information.

The free flow of information needs to be further expanded. The system of disclosure and dissemination of information



Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Bhola is visiting the fair stall on Right to Information Day. Photo: Razib Ghosh-PO

needs to be made easier. The Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner urged all to take the initiative to appoint Information Officer in the offices where there is no Information Officer. He also sought the cooperation of all concerned departments in providing information.

A stall was set up by the COAST Foundation in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office on the occasion of International Right to Information Day 2021. Where ordinary people can learn about the right to information; How to get information, how to fill the form and to whom to send. The district administration visited the stall and thanked the COAST Foundation.

### Annual meeting of the project on progress review, identification of obstacles and steps to be taken

Project annual meeting 2021 was held today, September 25, 2021 with the Honorable Chairmen, Mayor and Secretaries of Local Government Institutions (Union Parishads and Municipalities). Mr. Rajib Ahmed (DD-LGD, Bhola) was present as the Chief Guest in the presidency of Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, President of District Citizen Forum. Mr. Nusrat Fatema Chowdhury (AD-LGD) was present as special guest.

Take initiatives to increase annual tax collection and undertake visible development projects for the extremely poor, update and enrich information on the websites of local



Mr. Razib Ahmed (DD-LGD, Bhola) addressed the function as the Chief Guest. Photo: Salim Mia-PO

government bodies, and increase the effective participation of women members in decision making and implementation. The notice board is regularly updated and all information is made available to the public, a complaint box is set up for

any grievances to the public and the progress of work on the project, obstacles and next year's work plan are discussed and various decisions are taken.

## **Bheduria Union Parishad called upon people to pay annual tax by own initiative**

With the technical assistance of CEPI project, "It is our civic duty to pay taxes. Pay taxes regularly, be a partner in local



**Bheduria Union Parishad Chairman Mr. Tajul Islam led the annual tax payment rally. Photo: Shohag Hossen-PF**

development. Give taxes, cooperate with the local government in the development process. Pay taxes yourself, encourage others to pay taxes" was the theme of the Bheduria Union Parishad.

Mr. Md. Tajul Islam, Chairman, Veduria Union Parishad, said, "In the interest of meeting the government expenditure without expecting any direct benefits, it is advisable to pay taxes to our government compulsorily." With this awareness of the people and the efforts of the council, we believe that our union will be further developed in the future.

## **Citizen's dialogue was held to make all information related to selection of beneficiaries and lists open**

In collaboration with CEPI Project and organized by Citizen Forum, a citizens' dialogue was held on 26 September 2021 at 11.00 am in the Upazila Parishad Hall room for smooth implementation of social security program. Bhola Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Chairman of Upazila Parishad Upazila Vice Chairman Mr. Alhaj Md. Yunus, concerned government officials of the Upazila, members of citizen forum and media personnel participated in dialogue.

Important decisions were taken in the presence of the Chairman of the Upazila Parishad and the Upazila Nirbahi Officer and on the basis of the views of all. Life jackets have been provided for the safety of fishermen and gradually everyone will come under this facility. List of beneficiaries'



**Members of CSG is presenting recommendations for improving quality of SSN services. Photo: Salim Mia-PO**

allowances has been asked to be hung on the notice board of the concerned Union Parishad and is being implemented. Regular meetings will be held to strengthen the verification committee. We are very pleased with the work of the COAST Foundation and look forward to continuing our support in this endeavor.

## **Quarterly meeting of District Citizen Forum was held on what needs to improve the quality of services**

Quarterly meeting of District Citizen Forum was held today, September 29, 2021 at 11 am in the hall room of the Muslim Institute Public Library, organized by the District Citizens Forum and in collaboration with the COAST, CEPI Project.

The President said that in order to strengthen the Union Parishad, the activities would be strengthened if the people and the UP members were informed and the destitute were listed. **Allocation is low so UP members should help project staff to work.** The members of the District Citizens' Forum



**Md. Moniruzzaman (PC-In Charge) is presenting the main article of the meeting. Photo: Shohag Hossen-PF**

provided recommendations and opinions on the public dialogue at the district level and the publication of the five-year plan of the Union Parishad to improve the quality of social security services.

## **Project Activities: Target & Perform in September 2021**

Sl.	Activities	Target	Perform
1	Project yearly meeting 2021	01	01
2	Tax mobilization (rally, leaflet, discussion meeting & miking)	11	10
3	Upazila citizen forum meeting	03	03
4	Dialogue at Upazila level	03	03
5	Dialogue at LGIs level	15	14
6	UDCC meeting of LGIs	08	07
7	Union citizen forum meeting	05	05
8	RTI day observe 2021	03	03

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

**For details information and communication:**

**Mobile: +880 1708 12 04 14**

**Email: [monir1992.coast@gmail.com](mailto:monir1992.coast@gmail.com)**

**COAST Foundation, CEPI Project Implementation Unit, Circuit House Road, Bhola Sadar, Bhola- 8300 published and preserved. For visiting website: [www.coastbd.net](http://www.coastbd.net)**