

## Advocacy

## Local Initiative

## Adaptation



implemented in 7 coastal districts from January 2018 to Sept 2022. COAST is doing advocacy by networking with local partners on several coastal protection issues, e.g. Sustainable coastal embankment & internally displaced management, improving livelihood of Climate Vulnerable fishermen and coastal afforestation, etc. Community awareness and educational programs are being continuously broadcasted through 8 Coastal Community Radios to raise awareness through providing information and education to women and adolescents. Initiatives have been taken to provide and expand Climate Adaptive Income Generating Techniques in the affected communities.

### Coastal adolescents are getting involved in IGA with the inspiration of adolescent Center

Inspired by the Adolescent Center, adolescents in coastal areas are now engaged in income-generating activities, cultivating a variety of seasonal vegetables on abandoned land around their homes and raising poultry. They believe that such activities will help increase their economic potential which will increase their status and right to express their views in the family and society. Rabeya Begum, a student of Hazariganj Union Adolescent Center in Char Fashion Upazila of Bhola district, stopped studying after 7th grade due to family scarcity. Her family had to relocate several times due to river erosion. She now lives with her parents in a government rehabilitation project colony in Ward 5 of Hazariganj Union.

Rabia Begum was working in her small vegetable garden in front of the house, she said now I go to the adolescent center regularly, our adolescent center teacher told us to cultivate vegetables in the abandoned area around our house. Although we do not have our own land, there is some abandoned land in front of the house which was lying fallow. There I planted red spinach, radish spinach, gourd, sweet pumpkin, and other vegetables. Now every member of our family can eat the vegetables that I planted. I hope I can sell in the market.

Rabia Begum further said, "My father is a poor fisherman by profession, he goes fishing in the sea, our family income is very low, at least if I can bear my own expenses, I will no longer have to depend on my family. No one can say anything disrespectful to me. There are plans to raise chickens by selling vegetables.

Ayesha Begum, a teacher at Hazariganj Adolescent Center, said: "We are encouraging teenagers to engage in small income-generating activities to increase their financial capacity in addition to other teaching activities. About 45% of our adolescents are now involved in such activities. Hopefully, 100 percent of adolescents will be involved in such activities.

### Life skills education is making adolescents confident in the fight against social fallacies

Adolescent centers are working to integrate backward adolescents into the mainstream of social development. Adolescents are now becoming more confident in the fight



Inspired by Adolescent Center, Rabia has been cultivating seasonal vegetables in an abandoned place in front of her house. 25 December 2021, Hazariganj Union, Char Fashion, Bhola. Photo-Atiqur Rahman, TO, CJRF Project

against social fallacies through life skills education.

Mr. Shamim Mia, Upazilla Nirbahi Officer [ UNO] Monpura Upazila, expressed these views at a parents' meeting after visiting the adolescent center, Hajir Hat Union, Monpura Upazila, Bhola. Speaking as the chief guest at the meeting held with the participation of adolescents, parents, people's representatives, and people of different professions, the Upazilla Nirbahi Officer said it is very important to include adolescents in coastal areas adolescents in the coastal areas in the mainstream of social



Upazilla Nirbahi Officer Mr. Shamim Mia is exchanging views with parents and local government representatives, 23 December 2021, Hajir Hat, Monpura, Bhola. Photo-Atiqur Rahman, TO, CJRF Project.

development. He encouraged the adolescents to be involved in income-generating activities. He also said that we need to create income streams, increase our capacity to adapt to climate change.

Adolescent Centers are educating disadvantaged adolescents on life skills, especially on child marriage, dowry, abuse of women, personal health care, and income-generating activities. This is a wonderful initiative.

Addressing the parents, he said that they would regularly refer their daughters to the adolescent center, sought the cooperation of all members of the society for the smoothly running of the adolescent center, and assured all kinds of cooperation from the Upazila administration.

### "Coastal Agriculture at Risk to Climate" Community Radio highlights the plight of coastal farmers

Coastal Community Radio Meghna's special program "Coastal Agriculture at Climate Risk" is being broadcast to highlight the socio-economic status and plight of marginal farmers living in the coastal areas. It is a continuous initiative of Community Radio Meghna in collaboration with the COAST CJRF project to contribute to the improvement of the living standards of marginal farmers in Bhola Char Fashion, an isolated district from the mainland of Bangladesh.

Due to global climate change, the agricultural system in the coastal areas of Bangladesh is the most affected and vulnerable and this problem is gradually becoming apparent. Frequent



*Climate-vulnerable farmers are describing their plight directly from the field through Community Radio, 17 December 2021, Madras, Charfashion, Bhola, Photo-Laboni, Radio Meghna, Bhola.*

floods, tidal surges, and heavy rains are causing waterlogging. Crop production in the region is declining day by day due to various adverse conditions

Their socio-economic condition is very fragile, they are cultivating with high-interest loans from local moneylenders but they are losing their crops every year due to various natural calamities. As a result, the debt burden is increasing day by day. In these poor afflicted areas, the rate of social problems like child marriage, dowry, violence against women is very high. Although a variety of crop varieties and technologies have been developed to cope with the effects of climate change, Due to various constraints in remote coastal areas, it has not yet reached the marginal farmers.

### Initiatives to identify and list risky fishing trawlers that do not have adequate safety equipment



*Members of the small fisher's group are preparing the list of fishing trawlers that do not have the necessary safety equipment 28 Dec 21, Ilisha Union, Bhola Sadar, Bhola. Photo-Atiqur Rahman, TO, CJRF Project.*

Most of the coastal fishing trawlers in coastal areas do not have adequate safety equipment, under the pressure of moneylenders they have to go fishing in the sea during disasters, stay in the deep sea, but most trawlers do not have life jackets and safety buoys. These poor fishermen are working at the risk of their lives without safety equipment. Every year there are reports of fishing boats sinking due to disasters and fishermen's casualties. Last December, a trawler sank in Bhola Char Fashion due to the cyclone Ghalib in the Bay of Bengal.

Talking to the fishermen of the Ananda Bazar fishing ghat at Dhalchar, located at the mouth of the Bay of Bengal, south of Charfashion, it has been learned that there are 30-35 people in each of the deep-sea fishing trawlers while there are only 5-6 life jackets. At the risk of their lives, they complained that no one took any initiative in this regard.

The COAST CJRF project has formed marginal fisher's groups in its working area, holding regular meetings with them and implementing various capacity-building initiatives. The leaders of the small groups are observing various fishing grounds and preparing a list of risky fishing boats/trawlers which do not have adequate sea safety equipment which will be submitted to the Upazila Fisheries Department and local administration later.

Md. Mostafa, a representative of the small fisher's group at Tematta Fisher's Ghat in Ilisha Union of Bhola Sadar Upazila, said: We will prepare this list and hand it over to the local administration for effective action. We want the administration to take steps to ensure adequate sea safety equipment in each trawler.

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