

 **Advocacy**

 **Local Initiative**

 **Adaptation**



COAST is implementing the project titled "Climate Justice Resilience Fund" for adapting climate change impact in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. The project is being 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 Community Radio depicts the plight of Climate-Vulnerable Fishermen

Coastal Community Radio Meghna depicts the socio-economic condition and climate vulnerability of marginal fishermen who are living in Char fashion Upazila under the Bhola District that is isolated from the mainland of Bangladesh. This is a continuous initiative of Community Radio Meghna in cooperation with the COAST CJRF project to play a role in improving the living standards of marginal fishermen by motivating local government, administration, people's representatives, political figures, and stakeholders at different levels of society.

The lives and livelihoods of marginal fishermen in the coastal areas of Bangladesh are most at risk due to global climate change. They have not been able to go fishing in the sea for a long time now due to the intensity of frequent storms and tidal waves, and fish production is declining at a significant rate as normal growth, including fish breeding, is being hampered. Due to such a hostile environment, coastal fishermen have now become one of the most endangered communities.

The scenario of their socio-economic condition is very fragile, most of the fishermen do not have their own homes so they live on flood control embankment. On the one hand, just as there are problems with food, clothing, and shelter, they are being deprived of education and medical facilities.

Most of the time, they lose their boats and other resources due to storms. But they have bought these boats and resources with high-interest loans from local moneylenders, as a result of which their debt burden is increasing day by day. Social problems ratios e.g. child marriage, dowry, violence against women are very alarming in these marginalized vulnerable fisher's villages.

With the support of COAST CJRF project, Coastal Community Radio Meghna is broadcasting a series of programs and the plights of coastal fishermen are coming up.



Radio Meghna staff is taking interviewing and broadcasting live program of seagoing fishermen - Khejur Gachhia, Char Fashion, Bhola, 28 September

Life skills education through Adolescent Centers

One of the main objectives of the CJRF project is to empower school dropout adolescents by providing life skills education. Geographically Bangladesh is one of the most natural disaster-prone countries. The coastal areas, which are separated from the mainland of the country, are the worst sufferers due to calamities. Most of the people living in these coastal areas are farmers and fishermen by profession. They are being severely affected professionally by adverse effects of climate change



Teacher of Adolescent Centers are conducting session on life skills education - Monpura Bhola, 24 September 2021, Pic: COAST.

And are drifting towards poverty. Due to poverty, the prevalence of social problems here is much higher than in other places in the country e.g. child marriage, dowry system, violence against women, polygamy, etc.

Especially girls are lagging in education. Some are not getting the chance to go to school, and others are forcing to drop out of school for poverty. As a result, these girls living like a burden in society and their families. For this reason, the Coast CJRF project establishing and operating 12 Adolescent centers in the affected communities of Bhola and Kutubdia last September 21.

Adolescent centers will provide information and education throughout the year on 17 lessons, including child marriage, dowry and violence against women, personal hygiene, reproductive health care and alternative income generation, climate change, and disaster management.

Besides, various income-generating training will be organized for them and inputs will be provided which will contribute to increasing their economic capacity. This capacity will facilitate them to participate in the development of the family and society with dignity.

Campaigns to Expand Climate Adaptation Techniques for Building Community Resilience



Project staff conducting sessions among climate-affected communities to expand climate adaptation Techniques, South Dhurang, Kutubdia, 18 Sep, Pic: COAST

Due to the impact of climate change, the frequency of natural disasters in the coastal areas of Bangladesh is increasing. As a result of these disasters, the socio-economic status of local people and the scale of environmental disasters are becoming more pronounced. This change is directly or indirectly affecting the socio-economic activities of most the population i.e. around 90% of the population. Which is reducing the economic potential of the residents here.

In the Climate vulnerable coastal areas of Bangladesh, the CJRF project is implementing promotional activities and initiatives to expand various Climate- Adaptive Income-Generating Techniques at the community level [CAIGT]. The overall economy of these regions is declining alarmingly due to the damage caused by natural disasters caused by climate change.

Inspired by success, Khurshida Begum succeeded in rearing goats on scaffolding



Khurshida Begum is taking care of the goats in front of her own bamboo goat scaffolding, Lemshikhali, Kutubdia, Cox's Bazar, 7 Sept-21, Pic: COAST

Khurshid Begum is currently rearing goats in the scaffolding methods. The scaffolding is prepared by bamboo on one side of her backyard. In addition to her daily household work, she is now taking care of the goats regularly. At present, she has 7 Goats.

Khurshida Begum, a resident of Samira Para village in Lemshekhali Union of Kutubdia Upazila in Cox's Bazar district, now dreams of building a large goat farm and changing the fortunes of her family.

My husband died of an incurable disease, my scarcity family with 4 sons and 1 daughter. Every member of the family was living a dehumanized life as there was no way to earn an income. The education of children was stopped due to poverty. My father gave me a goat to earn a living, but the goat was almost sick in damp weather. There would be no profit, rather treatment costs are rising. I dropped the idea of raising goats and started thinking of something else. Khurshida Begum was saying these speaking while taking care of goats.

Asked where she got the idea of rearing goats in the scaffolding system, Khurshida Begum said, she took part in a courtyard meeting of the COAST CJRF project and got the initial idea of rearing goats on scaffolding methods. Shafia Begum, a resident of their village, was given a goat scaffolding from the CJRF project.

Inspired by the success of Safia Begum, she started raising goats by building scaffolding on her initiative. Asked about the benefits of this, she said that keeping goats in this method reduces the incidence of goat diseases, Goats do not have a cold, and this reduces the death rate of goats, goat feces and urine can be easily cleaned. Production of goats is better, more profit is made at a lower cost. Asked about her plans, she said, "I sold 3 big goats for Tk. 23,000 and bought 4 more small goats." I want to build a bigger scaffold and build a farm.

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Published and preserved from Project Office- Shyamoli, Dhaka

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