

Review Workshop



Review and Next Strategic Approach

Advocacy and Networking Program

Date: 08 March 2022

Venue: Training Room, PO

www.coastbd.net



Objective of the Workshop

- 1. To assess the performance and impact on COAST advocacy and networking program that will help to understand the scenario and able to compare between target versus achievement.**
- 2. Sectoral capacity will be assessed by this review especially on its existing HR [Knowledge based Human Resources], networking, financial strength and through identifying opportunities, challenges .**
- 3. Based on gathered inferences, the sector will draft some prioritized advocacy issues and activities for next five years period.**

Methodologies are Followed

- Desk study and gathered information on COAST advocacy & Networking activities.
- Issue discussed with selected Expert and taken opinion.
- Conduct internal review with senior colleagues
- Conduct Civil Society discourse and taken opinion



COAST Advocacy and Networking

Core Objective

Promote policy debate and practice changes through campaign and mobilization linking local, national and international level.

Strategy

- Networking and Civil Society Alliance building
- Policy Advocacy and practice change



COAST Advocacy and Networking

Expected Outcome

- Effective Civil Society developed
- **Critical thinking on developments issues in view of Political economy and Social Justice.**
- Civil societies are active for policy & practice change at micro and macro level.



COAST Advocacy and Networking

What COAST done

Building Network and CSO Alliance

- CAPRE and SUPRO [PRSP & MDG]
- EquityBD
- IRWD for women and child.
- CCNF [Cox's Bazar CSO-NGO Forum] for FDMN.
- BD-CSO Process for localization.
- BEF [Bangladesh Farmers Forum]
- A⁴EP [Alliance for Empowering Partnership] and
- **Active Informal network on climate justice, Tax justice, Salt, Fisherman mobilization etc.**



COAST Advocacy and Networking

What COAST done

Advocacy for Policy and Practice change

- Campaign for PRSP & Debt cancellation.
- Campaign against WB [World Bank] Immunity
- MDG Campaign
- Advocacy and campaign against WB involvement with BCCTF
- Build Civil Society opinion countrywide on formulating BCCSAP-2009.
- Campaign & Mobilization [national and international] against WTO and DFQF trade regime and TRIPS waiver for Pharmaceutical industries.
- Climate Change campaign [national international level], National climate budgeting, climate displacement [local, national & International level]
- Localization, Grand Bargaining and C⁴C [Charter for Change] for effective partnership
- Advocacy for developing Community Radio policy in BD.



What we achieved

- Inclusiveness; COAST built up the Platform and successfully include all stakeholders and address the all issues were important.
- Courage and space-making capacity. **COAST has able to create space for CSO/NGOs and promote them for advocacy & campaign on any issues either its against govt. policy, INGOs and their role etc.]**
- COAST progressive role-playing in terms of Localization [COAST has been fighting to separate the role of GO, NGO, INGO and local organization to ensure development effectiveness.
- **Diversified the localization issues among the NGO/CSOs countrywide.**
- **Low-cost embankment management policy reflected in National water policy.**
- Success in policy change by govt. on PRSP, WB Immunity, Com-Radio, climate budgeting and displacement mgt. policy etc.
- Success in campaigning on Voter education, Salt, Khas land distribute, rehabilitation of climate displacement, anti-hill cutting rail line in CxB, and RBA in MF.



Limitation of COAST Advocacy & Networking

- Alliance built up in view of personal ideology and thinking. That's why unity of these alliance are questionable.
- **NGO/CSOs advocacies are diverted to interest based [org. and personal] rather than ideological, values and knowledge driven.**
- **Lack of intellectual and alternative leadership development.**
- **Comfort zone advocacy. Less active on national issues comparing with other and easier global issues or connecting the both issues and harmonize.**
- **Less financial strength and support to Alliance members.**
- **Sometime populist campaign & advocacy [Lack of people centric advocacy].**
- **Very monotonous, lack of creativity and single form of advocacy & campaign. hardly continuation and momentum based.**
- **Lack of Evidence [Study and Research, Case develop] for advocacy.**



Challenges in future for Advocacy and Campaign.

- Ethical disaster; NGO/CSOs advocacies are diverted to interest based [org. and personal] rather than ideological, values and knowledge driven.
- Power dynamics and Civil Society position in the power structure is obscure.
- Lack of intellectual and alternative leadership development.
- Hardly access to information.
- Dirty competition among the NGOs. Donors are dividing the NGOs.
- Regulatory attitude of government.
- Force regulation due to Covid and Technological transformation.



Opportunities for COAST Advocacy & Networking

- Resume of Anti-Neoliberal campaign focusing economic and social justice.
- **Connect the local issues with national advocacy process.**
- **Inclusion of youth groups in different capacity-building and advocacy activities for future leadership development.**
- Select thematic based advocacy strategy as the issue-based campaign becoming a challenge.
- Study and campaign on the impact of LDC graduation.
- Study and campaign on the impact of 4th industrial revolution.
- GSP, FTA and GSP + etc. focusing the financial governance, Accountability and climate crisis.
- Alternative financing for advocacy and include the corporate sector in this field.
- Exploring the strategies to build capacity of non-MFI CSOs to address the issues and local level campaign.
- Peace and Security, digital divide.



Let us discuss-----