

Annual Progress Report-2025  
Empowering Coastal Communities Addressing Climate Change and Resilience Project

# FROM VULNERABILITY TO RESILIENCE

## *Fostering Inclusive and Community-Led Climate Action*



## Section-01

- A. Project Title: Empowering Coastal Communities to Address Climate Change and Build Resilience
- B. Reporting Period: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
- C. Project Duration: January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026
- D. Project Implementation Areas: Nine coastal districts, including Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Cox's Bazar, and Chattogram, covering remote and outreach communities.

## Section 02

### 1. Executive Summary:

With the financial and technical support of the Climate Justice and Resilience Fund, the COAST Foundation has successfully completed the second year of the project *"Empowering Coastal Communities Addressing Climate Change and Resilience."* This progress report covers the period from January 2025 to December 2025 and summarizes the project's objectives, implemented activities, achieved results, lessons learned, challenges encountered, and recommendations for future action.

The project is being implemented through a participatory approach across 13 sub-districts in 9 highly climate-vulnerable hotspot coastal districts (Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Noakhali, Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Khulna, and Satkhira) along Bangladesh's Bay of Bengal coastline. Throughout implementation, the project ensured close coordination with local stakeholders, administrative bodies, government and non-government representatives, and the affected communities, integrating their feedback into multi-faceted initiatives.

Gender-friendly, climate-adaptive income-generating techniques (CAIGTs) have been scaled up at the community level to enhance the economic security of coastal women. To strengthen further the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system and enhance community engagement. Various initiatives have been undertaken, including the development of a website, alongside training provided to staff. Community radio stations have established listener clubs with coastal adolescent girls and are continuing to build their capacity through information sharing and knowledge dissemination. These platforms have also implemented various initiatives focused on climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and early warning systems.

The project conducted continuous community sessions to promote sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience & DRR practices, and raised awareness on environmental and biodiversity conservation. Life-skills education and training for school-dropout adolescent girls have been provided through establishing adolescent learning center to fight against social inequalities. The project also supported economic empowerment through income-generating activities (IGAs). Local level advocacy, networking, and mobilization for sustainable

rehabilitation of climate-displaced families, enhancing the participation of marginal fishermen in sea safety measures and government social safety net programs. At the national and international levels, the project organized advocacy campaigns, human chains, meetings, and seminars to promote justice-based climate finance.

### 2. Core Objectives:

#### A. Economic Security & Climate Resilience

To increase the economic security and climate resilience of extremely climate-vulnerable households by reducing income erosion and livelihood shocks through the promotion, adoption, and scaling of Climate-Adaptive Income Generating Technologies (CAIGTs), integrated with disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate adaptation practices.

#### B. Gender Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility

To institutionalize gender equality, social inclusion, and disability-responsive practices across organizational governance, staffing, facilities, and project implementation, ensuring safe, inclusive, and accessible environments for women, girls, and persons with disabilities in all programs and operational spaces.

#### C. Community-Responsive MEAL Systems

To transform Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) systems to be more participatory, transparent, and community-responsive, strengthening feedback loops, accountability mechanisms, and adaptive learning informed directly by community voices.

#### D. Community Radio for Social Change & Resilience

To strengthen community radio stations as trusted local change agents that advance girls' rights, gender equality, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience, through inclusive content, community engagement, and evidence-based messaging.

#### E. Policy Influence & Systems Change

To promote evidence-based policy dialogue and influence decision-making at local, national, and regional levels through strategic advocacy, campaigns, community mobilization, and multi-stakeholder networks, amplifying the voices and priorities of climate-affected and marginalized communities.

### 3. Project Target Groups

The project targeted climate-vulnerable coastal communities disproportionately affected by climate impacts and development-related inequalities. Women and adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, were prioritized as key actors for socio-economic empowerment and climate resilience. Special emphasis was placed on sea-going marginal fishermen and fish laborers excluded from government Social Safety Net (SSN) services, climate-induced displaced populations, and households not yet covered by government rehabilitation programs. Program participants were selected through participatory, community-based consultation meetings and surveys, ensuring transparency and inclusion.





### Freshwater Scarcity in Coastal Area: A Community-Led Rainwater Conservation Initiative

Kutubdia, a low-lying island sub-district in southeastern coastal Bangladesh, is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Rising sea levels and declining groundwater levels have accelerated saline water intrusion, resulting in a severe freshwater crisis across the island. Over the past two decades, sea levels in Kutubdia have increased by approximately 8 millimeters—at a faster rate than in many other coastal regions. According to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), more than 12,000 deep tube wells have already become saline. If current trends continue, natural freshwater sources in Kutubdia are at risk of near-total depletion by 2050. To address this critical challenge, the project has selected several community ponds as model sites for rainwater conservation. These ponds are being renovated to increase water-holding capacity during the monsoon season and facilitate groundwater recharge into the aquifer.

Pond renovation work is currently underway. Pond embankments are being raised and widened to prevent saline water intrusion during high tides and storm surges. In addition, vegetables, fruit trees, and grass are being planted along the pond banks to improve nutrition, create supplementary livelihood opportunities, and prevent soil erosion. Community-based Pond Management Committees have been formed to ensure long-term operation, maintenance, and ownership. The intervention is expected to ensure year-round access to safe freshwater for climate-affected households, reducing their dependence on saline or unsafe water sources. By strengthening community ownership and promoting sustainable water management, the initiative will enhance local adaptive capacity, support household livelihoods, and build long-term resilience against escalating climate risks in Kutubdia.

## 4. Key Achievement [Core objectives and their outcome details from January 2025 to December 2025]

Core Objective-01: Enhance the economic security and resilience of highly climate-vulnerable families [100% women] by promoting Climate-Adaptive Income-Generating Techniques (CAIGTs)	
What important change(s) in this area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 465 climate-vulnerable coastal women successfully reduced recurring income losses and strengthened household economic stability by adopting locally led Climate-Adaptive Income-Generating Techniques (CAIGTs). These interventions enabled women to diversify livelihoods, cope with climate shocks, and secure more predictable income sources.</li> <li>The impact on household income was significant and measurable: 65% of participating households earned USD 50–55 per month, 21% earned USD 56–60, and 14% earned USD 61–65, reflecting improved earning capacity and reduced economic volatility in climate-affected communities.</li> <li>Beyond income gains, the adoption of CAIGTs contributed to women's economic empowerment, improved fulfillment of household nutritional needs, and increased engagement in income-generating activities. As a result, women's participation in household decision-making increased, enhancing their social status, confidence, and influence within both families and communities.</li> <li>In parallel, capacity building on climate-resilient livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was delivered through 117 community-based sessions, reaching 2,357 coastal community members—including 80% women, 18% men, and 2% persons with disabilities. Participants gained practical knowledge on climate adaptation, resilient livelihood practices, and disaster preparedness. These efforts collectively strengthened household economic resilience, reduced vulnerability to climate risks, and enhanced community preparedness in highly climate-exposed coastal areas.</li> </ul>
What contributed to this change (project activity and/or other)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project provided direct support to 87 vulnerable households through the provision of inputs and hands-on technical guidance for the adoption of Climate-Adaptive Income-Generating Techniques (CAIGTs). These included sack-based and raised-bed vegetable cultivation, integrated fish–vegetable–fruit production systems, pilot vegetable cultivation, and goat rearing using the scaffolding method—enabling households to adopt context-appropriate, climate-resilient livelihood options.</li> <li>The demonstrated economic viability of these CAIGTs acted as a catalyst for wider uptake, leading 378 additional households to voluntarily adopt similar practices without direct material support—indicating strong community acceptance, scalability, and sustainability of the interventions.</li> <li>Ongoing capacity building, technical assistance, and mentoring played a critical role in ensuring effective adoption, improved productivity, and long-term sustainability of CAIGTs, while strengthening beneficiaries' confidence to manage climate-related risks.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In parallel, the project conducted 117 community-based capacity-strengthening sessions, reaching populations most affected by climate impacts—including women, adolescent girls, men, youth, and persons with disabilities from fisherfolk, farming, and climate-displaced communities. These sessions enhanced knowledge and practical skills related to climate-resilient livelihoods, adaptation strategies, and disaster preparedness, contributing to increased resilience at both household &amp; community levels.</li> <li>▪ Fourteen user-friendly leaflets on 14 selected Climate-Adaptive Income Generating Techniques (CAIGTs) have been developed in the local language and distributed among climate-vulnerable community members, based on locally successful models from coastal Bangladesh. The leaflets promote adaptive farming, livestock rearing, and integrated production systems suited to saline and waterlogged conditions. This initiative is expected to enhance household climate resilience, promote the regular adoption of adaptive practices, and mitigate economic losses.</li> </ul>
How do these changes support the organization's strategic plan?	These changes directly advance the organization's strategic priorities by strengthening household economic resilience, scaling climate-adaptive livelihood practices, and empowering women as active economic and social actors. By increasing women's participation in household and community decision-making, the interventions contribute to inclusive, sustainable development and long-term resilience in climate-vulnerable coastal communities.
<b>Core Objective-02: Strengthen gender equity within organizational facilities, staff, management, and project accommodations, including provisions for people with disabilities.</b>	
What important change(s) in this area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ COAST has made measurable progress toward its organizational commitment to gender equality and inclusive participation. The overall female-to-male staff ratio currently stands at 34:66. Within development projects, women now constitute 52% of staff, while in the microfinance program, the ratio is 27:73. These trends demonstrate steady advancement toward the organization's strategic target of achieving a 50:50 gender balance by 2027, supported by ongoing, program-specific measures to ensure parity across all operational areas. A total of 36 persons of disable have received financial assistance.</li> <li>▪ Targeted gender-responsive strategies have also led to a significant increase in female participation across programs. Between January and December 2025, women's participation in all development projects rose to 71%, while participation in microfinance programs reached 97%, underscoring the effectiveness of inclusive outreach and engagement approaches.</li> <li>▪ Under the CJRF-funded project, a total of 76,896 individuals participated in various interventions, reflecting extensive community outreach and strong inclusivity. Of these participants, 59,855 were women (78%), 16,337 were men (21%), and 704 were persons with disabilities (1%), highlighting the project's commitment to gender equity and the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups.</li> <li>▪ To ensure a safe and enabling environment, the organization has implemented a comprehensive Gender and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy. This has strengthened institutional accountability, enhanced women's confidence, reduced safeguarding risks, and enabled safer, more active participation of women across programs. [ Video X/twitter: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A718">https://url-shortener.me/A718</a> ]</li> <li>▪ Additionally, 375 front-line COAST staff members received training on Gender-Responsive Climate-Adaptive Income-Generating Techniques (CAIGTs), including 248 women and 127 men. These trained staff have strengthened their technical expertise and are now cascading this knowledge to climate-affected women at the community level, contributing directly to women's economic empowerment, leadership, and resilience.</li> </ul>



**Building Resilience through Promoting Climate-Adaptive Income Generating Techniques (CAIGTs):** The project is implementing community-level orientation to promote CAIGTs and strengthen the resilience capacity of communities. As part of the community-based orientation, 14 user-friendly leaflets on selected 14 CAIGTs have been developed in the local language. Based on locally successful models from coastal Bangladesh, these tailored leaflets have been distributed among community members to promote the adoption of climate-adaptive livelihoods. [ Video link: <https://surl.li/qflivp> ] [ All Leaflets: <https://surl.li/zcndrg> ]

The leaflets cover practices such as vegetable cultivation using sack, bed, and sorjan methods in waterlogged areas; goat rearing on raised platforms; integrated farming systems (fish, fruit, and vegetables); vermicomposting; duck rearing; use of leaf color charts; porous pipes; fodder cultivation; and mini hatcheries, among others. Through this initiative, climate-vulnerable families are expected to enhance their resilience, adopt climate-adaptive practices regularly, increase household income, and reduce economic losses.



What contributed to this change (project activity and/or other)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Work Placement: A staff transfer circular was introduced to enable female colleagues to work within or near their home areas. This measure has enhanced socio-economic security, improved work-life balance, and contributed to a reduction in female staff dropout rates.</li> <li>Gender-Sensitive Recruitment: Recruitment processes were strengthened through gender-responsive job circulars that prioritize women applicants. Screening mechanisms were also applied to exclude candidates with any links to child marriage or gender-based violence, reinforcing the organization's commitment to safeguarding and ethical employment practices.</li> <li>Capacity Building and Policy Orientation: The organization reviewed and updated its Gender Policy and ensured 100% staff orientation on gender inclusion, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and respectful workplace behavior. These efforts have strengthened institutional awareness, accountability, and sensitivity toward female staff and program participants.</li> <li>Staff Engagement and Feedback Mechanisms: A total of 42 gender-focused meetings, organized by seven regional gender committees, provided structured platforms for female staff to share experiences, raise concerns, and contribute recommendations directly to gender focal points—supporting participatory decision-making and responsive management.</li> <li>Health and Well-Being Initiatives: To promote staff well-being, 12 online health awareness sessions were conducted for all female staff, contributing to improved health literacy, confidence, and workplace engagement.</li> <li>Technical Capacity Development: In addition, 16 batches of training were delivered to front-line organizational staff on Gender-Responsive Climate-Adaptive Income-Generating Techniques (CAIGTs). These trainings strengthened staff capacity to integrate gender perspectives into climate-resilient livelihood programming and to effectively support women at the community level.</li> </ul>
How do these changes support the organization's strategic plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These changes directly advance COAST's strategic objective of achieving gender parity (50:50) across staff, management, and program participation by strengthening safe, inclusive, and gender-responsive work environments. Collectively, these measures have contributed to a gradual reduction in female staff dropout rates and improved retention.</li> <li>In parallel, proactive recruitment, promotion, &amp; leadership development practices are increasing women's representation at the management level, laying the foundation for sustained gender equity, inclusive decision-making, &amp; institutional accountability across organizational operations and development projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Core Objective-03: Shifting Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) systems to better include and respond to community members</b>	
What important change(s) in this area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A measurable shift has taken place in how community voices are integrated into COAST's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) processes. Community feedback mechanisms evolved from informal, ad hoc practices to systematic collection, review, and response across 15 COAST projects. As a result, the MEAL system increasingly functioned as a platform for two-way accountability, with community perspectives directly informing project decisions. This shift improved the relevance, responsiveness, and community alignment of interventions, reducing gaps between implementation and local priorities.</li> <li>Significant progress was also achieved in information accessibility and transparency. Project activities, progress, and results are now more consistently documented and shared, enabling stakeholders—including community members—to better understand, monitor, and engage with project implementation. This strengthened downward accountability, enhanced trust, and reduced information asymmetries between implementing teams and the communities they serve.</li> <li>At the organizational level, a strategic transition is underway toward a more integrated, transparent, and responsive MEAL system [ <a href="http://meal.coastbd.net/">http://meal.coastbd.net/</a>]. COAST is moving from fragmented, project-based information management to a centralized, real-time digital platform, enabling timely access to program data for internal teams and external stakeholders, including community members. This shift represents a foundational transformation in how evidence is generated, shared, and used to support learning, adaptive management, and accountability.</li> </ul>



Real fishermen are being excluded from government benefits, while others get them. They demand rice and food assistance before the fishing ban, error-free Registration and exclusion of non-fishermen. Registration and exclusion of non-fishermen. Cards should reach fishermen directly, not through middlemen. Support should include dignified compensation, ration systems

For small fisher families, and alternative income options. News link: <https://url-shortener.me/A2SV> As part of the project initiative, small fishermen's groups organized a series of human chains across coastal areas to demand fair and transparent government support. They highlighted the urgent need for the timely provision of government food assistance to genuine fishermen during the fishing ban. At present, such assistance often fails to reach the intended beneficiaries, forcing fishermen to take additional loans to meet basic food needs and creating a serious food security crisis during the ban period.

This social mobilization enabled 27,105 seagoing marginal fisher families to receive food assistance at the start of the fishing ban. By reducing household food expenses, the assistance allowed all families to preserve their limited savings, enhancing their financial resilience during the ban period.

What contributed to this change (project activity and/or other)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under MEAL supervision, 56 community feedback meetings were conducted across 15 projects, supported by structured coordination meetings between the MEAL Department and project teams. This ensured that community feedback was analyzed and translated into actionable program adjustments.</li> <li>The change was driven by the institutionalization of standardized, bilingual monthly desktop newsletters across all projects under MEAL oversight. By producing and disseminating 180 newsletters in Bangla and English, the MEAL Department ensured consistency in content, quality, and frequency of information sharing. The wide dissemination of these newsletters, including through social media platforms, expanded reach beyond internal stakeholders and reinforced transparency as a core operational practice rather than an ad hoc effort.</li> <li>The change is driven by the deliberate development of a real-time, web-based MEAL system under MEAL leadership. Recognizing limitations in manual and decentralized reporting, the project invested in a digital solution designed to consolidate program data, standardize reporting, and enable real-time analysis. This initiative reflects an organizational commitment to improving data quality, timeliness, and accessibility and evidence-based learning, thereby strengthening accountability to donors, partners, and communities.</li> </ul> <p>[ MEAL Workshop Report: <a href="https://coastbd.net/web-based-monitoring/">https://coastbd.net/web-based-monitoring/</a> ]</p>
How do these changes support the organization's strategic plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These changes directly support the organization's strategic commitment to community-centered programming, accountability, and quality improvement. By embedding community feedback into planning and implementation cycles, the MEAL system strengthens downward accountability and enhances program effectiveness.</li> <li>The shift also contributes to organizational learning by enabling adaptive management based on community-informed evidence, thereby advancing strategic goals related to sustainable impact, responsiveness, and trust-building with communities.</li> <li>These changes directly support the organization's strategic priorities related to transparency, accountability, and inclusive stakeholder engagement. By making project information accessible in local and international languages, the MEAL system strengthens trust with communities and partners, promotes informed participation, and reinforces a culture of accountability and learning that underpins effective and sustainable program implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>Core Objective-04: Strengthening community radio stations as change agents for girls' rights &amp; community resilience</b>	
What important change(s) in this area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 384 school-dropout coastal adolescent girls were engaged in income-generating activities, among the participants, 46% were involved in vegetable gardening through climate-adaptive agriculture farming, 21% in poultry and duck rearing, 18% in fruit gardening, 4% in goat rearing, 6% in pigeon rearing, 3% in tailoring, while the remaining 3% participated in other income-generating activities.</li> <li>As a result of their participation in IGAs, 67% of the adolescent girls earned a monthly income of USD 20–25, 21% earned USD 26–30, 9% earned USD 31–35, and 3% earned more than USD 35 per month.</li> <li>Through active engagement in income-generating activities, coastal adolescent girls are contributing to household income, enhancing their financial independence, and strengthening their self-confidence and social standing within their families and communities.</li> <li>A total of 425 coastal adolescent girls demonstrated significant improvement in self-confidence, leadership, and civic engagement, positioning them as active advocates for girls' rights and community wellbeing.</li> <li>Increased community-level awareness and commitment: Through courtyard meetings organized by 19 Radio Listener Clubs and girls from 4 Adolescent Learning Centers, key messages on preventing child marriage, eliminating gender-based violence and dowry, forest conservation, and health and hygiene practices were disseminated to 15,876 community members, including women, men, adolescent girls, and local influencers. As a result, 85% of participants reported increased awareness, and an equal proportion expressed their commitment to discontinue harmful social practices and adopt positive behaviors.</li> </ul>



#### Climate Displacement & Sustainable Rehabilitation: Call for Ensuring Basic Human Rights & Employment Through Robust, Integrated Local Initiatives

Speakers at a series of seminars in coastal Bangladesh warned that government responses to climate-induced displacement remain short-term, fragmented, and relief-centric, failing to ensure sustainable rehabilitation.

They criticized current practices that relocate displaced families to remote and disaster-prone areas, effectively turning rehabilitation into repeated displacement. Speakers emphasized the need for integrated, livelihood-centered rehabilitation approaches, including mainstreaming climate displacement into development plans, strengthening local government capacity, and creating local employment opportunities. The seminars were held in December 2025 across several coastal districts under the COAST Climate Change and Resilience Project, with participation from government, CSOs, media, and displaced communities. News link: <https://url-shortener.me/A2L2>

As a result of frequent advocacy, 5,356 families received essential healthcare, 3,221 families received critical winterization support, and 5,439 families gained sustainable access to safe drinking water. These interventions enhanced quality of life, promoted equitable access to basic services, and strengthened accountability and transparency in rehabilitation programs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These results indicate a clear shift from awareness to collective community responsibility, contributing to stronger social cohesion and resilience in climate-vulnerable coastal areas.</li> <li>More than 46,700 members of coastal communities, predominantly women, adolescents, and sea-going fishermen, have been reached with critical life skills and resilience-building knowledge through community radio programming.</li> </ul>
What contributed to this change (project activity and/or other)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adolescent girls facilitated 588 courtyard meetings over the reporting period.</li> <li>Community radio stations played a pivotal role by broadcasting 37 rights-based, gender-transformative programs on child marriage, GBV, dowry, health, and environmental protection. Amplifying girls' voices and leadership stories, increasing their visibility and credibility as change agents.</li> <li>Supporting 19 community radio listener clubs and establishment and support of 4 Adolescent Learning Centers, providing structured life-skills and leadership education with capacity development for adolescent girls on: Leadership and public speaking, rights awareness and advocacy, community facilitation and dialogue, and integration of small-scale income-generating activities, which enhanced girls' confidence, social standing, and family support.</li> </ul>
How do these changes support the organization's strategic plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The initiative directly supports the organization's commitment to empowering adolescent girls as rights holders, leaders, and decision-makers, particularly in marginalized coastal contexts.</li> <li>Increased social cohesion, leadership, and awareness of environmental protection and health practices contribute to resilient, informed, and adaptive communities.</li> <li>Community radio and listener clubs provide cost-effective, replicable mechanisms for reaching diverse audiences, while empowered girls continue to act as long-term catalysts for change.</li> </ul>

**Core Objective-05: Continuation of advocacy campaigns and networks, especially for implementation of the national disaster management policy, and to address the rising role of adaptation and L&D finance on the UN agenda**

What important change(s) in this area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening locally-led integrated management processes: 6 sub-district administrations have taken important decisions to improve the quality of basic services for marginalized sea-going fishing communities and displaced families who are living in government rehabilitation shelters (Asrayon and cluster village)</li> <li>Under the project initiative, through strengthened social mobilization and ongoing advocacy/ lobbying efforts, a total of 27,105 climate-vulnerable seagoing marginal fisher families received food assistance at the start of the ban period. Free rice reduced household food expenses, allowing 100% of families to preserve their limited savings. At the same time, guaranteed access to food decreased the reliance on high-interest loans of fisher households. This assistance effectively contributed to ensuring food security, financial stability, and social protection for fisher families during the ban period.</li> <li>Enhancing Sea Safety Measures for Sea-Going Fisher Trawlers: Sea-going marginal small fisher group members have actively advocated for adequate and appropriate sea safety equipment. They compiled a list of 7,354 trawlers lacking essential safety gear, which has been officially submitted to government authorities. These efforts are expected to improve safety, reduce occupational risks, and strengthen the resilience and well-being of small-scale fishing communities.</li> <li>A total of 256 trained local climate-displaced monitoring group members have actively overseen rehabilitation efforts, resulting in: 5,356 families accessing essential healthcare, 3,221 families receiving critical winter support, and 5,439 families gaining sustainable access to safe drinking water. These interventions have improved living conditions, enhanced equitable access to basic services, and strengthened accountability and transparency in rehabilitation programs.</li> </ul>
--	---



**Community Radio: Voices of Coastal People**

Under the project initiative, nine coastal community radio stations have been engaged year-round to broadcast

Magazines, packaged programs, and news bulletins. This ongoing information dissemination has played a critical role in enhancing the climate resilience of vulnerable coastal populations, particularly women, adolescent girls, sea-going fishers, and farmers.

These programs deliver essential life skills and knowledge, enabling communities to prepare for and respond effectively to climate-related challenges. Key topics include climate-adaptive livelihood practices, pre- and post-disaster preparedness, personal health and hygiene, awareness of child marriage and prevention of gender-based violence, weather updates, protecting the aquatic biodiversity, and access to government services. [ Video link: <https://surl.li/vhtvsp> ]

By providing timely, locally relevant information, the initiative has strengthened community capacity to manage climate risks, protect livelihoods, and build long-term resilience.



What contributed to this change (project activity and/or other)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project conducted 12 advocacy seminars, 21 lobby meetings, and 14 community-based mobilization activities, including human chains, at the local level. These initiatives engaged local authorities to prioritize service improvements and promote the inclusion of marginalized sea-going fishermen and displaced families.</li> <li>▪ The project strengthened the capacity of 345 marginalized sea-going fisher group members and 275 local climate-displaced monitoring group members by providing information and knowledge, facilitating regular group meetings, and building their advocacy and lobbying skills. In parallel, the project maintained coordinated engagement with local government authorities through regular advocacy and lobbying meetings to promote responsive and inclusive service delivery.</li> </ul>
How do these changes support the organization's strategic plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ These efforts enhance the organization's strategic plan of promoting inclusive, community-driven disaster response and sustainable rehabilitation, ensuring that climate-vulnerable populations have equitable access to basic services.</li> <li>▪ These types of initiatives align with the organization's strategic plan to protect vulnerable livelihoods, promote occupational safety, and build climate- and disaster-resilient communities.</li> </ul>

## Section 03

### A. Financial Performance and Fund Utilization:

The total approved budget for the second year of project implementation (January 2025–December 2025) was USD. 94,224 (BDT.10,712,393). During this reporting period, the project successfully utilized USD. 82,992 (BDT 99,20,392), reflecting an overall fund utilization rate of 88%.

### B. Lessons Learned

#### a) Inclusive participation strengthens project ownership

**& impact:** The active involvement of women, youth, and marginalized groups significantly enhanced community ownership of project activities. Their participation ensured that interventions were better aligned with local needs and realities, leading to more effective implementation and stronger community commitment to sustaining outcomes beyond the project period.

#### b) Strengthened coordination among local authorities, NGOs, and community committees leads to more effective and timely responses to climate-related risks and displacement challenges:

The project demonstrated that structured collaboration across multiple stakeholders improved planning, decision-making, and implementation at the local level. Regular coordination meetings and joint actions enabled quicker identification of emerging risks, better resource mobilization, and clearer role delineation among actors. As a result, responses to displacement situations and climate-induced challenges became more targeted, inclusive, and context-specific, reducing gaps in service delivery & enhancing community trust in response mechanisms.

#### c) Community voices strengthen legitimacy and advocacy

**impact:** Community-led actions, such as the human chain protest, amplified local concerns and increased public and media attention. Meaningful participation of affected farmers, fishermen—especially women—enhances the credibility and urgency of advocacy efforts.

#### d) Multi-stakeholder coordination enhances problem-solving capacity:

Collaboration among civil society organizations, local authorities, farmer groups, and media platforms strengthened collective advocacy and highlighted the need for coordinated, area-wide solutions rather than isolated actions.

### C. Challenges during this period:

**a) Extreme Weather Events:** Recurring extreme weather events, including floods, cyclones, and prolonged salinity intrusion, disrupted livelihood activities and damaged productive assets. These shocks periodically reduced income flows, interrupted production cycles, and increased recovery time for women-led enterprises, highlighting the ongoing exposure of coastal livelihoods to climate variability despite the adoption of climate-adaptive techniques.

**b) Limited Market Linkages for Women:** Women faced significant barriers in accessing stable and profitable markets for their products. Constraints included limited market information, weak bargaining power, dependence on middlemen, and mobility restrictions. As a result, women are often selling products at lower prices, which reduces overall income potential and limits the long-term sustainability of income-generating activities.

### D. Case Study

#### Case-01: "Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Ensuring Food Security and Coastal Women's Livelihoods "

##### Story of Change: Roksana Khatun



Roksana Khatun, a resident of Deulia village in Bhurulia Union, is a successful participant in the project. Using 20 cultivation sacks, she grows salt-tolerant vegetables such as brinjal, tomato, chili, and gourd on unused land beside her home. Her produce now meets her family's daily nutritional needs, and by selling the surplus, she earns approximately \$40–42.



*"If we plant vegetables directly in the soil, the seedlings die because of the salt—I tried many times before. But vegetables grown in sacks grow very well. Now I can produce food for my family and earn money by selling the excess." She adds, "We no longer need to buy vegetables from the market. However, we do not always receive a fair price. As women, it is difficult to travel to distant markets. Due to weak market systems, many of us are deprived of fair returns."*

Roksana's success demonstrates how simple, climate-adaptive techniques can restore both food production and income for women in saline-affected regions.

## Case-02: Adolescent Learning Center Empowers Girls to Prevent Child Marriage

Farzana (13) from Banshbaria, Dashmina, Patuakhali had to leave school after completing class seven due to her family's financial hardship. Following local social norms, her father planned to give her marry against her wishes. Farzana turned to her teacher, Maria Begum, and the girl leaders of the Basbaria Adolescent Learning Center, who intervened and engaged local stakeholders, including former Union Parishad Chairman Altaf Hossain Akon. Through their collective action and awareness-raising on



Farzana (left) with her mother. Farzana has returned to the Adolescent Learning Center and is confidently pursuing her education, determined to become self-reliant. Dashmina, Patuakhali | Photo: Atikur, COAST

Today, Farzana has returned to the learning center, continuing her education with renewed confidence for a self-reliant future.

## Case-03: Economic empowerment gives confidence to coastal adolescents like Mariam



Adolescent girls from marginalized fishing and displaced families in coastal areas of Bangladesh face high risks of

child marriage due to economic pressures. Under the COAST Climate Change & Resilience Project, 240 girls received training in climate-adaptive agriculture Poultry, and livestock, along with seeds, saplings, and ducklings to start small income-generating activities. Mariam (11), displaced multiple times by river erosion, planted a vegetable garden that now meets her family's

## Case-04: Coastal Women Boost Family Income Through Scaffolded Goat Rearing

Women from climate-vulnerable families in Madraz, Charfashion, Bhola are adopting scaffolded goat rearing as an alternative income source. Salma Begum (45), whose husband is a long-term ill fisherman, struggled to support her family of four children and had lost her homestead multiple times to river erosion. Previously, she raised goats on the kitchen floor, which led to frequent disease & losses, making the enterprise unprofitable.



In June 2024, through the COAST Climate Change and Resilience Project, Salma received a goat-rearing scaffold. Starting with four goats, she now has nine. The scaffolded method keeps the floor dry, allows proper ventilation, reduces disease, and lowers costs while increasing profits. This simple, climate-adaptive technique is helping women like Salma enhance food security and income despite challenging conditions. 11 August 2025, Madraz, Char Fashion, Bhola | Photo: Atikur, COAST.

## Case-05: Highlighting Coastal Fishers for Policy Change: Fishermen's Human Rights Must be Prioritized in Climate Negotiations



Fisherfolk Struggles and Civil Society Perspectives," organized by COAST Foundation at the CIRDAP Auditorium, Topkhana Road, Dhaka, the Director of the

Department of Environment, Bangladesh, Mr. Ziaul Haque, acknowledged critical gaps in national policy.

He stated that it is true that coastal fishing communities have received limited attention in Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). While fisher communities are mentioned, the specific challenges faced by coastal fishers are not adequately reflected, but there is an opportunity to address this gap during the upcoming NAP revision process planned for 2027-28. [Video link: <https://web.facebook.com/share/v/14SWvwYdNKd/> ]



Mr. Haque highly appreciated COAST Foundation's three-page position paper and presentation, noting that it comprehensively captures nearly all key issues affecting coastal fishers. He described the document as a valuable resource and confirmed that it would be used at the government level to inform future policy processes. News link: <https://url-shortener.me/A446>

#### Case-06: Yasmin Finds Her Confidence through the Community Radio Listener Club

Yasmin is a 19-year-old speech-impaired girl from Char Madraj Union in Charfassion, who grew up facing isolation and exclusion due to widespread misconceptions about her abilities. Despite her age, Yasmin had never attended school, could not write her own name, and lacked basic numeracy skills. Her family believed she was incapable of learning and therefore restricted her movement, education, and social interaction.



The situation began to change when members of a local Community Radio Club learned about Yasmin's condition and visited her family. Through repeated discussions and courtyard meetings, the club members raised awareness among her parents about disability inclusion, confidence-building, and the importance of social interaction. Yasmin was gradually encouraged to participate in club activities and community meetings.

This intervention has not only transformed Yasmin's confidence and self-worth but has also changed her family's mindset, demonstrating how community-based engagement and inclusive communication can empower persons with disabilities and foster long-term resilience.



With continuous encouragement and support, Yasmin slowly gained confidence. She learned to write her own name, developed basic numeracy skills, and became more comfortable communicating with others. Today, Yasmin is active member of the Radio Club and regularly listens to community radio programs that promote life skills, health awareness, and social inclusion. [Yasmin (Left), Picture: Radio Meghna, Bhola]

## Section-05

### A. Key Activity Target & Achievement Matrix [From January 2025 to December 2025]

Activity name	Target	Achieve
<b>Core objective indicator-01: Enhance economic security &amp; resilience of extreme climate vulnerable coastal families by reducing income erosion through the promotion and practice of CAIGTs climate resilience &amp; DRR</b>		
a) Community Orientations [Fisher, Youth, Women, Adolescents, and persons with disabilities, etc.] were conducted on CAIGTs, Climate Change, DRR, etc. [No. of event]	120	117
b) Propagation of climate adaptive income-generating techniques (CAIGTs), like Sack gardening, Sorjon method, Goat rearing in the scaffold method, Demonstrations on saline-tolerant agriculture farming: Financial/input to climate-vulnerable households [100% Women] [Number of families]	90	87
c) Providing input support to the climate vulnerable women, Climate Resilient Farming [Saline-tolerant Seeds, organic fertilizers, etc.] [Number of Families]	400	400
d) Strengthening rainwater conservation by digging ponds as a nature-based solution to alleviate freshwater scarcity and improve economic viability through integrated farming practices of climate-vulnerable communities [Number of ponds]	5	5
e) Orientation on climate-resilient farming for small farmers [Batches]	2	2



<b>Core objective indicator-02: Strengthening gender equity within the organization's facilities, staff &amp; management</b>		
a) Regional-based gender development committees meeting [No. of events]	42	42
b) Online health awareness meeting for female staff central to the field [No. of event]	12	12
c) Training for front-line organizational staff on Gender-Responsive Climate-Adaptive Income-Generating Techniques (CAIGTs) to effectively support women at the community level.	18	17
<b>Core objective indicator-03: Shifting Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) systems to better include and respond to community members</b>		
a) A strategic transition toward a more integrated, transparent, and responsive Web-Based MEAL system	1	Ongoing
<b>Core objective indicator-04 Strengthening COAST's community radio stations as change agents for girls' rights and community resilience</b>		
a) Orientations for CR Listener Group leaders on Child Marriage, Climate Change, DRR, SRHR, Gender-Based Violence, etc. [No. of event]	2	2
b) Community orientations through courtyard meetings on socio-economic issues like health & hygiene, sanitation, Climate Change, DRR, stopping child marriage & GBVs, etc. by CR Listener Group [Number of events]	600	588
c) Magazines, talk shows, and radio reports on key socio-economic and climate resilience issues were regularly broadcast through community radio (CR) stations. [Number of programs]	40	40
d) Monitoring & reporting on social injustice [Act as Social Informer Child Marriage and GBVs] by CR Listener Groups [ Number of visits]	60	57
e) Engaged youth & adolescent girls [Event in School & college] on social mobilization & action issues to reduce social violence, Climate Change & DRR, etc. [No. of event]	12	09
f) Providing life-skills education focused on economic and climate-resilient issues through the operation of education centers for school dropout coastal adolescents	04	04
g) Capacity building workshop with adolescent learning centers teachers & peer leaders on selective learning season and other operational issues of adolescent learning centers [Number of workshops]	02	02
<b>Core objective indicator-05 Continuation of advocacy campaigns and networks, especially for the implementation of the national disaster management policy, and to address the rising role of adaptation and L&amp;D finance on the UN agenda</b>		
a) Meeting of marginal Fisher's group as a local bargaining agent: to access government services, especially fishers' safety and SSNPs (Social Safety Net Programs). Number of meetings	45	39
b) Bi-monthly meetings of Local CSO groups to develop local CSO groups for monitoring the displacement, reporting, and local advocacy for rehabilitation [Number of meetings]	42	37
c) Sub-district level seminar for strengthening locally led/coordinated displacement management for sustainable rehabilitation [ Number of Seminars]	06	06
d) Sub-district level seminar focusing on fishers' rights and the Government Social Safety Net Program issues [ Number of Seminars]	08	08
e) National-level seminars for adequate climate finance in the national budget for [ sustainable embankment, displacement management, etc.] coastal protection issues [ Number of Seminars]	02	01
f) National-level seminar on Bangladesh's position and civil society opinions on the Global Climate Conference by focusing on Adaptation and L& D Finance for LDCs and MVCs [ Number of Seminars]	02	02
g) Seminar/press conference on CoP issues [State roles and CSO positions]	07	06
h) Organized community-based mobilizations by involving youth groups on ensuring gender budget, stopping child marriage, GBV, sustainable coastal embankments, fisherman rights, stopping plastic use to safe environment, etc. [ No of mobilizations]	17	14
i) Community Orientation on earthquakes, reducing single-use plastic, waste management, etc. [Audiovisual]	20	16
j) School & College-based orientations on earthquakes, reducing single-use plastic, waste management, climate resilience, reducing social injustice, etc.	15	11
k) Digital Campaign: Animation video making for building social awareness on earthquakes, reducing single-use plastic, waste management, and cyberbullying through social media	06	03

## B. Media Coverage [Links to key interventions will be mentioned here]:

SL.	Name of the event	Title	Media Link
01	Local-level seminar for strengthening locally-led displacement management	Speakers at Seminar on Challenges of Climate Displacement & Sustainable Rehabilitation; Ensure basic rights & employment through robust, integrated local initiatives	A. The Finance Today: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A2L2">https://url-shortener.me/A2L2</a> B. Spotlightnews24.com: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6Q7">https://url-shortener.me/A6Q7</a> C. climatejournal24.com: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6QV">https://url-shortener.me/A6QV</a>
02	National seminar for sustainable fishermen's livelihood	A. Experts urge an integrated livelihood approach for Bangladesh's small-scale fishers B. Fishing ban hits poor fishermen hard, study finds C. Fishermen's rights must take center in climate talks	A. The Business Standard: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6WB">https://url-shortener.me/A6WB</a> B. The Financial Express: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6WW">https://url-shortener.me/A6WW</a> C. The Daily New Nation: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6YS">https://url-shortener.me/A6YS</a> D. Video (X/twitter): <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A70T">https://url-shortener.me/A70T</a> E. Video (X/twitter): <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A71Q">https://url-shortener.me/A71Q</a>

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 03 Community Mobilization [Human chain]   | <p>A. Real fishermen are deprived, but others get benefits. Ensure food assistance to real fishermen before the ban period</p> <p>B. Human chain to stop encroachment of salt, shrimp and crab farming on crop land; Call for enforcing Laws and supporting alternative livelihoods for affected farmers</p> <p>C. Human chain calls for self-funding disaster resilience plans, more attention to coastal protection</p> | <p>A. The Finance Today: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A2SV">https://url-shortener.me/A2SV</a></p> <p>B. The Finance Today: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6S2">https://url-shortener.me/A6S2</a></p> <p>C. climatejournal24.com: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6TE">https://url-shortener.me/A6TE</a></p> <p>D. UNB: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6Y8">https://url-shortener.me/A6Y8</a></p> <p>E. Video (X/twitter): <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A71W">https://url-shortener.me/A71W</a></p> <p>F. Video (X/twitter): <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A74S">https://url-shortener.me/A74S</a></p> |
| 04 Seminar on the National Budget 2024-25; Climate finance allocation & CSOs perspectives | <p>A. 0.67pc climate allocation of GDP is insufficient and unacceptable; Initiatives to bring back laundered money are essential to meet the budget deficit</p> <p>B. Allocate 3pc of GDP for climate finance</p> <p>C. Govt urged to allocate 3% of GDP in the budget as climate finance</p>   | <p>A. The Finance Today: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6U5">https://url-shortener.me/A6U5</a></p> <p>B. Daily observer: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6UL">https://url-shortener.me/A6UL</a></p> <p>C. The Financial Express: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6UT">https://url-shortener.me/A6UT</a></p> <p>D. UNB: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6VQ">https://url-shortener.me/A6VQ</a></p> <p>E. Video (X/twitter): <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A71S">https://url-shortener.me/A71S</a></p>  |
| 05 Press conference titled "LDCs & MVC Peoples' Expectations and CoP 30."                 | <p>A. CSOs urge at Belem [CoP-30] climate conference, Struggle will continue until trillion-dollar needs are met</p> <p>B. Activists push for trillion-dollar climate fund, stronger NDCs at COP30</p>  | <p>A. The Finance Today: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6ZH">https://url-shortener.me/A6ZH</a></p> <p>B. The Business Standard: <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A6ZQ">https://url-shortener.me/A6ZQ</a></p> <p>C. Video (X/twitter): <a href="https://url-shortener.me/A70I">https://url-shortener.me/A70I</a></p>   |



Prepared by

**Md. ABUL HASAN**  
Project Head CCR Project  
COAST Foundation

Approved by

**M REZAUL KARIM CHOWDHURY**  
Executive Director  
COAST Foundation

*For more information, please contact:*

*Md. Abul Hasan*

*Email: [hasan@coastbd.net](mailto:hasan@coastbd.net)*

*COAST Foundation*

*Address: Metro Melody, House: 13, Road: 2, Shyamoli, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.*

*Phone: +88 02- 41025889, 5890585891, Email: [info@coastbd.net](mailto:info@coastbd.net),*

*Web: [www.coastbd.net](http://www.coastbd.net)*