



COAST Trust is implementing a project titled "Climate Justice Resilient Fund-CJRF" for adapting to climate change in the coastal areas of Bangladesh from January 1, 2018, to December 1, 2020. Through the project, COAST Trust is cooperating with local partner organizations to form a formal alliance on climate change and climate migrant issues, and also promoting awareness and educational programs through community and Amateur Radio to raise youth, women and children as well as providing Climate Adaptive Income Generating Technology for the poor. The project is being implemented in seven coastal districts of Bangladesh.

## Awareness program with fishermen to increase accessibility of gov't social protection services.



Discussions are going on with the sea-going marginal fishermen, Hazariganj, Bhola on 12 November. Photo: Khairun Begum, CJRF, Bhola

The COAST CJRF project has taken initiatives to increase the accessibility of climate-vulnerable coastal marginal fishermen to government social protection services. To implement this initiative, various coastal districts of Bangladesh [Bhola, Kakrabazar, Noakhali, Barisal, Chittagong, Bagerhat, and Khulna] have been selected as high-risk areas where sea-going fishermen live. Separate groups based on males and females have already been formed to implement project initiatives.

Awareness meetings are being held with them every month, where they will learn about allocated government services as well as disaster early warning signals, pre-and post-disaster preparedness and safe drinking water and sanitation. Such initiatives will enhance their skills, enable them to lobby with local government agencies for various government facilities. Issue-based leaflets have been prepared which will be distributed at the community level, to promote awareness. Under the project, a total of 68 groups have been formed in 7 coastal districts, out of which 34 are Male's group and 34 are Female's group.

In this regard, Mr. Atiqur Rahman, Technical Officer, CJRF of Bhola Region, said that the sea-going fishermen live near the embankment in a very precarious situation, most of them have no land, due to various limitations and lack of information they are often deprived of government facilities. Their lives and property are being lost every year due to lack of knowledge but they are the most affected by climate change. So we have taken initiatives to improve their capacity, they will know this information for themselves and others in their community, they will gain skills and increase the accessibility of fishermen in government facilities.

## Sewing training for self-employment & reliance of displaced family



The trainee is undergoing sewing training, 25 November, Photo: Atiqur Rahman, TO-CJRF, ITDC, Dakshin Aicha, Charfason, Bhola.

COAST Trust CJRF Project has organized 3 months long sewing training for 25 landless family members to be self-reliant by self-employment. All most 54 landless families have been living in Charakchapia village of 4 no ward at Manika Union, Char Fashion Upazila of Bhola district for a long time. They have lost their homes and lands due to the erosion of the Meghna River. The only occupation of the people who have lost their livelihood is day labor and fishing in other people's boats. Due to frequent natural disaster and corona pandemic, the livelihoods of all



One of the trainees Khadija Begum received practical training. Photo: Atiqur Rahman, TO-CJRF, ITDC, Dakshin Aicha, Bhola.

families here are at high risk. Here women are suffering from various problems like- Malnutrition, education, child marriage, dowry, violence. Against women, etc. Especially adolescent girls are the first victim of the social problems caused by poverty.

To increase the alternative income source of landless families and to establish the dignity of adolescent girls in the family through self-employment, COAST Trust CJRF Project has organized sewing training courses with 25 family members. Where adolescents have been given priority.



In this 3-months training course, they are being practically trained. In this regard, the trainer Mr. Solaiman said that through this training, the adolescent girls are getting ideas about dress preparing and machines, different types of sewing, the exact size of measurement, pattern making, ideas about cutting, colors and tailoring techniques. At the end of this training, they will earn 3-4 thousand taka every month by sewing. They can also work as a cutting master in a garments factory and the work will be very easy for them.

**Mass awareness program at the community level to prevent corona pandemic**



Community level miking and leaflet distribution activities [NRDS, Noakhali (left) and SDI Sandwip (right)]

COAST, CJRF project has taken initiatives to raise awareness at the community level on corona prevention in coastal remote areas distributing issues based leaflets, broadcasting regular awareness programs through the 8 coastal community radios. The leaflets are on recent government announcements on corona prevention, corona symptoms, what to do if infected with coronavirus, what is the physical distance and how to comply, how to use a mask, how to protect yourself & others from coronavirus infection and the emphasis is on self-isolation strategies. Day-long miking activities as well as leaflets are being distributed to the public. These activities are being implemented in the remote areas of 7 coastal districts such as as- Bhola, Kakrabazar, Noakhali, Chittagong, Barisal, Bagerhat, and Khulna.

**Virtual meeting with partners & evaluation team**



A virtual meeting between the evaluation team and partners is going on, 16 November 2020, Photo: Salehin Sarfaraz, CJRF Project Dhaka.

An online meeting of CJRF project partners with the evaluation team was held on 18 November 2020. This meeting was held as part of the final evaluation of the CJRF project. The impact of the advocacy seminars which were implemented at local and national levels and future innovative strategies were discussed at the meeting. Honorable Executive Directors and Project Focal of the 7 partner organizations of the CJRF Project and members of the Final Evaluation Team attended the meeting and present their feedback. Regarding the impact of the advocacy seminars,

the speakers said that the issue of climate justice has been taken very seriously by the local policymakers, administration, public representatives, government officials and other stakeholders. They have already taken various steps, they are increasingly focusing on coastal protection issues. Discussing the limitations of the project, they said more time is required to work on climate justice.

**Cultivation vegetable in waterlogged land Meeting family demand & income opportunity**

Poor rural women are now able to grow vegetables easily in the waterlogged lands of the coastal areas by using the sack method. As a result, fulfilling's the nutritional needs of the family members additional income opportunity is being created. This method is now very popular among poor women in coastal areas.

Zahura Begum is a resident of Kalapania Union in Sandwip Upazila under Chittagong District, she has planted different types of vegetables in 25 sacks in the waterlogged area behind her house, such as pumpkin, barb, lady's finger, etc. The production has also been quite good with regular care.



Zahura Begum is taking care of the vegetable plants in her garden, Photo: Md. Faisal Ahmed, TO, CJRF Project, Sandeep Chittagong.

Asked about this to Zahura Begum, She said that we live on an Island where the land is almost waterlogged, most of the lands are submerged in rain and floodwater. These lands are of no use, and the planted crops on the lands are destroyed by the flash flood. She further said that the major advantage of this method is it can be grown in waterlogged lands. The flash flood does not cause any damage to the crop, takes less space, the cost is low and cultivated all year round. Many women have started farming following this method.

Zahura Begum is expecting in this season will earn at least BDT 5-6 thousand by selling vegetables in the local market after fulfilling's the demand of his family.

**Target and Achievement of CJRF – November 2020**

SL	Activities	Target	Achievement
1	Monthly staff coordination meeting	01	01
2	Meeting with partners and evaluation team	01	01
3	Campaign on CAIGT, Water & Sanitation	90	100
4	CAIGT Asset distribution	26	25
5	Climate adaptive Toilet distribution	4	4
6	Committee formation of Fisherman- (M)	40	34
7	Committee formation of Fisherman- (F)	40	29
8	Awareness Campaign on COVID-19	40	24

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