

COAST Foundation has been implementing “Access to justice project” with the technical assistance of GIZ since July 2021 to provide legal assistance to the poor and backward communities. The main goal of the project is to resolve compromise criminal and civil offenses at the community level by making the country's archaic arbitration system more efficient, participatory, and restorative in providing legal services to the financially indigent, gender diverse people and persons with disabilities and resolving disputes.



COAST will play an important role to make a peaceful society

– Ariful Islam Chowdhury, Secretary, Baharchora Union

He gave his speech in the RJ and CV quarterly meeting as a Chief Guest on 15th Decmber,2021. I applaud this initiative of COAST Foundation. By this project, the backward people of the society will be beneficated and their right to justice will be guaranteed. I believe so, COAST will play a great role to bring a peaceful society.

Organizing monthly coordination meeting among RJF and quarterly coordination meeting among RJ & CV



Access to justice at community level project is approved by the Ministry of Law, Government of

the People's Republic of Bangladesh and with the technical assistance of GIZ.

RJ monthly meetings and RJ-CV quarterly coordination meetings were organized in 16 unions of Chottagram and 15 unions Barishal districts. Chatri, Anwara, Haildhor, paroikora unions in Anwara upazila and pukuriya, sadhonpur, khankhanabad, baharsara unions in Bashkhali upazila of Chattagram district under this project. Madhobapasha, chandpasha, dehergati unions in babuganj upazila & Charamoddi, charad, garuria, vorpasha unions in Bakerganj upazila of Barishal District also under this project.

At the meeting we discuss in detail the objectives of the project work, progress, obstacles and ways to overcome them. At the same time the work between RJ and CV is outlined. As a result, it is hoped that this will lead to better results.

Where can I get services? How can I?

Access to Justice, working to integrate social safety net programme among community people, in addition to providing justice and legal services. In accordance with old age allowance, widow allowance, disable allowance, our community paralegals are visiting home and doing courtyard meeting to make people aware of this.

Organizing monthly coordination meeting among PNGOs

With the technical assistance of GIZ, monthly coordination



meetings among PNGOs were organized between partner NGOs of Chittagong and Barishal districts. In this way the mutual relations of the PNGOs are strengthened and the work link is determined.

Diversion of cases from police station, police outpost and court

In our country, the Access to Justice project is aimed at resolving compromising disputes in the community, in terms of police outposts and court cases. 6 cases have been successfully disposed of by diversion from police station, police outpost and court. 4 of which were in Barisal and 2 in Chittagong.

Successfully resolve disputes in the mediation process

Dispute Resolve is one of the oldest practices in our country and has been going on for many years. The Access to Justice project is working to make this practice more equitable and effective. Based on this, we have been able to successfully resolve 115 disputes at the community level in the arbitration process. Of these, 76 disputes in Chattogram and 39 disputes in Barishal were resolved through mediation.

Successfully Dispute resolve in RJ process

Through this project we are successfully resolving disputes in the community and so far 19 disputes



have been resolved through RJ meetings at the community level. 10 disputes in Chittagong and 9 disputes in Barishal were resolved through RJ process.

He stole but got reconciliation from the community

Sumon Nath (anonym), a young man from Paroikora village in Anwara upazila of Chittagong, became addicted to gambling. Three gamblers stole iron to pay. When he later admitted his guilt, the RJF settled the dispute by returning the iron to the victim through an RJ meeting. At the same time Sumon was reintegrated into the society.

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