

# NEWSLETTER

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Wooden bridge before LIUPCP intervention and repair works



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Connecting road before LIUPCP intervention and casting works



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## Resilient Infrastructure in Cox's Bazar saving lives, offers new economic opportunities

**C**oastal Cox's Bazar of southeastern Bangladesh is the largest tourism centre and home to thousands of urban poor. Most of them are climate-migrant and exposed to heavy rainfall, soil erosion, frequent floods, waterlogging, and landslides that disrupt communication in hilly terrain. Such catastrophe adversely affects city dwellers' livelihoods, especially the urban poor, who live in different parts of the sea-facing city. Effects of climate change further exacerbate the impacts of the natural hazards, and the poor drainage and sewage network adds to the suffering of the urban poor communities.

The LIUPC project has substantially improved the living conditions and resilience of two climate-vulnerable settlements of Samity Para and Moddho Kutubdia Para of the city.

"Most of the inhabitants of Kutubdia cluster are climate migrants who live close to the Bay of Bengal. Harsh climatic

conditions like the cyclone, high tide, stormwater surge and gusty wind affect them every year," says the Akhter Kamal Azad, Councilor, Word-01 of Samity Para and Moddho Kutubdia Para Area.

Movement within the area was dangerous for the community people for a damaged wooden bridge. Children and older people were afraid to use the risky wooden bridge, he said. The road goes under water during the cyclone and high tide, and the wooden bridge remains unusable.

The LIUPC project supported the community to build climate-resilient infrastructure through the Climate Resilient Municipal Infrastructure Fund (CRMIF) to construct a 21.0-metre wooden bridge and a 48-meter RCC road in Kutubdia CDC Cluster. The road and bridge connect Samity Para and Moddho Kutubdia Para community, immensely benefitting 2,567 urban poor people of 650 households.

"Now this road and bridge serve them as the main evacuation route in disaster," says the Councilor.

Improved and reliable connectivity has increased economic activities in the locality. Seabound fishing trawlers can now easily anchor, and the road became a temporary fish trading point.

Badsha Majhi is the president of the fishermen association of Cox's Bazar. He says, "This bridge and road are now beneficial for our trawler and fish trading. The risks that we had experienced earlier during the time of natural disaster are now only memories of the past."

Jobaida Begum, a beneficiary of the LIUPCP and an inhabitant of the area, says these development works have immensely helped the community of Kutubdiya, especially women and school-going children are pleased as their living standard has improved. ■



## Results Dashboard



**31,059** self-employment through grants



**GBP £ 4.75** million savings amount by the community



**2.69** million beneficiaries of **718,000** households mobilized



**173,300** beneficiaries with disability



**15,994** beneficiaries received skills training



**26,516** pregnant & lactating mothers, children & adolescent girls received nutrition grants



**1.67** million people using climate-resilient infrastructures

## FCDO Team Visits Chandpur



A delegation from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) visited Chandpur Municipality to monitor project implementation progress. Led by John Warburton, Team Leader, Extreme Poverty, Resilience and Climate Change, & Senior Environment Adviser, FCDO Bangladesh, the team included Anowarul Haq, Social Development Adviser, Climate Change and Environment Team and Farzana Mustafa, Programme Manager, Climate Change and Environment Team from the FCDO. Yugesh Pradhanang, Project Manager LIUPCP accompanied them. The delegation held extensive discussions

with the local government representatives, officials and CDC Cluster leaders during the community visit. After visiting Meghna CDC Cluster at Chandpur Municipality, John Warburton, in his comment, wrote: "Very impressive works at all levels. The CRMIF project, managed predominantly by women, has been implemented to a very high standard and has tremendously improved both the physical environment and also psychological environment of the community. This is complemented by all the other LIUPCP interventions including savings & loans, nutrition support and grants for education & livelihoods." ■





## Demonstration & Awareness Raising on water chlorination for safe drinking water in Rajshahi City



Water from surface level sources is often contaminated by microbes, whereas groundwater usually is safer. However, harmful chemicals can contaminate even groundwater from human activities or the natural environment. Different areas of Rajshahi city often suffer from a lack of safe drinking water because of arsenic contamination and excessive Iron in the groundwater.

To mitigate such challenges, the LIUPC project has constructed a total of 112 tube wells to solve the problem. The LIUPC has identified the best water layer by several checks with support from the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), city corporation, & other NGOs. The project ran eight types of water tests of physical, chemical, and biological properties in

water samples in the Water Quality Testing Laboratory of the DPHE Rajshahi. It detected faecal coliform in 18 tube wells.

"This detection prompted us to arrange awareness-raising session and demonstration of chlorination process by water purification tablet in the affected areas as an immediate measure. We aimed to make the urban poor communities aware of the importance of safe drinking water," says Md. Abdul Quyum Mondal, LIUPC Town Manager in Rajshahi.

"The arrangement of awareness-raising session has helped us, and we now understand the importance of safe drinking water. The poor people of our area are grateful to you for us from water-borne diseases," says Sebanur, a female beneficiary of the Mirzapur

Paschimpara of Rajshahi City.

The Mirzapur Paschimpara Community Development Committee (CDC) President Most. Shirin Khatun says that the work has been completed with direct involvement and support from LIUPC, the local Councilor and other CDC leaders. "Now the community people know how to ensure safe drinking water, and this initiative has, directly and indirectly, benefited around 1150 people," she says.

Md. Sohulul Islam is the Councilor of Ward 30 who led and supported the initiative. "Not only construction of infrastructure, but the LIUPC is also contributing to improving the quality of lives of the urban poor here, and I am grateful to the project for this great job." ■

## UNDP RR visits Patuakhali Paurashava



UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative Sudipto Mukerjee visited the LIUPC Project areas under Patuakhali Paurashava of southern Bangladesh to monitor the impacts of UNDP supported programmes. Mohiuddin Ahmed, Mayor, Patuakhali Paurashava accompanied Mr. Mukerjee at several local engagements that included a community meeting. Ashekur Rahman, Assistant Resident Representative, Dr Nazneen Ahmed, Country Economist and Abdul Quayyum, Head of Communications, were also present during the visit. ■



## Adolescent Nutrition Voucher programme in Chattogram

With support from the LIUPC project, Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) has initiated nutrition voucher intervention for adolescent girls for improving the nutrition status of urban poor women and adolescent girls.

While inaugurating the nutrition voucher scheme, Mayor of CCC Md Rezaul Karim Chowdhury formally distributed different commodities and equipment to 18 Nutrition Agents - intending to build a career as a community-based social service entrepreneur with a focus on health and nutrition.

A total of 700 adolescent girls of urban poor communities across the city will receive Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health (ASRH) and nutrition services (including health commodities and micronutrient supplementation) throughout the year from the Nutrition Agents under the scheme. ■



## Facilitation of Bone Mineral Density Camp in Khulna

The LIUPC project of Khulna City Corporation, in collaboration with New Zealand Dairy products BD. Ltd., has organised a free camp for bone mineral density tests. The Camp aimed to prevent osteoporosis - a health condition that weakens bones and makes them fragile and more likely to break. Research shows females are more likely to suffer from osteoporosis compared to males. The LIUPC organised the programme for the community leaders allowing over 100 CDC cluster leaders for the test. The community leaders received advice from the experts on how to improve bone health. They also received calcium-fortified low-fat powder milk at a discounted price. The community leaders were happy to receive the service free of cost. ■



## Water quality test in Faridpur Paurashava



The LIUPC project in Faridpur Paurashava has tested 59 tube wells and initiated corrective measures in the arsenic and faecal coliform affected areas. The process of water quality testing and corrective measures are continuous processes for all the tube wells installed by the LIUPC project.



For faecal coliform affected tube wells, the project conducted community awareness sessions and demonstration of chlorination process with water purification tablet. ■

## Driving Training Course for Apprenticeship Grantees in Cumilla

Dr. Shafiqul Islam, Chief Executive Officer, Cumilla City Corporation, has inaugurated the Driving Training Course for Apprenticeship Grantees at Cumilla Motor Driving and Mechanics Training School, Gangchar, Cumilla. Saidul Arefin, Additional District Magistrate, Cumilla was present as Special Guest. ■

