

NEWSLETTER

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British High Commissioner inaugurates climate-resilient community infrastructures in Chattogram and Cox's Bazar

The British High Commissioner (BHC) to Bangladesh, Robert Chatterton Dickson visited LIUPC Project sites and inaugurated two climate-resilient community infrastructures in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram City Corporation, during a two-day joint visit with UNDP from 27-28 February.

This was the first visit to LIUPC by the BHC. With the backdrop of the recent COP 26 events, the visit was important to showcase the climate-urban poverty nexus and how UNDP was working at the community level to improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of the urban poor, by empowering women to carry out locally-led climate adaptation, thereby mitigating the effects of climate change in their communities.

The BHC was accompanied by UNDP Resident Representative Sudipto Mukerjee, NPD and Joint Secretary Md. Masum Patwary and team, who were received by the Mayors of Chattogram and Cox's Bazar, amongst other.

Following the community interaction, a press conference was organised, and the visit was generated extensive media coverage. The British HC said, "I am very impressed by this programme. It helps people from vulnerable communities to understand how climate change affects them and what they can do in response. It is encouraging to see communities and local governments working together to construct climate resilient infrastructure. In the last two days, we have seen how this

can transform the living conditions of poor people. The programme demonstrates best practices which can be taken up elsewhere in Bangladesh, and in other countries directly affected by climate change. The UK Government is proud to be providing funding and working in partnership with UNDP and the Government of Bangladesh".

UNDP Resident Representative Sudipto Mukerjee in his remarks, said, "We maintain a strong commitment towards the urban poor population across Bangladesh, with a key objective of ensuring sustainable improvements in their livelihoods and living conditions. Thanks to the support from FCDO, UNDP through LIUPC is ensuring inclusive and green growth by contributing

towards the improvement of millions of urban poor people in a multifaceted manner. We are helping them participate in Bangladesh's continuing economic success story and ensuring that no one is left behind in cities and towns".

He continued, "With the increasing intensity as well as the frequency of climate-induced disasters having a profound negative impact on the growing numbers of urban, climate-vulnerable people, the Project has developed climate-resilient strategies at the communities

by developing locally adapted infrastructure, which is changing the lives of the urban poor in a sustainable manner."

A mission video was produced by LIUPCP which can be accessed using [this link](#).



CLIMATE SNAPSHOT: LIUPCP Striving For Climate Action for the Urban Poor

Climate Change Adaptations consists of three major areas including access to safe drinking water, shelter, and adaptive livelihoods.

- LIUPCP has made the urban poor visible, with real data and activities about a population group extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change – a phenomenon that plays a major role in perpetuating their poverty.
- LIUPCP is proving itself as a holistic model for locally led climate adaptation, and in the process, empowering women and girls to lead local initiatives on climate action and bring about sustainable changes at their communities.
- The challenges associated with the close nexus of climate change, displacement of people, and the wellbeing of urban poor people will only increase, and LIUPCP is responding to these needs as a well-placed locally led climate action programme.

LIUPC Project Dashboard



Low-Cost Housing Initiative for the Urban Poor

The low-cost housing initiative is achieving good overall progress at Gopalganj, Chandpur, Kushtia and Noakhali. LIUPCP is prioritising city sweepers as the vulnerable urban poor, to benefit from this government-funded programme which provides land tenure and housing security for the urban poor. Whilst the preliminary architectural designs and the soil testing process have been completed at Khustia and Noakhali, the detailed structural design for the construction site at Chandpur has been conducted. Moreover, Gopalganj has completed all preliminary works and is currently at the implementation stage. A monitoring site visit to Gopalganj was conducted in February 2022 by NPD and Joint Secretary Md. Masum Patwary and Project Manager Yugesh Pradhanang.



Access to Housing Finance via Community Housing Development Funds (CHDF)



Climate housing finance model through the CHDF mechanism provides the urban poor access to funds to help them build or repair their homes and make them more climate-resilient. The broader aim of this is to ensure better quality dwellings that can withstand harsher environmental factors and in turn, prevent the urban poor communities from having to spend re-occurring costs of home repairs after each monsoon season or other harsh climate events. This enables the poor to save more capital and reinvest in other areas e.g., for unforeseen health or education-related costs, and eventually help them escape the otherwise perpetual cycle of poverty.

Innovative WASH interventions: DEWATS/Reverse Osmosis (RO)



A holistic approach is also being considered in the WASH interventions at LIUPC project sites, including the implementation of three decentralised wastewater treatment system (DEWATS) plants across various settlements in Chattogram. This treatment plant with multiple chambers receive sewage and wastewater from the surrounding settlements and ensures that the output is clean water that be reused and prevents leakage of the

environment. The systematic treatment of sewage and wastewater has also improved community health by reducing the chances of waterborne diseases. Moreover, the build-up of faecal residue over time in the collecting chamber will be emptied periodically using the faecal-sludge waste management mini-trucks, which LIUPCP has handed over to the respective city authorities for wider use, ensuring the sustainability of the intervention.

Similarly, a DEWATS plant with greater capacity is also being developed in Gazipur under a cost-sharing modality with SNV.

Furthermore, LIUPCP is developing reverse osmosis (R/O) plant at Noakhali at a settlement where the groundwater has high salinity. Based on the success of this intervention, LIUPCP is considering expanding this intervention to other towns and cities based on the needs.

Social Campaign on Nutrition Awareness held in Gopalganj Municipality



LIUPCP arranged a “Creative Social Campaign” at Gopalganj Municipality. The session was attended by the male members of families with pregnant women, and focused on sharing important aspects of malnutrition, nutritious foods and micronutrients.

The aim of the campaign was to share knowledge about the importance of nutrition on the health of family members, especially at times of pregnancy, and how they can play a role in improving health and nutrition status.

City-level advocacy workshops on strengthening multisectoral nutrition governance

The project organised City-level Advocacy Workshops across 17 cities to enhance the mechanisms of nutrition service delivery, coordination, and institutionalisation. The workshops brought together city level multisectoral stakeholders, including city Mayors, Chief Executive Officers, Chief Health Officers, Civil Surgeon. Key findings from the City Level Nutrition Context Assessment were shared, with a view of influencing city-level policymaking and mainstreaming nutrition and health services aimed at the urban poor, with adequate budget allocations. As a successful outcome of this advocacy workshop, 15 city authorities have committed to incorporate key nutrition activities and allocate budget for nutrition support for the fiscal year 2022 - 2023, and provide nutrition support, especially to urban poor pregnant and lactating mothers, and children.



Training on Good Governance & Democracy for Cluster & Federation Leaders at Community Organisations

LIUPCP Gopalganj held training on good governance and democracy for Clusters and Federation leaders at the Community Organisations. Clusters and Federation have a large potential for promoting and practising exercises around good governance. The participating leaders pledged their commitments to ensure transparency, accountability, and fairness in their organisations.

Consultation on Vacant Land Mapping Held in Kushtia Municipality



Kushtia Municipality and LIUPCP has jointly conducted a vacant land mapping (VLM) consultation on February 7, 2022 with the presence of Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia as the chief guest. Mayor, Kushtia Municipality chaired the consultation program. The objective of VLM is to identify the available vacant lands and relevant information (i.e., land area, plot number, ownership, litigation, court sanction etc.) so that GOs, NGOs and LGIs can explore suitable and appropriate land tenure security options regarding urban poor residing in the city.

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LIUPCP Celebrates International Women's Day 2022



On March 8, LIUPCP celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) 2022 across different city corporations and paurashavas with festivity and funfair to highlight women's rights and equality. The UN's theme for International Women's Day 2022 was "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow", which can be highlighted by LIUPCP in terms of urban poor women's direct role in leading climate action at the community level amongst other empowering achievements. As part of a wider approach, the elaborate

activities also drew public attention to the activism of women and girls of urban poor settlements who are challenging the deeply rooted gender norms, stereotypes, and discriminatory practices. IWD 2022 was also an opportunity to mobilise women and girls of urban poor settlements to re-emphasise their basic rights, equal status to men and highlight and appreciate achievements around their contribution. The project also engaged men and boys to act against gender-based violence and injustice, as part

of the project's wider women's empowerment approach.

LIUPCP offices at various city corporations and paurashavas organised a series of events such as rallies, essay completions, cultural dramas and other school-based campaigns to disseminate appropriate messaging, in close collaboration with the City and Municipality offices. Mayors and other senior city officials highlighted women's contributions to the city, and provided them with tokens of appreciation.

In line with the IWD 2022 theme, LIUPCP produced a video to highlight how the urban poor women are leading climate action at the community level, using the project platform. You can find the video [here](#).

Two LIUPCP Beneficiaries Recognised as the 'Nirvoyas' for their Leadership in Climate Action



"Nirvoya" a special initiative of The Daily Star newspaper and UNDP to celebrate International Women's Day selected 5 women as Nirvoyas, of which two women were selected from LIUPCP project towns. Kohinoor Akter from Chattogram City Corporation and Shahinur Akhter from Chandpur Municipality were selected and awarded for their leadership in locally-led climate action efforts. Their full stories were published as a [special double spread coverage on the 8th March issue](#).

Patuakhali Celebrates IWD 2022 with Creativity



Focusing on promoting gender equality at the community and household levels, LIUPCP Patuakhali followed a more general theme of breaking bias through a symbolical role reversal exercise, where men normalised partaking in domestic work that is traditionally gendered.

LIUPCP's locally-led adaptation model presented at the Gobeshona Global Conference 2

LIUPCP participated in the Gobeshona Global conference 2, where the project highlighted its interventions around locally-led adaptation practices to climate change across 19 cities in Bangladesh. The platform provided an opportunity for LIUPCP to share its experience and showcase efforts to build resilience at the community level in a sustainable manner, with the hope of sharing knowledge to relevant stakeholders both nationally and internationally. The session brought together senior climate change specialists including Prof. Nazrul Islam, international organisations including Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), Islamic Development Bank, Hon. Mayor of Chandpur, as well as beneficiaries and community stakeholders from LIUPCP towns, for an engaging interaction during the presentation by FCDO and UNDP, which were led by Development Director Matt Cannel and Deputy Resident Representative Van Nguyen, respectively.

DNCC Organised month-long Program to Celebrate IWD 2022

This year Dhaka North city corporation (DNCC) organised month-long activities around the theme of observing International Women's Day. DNCC organised self-defence training for 350 adolescent girls with the support of Bannishikha. This training supported the adolescent in protecting them from any violence and increasing their confidence. Safe community committees (SCCs) conducted quarterly coordination meetings and prepared a joint plan for reducing violence and early marriage in the presence of representatives of legal authority.



Khulna City Authority Documents LIUPCP Experience and Shares Lessons Learned in the Public Domain

Khulna City Corporation, with technical support from LIUPCP team, has published its report on its partnership with LIUPCP to implement pro-poor urban interventions for the period of 2018-2021. The report published on the official Khulna City Corporation website features in detail the various interventions of the project, as well as effective emergency response activities carried out in the context of COVID-19 through the mobilised groups at the community levels. The Hon. Mayor has highlighted the importance of the interlinked project activities, and has also recognised its positive impacts thus far.

Narayanganj City Corporation Piloting the Digital Healthcare and Micro Health Insurance Program for its Urban Poor



Narayanganj City authorities are piloting a LIUPCP supported digital healthcare and micro-insurance service for its urban poor communities, following the pilot launch event held earlier this month. The initiative aims to cover around 16,000 urban poor households by providing them access to telemedicine/online consultation with medical professionals, who would give advice, possible

prescriptions as well as hospital referrals when necessary.

A training workshop organised for key stakeholders ahead of the launch demonstrated the use of mobile phones for consultation with doctors and the general process of getting a prescription, treatment and follow-ups.

The program was inaugurated by chief guest and Narayanganj Mayor Dr Selina Hayat Ivy, in

presence of NPD and Joint Secretary Md Masum Patwari, PM Yugesh Pradhanang, Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation and former senior secretary Md Asadul Islam, amongst others.

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