

Impact Study
CODEC National Advocacy Programme

Date of Submission: 20 September 2011

Prepared By
Absar Habib
Mohammed Mamun Or Rashid
National Advocacy Programme
CODEC

Table of Contents

<i>SL</i>	<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	Preface	II
2	Executive Summary	III
3	Map of Study Area	VI
4	CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
5	1.1. Background of the Study	1
6	1.2. Objectives of the Study	1
7	1.3. Methodology	1
8	1.4. Study Team	2
9	1.5. Limitations of the Study	2
10	CHAPTER 2: ADVOCACY PROGRAMME AND MAJOR INTERVENTIONS	3
11	2.1. Purpose of CODEC Advocacy Programme	3
12	2.2. Name of Advocacy Issue	3
13	2.3. Promise of CODEC about Impact of the Programme	4
14	2.4. Major Programme Interventions	4
15	CHAPTER 3: MAJOR FINDINGS	7
16	3.1. Major Changes in National Policies	7
17	3.1.1. Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015)	7
18	3.1.2. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	9
19	3.3. Protection of Sea Piracy	10
20	3.4. River Erosion and Rehabilitation	11
21	3.5. Women and Children Health	12
22	3.6. Strengths and Weaknesses of Networking & Campaign programme	13
23	3.6.1. Major strengths	13
24	3.6.2. Major Weaknesses	13
25	3.7. Linkage of CCs with Service Providing Organizations	13
26	CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATIONS	15
27	CHAPTER 5: FUTURE STRATEGIC ACTION & CONCLUSION	17
28	5.1. Future Strategic Action for 2012-2017	17
29	5.2. Conclusion	18
	Annexure-1: TOR of the Study	
	Annexure-2: List of Respondents	

Preface

CODEC is working in the coastal communities of Bangladesh since 1985 to improve their sustainable lives & livelihoods. The main aim of the programme interventions is to facilitate these communities in mainstream development processes and to realize their social, cultural and economic rights.

The advocacy issues in CODEC working areas are-

1. Protection of sea piracy
2. River erosion and rehabilitation
3. Women and children health
4. Inclusion the issues and concerns of coastal communities in the second generation PRSP

It is significant to mention that first PRSP of Bangladesh did not specifically address the aspects of coastal communities. That's why CODEC adopted National Advocacy Programme and aimed to include issues and concerns of coastal communities in second generation PRSP through successful advocacy programme. However, PRSP was expired in 2011 and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) recently approved Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015).

This impact study has been conducted to find out impact of CODEC Five Year Plan (2007-2012) i.e. National Advocacy Programme. An attempt has been taken to find out major changes in national policy documents that can improve lives and livelihoods of coastal communities. It also assesses impact of advocacy work at grassroots that was implemented by Coordination Committees (CCs). Finally, this impact study provides recommendations that is helpful for us to determine future strategic action in 2012-2017.

We sincerely believe that this impact study will be a valuable document, that is, an important instrument to see imprint of our advocacy work and take future course of action.

Khursid Alam *Ph.D.*
Executive Director
CODEC, Chittagong

Executive Summary

Bangladesh has a coastline of 710 kilometres and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). At present, 36 percent of total populations live in coastal areas.

CODEC is working to improve the lives and livelihoods of disadvantaged coastal communities since 1985. The major programme components are- A) Socio-cultural Development Programme, B) Economic Development Programme, and C) National Level Advocacy.

The programme has been implemented under two layers explicitly; a) grassroots level, and b) national level since its inception. National Advocacy Programme attempts to influence national decision makers through networking, action research, dialogue, sharing meeting, publication and facilitating coastal communities to raise their voice at national level.

This impact study has been conducted to find out long term impact of National Advocacy Programme. The objectives of impact study are as follows-

- A. To find out degree of influence of National Advocacy Programme to reflect issues and concerns of coastal communities in national policy and strategy.
- B. To know the changes and differences in the community after advocacy work.

In last five years, CODEC facilitated and implemented many programmes at community and national level. Those were mainly sharing meetings from Union to District level on women and children health, prevention of sea piracy, river erosion and rehabilitation. Total 22 networking meetings were held with participation of like-minded NGOs. A total 34 local journalists (who wrote more articles on problems and prospects of coastal issues) received awards from CODEC. Total 103 journalists especially youths received two days orientation. CODEC arranged and broadcasted total 21 Talk-Shows in collaboration with ETV. Total four seminars and press conference were held at national level. Three special supplementary were published. A total of 12 articles (especially on sea piracy, budget allocation, river erosion, climate change, and alternative livelihood) were

published in daily newspaper by initiatives of advocacy department. CODEC organized 03 days long fisherfolk festival to protect and promote the rights of marginalized fisherfolk communities.

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) recently approved Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015). It marked out for taking initiative for human development, school, community clinic, crop intensification, road network, low cost housing, afforestation, sustainable microfinance, fish marketing, power generation, and establishment of community radio in coastal areas. Undoubtedly, it can be said that recently enacted Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015) includes more issues and concerns of coastal communities than second PRSP.

‘Protection of Sea Piracy’ issue mobilization has been implemented in Sitakunda, Kalapara and Pathorghata Upazilla under Chittagong, Patuakhali and Barguna district respectively. CODEC-led impact study and Final Report of Mid Term Review of the 5th Phase (page: 8) identified that *sea piracy still exists*. After this report, a series of interventions have been taken from district to national level to address this issue. Sea piracy issue has been incorporated as agenda based discussion in Upazila and District coordination meeting. Member of Parliament (MP) raised this issue in parliamentary session. Local journalists wrote many articles in daily newspaper on sea piracy issue and still they are writing. TV channel, particularly ATN News, was motivated by CODEC initiative to broadcast video clippings on sea piracy. After taking series of action, the government initiated crash programme to prevent sea piracy at several coastal areas.

‘River erosion and rehabilitation’ issue is being implemented in Laxmipur district. Total eight sharing meetings were facilitated at Upazila on river erosion and rehabilitation of people. Two sharing meetings were also held at district on same issue. CODEC rehabilitated total 605 river eroded families in Ramgoti and Kamalnoghor Upazila. But it is realized that without the government initiative, NGO can not solve this big problem. CODEC raised this issue at community and administration level. Now respective stakeholders are more concern about it.

‘Women and Children Health’ issue has positive impact at community level. Members of Coordination Committee (CC) arranged sharing meetings from union to district level and also awareness development discussion at ward meeting. Respondents told that accessibility of poor people, especially women and children, has been increased in health centre. Accountability of majority of union health centre officials has been established. Now they exhibit the list of services and medicine in the board.

CODEC networking and campaign has strength to implement programme in collaboration with community organizations. They have linkage with local stakeholders. Member of Parliament (MP), Government officials of respective ministry and department, donor, researcher, and members of civil society joined in unique platform due to media campaign and exposed the problems and prospects of coastal communities. Though 17 Upazila based Coordination Committees (CCs) are functional at local level but not strongly organized at central level.

Coordination Committees (CCs) developed lineage with government and non-government organizations. Members of Coordination Committees (CCs) obtained membership in different development committees of Union Parishad (UP). Coordination Committee (CC) obtained ‘Registration’ from respective departments of Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Members of CC advocated with Local Government Institutions (LGIs) for inclusion disadvantaged people at different resources and service provisions.

In last five years, CODEC developed 81 Union based CCs, 17 Upazila based CCs, 900 Ward Committees, guardian forum, and networking with like-minded organizations. Moreover, CODEC has experiences and organizational strength to work with national level stakeholders like Member of Parliamentarian Standing Committee, Member of Parliament (MP), bureaucrats, media, researcher, and members of civil society to promote coastal issues and concerns. In 2012-2017, CODEC should facilitate CCs for their capacity building to implement advocacy issues in the media and opinion-leaders inside and outside the parliament. CODEC should also take initiative for developing research-driven publication and influence policy makers to promote lives and livelihoods of coastal communities.

Map of Study Area



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

CODEC adopted National Advocacy Programme in the Five Year Plan (2007-2012) to address issues and concerns of coastal communities at national level. The programme has been implemented under two layers explicitly; a) grassroots level, and b) national level since its inception. National Advocacy Programme attempts to influence national decision makers through networking, action research, dialogue, sharing meeting, publication and facilitating coastal communities to raise their voice at national level.

This impact study has been conducted to find out five years impact of National Advocacy Programme. It gives insight in respective policy documents to find out major changes that can uplift lives and livelihoods of coastal communities. This impact study closely focus on functionality of networking, media campaign and linkage with government and non-government institutions that can play role as a driven force, in long run, to address coastal problems and prospects in national policies and strategies. It also explores access of disadvantaged people to different service provisions and exercises of rights. Finally, this study comes up with recommendations to set future strategic direction.

1.2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of impact study are as follows-

- A. To find out degree of influence of National Advocacy Programme to reflect issues and concerns of coastal communities in national policy and strategy.
- B. To know the changes and differences in the community after advocacy work.

1.3. Methodology

This study has been conducted in five coastal districts. Those are Chittagong, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Patuakhali and Barguna. Personal interview and group discussion have been done to collect information. Policy makers, Deputy

Commissioner (DC), Water Development Board, Upazila Chairman, Upazila Vice-Chairman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Coastguard, Thana Health Officer (THO), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Social Welfare Department, Union Parishad (UP), NGOs, Teacher, Advocate, Journalist, Members of Civil Society, Ward Committee, Coordination Committee (CC) were selected and interviewed. Recently enacted Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015) of Bangladesh and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) has been examined to pinpoint major inclusions of issues and concerns of coastal communities.

1.4. Study Team

Absar Habib, Director, National Advocacy Programme, was team leader of this study. He was supported by Mohammed Mamun Or Rashid, Programme Manager of same department to carry out the study.

1.5. Limitations of the Study

Major limitations of this study are as follows-

- A. Some government officials, particularly at Upazila and district level, were immediately transferred. Therefore, new officials are not adequately acquainted with CODEC activities.
- B. It was very difficult to take interview of the government officials because they were occupied with their official work.

CHAPTER 2: ADVOCACY PROGRAMME AND MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

2.1. Purpose of CODEC Advocacy Programme

Bangladesh has a coastline of 710 kilometres and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). At present, 36 percent of total populations live in coastal areas where they mostly depend on fishery, agriculture, forest, local transportation, salt production and so on for their lives and livelihoods. Coastal communities are facing several internal and external shocks i.e. natural and men-made problems like; disaster, river erosion, sea piracy, water logging etc. Outputs of all service delivery activities will be eroded and will not be sustainable if holistic aspects of lives and livelihoods are not comprehensively addressed in policy documents of the state. It is regrettable to mention that coastal communities are ‘forgotten segment’ in national strategies and policies. Moreover, the needs of coastal areas have traditionally been perceived as construction of embankments and cyclone shelters, their community sense and dimensions of lives and livelihoods were ignored in policy papers. In that notion, they are ‘policy victim’ as well. Such realization persuaded CODEC to undertake National Advocacy Programme. The main aim of National Advocacy Programme is to strengthen the voice of the coastal communities at the national level so that the needs of these communities are heard and reflected in national strategies and policies.

2.2. Name of Advocacy Issue

The names of advocacy issue are as follows-

- A. Protection of sea piracy.
- B. River erosion and rehabilitation.
- C. Women and children health.
- D. Inclusion the issues and concerns of coastal communities in the second generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

2.3. Promise of CODEC about Impact of the Programme

CODEC five year plan (2007-2012) explicitly assumed and outlined impact of advocacy work after programme interventions. Synopsis of planned activities and expected impact of advocacy programme is given in Table-1.

Table-1

Planned Activities and Expected Impact as per Five Year Plan (2007-2012)

<i>Planned Activities</i>	<i>Expected Impact</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen COFCON (or similar network) • Strengthen network of community organizations • Plan and implementation advocacy campaign • Sharing meeting, dialogue & workshop • Research and impact studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns and issues of coastal communities reflected in the second generation PRSP • Total 81 Coordination Committees (CCs) working for advocacy activities and community members have access to the government and NGO services • Improvement of women and children health

2.4. Major Programme Interventions

Major Programme interventions during last five years are as follows-

- A total of 203 sharing meetings were held at Union on coastal women and children health.
- A total of 44 sharing meetings were held at Upazila on coastal women and children health.
- A total of seven District based sharing meetings were held on coastal women and children health.
- Total 21 rallies and human chains were held at Union for prevention sea piracy. A total of seven sharing meetings at Upazila and five at District level were held on sea piracy prevention.
- Total eight sharing meetings were facilitated at Upazila on rehabilitation of river eroded people. Two sharing meetings were also held at District on same issue.

- Total 50 sharing meetings were held with representatives of print and electronic media on sea piracy prevention, river erosion & rehabilitation, violence against women, women & children health and CODEC national advocacy programme.
- Total three sharing meetings at Upazila to sensitize stakeholders on salinity tolerant crops cultivation.
- Total 34 local journalists (who wrote more articles on problems and prospects of coastal issues) received awards from CODEC. Total 103 journalists especially youths received two days orientation.
- Total 22 networking meetings were held with participation of like-minded NGOs.
- Total 15 Talk-Shows titled “*Upakular Khotha* (speech of coast)” were arranged and broadcasted in collaboration with ETV. Issues like health, education, women security, sea piracy, fisheries law, PRSP & budget allocation, climate change, disaster, river erosion & rehabilitation, environment and coastal resources were addressed in Talk-Shows. Policy makers also attended in programme.
- Total four national seminars and press conference titled 1) Pre-budget Discussion: Life and Livelihood of Coastal People of Bangladesh; 2) PRSP and Next Budget: Share of the Coastal People; 3) Climate Change and Responsibilities for Affected Coastal People; and 4) Next Budget: Rights of Coastal People were arranged. Total three special supplementary were published.
- Total 12 articles (especially on sea piracy, budget allocation, climate change, and alternative livelihood) were published in daily newspaper by initiatives of advocacy department.
- CODEC organized 03 days long fisherfolk festival named “*Jele Uthshob*” from 8 January to 10 January 2010 in Cox’s Bazar. The festival focused on lives and livelihoods of coastal fisherfolk communities. Honorable Finance Minister, Mr. A.M.A. Muhit, and Jan Møller Hansen, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Denmark, attended in the opening ceremony of the festival. Member of Parliament (MP), government and non-government officials, journalists, member of civil society, and fishermen from different

coastal districts participated in the festival. The main aim of the festival was to protect and promote the rights of marginalized fisherfolk communities. Life style and culture of fisherfolk communities are portrayed and demonstrated through fishing instruments, dummy, photo gallery, sketch, folksong, and theatre. Total three seminars were held on lives and livelihoods, culture, and rights & laws of coastal fisherfolk communities. Speakers urged that coastal fishing communities are facing many problems like depletion of resources, sea piracy, ship breaking, illegal trawl fishing and climate change. They also urged to properly utilize prospects of coastal areas in planned way. All participants opined that coastal fishing communities deserve special attention from the Government and all parties.

- CODEC arranged total six Talk-Shows named as “*Upokulio Jeledar Odikar* (rights of coastal fishermen)” in collaboration with ETV. The series were- (1) Fisheries laws and rights of coastal fishermen, (2) Local power structure in coastal areas and rights of fishermen, (3) Inclusion the issues of fishermen in coastal development stream, (4) Climate change and rehabilitation of fishermen, (5) Food security of fishermen during *jatka* (juvenile hilsha fish) catching banning period, and (6) Rights of coastal fishermen. Member of parliamentarian standing committee, Member of Parliament (MP), Government official of respective ministry and department, policy maker, donor, NGO representative, researcher, and fishermen participated in the programme.
- CODEC facilitated to conduct one research work on ‘Role of Member of Parliament (MP) and Expectation of People’.

CHAPTER 3: MAJOR FINDINGS

3.1. Major Changes in National Policies

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) recently approved Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015). However, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) prepared First PRSP (BANGLADESH Unlocking the Potential- National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction) on 16 October 2005. Second PRSP [(National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (Revised) FY 2009-11)] was prepared on December 2009.

3.1.1. Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015)

Last five years CODEC arranged series of dialogue workshops, roundtable meetings, talk-shows and campaigns at central level. Minister, Member of Parliamentarian Standing Committee, Member of Parliament (MP), Government officials of respective ministry and department, donor, researcher, and members of civil society attended in programme. Memorandum with policy recommendations was submitted to respective line ministry. Special supplementary and articles were published in national newspaper. Local journalists were awarded by CODEC to write articles in daily newspaper for drawing attention of policy makers. As a result, following changes have been ensured in national policy document. Major inclusions in Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015) are as follows-

- A. Seven coastal districts (Cox's Bazar, Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Satkhira, Khulna, and Jessore) have been declared as poorest districts in this plan. Moreover, Barisal and Khulna divisions were identified as higher poverty and lower income growth. Regarding regional disparities, this plan would strive to address the lagging regions problems through a strategy that involves public expenditure in infrastructure and human development, by improving the access to financial services, by promoting international migration of workers from these divisions, and by facilitating more trade and investment.

- B. For crop intensification, the coastal zone must receive priority in crop sector development plans.
- C. Schools will be built in coastal areas according to standard criteria of population.
- D. The community clinics along with satellite clinics and outreach centres will be given attention to ensure access to gender inclusive services in hard to reach coastal area.
- E. Process of community radio establishment in coastal areas will be continued.
- F. Road network will be developed in resourceful coastal areas.
- G. Feasibility studies will be undertaken for providing landing facilities in the coastal areas.
- H. Navigational aids for safety of sea-going vessels, coastal vessels, fishing boats/trawlers, naval vessels, and coast guard vessels will be provided.
- I. Initiatives will be taken for construction of low cost houses in the coastal areas.
- J. The existing coastal aforestation and enrichment plantation will be continued. Special attention will be given to the Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF) for its biodiversity conservation.
- K. Green belt was established in the coastal zone to serve as shelterbelt during cyclone and tidal surge. Qualitative improvement of natural forest through artificial regeneration will be given priority.
- L. Repair and maintenance of existing coastal polders will be continued.
- M. Policy measures will be taken to attract microfinance in environmentally vulnerable area such as cyclone prone coastal areas.
- N. Rise in the sea level, leading to coastal submergence (i.e. 17 % of Bangladesh) would cause large-scale displacement of people. Therefore, effective steps must be explored and adopted in collaboration with the

- international community in this plan period to help Bangladesh address the adverse consequences of climate change.
- O. Fish preservation, processing and marketing structure, particularly for the capture fisheries, are weak. It needs to develop proper preservation facilities, processing plant and appropriate marketing structures to reduce market imperfections and the role of the middlemen so that the fishermen get the major share of the price paid by the consumers. Role of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation should be strengthened so that it can intervene in preserving and processing of fish during harvesting period and marketing during the lean period.
 - P. Power generation will be established by setting up wind-mill run power plants in coastal region.

Source: BANGLADESH SIXTH FIVE YEAR PLAN: FY2011-FY2015, Accelerating Growth and Reducing Poverty. General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

3.1.2. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

Second PRSP acknowledged the vulnerability of traditional fishermen and identified few coastal districts as Pockets of Extreme Poverty. Fisheries Sustainability was addressed in second PRSP. Coastal zone management was also addressed in second PRSP. It described about Climate Change adaptation in Coastal Zone and major coping strategies. Second PRSP also recommended on road network, awareness building, signal & warning, multipurpose cyclone shelter, cross-dam and coordination among relevant ministries.

In addition, the following policy recommendations were incorporated in second PRSP which were merely overlooked in first PRSP-

- A. The resourceful coastal areas will be brought under road network system.
- B. Awareness creation will be done regarding signal for sudden natural calamities/disasters in order to save lives and wealth without causing panic among the people.

- C. Increasing capacity of disaster forecasting to ensure early warning system by introducing community radio in all coastal belt and adjoining districts.
- D. Undertaking, in planned manner, construction of multipurpose cyclone shelters in the coastal areas.
- E. Cross dams are to be built to expedite the process of accretion of land in the coastal areas.
- F. To organize meeting with relevant ministries to resolve conflicts among shrimp, salt, paddy, afforestation etc. in coastal districts.

Source: First PRSP (BANGLADESH Unlocking the Potential- National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction) was prepared on 16 October 2005. General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Second PRSP [(National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (Revised) FY 2009-11] was prepared on December 2009. General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

3.3. Protection of Sea Piracy

'Protection of Sea Piracy' issue mobilization has been implemented in Sitakunda, Kalapara and Pathorghata Upazilla under Chittagong, Patuakhali and Barguna district respectively. Sea piracy was a big problem. It prevailed in whole coastal belt. Fishermen lost their livelihood opportunity, in some extent their life, due to sea piracy. But now days the government take some initiatives to protect sea piracy. CODEC-led impact study and Final Report of Mid Term Review of the 5th Phase (page: 8) identified that *sea piracy still exists*. After this report, a series of interventions have been taken from district to national level to address this issue. Sea piracy issue has been incorporated as agenda based discussion in Upazila and District coordination meeting. Member of Parliament (MP) raised this issue in parliamentary session. Local journalists wrote many articles in daily newspaper on sea piracy issue and still they are writing. TV channel, particularly ATN News, was motivated by CODEC initiative to broadcast video clippings on sea piracy. After taking series of action, the government initiated crash programme to prevent sea piracy at several coastal areas. Many sea pirates willingly surrendered to the

government in Sundarbans area. Coastguard patrolling camp was established in the mid of Mirshari and Sitakunda Upazila, and Kalapara Upazila. Respondents told that it is very difficult to say sea piracy is completely eradicated. Still news of sea piracy is seen in daily newspaper. But it should be said that the government is seriously concern about sea piracy issue. The government is taking initiatives to prevent sea piracy. It is also reported that the Government is going to issue identity card for fishermen. Representatives of law enforcing agencies can not easily identify and distinguish between fishermen and sea pirates in deep sea. In many cases, sea pirates make known themselves as fishermen. Thus, identity card will help fishermen to access in different entitlements and will be useful to prevent sea piracy.

3.4. River Erosion and Rehabilitation

‘River erosion and rehabilitation’ issue is being implemented in Laxmipur district. Total eight sharing meetings were facilitated at Upazila on river erosion and rehabilitation of people. Two sharing meetings were also held at district on same issue.

Local journalists wrote many articles on river erosion and rehabilitation; and also awarded by CODEC. The initiative of CODEC turns to big movement among community people for protecting from river erosion. Mass people organized rally, procession, and strike. They talked with Prime Minister through Member of Parliament (MP) and requested to safe them from river erosion.

CODEC rehabilitated total 605 river eroded families in Ramgoti and Kamalnoghor Upazila. But it is realized that without the government initiative, NGO can not solve this big problem. CODEC raised this issue at community and administration level. Now respective stakeholders are more concern about it.

Local people told that river erosion and rehabilitation is very big issue. Comprehensive and long-term plan is necessary to protect from river erosion. Only the government initiatives can solve such problem. However, Upazila and District administration took initiative to place cement & concrete block to protect from erosion. Administration also initiated to allot *Khas* Char land for river eroded people. Members of Ward Committee and Coordination Committee are trying to obtain supports for river eroded people from Union Parishid.

3.5. Women and Children Health

‘Women and Children Health’ issue has positive impact at community level. Members of Coordination Committee (CC) arranged sharing meetings from union to district level and also awareness development discussion at ward meeting.

All participants of Ward Committee told that health issue was discussed in their monthly ward meeting along with other issues like; early marriage, dowry, divorce, women violence, birth registration, quality education etc. They regularly visit and get health services from local health centre. They ensured vaccination for their children. Previously, health worker was irregular and reluctant for door to door visit. Health officials also demanded Taka 50 as bribe from disadvantaged people to give medicine. Now the environment has been improved.

Respondents told that accessibility of poor people, especially women and children, has been increased in health centre. Accountability of majority of union health centre officials has been established. Now they exhibit the list of services and medicine in the board.

CODEC facilitated Upazila based Coordination Committee (CC) to arrange Upazila and district level sharing meeting on women and children health. It was sequential process from union to district level. Usually one ‘concept paper’ for union sharing meeting was prepared based on the facilities and problems of union health centre. The problems and recommendations of union sharing meetings were compiled and presented in Upazila sharing meeting. Members of Ward Committee & CCs, UP Chairman and members, representative of union health centre, Upazila administration, THO, journalist, members of civil society participated in Upazila level sharing meeting. The problems and recommendations of Upazila sharing meetings were compiled and presented in district sharing meeting.

People realized the conditions of women and children health in their areas. They participated at Coordination Committee (CC)-led different programmes. Now health departments are giving better services than before due to mobilization of Coordination Committee (CC).

3.6. Strengths and Weaknesses of Networking & Campaign programme

Major strengths and weaknesses of networking & campaign programme are as follows-

3.6.1. Major strengths

- Coordination Committees implement their programme in collaboration with other Community Based Organizations (CBOs).
- Agenda based programme implementation with participation of members of other like-minded NGOs.
- Respective stakeholders like Member of Parliament (MP), representative of Upazila and District administration, law enforcing agencies, service delivery department, journalist, and member civil society participate at different campaign programmes.
- Networking members raise their voice on coastal issues like budget allocation, fisheries law, and climate change at central level.
- Minister, Member of Parliamentarian Standing Committee, Member of Parliament (MP), Government officials of respective ministry and department, donor, researcher, and members of civil society joined in unique platform due to media campaign and exposed the problems and prospects of coastal communities.

3.6.2. Major Weaknesses

- Though 17 Upazila based Coordination Committees (CCs) are functional at local level but not strongly organized at central level.
- There is lack of video advocacy with testimonial presentation at campaign programme.

3.7. Linkage of CCs with Service Providing Organizations

Coordination Committees (CCs) developed linkage with government and non-government organizations. In Chittagong, members of CCs and Jele (fishermen) representatives communicated with Upazila Fisheries Department and received Taka 100,000/= for 1,000 families of fishermen during Jatka catching banning period. In 2007-2008, 400 families of fishermen received total 4,000 Kilogram

rice. Members of Coordination Committees (CCs) helped the Government during campaign on National Immunization Day.

Members of Coordination Committees (CCs) obtained membership in different development committees of Union Parishad (UP). They also arranged sharing meetings with Union Parishad (UP) about their development plan. As a result, leaders of CC prepared list of marginalized groups for Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), old aged allowance, widow allowance, disable allowance and other schemes. Coordination Committee (CC) obtained 'Registration' from respective departments of Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Therefore, they can easily access to different resources and services. They advocated with service providing organizations and ensured seeds, fertilizer, sapling, blanket, tube-well, latrine, house, net, boat, and training on agriculture development for disadvantaged people of the society.

CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATIONS

CODEC gathered competitive advantage to bring policy makers, government officials, donor agencies, NGO representatives, researchers, specialist and members of civil society in unique platform to expose the problems and prospects of coastal communities. It has developed organizational capacity to work with Member of Parliament (MP) for policy promotion related with lives and livelihoods of coastal communities. Total 81 Coordination Committees (CCs) carry out advocacy activities and community members have access to the government and NGO services.

This study identified that the government is seriously concern about sea piracy issue. The government is taking initiatives to prevent sea piracy. But it is very difficult to say that sea piracy is completely eradicated. Thus, 'Fight against piracy' issue should be continued in next phase, which is affecting many fishermen and their families.

Undoubtedly, it can be said that recently enacted Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-2015) includes more issues and concerns of coastal communities than second PRSP. But CODEC believes that more conceptual and analytical contribution is needful in government planning and mainstreaming process. Moreover, emerging issues like climate change, conservation of coastal resources, diversified livelihood promotions have special significance and needs the research-driven initiatives for inclusion in national policies.

CODEC is well aware that networking among NGOs and community organizations is important for improving the livelihood of the coastal communities through advocacy activities.

Major recommendations are as follows-

- 'Fight against piracy' issue should be continued in next phase.
- Research-driven theme papers should be prepared for advocacy initiative.
- To provide more emphasis on national level networking that will represent the problems and prospects of coastal communities.
- Video advocacy with testimonial presentation to sensitize respective policy makers and state guardians.

- To conduct policy research and Participatory Action Research (PAR) and share with technical committee & other actors.
- To increase capacity of Coordination Committees (CCs) to carry out advocacy issues with the media and opinion-leaders inside and outside the Parliament
- To increase leadership capacity and communication skills of Coordination Committees (CCs) for networking and coalition.
- Coalition through participation of 17 Upazila based Coordination Committees (CCs) and other like-minded organizations.

CHAPTER 5: FUTURE STRATEGIC ACTION & CONCLUSION

5.1. Future Strategic Action for 2012-2017

The objective of the advocacy programme is to promote necessary changes in the society and its institutions, enable justice and equity, and gain access to and a voice in the decision making process of various stakeholder institutions in relation to the live and livelihood of the coastal communities.

Action 1: Develop research-driven theme paper and research publication

Output 1: Fight against piracy, conservation of coastal resources in view of climate change, identity as a newly impoverished zone and alternative livelihood for the youth are established as advocacy issues.

This Output responds to the core issues which are expected to determine the wellbeing of coastal communities and require immediate public attention as NGO approaches will address the issue only marginally.

Action 2: Information support on coastal issues and consultation with technical team entrusted with national Sixth Five Year Plan.

Output 2: Analysis, objective setting and strategies about the coastal belt are reflected in the ensuing national Five Year Plan.

This Output underscores a shift of advocacy approach of CODEC from more a mere issue orientation to more conceptual and analytical contribution to become a part of government planning process. So far, media-driven awareness has been short-lived and sensitization of the MPs has been low due to limited role in the legislation process and biases towards local forces who side with other than the target people.

Action 3: Capacity development and facilitation CCs for advocacy issue mobilization

Output 3: CCs in concerted effort articulate the advocacy issues in the media and opinion-leaders inside and outside the Parliament.

This Output expresses the continuation of the advocacy initiatives at national level. However, the idea is to sensitize opinion-leaders wherever they are.

5.2. Conclusion

CODEC National Advocacy Programme takes endeavour for securing that the voice of the coastal communities are heard and that their needs are taken into consideration at the national policy level. In last five years, CODEC developed 81 Union based CCs, 17 Upazila based CCs, 900 Ward Committees, guardian forum, and networking with like-minded organizations. Moreover, CODEC has experiences and organizational strength to work with national level stakeholders like Member of Parliamentarian Standing Committee, Member of Parliament (MP), bureaucrats, media, researcher, and members of civil society to promote coastal issues and concerns. In 2012-2017, CODEC should facilitate CCs for their capacity building to implement advocacy issues in the media and opinion-leaders inside and outside the parliament. CODEC should also take initiative for developing research-driven publication and influence policy makers to promote lives and livelihoods of coastal communities.

**Terms of Reference (TOR)
For
Impact Assessment of National Advocacy Programme**

1. Background

CODEC adopted National Advocacy Programme in the Five Year Plan (2007-2012) to address issues and concerns of coastal communities at national level. The programme has been implemented under two layers namely; a) grassroots level, and b) national level since its beginning. National Advocacy Programme attempts to influence national decision makers through networking, action research, dialogue, sharing meeting, publication and facilitating coastal communities to raise their voice at national level.

The objective of this programme is to strengthen the voice of the coastal communities (600,000 households- 3.4 million people) so that the needs of these communities are heard and reflected in national strategies and policies. National Advocacy Programme is a bottom-up approach that issues and concerns of grassroots level will be reflected at the national level. Major issues are-

1. Prevention of sea piracy
2. River erosion and rehabilitation
3. Women and children health
4. Budget allocation for the coastal communities (PRSP)

The researcher must develop a research design/proposal before to start the study. The study cannot be started before the approval of the research design/proposal.

Research Design /Proposal

<i>Research objectives</i>	<i>Information to collect related to each objective</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Method of data collection</i>	<i>When & where</i>	<i>Who will collect data</i>
1) To find out degree of influence of National Advocacy Programme to reflect issues and concerns of coastal communities in national policy and strategy.	Changed information in PRSP and relevant national policies Strength and weakness of networking & campaign programme	Policy makers, CODEC-led network members, media, and members of civil society	Interview	15 June 2011 & Dhaka	Absar Habib & Mamun
2) To know the changes and differences in the community after advocacy work.	Linkage of CCs with service providing organizations	Ward members, CC, other CBOs Upazilla Chairman,	Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and interview	01 July 2011 & Chittagong, Laxmipur,	Absar Habib & Mamun

	Accessibility of women and children at health centers Sea piracy and responsiveness of duty-bearers	TNO, health official, coastguard, local journalist, and members of civil society		Noakhali, Barguna, Patuakhali district	
--	--	--	--	--	--

2. Objective of Impact Assessment

The objectives of impact assessment are as follows-

- a. To find out degree of influence of National Advocacy Programme to reflect issues and concerns of coastal communities in national policy and strategy.
- b. To know the changes and differences in the community after advocacy work.

3. Outputs

- I. Impact assessment report
- II. Issue-based recommendations for areas of improvement
- III. Future direction of advocacy work

4. Scope of Assessment

- Major policy changes; especially second edition of PRSP, relevance with lives and livelihoods of coastal communities
- Effectiveness of national level campaign and influencing policy makers and other stakeholders
- Networking and media campaign
- Capacity of CCs and linkage with government and non-government institutions
- Access of women and children to health services
- Existence of sea piracy and responsiveness of duty-bearers

5. Methodology of Assessment

- Interview with national policy makers
- Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with randomly selected CCs of Chittagong, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Patuakhali and Barguna districts
- Interview with upazilla and district level administration
- Interview with local and national level networking
- Interview with members of civil society and media
- Review different secondary sources

6. Team and Reporting

Absar Habib, Director and Mohammed Mamun Or Rashid, Programme Manager, National Advocacy Programme. Submission Final Report: 20 September 2011

Absar Habib
Mamun Or Rashid

List of participants

<i>SL</i>	<i>Name of Participant</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Occupation/Representative</i>
1	Mr. A.K.M Mizanur Rahman	Laxmipur District	Deputy Commissioner (DC)
2	Mr. Zia Uddin	Water Development Board, Laxmipur District	Chief Engineer
3	Ms. Begum Rokeya Azad	Alexgender, Laxmipur	Upazila Chairman
4	Mr. Hasan-Al-Amin	Alexgender, Laxmipur	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)
5	Mr. Nazrul Islam	Alexgender, Laxmipur	President, Press Club
6	Mr. Talashi	Alexgender, Laxmipur	Member, Press Club
7	Mr. Mizanur Rahman	7 No Char Alexgender, Ramgoti, Laxmipur	Medical Officer
8	Mr. Asad	Laxmipur District	ED, JAMES
9	Mr. Miraz Uddin	Alexgender, Laxmipur	Secretary, CC
10	Ms. Jahanara Begum	Barabkunda, Sitakunda, Chittagong	Vice-President, CC
11	Mr. Rayhan Uddin	Do	Secretary, CC
12	Mr. Ibrahim	Do	Treasurer, CC
13	Ms. Nur Nahar	Do	Member, CC
14	Ms. Fatema Begum	Do	Member, CC
15	Ms. Nur Jahan Begum	Do	Member, CC
16	Mr. Sona Ram Das	Do	Member, CC
17	Ms. Parvin Akhter	Do	Member, CC
18	Mr. Liton Kumar Chowdhury	Sitakunda, Chittagong	Journalist of Daily Prothom-Alo
19	Mr. Shomitro	Do	Journalist
20	Mr. Mishuk Monir	Dhaka	CEO, ATN News
21	Mr. Advocate Sultan Ahmed	Patuakhali Sadar, Patuakhali	Upazila Chairman
22	Mr. Jakir Hossain	Do	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)
23	Mr. Shopan Kumar	Do	Upazila Social Welfare Officer
24	Mr. Anamul	Rangabali, Patuakhali	Member, CC
25	Mr. Abbas	Amkhola, Patuakhali	Treasurer, CC
26	Mr. Delowar	Papotti, Patuakhali	Secretary, CC
27	Mr. Nur Mohammed	Latachapli, Patuakhali	Do
28	Mr. Khobir	Dankhali, Patuakhali	President, CC
29	Mr. Aziz	Nilgonj, Patuakhali	Treasurer, CC
30	Mr. Nur Hossain	Chakamoya, Patuakhali	Vice-President, CC
31	Mr. Jalal	Rahanpur, Barguna	Secretary, CC
32	Mr. Nirmalindu Hawladar	Kathaltoli, Barguna	Treasurer, CC
33	Mr. Nasir	Nasnapara, Barguna	Vice-President, CC
34	Ms. Hanufa Begum	Rahanpur, Barguna	Do
35	Mr. Abdul Mohtin	Amragasia, Patuakhali	President, CC

36	Mr. Salam	Subidkhali, Patuakhali	Treasurer, CC
37	Mr. Mahatab	Muradia, Patuakhali	Member, CC
38	Ms. Mohosina Begum	Labukhali, Patuakhali	President, CC
39	Ms. Mahinur Islam	Arpangasia, Patuakhali	Member, CC
40	Ms. Parul Rani	Chora, Barguna	Do
41	Ms. Biba Rani	Do	Do
42	Ms. Fazila Begum	Burirchar, Barguna	Secretary, CC
43	Ms. Aleya Begum	Baliatoli, Barguna	Member, CC
44	Ms. Rahima Begum	Gorichanna, Barguna	President, CC
45	Mr. Forkan	Laukathi, Barguna	Do
46	Ms. Rehana Begum	Motherbunia, Barguna	Vice-President, CC
47	Mr. Kholilur Rahman	Pathargata, Barguna	Secretary, Press Club
48	Mr. Anisur Rahman	Do	Member, Press Club
49	Mr. Jahangir Hossain	Pathargata College	Teacher
50	Mr. Joynal Miah	Do	Do
51	Mr Balyet Hossain	Do	Do
52	Mr. Hassanur Rahman	Pathargata, Barguna	Upazila Chairman
53	Mr. Janee Alam Hawlader	Barguna	Deputy Director, NFEP
54	Mr. Rajbul Kabir	Barguna Sadar, Barguna	Vice-President
55	Mr. Habibur Rahman	Kaodabunia, Barguna	President, CC
56	Ms. Shamsun Nahar	Barguna Pauroshava, Barguna	Counsellor
57	Ms. Parvin	Burirchar High School, Barguna	Teacher
58	Md. Hasaur Rahman Jantu	Bargun Sadar	Journalist
59	Mr. Chitta Ranjon Sheel	Faria Lara Foundation	Coordinator
60	Mr. Rahman	Save the Mother	Program Officer
61	Mr. Advocate Sanjib	Barguna district	Advocate
62	Ms. Nazma Begum	2 No. Ward, 1 No. Arpangasia, Dumki, Patuakhali	President, Ward Committee
63	Ms. Shima Begum	Do	Secretary, Ward Committee
64	Ms. Nasima Begum	Do	Member, Ward Committee
65	Ms. Asyea Begum	Do	Do
66	Ms. Shapalee Begum	Do	Do
67	Ms. Rejeya Begum	Do	Do
68	Ms. Golbanu Begum	Do	Do
69	Ms. Kohinur Begum	Do	Do
70	Ms. Morium Begum	Do	Do
71	Ms. Lavly Begum	Do	Do
72	Mr. Motalab Khan	Do	Do
73	Ms. Nargis Begum	Do	Do
74	Ms. Farzana Begum	Do	Do
75	Ms. Moyna Begum	Do	Do
76	Ms. Sonia Begum	Do	Do