

## Multi-Stakeholders Working Together with the Government Speed Up Work towards Sustainability

The overall community level development in any country around the world including Bangladesh is not possible by non-government development organizations alone if the relevant government departments do not fully cooperate there. In fact, working together of government and non-government development organization speed up work and ensure ways towards sustainability. So, the effective participation and cooperation of government departments with non-government development organizations is crucial for any community-based development work.

GOB-UNICEF 'Arsenic Mitigation Project' has started in October 2022 in Asashuni, a vulnerable coastal upazila of Satkhira district, the Environment and Population Research Center (EPRC) has been commissioned to implement the project at the field level. EPRC believes that, the participation of NGOs, government and communities is indispensable to accelerate any work and its sustainability. From the beginning of the project implementation, field team of EPRC has been maintaining regular communication and coordination with the relevant government departments, upazila administration, others NGO and different stakeholders especially the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in a systematic way so that the objectives and goals of the project are to achieve in sustainable way.



Photo: Discussion on scope of teamwork with DPHE EE, AE and Unicef – EPRC representatives at district DPHE

In line with this, whenever EPRC has seek the cooperation of DPHE at district and upazila level, they whole-heartedly cooperate to all kind of works. Assistant Engineer (AE), DPHE of Asashuni Upazila regularly participates and cooperates to the project activities in upazila, union and community level; such as training, various types of meetings, day celebrations, equity-based water point site selection, water point renovation, new water point installation etc. Especially when UNICEF's country representative launched the rural pipe water supply system in Kadakati Union, the Project Director (PD), the circle Superintend Engineer, Executive Engineer (EE), Assistant Engineer and mechanics of DPHE as well as Union Parisad Chairmen were participated from the beginning to the end of the launching session. Their fruitful advice and cooperation made the inauguration session successful. Moreover, DPHE has been providing regular advice and support to EPRC on various technical issues.



Photo: Launching of the pipe water system in presence of DPHE PD, SE, EE, AE and UP Chairmen with Unicef & EPRC

In addition to that, EPRC is providing demand-based support to the upazila DPHE for equity-based water point sites selection. For example, before distribution 510 Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) systems of DPHE's own project, Assasuni project team of EPRC conducted field verifications to see if there is any duplication or the site selection of RWHS is in right place or not. Apart from this, for the installation of 68 AIRPs and 15 PSFs of DPHE in the existing

project unions and other unions outside the project working area, EPRC is assisting local DPHE to follow-up of installation work starting from site selection, collection of contribution money, monitoring quality of construction work.



Photo: Monthly multi stakeholders (DPHE, Unicef, EPRC and others NGOs) coordination meeting at district DPHE Office



Photo: Handover preferred equity-based water point site list to AE, DPHE Assasuni

Thus, EPRC in collaboration with DPHE and other stakeholders is successfully implementing the GoB-UNICEF Project in Assasuni Upazila. We are confident that if we able to demonstrate proper benefit of cooperation between government and non-government development organization and convince the government departments about the facilitating roles of the non-government development organizations to implement any government program then the government departments will accept non-government development organizations whole heartedly. As an end, the progress of the work will increase and achieve a sustainable and effective result on WASH.