

## A voice for voiceless people

**USAID & FCDO - supported Dhaka CALLING Project opened a door for slum dwellers to talk about their environmental rights**



**Photograph 1-Fatema Akhter is sharing low income community people's demand at meeting with PSC on MoEF&CC at Parliamentary Members Club**



**Photograph 2-Fatema Akhter is talking on behalf of slum dwellers at National Level Public Hearing at Parliamentary Members Club**

This story is about the journey of Fatema Akhter towards protesting environmental pollution and protecting rights of slum dwellers, who has been raising her voice for the slum community peoples' rights and their sufferings for slum eviction. She has been living in Korail slum. She observed the sufferings of the people who are deprived of their urban rights very closely. She wanted to do something for the slum dwellers. For these reason, she has been working with Nagar Daridra Basteebashir Unnayan Sangstha (NDBUS) from the beginning. NDBUS has mainly been working to protest slum eviction and protect the rights of low-income community people living in slums. Through the Inception of the Dhaka CALLING Project, she has learned why and how the project will work for ensuring and instigating the implementation of environmental legal frameworks through strengthening the community voice and advocacy initiatives. Along with other community and federations leaders, she has received training on capacity building on environmental rights and how they can effectively raise their voice towards implementing to how they can effectively raise their demand towards service providers and policymakers. Along with talking about slum eviction, she started her new movement for talking about environmental rights and proper waste management for low-income city dwellers who are living in the slums and now, her voice is the voice of voiceless people.

As a part of her move, she requested the media person's to highlights the suffering of the mismanagement of waste management in their writing so that service providers can sensitize and come forward to ensure the existing laws, policies in press conference and Roundtable Discussion. She also attended in the Meeting with Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) members on MoEF&CC and raised her voice as a representatives of slum dwellers on waste service rights to advocate for ensuring the implementation of existing policy and law as well as include demands into the draft Solid Waste Management Rule 2021 for create pollution free Dhaka city in front of Chairman and members of the PSC on Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Align with the advocacy initiatives for addressing recommendations in Solid Waste Management Policy or guideline, Fatema Akhter joined the National Level Public Hearing at Parliamentary Members Club and stated that slum representative should need to involve in the National waste management committee in front of the Deputy Minister, MoEF&CC as well as other members/MPs of PSC on MoEF&CC.

She has been raising her voice for promoting the rights of the waste services slum dwellers, allocating budget for slum-based waste management, creating work opportunity for slum dwellers in waste management system at National Level and community level, she believe that urban poor peoples will be benefited if it is possible to implement the Solid Waste Management Rule-2021 properly. She want to continue her advocacy initiative for ensure pollution free urban environment.