

Dhaka CALLING Project Encourages Civic Participation

USAID-supported Dhaka CALLING Project encouraged a community people to work for their rights



Mitu begum is working with group to identify proper actions for solving their problems in CBO member training



Along with other member BOSC Federation, she is discussing their activity.



Mitu Begum is taking to EPPC members and community people



She is talking to shop owners about proper waste management system and not to dump waste on the road.

Mitu Begum has been living in Boubazar Slum with her husband and four children. Her husband has been working as a security guard. She got training from City Corporation on Polio vaccines (PV). Afterward, along with other trained community people, she works in the slum area for polio vaccination under the program of City Corporation on a paid basis. Along with four children, it was never always been so easy for them to arrange all facilities for their family. Surrounded by so many problems, she has always been very soulful to help people like her. As part of her passion for helping people, she has been working with the Bosteebasi Odhikar Surakkha Committee (BOSC) Federation as an organizing secretary for fighting for the rights of the poor people living in the slums. BOSC Federation mainly works for preserving the rights of the slum community on the ground of slum eviction, health, education, safety, and other related issues. But, the Dhaka CALLING project reactivated the BOSC Federation on environmental pollution issues and citizen rights according to the constitution.

After connecting with Dhaka CALLING Project, she has learned about the importance of proper waste management. As she visits house to house, she started her movement on promoting civic engagement by raising awareness among the community people of waste management knowledge, behavior, and practice and encouraging them to raise their own voice for their rights. She talks about segregating waste, dumping those waste separately, and not dumping waste here and there with the community people as well as raise their voice while house-to-house visiting inside the slum. She stated, "I have told shop owners inside the slum to keep bins or bags for keeping waste. Previously, while distributing bakery food to the shops, distributors dropped the packets and paper boxes on road or drain. I have told them not to do so. Afterward, roads are being remaining clean."

Though she was working with the city corporation on vaccination issues, she had no idea where to communicate with the city corporation for waste management issues. After working with Dhaka CALLING Project, she had come to know about the matter. There was a problem with the sewerage waste line and waste in front of her house. It made it difficult for her family and other families living adjacent to the area. Initially, she tried to communicate with her neighbors to solve the problem. Finally, along with other members of the federation, she communicated with City Corporation's official in that regard. Then a representative of the city corporation visited the area and solved the problems. They also shared other related problems in front of the officials. Moreover, another problem was there related to waterlogging due to broken roads. She has solved the problems. Besides that, Mitu Begum, works on preventing child marriage and polygamy.

Her movement towards promoting good governance will be continued. She said, "Our area is remained clean, and people have become more aware than before. If waste collectors collect waste more regularly, then our area will be a healthy place. This is our living place; we will keep communicating with the city corporation to solve the problem."