

## Yasmin Begom: A New Voice of Hazaribag Area of Dhaka City Combating Environmental Pollution

**USAID & FCDO - supported Dhaka CALLING Project inspired a woman to be a change maker from a general slum dweller**



CEAP development Meeting in Boubazar Slum, Yasmin is sharing her thoughts



-Screenshot of an interview of Yasmin Begom in Audio-Visual Clip



Yasmin Begom in Community Clean Campaign at Hazaribag of Dhaka City

Yasmin Begom is a slum dweller of Boubazar Slum of Hazaribag, Dhaka. But she became a change agent of her community. She is very thankful to USAID and FCDO funded Dhaka CALLING project because this project helped her to build capacity and transform as a change agent to her area.

16 years ago she started living in Hazaribag slum, and she knows the sufferings of the slum dwellers very well. One day she saw her little daughter, fell down in a yard surrounded by waste and got hurt. This incident encouraged her to do something for her family, neighbors and the community where she lives in. But she didn't have the idea from where to start with. Back in 2021 DCP formed a CBO in Hazaribag slum and started community mobilization on solid waste management. Yasmin Begom joined the CBO and she realized this is something which she is looking for. After joining DCP she learned about many things related to waste management like the type of wastes, management of wastes, how wastes are creating an adverse impact on health and the environment, where to communicate for getting services for waste management, what are the constitutional rights to live in a pollution-free environment and so forth.

She has a small Block printing factory in the Balurmath Area of Hazaribag and many slum dwellers work at that factory. Previously, there was waste around her block factory. After learning about the importance of keeping surroundings neat and clean, she has been keeping the surroundings of the factory clean. In slum areas, getting space for conducting meetings is very challenging. She provides space to DCP to arrange meetings in the block factory, so that community people can learn about their rights to live in a pollution-free environment as a citizen and can do their own duties for keeping their community waste-free.

She actively participated during the Community Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) development process. She also worked on submission of a letter to Ward Councilor to reduce the monthly waste collection fee and ensure a better waste management system in the community. She raised awareness among her neighbors of Boubazar and Balurmath Slum who dumped waste in front of the road and drains without caring that they were polluting their slum environment. After that, those neighbors do not dump waste carelessly. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she became aware that community people need to wear masks, wash hands, and do not dump masks here and there.

DCP made an Audio-Visual Clip in 2021 and interviewed her where she shared how she has been suffering from mismanagement of waste in the slum. She said, "I did not know how to talk about pollution, but now I can do it. I am very pleased to work with the Dhaka CALLING project." While asking during the interview, what will she do if Dhaka CALLING stops working in her community? She boldly replied that whether the project keeps working or not, it is a matter of the health of their children and theirs. She also added that she will keep raising awareness in her community for making her slum waste and pollution-free.