

FISH NET

Fisherfolk Integration for Sustainable Habitat and Natural Ecosystem Transformation

"From the edges of the coast to the center of the conversation."

Funded by:
Ocean Community Empowerment and Nature Programme

Supported By: UK International Development

Aligned with:
Bangladesh's National Fisheries Strategy,
Marine Biodiversity Treaties, SDG 14 (Life Below Water)

Project Duration: December 2024 – May 2028

Consortium Lead: Uttaran

Consortium Members: Action Against Hunger,
CNRS, WJCC, CBDP and SheRee

Technical Support by: University of Chittagong
(Marine Sciences and Fisheries (FMSF) Department)

Project Inception Rollout

Why?

- To secure early buy-in, transparency, and trust
- For inclusive, multi-level stakeholder engagement
- To create the foundation for project success

How?

- In-person multi-stakeholder participatory workshops
- Early, multi-channel communication
- Stakeholder engagement across four levels:

National

District

Sub-district
(Upazila)

Village



Highlights & Successes



Strong Facilitation & Community Sensitisation Process

Initiated transparent communication with community leaders and members about project, engaged various stakeholders prioritising accessibility and participation, created dedicated, inclusive spaces for vulnerable groups to ensure their voices are heard.

Media Engagement

High media coverage of inception workshops at various levels by Bangladesh news outlets boosting awareness and project impact. One media outlet said, "The FISHNET project represents a significant step toward sustainable marine resource management in Bangladesh" (The New Approach).

Stakeholder Buy-in & Project Feedback

Collaboration and commitment from all stakeholders supports the delivery of the project's objectives and its long-term sustainability. Key insights from experts and officials were shared to support the project.



Key Challenges

National-level Politics

Political instability in Bangladesh means that government priorities and officials are changeable and uncertain.

Transport & Attendance

Logistical arrangements for in-person participation of various stakeholders coming from disparate and remote areas

Accessible Information

Synthesising complex, technical terminologies for diverse stakeholders to ensure clear communication and comprehension for effective engagement



Lessons Learned

- **Accessibility and intersectionality are key for community engagement** e.g. facilitation in local dialect, purposive spaces.
- **Early, multi-channel communication** is highly effective.
- **Open dialogue with government officials** enhances ownership and

3 Recommendations for Other Grantees

**Engagement
should be context
specific and
considerate of
stakeholder
needs**

**Promote
stakeholder
ownership and
accountability**

**Always be
adaptable**