

JANUARY - MARCH '22

NEWSLETTER



Environment and Social Development
Organization-ESDO



Introduction

ESDO has been working to eliminate pollution in Bangladesh since 1990. ESDO, the first organization to advocate for a ban on polythene bags in 2002, thinks that if we all do our part, we can make our environment sustainable. This quarter, ESDO's main goal was to phase out plastic and chemical pollution through conversations and actions aimed at raising awareness among the general public, government officials, stakeholders, and policymakers!

Inside Highlights

- Global Plastic Pollution Agreement
- Plastic-free Community Fairs
- Minamata Convention
- Day Care Center



Global Plastic Pollution Agreement: A Historic Moment!

On the 2nd of March 2022 in Nairobi, Heads of State, Ministers of the Environment, and other officials from 175 nations supported a historic resolution to End Plastic Pollution and build an international legally enforceable agreement by 2024 at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in Nairobi. The resolution covers the whole lifetime of plastic, from manufacturing to design to disposal.

Read more: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/historic-day-campaign-beat-plastic-pollution-nations-com+mit-develop>



"Today marks a triumph by planet earth over single-use plastics. This is the most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris accord. It is an insurance policy for this generation and future ones, so they may live with plastic and not be doomed by it."

**---Inger Andersen,
Executive Director of
UNEP**





The Plastic Deluge
In The Sylhet City Corporation
Area, Bangladesh

Situation Analysis Report, 2021



REPORT LAUNCHING OF
**“The Plastic Deluge: In The Sylhet
 City Corporation Area, Bangladesh”**

Date: 26th January 2022

Time: 03:00 PM – 4:30 PM (GMT +6)

Place: Virtual Platform (zoom)



Report Launching for ‘The Plastic Deluge: In the Sylhet City Corporation Area, Bangladesh’

In 2021, Sylhet City Corporation generated around 54 tons of plastic waste per day. Sachets, one-time-use utensils, personal care items, and other single-use plastic products were largely found in this trash. Under the University of Portsmouth, STEPP (Sustainable Transitions to End Plastic Pollution) initiative, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) has released a new study report titled & ‘The Plastic Deluge: In the Sylhet City Corporation Area, Bangladesh.

Read more: <http://bansup.esdo.org/report-launching-of-the-plastic-deluge-in-the-sylhet-city-corporation-area-bangladesh/>

Only govt.’s effort will not work unless the residents come forward to help. But we are optimistic that together we will be able to manage this plastic wastes and can reduce the use of single-use plastic products.”

- **The Honorable Mayor of
Sylhet City Corporation
Mr. Ariful Haque
Choudhury**



Tourism and Single-use Plastic: A Mismatched Combination!

**Stakeholder Consultation And Round Table Meeting
On
Phasing Out The Use Of Single-use Plastic From The
Coastal Area Of Bangladesh**

**Organized by
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO**

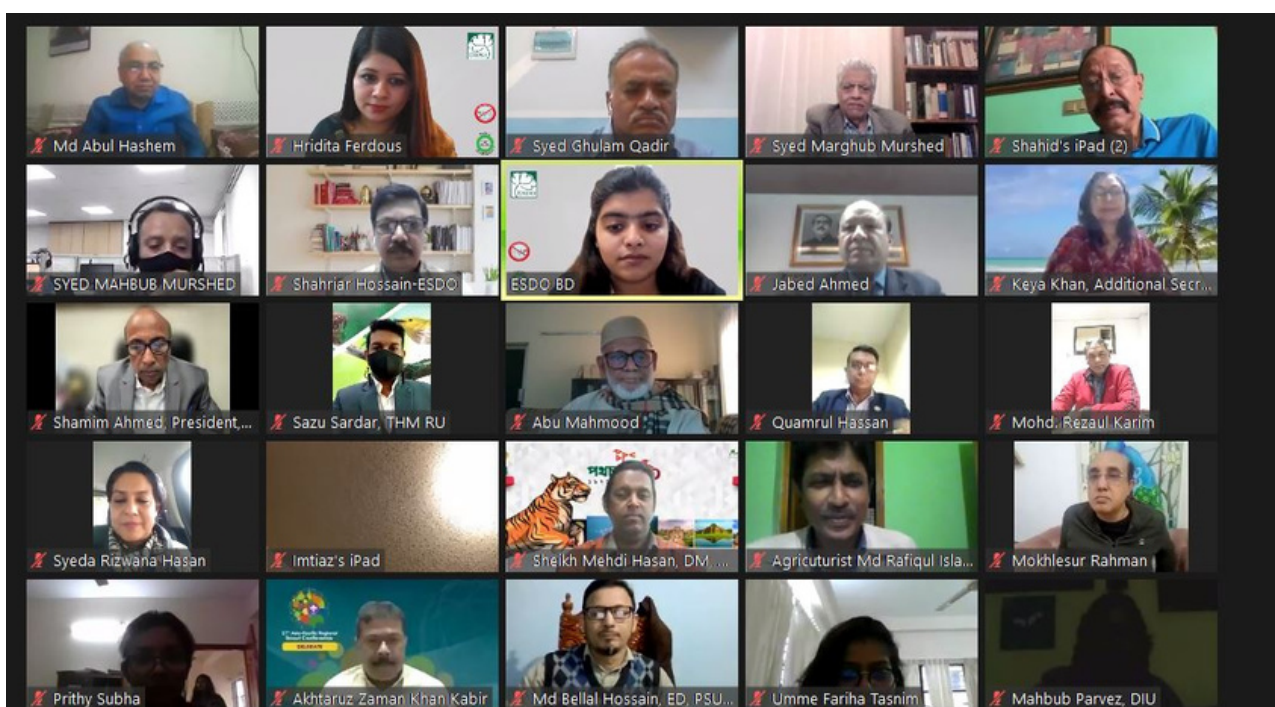
Date: 16th February 2022;
Time: 03:00 PM – 4:30 PM (GMT +6)
Place: Virtual Platform (zoom)



ESDO      #break from plastic

Virtual stakeholder consultation and roundtable meeting were organized by Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO today to discuss the strategy for phasing out Single-Use Plastic (SUP) products. Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary of Bangladesh and President of ESDO dignified the event as the chief guest.

Read more: <https://esdo.org/stakeholder-consultation-and-round-table-meeting-on-phase-out-the-use-of-single-use-plastic-from-the-coastal-area-of-bangladesh/>



Environmental Groups Call for International Action to Control Chemicals in Plastics!

Press Briefing On GLOBAL REPORT- 2021 'PLASTIC'S TOXIC CHEMICAL PROBLEM: A GROWING PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS'

January 13, 2022
Time- 11.00 AM- 1.00 PM

Organized by
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO



To avoid the spread of harmful chemicals in plastic pallets, environmental groups and researchers have called for worldwide action. On the 13th of January 2022, Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO held both physical and virtual media briefings to address the problem of dangerous chemicals detected in both beach and recycling pallets

Read more: <http://bansup.esdo.org/environmental-groups-call-for-international-action-to-control-plastic-chemicals/>



Objectives of the Event

- Sharing global report of widespread chemical contamination of recycled plastic pellets
- Highlighting the effect of plastic waste on human health
- Discussing the resulted environmental impacts
- Highlight the situation of Bangladesh



Public Urged for Strict Legislation and Enforcement for Nationwide Ban on Single-use Plastic

To raise public awareness about the hazardous environmental consequences of using single-use plastic products and to make people understand the importance of waste segregation, Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO held a day-long mobile and signature campaign to gain public support on “Banning Single-use Plastic and Support Waste Segregation” on February 14, 2022, at multiple locations in Dhaka city.



Virtual Roundtable Discussion to Stop the use of Single-use Plastic and Polythene Bags



The virtual roundtable was jointly organized by non-governmental organizations Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRED), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), and Prothom Alo. Experts called on the government to make the highest political commitment to stop the use of plastic, especially single-use plastic, and polythene products to protect life and biodiversity.

Initiation of Plastic Free Super Shop!

On 7th March 2022, ESDO had a courtesy visit with the Chief Executive Officer of Meena Bazar Supermarket. ESDO conducted the visit to let them know about plastic free shops and zero waste lifestyle. Meena Bazar is one of the Bangladesh's popular and leading supermarket which has eventually moving towards less plastic policy. They have already taken some initiatives such as they have introduced reusable bags in their super shop. Also, they have started Extended



Producer Responsibility - EPR policy and they are gradually coming out of plastic packaging.

Webinar on “UN System Response to Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution”



The Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues aim to encourage more interaction and engagement among stakeholders in Geneva and abroad. They also plan to deal with the plastic issue and encourage coordinated measures that can lead to more efficient decision-making. This session was organized in partnership with the United Nations Environment Management Group (UN-EMG) and GRID-Arendal, which featured the launch of the UN-EMG Report on mapping the UN response to marine litter and plastic pollution. This webinar was attended by one of the ESDO's team member Hridita Ferdous.

Webinar on Global Plastic Treaty: Opportunities for South East Asia

With the recent developments and upcoming UNEA 5.2, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law organized a webinar on the opportunities of South East Asia on the Global Plastic Treaty where the partner organizations were Global Alliance for Incineration Alternatives (GAIA), Environment and Social Development Organization - ESDO, and Greenpeace. Secretary-General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain participated the session as a Guest Speaker, and also presented a presentation highlighting the comparison of Japan and Rwanda Resolutions to be Adapted at UNEA 5.2.



The Resumed Session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.2) 'Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals'



The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), hosted by the UN Environment Program which brings together representatives from the UN's 193 member states, corporations, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to solve the world's most serious environmental concerns. The overall theme for UNEA-5 is “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.

The United Nations Environment Assembly's (UNEA-5.2) fifth session will be held online and in Nairobi from February 28 to March 2, 2022. ESDO's Secretary General Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Executive Director Siddika Sultana, Assistant Program Officer Hridita Ferdous and Program Associate Samina Khondaker has already attended the Day 1 session of the meeting.

Minamata COP-4 on Mercury: From Indonesia to the World

COP-4.2

Minamata Convention

21-25 March 2022



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Bureau of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury decided, at its fifth meeting held on 14 April 2021, to organize COP-4 in two segments: a first segment was conducted online within the period of 1 to 5 November 2021 and, in accordance with Decision MC-4/1 on the dates of the resumed COP-4, a second segment was conducted in-person within the period of 21 to 25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Secretary General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director of ESDO Ms. Siddika Sultana attended the segment.



Dental Surgeons Shout Out to Phase-out Mercury Amalgam by 2022!

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Bureau of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury decided, at its fifth meeting held on 14 April 2021, to organize COP-4 in two segments: a first segment was conducted online within the period of 1 to 5 November 2021 and, in accordance with Decision MC-4/1 on the dates of the resumed COP-4, a second segment was conducted in-person within the period of 21 to 25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Secretary General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director of ESDO Ms. Siddika Sultana attended the segment.

Read more: <https://esdo.org/high-level-policy-dialogue-on-mercury-free-dentistry-a-significant-transition-to-phase-out-dental-amalgam/>



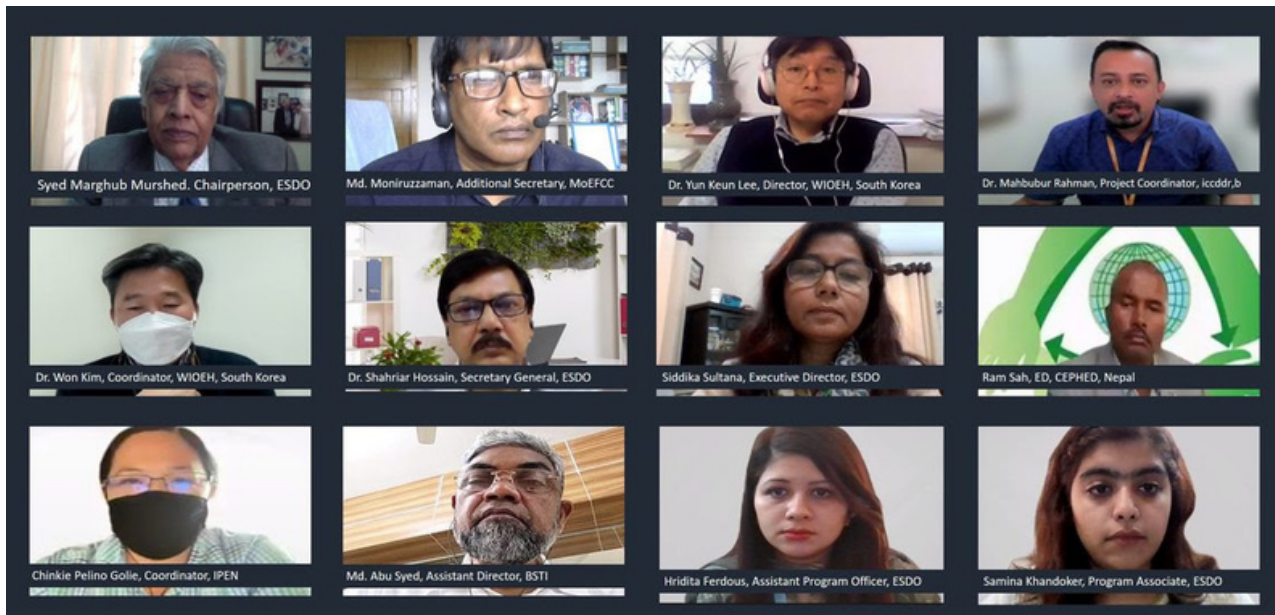
"Since Minamata Convention has already entered into force and ratification is only a need of time, support from our government is crucial in this regard"

- Habibun Nahar, MP
Deputy Minister, MoEFCC



Toxic Chemicals in kids Stationaries: Phthalates in Erasers

Environment & Social Development Association – ESDO in association with Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health, Seoul, Korea conducted a study to evaluate the presence of phthalates in erasers. A media briefing was held on 14th March 2022 to highlight the findings of the report which will show the types of phthalates particles were found in the erasers.



Courtesy Visit on Mercury Free Dentistry

ESDO executive Director Siddika Sultana pays a courtesy visit to Prof. Dr. Robed Amin at DGSH, where they discussed an insightful topic on oral health, ESDO's initiative to prevent mercury use from dentistry because mercury is harmful to human health. DR. Robed Amin mentioned the report and policy for oral care that yet to be legalized. He also appreciates the works and awareness workshop conducted by ESDO and express consent to be with ESDO on the mercury phase-out program. All these efforts can be considered to be very effective to phase out mercury from dentistry that will be able to provide support Govt. in the way of ratification of the Minamata Convention.



Campaign on Environmental and Economic Benefits of Clean Lightening

ESDO has recently started a campaign in collaboration with CLASP on environmental and economic benefits of clean lighting. The objective of the campaign is to eliminate fluorescent lighting and accelerate the transition to energy-efficient LEDs, massively reducing global carbon emissions from lighting. The campaign started from December 2021 and is ongoing



Country Situation Report on Mercury Added CFL Bulbs/Lights/Lamps

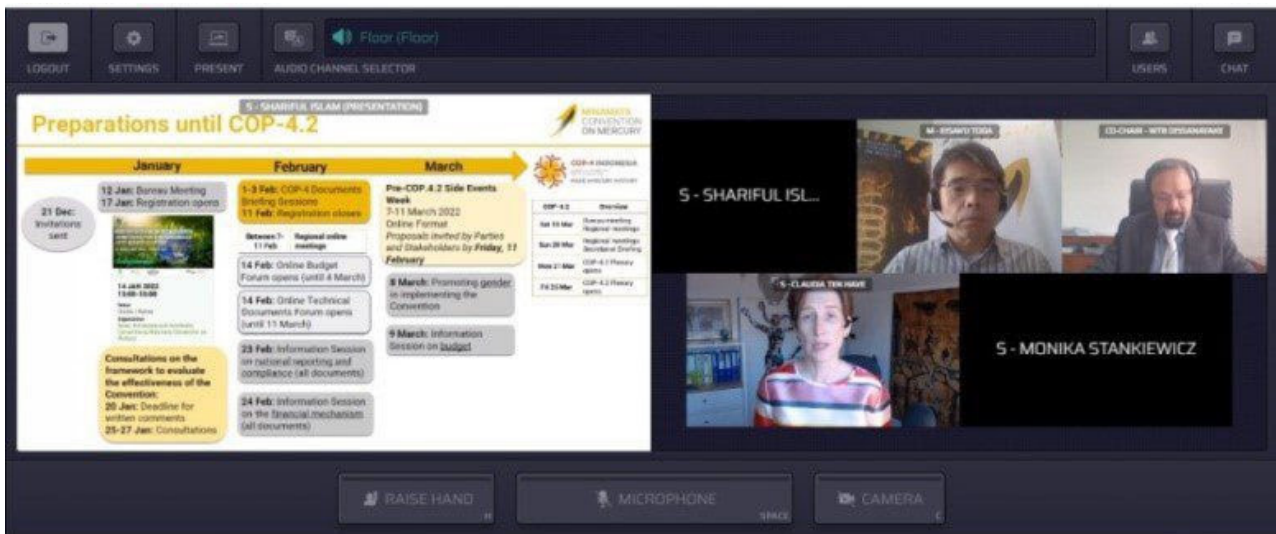
Market Status of Types of Light/Bulbs in Bangladesh and Review the Country's National Policy Measures related to Lighting



To analyze the country situation of mercury added CFL bulbs/lights/lamps, a questionnaire survey was conducted in different districts of Bangladesh to extract the data. The study respondent was divided into two groups: a) retailer, producer, and manufacturer, and b) consumer. The sample size for the retailer, producer, and manufacturer groups was 32, while the sample size for the consumer group was 26. The draft report was prepared to visualize that mercury-added CFLs are rarely found in market stores in Bangladesh which is the most positive finding to eliminating mercury-based fluorescent lighting products at the next Conference of Parties (COP4) would lead to a global phase-out by 2025 and accelerate a transition to LED lighting.

Minamata Convention COP-4.2 Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting

On 7th February, 2022, Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting for COP-4.2 was organized with a view to discuss the second segment of COP-4, substantive items of the COP 4.2 and also to shared information on the logistic matters and Bali declaration. Secretary General of ESDO Dr. Shahriar Hossain and Executive Director Siddika Sultana participated on the preparatory regional meeting as part of preparation of COP4.2. Presenters had very engaging discussion over the strategies and guideline which is going to be followed during COP-4.2 in person segment of Minamata convention.



Regional Update Report on Mercury Free Dentistry

The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry is one of the pioneer organizations working with governments and organizations to phase down amalgam use in every region. World Alliance It welcomed the growing momentum to phase out the use of dental amalgam. Environmental and Social Development Organization working in the same journey with World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry Since 2017 nationally, regionally and globally. A regional report was prepared to reflect progress made by the national authorities, organizations, scientific communities from different countries in the way of phase-out the use of mercury from the dentistry. The report would provide support and practical to those networking countries willing for complete ban. This will also be a showcase of the current situation of the network countries in Mercury free dentistry journey.

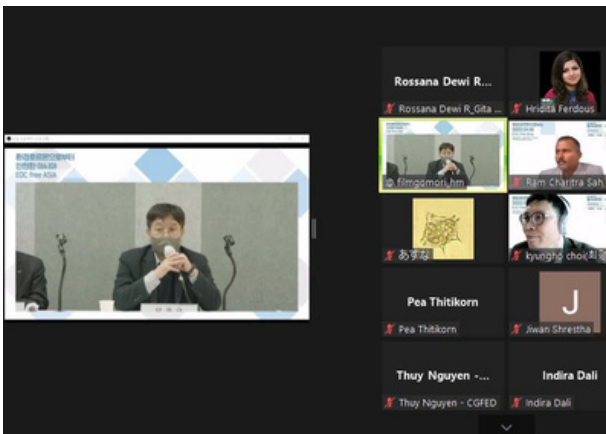


Gender and Chemical: A Matter of Concern!

An online interview of executive Director of ESDO Siddika Sultana was arranged by IPEN on Gender and Chemicals. As per request, she shared her journey of creating a toxic free environment. She also put forth the initiatives and achievements of toxic free movement she took part in being a part of Environmental and Social Development Organization-ESDO.



International Conference on Hazardous Chemical Free Asia



On March 31, 2022, the Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health in Seoul, Korea, hosted an international conference at which partner organizations who had participated in the project reported their results on phthalates in erasers and BPA in cash receipts. ESDO, a Bangladeshi organization, took part in the study, and Siddika Sultana presented the findings.

Skin Lighteners are Still Online Despite the Presence of Mercury!

The Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) has been investigating mercury-added skin lightening products (SLPs) with ZMWG member organizations including Bangladesh for several years, primarily due to their health risks, their illegality under many national laws, and the prohibition by the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Read more: <https://esdo.org/wp-content/uploads/ZMWG-Skin-2022-Report-Final.pdf>



Webinar on LEAD Exposure on Children



like WHO, public universities shared their insight through their presentation.

INCHES works in official collaboration with WHO. One of the collaborative tasks is to organize a webinar on lead exposure and children to share the most recent consequences of lead exposure especially for children to create the awareness to reduce the global problem. Different presenter from different country from respected organization

Country's First Ever Single Use Plastic Free Fair!



Environment and Social Development Organization – ESDO hosted the country's first-ever Single-use Plastic-free Fair in Dhaka on 25th & 26th March 2022 at the premises of Lalmatia Housing Society School and College. In this fair, Single-use plastic alternatives were showcased by the local SMEs. The two-day-long fair was visited by different people around the city.

Read more: <https://zerowaste.esdo.org/2022/03/29/esdo-organized-countrys-first-ever-single-use-plastic-free-fair/>



Adapting Zero Waste principle is essential for Sustainable Waste Management!

Policy Dialogue on



Zero Waste Community For Sustainable Waste Management

Organized by
Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO

Date: 13th February 2022

Time: 03:30 PM – 5:00 PM (GMT +6)

Place: Virtual Platform (zoom)



Building a zero waste community is the need for time for sustainability. To discuss this important issue ESDO is organized a policy dialogue on 13th February 2022 through online platform Zoom. Respected Chairperson of ESDO, Syed Marghub Murshed, Former Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presided over the discussion.



“In the Solid Waste Management Rule 2021, waste segregation and reuse has been emphasized. We hope that with the spontaneous participation of the community, we will be able to have a sustainable waste management system,”

-- Md. Moniruzzaman,
Additional Secretary, MoEFCC

Building Capacity among Community People to Encourage Entrepreneurship

ESDO organized a capacity-building workshop with thirty participants of Shalbon, Rangpur for encouraging them on entrepreneurship on 15th February, 16th February, and 17th February 2022. This initiative was undertaken by ESDO under the project 'Building Zero Waste Communities for a Pollution-free Environment in Bangladesh'. Three sessions were arranged for three days on three trades including Handloom and painting, Block and Batik, and Jute Carpet and reusing old clothes. One trainer for each trade was assigned for guiding the participants. Besides teaching the techniques of producing the product, the trainers also highlighted price selection and marketing techniques for the products. The participants were divided into three groups consisting of 10 members each. They were able to make a final product on the ending day. The linkage between the SMEs and the participants will enable them to promote their products shortly for entrepreneurship.



"Let's Build a Zero Waste Community for a Pollution Free Bangladesh"

Distribution of Small and Large Bins to Beneficiaries



Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) focus on the model of zero-waste community development in three different territories under the project 'Building Zero Waste Community for a Pollution Free Environment in Bangladesh'. To fulfill the project framework ESDO is providing waste segregation bins at the community level. As a demonstration and incentive for the early adopter, ESDO has distributed small and large bins to beneficiaries to ensure zero waste management practices.



For a Sustainable Environment Waste Segregation is a MUST!



On January 8th, 2022, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) held a daylong capacity building workshop on “waste segregation for a sustainable environment”. The target audience of the workshop was the housemaids. The goal of this workshop was to introduce the concept of Zero Waste, usage of two bins for wet & dry waste separation practice to achieve a waste-free lifestyle. This initiative also promoted organic farming by encouraging people to compost at home and use kitchen waste to make organic fertilizer for rooftop, balcony gardening



Capacity Building Workshop with Waste Frontliners



The Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) presented a daylong capacity building session on "waste segregation for a sustainable environment" at the Lalmatia Housing Society School and College on January 9th, 2022 with waste workers. The purpose was to disseminate awareness among the waste workers which elaborates waste collection from green, blue and red colored bins that reduces their health risk, physical labor and offer them a comfortable, admirable life. Besides, this program also highlighted the waste segregation process and advised to refuse the waste collection from household that hasn't been sorted properly. In addition, this program made them believe they are the actual waste warriors who are involving with a noble task and this zero-trash initiative will diminish their sufferings at a greater level.

*"Not Waste Pickers, they are the
Waste Warriors"*

Survey in Household: Segregate it all, No matter how small!

ESDO performed a gardening survey among household members and gathered their contact information as well as home holding numbers in order to develop a database. It is also important to understand the waste segregation method that the members are implementing. The majority of people voiced their opinions, with the majority of them failing to properly separate their waste. They were motivated to segregate the waste, however, if they were given a segregation bin.



Waste Segregation: A Healthy Choice for the Waste Warriors!



On February 20th, 2022, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) went for community counseling with the households at Lalmatia Block B and C. The target audience of the counseling was the waste pickers. The goal of this counseling was to motivate them to segregate waste from the source and inform them about health issues and environmental pollution.

Lets Start the Segregation from Household Level!

On February 20th, 2022, the Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) conducted a community counseling with the households at Lalmatia Block B/19. The target audience of the counseling was the households members. The goal of this counseling was to motivate them to adopt zero waste lifestyle and waste segregation.



Rooftop Garden Put Waste to the Right Place!



ESDO team set up a rooftop garden in this month. We have started a hydroponic garden with 70 plants. In this garden, organic fertilizers will be used that has been extracted from composter



Lets do rooftop gardening

Initiation of Day Care Center!



ESDO has recently initiated a Day Care Center Project at Fatehpur locality in Rangpur Division. The main purpose of the day care center is to identify the underprivileged people of the area those who will benefit from this day care center. Elderly men and women, widows, and people with disabilities will take advantage of this center and be able to become self-reliant. The main object is to get an idea about the disadvantaged people in this area through day care center and to provide services to improve their socio-economic status.





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ESDO's unceasing effort to stop plastic pollution and make an environmentally empathetic Bangladesh had started back in 1990. The journey towards creating legislation is one of those efforts, through which, and with mass support, ESDO looks forward to achieving more significant outcomes for promoting environmental justice.