



IN BRIEF

COX'S BAZAR UPDATE

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2021



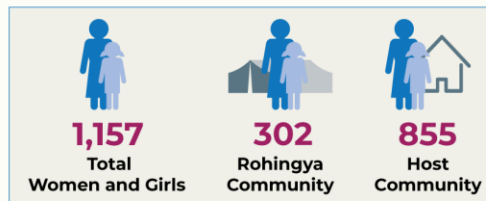
PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH UN WOMEN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

*Oct-Dec 2021

Volunteers Reached By



Second Chance Education



Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWCs)



Services Provided by UN Women Volunteers

Information on COVID-19, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child Marriage and Care Work

Services Provided in 8 MPWCs

Information on COVID-19, Health and Sanitation, Nutrition, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child marriage, Anti-trafficking, Literacy and Skills Training



Photo: UN Women/ Shantaw Nur

Eliminating Gender-Based Violence in Cox's Bazar was discussed during the 16 Days of Activism campaign

On November 30, as a part of the joint effort to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, UN Women, in collaboration with ActionAid, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and FAO, organized a joint event to address gender-based violence. The event was in line with the global theme of 2021 "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!"

The event was attended by the heads of UN agencies' sub-offices, representatives from RRRC, ISCG, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, donors, sector coordinators, representatives from the Armed Police Battalion, NGOs, and INGOs, and women and girls from Rohingya and the host community. Guests discussed challenges and ways forward to jointly eliminating gender-based violence from all spheres of society. In addition to the discussions, a day-long fair was held, where products made by Rohingya and host community women were sold.



Photo: DCA

Orange handprints to raise awareness against gender-based violence in Multi-Purpose Women's Centres

On November 30 and December 1, the Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWCs) of Rohingya Camp 3 and 5 observed the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Awareness-raising sessions regarding GBV services were organised for the Rohingya women and girls, UN Women volunteers, and centre staff by UN Women in collaboration with its partner, BRAC. In line with the campaign's global approach, all the volunteers and community members wore orange wrist bands and orange masks. Participants jointly did palm painting to show the diversity and power of women in the prevention of violence against women. On November 6, in the MPWCs, a game competition was conducted where gender-based violence awareness-based games were played by the Rohingya women, and an art competition was held among the adolescent girls. Also, several events were held at the women's market in Camp-5 among the shopkeepers.

Acting against gender-based violence in Cox's Bazar

UN Women, in collaboration with DunChurchAid, marked 16 Days of Activism with events in outreach centres in the Rohingya camp and host communities of Ukhiya, Teknaf, and Cox's Bazar Sadar.

The session incorporated discussions, games, and a fair that included the active participation of right holders, volunteers, and facilitators. To mark the event, the area was designed with colourful hand-drawn posters, banners, and images.

The event began with a discussion emphasizing the importance of taking action to end violence against women. The event continued with indoor games, painting contests, math competitions, and sewing competitions, which concluded with an award ceremony. The fair included a colourful exhibition of handmade food and handicrafts, where participants could buy and sell their goods.



Photo: BRAC

Women and girls in Cox's Bazar say "No to violence against women"



Photo: ASK

Women and girls in Cox's Bazar say "No to Violence Against Women and Girls" by participating in the global 16 Days of Activism campaign from November 25 to December 10. They supported the Orange the World Campaign through discussion sessions, games, painting competitions, and debating competitions for children. UN Women's partner, Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK), facilitated the activities of its Maitree women's group together with its sub-partner, JAGO NARI Unnayan Sangsta. The Maitree Project in Cox's Bazar is being implemented in both the Rohingya and the host communities with generous support from the Government of Sweden.

Advancing human rights for women and girls in 2022



Photo: UN Women

Seventy guests, leaders, and humanitarian workers reiterated their pledges and commitment against GBV on December 9, 2021, at the closing event of the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Cox's Bazar.

The event concluded with a high-level discussion on "Advancing Human Rights for Women and Girls: Collective Hopes for the Next 365 Days", which was organized by the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) through the leadership of Gender Hub. UN Women organized a high-level dialogue in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Women's Empowerment and Leadership Technical Working Group (WELTWG), GBV Sub-Sector, and partner UN agencies.

The event also included an interactive theatre play as a curtain raiser, which portrayed the multi-dimensional suffering of women. Speakers in different sessions stressed the importance of engaging men and boys and strengthening partnerships for GBV sensitization. Audio clips of Rohingya refugees voicing their collective efforts against GBV were also played.



Photo: UN Women

Women leaders promoting a peaceful coexistence

H.E. Ambassador Patricia Danzi, Director General of the Swiss Development Cooperation, with a delegation team from the Swiss Embassy in Bangladesh visited UN Women's activities in the Multi-Purpose Women's Centre at Rohingya Camp-4 on December 19.

The team also met with the host community and Rohingya women groups where the importance of their inspiring efforts in promoting peaceful coexistence in their societies was emphasized.



Photo: UN Women

Web Editorial Feature Story

In Cox's Bazar, gender-responsive policing efforts build trust with Rohingya women and girls. [Click here](#) to read the story.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

Turkey focused on rights of women and girls in Cox's Bazar

H.E. Mustafa Osman Turan, Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh, led an official visit to the UN Women's Sub-Office Cox's Bazar on November 14, along with representatives from the four Turkish development agencies (AFAD, TIKA, Turkish Red Crescent, and Diyanet) that operate in the Cox's Bazar district. The delegation discussed current programme responsibilities as well as the potential scope for future collaboration to uphold the rights of women and girls in the Rohingya camp and host community. UN Women thanked the Turkish Ambassador for his visit and appreciated the ongoing support from the Turkish development agencies for their work in Cox's Bazar.

Volunteers and inspirational women's leadership contribute to peace

H.E. Nathalie Chuard, Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh, visited the UN Women's programme in the Rohingya camp, Cox's Bazar, on October 19. Together with the Head of Humanitarian Affairs of the Swiss Embassy in Bangladesh, they met with Rohingya and host community women leaders and UN Women volunteers to learn about their work, accomplishments, and priorities.

The Ambassador thanked the leaders and volunteers for their inspirational work, stressing that it is important to help build peaceful societies through their work.



Photo: UN Women

Women's empowerment through leadership development

"The men were not happy when we initially started working for the women in the rural areas of Cox's Bazar. Later, they realized that a nation's backbone could not be made strong without half of its population. The mindset of society is changing now." Khadija Rawnak, RW Welfare Society (RWWS) Project Manager.

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) organized an advocacy event on 25 October 2021 to support the leadership of Rohingya Refugee and Host Community women. The Additional Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, Executive Director of BNPS, along with representatives from Oxfam and UN Women were part of the panel discussion, which was attended by civil society organisations working in Cox's Bazar. Representatives shared their experiences working on Bangladeshi and Rohingya women's empowerment and shared suggestions on the way forward. BNPS has been collaborating with UN Women's partner OXFAM, to provide leadership training at the UN Women's Multi-Purpose Women's Centre in Teknaf with the generous support of the Government of Sweden.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim



Photo: UN Women

Every woman should have the right to decision-making

On October 26, an advocacy event in camp-4 on family planning was organized with the participation of Rohingya women, Majhi, the Camp-in-Charge (CiC), site management officers, and UN Women Gender Field Officers. UN Women organized this event as part of a series of family planning dialogue sessions that are taking place in five Rohingya camps with the help of CiCs.

The relevance of women's participation in decision-making and understanding of family planning were discussed by the participants. A family planning professional outlined the various ways.



Photo: UN Women

The Ambassador of Sweden interacts with Rohingya women leaders

H.E. Alexandra Berg von Linde, Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh, visited UN Women programmes in the Rohingya camp and host community on October 5.

During the visit, she attended a Multi-Purpose Women's Centre and the Women's Market, run in partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh and BRAC, respectively.

The Ambassador met Rohingya women leaders and also attended a learning session as part of the Second Chance Education project in the host community, implemented by DanChurchAid (DCA) in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.

Women's market inspires Rohingya entrepreneurs



Photo: UN Women

Ms. Helen LaFave, Chargé d'affaires (CDA), Embassy of the United States of America, with a 16-member delegation of representatives from USAID and the US embassy, visited the Women's Market at Rohingya camp-5 on November 21.

The women's market is an initiative of UN Women with its partner BRAC to improve the self-reliance and economic activity of Rohingya and host community women in Cox's Bazar.

The market has 24 shops, including a tea stall, a tailoring service, a beauty parlor, and stalls that sell vegetables, clothes, and artisan products.

During the visit, female entrepreneurs interacted with the Chargé d'affaires, who appreciated the UN Women initiative.



Reusable cloth masks

132,234



Sanitary Napkins

23,027

132,234 Reusable cloth masks and 23,027 Sanitary Napkins have been produced by UN Women with the support of ActionAid and BRAC.

*Jan-Dec 2021

A new Multi-Purpose Women's Centre provides opportunities in Teknaf



Photo: UN Women

"This is a fantastic effort and in order to be successful, it will require the support of appropriate government departments as well as community engagement, particularly from local women leaders. The impact of this centre must be tracked, followed up on, and compared to other locations where such a centre does not exist." Deputy Commissioner, Md. Mamunur Rashid stated during his inaugural speech.

On December 28, a Multi-Purpose Women's Centre was opened in Whykong Union Parishad, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. The centre will be a hub for the host community's women and girls to access information, primary health care, along with education and livelihood opportunities. This centre was jointly established by UN Women with its partners, Oxfam and MUKTI with generous support from the Government of Sweden.



International Day of the Girl 2021



Learning sessions gave me the courage to aim for a career as a police officer and end illegal behaviour against women - Jesmin Aktar

DIGITAL GENERATION. OUR GENERATION.

Web Editorial Feature Story

When given the opportunities, girls become agents of revolutionary change for a better society.

Follow the link to read the inspiring story of

[Jesmin Aktar](#)



Photo: UN Women/ Nadira Islam

UN Women was praised for its commitment to the joint response in Cox's Bazar

Gitanjali Singh, Head of Office a. i. UN Women Bangladesh, met with Shah Rezwan Hayat, Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), at his office on October 4.

The RRRC praised UN Women's contribution to the Bangladesh government committees and national task force, as well as its work in the joint response in Cox's Bazar.

He also shared his suggestions on the further work that can be done for women's empowerment in the Rohingya camps and the host community, which UN Women highly appreciated. Ms. Singh thanked the RRRC for the collaboration and partnership with UN Women as well as his team's support for the UN Women's Gender Field Officers.

UN Women has received invaluable support from the Governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the National Committees for UN Women in Australia, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, USA, as well as the Tingari Silverton Foundation towards delivering a humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, for Rohingya refugee and host community women and girls.