



IN BRIEF

COX'S BAZAR UPDATE

JANUARY–MARCH 2022



PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH UN WOMEN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

*Jan-Mar 2022

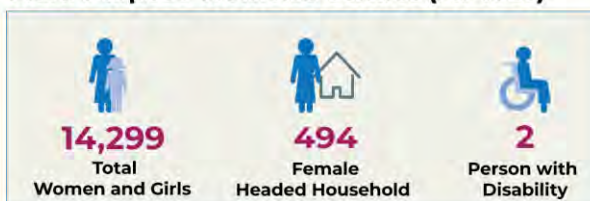
Volunteers Reached By



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

Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWCs)



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

Second Chance Education



Rohingya women share their stories with the Swedish delegation

A three-day visit to Cox's Bazar by representatives from the Government of Sweden was conducted from March 14–16. The official visit was led by Matilda Svensson, Coordinator Humanitarian & Development Assistance and Paola Castro Neiderstam, Democracy, Human Rights, Gender Equality, and Rule of Law portfolio.

The visit included a discussion with UN Women and their partners regarding recent achievements and inspiring stories of change, a meeting with the Armed Police Battalion Commanding Officer, Shihab Kaiser Khan, on the importance of having women police officers deployed in the camps and the need for additional gender-sensitive policing training for police and a visit to UN Women's Multi-Purpose Women's Centre (MPWC) in the Rohingya camp, which is implemented by ActionAid and the host community implemented by Mukti Cox's Bazar. The visit finished with a tour of the Women's Market implemented



Photo: UN Women

by BRAC, where they participated in a dialogue session with UN Women Rohingya volunteers, students from the Second Chance education programme, and Rohingya women's representatives.

Later this year, UN Women is planning a major donor and implementing partners' forum.



Photo: Ain o Salish Kendra

Swedish delegation met the women's group in Cox's Bazar

On February 28, a delegation team led by Katri Hoch, Humanitarian Aid Coordinator from the embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, visited UN Women's activities in Cox's bazar. They visited the Multi-Purpose Women's Centre (MPWC) of UN Women's partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh in Rohingya Camp 4 Extension. During her visit, she observed the activities of MPWC, spoke to women leaders and volunteers, and attended a dialogue session. She also visited the host community women's group of the "Motree Project" implemented by Ain O Shalish Kendra in Rajapalong, Ukhiya, who are working to build awareness to prevent Gender-Based Violence and Child Marriage and working as a referral point for GBV cases.



Video on YouTube

Second Chance Education Programme Transforming the lives of women and girls in Cox's Bazar

[Click here](#) to watch the video

Humanitarian workers trained in gender and diversity

As part of a series of advocacy events and training activities, UN Women conducted a training session on gender and diversity on March 21–22. The participants included staff from the CIC office, NGOs, INGOs, community leaders, and imams who discussed the importance of understanding gender and equality in the workplace and how these are key components of a successful humanitarian response. The training was conducted by Sultana Nasrin, UN Women's Programme Analyst.

As part of the advocacy, UN Women has already conducted 17 events this year on intimate partner violence, the prevention of child marriage, and other social issues related to gender equality. These events aim to increase knowledge and analyze the important service support link between service providers and stakeholders.



Photo: UN Women



Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

Women in the Rohingya camp reiterate the importance of self-reliance

A key focus of UN Women's work in Cox's Bazar is to empower women and to reduce gender-based violence in the Rohingya camps.

On February 14, two representatives from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Paula Schindeler, Deputy Head of Mission, and Veronika Flegar, First Secretary, along with Marco de Gaetano, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), visited UN Women's MPWC in Rohingya Camp-4, which is being implemented by ActionAid.

The visitors observed the activities being conducted at the MPWC and held discussions with Rohingya women's groups on the importance of livelihood training to empower women and increase their self-confidence. According to the Rohingya women, they feel more powerful when they can earn an income following livelihood training.

The livelihood training conducted in the UN Women's MPWCs enables long-term and sustainable livelihood opportunities.



Video on UN Women YouTube

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh join the campaign against gender-based violence

[Click here](#) to watch the video

"I can now use a computer and type in Word documents. When I heard about the computer learning program, I informed my parents that I wanted to learn how to operate a computer. This is free, plus it's in my neighbourhood, so I can easily get here."

Omme Habiba
Student
Computer literacy programme,
Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



Young women benefit from computer training in Cox's Bazar

UN Women, in collaboration with DanChurchAid (DCA), is assisting women and adolescent girls in Cox's Bazar to learn basic computer literacy. The programme, which is funded by the Government of Sweden, enables students to have computer, numeracy, and language skills to enhance their self-confidence and develop their skills for potential future employment.

Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

Cox's Bazar Police strengthening their skills in gender responsive policing



Photo: UN Women

In January, 14 officers from the Bangladesh Armed Police Battalion (APBN) in Cox's Bazar participated in a three-day course on providing an effective police response to gender-based violence. The training was coordinated by UN Women in collaboration with Bangladesh Police and funded by the generous support of the United Nation's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Government of Australia.

The training was provided by Jane Townsley, Senior Police Expert, Mily Biswas, former Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police, and Sultana Nasrin, Programme Analyst, UN Women, which is vital for protecting women from violence. According to Jane Townsley, "We hope [the training] will have a positive impact on the capacity development of our police, while also opening their eyes to the realities of dealing with violence, enabling the participants to better define their role as a police officer," she said.

The 60 officers who finished the two-day training will get mentoring and coaching for the next two years to help them become more gender-responsive professionals.



Handicraft Products
(mask, dress, bag, nakshi kantha etc.)

2,124



Sanitary Napkins

3,143

2,124 Handicraft products and 3,143 Sanitary Napkins have been produced by UN Women with the support of ActionAid and BRAC.

*Jan-Mar 2022

Web Editorial Feature Story

"We don't want anyone suffering from violence to feel like there is no one besides them."

Follow the link to read the inspiring story of [Tarikul Islam](#)



Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

Accountability is a prerequisite for effective humanitarian response



Photo: UN Women/ Rifat Afroze

UN Women developed a Complaints and Feedback Mechanism in Cox's Bazar as part of a new pilot project, which ultimately aims to improve the effectiveness and accountability of the gender-responsive humanitarian response. Community members and relevant groups will use this mechanism to provide comments on the programmes and services that UN Women and their partners provide, while also addressing complaints from the community. To support the pilot, UN Women Rohingya volunteers undertook three training sessions to learn about the CFM.

Stickers and posters have been developed to support the CFM pilot. From the last week of March 2022, people started using the complaint box and hotline

The pilot will be reviewed after three months, with the aim of rolling the CFM into five Rohingya camps and three host community locations. This program is generously supported by the Government of Sweden.

Web Editorial Feature Story

Cultural practices like child marriage and polygamy were highlighted as threats to the safety of women and girls in Rohingya refugee camps as the refugees and humanitarian aid workers participated in the United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

Follow the link to read the article
[Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh join UN campaign against gender-based violence](#)



Photo: DCA



Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

Speakers emphasize the importance of working together to empower women

UN Women in collaboration with the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and the GIHA Working Group, celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, by acknowledging the positive changes that have occurred in Cox's Bazar.

Representatives from the Armed Police Battalion, Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs, Camp-in-Charges, UN agencies, ISCG, Sector and Working Group Coordinators, INGOs, NGOs and donors attended the event.

The representative of the RRRRC office, Deputy Secretary Mikon Tangchanggya, stressed the importance of working together. "We are all working towards one goal, and our efforts need to be collaborative, synchronized, and for the benefit of the people we represent," he said.

Paola Castro Neiderstam, Second Secretary, Embassy of Sweden, stressed the importance of supporting women's leadership opportunities. "Women are under-represented in decision-making spaces at all levels. "The influence of women and girls, and their effective participation, is central to the success of any effective action to meet the needs of communities," she said.

The session began with a summary of recent UN Women's programme achievements, then a briefing on recent comprehensive gender analysis findings, while two case studies highlighted the role of the Camp-in-Charges and how their expertise on gender issues stimulates the humanitarian and development communities to collaborate to find solutions to complicated problems. The event concluded with a networking dinner.

Host Community girls celebrate IWD with a performance raising awareness on child marriage

Supporting UN Women's project on women's participation in peace building and social cohesion, Ain O Salish Kendra organized several host community events in Cox's Bazar for International Women's Day. The main event was a street drama, performed by a community girl's group, which focused on the prevention of child marriage. Other activities included indoor games and a prize giving ceremony. The Matree group members and local community people attended the events.



Photo: ASK



GIHA Working Group's five-day IWD Campaign in Cox's Bazar

The GIHA WG coordinated a five-day campaign for IWD 2022 in Cox's Bazar. Approximately 110 events were held during the campaign from March 6–10, which included workshops, a photo exhibition, and a product fair. The workshops focused on the contributions of women and girls to a sustainable future, which reinforced the theme of this year's IWD.

The key event was UN Women's high-level discussion, which acknowledged the positive changes occurring in Cox's Bazar. This event was hosted in conjunction with RRRC and GIHA WG.



Photo: UN Women



Photo: DCA

Women and Girls inspired by IWD activities

UN Women's partner DCA celebrated International Women's Day with events and fairs in the Rohingya and host community. The events were organized by the beneficiaries, volunteers, and facilitators who added colour to the MPWCs with handmade papers, posters, and banners. Discussion sessions, games, and a fair were just some of the festivities. Women and girls participated in games, while other activities were also organized for the volunteers. Prizes were awarded to the game winners to motivate and inspire. A fair showcasing the products made by Rohingya and host community women was also held. Homemade cuisine was also tastefully adorned and showcased during the fair. For the Rohingya and the host community women and girls, the day was appealing and fun.



International Women's Day Celebrated in the Women's Market



Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

As a part of the ongoing International Women's Day celebrations, UN Women, in collaboration with BRAC, organized a fair and discussion session in the women's market in Rohingya camp-5. Deputy secretary Md. Mahfuzar Rahman, camp-in-charge, opened the fair on March 14, which was supported by UN agencies, NGOs, and INGOs, along with women and girls from the Rohingya and host community. Rahman emphasized the benefits of enhancing the skills of women, which could ultimately help them find work when they return to Myanmar. Food items and handicrafts made by Rohingya, and host community women were displayed and sold as part of the women's empowerment activities.

Humanitarian community supports Gender equality in the Rohingya camp

International Women's Day was jointly celebrated in the conference room of the camp-in-charge office at Rohingya camp 18. The event was led by UN Women in collaboration with IOM, ActionAid, IRC, RTMI, YPSA, and Pulse Bangladesh. The event provided an opportunity for hundreds of participants from the government of Bangladesh, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and community leaders from the Rohingya and host community to meet. A panel discussion on preventing child marriage and polygamy, along with adolescent education and improving family planning knowledge, was held. Speakers shared their achievements and challenges and discussed the way forward for improving gender equality in the Rohingya camp. Camp-in-Charge Kyathowai Prue Marma expressed his gratitude for the interactive participation in the session and the sharing of opinions, which will enable him to seek ways to improve the situation.



Photo: UN Women



International Women's Day Celebrated in the Multi-Purpose Women's Centre



Photo: ActionAid Bangladesh

International Women's Day was observed in four UN Women MPWCs in the Rohingya community, in collaboration with ActionAid Bangladesh. Several activities, including indoor games, an art competition involving 35 adolescent girls and a Heena competition, A livelihood competition by 105 women and girls participated in the tailoring and dressmaking, Naskhi Kantha, machine embroidery, and jute handicraft activities.

The last event was an awareness session on gender-based violence and assessing the risk levels within the camps.

Host community women in Teknaf celebrate Women's Day with a rally and cultural event

UN Women's implementing partner Mukti Cox's Bazar, with the support of OXFAM, arranged a colorful rally, cultural show, and discussion session at UN Women's MPWC in Teknaf to celebrate International Women's Day 2022. The union parishad chairman, members, community and women's leaders, staff, and volunteers, along with the local community, attended the occasion. A rally with the participation of local women and girls, led by Kanjorpara high school's head teacher, was also held. A well-known local artist performed folk songs and performed a play focusing on women's leadership and the involvement of women in the decision-making process. As part of their production, the artists also talked about the need for women to take on leadership roles, the problems associated with child marriage, dowries, and prevention of gender-based violence.



Photo: Mukti Cox's Bazar/ Najira Akter

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.