



## IN BRIEF

# COX'S BAZAR UPDATE

APRIL–JUNE 2022



### PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH UN WOMEN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

\*Apr-Jun 2022

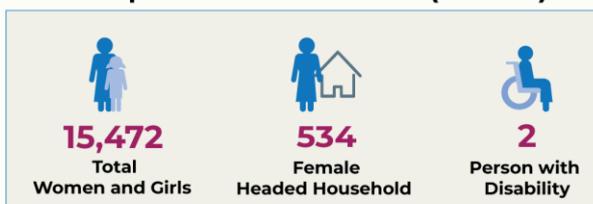
#### Volunteers Reached By



#### 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



## UN Women share best practices with Rohingya camp leadership

The best practices of UN Women's work were shared with the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's Office and the Commanding Officers of the Armed Police Battalion in Cox's Bazar. The discussion session organized by UN Women in Cox's Bazar on June 12, was attended by senior staff and leaders who manage and support the operation of the Rohingya Camps. The achievements and positive changes that have occurred in the Rohingya camps were shared, while a discussion focused on the importance of collaboration to ensure gender-responsive solutions in response efforts.

UN Women's departing Head of Sub-Office Flora Macula said, "We appreciate your support and cooperation in addressing gender equality issues and working to mitigate gender-based violence in the Rohingya camp." She also stressed that women and girls are getting easy access to the camp-in-charge offices, which has made a significant improvement in responding to gender-based violence cases.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

Shihab Kaiser Khan, Commanding Officer (SP), Battalion-8, said, "UN Women initially trained our officers, and now those officers are conducting training on gender responsive policing. It is a sustainable process, and moreover, our officers are now handling Gender-Based Violence cases more sensitively."



Photo: BBC Media Action/ Nazmun Shishir

## Partners trained in effective communication techniques

On June 7, UN Women's partners Ain O Shalish Kendra and Oxfam in Cox's Bazar undertook training on how to use effective communication approaches and audiovisual content to engage communities. BBC Media Action conducted a one-day orientation on "Audiovisual Contents for Effective Community Engagement."

A total of 14 participants were taught how to plan a community-focused communications campaign and how to effectively use different communications tools. The facilitators used audio and video clips and group work to enable the effective interactive engagement of the participants.



Photo: ActionAid Bangladesh

## Heavy monsoon rain causes flash flooding in the Rohingya camp

UN Women's Multi-Purpose Women's Centre in Camp 4 provided shelter to 151 women and children after heavy rain flooded the Rohingya Camp on 2 June 2022. UN Women Rohingya volunteers, who are also trained as first responders for camp emergencies, supported the flood affected families, while ActionAid Bangladesh were on site to provide dry clothes, food and dignity kits. UN Women will continue to work with the Rohingya Camp management, implementing partners and other United Nations agencies to support camp emergencies.

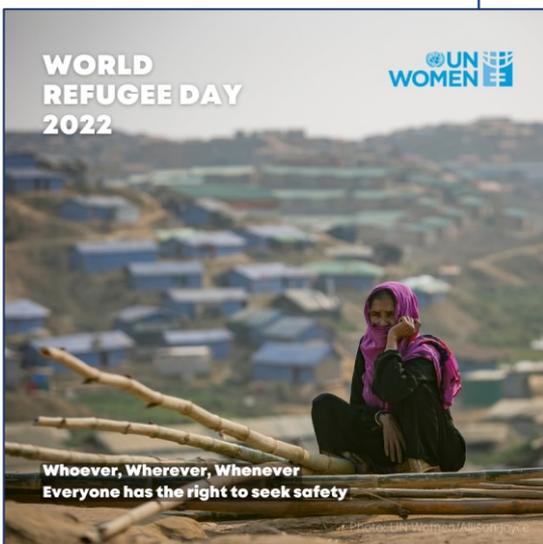
**WORLD  
REFUGEE DAY  
2022**



## World Refugee Day

**Whoever, Whenever, Wherever  
Everyone has the right to seek safety**

As of May 31, 2022, there were 926,486 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, with 52 per cent identified as women and girls. On World Refugee Day 2022, UN Women, Cox's Bazar, honored the resilience and determination of all refugees by arranging advocacy events and awareness-raising activities in collaboration with its partners in the Rohingya camps. Seeking safety is a human right and UN Women, in collaboration with the Bangladesh government and other humanitarian actors, is working with Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar to protect the rights and dignity of women and girls.



**Whoever, Whenever, Whenever  
Everyone has the right to seek safety**

## Gender-diverse populations are being served in the Rohingya camp

“As a transgender Rohingya refugee, I am honoured to be a part of this initiative, which allows me to learn skills that will help me support my family.” said Salamatulla, Gender Diverse Person.

UN Women, in collaboration with ActionAid Bangladesh and funded by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), are conducting a six-month training course on integrated lifesaving support for a gender-diverse group at the Multi-Purpose Women’s Centres (MPWCs) located in the Rohingya camp.

On June 29, 2022, Diya Nanda, Deputy Country Representative of UN Women Bangladesh, visited the self-reliance and women's empowerment activities in the MPWCs of Rohingya camp and attended the inception session for gender-diverse people.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

“UN Women is promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in the cross-sectoral humanitarian response to bring targeted assistance to Rohingya women and girls. UN Women focuses on the most vulnerable and marginalized female-headed households, adolescent girls, people with disabilities, and gender diverse populations.” Diya Nanda said.

## Working together to prevent intimate partner violence in the Rohingya camp

A dialogue session on preventing intimate partner violence was conducted by UN women’s Gender Field Officer and UNHCR’s protection associate on April 24.

A total of 25 participants included UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs, Rohingya community leaders, majhis, imams, and women's leaders who discussed their roles in reducing intimate partner violence in the Rohingya camp. Camp-in-Charge Md. Mahfuzar Rahman inaugurated the session and said that any kind of gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence, is highly prohibited and should not occur in the Rohingya camp.

At the end of the meeting, the imams, majhis, and women's leaders pledged to work together to continue to prevent intimate partner violence in Rohingya camp.

As a part of its advocacy effort, UN Women is conducting a series of events in the Rohingya camps on reducing intimate partner violence, the prevention of child marriage, and other social issues to support gender equality.



Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

## UN Women staff and partners trained on PSEA

“We have a zero tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse, which applies to both our staff and our partners. As UN Women, we are committed to continuously increasing awareness on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, and we will continue to treat this topic with utmost priority.” said Mehtap Tatar.

UN Women’s staff and partners in Cox’s Bazar received training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) to enhance their understanding of the six core principles, the referral path for incident reporting, and the role of PSEA in emergencies.

The training was conducted by Mehtap Tatar, UN Women Programme specialist and Bora Ozbek, PSEA Coordinator, who examined the differences between sexual harassment and sexual and gender-based violence, while also using case studies to highlight the importance of PSEA during emergencies.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

## Promoting peacebuilding and social cohesion in Rohingya camp

To encourage positive engagement between the Rohingya and the host community, UN Women, with its partner Ain O Salish Kendra, organized an intercultural event on April 27 in the Rohingya camp.

Bishakha (40) was one of host community participants and enjoyed the opportunity to contribute as part of a dialogue session and also play indoor games with women from the Rohingya community.

“This is my first time visiting the Rohingya camp and participating in an intercultural event. It was a remarkable experience to meet the Rohingya women and to understand their story. We played indoor games together. When I return home, I will tell how much I liked the occasion and how kindly the Rohingya welcomed us.” – Bishakha Barua

This initiative is a part of the Maitree project, which is funded by the governments of Sweden and Switzerland.

## Women Leader’s Forum

Encouraging women’s leadership is a key element of UN Women’s work and on June 14, UN Women organized a Women leaders forum in Cox’s Bazar.

Humanitarian workers and women leaders attended the forum, which aimed to encourage knowledge sharing, inter-agency coordination, networking and mentoring, to enable emerging women’s leaders to grow and to be successful in their careers.

“This is an exciting opportunity for us to meet with fellow female leaders. It provided an opportunity to share our thoughts and uplift the effort of women’s empowerment.” said Razia Sultana, executive director RW Welfare Society.



Photo: UN Women



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

## Police in Cox's Bazar support gender-sensitive investigations

UN Women, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Police, organized training sessions from 16–19 May 2022 on investigating gender-based violence for members of the Bangladesh Armed Police Battalion who are deployed to the Rohingya Camp in Cox's Bazar. Forty APBN officers who participated in the training will be mentored over the next two years on investigating gender-based violence cases.

The training was conducted by the Armed Police Battalion officers who are qualified trainers by UN Women and international police expert, Jane Townsley.



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

**2,257**



**Sanitary Napkins**

**3,794**

**2,257 Handicraft Products and 3,794 Sanitary Napkins** have been produced by UN Women with the support of ActionAid and BRAC.

\*Jan-Jun 2022

## Women's participation in peacebuilding in Rohingya camps

"I am honored to be working as Maitree Apa. I am a survivor of gender-based violence. When I visit houses, I tell my transformational tale. The community welcomes me with open arms. My husband previously battered me, but he now respects and supports me." said, Maitree Women's Leader Farida Begum

On June 20, humanitarian actors in the Rohingya camp came together to discuss ways to increase women's representation and leadership in peacebuilding and social cohesion. This resulted in a collaboration between UN Women and Ain O Salish Kendra to start the Maitree project, which encourages women to build peace and social harmony in their communities.



Photo: Ain O Salish Kendra

## The Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group supports World Environment Day



Photo: UN Women

The Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) organized a dialogue session under the leadership of Gender Hub, UN Women on "Resilience and Leadership of Women in Climate Change Adaptation" to commemorate World Environment Day on 16 June 2022.

Participants from key government agencies, stakeholders and local women leaders discussed how women are disproportionately affected by climate change.

The session began with a video documentary showcasing women in the Rohingya and host communities highlighting their resilience to climate adaptation.

Women leaders from the host community and ActionAid Bangladesh's Youth Climate Action group also shared their climate action stories.

At the end of the conversation, participants make a commitment that their work to adapt to climate change will be in line with their commitments to gender equality.

## Learning Café 2022 supported by the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working (GiHA WG)

The fifth anniversary of the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) was acknowledged through a Learning Café under the leadership of Gender Hub, UN Women on Gender and Leadership through GiHA's first five years in Cox's Bazar.

The GiHA WG members, including women leaders from the host community and gender officers from across the sectors, shared their stories of gender equality and women's empowerment through this collective platform.

The group also discussed their expectations for the future and evaluated the mid-term annual work plan. The meeting was moderated by gender equality advocate Rokeya Kabir.



Photo: UN Women



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

## Web Editorial Feature Story

UN Women along with its implementing partner DunChurchAid (DCA), has been implementing the Second Chance Education Learning Programme in Rohingya Refugee camp and host community in Cox's Bazar. The programme aims to support women and adolescent girls through learning to enhance their self-reliance and empowerment.

*Follow the link to read the article*

[Women and Girls Become Empowered Through the Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning Programme in Cox's Bazar](#)

**FILM FEST 2022**  
Solidarity with Humanitarian Action

23 JUN  
TERMINAL  
6 PM

24 JUN  
AGUNER POROSHMONI  
5 PM  
LUCA  
7 PM

25 JUN  
NODORAI  
5 PM  
REHANA MARYAM NOOR  
7 PM

Venue: Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre, Cox's Bazar

Logos of partner organizations: UN Women, ISCG, ActionAid, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, World Vision, etc.

## Film Fest 2022

### Solidarity with Humanitarian Action

UN Women was proud to be part of the organizing committee for a three-day film festival from June 23–25, which aimed to promote localization and social harmony. The film festival was supported by 27 organizations working as part of the joint response in Cox's Bazar along with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Prothom-alo Bandhushova was invited to raise funds at the festival for flood affected residents. The main themes of the films focused on displacement, inclusion, and women's empowerment.

A photo exhibition and IEC materials of different organizations were displayed in the foyer of the venue, in support of the film festival objectives.