



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

IN BRIEF

COX'S BAZAR UPDATE

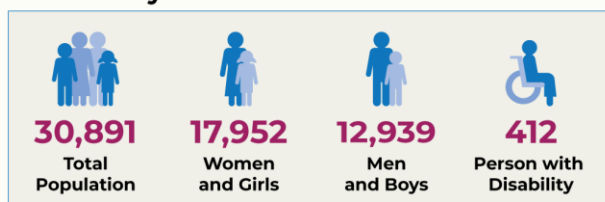
JULY–SEPTEMBER 2022



PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH UN WOMEN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

*Jul-Sept 2022

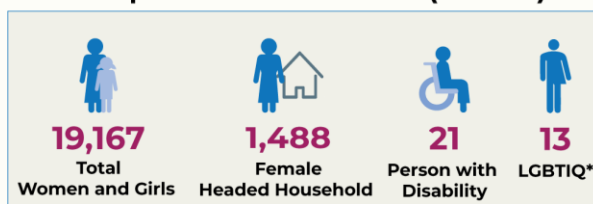
Reached By Volunteers



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

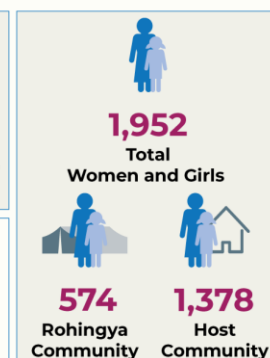
Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWCs)



Services Provided in 8 MPWCs

Livelihood skills training, basic literacy, midwifery services, psychosocial counselling, information on health and sanitation, nutrition, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), child marriage and anti-trafficking

Second Chance Education



UN special envoy on Myanmar visits Rohingya camps

On 23 August 2022, Noeleen Heyzer, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, met with Rohingya women leaders during her mission to Cox's Bazar. Women leaders shared their appreciation for ongoing support from the government and people of Bangladesh. They also shared their hope for a dignified return to their country. The meeting took place at UN Women's Multi-Purpose Women's Centre in Rohingya Camp.

"The generosity of Bangladesh and host communities towards Rohingya refugees in their time of need conveys a critical need for greater international and regional commitment to burden share and ensure that the Rohingya do not become forgotten," Special Envoy Heyzer said. "I will continue to advocate for greater leadership of countries in the region in supporting Bangladesh and leveraging their influence with Myanmar to create conducive conditions for the voluntary, safe and dignified return of refugees."



Photo: UN Women

Heyzer was the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) from 1994–2007, which was later merged into UN Women.

Follow the [link](#) to read her statement.

Current Context in Cox's Bazar

Nearly 500,000 Rohingya women and girls living in Rohingya refugee camps in 2022.* Gender inequality, gender-based violence (GBV), and discrimination in the host and Rohingya camp persist and worsen. This disproportionately impacts women and girls who have limited access to information and decision-making. During the pandemic, reduced access to essential services increased women's security risks. Recent turmoil in Myanmar prompted helicopters and fighter jets to fire mortars and multiple violations of Bangladeshi airspace increased the security hazard and created uncertainty about repatriation.

*source: UNHCR population factsheet

Workshop on Gender-Sensitive Journalism in Cox's Bazar

“As individuals, we must believe in gender equality so that it is reflected in our work. This workshop enhanced my knowledge and will make my news reporting more gender sensitive.” – Rokshana Akter Shomi, News Reporter.

On 28-29 September 2022, UN Women in collaboration with Deutsche Welle (DW) Akademie organized a two-day workshop in Cox's Bazar for 15 (six female and nine male) journalists on gender-sensitive reporting. It is a part of UN Women's activity on Gender-Responsive Journalism supported by the Government of Switzerland. The main objectives of the workshop were to encourage female participation in local media, to present women sensitively in the media, to use gender-sensitive words in reports and to build local journalists' skills in factchecking and using reliable sources of information.



Photo: UN Women

World Humanitarian Day

It takes a village to improve quality of life

World Humanitarian Day on 19 August honors humanitarian aid workers all over the world. This year's theme was 'It takes a village'. We used the occasion to shed light on some key facts and stories of humanitarians—local volunteers, civil society, and international organizations—working together to ease suffering and bring hope.

UN Women is promoting gender equality and women's participation and empowerment in the cross-sectoral humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar to bring targeted assistance to Rohingya women and girls, focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalized, in particular female-headed households and adolescent girls. *It takes a village to keep women safe through awareness, distribution of hygiene kits and mask production.*



Photo: UN Women

Australia's Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking Visits the Police Helpdesk

"Female survivors can easily come to us and comfortably share their problems. We record their testimony and immediately respond." - Fatema, Front Desk Assistant, Women and Children Police Helpdesk, Rohingya Camp

On 13 September 2022, a delegation from the Australian High Commission, Bangladesh, led by Lucienne Manton, Australia's Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking, visited one of the Women and Children Police Help Desks in the Rohingya camps and met with female police officers deployed in the camp to discuss their work and experiences. UN Women, supported by Australia, is strengthening the Armed Police Battalion's capacity to provide quality policing to vulnerable women and girls, affected by gender-based violence and at high risk of trafficking.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim



Photo: UN Women

Swiss Development Agency visits the Rohingya camp

On 29 September 2022, women at the Multi-Purpose Women's Centre (MPWC) in Rohingya Camp – 4 Extension hosted Irene Hofstetter from the Swiss Embassy in Bangladesh. This MPWC is run by UN Women's implementing partner ActionAid Bangladesh. Hofstetter visited the sales center in the MPWC to see handicrafts made by the Rohingya women's group who were trained by the UN Women's self-reliance programme and visited the women's market implemented by BRAC. She also met with girls getting second chance education in a UN Women programme implemented by DCA. The Government of Switzerland is supporting UN Women in the project, "Women Peacebuilders Lead Social Cohesion: Enhancing Capacities and Collaboration of Women Civil Society Groups from Rohingya Community and Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh."



Photo: DCA

Tourism Fair-2022

The Cox's Bazar Product Fair and Beach Carnival launched on 27 September, marking World Tourism Day. The weeklong event organized by Cox's Bazar District Administration and Chamber of Commerce gave women entrepreneurs a chance to show their products and services alongside businesses, hotels, restaurants and tourism companies. UN Women's partners, DCA Bangladesh, Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh (WEAB), BRAC and ActionAid, set up stalls exhibiting and selling handicrafts, clothing items and household goods made by women throughout Ukhiya, Teknaf and Cox's Bazar Sadar. Buyers included tourists and locals who appreciated the high quality of the work and the skills the women have developed. The women had the opportunity to use their literacy and numeracy skills to earn an income helping them to support their families and communities.



Photo: UN Women

Sweden delegation team visit Women's Market

On 12 September 2022, a delegation from the Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh visited the women's market and an education session of the second chance education programme of UN Women. The visit included a discussion with UN Women and its partners regarding recent achievements and inspiring stories of change.

The visit finished with a tour of the women's market facilitated by BRAC, where they participated in a dialogue session with the students from the second chance education programme and Rohingya women entrepreneurs. The Government of Sweden is a strategic partner of UN Women in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

Netherlands delegation visit in Rohingya camp

"Last week, a single mother informed me that her shelter had collapsed. She resides with three adolescent daughters, and she was feeling vulnerable. I informed the UN Women Gender Field Officer, and together we reached out to the site management team. Following the intervention, the camp authorities repaired her home." - Adija, Rohingya Volunteer, UN Women.

On 30 August 2022, a delegation from the Embassy of the Netherlands visited the UN Women's Multi-Purpose Women's Centre in Rohingya Camp, which is run by ActionAid Bangladesh. They spoke with UN Woman Rohingya volunteers about the support they provide to their communities as women leaders.



Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

World Literacy Day Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces

This year's International Literacy Day is celebrated worldwide under the theme "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces". It's a chance to rethink how important literacy learning spaces are for building resilience and making sure everyone gets a good, fair, and inclusive education.

UN Women's partner DCA celebrated the whole day with its staff and education facilitators working in the second chance education programme of UN Women. The interactive activity included teamwork, a math challenge, an art competition, and fun activities.



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

2,485



Sanitary Napkins

3,794

2,485 Handicraft products and 3,794 Sanitary Napkins have been produced by UN Women with the support of ActionAid and BRAC.

*Jan-Sept 2022



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

Partner's Capacity Building Workshop

UN Women organized a workshop to support our partners to meet their financial and reporting obligations. A total of 24 staff acquired knowledge of UN Women's corporate financial regulations and policies; compliance and terms of partnership agreements; FACE reporting; results-based programme management, monitoring, and reporting. They also now understand the communications and visibility policies and priorities of UN Women.

UN Women's global strategic plan for 2022–2025 and the humanitarian response strategic plan for 2022–2025 were discussed to align UN Women's global priorities to programs in Bangladesh and Cox's Bazar.

Orientation Session on Gender and Diversity in Camp-in-Charge Office

On 28 September 2022, as part of a series of advocacy events and training activities, UN Women led a training workshop on gender and diversity. Staff from the Camp-in-Charge office, non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and community leaders were among the 18 participants who discussed the significance of understanding gender and equality in the workplace and how these are essential components of a successful humanitarian response. The training was led by Nadira Islam, Analyst for UN Women's Programmes.

As part of its advocacy efforts, UN Women has held ten events this quarter addressing intimate partner violence, the prevention of child marriage, and other gender equality-related social issues.



Photo: UN Women

Humanitarian workers skilled in Gender with Age Marker

As part of the 2023 Joint Response Plan, the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) organized five training sessions on Gender with Age Marker (GAM) in August 2022.

Through the training, implementing partners gained knowledge and hands-on training on GAMs, helping them reflect gender indicators in their project design phase.

The 139 participants from various partner organizations represented key sectors, sub-sectors and working groups. Women made up 60 per cent of participants, who were program managers, fund/grants managers, project leads, or gender experts.

As well as practicing how to use the GAM tool accurately, participants discussed the impact of integrating gender, age, and disability issues into their projects and shared their lessons learned.

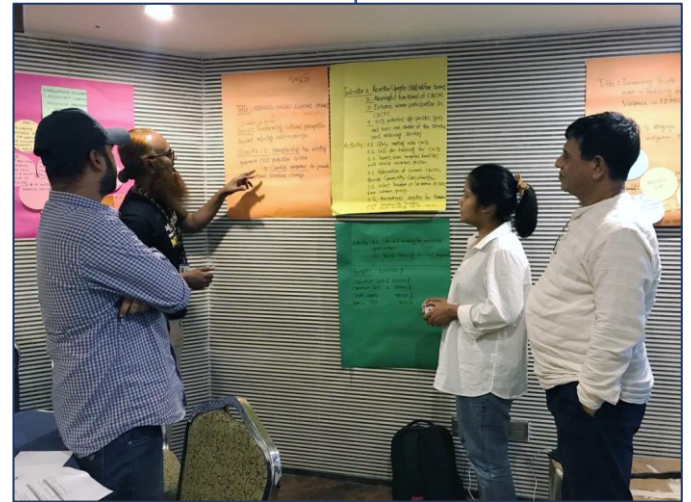


Photo: UN Women

Street drama to raise awareness on the harmful practice of child marriage



Photo: UN Women/Mehtap Tatar

“This drama demonstrates that child marriage is forbidden and that it brings misery to the life of an adolescent. Our Maitree women's group is working to mitigate child marriages in our community. No matter what, child marriage must end.” - Said Diluwara, Maitree apa. (Women leader)

Said Diluwara (38) is a member of the Maitree women's group in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, which is a part of the Maitree project. UN Women, in collaboration with Ain o Salish Kendra, regularly organizes street dramas to raise awareness about child marriage. The performers are recruited from the community and trained to build their advocacy capacity to prevent child marriage. UN Women started the Maitree project to promote peacebuilding and social harmony between the two diverse communities. This project is funded by the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland and the United Nations CERF.

UN Women's Programme in Cox's Bazar is supported by:

