

Echoes for Eco

Canada 

 **GiHA WG**
GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION
WORKING GROUP COX'S BAZAR

Echoes for Eco

Photobook on women's contribution
from the Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar
to climate change adaptation

A publication of the GiHA WG



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In collaboration with



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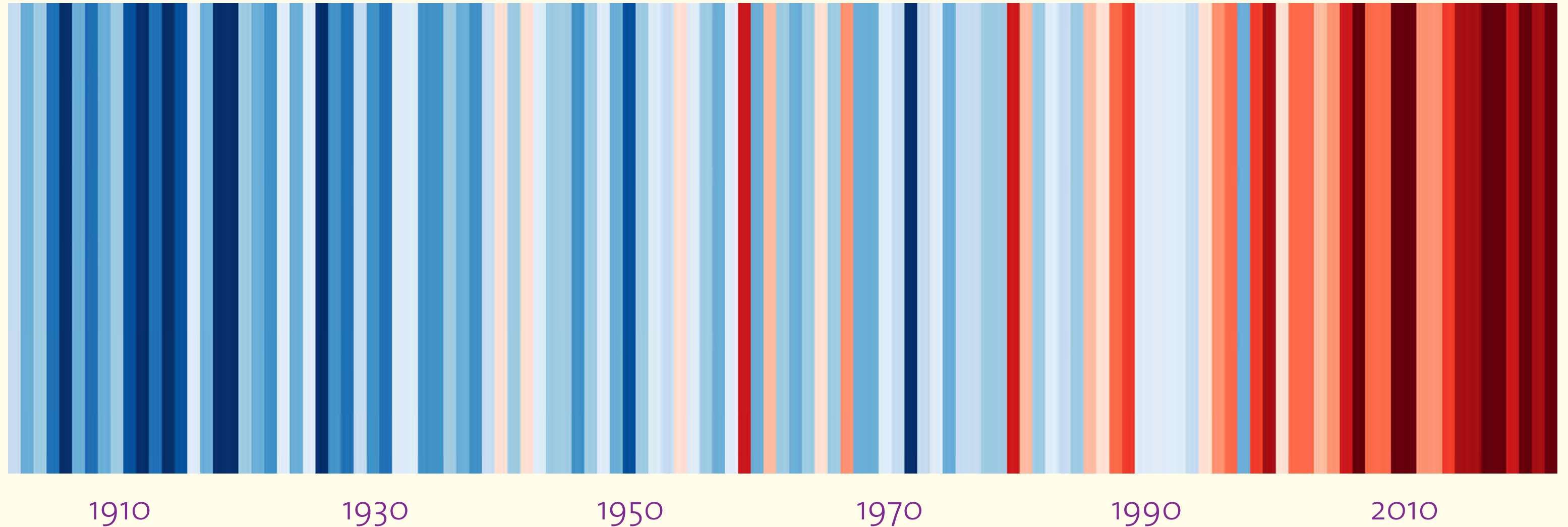
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Temperature change in Bangladesh region since 1901

This data visualization, designed by British climatologist Ed Hawkins, graphically depicts long-term temperature trends and intuitively conveys the impact of global warming to non-scientists.

Source:
showyourstripes.info





This photobook highlights the contributions of women and girls from the Rohingya and the host community in Cox's Bazar to climate change adaptation initiatives.

The images and stories echoed for eco — through the experiences of aware, active, and resilient women coping with disaster losses and enhancing community resilience and recovery.

Contrary to the stereotype that has led to women being underrepresented in climate action, these protagonists showed how they promote, produce, and use sustainable practices and technologies.

This publication is intended to remind the audience that women can and do play a critical role in addressing climate action with their local knowledge and leadership at the household and community levels.

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The GiHA WG



Awareness

29 June 2022

“ During the recent flash flood, we took shelter at the multipurpose women’s centre.

The volunteers are warm and welcoming. They helped me get over my fear.

Thanks to the centre, we now know what to do in this kind of situation.

In Myanmar, I studied until the third grade. I enjoyed History and Math.

Here, we also have a tutor. We get food and a place to hang out with our friends.



Zobaida
Camp 4
Ukhiya
Cox’s Bazar



The Rohingya children at the multipurpose women's centre.

**Multipurpose
women's centre**
Camp 4, Ukhiya
Cox's Bazar



2 July 2022

“From livelihood training, I learned to handle emergencies.

I had no idea how important education is for my daughter until now.

Aminullah
Camp 16, Ukhiya
Cox's Bazar



Aminullah and his daughter Asma
Camp 16, Ukhiya
Cox's Bazar



“ The rain made me miss my home.

Asma
Camp 16, Ukhiya
Cox's Bazar



2 July 2022

Here, we learn
Burmese, English,
and Mathematics
at school.

I hope our
parents will allow
us to continue
our studies.

14 July 2022

“ My father did not come with us. He married again. He called us two years ago and that’s all I know about him!

Noor Kaida and her family fled Mongdu in 2017.

Noor often goes to the multipurpose women’s centre in the camp. She learns about hygiene, staying healthy, and emergency preparedness.



Noor Kaida
Camp 10, Ukhiya
Cox’s Bazar

“ This monsoon,
our shelter’s roof
leaked, and the
soil eroded.

I informed the centre, and
they sent help. This morning
was spent working with
them, repairing the roof.

Now I must wait until the
back soil part is finished.

Noor Kaida
Camp 10, Ukhiya
Cox’s Bazar



14 July 2022

Three non-binary friends
are taking sewing lessons
together all morning.

“

Salamat

I feel like a woman trapped in the male
body. I hope to match a man someday.

Amin

Men expect us to entertain them, and
some even approach us for sex work.

Sayed

This training is a fresh start for us. We
hope to become competent tailors in
the future.



“

We are treated with
the same respect as
women in the centre.

Salamat, Amin and Sayed
Multipurpose Women's Centre
Camp 4
Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



2

Action

14 July 2022

“During a cyclone alert, I learned to use flags. Three flags mean the warning signal is 7 or higher.

Aside from teaching religious values, we promote ending child marriages.

We also have training on how to prepare for a natural disaster.

Every year, floods, cyclones, and landslides hit Cox’s Bazar.

Mohsena Begum
Camp 10
Ukhiya, Cox’s Bazar



Mohsena and Sura —
two religion teachers in the camp.

Camp 10
Ukhiya
Cox’s Bazar

13 July 2022



Noor Begum and her family.



This shelter was built a year ago. The heavy rain is eroding the soil on the edges.

We are making a quick fix on our own with bamboo poles.

Noor and Rafiq
A Rohingya couple
Camp 16, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

“ We have a meeting
in the centre every
two weeks.

I have shared my
repairing needs at
the centre. I hope
to get support for
a permanent fix.



Noor Begum sharing her
repairing needs at the centre.
Camp 9, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

5 July 2022

“Older individuals taught me where to look for medicinal plants, especially under large trees.

I grew up close to a forest. I also worked in a plant nursery for a few years. That experience helps me to identify forest trees better than others.

But old trees are always cut down for housing, farming, betel leaf plantations, and fuel.

I also grow and sell saplings besides collecting seeds.

Amena
South Mithachari
Ramu, Cox's Bazar



Amena is collecting seeds in the nearby forest. She encourages the village boys to do the same by offering them candy.



“ The job takes all day, from preparing fertilized soil to planting, from daily watering to weeding.



My earnings are modest, but knowing I will be paid on time gives me peace.

“ The forest officers
distribute the
saplings for free.

I hope my saplings
will help to reforest
the land.

Amena
Ramu
Cox's Bazar



5 July 2022

“ My passion for gardening got me into a training programme.

I have four children.
Their needs are growing.

I used to plant a few things
here and there, but never
enough to last a year.

I was struggling to run
my family.

Rozina
Tulatoli
Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar





Rozina's and her son are collecting the produce.

“ In the training, I learned how to grow more in a limited space.

I can also sell any extra vegetables. The cash helps my family.

Rozina
Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

13 July 2022

“ My neighbours and I tossed vegetable seeds around.

On a hot day, our children not only enjoy the courtyard shade, but the vegetables are also a blessing.

Fatema
Camp 9
Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



Fatema's daughter enjoys the shade in the courtyard.

6 July 2022

Razia and Kadir are known in the community for their three-layered vertical gardens at home.

“ We harvested red spinach three times from the patch, earned over a thousand taka from other vegetables, and had many visitors to our garden.

The nonstop rain last month ruined everything. We'll have to start all over again.



This new technique repels insects like magic.

I use these yellow cards instead of chemical sprays to keep a healthy environment.

Razia
Ramu, Cox's Bazar



“My wife tends the garden with care.”



Kadir
Cox's Bazar



For wholesome chilli plants, we mix soil, cow dung, and vermicompost.

Our chillies are healthy and in high demand.

Razia
Cox's Bazar

5 July 2022

Joynob is known as the
Queen of Vermicomposting
in her community.



I received training in 2019 and haven't stopped since.

I also promise the local women that if they supply me with high-quality bio-fertilizer, I will market it for them.

I recently sold a truck for 15,000 Taka with no trouble.

Dikpara
Ramu
Cox's Bazar



Joynob also serves
as the cashier for
Dikpara Krishi Dal,
a cooperative
of six village
groups of twenty
harvesters each.

Joynob is helping
her son plan lessons.



Joynob sells vermicompost every two months.

She is more successful and intelligent than I am.

Nobi Alam
Joynob's husband
Ramu, Cox's Bazar

5 July 2022

Sanjida helps reforest *Tulabagan Bit*. Since her husband left her with their daughter seven years ago, she's been a day labourer.

“ The forest work is hard, but the pay is steady. And the best part is seeing the barren hills turn green.

People are still clearing trees and cutting down hills to make way for betel leaf cultivation.

We're planting timber and fruit trees, among others.

Sanjida
Tulabagan Bit
Cox's Bazar



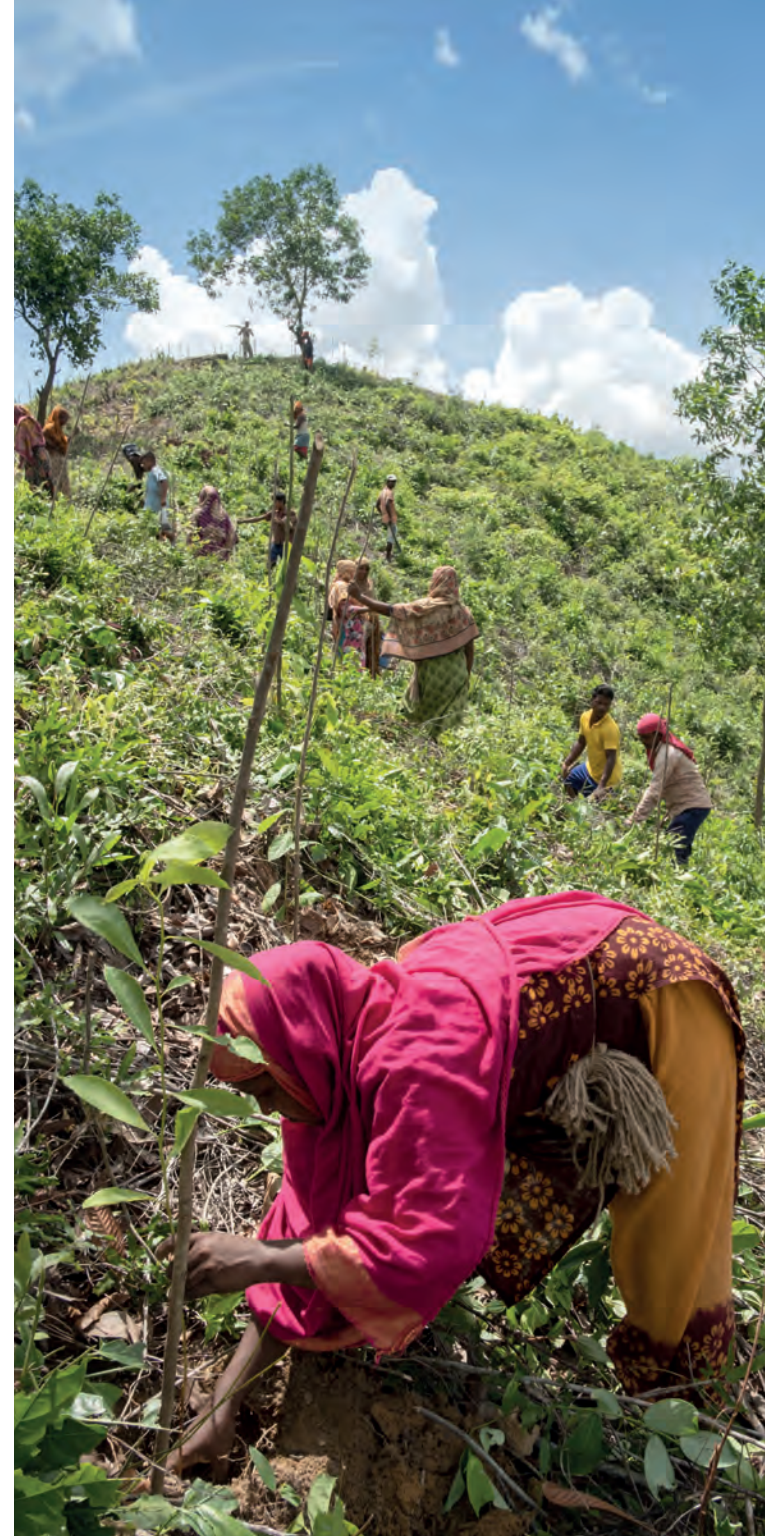


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Tulabagan Bit, where
Sanjida and the team
work on reforestation.



Sanjida and her coworker are carrying and planting saplings.



“ We plant at least 600 saplings daily.

Male workers dig holes, while female workers plant and clear the bushes.

We tie a stick to the sapling to keep it standing.

Sanjida
Tulabagan Bit
Cox's Bazar

7 July 2022

“Initially, we educated people not to throw trash out in the open and to keep plastics separate.

Saleha collects solid waste from homes and shops in the Teknaf municipality area.

Her husband left her thirty years ago. She lives with her sister. Her married son visits her on occasion.



Saleha
Teknaf
Cox's Bazar



Saleha and her coworker are collecting waste from door to door.
Teknaf, Cox's Bazar

“ We oversee 250 houses and shops.

We set up two buckets — one for biodegradable materials and one for plastics.

Some residents thanked us for keeping their neighbourhoods clean.

Saleha
Teknaf
Cox's Bazar



“ From the compost plant, we could produce 300 kg of fertilizer per month.

Each household is supposed to pay us 50 taka per month, and every shop 100 taka.

Not everyone pays, and you can't hire more people for garbage collection.

Saleha
Teknaf
Cox's Bazar



29 June 2022

The Rohingya mothers are making jute products at the *Shanti Khana*, the women's centres in the camp.

Their efforts are both environmentally friendly and revitalizing jute.

Jute was once known as the golden fibre of Bangladesh, as it was the country's most important cash crop.



We have complete control over how we spend the cash we make from selling our work.

A Rohingya mother
Camp 4, Ukhiya
Cox's Bazar



“ Making these designs is a lot of fun for me.

I'm learning and enjoying it. We talk while working in the centre, which is bright and airy, and our cramped huts are temporarily forgotten.



The younger generation may avoid this work because it requires patience and dedication.

A Rohingya mother
Camp 4, Ukhiya
Cox's Bazar



03

Resilience

29 June 2022

“ I can handle 300-person orders. The aid workers in the camps enjoy our tasty snacks.

Shazeda was thirty when she fled Myanmar in 2017.

After five years, she finds herself as a woman leader at the multipurpose women's centre.

Shazeda now supervises the catering service and the canteen at the facility.

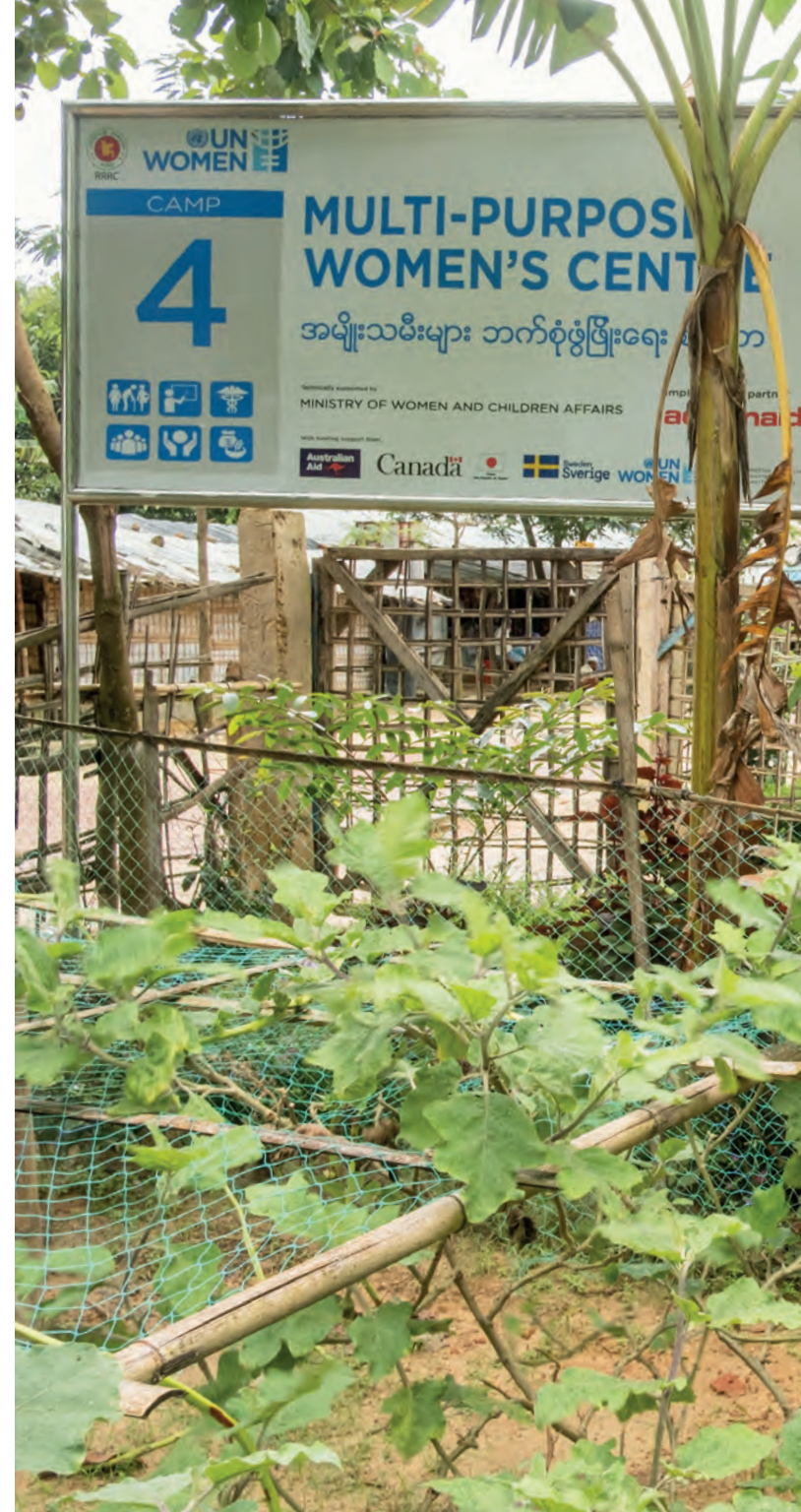
Shazeda
Camp 4
Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



Shazeda and her team members are preparing snacks at the canteen of the multipurpose women's centre.



Seventy-year-old Jobeda Khatun was rescued by Shazeda and her team.



During the recent flash flood, Shazeda and her team relocated older adults, pregnant women, and children to the multipurpose women's centre.

Multipurpose women's centre
Camp 4, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

1 July 2022

As a community leader,
Anwara supports and guides
her twenty-person team.

“

I enjoyed attending NGO
training in my village.

I realized that if I want to
motivate others, I must first
understand my own potential.

It also takes courage
and confidence to break
stereotypes and taboos.



Anwara and
her team members.

Borua Para
Cox's Bazar



“ My partner is housebound due to kidney issues.

We have three children. As I have to run the family, I decided to grow and sell vegetables.

Anwara
Borua Para, Cox's Bazar



Anwara included her daughter Jafrin in the local adolescent group.

They discuss girls' education, reproductive health, and the environment.

Jafrin
Borua Para, Cox's Bazar

Jafrin is playing an educational game at home with members from the local adolescent group.



Borua Para
Cox's Bazar

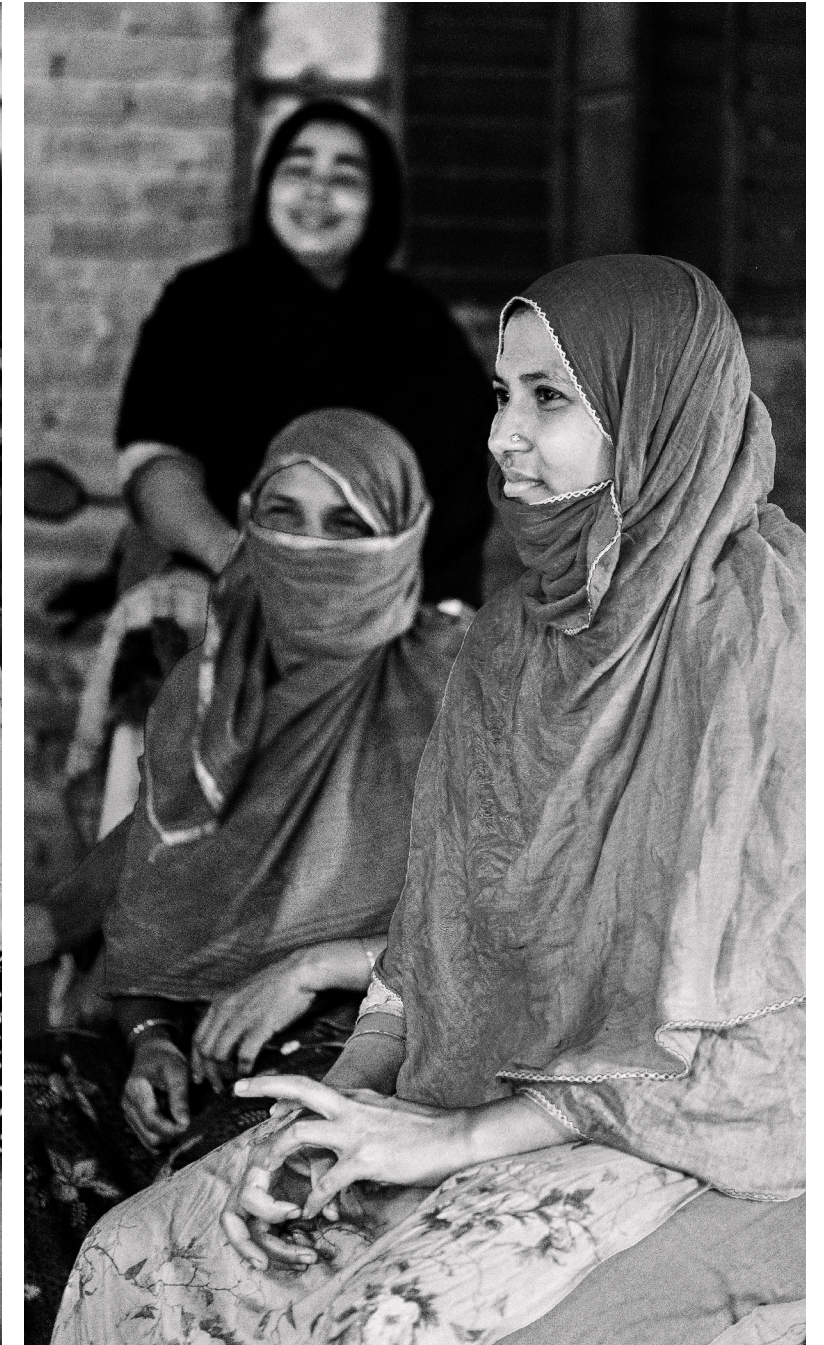
2 July 2022

“The local landlord built a shop at the entrance of our locality. That blocked access to hundreds of families, so we acted.

A female protester
Islamabad, Eidgaon
Cox's Bazar

We didn't take off our veils during the protest, so religious men couldn't accuse us of being shameless.

Around 200 homemakers participated in the seven-day protest.



“ We had no choice but to raise our voices.

We came out of our houses, and our men followed us!

A female protester
Islamabad, Eidgaon
Cox's Bazar



1 July 2022

We want safe roads and safe water.
When it rains, we can't move around.
Our kids have fallen and been injured.

“ We are participants in a listening programme. Thirty of us attended the road protest and helped the public reclaim the road.

**A representative of the
Hindu minority community**
Ghritopolli, Islamabad
Cox's Bazar

Most of us are day labourers and small traders living on the hills on *khas* (unmarked government land).





“ We pay 400 taka per month for the bare minimum of water.

Our neighborhood is disconnected from the municipal water system.

We are all working to reduce water and road obstacles.

A representative of the Hindu minority community
Islamabad, Cox's Bazar

3 July 2022

Rufia's husband was shot dead while fleeing Myanmar. She now lives in the camp with her four children.

“ I was interested in tailoring and had training when I arrived in the camp.

I've had a store in the multi-purpose women's centre. Now, I deliver the ordered clothes to the client's door.

Today I have three deliveries: one to G block and two to K block, all in Camp 18.



Rufia
Women's Market
Mochara
Cox's Bazar



Rufia and her colleague taking order at the women's market.



Last month, we earned 7000 taka but spent 3000 taka on transport.

Religious women in our community are hesitant to move around in the camp. They are our best-satisfied customers.

Rufia's colleague
Women's Market
Mochara, Cox's Bazar

7 July 2022

The multipurpose women's centre includes a group of gender-based violence survivors. They make eco-friendly products.

“ We gather here in the morning to stitch, to print block batik, and socialize with other women.

We are free from men's demands at this time, so we can learn something new and pursue our interests. We also get pocket money from sales.



Somira
Camp 3, Ukhiya
Cox's Bazar



Three GBV survivors are showing
their hand-stitched work at the
multipurpose women's centre.

7 July 2022

“ We make four napkins per day out of scrap clothing. We wash and dry them after each use.

Nurain
Camp 9
Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar

Nurain, Senowara, Fatema,
and Sofayra stitch hand-made
sanitary napkins together.





Nurain and her friends are stitching sanitary napkins.



Napkins are as
necessary as a
guaranteed meal.

Introducing self-made
napkins has become a
symbol of emancipation.

We are no longer burdened
by guilt and shame.

Nurain
Camp 9, Ukhiya
Cox's Bazar



04

GiHA WG

Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group

The GiHA WG provides cross-sectoral coordination to ensure gender equality commitments are at the core of the Rohingya refugee crisis response in Cox's Bazar.

In 2022, the GiHA WG commemorated World Environment Day as part of its advocacy for women's contributions to climate change adaptation.



GIHA 2022

The GiHA WG hosted an annual meetup to celebrate Gender and Leadership through GiHA's first five years in Cox's Bazar.





27 June 2022

At the annual meetup, the GiHA WG staged a drama performance to raise awareness and show how women in the Rohingya and host communities in Cox's Bazar are leading the way in climate action.

Performance themes included urbanization, climate change, environmental dangers, and their effects on daily life.

GiHA Meetup 2022
Cox's Bazar



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