

GOVERNMENT UPDATES ITS CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER ACTION PLAN



Women and children during disasters. Photo: UN Women/ Mohammad Rakibul Hasan

This year, the Government of Bangladesh adopted the updated Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) following its review and approval by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The updated ccGAP provides numerous measures to ensure women's empowered leadership and participation in national and local actions to address climate change. The original ccGAP was first adopted ten years ago. The updated Plan is designed to address the distinct challenges faced by women in coping and building beyond the onslaught of climate change crises. Limited access to information and resources, such as finance, expertise and technology have increased women's vulnerability to disasters spurred by climate change. In response, the updated ccGAP identifies targeted interventions in the areas of natural resources, livelihoods, infrastructure, women's leadership, gender perspective in implementation, capacity building, knowledge management, and communication. The ccGAP is aligned with SDG 5 (gender) and 13 (climate change) and serves as a vehicle to accelerate the implementation of the gender component of the National Adaptation Plan (2023-2050). UN Women ensured women's voice and representation in the development of the Plan by enabling their effective participation. In particular, UN Women provided

technical and financial support for a thorough context and situational analysis, which equipped women participants with a sound analysis and knowledge of the climate change issues and potential solutions. The voices of national and grassroots women-led organizations (WLOs) were centre-staged through extensive consultations across eight divisions of Bangladesh, which highlighted locally-led adaptation as a core component of climate change action. UN Women has supported a cohort of grassroots WLOs to design and implement diverse low-cost and low-tech community-based adaptation initiatives, such as solar-powered irrigation pumps, under the Regional EmPOWER Programme, implemented jointly with UNEP. Building on the results of Phase I, UN Women has identified a network of 56 WLOs for continued support, empowering them as critical actors leading local solutions to support gender responsive processes of adaptation. Moreover, UN Women harnessed support to the MoEFCC by ensuring a participatory formulation process. It worked closely with key stakeholders, including the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Centre for Climate Change and Resilience, Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

COP28 SIDE EVENT ON GENDER

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION



Mr. Saber Hosain Chowdhury, MP and Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for Climate Change, MoEFCC Secretary Dr. Farhina Ahmed, Youth Climate Activist and CSO leader from Bangladesh Ms. Janntul Mouwa, and UN Women Programme Specialist Ms. Dilruba Haider, with other panelists at the COP28 side event titled, “Women’s Leadership in Locally-led Adaptation”. The event was hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and UN Women Bangladesh Country Office. *Photo: UN Women/Shampa Goswami.*

The 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) featured a side event, which tackled women’s leadership in locally-led adaptation initiatives. Held in the City of Dubai in December 2023, the side event was jointly hosted by the MoEFCC and UN Women Bangladesh Country Office. It was a ground breaking advocacy for women’s empowerment in a high-profile global platform for climate change. The side event titled, ‘Women’s Leadership in Locally-led Adaptation’ discussed climate security, climate finance, women’s leadership and climate justice. It provided a space for grassroots civil

society leaders to share their experiences in tackling challenges through locally-led adaptations. These included initiatives, such as collecting and storing rainwater for household consumption and irrigation through agri ASR* to address water supply challenges in a high salinity region, and improved mobile cookstoves that require less wood, emit fewer pollutants and can be carried to cyclone shelters. Discussions also focused on gender-responsive just transitions, enhancing women’s access to technology like solar, digital and greenhouse, as well as collecting gender disaggregated environmental data. **Find out more about the session [here](#).**

“We need to see how women’s seat at the decision-making table can be ensured so they can decide for themselves. Bangladesh will be the first country in the world to recognize women’s unpaid care work in GDP. We are here to say how we reach out to the most vulnerable women, how we harness the potential of Bangladeshi women, and we want to follow up on the recommendations when we go back to Bangladesh.”

Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP

Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for Climate Change (now MoEFCC Minister)

*Agri-ASR: A technology that can provide fresh water for Boro (a type of rice) cultivation.

WATCH A VIDEO

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP: PIONEERING CLIMATE ACTION



Read [In Focus](#) to know more.

Read a story: [Women show how they are building climate-resilient agricultural communities in Bangladesh.](#)

COP28 SIDE EVENT ON YOUTH: 'COP IN MY CITY'

Another side event of the COP28 held in Dubai in December 2023 tackled challenges and opportunities to enhance the engagement and representation of the youth sector in climate change initiatives. Titled, 'COP in my City' the event showcased a collaborative initiative among UNICEF, UNDP and UN Women to expand youth leadership and participation in the reduction of carbon footprint and embracing nature-based solutions for future development. The side event was hosted by UN Women Philippines and UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Ms. Dilruba Haider, UN Women Bangladesh Programme Specialist for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, participated in the event. She highlighted the critical importance of educating and building skills among youth with a specific emphasis on women's leadership. She stressed that beyond awareness and activism, it is vital for them to understand how they can contribute to reducing carbon footprint and embracing nature-based solutions for future development as upcoming leaders.



UN Women Programme Specialist Ms. Dilruba Haider talks about the imperative of youth engagement in climate change efforts during the 'COP in my City' side event of COP28. *Photo: UN Women.*

NEW IMF-UN WOMEN PARTNERSHIP: URGING STRONGER IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY GENDER EQUALITY MEASURES

UN Women has just forged a partnership with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide strategic fiscal recommendations on gender equality to the Government of Bangladesh. The first of such initiatives in the region, the partnership endeavors to bring into focus the (a) macro-criticality of gender equality in Bangladesh, (b) intersection of gender and climate change, and (c) strengthening gender responsive budgeting across all phases of the budget cycle.

The analytical piece, titled "Women's Empowerment, Gender Budgeting and Intersection with Climate Change" forms part of the IMF's paper on selected issues. The paper underscores the significance of policies supporting women's workforce participation, access to education and finance, and protection from issues, like child marriage and violence against women.

The IMF paper highlights the connection between gender and climate change. It advocates for policies, such as adaptive social safety nets and comprehensive social programs, to enhance women's resilience to climate change and involve them in environmental initiatives. Additionally, the IMF paper suggests the improvement of the gender-responsive budgeting system across all phases (i.e., budget formulation, planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation). This will make the gender budgeting more strategic, transparent, impact-oriented, covering revenue and expenditure and aligning with climate budgeting for synergies between gender and climate change efforts.

The recommendations of the paper were presented to policy and decision makers and stakeholders by the IMF during its mission in October 2023. In attendance from the government were the Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), and senior officials from MoEFCC and the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance.

UN Women's partnership with IMF is expected to strengthen the implementation of strategic measures on gender equality.

Read the report [IMF Country Report on Bangladesh: Selected Issues. Page- 19](#)
Know more about [IMF's Articles of Agreement](#).



(Left to right) MoWCA Secretary Ms. Nazma Mobarek delivering her remarks after the IMF presentation on the fiscal recommendations under Article IV; UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh discussing the critical issues highlighted in the study with Mr. Rahul Anand, IMF Mission Chief for Bangladesh, Mr. Jayendu De, IMF Resident Representative to Bangladesh and Bhutan. *Photo: UN Women.*

FINANCING GENDER IN POST COVID-19 RECOVERY AND LDC GRADUATION

In the wake of stiff competition for limited funding resources, UN Women supported an analytical paper on financing priorities to advance gender equality in the context of post-pandemic recovery and the country's graduation from the category of least developed countries (LDC).

Developed in partnership with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the paper is a vital tool for advocacy. It will help ensure that gender equality concerns are positioned at the center of fiscal decisions and public expenditures for post-pandemic recovery and LDC

graduation efforts. It also feeds into a forward-looking assessment of gender responsive budgeting that was commissioned this year. Moreover, the paper will be used to inform the second phase of the MoWCA-led gender responsive budgeting project, which is being supported by UN Women. In 2023, the study and its recommendations were presented by CPD to development partners who are members of the Local Consultative Group on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality. The presentation called for comprehensive data analysis to understand the gender-specific effects of fiscal measures.

It proposes (a) a transparent budgeting mechanism with civic participation, (b) tax reforms addressing gender biases, and (c) concessional financing schemes for private sector engagement aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5. Emphasizing the significance of gender responsive fiscal and monetary policy instruments, the study also recommends higher budgetary allocations for health, education, skills development, and social protection. It recommends that

the government explore innovative financing models, like blended financing and social impact bonds. The study also pointed out that collaboration with stakeholders is an imperative to the positioning of gender equality in the post-pandemic recovery and post-LDC scenario.

Read more: [Financing for Women's Empowerment in the Context of Post-COVID Recovery and LDC Graduation of Bangladesh | CPD.](#)



(Left to right) Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dr Fauzia Moslem, President, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD, and Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD at the "Financing Priorities to Advance Gender Equality in the Context of LDC Graduation and post COVID-19" analytical report launch; UN Women Deputy Country Representative Ms. Navanita Sinha speaking at the launch. *Photo: UN Women.*

REVITALIZING MECHANISMS FOR GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

BANGLADESH INAUGURATES ITS FIRST LOCAL CHAPTER OF GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION WORKING GROUP

On the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, Ms. Farida Pervin, Director General (DG) of the Department of Women's Affairs (DWA) (former), in collaboration with UN Women, inaugurated the country's first Gender in

Humanitarian Action (GiHA) local chapter working group in Kurigram. The local chapter consisting of approximately 20 members, will be an extension of the national GiHA working group chaired by DWA and co-

chaired by UN Women, to support the realization of gender-responsive humanitarian action in Bangladesh.

The chapter will serve as a local platform to amplify women’s voices and leadership in humanitarian response and recovery and to enhance the capacity and engagement of participating local women’s organizations to meet the humanitarian needs of women, girls, people with disabilities and gender-diverse groups. **Read more [here](#)**



(Seated at the head table from left to right) Ms. Monoara Eshrat, Director of the Department of Women Affairs; Ms. Farida Pervin, Director General of the Department of Women’s Affairs (former); Mr. Mohammad Saidul Arif, Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram with representatives from UN and local civil society organizations

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AFFAIRS REITERATES COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT GiHA IN COX’S BAZAR



(Left to right) Ms. Farida Pervin, former DG of DWA, sharing her views to the representatives of UN Women and local civil society organizations in the meeting of the local chapter of GiHa at Cox’s Bazar; Ms. Pervin visiting a UN Women-supported MPWC in Ukhiya.
Photo: UN Women/Magfuzur Rahman Shana.

Ms. Farida Pervin, DG of DWA reiterated the commitment of the national GiHA Working Group to provide continuing support to the GiHA Working Group of Cox’s Bazar. She communicated the message in a meeting with this group where initiatives to ensure gender-responsive humanitarian actions were discussed. UN Women also remains committed to support the GiHa at Cox’s Bazaar.

The meeting recognized the roles and contributions of women-led organizations. It identified ways to generate timely analyses to guide interventions that address gender dynamics and better approaches to achieve

gender transformation beyond parity. Ms. Pervin visited the Multipurpose Women’s Centre (MPWC) in Ukhiya, which is being supported by UN Women and managed by the Rights for Women Welfare Society, an Oxfam partner in Bangladesh.

The centre empowers women through literacy and numeracy training, livelihood development, business skills, basic health services (including sexual and reproductive health), psychosocial counselling and rights education to strengthen their voice and choice. Ms. Pervin praised the centre’s activities in addressing the needs of vulnerable women, acknowledging their positive impact to the community.

“The activities of the Multi-Purpose Women's Centre (MPWC) in Ukhiya address vulnerable women's situations and are greatly appreciated.”

Ms. Farida Pervin

former Director-General of the Department of Women Affairs

PARTNERSHIPS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION FOR MORE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY (2019-2022)

The Government of Bangladesh, UN Women and key stakeholders continue to work towards more effective implementation of the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS). In July 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), in partnership with UN Women, held a workshop, which tackled obstacles and strategic means to accelerate the implementation of NAP WPS. The workshop helped deepen the collective understanding of the NAP WPS agenda and find ways to address its implementation obstacles. Approaches to clarify the roles and engage diverse stakeholders at the national and local levels were also identified. Moreover, there was consensus among participants to create more spaces for continuing coordination and dialogues between and among government and nongovernment stakeholders, including civil society. Bangladesh launched the NAP WPS in 2019 through the leadership of MoFA and the support of UN Women. It serves as the country's blueprint for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325, 1820 and related instruments. The NAP WPS builds upon Bangladesh's past accomplishments in implementing the principles of these instruments, which are broadly categorized as (a) prevention, (b) participation, and (c) protection, and relief and recovery. The implementation of NAP WPS is supported by the Inter-ministerial Coordination Group or IMGCC, a collaborative team of key ministries and departments under the leadership of MoFA. Bangladesh



(Sitting from left to right) Mr. Toufiq Islam Shatil, Director General (UN Wing) (former), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh, Mr. Bradley Coates, Counsellor (Political), High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh (former) with CSO representatives at the consultation meeting. *Photo: UN Women/Monon Muntaka.*

has reiterated its commitment to realize the WPS agenda through the NAP by extending its timeframe to 2025, in alignment with the duration of the Eighth Five-Year Plan of Bangladesh. Various government ministries and agencies have initiated projects to implement the NAP WPS. These initiatives have to be expanded, coordinated, monitored and evaluated to realize the envisioned results of NAP WPS.

Please find the NAP 2019-2022 [here](#).

UN WOMEN SIGNS FOUR PROJECT AGREEMENTS WITH THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS DIVISION

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance signed four project agreements with UN Women in July 2023. The projects are: Empower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies – Phase II; Making Every Woman and Girl Count; Ending Gender Stereotypes in Classrooms; and a UN joint collaboration to accelerate the implementation of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The four projects were signed by Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary of ERD on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh and UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh at the ERD office.

UN Women remains committed to support the government and the people of Bangladesh to advance the gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda as demonstrated in the country’s Eighth Five-Year Plan, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026 and UN Women’s Strategic Plan (2022-2026). The projects are supported by the Governments of Sweden and New Zealand (Em-Power Phase II); Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Making Every Woman and Girl Count, a



ERD Secretary (former) Ms. Sharifa Khan and UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh during the signing of the four project agreements at the ERD office. *Photo: UN Women.*

global flagship project of UN Women) and UNICEF (Ending Gender Stereotypes in Classrooms, a project funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit under the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative).

UN WOMEN AND BANGLADESH POLICE WOMEN NETWORK PARTNERSHIP: TREADING A MORE STRATEGIC MILESTONE

The Bangladesh Police Women Network (BPWN), one of the country’s largest professional women’s networks, teamed up with UN Women for a two-day review of its strategic plan in October 2023. Led by Jane Townsley, Senior Police Advisor of UN Women, the workshop reviewed past accomplishments and identified priorities for the remaining period of the current [Strategic Plan 2021–2023](#). The workshop also laid the groundwork for the upcoming Strategic Plan for 2024-2027. About 30

BPWN members from different districts participated. Following the workshop, the UN Women Senior Police Advisor visited the Victim Support Centre and held discussions with senior officials from Police Headquarters Dhaka and Dhaka Metropolitan Police. The discussions identified potential collaboration areas, such as exploring an online training module to supplement existing police training and establishing a gender affairs unit.

UN Women’s collaboration with BPWN focuses on continually enhancing skills and providing technical assistance to BPWN members to foster a more inclusive environment for women in the police force. UN Women Bangladesh Country Office has been collaborating with BPWN as part of the armed police battalion at the Cox’s Bazar. This collaboration focuses on (a) advancing women’s leadership, (b) advancing gender-friendly environment in the police force, and (b) promoting

gender-responsive policing, especially in Cox’s Bazar. Toward this end, UN Women translated and disseminated the Gender Responsive Policing Handbook (an initiative of UN Women Headquarters) to the police. UN Women will continue to support the strategic planning effort of BPWN for the period 2024-2027 to ensure that the above-mentioned priorities will remain at the center of its next strategic plan.



(Left to right) UN Women EAW Programme Coordinator Ms. Shrabana Datta, UN Women Senior Police Advisor Ms. Jane Townsley, Deputy Inspector General-Special Branch and the president of BPWN Ms. Amena Begum, DIG-Highway Police Ms. Atiqa Islam, and Ms. Shamima Begum, (CTIW), SB and Vice President, BPWN at the BPWN Strategic Plan review workshop. Group discussion at the BPWN Strategic Plan review workshop. Photo: UN Women/CEMS.

GOVERNMENT, INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION AND UN WOMEN CALL FOR PUBLIC INVESTMENTS IN CHILDCARE

The MoWCA, International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Women made a strong call for immediate public investments in childcare. In a consultative dialogue held in November 2023, they identified approaches to effectively scale up accessible, affordable and quality childcare services nationwide.

The dialogue emphasized that this is an imperative to more effective participation of women in the job market, the achievement of gender parity at work, and the

achievement of gender equality targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5.

Presently, women’s participation in the labour force is much lower (42.8 per cent) than men (80 per cent) and many women are underemployed, often in low-paying jobs within informal sectors (96.6 per cent according to the 2022 Labour Force Survey). Their heavy engagement in household tasks limit their job market involvement.

The 2021 [Time Use Survey](#) published in June 2022, revealed that women spend 4.6 hours on unpaid domestic services and 1.2 hours on caregiving. In comparison, men dedicate 0.6 hours to domestic tasks and 0.2 hours to caregiving, which is 6-7.5 times less than women. This stark contrast substantially restricts women's mobility and economic engagement. Representatives from different sectors, including government ministries, worker and employer organizations, civil society, caregiving and training

institutions joined the dialogue. They highlighted issues critical for improving childcare services and the overall care economy. These included incorporating play-based learning and early childhood education in childcare centres, ensuring inclusivity for children with disabilities and those of migrant workers, making services affordable and accessible for informal workers, exploring community-based childcare models, utilizing government infrastructures like primary schools and engaging the private sector. [Read more.](#)



(From left to right) Panel discussion with UN Women, International Labour Organization (ILO), civil society, and Government representatives on the importance of the care economy; ILO Country Director Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen, MoWCA Secretary Ms. Nazma Mobarek, and UN Women Deputy Country Representative Ms. Navanita Sinha at the closing session; Participants at the technical dialogue. *Photo: UN Women.*

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES AND UN WOMEN ADVANCE GENDER-RESPONSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UN Women continue to drive the incorporation of 'inclusion and gender' perspectives in infrastructure. Infrastructures that miss the concerns of women, girls and vulnerable groups limit their ability to access safety, opportunities and equal rights, thereby reinforcing their disadvantage and vulnerability. Infrastructures that are blind to inclusion and gender are, therefore, discriminatory, exclusionary and antithetical to sustainable development. In Bangladesh, UN Women and UNOPS introduced the Gender Marker Toolkit at the 'Progress: Strengthening Bangladesh through Gender-

Responsive and Resilient Infrastructure' event held in September 2023.

The toolkit facilitates the incorporation of gender perspectives in all stages of infrastructure planning and execution to foster the empowerment of women, girls, and marginalized groups in all infrastructure processes. The launching of the toolkit was the highlight of the event. It was supported by the National Resilience Program (NRP), Government of Sweden and UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO).

During the workshop, participants learned how to approach infrastructure projects with attention to the concerns of women and vulnerable communities and finding solutions that fit their specific needs. Government officials stressed the importance of thinking about everyone's needs in infrastructure planning, emphasizing the idea of infrastructure as a service and focusing on inclusivity, accessibility and affordability in design. Dr. Md. Sarwar Bari, the Director General of the

Local Government Division's (LGD) Monitoring, Inspection, and Evaluation Wing, highlighted the importance of resilience in sustainable infrastructure. He asserted that gender responsive infrastructure is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development. **See the media coverage:** [Daily Star](#); [The Daily Observer](#); [The Business Post](#); [Dainik Shokaler Shomoy Online](#); [Protidiner Bangladesh Online](#); [Bangla Tribune](#); [UNB](#); [Mohona TV](#); [The Daily Kaler Kontho Online](#);

"We need to acknowledge that infrastructure is not gender-neutral. So, we must ensure that our infrastructure-related investments promote gender equality and social inclusion."

Md. Sarwar Bari

Director General, Monitoring, Inspection and Evaluation Wing
Local Government Division



(From top left clockwise) Md. Sarwar Bari, DG of Monitoring, Inspection and Evaluation Wing, Local Government Division; UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Gwyn Lewis; UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh delivering their remarks; Participants at the open discussion session. *Photo: UNOPS/CEMS.*

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION AND UN WOMEN CHAMPION GENDER-FRIENDLY WORKING ENVIRONMENT IN MEDIA



Speakers at the roundtable discussion “Gender Friendly Working Environment in Media” organized by UNESCO in partnership with UN Women. *Photo: UN Women/Emdadul Islam.*

UN Women and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) endeavor to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in media. Building upon the results of UN Women’s consultation with top 10 editors including deputy and joint editors of the country in December 2022, UNESCO, in partnership with UN Women, conducted a series of roundtable discussions on ‘Gender-friendly Working Environment in the Media’. It aims to make the media environment women-friendly and strengthen gender equality in policy, codes and guidelines of media agencies. The discussion series resulted in a set of recommendations to: (a) review media content through

a gender equality lens and ensure that they promote inclusivity and representation; (b) reform internal structures and practices to ensure inclusion and diversity; and (c) invest in research and data collection across diverse media landscapes for informed decision-making and progress. The two agencies are in the process of formalizing the collaboration to advance gender equality in media. The initiative will include identifying and addressing policy gaps, eliminating gender stereotypes in media content, promoting gender-responsive workplace and practices and supporting women’s leadership in media companies.

GENDER RESPONSIVE JOURNALISM IN COX'S BAZAR



(From left to right clockwise) Head of UN Women Sub office in Cox's Bazar Ms. Silja Rajander (seated right), President of Cox's Bazar Press Club Mr. Mohammed Abu Taher (seated middle) and, Mr. Mainul Khan from the DW Akademie (seated left) with the first batch of participants at the Gender Responsive Journalism training; Additional RRRC with the second batch of participants at the Gender Responsive Journalism training; Sessions at the training. Photo: UN Women/Magfuzur Rahman Shana.

In collaboration with DW Akademie, UN Women organized a series of trainings on gender responsive journalism from September to October 2023. Spread in two batches the trainings were attended by 32 participants (16 women, 16 men), representing various media platforms in Cox's Bazar, including newspapers, radio, television, and online news outlets. The training

enabled the participants to learn the use of non gender-biased language and producing positive narratives on gender equality issues. It also provided a platform for women journalists to voice their challenges, fostering an environment that empowered them to break stereotypes and assume more impactful roles in their reporting.

“Through this training, I learned how to avoid creating divisions between men and women. The training was influential for my future work as a journalist.”

Bandan Sarkar

Reporter with Probal News Cox's Bazar

STRENGTHENING GENDER EQUALITY COORDINATION

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND UN VISIT TO KHULNA AND BARISAL HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO ACCELERATE GENDER EQUALITY



(Clockwise from the top left) The UN Resident Coordinator engaging with women farmers supported by FAO in Khulna; The delegation met the students at Khulna Mohila Polytechnic Institute (KMPI) supported by ILO; Adolescent girls from Botolbunia school in Borishal supported by UNFPA, sharing their dreams and aspirations; Women CSO leaders sharing their experience in combatting climate change in Khulna; Children from UNICEF's Community-Based Child Protection Hub with the delegation in Khulna; UN Women Country Representative sharing her remarks during an exchange with service providers working to prevent GBV during the Gender Mission. *Photo: UN Women/Md Shohag.*

A recent field mission of development partners and UN Women brought to fore the imperative of accelerating the implementation of gender equality measures in areas that are most vulnerable to climate change. Leveraging its coordination mandate as the co-chair of the UNSDCF Strategic Pillar 5 (along with UNFPA), UN Women facilitated a joint visit of the UN Country Team and development partners to Khulna and Barisal divisions in south-central Bangladesh. The aim was to directly observe the situation and hear the voices of women and vulnerable groups. While acknowledging the significant progress made on gender equality in Bangladesh, women in the visited areas spoke of several socio-economic barriers that continue to hold back progress. In Barisal and Khulna divisions, these were further aggravated by the wide-ranging impacts of climate change. The

delegation visited different UN projects and met women from diverse groups and communities. Women farmers, grassroots civil society leaders and young women entrepreneurs raised key issues such as limited mobility, societal norms and the need for funding to enhance local adaptation efforts. They also highlighted the positive impact of UN interventions, citing the development of leadership skills and increased economic opportunities.

Conversations with gender-based violence (GBV) service providers emphasized the importance of prioritizing survivors' well-being through prompt medical and legal support. The UN's role in enhancing their capacity was recognized, urging for increased budget allocation. Furthermore, visits to community-based child protection club, adolescent groups and schools revealed how these

spaces empower young girls and children by fostering community inclusion, sharing knowledge and promoting mutual empowerment. Reflecting on the outcomes of the visit, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh, Gwyn Lewis, said, “Despite progress made across the country, we heard from women and girls in Khulna and Barisal that the social, economic, and now increasing environmental barriers continue to be significant obstacles in the way of women’s empowerment and eliminating GBV. More efforts are needed to achieve the vision of the country and women need to be equal partners in that change.”

Representatives from the development partners – the Embassies of Switzerland and Germany and the

Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh - joined UNFPA, FAO, UNICEF, ILO and UN Women in the three-day joint mission. Their observation and interaction with various women’s groups and leaders prompted a call for accelerated implementation of gender equality interventions to attain visible results on the lives of the people, especially women and girls.

See the media coverage : [Dhaka Tribune](#), [Daily Sun](#), [news agency UNB](#), [Turkish news agency Anadolu!](#), [Banglanews24.com](#); [Bonikbarta.net](#); [Barisalbani.com](#); [Barishalcrimenews.com](#); [Unb.com.bd](#); [Voabangla.com](#); [Dhakatribune.com](#); [Unb.com.bd](#); [Daily-sun.com](#); [Financialexpress.com.bd](#); [Bangladeshpostsen.com](#); [Daily-sun.com](#); [Dailycountrytodaybd.com](#); [Bangladeshpostsen.com](#).

WOMEN LEADERS AND UN IN BANGLADESH MEET TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY



Women leaders with the Honorable Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Swedish Ambassador Ms. Alexandra Berg von Linde, UNRC Ms. Gwyn Lewis, UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh and UNFPA Country Representative Ms. Kristine Blokhuis.
Photo: UN in Bangladesh.

In September 2023, UN Women and UNFPA supported the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office to organize a high-level roundtable in September on advancing gender equality. Over 30 prominent women leaders from the government, private sector, academia, media and non-

government organizations (NGOs) participated in the roundtable titled ‘The role of women in Bangladesh: Navigating challenges and opportunities in public life.’ The event provided an opportunity to meet and reflect collectively on existing barriers to further advance

gender parity, ensure non-discrimination, and address the challenges faced by women and girls in the country. Bangladesh's first female Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was the chief guest, and the Swedish Ambassador Ms. Alexandra Berg von Linde was the special guest at the roundtable, which was moderated by the UN Resident Coordinator.

“For a smart Bangladesh, we (need to) address the structural barriers and harness the full potential of women in economic life to maintain the momentum for sustainable development, especially as we graduate from the least developed countries (LDC) status.”

Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury
Honorable Speaker of the Parliament

In her opening remarks, the UN Resident Coordinator praised Bangladesh's significant achievements in its sustainable development, driven in large part by the extraordinary contributions of women. “In the past 50 years, Bangladesh has made incredible achievements in its remarkable development journey. Women's participation, representation, and leadership in all areas of public life has significantly increased, but there remains a vast untapped potential, which will only be fulfilled through investment in women and girls” she stated.

At the roundtable, women leaders discussed barriers and identified actions to jointly tackle these challenges. Participants highlighted obstacles to women's leadership, including challenges faced by transgender women and those with disabilities. Deep-rooted gender norms,

UN HUMAN RESOURCES OPEN DAY FOR GENDER PARITY

In August, UN Gender Equality Theme Group (GETG) co-chaired by UN Women and UNFPA and UN Human Resource Working Group (HRWG), facilitated the first-ever UN Human Resources Open Day for Gender Equality. The event encouraged and oriented women and gender diverse people to pursue a career with the UN.

societal attitudes, violence against women, legal barriers and sexual harassment, especially in public spaces, persist as major barriers to gender equality. One key issue highlighted by the leaders was Bangladesh not having adequate legislation to incriminate sexual harassment. The definition of rape must also be revised [as the current one dates to the Penal Code 1860 and limits rape to penile-vaginal penetration]. It is estimated that there are more than 70,000 cases of rape every year in the country, and most survivors do not go to court. They also highlighted that there is no recognition of care and domestic work. Care work is essential and significant, but it must be proportionately shared among members of the family and at the societal level.

In addressing women's economic empowerment, issues concerning labour migration and the plight of female migrant workers, especially domestic workers, were key concerns. Suggestions emphasized collaboration between women's movements, government and other stakeholders. While progress has been made through enacted laws, continued support to women's rights organizations, including through dedicated funding remains crucial.

See the media coverage: [BTV](#); [Ittefaq](#); [Daily Sun](#); [Janakantha](#); [Business Post](#); [Sangbad](#); [Unb.com.bd](#); [Banglanews24.com](#); [Dhakapost.com](#); [Jagonews24.com](#); [Kalerkantho.com](#); [Bssnews.net](#); [Daily-sun.com](#); [Bhorerkagoj.net](#); [Inqilab.com](#); [Zoombangla.com](#); [Thebangladeshtoday.com](#); [Boishakhnews.com](#); [Itvbd.com](#); [Rangpur24.com](#); [Newsnow24.com](#); [Ajkerbazaar.com](#); [Bangla71news.com](#);

This is in line with the implementation of the [UN in Bangladesh Gender Parity Strategy \(2023-2028\)](#). The strategy prioritizes increasing women staff by five percentage points every two years, showcasing the UN's commitment to ensure gender parity and better representation of women in the workforce. According to 2023 unpublished data collected by the GETG and the

HRWG, gender parity across all three categories of staff (general service, mid-level, senior level) needs to be strengthened. Of all UN personnel in Bangladesh, only 32.1 per cent are women. From the event, representatives from 11 UN agencies and 80 non-UN participants gained insights on UN's recruitment processes and the experiences shared by women in the

local UN system. The event also included a career fair, which enabled external participants to explore available job opportunities in various UN agencies. [Read More](#). Find more [photos](#). See the media coverage: [Ekattor TV](#); [Asian TV](#); [Tbsnews.net](#); [Banglatribune.com](#); [Shomoyeralo.com](#); [Dhakamirror.com](#); [Bangladeshshomachar.com](#); [Depto News](#).



(Top row, left to right) UNDP HR Head Mr. Md. Sajjadul Islam Chowdhury and UNV Country Coordinator Ms. Sonia Mehzabeen presenting on the UN recruitment process; Q/A session with HR Experts from the UN; (second row, left to right) A Role Model Panel Discussion showcasing inspiring career journeys of female staff from different UN agencies and at different contract levels; Participants at the Career Fair; (bottom row) Participants during Q/A with the HR Experts at the UN HR Open Day. *Photo: UN Women/CEMS.*

UN MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN



The UN in Bangladesh launched a mentorship programme in 2023, facilitated by UN Women and UNFPA as GETG co-chairs, aiming to support, retain and advance women staff within the UN system. Offering a platform for women to connect, the programme allowed women personnel to seek mentors from different UN agencies, enabling networking and career path discussions and providing a space for mutual growth, motivation and inspiration in both the personal and professional spheres. The pilot phase matched 50 mentees to 42 mentors. A check-in session for participants to reflect and provide feedback highlighted that the programme had facilitated personal growth, broadened networks and provided valuable perspectives on professional growth and development.

UN PROCUREMENT EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Gender-responsive procurement (GRP) is the sustainable selection of services, goods and works that considers the impact on gender equality. It constitutes a powerful tool that promotes gender equality and women's empowerment to build equitable and just societies. The UN is well-placed to contribute to GRP through its enormous buying power and strong focus on sustainable procurement practices.

The UN Operations Management Team (OMT) and Procurement Working Group, with support from Gender Equality Theme Group (GETG), organized a GRP workshop in August 2022, to increase participation of women-owned and led businesses in UN supply chains. Around 150 representatives from various women-owned organizations and businesses across the country attended.

Building on that momentum, in 2023 the Procurement Working Group, with support from UN Women, organized a training to increase internal capacity on the technical aspects of a GRP system. A total of 39 procurement and operations staff from around 10 UN agencies attended the session. The purpose of the



Participants from the UN Procurement Working Group attending an online training session on gender-responsive procurement system in November 2023. Screenshot photo: *UN Women/Elina Hedman*.

training was to further promote gender equality and empowerment of women through increased capacities to implement a harmonized GRP system and ultimately increase the number of gender-responsive suppliers in UN supply chains. The country team will oversee and document any shifts in practices including any increase in the number of female vendors in 2024. Watch [a video](#) on the GRP Workshop held in August 2022.

ADVANCING MIGRANT WORKERS RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT: PROGRESS AND FUTURE INITIATIVES IN THE COLOMBO PROCESS



UN Women staff from Bangladesh and the Asia Pacific and the delegation from Bangladesh Government at the TAWG meeting in Colombo. Photo: UN Women.

The Colombo Process (CP) is a state-led information-sharing and policy dialogue forum bringing together 12 labour-sending countries from Asia. Its thematic area working group (TAWG) meetings provide technical exchanges to ensure migrant workers rights in the region are being protected, respected and fulfilled.

The 8th TAWG meeting on Skills and Qualification Recognition Processes (chaired by the Government of Sri Lanka), the 7th on Promoting Cheaper, Faster, and Safer Transfer of Remittances (chaired by the Government of Pakistan) and the 10th on Fair and Ethical Recruitment Practices (chaired by the Government of Bangladesh) were held on December 12th and 13th, 2023. Additionally, a reintegration knowledge forum for Colombo Process Member States (CPMS) representatives took place on December 14, 2023. Attendees included representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, along with observers from various agencies and organizations. Bangladesh was represented by three senior officials Mr. Sandwip Kumar Sarkar, Deputy Secretary, Md. Sazzad Hossain, Joint Secretary and Mr. Fazlur Rahman, Joint

Secretary from the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. UN Women representatives Ms. Tapati Saha, Programme Analyst from Bangladesh Country Office (BCO), and Ms. Nansiri Iamsuk, Programme Specialist, Regional Migration Programme, highlighted the issues faced by women migrant workers in Bangladesh, such as the lack of a gender responsive employment contract. Key recommendations included: supporting collaboration among CPMS; fostering gender-responsive employment; ensuring decent work conditions; upskilling of women migrant workers; promoting financial inclusion and resilience; and enhancing digital access for migrant workers and their families. Going forward, UN Women will expand the regional reintegration training module at the national level in collaboration with ILO and International Organization for Migration (IOM), following its launch at the CP-TAWG meeting, as a part of the regional Governance of Labour Migration in South and South-East Asia programme. There is significant potential to take forward the recommendations of the CP meeting through financial and digital inclusion, advocating for the implementation of gender responsive employment contracts to ensure decent work for women migrant workers.

CARE ECONOMY FORUM

UN Women and MoWCA jointly participated in the Asia-Pacific Care Economy Forum held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June. The forum sought to raise awareness about innovative care enterprise solutions, enhance work opportunities, and forge a community of care implementers, entrepreneurs and providers to enhance and innovate inclusive entrepreneurship and blended care delivery models. It brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and ecosystem players to exchange and explore care policies and advocate for change and to establish a regional Asia-Pacific Care stakeholder community supporting the Global Alliance.

Ms. Ferdousi Begum, Joint Secretary, MoWCA, highlighted critical points during her presentation on fostering an enabling ecosystem for accelerating care delivery services. She emphasized the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to women's economic empowerment as a crucial component of attaining the 2030 agenda, addressing unpaid care work in the Eighth Five-Year Plan, policy commitments to accelerate and scale up care delivery services and infrastructure, including the establishment of 8,000 childcare centres in eight divisions across the country. The recommendations at the forum included creating easy access to income-generating opportunities for women, improving equal



UN Women Programme Analyst Ms. Tapati Saha, MoWCA Joint Secretary Ms. Ferdousi Begum with the participants from the Asia-Pacific Care Economy Forum held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *Photo: UN Women.*

opportunities at work and increasing representation of women in decision-making positions as well as identifying role- models (especially men) to champion and advocate for family friendly policies.

INSIGHTS FROM THE VAW PREVENTION AND RESPECT FRAMEWORK WORKSHOP IN SEOUL

The cross-country exchange and learning on Violence Against Women (VAW) prevention and the RESPECT Framework workshop held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in October 2023 created a platform for the Asia Pacific region to enhance understanding and exchange experiences on prevention programming. Government officials, civil society representatives, and UN Women practitioners from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam engaged in discussions. Ms. Shrabana Datta, UN Women Programme Coordinator, EAW along with Ms. Nahid Monjura Afroz, Joint Secretary, MoWCA; Ms. Jesmin Nahar, Senior Assistant Secretary, MoFECC and Ms. Ayesha Akter, Senior Lawyer, BLAST represented Bangladesh in the workshop. The sessions covered global and regional VAW

statistics, legal frameworks, country-specific prevention strategies and group activities on developing prevention projects across the region. The sessions also helped participants to understand and identify the root causes of violence, learn about effective prevention programming using the RESPECT Framework and measure the national impact of VAW prevention. Key results included widened acceptance of prevention approaches, by the government responses. The workshop aided government officials from different ministries to understand VAW prevention, specifically in climate-vulnerable areas. The mission also facilitated knowledge sharing on innovative primary prevention strategies across Asia-Pacific and encouraged collaboration opportunities for Bangladesh. Going

forward, government officials have committed to further investing in evaluating current prevention programs, a step toward integrating prevention indicators into the

monitoring framework of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children 2018-2030 (NAP VAWC).



(From left to right) Participants at the ‘Violence Against Women (VAW) prevention and the RESPECT Framework’ workshop held in Seoul, South Korea ; (seated from left) UN Women ERAW Programme Coordinator Ms. Shrabana Datta, MoWCA Joint Secretary Ms. Nahid Monjura Afroz, MoFECC Senior Assistant Secretary Ms. Jesmin Nahar along with the workshop participants. *Photo: UN Women/Kwanju Kim*

DISABILITY INCLUSION: LIFE TO LEAD



(From left to right) UN Women Project Management Officer Ms. Nazma Ara Begum Poppy, BRAC Bank employee Md. Amjad Hosen, Research Assistant from Bonhishikha Ms. Nahiyen Bushra and Ms. Ruma Akhter from B-SCAN at the ‘Life to Lead’ session on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Representatives from the Government, UN agencies and organizations working with people with disabilities at the event. *Photo: ILO*

Persons with disabilities articulated their concerns and recommendations during a session titled, ‘Life to Lead’. They called for action from government on the issues of (a) accessibility, (b) violence against women and girls with disabilities, (c) limited employment opportunities

and (d) weak implementation of the law on disability (Act 2013).

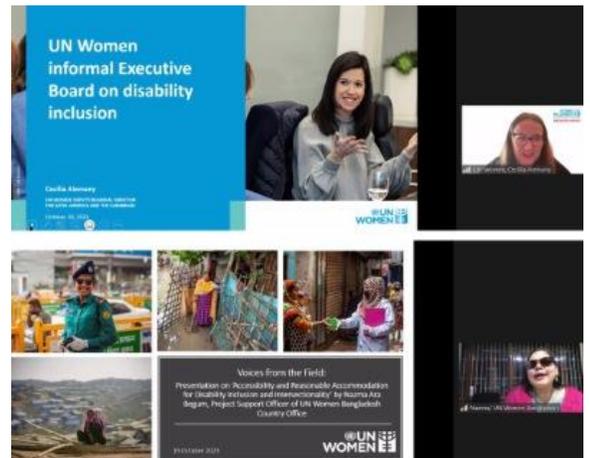
UN Women, UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA and Sightsavers jointly organized the session in December 2023 to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Ms.

Nazma Ara Begum Poppy, Project Management Officer of UN Women, moderated the session. The session provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences, challenges and recommendations for a more inclusive society. Md. Amjad Hosen, from BRAC bank, stressed the importance of the activation of committees to implement the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act 2013 (RPPDA) and the need for accessibility campaigns to create supportive environments. Ms. Ruma Akhter, from B-SCAN,

highlighted the multiple forms of violence that women and girls with disabilities encounter and the societal repercussions. She recommended incorporating protections for women in the RPPDA to ensure access to justice. Nahiyah Bushra, research assistant at Physically-challenged Development Foundation (PDF), shared the challenges faced by young people with disabilities in finding employment and urged the government to create a specific policy to guarantee employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

UPATING UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE BOARD ON DISABILITY INCLUSION

A virtual briefing on UN Women's approach to disability inclusion with the UN Women Executive Board provided an opportunity to highlight accessibility and reasonable accommodation, such as initiatives for disability inclusion taken by the Bangladesh country office. Ms. Nazma Ara Begum Poppy, Project Management Officer at Bangladesh country office, presented on the key results from the UN joint initiative 'to accelerate implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and disability-inclusive SDGs funded by United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) Multi-Partner Trust fund. [See the presentation.](#)



(Bottom right) Ms. Nazma Ara Begum Poppy, Project Management Officer, UN Women presenting at the virtual briefing to the UN Women Executive Board. Screenshot photo: UN Women website.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



“Investments are not only about funding, but also as much about where we place our attention. Let us pay attention to the issue of gender-based violence not only throughout these 16 days, but throughout the year, every year. Let us collectively push forward to end violence against women and girls once and for all.”

Read a joint op-ed titled [“THE MOST PERVASIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION”](#) by UNRC Ms. Gwyn Lewis, UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh and UNFPA Country Representative Ms. Kristine Blokhuis was published in the Daily Star.

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ENDING GBV

MoWCA, the UN and the Local Consultative Group on Women’s Advancement and Gender Equality, co-chaired by UN Women and USAID, jointly inaugurated the 16 Days of Activism against GBV with a National Dialogue in Dhaka on 25 November.

Focusing on the 2023 theme ‘Invest to prevent violence against women and girls’, the collaborative effort stressed the urgent need for funding strategies to end GBV. Dr. Farzana Mahmood, Barrister and co-founder, as well as Executive Director of the Bangladesh Manobadhikar O Poribesh Andolon Foundation, in her keynote presentation, highlighted gaps in existing

domestic violence laws, advocated for the acknowledgment of domestic violence as a criminal offense and more inclusive definitions of victims.

The roundtable discussion emphasized the necessity for community awareness on laws, the importance of inclusive legal measures, investment in family-level interventions and positive parenting modules and the need to support local MoWCA representatives intervening in cases of violence against women.

[Read more.](#)

See the photo album [here.](#)



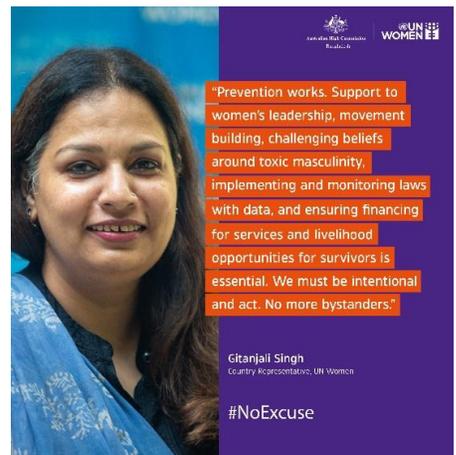
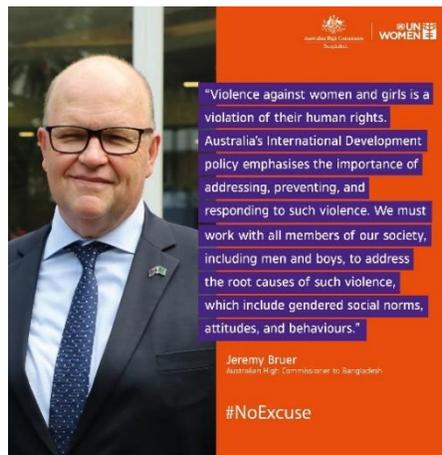
(Top row, left to right) MoWCA State Minister Dr. Fazilatun Nessa Indira, MP, delivering remarks; UNRC delivering her remarks as special guest; Barrister Dr. Farzana Mahmood presenting on the legal frameworks focusing on women’s issues; Q/A session; UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh and UNFPA Country Representative Ms. Kristine Blokhuis during the discussion session; Participants at the open discussion.

Photo: UN Women/Mercari.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND THE UN REITERATE COMMITMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

During the 16 Days of Activism to end GBV, UN Women collaborated with the Australian High Commission in Bangladesh to amplify voices and promote action on ending violence against women and girls. This social media campaign brought together ten development partners, including Canada, Denmark, European Union, France, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GIZ, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States, alongside UN agencies and the Regional Coordinator's office. Representatives shared messages of solidarity across social media platforms, reiterating their commitments to raise awareness to end violence against women. See the photo collage below.







 “UNICEF envisions a world where all children and women, including adolescents, are free from violence. Join me this 16 Days of Activism to shed light on gender-based violence and advocate for greater investment in violence prevention.”

Sheldon Yett
 UNICEF Representative to Bangladesh

#NoExcuse 





 “It is not only a moral imperative to invest in preventing violence against women; it's an investment in a safer, more equitable world for all.”

Christian Brix Moller
 Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh

#NoExcuse 





 “Violence against women is a shameful human rights violation. When we work to prevent it, we are investing in a prosperous and resilient Bangladesh. It is a moral imperative, but it is also a strategic choice.”

Ms. Kristine Blokhus
 UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh

#NoExcuse 





 “Today, and every day, we say no to any form of violence against women and girls in Bangladesh and in the world. Through the EU's Gender Action Plan III, we are helping to build a life free from violence for women and girls by challenging social norms, creating safe spaces for dialogue, and empowering women and girls so they can fulfil their full potential and thrive.”

H.E. Charles Whiteley
 Ambassador and Head of Delegation
 European Union in Bangladesh

#NoExcuse 





 “Today, we unite to eliminate violence against women and girls. Let's prioritize, invest, and globally advocate for safer futures, recognizing women's pivotal role in economic and social development; IOM Bangladesh supports zero tolerance for violence against them.”

Abdusattor Eshev
 Chief of Mission, IOM

#NoExcuse 





 “France is strongly committed to the fight against GBV. It has been a long battle, which must still go on everywhere in the world. This means not only adopting efficient laws but training all the stakeholders who are in charge of their implementation, including police forces and judges. Women should not live in fear, nowhere in the world. The violence which breaks out leading to wars starts by letting women under the threat of being assaulted themselves. Stop that and peace will prevail inside our homes as well as outside.”

Marie Masdupuy
 Ambassador of France to Bangladesh

#NoExcuse 





 “Government, employers and workers must come together to address discrimination and eradicating violence and harassment against women in all workplaces. Gender equality will only become a reality with equal pay for equal work and promoting equal access to all types of work.”

Tuomo Poutialainen
 Country Director, ILO Country Office for Bangladesh

#NoExcuse 





 “Uniting for a more equal world means eradicating gender-based violence. I advocate for gender equality, respect, empowerment, and dignity for everyone.”

Reto Renggli
 Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh
 Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh

#NoExcuse 

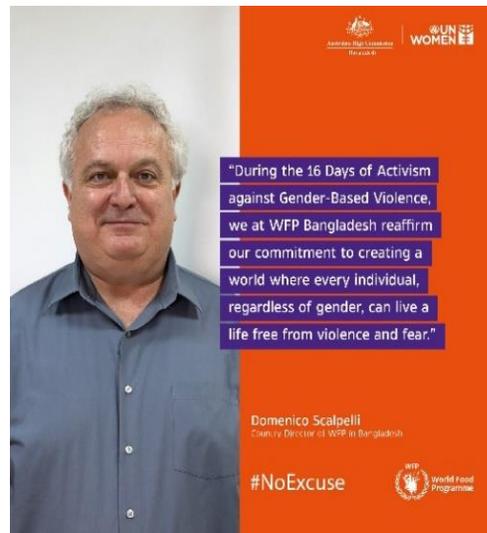
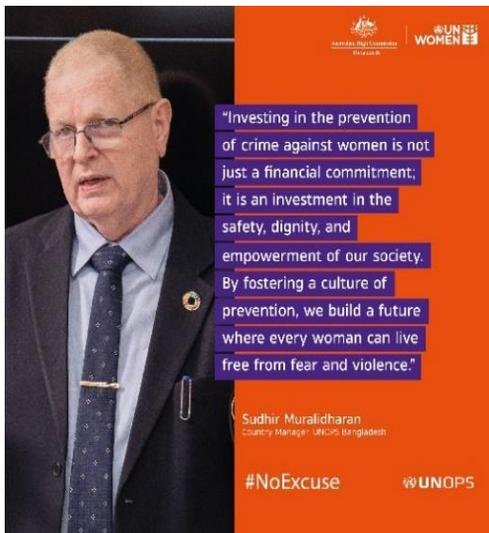
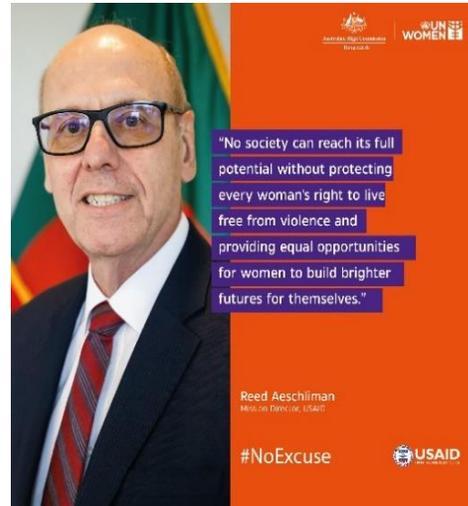




 Our aim is to “build just and strong societies worldwide”. Fostering gender parity is at the heart of our programming. In all our measures we actively reach out to communities and engage stakeholders in dialogue so we can build a strong and united front against gender-based violence. We are stronger when we are able to harness diverse voices and that's how we can make a difference.

Dr. Andreas Kuck
 Country Director, GIZ Bangladesh

#NoExcuse 



LAUNCH OF 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END GBV IN COX’S BAZAR

On December 26th, 2023, a dialogue on 'advancing gender-responsive camp governance' was organized in Cox’s bazar to end GBV. The Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) hosted the event, with discussions focused on challenges confronted by women and girls in the camps and the important role of

gender-responsive camp governance. Recommendations related to enhancing the safety and well-being of women and girls in the Rohingya camps were put forward and focused on the need to enhance coordination and communication between and among key actors engaged in the Rohingya Response.

“We need to create communication systems so we can reach survivors. Whether I am a man or woman is not the issue – whether I am gender sensitive is the issue.”

Camp-in-Charge (CIC)



Launch of 16 Days of Activism to end GBV in Cox's Bazar. Photo: UN Women/Magfuzur Rahman Shana.

UNFPA, UNICEF AND UN WOMEN SHED LIGHT ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO SUPPORT GBV SURVIVORS IN BANGLADESH

UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women jointly released a report focused on how women, girls and children, including adolescents, in Bangladesh face growing risks in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Launched during the 16 Days of Activism to end GBV, the report: 'Justice Accountability and Support: Essential Services for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence,' marks a collective effort to take decisive action, supporting the Government of Bangladesh to end all forms of violence against women and children in the country. The report highlights the urgent need to bridge the gap between health, police, justice and social services and survivors, emphasizing the delivery of essential services to survivors. A crucial recommendation underscores the importance of providing survivor-centred and trauma-informed services. This approach is instrumental in empowering



'Justice Accountability and Support: Essential Services for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence' Report Launch. Photo: UNICEF/UNI485418/Himu.

women and children, including adolescents, to seek help, thereby preventing all forms of harmful practices, such as child marriage, trafficking and various forms of GBV.

Read the [report](#).

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GENDER FIELD OFFICER TO ADVANCE GENDER RESPONSIVE CAMP MANAGEMENT

“One day, Nur Fatema approached me along with her women community members. They requested assistance from me to repair the bamboo bridge” said Mani Elizabeth Chakma, Gender Field Officer (GFO), UN Women.

“We visited the broken bamboo bridge along with the site management and site development focal person from Caritas International. We also communicated with the *Majhi* (In Myanmar, people from the Rohingya community use the term *majhi* to refer to someone who leads a group and assists them in every possible way) in camp and collectively advocated with the Camp-in-Charge (CIC) for women and children's protection issues. We explained that this bamboo bridge is the only route for women, men and children to move around. But due to its defective condition, pregnant women, persons with disability and children are unable to cross. The broken bamboo bridge is posing a significant security hazard to everyone, especially for them. For this reason, I earnestly appealed for support from the CIC to speed up the repair of this bridge.” As shared by UN Women GFO, Shati

Ritchil, UN Women volunteer, Noor Kayeas, regularly conducts household visits to the H-5 Block, Camp 9, to disseminate awareness messages.

During one of her visits, she encountered a family with a son who has physical disability. The mother shared the family's overall situation, indicating that they lacked access to fresh food despite being entitled to the services for family members with physical disability who are below 18 years old. They were also unaware of how to access this service. Shati added that they are in communication with the protection focal point and the food sector in Camp 9, for securing a registration/authentication certificate from Handicap International. As a result of these interventions, the family is now able to regularly access fresh food provisions from the food service point. This is the outcome of active coordination, communication, and follow-up by the GFO with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Handicap International staff, and proactive support from a female volunteer following the referral pathway.

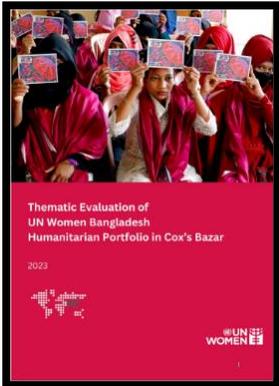


UN Women Volunteer Ms. Noor Kayeas during her visit to a household with a child with disability. *Photo: UN Women/Magfuzur Rahman Shana.*



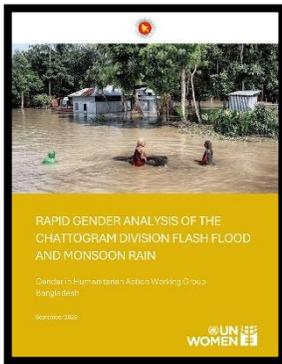
In Camp 4, people from the community can now freely and safely walk across the bamboo bridge. *Photo: UNWomen/Mohammed Jubair.*

THEMATIC EVALUATION OF UN WOMEN BANGLADESH HUMANITARIAN PORTFOLIO IN COX'S BAZAR



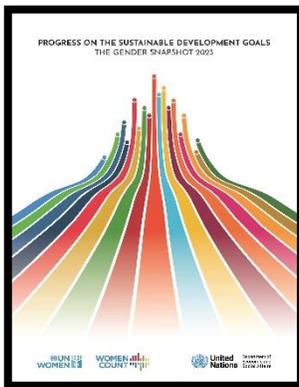
In 2017, an estimated 745,000 stateless Rohingya refugees fled persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine state and arrived in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. As of May 2023, more than 961,175 Rohingya refugees remain in Cox's Bazar in a protracted crisis, 52 per cent of whom are women and girls. The protracted humanitarian context in Cox's Bazar has exacerbated needs and vulnerabilities (including GBV), and experiences of gender inequalities among the Rohingya refugees and host communities. The Thematic Evaluation explores UN Women's contributions to respond to the Rohingya refugees needs and host communities in Cox's Bazar. [Read the Evaluation Report.](#)

RAPID GENDER ANALYSIS OF THE CHATTOGRAM DIVISION FLASH FLOOD AND MONSOON RAIN 2023



The August 2023 flash floods and monsoon rains across Bangladesh resulted in unprecedented damage, especially in Chattogram Division, leading to widespread devastation and displacement that impacted 1.3 million people across among which 630,000 were women. The rapid gender analysis prepared by the GiHA working group assessed the impact on women, men, girls, boys and gender-diverse groups. The report indicates that challenges women faced, such as lack of early warning and information, inability of most vulnerable groups to access immediate health services, and impaired mobility and communications due to destruction of infrastructures. The report called attention to the need to ensure maintenance of emergency shelters, prioritizing the most vulnerable in the distribution of emergency and recovery resources, services, and other interventions. [Read the Report.](#)

OP-ED ON SDG GENDER SNAPSHOT REPORT



The Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023 report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current state of gender equality across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlights prevailing trends, gaps, and recent setbacks on the journey towards achieving gender equality by 2030. Halfway to 2030, progress on SDG 5 – Gender Equality – is clearly way off track, with only two Goal 5 indicators being “close to target” and no SDG 5 indicator at the “target met or almost met” level. Read an op-ed by UN Women Country Representative Ms. Gitanjali Singh on the report - [GENDER EQUALITY IS THE INVESTMENT WE NEED TO MAKE.](#) [Read the SDG Gender Snapshot Report.](#)

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