

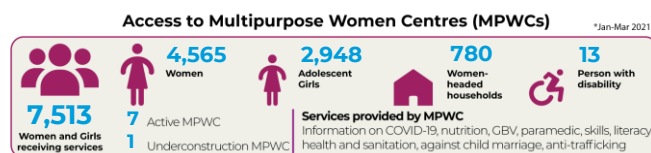
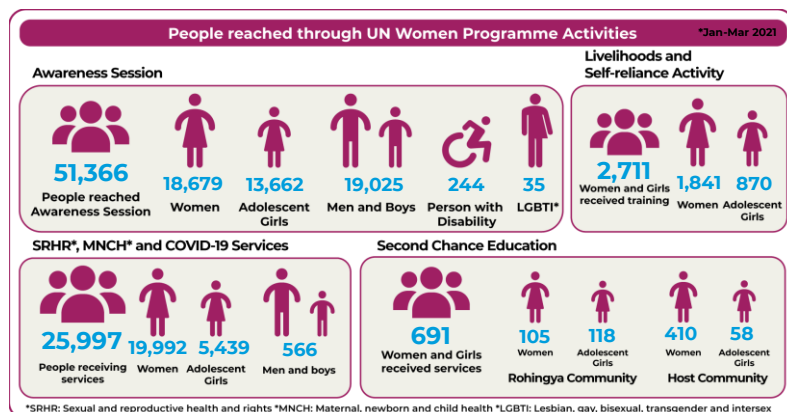


Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

IN BRIEF

COX'S BAZAR UPDATE

JANUARY–MARCH 2021



Fire Breaks Out in Rohingya Camp

UN Women in Humanitarian Response

A massive fire broke out in the world's largest refugee camps (8E, 8W and 9) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on 22 March. The fire affected and displaced both Rohingya refugees and host community residents.

According to the Fire Incident Rapid Joint Needs Assessment report, March 2021, by the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), almost all Multipurpose Women Centres (MPWCs) were destroyed in Camp 9, while the shelters, latrines, health care centres and water points were heavily affected. Women, adolescent girls and children are at a high-security risk due to the unavailability of shelter, sanitary latrines, tube-wells, light and abaya (hijab). At nighttime, women cannot go outside because of insufficient lighting in the camps. Parents are anxious about the security of their adolescent girls. Unsafe living areas, sexual harassment and violence are reported as the main concerns for women's safety. Women and adolescent girls who are having their menstrual period face difficulties since they have no sanitary napkins or hygienic cloths.



Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

UN Women distributed 1,898 dignity kits (Abaya, sandals, sanitary napkin, toothbrush, toothpaste, mosquito net, comb) for the fire affected Rohingya women and girls.

In response to the devastating fire outbreak, UN Women is working jointly with other humanitarian actors. They are supporting distribution of food and non-food items (NFI), prioritizing women, adolescent girls, children and older persons in receiving distribution.

"People lost their home, children, family members and all belongings. Especially pregnant women are the most vulnerable. We are working with the first responders in the camps to support the survivors." – Yasminnara, UN Women Community Outreach Rohingya volunteer.

Yasminnara is one of the 44 UN Women refugee volunteers who are supporting the fire-affected residents. Volunteers are assisting injured persons in receiving medical assistance, working with Protection and gender-based violence (GBV) actors on rescuing older people, children, women and men, while regularly reporting on protection issues. Also, they are working on regular information dissemination on available services, especially to affected women.

UN Women also conducted a quick needs assessment to identify the immediate needs of women, pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and boys, disabled residents, widowed women and older adults in Camp 9.

As a part of the response, UN Women has distributed 1,898 dignity kits (Abaya, sandals, sanitary napkin, toothbrush, toothpaste, mosquito net, comb) for the fire affected Rohingya women and girls.



Gender Alert on Fire in Rohingya Camp

Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG) in Cox's Bazar, with the technical support of UN Women and Gender Hub, published a "Gender Alert on Fire in Kutupalong and Balukhali camps" on 29 March 2021. Gender alert describes the situation of women and girls in the context and role of women as first responders. Also, it prioritizes emerging gender impacts and ensures a gender-responsive approach in fire response.

International Women's Day 2021

Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world

In observance of International Women's Day 2021, UN Women organized several events in collaboration with humanitarian actors to uphold women's rights, amplify women's leadership and disseminate awareness messages in Rohingya and host communities.

At the Women's Market in Camp 5, UN Women, in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Program (FAO) and partner organization BRAC, organized a fair and a dialogue session to uphold women's rights and fully leverage the potential of women's leadership in pandemic preparedness and responses.

Speaking as the guest, ISCG Senior Coordinator Nicole Epting appreciated the women volunteers for their confidence and leadership in mobilizing the community during the pandemic. Ita Schuette, UNHCR Head of Office, encouraged the women leaders to take the space they have and make proper use of it to make the society resilient. In recognition of the role and contribution of women leaders during the pandemic, 20 women leaders from the Rohingya and host community were awarded for their role in leadership as front liners. The colourful fair honoured the talents of Rohingya and host community women entrepreneurs and allowed artisans to showcase their artisanship and promote their participation in skill development activities.

On this date, in Camp 4, an awareness session on child marriage was organized by UN Women with participants from the Rohingya refugee community,



Camps-in-Charge (CiC), police in-charge, other United Nations agencies and implementing partners. The dialogue session aimed to engage with adolescent girls, boys, and their parents who are determined to stop child marriage and influence their community to participate in preventive actions by setting an example with their own actions.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mr. Mahfuzar Rahman, Camp-in-Charge, stressed the collective effort to stop child marriage and focused on the adverse effect of child marriage on society. He encouraged the Rohingya community members to allow their women to work.



International Women's Day event on awareness reducing child marriage in Camp 4 on 8 March 2021

International Women's Day Networking Event

Organized by Gender Hub

8 March 2021, the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA) organized a "Women's Networking Event" in collaboration with UN Women, UNHCR, and the Education Sector in Cox's Bazar to celebrate International Women's Day and to promote women leadership in the humanitarian sector. The objective of this event was to create a community to build solidarity, to support women's rights in crisis, to mobilize women's agency to create opportunity, to offer peer support and to learn from each other. There was a remark on the legendary women leaders' achievements and support was followed by lighting of

Dialogue and Orientation Session on Gender-responsive Reporting

Ukhiya and Ramu Upazilla Parishad, Cox's Bazar

UN Women organized dialogue and orientation sessions on gender-responsive journalism at Ramu and Ukhiya Upazila Parishad in March. A total of 45 local journalists, guests from local women's rights organizations, representatives from UN Women Cox's Bazar sub-office and the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) attended these sessions. The session's main objective was to teach journalists about gender-sensitive reporting and mobilize local journalists and media as allies of gender equality.

In the opening remarks, Flora Macula, Head of the UN Women sub-office in Cox's Bazar re-emphasized the significant role journalists have in representing women in the media. She stressed the need to demonstrate women as role models rather than victims. She ended her speech by reminding journalists that their active role in gender-responsive reporting will contribute to the fight against harmful social norms and practices against women.

Speaking as the chief guest, Pronoy Chakma, UNO of Ramu Upazila, urged the journalists to extend their support for gender-responsive journalism. He emphasized safeguarding the victim rather than exposing them publicly.



Photo: UN Women/ Joelle Charbonneau

candles and taking an oath to continue the work of those women leaders in everyday life. Women from different sectors shared their stories in dialogue sessions. An appreciation crest was provided to the women-led and women's rights organizations of the Rohingya and host community.



Photo: UN Women

Nizam Uddin Ahmed, UNO Ukhiya, attended as chief guest at the gender-responsive reporting session on 29 March 2021.

He also drew attention to the aftereffects of insensitive reporting and how the victim experiences double persecution.

In the keynote presentations, Nadira Islam and Mahmudul Karim, both UN Women staff, highlighted different aspects of gender equality and the significance of gender-responsive reporting. Throughout the dialogue session, the journalists actively participated in the discussion and identified different forms of violence against women and girls and the issues to be considered for gender-responsive reporting.

Audio-visual Production

**Jan-Mar 2021*



Massive Fire broke out in Rohingya Refugee Camp – UN Women in Joint Response



Women leadership in COVID-19 Pandemic International Women's Day 2021 (PSA)



Minara one of the Rohingya Women Leaders Combating for Gender Equality in COVID-19 Pandemic



Women rights in Rohingya Women Leader Yasminnara's Word



Engage, Act, Prevent Violence! Cox's Bazar



Photo: UN Women/ Mahmudul Karim

Canadian Mission Visit in the Women's Market

18 January, Ms. Maegen Andolfatto, First Secretary (Development) at the High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh, visited the newly established Women's Market at Rohingya refugees Camp 5 in Cox's Bazar. She also attended a dialogue session with Rohingya women leaders and UN Women's community outreach volunteers in camps.

The Women's Market is a pioneer pilot initiative of UN Women in collaboration with BRAC and funded by Global Affairs Canada. The aim is to promote and support leadership and entrepreneurship development for host community and Rohingya refugee women and thereby promote gender equality, women's empowerment and social cohesion.

Swedish Delegation Visit UN Women's Activity in Cox's Bazar

Ms. Anna Guittet, Councillor and Deputy Head of Cooperation for the Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh visited UN Women's activities of the host community and Rohingya refugee camp on 7 March. She visited two Multipurpose Women Centres (MPWCs) managed by OXFAM and ActionAid. During her visit, she spoke to women and adolescent groups in the host community and attended a dialogue session with Rohingya residents. These MPWCs provide essential services to the most vulnerable and marginalized women with life-saving information, training, support, skills training and basic sanitation facilities.

Ms. Guittet also visited a learning centre of UN Women's Second Chance education project implemented by DanChurchAid (DCA) in Ukhiya. This education project focuses on the provision of basic education skills as well as the delivery of skills development activities of host community and Rohingya women. Ms. Guittet appreciated the contribution of UN Women on women's education, skills development and women empowerment in Cox's Bazar



Photo: UN Women



Photo: UN Women



149,389



9,360

Reusable cloth masks and Sanitary Napkin has been produced by UN Women with the support of Oxfam, ActionAid and BRAC till March 2021.

Life and self-reliance skill training enabling Rohingya Women to strengthen their abilities and confidence to live a life with dignity. A Rohingya women producing reusable sanitary napkins after receiving capacity development training from the Multi-Purpose Women Centre in Rohingya camp, the project is implemented by UN Women in collaboration with BRAC and funded by Global Affairs Canada.

Consultation Meeting Community Policing Fora at Teknaf

UN Women – ActionAid Bangladesh jointly organized a consultation meeting between the Bangladesh Police and Community Policing Forums Committee in Teknaf Model Thana, Cox's Bazar, on 14 February. The consultation brought out some key issues and concerns related to violence against women and girls, child marriage, human trafficking, drug trafficking and the underlying causes and prevention measures. The stakeholders restated commitments towards collective efforts to establish a secure, peaceful and resilient society.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

“Nowadays, women and girls are more aware of police services and seek help. I would like to request the forums committee members to inform us if they find any case of gender-based violence.” Mst. Rokshana Mozaffor, Subinspector, Women Help Desk, Teknaf Model Thana.

Training on Gender-responsive Policing

UN Women, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Police, organized three trainings from January to March 2021 on gender-responsive policing for the Bangladesh Armed Police Battalion (APBN) in Cox's Bazar who manages the security in the Rohingya refugee camps. A total of 51 police have received training and will be deployed in the Rohingya camps.

Police expert Jane Townsley, former Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police, Mily Biswas, and Sultana Nasrin from UN Women conducted the training. Currently, 36 policewomen are deployed in the refugee camps. They will be available around the clock to respond to protection needs and address the security threats of the Rohingya women and girls. They have received an initial two-day training and will be mentored and coached for the next two years.

MPWC Visit of Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner

The Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Mr. Shah Rezwan Hayat, visited the UN Women – ActionAid Bangladesh Multipurpose Women Centre (MPWC) in Rohingya refugee Camp 4 Extension of Cox's Bazar on 31 January. During the visit, he inaugurated a grant-in-kind distribution (sewing machines, tools and materials) among Rohingya women artisans who had successfully completed a three-month training on tailoring, embroidery and Nakshi kantha in the MPWC.



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

The RRRC appreciated the contribution of UN Women on skills development, women's empowerment, gender-based violence (GBV) response and prevention and encouraged Rohingya women to develop their skills while in Bangladesh as this can support them in their future when they are able to return to Myanmar.



Photo: UN Women

UN Women has received invaluable support from the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan, Sweden, Australia and the National Committees for UN Women in Australia, Japan, Iceland, Singapore, Sweden, USA, as well as the Tingari Silverton Foundation towards delivering a humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, for Rohingya refugee and host community women and girls.