



Photo: RYA Media Team

IN BRIEF

COX'S BAZAR UPDATE

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2021



PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH UN WOMEN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

*Jul-Sept 2021

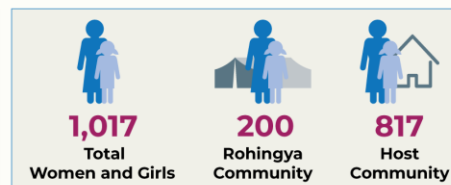
Reached by Volunteers



Services Provided by UN Women Volunteers

Information on COVID-19, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child Marriage and Care Work

Second Chance Education



Services Provided in 8 MPWCs

Information on COVID-19, Health and Sanitation, Nutrition, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child marriage, Anti-trafficking, Literacy and Skills Training

Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWCs)



Thousands Displaced by Heavy Rains and Floods in Cox's Bazar

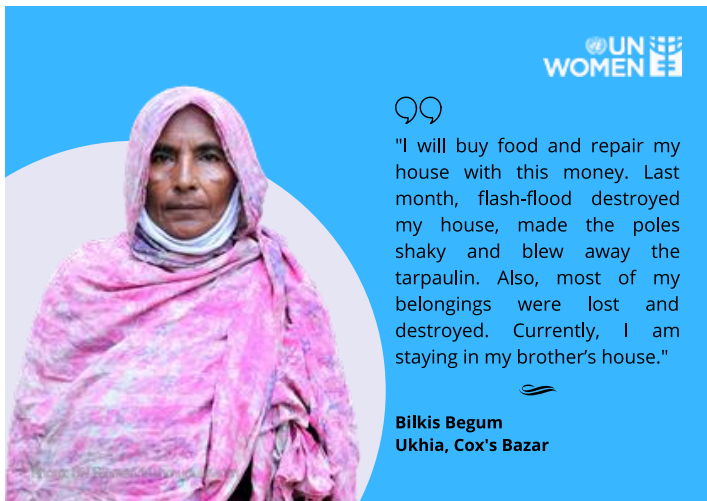
Over 300mm of rain fell in 24 hours on July 26 in Cox's Bazar, a district hosting more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees. That is nearly half the monthly rainfall average for July in one day. This heavy monsoon rain washed away sprawling Rohingya refugee camps, turning the settlements into fast-flowing rivers overnight. Many shelters were damaged and waterlogged. Huge floods in low-lying areas and landslides in lofty places were reported. According to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group report, 21,606 refugees were affected, while an estimated 3,851 shelters were destroyed, 13,432 displaced, and 6 fatalities were confirmed.

Community members were the first responders to the emergency. UN Women joined other Humanitarian actors in Cox's Bazar to support most affected community members. UN Women immediately mobilized women leaders to be at the frontline of the response, including sharing flash updates on the on-ground situation. Women leaders evacuated affected community members to Multi-Purpose Women's Centers (MPWCs) that were immediately converted into emergency shelters and hosted around 200 women and girls,



Photo: UN Women/Mahmudul Karim

men, boys and children and provided them with basic needs including food, beverages and sleeping materials. UN Women's emergency support was extended to house-to-house visits with catering and other emergency support, including referrals of injured people to medical facilities. *(Continue)*



"I will buy food and repair my house with this money. Last month, flash-flood destroyed my house, made the poles shaky and blew away the tarpaulin. Also, most of my belongings were lost and destroyed. Currently, I am staying in my brother's house."

Bilkis Begum
Ukhia, Cox's Bazar

Women Police Deployed in Camps Handling Gender-sensitive Cases

In September, Mili Biswas, ex-Deputy Inspector General of Bangladesh Police, currently working with UN Women as a consultant, conducted three job orientations on gender-responsive policing in the three police camps established in the Rohingya camp. A total of 35 female police from the armed police battalion learned how to keep records and monitor gender-based violence cases.



Photo: UN Women

Australia Proudly Supports Women Police Helpdesk

An Australian delegation visited the women police helpdesk in the Rohingya camp on 5 September. They also visited the facilities of women police officers living in the camp and discussed with them the training on gender-responsive policing provided by UN Women. Women police officers deployed at the women's police help desks provide protection services to Rohingya women and girls in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps. The Government of Australia is supporting UN Women's activities with police.

In support of the government-led response, Gender Field Officers along with UN Women volunteers in camps conducted rapid needs assessments to identify the most urgent and specific needs of women and girls, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, women with disabilities, widows, and elderly women in camps. The assessment report was informed by the after-shock support that was provided by UN Women to vulnerable women and girls.

UN Women distributed 400 relief packages together with its responsible partners. Furthermore, 70 women and girls affected by the flood in the host community, received UN Women relief assistance. UN Women response to the flood emergency in the Rohingya camp was made possible with generous support of the UN Women Australia National Committee and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

The Second Chance Education Programme is Transforming the Lives of Women in Cox's Bazar



Photo: DanChurchAid



"Now I am confident, and I can read and write. I can now take measurements of my clients and write them down, as well as record my revenue and costs. The learning programme has helped me succeed in my income-generating activities."

Goltaj Begum
Teknaf, Cox's Bazar

Goltaj Begum (32) opened a clothing shop next to her home, and her micro business is doing well, earning her a decent income to support her own family. She is a mother of five children living in Teknaf, one of the host communities around the Rohingya camps. She was married at the age of 13. Her husband remarried and abandoned her with children. Since then, she has survived on casual jobs that she gets from her neighbours. Last year, she found out about the Second Chance Education Programme and enrolled. Goltaj has completed basic literacy and numeracy courses and opened a shop with the support of UN Women. Since February 2020, UN Women has been implementing the Second Chance Education and Learning programme for women and girls with limited access to formal education in both the Rohingya and host communities. The project is implemented by DanChurchAid (DCA) and funded by the Government of Sweden.

Audio-visual Production

*Jul-Sept 2021



Police in Cox's Bazar is strengthening their capacity for gender responsive service delivery.



Voice from the front-line staff on Women Peace and Security | Bangladesh



Photo: UN Women

Switzerland has Pledged to Help Women and Girls in Cox's Bazar

On September 22, Katri Hoch, Head of Humanitarian Affairs at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, visited UN Women's activities at the Rohingya refugee camp and host community. During her visit, she met with Rohingya and host community women leaders, and members of women's groups, UN Women volunteers, Gender Field Officers, and partner organizations to learn more about the ongoing work, achievements, and priority needs at the field level. Ms. Hoch shared her impressions of the ongoing work by UN Women and its partners in Cox's Bazar and the government of Switzerland's commitment to extend their support to address the critical needs of women and girls in Rohingya and host communities.

Gender Induction in Humanitarian Response Training Arranged by Gender Hub



Photo: Gender Hub

On August 23, the Gender Hub arranged a Gender Induction in Humanitarian Response Training for local staff working on the Rohingya response in Cox's Bazar. It was the fourth batch of 2021. The purpose of this day-long training was to enable participants to better understand how the Rohingya crisis has impacted the Rohingya refugees and host communities differently and to define key concepts for integrating gender equality into humanitarian programming.

The training was participatory, practical, and innovative, using learning methods relying on participants' expertise and experiences, and promoted the sharing of ideas while allowing participants to practice new skills and share knowledge. Training methods included case studies, videos, role plays, discussions, group exercises, and personal reflections. "This was my first gender induction training. The understanding of the differences between equity and equality unlocked a new perspective to see gender norms differently, and it will help me to address their needs," said Fatima Yesmin Salma, community hygiene promoter, NGO Forum for Public Health, a participant.

The training was facilitated by the National Gender and Capacity Development Specialist from the Gender Hub. The participants included management and technical staff (officers, advisers, technical leads, coordinators, human resources, and managers) as well as field staff from all sectors.

Partners Learned How to Respond to Counter-trafficking Cases



Photo: BRAC

Human trafficking continues to be reported during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many Rohingya victims in Cox's Bazar. In this context, UN Women organized a two-day training on counter trafficking for its partners BRAC and ActionAid with the technical support of IOM on September 12-13 in Cox's Bazar. A total of 25 participants learned the basic concept of human trafficking, the related national and international frameworks, referral mechanisms, and response. The initiative is generously supported by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Government of Sweden.

"The training has given an insight into identifying counter-trafficking activities and the mechanism of responding to trafficking cases. Also, I have learned the process of facilitating an interactive awareness-raising session on counter trafficking," said Mousumi Akhter Santa, a training participant.



The Inspector General of Police Recognized Gender Responsive Policing Work

Following the official launch of [Bangladesh Police Women Network \(BPWN\) Strategic Plan \(2021-23\)](#), the chief guest, Dr. Benazir Ahmed BPM (BAR) Inspector General of Police (Bangladesh), presented honorary awards to Ms. Flora Macula, Head of Sub-Office, UN Women Cox's Bazar, Ms. Amena Begam, Deputy Inspector General of Police and Ms. Jane Townsley, Police Expert for their contributions to gender-responsive policing activity in Bangladesh and the realization of the new Strategic Plan.

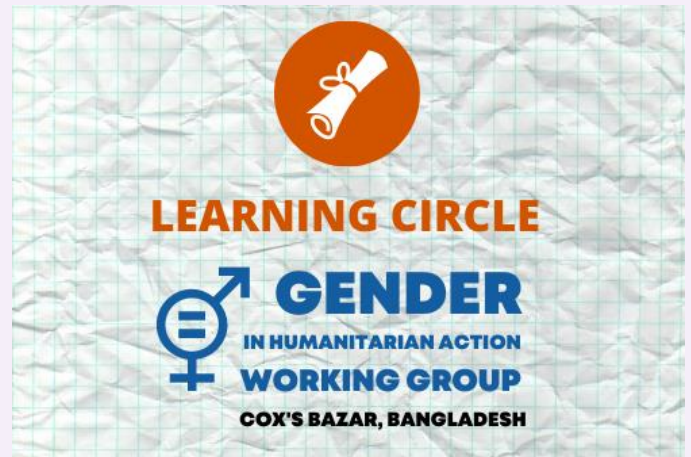
“Participating the tailoring training and receiving a sewing machine afterwards as a grant has transformed my life. Before, I was not able to properly buy food three times a day. Now, I can feed my family well and buy clothes for grandchildren. Also, now I can buy medicine for myself and bear the cost of my son's treatment.”

Khaleda
Rohingya Woman, Cox's Bazar

Women in Rohingya Camps are Enhancing Their Economic Resilience

Khaleda (53), a mother of four from the Rohingya camp, earns 200 taka on an average daily basis. She runs a family of seven members, including her two daughters, two grandchildren, and two sons. When her elder daughter's husband left her with their two children, Khaleda had no source of income to run the family. On top of that, her younger son, wounded by the Myanmar army during the escape to Bangladesh, was also unable to work. The family had to depend on the relief, which was not enough to meet their needs.

As a result, the three-month training was critical for Khaleda to regain control of her life. The UN Women's "Promoting Women and Girls' Empowerment through Enhancing Protection and Economic Resilience of Rohingya Women and Adolescent Girls" project, implemented jointly by BRAC and with the generous support of Global Affairs Canada, has helped many women like Khaleda, who now have a source of income.



Influencing & Negotiation Skills: Feminist Perspective Gender Hub Presents Learning Circle

The Rohingya Crisis has brought several national and international organizations, including UN agencies, to Cox's Bazar, where many female and male workers are working towards gender equality and a feminist agenda. Due to the nature of the situation, they have little opportunity to engage with national gender and feminist networks. The Gender Hub organizes bi-monthly Learning Circles and other capacity-building activities. The Gender Hub held a Learning Circle on "Influencing & Negotiation Skills: Feminist Perspective" in September. Negotiation is one technique to overcome gender inequities at both the personal and organizational level. This Learning Circle was designed to help participants better understand negotiating problems and how to enhance their negotiation abilities. Participants explored their particular ways of resolving challenges linked to negotiation skills.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Bangladesh police is enhancing their knowledge and skills on gender responsive policing in Cox's Bazar. They are the first responder of crime investigations, addressing gender-based violence, and delivering services to survivors in the line with national and international laws, conventions, and principles. UN Women is working for building trust and confidence between police and women and girls in Rohingya camp and host communities.

- Five woman police help desks have been established in Rohingya camp
- 60 women police deployed in Rohingya camp
- 292 police trained on gender responsive policing in Cox's bazar

Supported by the Government of Australia, UN Women in Cox's Bazar is working on Gender Responsive Policing.

176,866

13,073

176,866 Reusable cloth masks and 13,073 Sanitary Napkins have been produced by UN Women with the support of ActionAid and BRAC till September 2021.



Women from the Host Community are Earning Well After being Trained in Homestead Gardening

Nurankis (34) is a single mother living in a host community in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The training on homestead gardening at the Multi-Purpose Women's Center in Teknaf helped her to figure out a source of income. This training was delivered under the UN Women's "Means to Lead: Empowering Rohingya and Host Community Women through Leadership, Learning, and Livelihoods" project, which is implemented jointly by Oxfam and Mukti Cox's Bazar with the generous support of the Government of Sweden.



Capacity Building on Women's Entrepreneurship

In Cox's Bazar, NGO partners enhanced their capacities on promoting women's entrepreneurship as part of the project "Promoting women and girls' empowerment through enhancing protection and economic resilience and access to the market for Rohingya women and adolescent girls in two camps." UN Women organized a two-day workshop supported by its partners BRAC and ActionAid on 31 August and 1 September. Business, financial, accounting, management, marketing, and business development services were discussed, as well as interactive problem-solving group work on entrepreneurship.

UN Women has received invaluable support from the Governments of Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Sweden and the National Committees for UN Women in Australia, Iceland, Japan, 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.



"I monitor cases of gender-based violence and ensure that justice is served."

Mst. Merina Afroz, Camp-in-Charge (CiC) in Rohingya camp – 1 West in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, carries out this role under the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's Office (RRRC). There were two female Assistant CiCs before her, but she is the first female CiC.

"Many cases of adolescent girl molestation and eve-teasing have come to my attention. These are delicate cases that are difficult to handle, but I do my best to ensure that justice is served," said Ms. Afroz.

UN Women is supporting CiCs to better address women and girls' needs and issues by seconding Gender Field Officers to CiCs in 13 camps to promote gender-responsive site management, including governance, justice, and accountability. *Follow the link to read [Mst. Afroz's story](#).*

The Individual Peg Snyder Award Winner 2021



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"No one can do anything alone, the biggest honor goes to those who supported me endlessly. Thanks to all of my colleagues for supporting me from 2000 regional offices, excellent team in Bangladesh Country Office, and the fantastic team in Cox's Bazar. I am enthusiastic regardless of my age, and I want to pass it to my team and to the people I work with. I am still learning a lot especially from Rohingya women that inspire and motivate me, which I am mostly thankful."

Flora Macula
Head of Sub Office, Cox's Bazar
Individual Peg Snyder Award Winner 2021

Flora Macula, Head of Sub Office, Cox's Bazar, has won the Peg Snyder Award for her spirit, commitment, and achievement. The award, given every two years by UN Women, recognizes the pioneering spirit of a colleague/team or office that demonstrates a new, sustainable pathway for transformative change in the lives of women and girls through innovation, solutions, or approaches that are new to a particular country.