



## Annual Narrative Progress Report 2019

Submitted to: Global Affairs Canada

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<b>Implementing Agencies</b>	UNDP
<b>Responsible Parties:</b>	UN Women
<b>Strategic Areas:</b>	<p>UNDP Strategic Plan: Crisis Prevention and Recovery</p> <p>UNDP CPD Outcome: Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups</p> <p>UNDAF Outcome: Citizen expectations for voice, development, rule of law, and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance (Outcome 2)</p>

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations:

a2i	Access to Information (UNDP project with government)
ARRRC	Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
CfW	Cash for work
CiC	Camp-in-charge
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DWA	District Women's Affairs
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GBV	Gender-based violence
GiHA WG	Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group
INGO	International non-governmental organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MPWC	Multi-Purpose Women's Centres
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PFA	Psychological first aid
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
RRRC	Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF	United Nation Development Assistance Framework
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence against women
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WFP	World Food Program

## I. Executive Summary

The United Nations Development Programme has been granted the “Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar” project in December 2018 by the Global Affairs Canada.

The overall goal is to enhance economic resilience in Host and Rohingya communities as well as building sustainable social cohesion among and between communities in Cox's Bazar. It takes the approach of improving economic resilience that include through skill building and conditional cash grants through livelihoods/self-reliance skills training and finally, capacitating leaders from host communities and for camp governance to contribute for strengthening social cohesion.

This annual narrative progress report covers the period Dec 2018 – December 2019. During the reporting period, the project has completed nine months of operation and has secured timely implementation or preparatory works for the planned outputs. The achieved quantitative figures as of 31 December 2019 are:

- NGO partners identified by both UNDP and UN Women for cash for work and skills development work at the communities
- Letter of Agreement signed with the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Cox's Bazar for skill building of unemployed youth in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas
- 850 Rohingya women and girls, the majority of who are in the age group of 18 - 59 years old, received livelihoods/self-reliance training, specifically on sewing, embroidery, handicrafts and food-production, through the five Multi-Purpose Women Centres.
- 50 Rohingya women leaders and peace builders in Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar established a collective platform for joint advocacy and action to raise the voices and demands of women and girls through UN Women's supports. This umbrella network consists of elected, self-organized and mobilized Rohingya women leaders and groups representing women and girls from across all 25 camps.

The key focus of the support from the Government of Canada has been to enable UNDP to work with host communities for improving their economic situation and strengthen community cohesion in the region. The project has been supporting UN Women to sustain the livelihood and life-skills activities and the leadership development of women's groups at the five Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWCs) in the camps.

During the reporting period, there was significant change in the political and security situation in Cox's Bazar humanitarian response, leading to the replacement of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Camp-in-charge (CiCs) as well as Assistant CiCs. Upazila Nirabahi Officers at Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazilas were also shifted in this period. This means, both UNDP and UN Women required to re-establish its good relationship with the new UNOs, RRRC and CiCs and re-start the conversations those were already discussed and signalled for 'go-ahead' for some of the projects.

In the next remaining 24 months, UNDP will continue to work for economic resilience through cash for work, providing skill development training, entrepreneurial support and job placement; develop a comprehensive plan for strengthening community cohesion and engage social leaders and youths for enhancing community harmony; meanwhile, UN Women will achieve its results through expansion of livelihood activities, roll-out of women's leadership development activities as well as community engagement and social cohesion efforts.

## II. Project Brief: Community Cohesion in Cox's Bazar

Since August 25, 2017, an estimated 671,000 refugees have fled violence and human rights violations in Myanmar, seeking shelter in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District. The rapid influx of refugees into the district which already face significant levels of poverty and environmental fragility has put immense strain on infrastructure, the local economy, and contributed to a rise in tensions in the region.

Many Bangladeshi host communities remain nearly as poor and open to exploitation as the refugees themselves. The scale and visibility of the international response has led to widespread perceptions of unfair or preferential treatment because of sudden exodus of Rohingya refugees. The prospect of inter-communal or extremist violence, whether between Rohingya and host communities, or along the complex religious and ethnic lines which further divide both groups, could have catastrophic implications, including for women and children caught in the middle.

Economic frustrations have the potential to play into broader trends of political or religious polarization, and these may already be being used by extremist movements to recruit followers. It is in the Bangladeshi, regional and global interest that young men in particular feel they have alternatives to violence, recognizing that instability and conflict will shrink their livelihood options, and those of their families, rather than expand them.

### Key focus of the project

The project intends to support strengthening of economic resilience through cash for work and build a skilled community in the region by providing skills training to youths in the host and Rohingya communities. It will also engage positive social elements to increase cohesion among the communities.

Cash for work: The fastest and most visible means of improving the goodwill of the host community towards the international response is to provide them with concrete and highly-visible improvements to their communities. UNDP started a series of cash-for-work projects in host communities those have been particularly affected negatively by the Rohingya influx, to provide on-the-job training and employment opportunities and demonstrate that the Rohingya response has the capacity to benefit everyone. The schemes were identified through government's development plan, those are swift, positive, and highly cost-effective.

Skills training: UNDP started a participatory planning process to understand the skills scarcity in the region and how to fill the gaps through skills development and short and long-term income generation opportunities. An assessment of demanding trades will be carried out and skills training will be arranged based on the finding through utilizing government and non-government training facilities. UN Women is arranging skills training for the Rohingya women at camps.

Strengthen community cohesion: Utilizing its significant experience in promoting peace and dialogue among vulnerable groups, UNDP is working with youth groups, social leaders, Union Parishads and cultural organizations to promote peace and strengthen the bondages among the communities. UN Women has a global mandate to support the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on Women Peace and Security, including SCR 1325 and SCR 2242, which refer to women's participation in preventing violent extremism. UN Women is working at the camps to build women's participation and

influence in decision-making to prevent and resolve conflicts. Under this project, elements of conflict and positive cultural components will be identified, which will lead to develop a holistic plan for reinforce and nurture community cohesion.

**Project Implementation Area and Beneficiaries:**

Implementation locations for activities are in Cox’s Bazar District. Two Upazilas (Ukhiya and Teknaf), and the five most affected Unions- Raja Palong, Palong Khali, Nhilla, Whykong, and Baherchara are covered. 3000 community members will be engaged in cash for work schemes, while more 3000 youths will be provided skills training on demanding trades. 1000 Rohingya women at the camps will be provided skills training. Through, cohesion initiatives the project will cover a large number of indirect beneficiaries.



*Pre-condition of Hangorghona Bamboo Bridge at Baruapara Village in Rajapalong Union, Ukhiya (Photo: Mahtabul Hakim/UNDP)*

*Post-condition at Baruapara Village in Rajapalong Union, Ukhiya (Photo: Moshur Rahman/ESDO)*



### **III. Results**

This section will provide information on progresses against each activity under the outputs of the project. There will also be information on progress towards target according to indicators.

#### **Output 1: Economic Resilience**

##### **Activity 1: Skills Training: Host Communities**

UNDP signed a Letter of Agreement with the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Cox's Bazar to run the skills training for host community youths at Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas. During the reporting period government and non-government training providing organizations in the district and region were communicated to identify available resources and gaps. UNDP visited with Cox's Bazar Polytechnical Institute, District Training Centre for youth development, Cox's Bazar Technical School and College, Cox's Bazar Tourism training Institute, Training wing of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADDC), Training wing of Cox's Bazar Horticulture Centre, Regional technical training centre of Bangla-German Sampittee, and YPSA technical training centre. UNDP also started identifying and dialoguing with potential job providers at private and development sectors on demanding and emerging needs for skills in the region specially tourism, local industries and fishing sector in the Cox's Bazar and nearest district Chattagram. Results of this activity will be visible in end of 2020.

##### **Activity 1.2: Skills Training: Rohingya**

Within the reporting period, approximately 850 women and girls benefitted from livelihood skill training such as sewing, embroidery, handicrafts and mentoring for 'food-production committee' through access to MPWCs (Indicator 1.2.3). These activities are not just important to equip women and girls with various skills that could help them with income opportunities in the future, but also it engages them into a social activity, wherein they learn skills together with other women. As such, these activities also function as a psycho-social support. The skills chosen are as per interest from the women, girls, and as per feasibility identified. There is also higher potentiality for women and girls to sell their products or services that they learnt at MPWCs on their own, in the camp markets. Beneficiaries for livelihood training are selected through a comprehensive process. The criteria of beneficiary selection prioritize women headed households, adolescent girls, women with disabilities or families with disabled or chronically ill members and households having members greater than six persons or more.

##### **Activity 1.3: On the job training for daily wage workers - Quick impact infrastructure host community projects**

During the reporting period, NGO partner for carrying out the activity has been selected. The organization- Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO)- selected beneficiaries for cash for work schemes in selected 5 union of Ukhiya and Teknaf. The organization prepared training plans for short term sessions to train cash for work scheme workers to engage them with community infrastructure development and rehabilitation activities.

##### **Activity 1.4: Support to sustainable long-term employment opportunities**

The hardened stance of the Government of Bangladesh regarding the refugees have impacted this activity. Furthermore, despite concerted advocacy efforts of the Strategic Executive Group, Inter-Sector Coordination Group and individual agencies such as UN Women together with partners from the Food

Security Cluster, the restrictive policies banning the disbursement of livelihood grants and physical capital have not been lifted yet. If these policies are relaxed within the project period, full-scale livelihood grants will be provided to the successful graduates of the training. Otherwise, alternative solutions to assist women and adolescent girls' access to income-generating opportunities will be secured (Indicator 1.4.5).

In the meanwhile, it was possible to secure the approval from the RRRC for setting up a 'women's market' in late December 2019, after months of advocacy. This market will be first of its kind, not only because this is accessible only by women, girls and children, but also because both women from Rohingyas and host communities in one common space will be doing the trades. Preparations started immediately after approval for establishing a women's market in Camp 5. For this, upon consultation with the CiC, a concept note was drafted, which was further discussed with ARRC and thereafter with RRRC himself. The market will have a number of shops set-up for interested women and girls from host and Rohingya communities to sell their food and non-food products and services. The market will be only for women and girls and children of below 10 years, hence allowing a safe space where women can freely access their needs and also undertake their sales for prospective income. Recipients of livelihood training will be linked to this market as well.

<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Target for 2019</b>	<b>Indicator Status/Achievement</b>
<b>1.1</b> Percent of trainees a) finding employment in the sector in which they received skill development support b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	25%	0 No achievement, as pre-conditions for this indicator was not completed. Trainings were not completed during the reporting period. A proper reflection of this indicator is expected to be seen in the first quarter of 2021
<b>1.2</b> Percent of trainees a) remaining in employment at least six months/ one year after receiving skill development support b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	60%	0 No achievement, as pre-conditions for this indicator was not completed. Job placements were not made as trainings were not completed by the reporting period. A proper reflection of this indicator is expected to be seen in the first quarter of 2021
<b>1.3</b> Percent of trainees a) with a reduction in their multi-dimensional poverty b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	70%	0 No achievement, as pre-conditions for this indicator was not completed. Job placements were not made as trainings were not completed by the reporting period. A proper reflection of this indicator is expected to be seen in the third quarter of 2021
<b>1.4</b> Number of women self-reported to benefit from capacity	500	850



<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Target for 2019</b>	<b>Indicator Status/Achievement</b>
enhancement and skills development training		
<b>1.5</b> Percentage of trained women started income generating/entrepreneurial activities to reduce economic vulnerability and protection risks	0%	Not applicable for the reporting period.  This indicator is applicable for 2020 and 2019.

<b>Activity Indicator</b>	<b>Indicator Status</b>
<b>1.1.1</b> Number of beneficiaries receiving: a) skills and leadership development training, b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	Not applicable for the reporting period. Target was '0' in the AWP 2019. Trainings courses were planned to deliver from 2020.
<b>1.1.2</b> Percent of beneficiaries who a) found employment six months after receiving skills development training, b) disaggregated by sex	Not applicable for the reporting period. Target was '0' in the AWP 2019. Trainings courses were planned to deliver from 2020. Employments will be linked after completion of training.
<b>1.1.3:</b> Number of host community women received livelihood and business development skills training to protect and start rebuilding livelihood assets	Not applicable for the reporting period. Target was '0' in the AWP 2019. Trainings courses were planned to deliver from 2020.
<b>1.2.3:</b> Number of refugee women and girls received basic literacy, leadership, life and livelihood skills training	Approximately 850 Rohingya women and girls, the majority of whom are in the age group of 18 - 59 years old, have received livelihoods/self-reliance training, specifically on sewing, embroidery, handicrafts and food-production through the five MPWCs.
<b>1.4.4:</b> Number of people who have received start up kits	Not applicable for the reporting period. Target was '0' in the AWP 2019. Start-up kits will be provided after completion of training.
<b>1.4.5:</b> Number of people who have received cash grant	0  A rigorous beneficiary selection process is ongoing for providing cash grants. Following criteria are strictly maintained for selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women headed Households</li> <li>▪ Adolescent girls Women with disabilities or who have family members with disabilities or chronically ill family members</li> <li>▪ Large Family Size (greater than 6 persons or more)</li> </ul>

Activity Indicator	Indicator Status
	At primary level selection methods are focused on questionnaire survey and secondary information are collected from UNHCR/WFP/Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) data card.
1.4.7: Number of small businesses sustained for more than 6 months	Not applicable for the reporting period. Target was '0' in the AWP 2019. Trainings courses were planned to deliver from 2020. Support for starting small businesses will be initiated after successful completion of training.

**Hasina**

*(21 years, Camp 18, Block F19)*

“I was trained in sewing for three months. I have also received training in basic literacy and women’s empowerment. Now I can earn from sewing and also work as a volunteer for ActionAid Bangladesh. As a volunteer, I can inform the Rohingya community about the [MPWC] services for literacy, health support, awareness about child marriage, and skills training. I feel proud of myself when people respect me and listen to me because of my work and voice. I can easily go to *Majhi* [local male community leaders], even Camp-in-Charge to deal with any issues. My husband is in jail in Myanmar.”

Photo Credit: Khaled Arafat Ahmed/ UN Women



**Summary of progress:**

During the reporting period, UNDP and UN Women accomplished all preparatory work for the implementation of the activities under the output. After securing the budget, UNDP accomplish necessary contracting with UN Women and recruited the human resources for running the project. Full project team started their functions in late July 2019. Both UNDP and UN Women contracted with NGO partners for cash for work and skills training in the last quarter of 2019.

The progress against this output was not achieved as per the plan, however as the partners are set and all preparatory works are done, maximum results will come in the subsequent years of the project.

**Output 2: Social Cohesion**

**Activity 2.1 Support to Women Peacebuilders and Groups**

Rohingya women leaders in refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar established a collective platform for joint advocacy and action to raise the voices and demands of women and girls that make up 52 per cent of the refugee population. This umbrella network consists of over 50 elected, self-organized and mobilized Rohingya women leaders and groups representing women and girls from across all 25 camps. Members include representatives from the Shanti Mohila, Rohingya Women’s Welfare Society, Rohingya Women’s Empowerment and Advocacy Network, Rohingya Women for Peace and

Justice, Rohingya women volunteer groups established through five UN Women MPWCs, as well as six women elected as leaders of their camps in pilot elections that have taken place (Indicator 2.1.4).

The network was made possible through UN Women's support on strengthening women's leadership through training, mentoring, coaching and linking women to community representation structures and decision-making committees. In 2019, UN Women led the roll-out of women's leadership training for over 1,000 Rohingya women across all camps through 30 United Nations agencies, I/NGOs, member organisations of the Inter-sector GiHA WG. In advance, over 100 trainers from GiHA WG member organizations were trained as trainers by UN Women on women's empowerment, participation, and leadership based on a module developed in consultation with Rohingya women and men. One of the key demands of the network is to increase women's participation in camp level community representation structures. Until now four Rohingya women have stood as block-leader candidates for pilot elections in one of the camps in 2019 and were successfully elected by their community members. To address this demand, GiHA WG Women's Leadership Task Force led by UN Women in coordination with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Site Management Community Representation Group consulted 800 Rohingya women and adolescent girls, including women volunteers and elected women, across 16 camps on women's preferences, demands, and issues in community leadership and representation. The consultation findings helped UN Women provide inputs to make the Guideline and Risk Mitigation Strategy of the RRRC on camp elections roll-out responsive to the challenges of women's participation and leadership in community management and decision-making. Once approved, this guideline will facilitate women's participation in elections as candidates and voters across the remaining camps.

As a foundation for the social cohesion work through women peace builder networks being undertaken under this project, awareness-raising activities have been conducted to promote social cohesion by engaging with Rohingya and host community women. In total, **261** sessions were held for **2,800** host community women and **253** sessions for **2,344** Rohingya women (Output Indicator 2.5). Women-to-women friendship dialogues created the opportunity to initiate positive interaction between host and Rohingya women as it generated great interest in five unions. As a culmination of these efforts, a Ramadan iftar (a cultural and religious event) women solidarity event on 23 May 2019, organized by UN Women, brought together 42 Rohingya and 10 host community women, along with two of the first women police officers deployed in the first UN Women supported Women and Children Police Help Desk in camp 4, and the first ever woman Camp-in-Charge (assistant) Shamima Akther Jahan, to discuss together about common issues faced by women and their hopes for the future. A video documentary captured messages of solidarity from the groups and can be viewed on the UN Women Asia and the Pacific YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/K0pvJdzbUOI>). Discussions in all above sessions/events covered women's empowerment, PSEA issues, self-management, GBV, protection, child marriage, women's participation in the public sphere, and women's leadership topics.

### **Activity 2.1: Local Mediator Training**

This activity did not start during the report period. But the activity was at initial stages. This activity detail and output will be reflected in next report.

### Activity 2.3: Inter and Intra-Faith Leadership & Dialogue

This activity did not start during the report period.

### Activity 2.4: Plan for Host Community Engagement

UNDP collaborated with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) to carry out a comprehensive conflict and development analysis (CDA) in the Cox's Bazar district. With an overarching view to alleviate tensions and sustain peace in the region, this CDA aims to strengthen the UN's ability to effectively respond to peace, development, and humanitarian needs in Cox's Bazar by: i) improving understanding of the sub-regional context; ii) building institutional capacities to integrate conflict-sensitive, peace-oriented considerations into policy and practice; and iii) strengthening existing mediation, mitigation, and conflict prevention efforts. To achieve this, the project comprises two key activities: 1) a conflict and development analysis of the situation in Cox's Bazar, which includes a mapping of existing and potential community-based mitigation, mediation, and conflict prevention mechanisms; and 2) conflict-sensitivity and conflict prevention training for key stakeholders working in Cox's Bazar.

Planned CDA will contribute to Increased access to and greater generation of analysis, evidence, and knowledge to inform effective policy and programme development; Increased capacity of stakeholders to prevent, mediate, and mitigate tensions and sustain peace; Improved institutional capacities to plan and deliver conflict-sensitive peace, development, and humanitarian programming at the local/district level; Enhanced knowledge and understanding of the centrality of prevention to effective coordination and coherence across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding activities. UNDP and RCO prepared s research design (annexed) and searching for appropriate academic or individual experts to accomplish CDA. Findings of the CDA will support in developing the comprehensive long-term plan for community cohesion in the region.

During the reporting period, UNDP organized a youth meet of 300 host community youth to discuss on the human rights and prevention of rape as part of 16 days of activism. This event provided intensive discussions with local and national experts on the thematic area. Youths also learnt from question and answer sessions and quiz competition on violence against women. An eminent young researcher from Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust shared social, legal and psychological aspect related to rape, its prevention and consequences.

<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Target for 2020</b>	<b>Indicator Status/Achievement</b>
<b>2.1</b> Number of dialogue processes held in "hot spot" communities to bring together community members to discuss concerns related to drivers of violence.	12	0 No achievement, as pre-conditions for this indicator was not completed. A proper reflection of this indicator is expected to be seen at the end of 2020

<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Target for 2020</b>	<b>Indicator Status/Achievement</b>
<b>2.2.</b> Number of community members who a) report a better understanding of peacebuilding concepts b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	400	0 No achievement, as pre-conditions for this indicator was not completed. A proper reflection of this indicator is expected to be seen in the first quarter of 2021
<b>2.3</b> Perceptions of respondents from host communities on whether they believe their quality of life has increased since the lows experienced immediately after the crisis began	60%	0 No achievement, as pre-conditions for this indicator was not completed. Training courses will be organized, toolkit distribution, start up grants, job placements will take place after successful completion of training. A proper reflection of this indicator is expected to be seen in the first quarter of 2021
<b>2.4</b> Percentage change or increase in respondents who believe that the Rohingya crisis response has contributed something to their community	0	Not applicable for the reporting period. The indicator will be assessed during mid term review.
<b>2.5</b> Number of dialogues among women's support groups, women committees and women development forum held at communities at risks to discuss concern related to drivers of communal violence and extremism	24	In total, 261 dialogue sessions were held for <b>2,800</b> host community women and 253 sessions for <b>2,344</b> Rohingya women.

<b>Activity Indicator</b>	<b>Indicator Status</b>
<b>2.1.1</b> Percentage of women who felt skills training or consultation was 'useful' or 'very useful' once session completed	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after completion of training courses in 2020.
<b>2.1.2</b> Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at start of a training session when	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after completion of training courses in 2020.

<b>Activity Indicator</b>	<b>Indicator Status</b>
compared to a test administered at the end	
<b>2.1.3</b> Number of female beneficiaries attending training sessions or discussions	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after completion of training courses in 2020.
<b>2.1.4</b> No of women's support group formed as a safe forum for women to share their concerns and needs	<p>11 women support groups.</p> <p>1 umbrella network - consisting of over 50 elected, self-organized and mobilized Rohingya women leaders and groups representing women and girls from across all 25 camps. Members include representatives from at least 10 self-mobilised women's networks - Shanti Mohila, Rohingya Women's Welfare Society, Rohingya Women's Empowerment and Advocacy Network, Rohingya Women for Peace and Justice, Rohingya women volunteer groups established through 5 UN Women Multi-Purpose Women's Centres - as well as 6 women elected as leaders of their camps in pilot elections that have taken place.</p> <p>UN Women initiated the convening and running of a Rohingya Women's Leaders Umbrella Network of self-organised and mobilized Rohingya women's groups/networks operating in the camps consisting of approx. 50 women participants. Periodic monthly meetings have been done and the network is being gradually more established and initiated. The purpose of the umbrella network is to discuss common challenges, issues, demands and plan joint action and advocacy to address these together to ensure wider outreach to address the needs of women and girls across all camps and represent their voices.</p>
<b>2.2.1</b> Number of recipients of a) mediator training, b) disaggregated (%) by sex.	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after completion of training courses in 2020.
<b>2.2.2</b> Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at start of a training session when compared to a test administered at the end.	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible after completion of training courses in 2020.
<b>2.2.3</b> Percent of beneficiaries who state that they have used these mediation skills "frequently" or "very	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible in 2021 after completion of training courses in 2020.

<b>Activity Indicator</b>	<b>Indicator Status</b>
frequently" six months after being trained.	
<b>2.3.1</b> Number of religious organizations adding a PVE or social cohesion element to existing programming	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible in 2021 after completion of training courses in 2020.
<b>2.3.2</b> Number of religious leaders given training or materials to recognize and defend against extremist or intolerant narratives in their communities	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible in 2021 after completion of training courses in 2020.
<b>2.3.3</b> Number of religious leaders given training or materials to recognize and address the gendered aspects of PVE.	Not applicable for the reporting period. Progress will be visible in 2021 after completion of training courses in 2020.
2.4.1 Plan for Host Community Engagement developed and operationalised	Not applicable for the reporting period. Plan will be developed with the findings of conflict and development analysis in 2021.

### **Summary of progress:**

There was good progress against few indicators, but as some indicators are dependent on other activities and output one, the progress of the output was not fully achieved as planned for 2019. Some of the indicators were also not applicable for the reporting period. Better results are expected in late 2020 and early 2021.

### **Leave no one behind:**

The project adopted the key essence of Sustainable Development Goals of leaving no one behind. As a result, it has been working with Rohingya refugee women and girls for leadership building and economic emancipation. The project has been also working with religious and ethnic minorities in its cash for work schemes and skill development training. Cash for work schemes also involved persons with disabilities. Project is thriving to engage women participants from the host community in skill development training. Successful women participants will also be supported with entrepreneurial assistance and job placements, despite the fact that women are culturally expected to stay in private spheres.

#### IV. Strategic Partnerships

- Strong partnerships have been established with several government entities, United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), local NGOs and women leaders' networks.
- Closer liaison with Rohingya and host community leaders' networks have led to strong relationships and their active participation in various consultations, co-organizing various events.
- Collaboration with United Nations agencies like UNHCR, IOM and the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) office have led to UN Women's key role in capacity strengthening of Camp-in-charge (CiC) support staff on gender-responsive services and site management.
- Collaboration with the Bangladesh Police, the Bangladesh Women Police Network, and the Bangladesh armed police battalions led to successful trainings on Gender-based violence (GBV) case management.
- UN Women co-leads the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA WG), including a Women's Leadership task force, together with UNHCR. This is a platform for coordination, information sharing and advocacy on gender needs, issues, gaps and challenges in the inter-sectoral response to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment is integrated across the humanitarian response.
- Both UNDP and UN Women are active member of the Head of Sub Offices Group, Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), as well as key sectors including the GBV sub-sector, Transfers \working Group, Protection Working group, the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, the Food Security Sector and its Livelihoods/Self-reliance Working Group, the Communications with Communities Working Group, Site Management Sector among others.
- UN Women continued to enjoy collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), resulting in regular coordination and consultation with the District Women's Affairs (DWA) Officer, and engaging the DWA to seek their guidance and endorsement of activities including for various vocational trainings to ensure government ownership.
- Discussion took place with DC's Office and relevant Civil Society Representatives to set up the (project) oversight and strategic direction board. Which will provide strategic direction to the project during its implementation.



## V. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Challenges:

- 1) Change in Political Context!: During the reporting period, the political and security context changed following the failed repatriation attempts, failed resettlement to island, the mass gathering of Rohingyas marking two-year anniversary of the Rohingya influx, murder of local politician and involvement of Rohingyas in drugs and crime. This resulted in:
  - A. replacement of some CiCs and the RRRRC that UNDP and UN Women had good partnerships with. Given that certain activities -like women's market- were agreed with previous RRRRC and CiCs, UN Women had to re-start the discussions with the new government authorities.
  - B. restrictions on Rohingya's mobile phones access. Given such restrictive policies, and increased sensitivities, mobile phone repairing training had to be removed from the trainings plan.
  - C. There has been in change in the position of Upazila Nirbahi Officer at Teknaf. UNDP had to reoriented UNOs on the project, which caused some delay in the project
  - D. Government Officials expressed that government does not support any action to strengthen cohesion between Rohingya and host communities. It was suggested, to keep the focus of work with host community to increase community harmony. Recent change in government's stance on Rohingya community has challenged one of the components (community Cohesion) of the project, which has to be implemented separately with host community.
  - E. increased levels of scrutiny and harassment of Rohingya volunteers, community leaders and CSO groups, including of Rohingya women's leaders and their networks, whose activities were put slightly on hold and went more underground in smaller and more scattered gatherings in the last quarter of 2019. This meant that UN Women's engagement with women's networks - for the social cohesion components of this programme - were put on hold to avoid putting the women at further risk; and rather than gathering the larger umbrella Rohingya women's leaders' network, smaller group consultations were held during this period.

#### *Mitigation Measures:*

Both UNDP and UN Women, allocated substantial amount of time to rebuild the relationship with Deputy Commissioner and Upazila Nirbahi Officers offices in the project locations. Similarly, both organizations invested good amount of time to rebuild the relationship with the officials of RRRRC. Alternative measures were taken to overcome the challenges due to restricted mobile phone and internet access, like taking more support from the peer volunteers.

Through the Letter of Agreement signed with the DC's office of Cox's Bazar government authorities were further engaged with the project, which would enable better implementation of the project on the ground.

Since government is unwilling to create a cohesion between the host community and Rohingyas, it might be practical to keep the cohesion work separately within two communities for time being.

- 2) Complexities and restrictions on livelihoods/self-reliance programming: Given the population characteristics (*low levels of literacy, existing vocation skills, mobility, etc.*), and the camp

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<sup>1</sup> For example: See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/bangladesh-imposes-restrictions-rohingya-refugees-191015133210712.html>

characteristics (*densely population, lack of space, lack of main markets nearby, etc.*), livelihoods/self-reliance programming is complex. In addition to this, the restrictive policies on cash and livelihoods/self-reliance programming makes it challenging to have an ideal livelihoods/self-reliance strategy and the implementation of such. For example, the planned activity of disbursement of livelihoods/self-reliance grants have been on hold, until the government approval is secured.

*Mitigation Measures:* Lately in early 2020, government has shown some flexibility on livelihood mitigation approaches. However, if there is no significant change, alternative methods like e-vouchers, support in-kind will be adopted as per need.

- 3) Limited understanding and capacity on gender amongst humanitarian actors/sectors: This requires additional resources on part of UN Women to support in the capacity strengthening of the humanitarian actors and sectors.

For instance: After the training to armed police, UN Women was requested by the Commander to conduct the training for all armed police force deployed in the Cox's Bazar. Though this was a great opportunity, it means UN Women will require immense resources to support such mass trainings.

*Mitigation Measures:* UNDP and UN Women have been continuously working government and non-government stakeholders for a gender responsive atmosphere. Both organizations are working with Police department, Women Police network and community policing forums to improve the situation further. However, further resources need to be invested to get better changes.

- 4) Deeply rooted conservative patriarchal cultures: This poses challenges in reaching out to women and girls, and their access to supports offered at Host and Rohingya communities. Example: women at the host community are expected to stay in private sphere and carry out traditional gendered work; UNDP's endeavour to engage women in skill development initiatives for jobs outside the home is a contrast to the cultural construction. It might not be easy to get enough women participants in the economic resilience activities

*Mitigation Measures:* UNDP has been prioritizing the participation of women participation in all discussions with authorities and at community level. Specific trades are also identified where women workers are needed and job placement would be easier. There are plans to further work on community mobilization to discuss with parents and young women on the benefits of working with a wage employment or for taking entrepreneurial initiatives.

- 5) Diverse challenges remain for host and Rohingya communities as well as humanitarian actors as a result of rising social tensions between refugee and host communities due to the perceived and actual negative impact of the crisis. The growing tensions are primarily triggered by rumour-mongering, misperceptions, and a lack of access to livelihood opportunities, basic goods, and social services. An overall worsening of host community sentiments towards Rohingya has been

noticed this year; for example, local workers were discharged by NGOs that completed their projects at the end of 2018, which led to protests on job loss and local NGOs demanding more localisation. Limited communication and engagement between the two communities may also be highlighted as other reasons. Rumours and mistrust between host community and Rohingya women were observed during a baseline survey conducted in 2019, as well as beneficiary selection, and implementation of joint activities in the first half of 2019 with funding from other sources— more so among host communities against Rohingya. Some host community members remarked that cultural differences, particularly in relation to clothing and dietary preferences, make it challenging for the two communities.

*Mitigation Measures:* Through its internal arrangements, UNDP is analysing mainstreaming media, social media and also recent social trends in the region to get an early warning of any social challenges. Further work on the community cohesion with host communities may strengthen cultural dialogue and improve the situation.

### Lessons Learned:

- 1) Both host community and Rohingya women reported openness towards joint livelihood skills training activities provided there is buy-in and endorsement from their male family and community members. This is an area of work which both UNDP and UN Women will explore further as an entry point for social cohesion in 2020 and 2021 under this project.
- 2) Youth groups of the host community can play a strong role in strengthening community cohesion in the host community. Youths are also in specific attention of the skills development activities of this project. As a result, youths can bridge between two components of this project— economic resilience and community cohesion.
- 3) Convening a joint event on a religious occasion and also engaging women from authorities (Camp-in-Charges and police) was useful and generated positive dialogue. Such events have proved to be effective in achieving advocacy and communication-related objectives (see [video documentary](#)). In future, more effort is needed to dispel myths and misperceptions by focusing on the similarities and building trust between the two communities. Therefore, more cultural sensitisation sessions are recommended to improve harmony and social cohesion.



*Lucky, youth woman leader, 18 years old, member of Rohingya Women Empowerment and Advocacy Network, along with other members of Rohingya women leaders' umbrella network in UN Women Multi-Purpose Women Centre in camp 4, Cox's Bazar, July 2019.*

*Photo credit: Allison Joyce/ UN Women*

## VI. NEXT STEPS

For the next remaining 24 months, UNDP and UN Women will focus on achieving results by completing the planned activities:

- Accomplish skill development training for at least 3000 host community youths and 1500 Rohingya women and girls. After successful completion, host community youths will be offered tools for work, entrepreneurial support, apprenticeship and opportunities for job placement.
- A comprehensive conflict and development analysis will be carried out to develop the longer-term plan for strengthening community cohesion in the communities
- Host community youths and opinion leader will be engaged to enhance community harmony through community level discussions, community radio activities, cross-religious discussion, active theatre
- If approval is received from the government, livelihood/self-reliance grants will be provided to successful graduates of the skills-development trainings. The grants would be in-kind form, or in cash/voucher transfers, as deemed suitable. If government maintains the restrictive policies barring humanitarian community to distribute cash/voucher transfers or in-kind for livelihoods/self-reliance, then alternative solutions would be sought. One of such solution could be rental/borrowing system, whereby the women, fulfilling certain criteria could request to take the necessary equipment like sewing machine. Small packages of lesser value like tools and materials package could be distributed as well.
- A women's market space, once approved by RRRRC, will be installed to provide women with income generation opportunity and safe space. The market infrastructure will be built through using materials like bamboo to reduce negative environmental impact.
- Social-cohesion activities will be implemented on full-scale February 2020 onwards: Another new partnership was established with the national women's rights organization Ain-o-Shalish Kendra which will lead the womewwn peace-builder network activities together with the local women's rights organisation Jago Nari Unnayan Sangsta.



*Youth groups from Teknaf and Ukhiya were engaged in the discussion on preventing rape (Dec 2019)/ Photo: Timur/UNDP*

## VII Interim Financial Status

A total of CAD 5,000,000 (5 Million) received from the Global Affairs Canada by 2019 in two instalments, which was equivalent to US\$ 3767897.52. As of 31 December 2019, US\$ 367,584 was spent by UNDP, which was 25% of the annual budget 2019. During the reporting period, US\$ 365,904 was transferred to the responsible party UN Women and US\$89,555 was utilized by the organization.



*Enlistment process for  
Cash for Work schemes  
/ Photo: Mahtabul  
Hakim/UNDP*

*TV Star and Activist Ms.  
Azmeri Haque Badhon  
is addressing Host  
Community Youth  
during 16 Days of  
Activism (Dec 2019)/  
Photo: Timur/UNDP*



## Annexes:

### 1. Templates developed to manage Cash for Work schemes



A. CFW planning and reporting.xlsx



B. CFW payee list.xlsx



C. Annex CFW Daywise Activities PI



D. Annex Monthly Progress Reporting

A- Cash for work scheme planning, approval and reporting template

B- Template for enlisting cash for work scheme payments

C- Daily Activity plan template

D- Monthly Progress Report Template

### 2. Cash for work related policies and guidelines



A.



B.



C. Guidance on



D. Guidelines on

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A- Standard Operating Procedure developed by ISCG

B- Guideline from government

C- Guidance from ISCG

D- Guideline from Cash Working Group (currently renamed as Transfers Working Group) under the ISCG